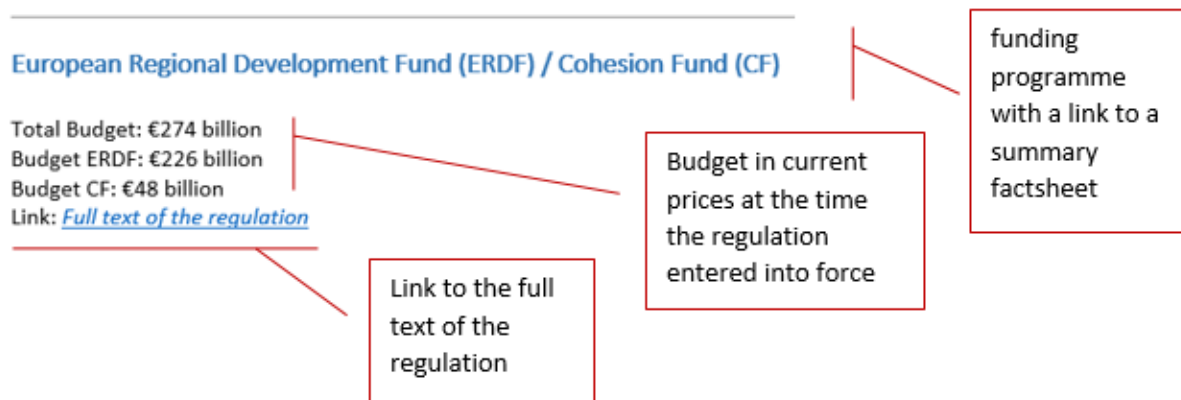**Annex 1b**
Sources for content of funding instruments

This document was developed in the context of embedding the EUSDR into EU funds and should therefore be seen as a rolling document of the EUSDR embedding process.

The underlying document is the **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*.

The overview was also complemented by the contents of the single regulations of the *shared managed EU programmes* and the *centrally managed EU programmes* as well as *IPA III and NDICI* for non-EU countries and serves to improve the readability of the EUSDR Embedding Tool (Annex 1a) and to decipher the abbreviations therein. The listed budget is the current prices at the time the regulation entered into force.

Structure of the document *Annex 1b Sources for content of funding instruments*:

- ➔ General information of the EU funding programmes and instruments
- ➔ General objectives of the EU funding programmes and instruments
- ➔ Specific objectives of the EU funding programmes and instruments
- ➔ Scope/indicators/interventions/actions of the EU funding programmes and instruments

Content

Contact details:

DSP Office Vienna	DSP Office Bucharest
Danube Strategy Point	Danube Strategy Point
City of Vienna / EU-Funding Agency	Ministry of Development, Public Works and Administration
Kirchberggasse 33-35/9	14 Libertatii Blv. sector 5
1070 Vienna, Austria	050706 Bucharest, Romania

✉

office@eusdr-dsp.eu

1. Sources for content of EU funding instruments

The underlying document is the 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*.

Budget: €373 billion
Link: *Full text of the regulation*

The new **Common Provisions Regulation** provides a joint legal framework for eight *shared management funds*: the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF), the Cohesion Fund (CF), and the European Social Fund Plus (ESF+), the European Maritime, Fisheries and Aquaculture Fund (EMFAF), the Just Transition Fund (JTF), and financial rules for the Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund (AMIF), the Border Management and Visa Instrument (BMVI) and the Internal Security Fund (ISF).

Cohesion Policy investment priorities of (5 Policy Objectives; PO) for the ERDF, ESF+, CF and the EMFAF:

(a) **a more competitive and smarter Europe** by promoting innovative and smart economic transformation and regional ICT connectivity;
(b) **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, risk prevention and management, and sustainable urban mobility;
(c) **a more connected Europe** by enhancing mobility;
(d) **a more social and inclusive Europe** implementing the European Pillar of Social Rights;
(e) **a Europe closer to citizens** by fostering the sustainable and integrated development of all types of territories and local initiatives.

The Common Provisions Regulation does not apply to the Employment and Social Innovation strand of the ESF+ or to the direct or indirect management components of the EMFAF, the AMIF, the ISF and the BMVI, except for technical assistance at the initiative of the Commission. These Policy and specific Objectives for the other three funds (AMIF, BMVI and ISF) is defined in the fund-specific regulations.
The JTF shall support the 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. **Further information: https://youtu.be/yXhYOBO8ZdM.**

Macro-regional relevance in Regulation (EU) 2021/1060:

- Article 22(3)(a)(vii) – Each programme shall set out […] a summary of the main challenges, taking into account […] macro-regional strategies and sea-basin strategies where Member States and regions participate in such strategies.
- Article 22(3)(d)(i) – Each programme shall set out […] for each specific objective […] the related types of actions and their expected contribution to those specific objectives, to macro-regional strategies, sea-basin strategies, and to territorial just transition plans supported by the JTF, where appropriate.

Regulation (EU) 2021/1060, Art. 22(5): **Dimensions and codes for the types of intervention for the ERDF, the ESF+, the Cohesion Fund and the JTF**

PO 1 (a) – a more competitive and smarter Europe by promoting innovative and smart economic transformation and regional ICT connectivity

Intervention fields:

001	Investment in fixed assets, including research infrastructure, in micro enterprises directly linked to research and innovation activities
002	Investment in fixed assets, including research infrastructure, in small and medium-sized enterprises (including private research centres) directly linked to research and innovation activities
003	Investment in fixed assets, including research infrastructure, in large enterprises directly linked to research and innovation activities
004	Investment in fixed assets, including research infrastructure, in public research centres and higher education directly linked to research and innovation activities
005	Investment in intangible assets in micro enterprises directly linked to research and innovation activities
006	Investment in intangible assets in SMEs (including private research centres) directly linked to research and innovation activities
007	Investment in intangible assets in large enterprises directly linked to research and innovation activities
008	Investment in intangible assets in public research centres and higher education directly linked to research and innovation activities
009	Research and innovation activities in micro enterprises including networking (industrial research, experimental development, feasibility studies)
010	Research and innovation activities in SMEs, including networking
011	Research and innovation activities in large enterprises, including networking
012	Research and innovation activities in public research centres, higher education and centres of competence including networking (industrial research, experimental development, feasibility studies)
013	Digitising SMEs (including e-Commerce, e-Business and networked business processes, digital innovation hubs, living labs, web entrepreneurs and ICT start-ups, B2B)
014	Digitising large enterprises (including e-Commerce, e-Business and networked business processes, digital innovation hubs, living labs, web entrepreneurs and ICT start-ups, B2B)
015	Digitising SMEs or large enterprises (including e-Commerce, e-Business and networked business processes, digital innovation hubs, living labs, web entrepreneurs and ICT start-ups, B2B) compliant with greenhouse gas emission reduction or energy efficiency criteria
016	Government ICT solutions, e-services, applications
017	Government ICT solutions, eservices, applications compliant with greenhouse gas emission reduction or energy efficiency criteria
018	IT services and applications for digital skills and digital inclusion
019	e-Health services and applications (including e-Care, Internet of Things for physical activity and ambient assisted living)
020	Business infrastructure for SMEs (including industrial parks and sites)
021	SME business development and internationalisation, including productive investments
022	Support for large enterprises through financial instruments, including productive investments
023	Skills development for smart specialisation, industrial transition, entrepreneurship and

	adaptability of enterprises to change
024	Advanced support services for SMEs and groups of SMEs (including management, marketing and design services)
025	Incubation, support to spin offs and spin outs and start ups
026	Support for innovation clusters including between businesses, research organisations and public authorities and business networks primarily benefiting SMEs
027	Innovation processes in SMEs (process, organisational, marketing, co-creation, user and demand driven innovation)
028	Technology transfer and cooperation between enterprises, research centres and higher education sector
029	Research and innovation processes, technology transfer and cooperation between enterprises, research centres and universities, focusing on the low carbon economy, resilience and adaptation to climate change
030	Research and innovation processes, technology transfer and cooperation between enterprises, focusing on circular economy
031	Financing of working capital in SMEs in the form of grants to address emergency situation
032	ICT: Very High-Capacity broadband network (backbone/backhaul network)
033	ICT: Very High-Capacity broadband network (access/local loop with a performance equivalent to an optical fibre installation up to the distribution point at the serving location for multi-dwelling premises)
034	ICT: Very High-Capacity broadband network (access/local loop with a performance equivalent to an optical fibre installation up to the distribution point at the serving location for homes and business premises)
035	ICT: Very High-Capacity broadband network (access/local loop with a performance equivalent to an optical fibre installation up to the base station for advanced wireless communication)
036	ICT: Other types of ICT infrastructure (including large-scale computer resources/equipment, data centres, sensors and other wireless equipment)
037	ICT: Other types of ICT infrastructure (including large-scale computer resources/equipment, data centres, sensors and other wireless equipment) compliant with the carbon emission reduction and energy efficiency criteria

PO 2 (b) – 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, risk prevention and management, and sustainable urban mobility

Intervention fields:

038	Energy efficiency and demonstration projects in SMEs and supporting measures
039	Energy efficiency and demonstration projects in large enterprises and supporting measures
040	Energy efficiency and demonstration projects in SMEs or large enterprises and supporting measures compliant with energy efficiency criteria
041	Energy efficiency renovation of existing housing stock, demonstration projects and supporting measures
042	Energy efficiency renovation of existing housing stock, demonstration projects and supporting measures compliant with energy efficiency criteria
043	Construction of new energy efficient buildings
044	Energy efficiency renovation or energy efficiency measures regarding public

	infrastructure, demonstration projects and supporting measures
045	Energy efficiency renovation or energy efficiency measures regarding public infrastructure, demonstration projects and supporting measures compliant with energy efficiency criteria
046	Support to entities that provide services contributing to the low carbon economy and to resilience to climate change, including awareness-raising measures
047	Renewable energy: wind
048	Renewable energy: solar
049	Renewable energy: biomass
050	Renewable energy: biomass with high greenhouse gas savings
051	Renewable energy: marine
052	Other renewable energy (including geothermal energy)
053	Smart Energy Systems (including smart grids and ICT systems) and related storage
054	High efficiency co-generation, district heating and cooling
055	High efficiency co-generation, efficient district heating and cooling with low lifecycle emissions
056	Replacement of coal-based heating systems by gas-based heating systems for climate mitigation purposes
057	Distribution and transport of natural gas substituting coal
058	Adaptation to climate change measures and prevention and management of climate related risks: floods and landslides (including awareness raising, civil protection and disaster management systems, infrastructures and ecosystem based approaches)
059	Adaptation to climate change measures and prevention and management of climate related risks: fires (including awareness raising, civil protection and disaster management systems, infrastructures and ecosystem based approaches)
060	Adaptation to climate change measures and prevention and management of climate related risks: others, e.g. storms and drought (including awareness raising, civil protection and disaster management systems, infrastructures and ecosystem based approaches)
061	Risk prevention and management of non-climate related natural risks (for example earthquakes) and risks linked to human activities (for example technological accidents), including awareness raising, civil protection and disaster management systems, infrastructures and ecosystem based approaches
062	Provision of water for human consumption (extraction, treatment, storage and distribution infrastructure, efficiency measures, drinking water supply)
063	Provision of water for human consumption (extraction, treatment, storage and distribution infrastructure, efficiency measures, drinking water supply) compliant with efficiency criteria
064	Water management and water resource conservation (including river basin management, specific climate change adaptation measures, reuse, leakage reduction)
065	Waste water collection and treatment
066	Waste water collection and treatment compliant with energy efficiency criteria
067	Household waste management: prevention, minimisation, sorting, reuse, recycling measures
068	Household waste management: residual waste treatment
069	Commercial, industrial waste management: prevention, minimisation, sorting, reuse, recycling measures
070	Commercial, industrial waste management: residual and hazardous waste
071	Promoting the use of recycled materials as raw materials
072	Use of recycled materials as raw materials compliant with the efficiency criteria

073	Rehabilitation of industrial sites and contaminated land
074	Rehabilitation of industrial sites and contaminated land compliant with efficiency criteria
075	Support to environmentally-friendly production processes and resource efficiency in SMEs
076	Support to environmentally-friendly production processes and resource efficiency in large enterprises
077	Air quality and noise reduction measures
078	Protection, restoration and sustainable use of Natura 2000 sites
079	Nature and biodiversity protection, natural heritage and resources, green and blue infrastructure
080	Other measures to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in the area of preservation and restoration of natural areas with high potential for carbon absorption and storage, e.g. by rewetting of moorlands, the capture of landfill gas
081	Clean urban transport infrastructure
082	Clean urban transport rolling stock
083	Cycling infrastructure
084	Digitalisation of urban transport
085	Digitalisation of transport when dedicated in part to greenhouse gas emissions reduction: urban transport
086	Alternative fuels infrastructure

PO 3 (c) – a more connected Europe by enhancing mobility

Intervention fields:

087	Newly built or upgraded motorways and roads - TEN-T core network
088	Newly built or upgraded motorways and roads - TEN-T comprehensive network
089	Newly built or upgraded secondary road links to TEN-T road network and nodes
090	Newly built or upgraded other national, regional and local access roads
091	Reconstructed or modernised motorways and roads - TEN-T core network
092	Reconstructed or modernised motorways and roads - TEN-T comprehensive network
093	Other reconstructed or modernised roads (motorway, national, regional or local)
094	Digitalisation of transport: road
095	Digitalisation of transport when dedicated in part to greenhouse gas emissions reduction: road
096	Newly built or upgraded railways - TEN-T core network
097	Newly built or upgraded railways - TEN-T comprehensive network
098	Other newly built or upgraded railways
099	Other newly built or upgraded railways – electric/zero emission
100	Reconstructed or modernised railways - TEN-T core network
101	Reconstructed or modernised railways - TEN-T comprehensive network
102	Other reconstructed or modernised railways
103	Other reconstructed or modernised railways – electric/zero emission
104	Digitalisation of transport: rail
105	European Rail Traffic Management System (ERTMS)
106	Mobile rail assets
107	Mobile zero emission/electric powered rail assets
108	Multimodal transport (TEN-T)
109	Multimodal transport (not urban)

110	Seaports (TEN-T)
111	Seaports (TEN-T) excluding facilities dedicated to transport of fossil fuels
112	Other seaports
113	Other seaports excluding facilities dedicated to transport of fossil fuels
114	Inland waterways and ports (TEN-T)
115	Inland waterways and ports (TEN-T) excluding facilities dedicated to transport of fossil fuels
116	Inland waterways and ports (regional and local)
117	Inland waterways and ports (regional and local) excluding facilities dedicated to transport of fossil fuels
118	Security, safety and air traffic management systems, for existing airports
119	Digitising transport: other transport modes
120	Digitising transport when dedicated in part to greenhouse gas emissions reduction: other transport modes

PO 4 (d) – a more social and inclusive Europe implementing the European Pillar of Social Rights

Intervention fields:

121	Infrastructure for early childhood education and care
122	Infrastructure for primary and secondary education
123	Infrastructure for tertiary education
124	Infrastructure for vocational education and training and adult learning
125	Housing infrastructure for migrants, refugees and persons under or applying for international protection
126	Housing infrastructure (other than for migrants, refugees and persons under or applying for international protection)
127	Other social infrastructure contributing to social inclusion in the community
128	Health infrastructure
129	Health equipment
130	Health mobile assets
131	Digitalisation in health care
132	Critical equipment and supplies necessary to address emergency situation
133	Temporary reception infrastructure for migrants, refugees and persons under or applying for international protection
134	Measures to improve access to employment
135	Measures to promote access to employment of long-term unemployed
136	Specific support for youth employment and socio-economic integration of young people
137	Support for self-employment and business start-ups
138	Support for social economy and social enterprises
139	Measures to modernise and strengthen labour market institutions and services to assess and anticipate skills needs and to ensure timely and tailor-made assistance
140	Support for labour market matching and transitions
141	Support for labour mobility
142	Measures to promote women's labour market participation and reduce gender-based segregation in the labour market
143	Measures promoting work-life balance, including access to childcare and care for dependent persons

144	Measures for a healthy and well–adapted working environment addressing health risks, including promotion of physical activity
145	Support for the development of digital skills
146	Support for adaptation of workers, enterprises and entrepreneurs to change
147	Measures encouraging active and healthy ageing
148	Support for early childhood education and care (excluding infrastructure)
149	Support for primary to secondary education (excluding infrastructure)
150	Support for tertiary education (excluding infrastructure)
151	Support for adult education (excluding infrastructure)
152	Measures to promote equal opportunities and active participation in society
153	Pathways to integration and re-entry into employment for disadvantaged people
154	Measures to improve access of marginalised groups such as the Roma to education, employment and to promote their social inclusion
155	Support to the civil society working with marginalised communities such as the Roma
156	Specific actions to increase participation of third-country nationals in employment
157	Measures for the social integration of third-country nationals
158	Measures to enhancing the equal and timely access to quality, sustainable and affordable services
159	Measures to enhancing the delivery of family and community-based care services
160	Measures to improve the accessibility, effectiveness and resilience of healthcare systems (excluding infrastructure)
161	Measures to improve access to long-term care (excluding infrastructure)
162	Measures to modernise social protection systems, including promoting access to social protection
163	Promoting social integration of people at risk of poverty or social exclusion, including the most deprived and children
164	Addressing material deprivation through food and/or material assistance to the most deprived, including accompanying measures

PO 5 (e) – Europe closer to citizens by fostering the sustainable and integrated development of all types of territories and local

Intervention fields:

165	Protection, development and promotion of public tourism assets and tourism services
166	Protection, development and promotion of cultural heritage and cultural services
167	Protection, development and promotion of natural heritage and eco-tourism other than Natura 2000 sites
168	Physical regeneration and security of public spaces
169	Territorial development initiatives, including preparation of territorial strategies

Other codes related to policy objectives 1-5

170	Improve the capacity of programme authorities and bodies linked to the implementation of the Funds
171	Enhancing cooperation with partners both within and outside the Member State
172	Cross-financing under the ERDF (support to ESF+-type actions necessary for the implementation of the ERDF part of the operation and directly linked to it)
173	Enhancing institutional capacity of public authorities and stakeholders to implement territorial cooperation projects and initiatives in a cross-border, transnational, maritime and inter-regional context

174	Interreg: border crossing management and mobility and migration management
175	Outermost regions: compensation of any additional costs due to accessibility deficit and territorial fragmentation
176	Outermost regions: specific action to compensate additional costs due to size market factors
177	Outermost regions: support to compensate additional costs due to climate conditions and relief difficulties
178	Outermost regions: airports

Technical assistance

179	Information and communication
180	Preparation, implementation, monitoring and control
181	Evaluation and studies, data collection
182	Reinforcement of the capacity of Member State authorities, beneficiaries and relevant partners

European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) / Cohesion Fund (CF)

Total Budget: €274 billion
Budget ERDF: €226 billion
Budget CF: €48 billion
Link: *Full text of the regulation*

Scope of support from the ERDF:

(a) investments in infrastructure;
(b) activities for applied research and innovation, including industrial research, experimental development and feasibility studies;
(c) investments in access to services;
(d) productive investments in SMEs and investments aiming at safeguarding existing jobs and creating new jobs;
(e) equipment, software and intangible assets;
(f) networking, cooperation, exchange of experience and activities involving innovation clusters including between businesses, research organisations and public authorities;
(g) information, communication and studies; and
(h) technical assistance.

Scope of support from the CF:

(a) investments in the environment, including investments related to sustainable development and energy presenting environmental benefits, with a particular focus on renewable energy;
(b) investments in TEN-T;
(c) technical assistance;
(d) information, communication, and studies.

It covers Member States whose Gross National Income (GNI) per inhabitant over the period 2015-2017 was less than 90% of the EU average (in 2021-2027: Bulgaria, Croatia, Czechia, Hungary, Romania, Slovakia and Slovenia from the EUSDR as well as Cyprus, Estonia, Greece, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Portugal).

Regulation (EU) 2021/1058, Art. 3(1)/(3): In accordance with the policy objectives set out in Article 5(1) of [CPR] Regulation (EU) 2021/1060, the ERDF shall support the following **specific objectives**. The Cohesion Fund shall support PO 2 and 3.

PO 1 (a) – a more competitive and smarter Europe by promoting innovative and smart economic transformation and regional ICT connectivity

(i)   developing and enhancing research and innovation capacities and the uptake of advanced technologies;

(ii)   reaping the benefits of digitisation for citizens, companies, research organisations and public authorities;

(iii)   enhancing sustainable growth and competitiveness of SMEs and job creation in SMEs, including by productive investments;

(iv)   developing skills for smart specialisation, industrial transition and entrepreneurship;

(v)   enhancing digital connectivity;

PO 2 (b) – 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, risk prevention and management, and sustainable urban mobility

(i)   promoting energy efficiency and reducing greenhouse gas emissions;

(ii)   promoting renewable energy in accordance with Directive (EU) 2018/2001, including the sustainability criteria set out therein;

(iii)   developing smart energy systems, grids and storage outside the Trans-European Energy Network (TEN-E);

(iv)   promoting climate change adaptation and disaster risk prevention and resilience, taking into account eco-system based approaches;

(v)   promoting access to water and sustainable water management;

(vi)   promoting the transition to a circular and resource efficient economy;

(vii)   enhancing protection and preservation of nature, biodiversity and green infrastructure, including in urban areas, and reducing all forms of pollution;

(viii) promoting sustainable multimodal urban mobility, as part of transition to a net zero carbon economy;

PO 3 (c) – a more connected Europe by enhancing mobility

(i)   developing a climate resilient, intelligent, secure, sustainable and intermodal TEN-T;

(ii)   developing and enhancing sustainable, climate resilient, intelligent and intermodal national, regional and local mobility, including improved access to TEN-T and cross-border mobility;

PO 4 (d) – a more social and inclusive Europe implementing the European Pillar of Social Rights

(i)   enhancing the effectiveness and inclusiveness of labour markets and access to quality employment through developing social infrastructure and promoting social economy;

(ii) improving equal access to inclusive and quality services in education, training and lifelong learning through developing accessible infrastructure, including by fostering resilience for distance and on-line education and training;

(iii) promoting the socioeconomic inclusion of marginalised communities, low income households and disadvantaged groups, including people with special needs, through integrated actions, including housing and social services;

(iv) promoting the socio-economic integration of third country nationals, including migrants through integrated actions, including housing and social services;

(v) ensuring equal access to health care and fostering resilience of health systems, including primary care, and promoting the transition from institutional to family-based and community-based care;

(vi) enhancing the role of culture and sustainable tourism in economic development, social inclusion and social innovation;

PO 5 (e) – Europe closer to citizens by fostering the sustainable and integrated development of all types of territories and local

(i) fostering the integrated and inclusive social, economic and environmental development, culture, natural heritage, sustainable tourism and security in urban areas;

(ii) fostering the integrated and inclusive social, economic and environmental local development, culture, natural heritage, sustainable tourism and security in areas other than urban areas.

Intervention fields: see above at CPR

European territorial cooperation goal (INTERREG)

Budget: €9.1 billion
Link: *Full text of the regulation*

Interreg strands:

1. **cross-border cooperation** between adjacent regions to promote integrated and harmonious regional development between neighbouring land and maritime border regions ('Interreg A');
2. **transnational cooperation** over larger transnational territories or around sea basins, involving national, regional and local programme partners in Member States, third countries and partner countries and OCTs, with a view to achieving a higher degree of territorial integration ('Interreg B');
3. **interregional cooperation** to reinforce the effectiveness of cohesion policy ('Interreg C');
4. **outermost regions' cooperation** among themselves and with their neighbouring third or partner countries or OCTs, or regional integration and cooperation organisations, or several thereof, to facilitate their regional integration and harmonious development in their neighbourhood ('Interreg D').

Regulation (EU) 2021/1059, Art. 14: **policy objectives** set out in Article 5(1) of [CPR] Regulation (EU) 2021/ 1060 and **specific objectives** as set out in Article 3 of [ERDF] Regulation (EU) 2021/1058, the ERDF and, where applicable, the external financing instruments of the Union shall also contribute to the

specific objectives (a) to (l) of Article 4(1) of [ESF+] Regulation (EU) 2021/1057 through joint actions under Interreg programmes:

PO 1 (a) a more competitive and smarter Europe by promoting innovative and smart economic transformation and regional ICT connectivity;

PO 2 (b) 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, risk prevention and management, and sustainable urban mobility;

PO 3 (c) a more connected Europe by enhancing mobility;

PO 4 (d) a more social and inclusive Europe implementing the European Pillar of Social Rights;

(a) improving access to employment and activation measures for all jobseekers, in particular young people, especially through the implementation of the Youth Guarantee, for long-term unemployed and disadvantaged groups on the labour market, and for inactive people, as well as through the promotion of 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 for 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 persons;

(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 by promoting 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, 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, in particular 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;

(i) promoting socio-economic integration of third-country nationals, including migrants;

(j) promoting the socio-economic integration of marginalised communities, such as Roma people;

(k) enhancing 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 persons and children;

PO 5 (e) a Europe closer to citizens by fostering the sustainable and integrated development of all types of territories and local initiatives.

Regulation (EU) 2021/1059, Art. 14(4): **Interreg-specific objective of 'a better cooperation governance'**, by one or more of the following actions:

(a) enhance the institutional capacity of public authorities, in particular those mandated to manage a specific territory, and of stakeholders (all strands);

(b) enhance efficient public administration by promoting legal and administrative cooperation and cooperation between citizens, civil society actors and institutions, in particular with a view to resolving legal and other obstacles in border regions (strands A, C, D and, where appropriate, strand B);

(c) build up mutual trust, in particular by encouraging people-to-people actions (strands A, D and, where appropriate, strand B);

(d) enhance institutional capacity of public authorities and stakeholders to implement macro-regional strategies and sea- basin strategies, as well as other territorial strategies (all strands);

(e) enhance sustainable democracy and support civil society actors and their role in reforming processes and democratic transitions (all strands with involvement of third countries, partner countries or OCTs); and

(f) other actions to support better cooperation governance (all strands).

Regulation (EU) 2021/1059, Art. 14(5): **Interreg-specific objective of 'a safer and more secure Europe'**, in particular by actions in the fields of border crossing management and mobility and migration management, including the protection and economic and social integration of third-country nationals, for example migrants and beneficiaries of international protection.

European Social Fund Plus (ESF+)

Budget: €99.3 billion
Link: *Full text of the regulation*

Regulation (EU) 2021/1057, Art. 4(1): The ESF+ shall support the following **specific objectives** in the policy areas of employment and labour mobility, education, social inclusion, including contributing to poverty eradication, and thereby also contributing to the **policy objective** 'a more social and inclusive Europe implementing the European Pillar of Social Rights' referred to in Article 5, point (d), of [CPR] Regulation (EU) 2021/1060 & Regulation (EU) 2021/1057, Art. 4(2): Through the actions implemented under the ESF+ strand under shared management to achieve the **specific objectives** referred to in paragraph 1 of this Article, the ESF+ shall aim to contribute to the other **policy objectives** listed in Article 5 of Regulation (EU) 2021/1060, in particular the objectives related to:

PO 1 (a) a more competitive and smarter Europe by promoting innovative and smart economic transformation and regional ICT connectivity;

(a) a smarter Europe through the development of skills for smart specialisation, skills for key enabling technologies, industrial transition, sectorial cooperation on skills and entrepreneurship, the training of researchers, networking activities and partnerships between higher education institutions, vocational and educational training institutions, research and technological centres and enterprises and clusters, and support for micro, small and medium-sized enterprises and the social economy;

PO 2 (b) 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, risk prevention and management, and sustainable urban mobility;

(b) a greener, low carbon Europe through the improvement of education and training systems necessary for the adaptation of skills and qualifications, the upskilling of all, including the labour force, the creation of new jobs in sectors related to the environment, climate, energy, the circular economy and the bioeconomy.

PO 3 (c) a more connected Europe by enhancing mobility;

PO 4 (d) a more social and inclusive Europe implementing the European Pillar of Social Rights;

(a) improving access to employment and activation measures for all jobseekers, in particular young people, especially through the implementation of the Youth Guarantee, for long-term unemployed and disadvantaged groups on the labour market, and for inactive people, as well as through the promotion of 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 for 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 persons;

(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 by promoting 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, 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, in particular 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;

(i) promoting socio-economic integration of third-country nationals, including migrants;

(j) promoting the socio-economic integration of marginalised communities, such as Roma people;

(k) enhancing 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 persons and children;

(m) addressing material deprivation through food and/or basic material assistance to the most deprived persons, including children, and providing accompanying measures supporting their social inclusion.

PO 5 (e) a Europe closer to citizens by fostering the sustainable and integrated development of all types of territories and local initiatives.

Intervention fields: see above at CPR

Just Transition Fund (JTF)

Total Budget: €19.2 billion
Budget from Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF): €8.4 billion
Budget from NextGenerationEU: €10.8 billion
Link: *Full text of the regulation*

Regulation (EU) 2021/1056, Art. 2: In accordance with the second subparagraph of Article 5(1) of Regulation (EU) 2021/1060, 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.

The JTF shall exclusively support the following activities:

(a) productive investments in SMEs, including microenterprises and start-ups, leading to economic diversification, modernisation and reconversion;

(b) investments in the creation of new firms, including through business incubators and consulting services, leading to job creation;

(c) investments in research and innovation activities, including by universities and public research organisations, and fostering the transfer of advanced technologies;

(d) investments in the deployment of technology as well as in systems and infrastructures for affordable clean energy, including energy storage technologies, and in greenhouse gas emission reduction;

(e) investments in renewable energy in accordance with Directive (EU) 2018/2001 of the European Parliament and of the Council (17), including the sustainability criteria set out therein, and in energy efficiency, including for the purposes of reducing energy poverty;

(f) investments in smart and sustainable local mobility, including decarbonisation of the local transport sector and its infrastructure;

(g) rehabilitation and upgrade of district heating networks with a view to improving energy efficiency of district heating systems and investments in heat production provided that the heat production installations are supplied exclusively by renewable energy sources;

(h) investments in digitalisation, digital innovation and digital connectivity;

(i) investments in regeneration and decontamination of brownfield sites, land restoration and including, where necessary, green infrastructure and repurposing projects, taking into account the 'polluter pays' principle;

(j) investments in enhancing the circular economy, including through waste prevention, reduction, resource efficiency, reuse, repair and recycling;

(k) upskilling and reskilling of workers and jobseekers;

(l) job-search assistance to jobseekers;

(m) active inclusion of jobseekers;

(n) technical assistance;

(o) other activities in the areas of education and social inclusion including, where duly justified, investments in infrastructure for the purposes of training centres, child- and elderly-care facilities as indicated in territorial just transition plans in accordance with Article 11.

The JTF shall not support:

(a) the decommissioning or the construction of nuclear power stations;

(b) the manufacturing, processing and marketing of tobacco and tobacco products;

(c) an undertaking in difficulty, as defined in point (18) of Article 2 of Commission Regulation (EU) No 651/2014 (18), unless authorised under temporary State aid rules established to address exceptional circumstances or under de minimis aid to support investments reducing energy costs in the context of the energy transition process;

(d) investment related to the production, processing, transport, distribution, storage or combustion of fossil fuels.

Intervention fields: see above at CPR

European Maritime and Fisheries Fund (EMFAF)

Budget: €6.108 billion
Shared management : €5.311 billion | Direct management: €797 million
Link: *Full text of the regulation*

Regulation (EU) 2021/1139, Art. 3: The EMFAF shall contribute to the implementation of the CFP and of the Union's maritime policy. It shall pursue the following **priorities [and specific objectives]**:

Priority (1): Fostering sustainable fisheries and the restoration and conservation of aquatic biological resources

Specific objectives:

(a) strengthening economically, socially and environmentally sustainable fishing activities;

(b) increasing energy efficiency and reducing CO2 emissions through the replacement or modernisation of engines of fishing vessels;

(c) 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;

(d) fostering efficient fisheries control and enforcement, including fighting against IUU fishing, as well as reliable data for knowledge-based decision making;

(e) promoting a level-playing field for fishery and aquaculture products from the outermost regions; and

(f) contributing to the protection and restoration of aquatic biodiversity and ecosystems.

Priority (2): Fostering sustainable aquaculture activities, and processing and marketing of fishery and aquaculture products, thus contributing to food security in the Union

Specific objectives:

(a) promoting sustainable aquaculture activities, especially strengthening the competitiveness of aquaculture production, while ensuring that the activities are environmentally sustainable in the long term;

(b) promoting marketing, quality and added value of fishery and aquaculture products, as well as processing of those products.

Priority (3): Enabling a sustainable blue economy in coastal, island and inland areas, and fostering the development of fishing and aquaculture communities

Specific objective:

contribute to enabling a sustainable blue economy in coastal, island and inland areas, and to fostering the sustainable development of fishing and aquaculture communities.

Priority (4): Strengthening international ocean governance and enabling seas and oceans to be safe, secure, clean and sustainably managed

Specific objective:

contribute to strengthening sustainable sea and ocean management through the promotion of marine knowledge, maritime surveillance or coast guard cooperation.

Interventions:

001	Reducing negative impacts and/or contributing to positive impacts on the environment and contributing to a good environmental status
002	Promoting conditions for economically viable, competitive and attractive fishery, aquaculture and processing sectors
003	Contributing to climate neutrality
004	Temporary cessation of fishing activities
005	Permanent cessation of fishing activities
006	Contributing to a good environmental status through implementing and monitoring of marine protected areas, including Natura 2000
007	Compensation for unexpected environmental, climatic or public health events
008	Compensation for additional costs in outermost regions
009	Animal health and welfare
010	Control and enforcement
011	Data collection and analysis, and promotion of marine knowledge
012	Maritime surveillance and security

Community-led local development (CLLD)

013	CLLD preparation actions
014	CLLD implementation of strategy
015	CLLD running costs and animation

Technical assistance

016	Technical assistance

Asylum and Migration Fund (AMIF)

Budget: € 9.88 billion
Link: *Full text of the regulation*

AMIF is implemented under shared, direct or indirect management. The largest share (63.5%) will be allocated to the national programmes under shared management. DG HOME is the lead service for the Commission, in close coordination with DG REGIO, EMPL and AGRI.

Regulation (EU) 2021/1147, Art. 3: The **policy objective** of the Fund is to contribute to the efficient management of migration flows and to the implementation, strengthening and development of the common policy on asylum and the common immigration policy, in accordance with the relevant Union acquis and fully respecting the international obligations of the Union and the Member States arising from the international instruments to which they are party.

Specific objective:

(a) strengthening and developing all aspects of the Common European Asylum System, including its external dimension;

Please see in Annex III of the Regulation (EU) 2021/1147 the particular support of the Fund within the specific objective (a).

Implementation measures:

- ensuring the uniform application of the Union *acquis* and of the priorities related to the Common European Asylum System;

- supporting the capacity of Member States' asylum systems as regards infrastructures and services where necessary, including at local and regional level;

- enhancing cooperation and partnership with third countries for the purpose of managing migration, including by enhancing their capacities to improve the protection of persons in need of international protection in the context of global cooperation efforts;

- providing technical and operational assistance to one or several Member States, including in cooperation with EASO.

Specific objective:

(b) strengthening and developing legal migration to the Member States in accordance with their economic and social needs, and promoting and contributing to the effective integration and social inclusion of third-country nationals

Please see in Annex III of the Regulation (EU) 2021/1147 the particular support of the Fund within the specific objective (b).

Implementation measures:

- supporting the development and implementation of policies promoting legal migration and the implementation of the Union legal migration acquis, including family reunification and the enforcement of labour standards;

- supporting measures to facilitate regular entry into and residence in the Union;

- enhancing cooperation and partnership with third countries for the purpose of managing migration, including through legal avenues of entry to the Union, in the context of global cooperation efforts in the area of migration;

- promoting integration measures for the social and economic inclusion of third-country nationals and protection measures for vulnerable persons in the context of integration measures, facilitating family reunification and preparing for the active participation of third-country nationals in, and their acceptance by, the receiving society, with the involvement of national and, in particular, regional or local authorities and civil society organisations, including refugee organisations and migrant-led organisations, and social partners.

Specific objective:

(c) contributing to countering irregular migration, enhancing effective, safe and dignified return and readmission, and promoting and contributing to effective initial reintegration in third countries

Please see in Annex III of the Regulation (EU) 2021/1147 the particular support of the Fund within the specific objective (c).

Implementation measures:

- ensuring the uniform application of the Union acquis and policy priorities regarding infrastructure, procedures and services;

- supporting an integrated and coordinated approach to return management at the Union and Member State level, to the development of capacities for effective, dignified and sustainable return, and to reducing incentives for irregular migration;

- supporting assisted voluntary return, family tracing and reintegration, while respecting the best interests of the child;

- strengthening cooperation with third countries and their capacity, with respect to readmission and sustainable return.

Specific objective:

(d) enhancing solidarity and fair sharing of responsibility between the Member States, in particular as regards those most affected by migration and asylum challenges, including through practical cooperation

Please see in Annex III of the Regulation (EU) 2021/1147 the particular support of the Fund within the specific objective (d).

Implementation measures:

- enhancing solidarity and cooperation with third countries affected by migratory flows, including through resettlement in the Union and through other legal avenues to protection in the Union;

- supporting transfers from one Member State to another of applicants for international protection or beneficiaries of international protection.

Types of intervention (*Please see in Annex VI further interventions*)

Common European Asylum System

001	Reception conditions
002	Asylum procedures
003	Implementation of the Union acquis
004	Children in migration
005	Persons with special reception and procedural needs
006	Union resettlem. programmes or nat. resettlem. and humanit. admission schemes
007	Operating support

Legal migration and integration

001	Development of integration strategies
002	Victims of trafficking in human beings
003	Integration measures – information and orientation, one stop shops
004	Integration measures – language training
005	Integration measures – civics and other training
006	Integration measures – introduction, participation, exchanges host society
007	Integration measures – basic needs
008	Pre-departure measures
009	Mobility schemes
010	Acquisition of legal residence
011	Vulnerable persons, including unaccompanied minors
012	Operating support

Return

001	Alternatives to detention
002	Reception/detention conditions
003	Return procedures
004	Assisted voluntary return
005	Reintegration assistance
006	Removal/Return operations
007	Forced-return monitoring system
008	Vulnerable persons, including unaccompanied minors
009	Measures addressing incentives for irregular migration
010	Operating support

Solidarity and fair sharing of responsibility

001	Transfers to another Member State ('relocation')
002	Support by a MS to another MS, including support provided to EASO
003	Resettlement (Article 19)
004	Humanitarian admission (Article 19)
005	Support, in terms of reception infrastructure, to another Member State
006	Operating support

Technical Assistance

001	Information and communication
002	Preparation, implementation, monitoring and control
003	Evaluation and studies, data collection
004	Capacity building

Internal Security Fund (ISF)

Budget: € 1.93 billion
Link: *Full text of the regulation*

ISF is implemented though shared management by the Member States and direct/indirect management by the Commission. For the latter, the lead Directorate General is DG HOME, in close coordination with DG REGIO, EMPL and MARE.

Regulation (EU) 2021/1149, Art. 3: The **policy objective** of the Fund is 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, 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.

Please see in Annex III of the Regulation (EU) 2021/1149 the types of actions of the Fund within its objectives as well as the Types of Intervention in Annex VI.

Specific objective:

(a) improving and facilitating the exchange of information between and within competent authorities and relevant Union bodies, offices and agencies and, where relevant, with third countries and international organisations;

Implementation measures:

- ensuring the uniform application of the Union acquis on security by supporting the exchange of relevant information, for example via Prüm, EU PNR and SIS II, including through the implementation of recommendations from quality control and evaluation mechanisms such as the Schengen evaluation and monitoring mechanism or other quality control and evaluation mechanisms;

- setting up, adapting and maintaining security-relevant EU and decentralised information systems, including ensuring their interoperability, and developing appropriate tools to address identified gaps;

- increasing the active use of security-relevant EU and decentralised information systems, ensuring that those systems are provided with high quality data; and

- supporting relevant national measures, including the interconnection of security-relevant national databases and the connection of those databases to Union databases, when provided for in relevant legal bases, if relevant to implementing the specific objectives set out in point (a) of Article 3(2).

Specific objective:

(b) improving and intensifying cross-border cooperation, including joint operations, between competent authorities in relation to terrorism and serious and organised crime with a cross-border dimension; and

Implementation measures:

- increasing the number of law enforcement operations involving two or more Member States, including, where appropriate, operations involving other relevant actors, in particular through facilitating and improving the use of joint investigation teams, joint patrols, hot pursuits, discreet surveillance and other operational cooperation mechanisms in the context of the EU policy cycle, with special emphasis on cross-border operations;

- improving the coordination and increasing the cooperation of competent authorities within and between Member States and with other relevant actors, for example through networks of specialised national units, Union networks and cooperation structures, and Union centres; and

- improving inter-agency cooperation at Union level between the Member States, and between Member States and relevant Union bodies, offices and agencies, as well as cooperation at national level among the competent authorities within each Member State.

Specific objective:

(c) supporting the strengthening of Member States' capabilities in relation to preventing and combating crime, terrorism and radicalisation, as well as managing security-related incidents, risks and crises, including through increased cooperation between public authorities, relevant Union bodies, offices or agencies, civil society and private partners in different Member States.

Implementation measures:

- increasing training, exercises and mutual learning, specialised exchange programmes and sharing of best practices in and between Member States' competent authorities, including at local level, and with third countries and other relevant actors;

- exploiting synergies by pooling resources and knowledge and sharing best practices between Member States and other relevant actors, including civil society, through, for example, the creation of joint centres of excellence, development of joint risk assessments, or common operational support centres for jointly conducted operations;

- promoting and developing measures, safeguards, mechanisms and best practices for the early identification, protection and support of witnesses, whistleblowers and victims of crime and developing partnerships between public authorities and other relevant actors to this effect;

- acquiring relevant equipment and setting up or upgrading specialised training facilities and other essential security- relevant infrastructure to increase preparedness, resilience, public awareness and adequate response as regards security threats; and

- protecting critical infrastructure against security-related incidents by detecting, assessing and closing vulnerabilities.

Instrument for Financial Support for Border Management and Visa Policy (BMVI)

Budget: € 7.39 billion
Link: *Full text of the regulation*

The Integrated Border Management Fund is made of two components: the Border Management and Visa Instrument (BMVI), and the Customs Control Equipment Instrument (CCEI). The Commission implements the actions under CCEI under direct management. DG TAXUD is in the lead, in close cooperation with OLAF for their Anti-Fraud programme and with other relevant Commission services. BMVI is implemented through shared management by the Member States and direct/indirect management. The lead Directorate General is DG HOME, in close coordination with DG REGIO, EMPL, ECHO and MARE. Close cooperation will be ensured between DG TAXUD and DG HOME.

Regulation (EU) 2021/1148, Art. 3: As part of the Fund, the **policy objective** of the Instrument is 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 persons 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.

Please see in Annex III of the Regulation (EU) 2021/1148 the particular support of the Fund within the policy objective.

Specific objective:

(a) 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 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

Please see in Annex III of the Regulation (EU) 2021/1148 the particular support of the Fund within the specific objective (a).

Implementation measures:

- the improvement of border control in accordance with point (a) of Article 3(1) of Regulation (EU) 2019/1896 by:

(i) reinforcing capacities for carrying out checks and surveillance at the external borders, including measures to facilitate legitimate border crossings and, where appropriate, measures related to:

— the prevention and detection of cross-border crime at the external borders, in particular migrant smuggling, trafficking in human beings, and terrorism,

— the management of continuously high levels of migration at the external borders, including through technical and operational reinforcement and through mechanisms and procedures for the identification of vulnerable persons and unaccompanied minors and for the identification of persons who are in need of, or who wish to apply for,

international protection, the provision of information to such persons, and the referral of such persons;

(ii) implementing technical and operational measures within the Schengen area which are related to border control, while safeguarding the free movement of persons within it;

(iii) carrying out analyses of the risks for internal security and analyses of the threats that may affect the functioning or security of the external borders;

- the development of the European Border and Coast Guard by providing support to national authorities responsible for border management to pursue measures related to capability development and common capacity building, joint procurement, the establishment of common standards and any other measures streamlining the cooperation and coordination between the Member States and the European Border and Coast Guard Agency;

- the enhancement of inter-agency cooperation at national level among the national authorities responsible for border control or for tasks carried out at the border, and enhancing cooperation at Union level between the Member States, or between the Member States, on the one hand, and the relevant Union bodies, offices and agencies or third countries, on the other;

- ensuring the uniform application of the Union acquis in relation to external borders, including through the implementation of recommendations from quality control mechanisms such as the Schengen evaluation mechanism in accordance with Regulation (EU) No 1053/2013, vulnerability assessments in accordance with Regulation (EU) 2019/1896 and national quality control mechanisms;

- the setting up, operation and maintenance of large-scale IT systems pursuant to Union law in the area of border management, in particular SIS, ETIAS, the EES and Eurodac for border management purposes, including the interoperability of those large-scale IT systems and their communication infrastructure, and actions to enhance data quality and the provision of information;

- increasing capacity to render assistance to persons in distress at sea and supporting search and rescue operations in situations which might arise during a border surveillance operation at sea;

- support to search and rescue operations in the context of carrying out border surveillance at sea.

Specific objective:

(b) supporting the common visa policy to ensure a harmonised approach with regard to the issuance of visas and to facilitate legitimate travel, while helping to prevent migratory and security risks.

Please see in Annex III of the Regulation (EU) 2021/1148 the particular support of the Fund within the specific objective (b).

Implementation measures:

- the provision of efficient and client-friendly services to visa applicants while maintaining the security and integrity of visa procedures, and fully respecting the human dignity and the

integrity of applicants and visa holders in accordance with Article 7(2) of Regulation (EC) No 767/2008;

- support to Member States in issuing visas, including visas with limited territorial validity, as referred to in Article 25 of Regulation (EC) No 810/2009, issued on humanitarian grounds, for reasons of national interest or because of international obligations;

- ensuring the uniform application of the Union acquis in relation to visas, including the further development and modernisation of the common policy on visas;

- the development of different forms of cooperation between Member States in visa processing;

- the setting up, operation and maintenance of large-scale IT systems pursuant to Union law in the area of the common policy on visas, in particular the VIS, including the interoperability of those large-scale IT systems and their communication infrastructure, and actions to enhance data quality and the provision of information.

Intervention fields:

European integrated border management

001	Border checks
002	Border surveillance - air equipment
003	Border surveillance - land equipment
004	Border surveillance - maritime equipment
005	Border surveillance - automated border surveillance systems
006	Border surveillance - other measures
007	Technical and operational measures within the Schengen area which are related to border control
008	Situational awareness and exchange of information
009	Risk analysis
010	Processing of data and information
011	Hotspot areas
012	Measures related to the identification and referral of vulnerable persons
013	Measures related to the identification and referral of persons who are in need of, or who wish to apply for, international protection
014	European Border and Coast Guard development
015	Inter-agency cooperation – national level
016	Inter-agency cooperation – Union level
017	Inter-agency cooperation – with third countries
018	Joint deployment of immigration liaison officers
019	Large-scale IT systems – Eurodac for border management purposes
020	Large-scale IT systems – Entry/Exit System (EES)
021	Large-scale IT systems – European Travel Information and Authorisation System (ETIAS) – others
022	Large-scale IT systems – European Travel Information and Authorisation System (ETIAS) – Article 85(2) of Regulation (EU) 2018/1240
023	Large-scale IT systems – European Travel Information and Authorisation System (ETIAS) – Article 85(3) of Regulation (EU) 2018/1240
024	Large-scale IT systems – Schengen Information System (SIS)
025	Large-scale IT systems – Interoperability
026	Operating support – Integrated border management

027	Operating support – Large-scale IT systems for border management purposes
028	Operating support – Special Transit Scheme
029	Data quality and data subjects' rights to information, access to, rectification and erasure of, their personal data, and to the restriction of the processing thereof

Common visa policy

001	Improving visa application processing
002	Enhancing the efficiency, client-friendly environment and security at consulates
003	Document security / document advisors
004	Consular cooperation
005	Consular coverage
006	Large-scale IT systems - Visa Information System (VIS)
007	Other IT systems for visa application processing purposes
008	Operating support - Common visa policy
009	Operating support - Large-scale IT systems for visa application processing purposes
010	Operating support - Special Transit Scheme
011	Issuance of visas with limited territorial validity
012	Data quality and data subjects' rights to information, access to, rectification and erasure of, their personal data, and to the restriction of the processing thereof

Technical Assistance

001	Information and communication
002	Preparation, implementation, monitoring and control
003	Evaluation and studies, data collection
004	Capacity building

Horizon Europe Programme

Budget: €95.5 billion
Link: *Full text of the regulation*

The Commission evaluates and monitors its funding programmes to assess the progress towards achieving the programmes' objectives and build an evidence base to improve their implementation. Legal entities from the EU and associated countries can participate.

Regulation (EU) 2021/695, Art. 3: The **general objective** of the Programme is to deliver scientific, technological, economic and societal impact from the Union's investments in R&I so as to strengthen the scientific and technological bases of the Union and foster the competitiveness of the Union in all Member States including in its industry, to deliver on the Union strategic priorities and to contribute to the realisation of Union objectives and policies, to tackle global challenges, including the SDGs by following the principles of the 2030 Agenda and the Paris Agreement, and to strengthen the ERA. The Programme shall thus maximise Union added value by focusing on objectives and activities that cannot be effectively realised by Member States acting alone, but in cooperation.

Specific objectives:

(a) 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;

(b) 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;

(c) to foster all forms of innovation, facilitate technological development, demonstration and knowledge and technology transfer, strengthen deployment and exploitation of innovative solutions;

(d) 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.

Regulation (EU) 2021/695, Art. 4: For the specific programme referred to in point (a) of Article 1(2) and the EIT, the Programme shall be structured in parts as follows, which **contribute to the general and specific objectives** set out in Article 3:

Pillar I 'Excellent Science'

(i)   the ERC;

Areas of intervention:

- Frontier science

(ii)   Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions (MSCA);

Areas of intervention:

- nurturing excellence through the mobility of researchers across borders, sectors and disciplines
- fostering new skills through the excellent training of researchers
- strengthening human resources and skills development across the ERA
- improving and facilitating synergies; promoting public outreach

(iii)   research infrastructures;

Areas of intervention:

- consolidating and developing the landscape of European research infrastructures
- opening, integrating and interconnecting research infrastructures
- the innovation potential of European research infrastructures and activities for innovation and training
- reinforcing European research infrastructure policy and international cooperation

Pillar II 'Global Challenges and European Industrial Competitiveness' (SSH play an important role across all clusters):

(i)   cluster 'Health'

Areas of intervention:

- health throughout the life course
- environmental and social health determinants
- non- communicable and rare diseases
- infectious diseases, including poverty-related and neglected diseases
- tools, technologies and digital solutions for health and care, including personalised medicine
- health care systems

(ii)   cluster 'Culture, Creativity and Inclusive Society'

Areas of intervention:

- democracy and governance
- culture, cultural heritage and creativity
- social and economic transformations

(iii)   cluster 'Civil Security for Society'

Areas of intervention:

- disaster-resilient societies
- protection and security
- cybersecurity

(iv)   cluster 'Digital, Industry and Space'

Areas of intervention:

- manufacturing technologies
- key digital technologies, including quantum technologies
- emerging enabling technologies

- advanced materials
- artificial intelligence and robotics;
- next generation internet
- advanced computing and Big Data
- circular industries
- low carbon and clean industries
- space, including earth observation

(v)   cluster 'Climate, Energy and Mobility'

Areas of intervention:

- climate science and solutions
- energy supply
- energy systems and grids
- buildings and industrial facilities in energy transition
- communities and cities
-industrial competitiveness in transport
- clean, safe and accessible transport and mobility
- smart mobility
- energy storage

(vi)   cluster 'Food, Bioeconomy, Natural Resources, Agriculture and Environment'

Areas of intervention:

- environmental observation
- biodiversity and natural resources
- agriculture, forestry and rural areas
- seas, oceans and inland waters
- food systems
- bio-based innovation systems in the Union's bioeconomy
- circular systems

(vii)   non-nuclear direct actions of the JRC

Areas of intervention:

- strengthening the knowledge base for policy making
- global challenges
        - health
        - culture, creativity and inclusive society
        - civil security for society
        - digital, industry and space
        - climate, energy and mobility
        - food, bioeconomy, natural resources, agriculture and environment
- innovation, economic development, and competitiveness
- scientific excellence
- territorial development and support for Member States and regions

Pillar III 'Innovative Europe'

(i)   the European Innovation Council (EIC)

Areas of intervention:

- Pathfinder for advanced research, supporting future and emerging breakthrough, market-creating and/or deep tech technologies
- the Accelerator, bridging the financing gap between late stages of R&I activities and market take-up, to effectively deploy breakthrough, market-creating innovation and scale up companies where the market does not provide viable financing
- additional EIC activities such as prizes and fellowships, and business added-value services

(ii)   European innovation ecosystems

Areas of intervention:

- activities including in particular connecting, where relevant in cooperation with the EIT, with national and regional innovation actors and supporting the implementation of joint cross-border innovation programmes by Member States, Regions and associated countries, from the exchange of practice and knowledge on innovation regulation to the enhancement of soft skills for innovation to research and innovation activities, including open or user-led innovation, to boost the effectiveness of the European innovation system. This should be implemented in synergy with, among others, the ERDF support for innovation eco-systems and interregional partnerships around smart specialisation topics

(iii)   the European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT)

Areas of intervention:

- sustainable innovation ecosystems across Europe
- innovation and entrepreneurial skills in a lifelong learning perspective, including increasing capacities of higher education institutions across Europe
- new solutions to market to address global challenges
- synergies and value added within the Programme

Part 'Widening Participation and Strengthening the ERA'

(i)   widening participation and spreading excellence;
(ii)   reforming and enhancing the European R&I System.

Areas of intervention:

- widening participation and spreading excellence, including through teaming, twinning, ERA-Chairs, European Cooperation in Science and Technology (COST), excellence initiatives and activities to foster brain circulation; reforming and enhancing the European R&I system, including through for example supporting national R&I policy reform, providing attractive career environments, and supporting gender and citizen science

Horizon Europe will incorporate research and innovation missions to increase the effectiveness of funding by pursuing clearly defined targets. 5 mission areas have been identified, each with a dedicated mission board and assembly. The board and assembly help specify, design and implement the specific missions, which will launch under Horizon Europe.

Regulation (EU) 2021/695, Art. 8: Missions shall be programmed within the pillar [2] 'Global Challenges and European Industrial Competitiveness', but may also benefit from actions carried out within other parts of the Programme as well as complementary actions carried out under other Union programmes. Missions shall allow for competing solutions, resulting in pan-European added value and impact.

Missions:

— Missions Area 1: Adaptation to Climate Change, including Societal Transformation.

— Mission Area 2: Cancer.

— Mission Area 3: Healthy Oceans, Seas, Coastal and Inland Waters.

— Mission Area 4: Climate-Neutral and Smart Cities.

— Mission Area 5: Soil Health and Food.

Erasmus+ Programme

Budget: €26.2 billion
Link: *Full text of the regulation*

The Erasmus+ programme is managed by the European Commission (the EU's executive body), the European Education and Culture Executive Agency (EACEA), a series of National Agencies in Programme countries and a series of National Offices in some Partner countries (further details).

Regulation (EU) 2021/817, Art. 3: The **general objective** of the Programme is to support, through lifelong learning, the educational, professional and personal development of people in the fields of education and training, youth and sport, in Europe and beyond, thereby contributing to sustainable growth, quality jobs and social cohesion, to driving innovation and to strengthening European identity and active citizenship. The Programme shall be a key instrument for building a European Education Area, supporting the implementation of European strategic cooperation in the field of education and training, including its underlying sectoral agendas, advancing youth policy cooperation under the 2019-2027 European Union Youth Strategy and developing the European dimension in sport.

Specific objectives:

  (a) the learning mobility of individuals and groups, and cooperation, quality, inclusion and equity, excellence, creativity and innovation at the level of organisations and policies in the field of education and training
  (b) non-formal and informal learning mobility and active participation among young people, and cooperation, quality, inclusion, creativity and innovation at the level of organisations and policies in the field of youth
  (c) the learning mobility of sport staff, and cooperation, quality, inclusion, creativity and innovation at the level of sport organisations and sport policies.

Key action 1 Learning mobility:

In the field of education and training, the Programme shall support the following actions

  (a) the learning mobility of higher education students and staff

(b) the learning mobility of vocational education and training learners and staff

(c) the learning mobility of school pupils and staff

(d) the learning mobility of adult education learners and staff.

In the field of youth, the Programme shall support the following actions

(a) the learning mobility of young people

(b) youth participation activities

(c) DiscoverEU activities

(d) the learning mobility of youth workers.

In the field of sport, the Programme shall support the learning mobility of sport staff.

Key action 2 Cooperation among organisations and institutions

In the field of education and training, the Programme shall support the following actions

(a) partnerships for cooperation and exchange of practices, including small-scale partnerships to foster wider and more inclusive access to the Programme

(b) partnerships for excellence, in particular European Universities, platforms of centres of vocational excellence and Erasmus Mundus Joint Master's Degrees

(c) partnerships for innovation to strengthen Europe's innovation capacity

(d) user-friendly online platforms and tools for virtual cooperation, including support services for eTwinning and for the Electronic Platform for Adult Learning in Europe, and tools to facilitate learning mobility, including the European Student Card initiative.

In the field of youth, the Programme shall support the following actions

(a) partnerships for cooperation and exchange of practices, including small-scale partnerships to foster wider and more inclusive access to the Programme

(b) partnerships for innovation to strengthen Europe's innovation capacity

(c) user-friendly online platforms and tools for virtual cooperation.

In the field of sport, the Programme shall support the following actions

(a) partnerships for cooperation and exchange of practices, including small-scale partnerships to foster wider and more inclusive access to the Programme

(b) not-for-profit sport events aimed at further developing the European dimension of sport and promoting issues of relevance to grassroots sport.

Key action 3 Support to policy development and cooperation

In the field of education and training, the Programme shall support the following actions

(a) the preparation and implementation of the Union general and sectoral policy agendas in the field of education and training, including with the support of the Eurydice network or activities of other relevant organisations, and the support to the Bologna Process

(b) Union tools and measures that foster the quality, transparency and recognition of competences, skills and qualifications

(c) policy dialogue and cooperation with relevant stakeholders, including Union-wide networks, European organisations and international organisations in the field of education and training

(d) measures that contribute to the high-quality and inclusive implementation of the Programme

(e) cooperation with other Union instruments and support to other Union policies

(f) dissemination and awareness-raising activities about European policy outcomes and priorities and about the Programme.

In the field of youth, the Programme shall support the following actions

(a) the preparation and implementation of the Union policy agenda on youth, with the support, as relevant, of the Youth Wiki network

(b) Union tools and measures that foster the quality, transparency and recognition of competences and skills, in particular through Youthpass

(c) policy dialogue and cooperation with relevant stakeholders, including Union-wide networks, European organisations and international organisations in the field of youth, the EU Youth Dialogue, and support to the European Youth Forum

(d) measures that contribute to the high-quality and inclusive implementation of the Programme, including support for the Eurodesk Network

(e) cooperation with other Union instruments and support to other Union policies

(f) dissemination and awareness-raising activities about European policy outcomes and priorities and about the Programme.

In the field of sport, the Programme shall support the following actions

(a) the preparation and implementation of the Union policy agenda on sport and physical activity

(b) policy dialogue and cooperation with relevant stakeholders, including European organisations and international organisations in the field of sport

(c) measures that contribute to the high-quality and inclusive implementation of the Programme

(d) cooperation with other Union instruments and support to other Union policies

(e) dissemination and awareness-raising activities about European policy outcomes and priorities and about the Programme.

Please see in Annex I of the Regulation (EU) 2021/817 the particular description of actions.

Jean Monnet actions

(a) the Jean Monnet action in the field of higher education

(b) the Jean Monnet action in other fields of education and training

(c) support to the following institutions pursuing an aim of European interest: the European University Institute, Florence, including its School of Transnational Governance; the College of Europe (Bruges and Natolin campuses); the European Institute of Public Administration, Maastricht; the Academy of European Law, Trier; the European Agency for Special Needs and Inclusive Education, Odense; and the International Centre for European Training, Nice.

Connecting Europe Facility Programme (CEF)

Total Budget: €33.71 billion
Budget transport: €25.81 billion (including €11.29 billion for cohesion countries)
Budget energy: €5.84 billion
Budget digital: €2.07 billion
Link: *Full text of the regulation*

Regulation (EU) 2021/1153, Art. 3: The **general objectives** of the CEF are to build, develop, modernise and complete the trans-European networks in the transport, energy and digital sectors and to facilitate cross-border cooperation in the field of renewable energy, taking into account the long-term decarbonisation commitments and the goals of increasing European competitiveness; smart, sustainable and inclusive growth; territorial, social and economic cohesion; and the access to and integration of the internal market, with an emphasis on facilitating the synergies among the transport, energy and digital sectors.

Specific objectives:

(a) in the transport sector:
   (i) to contribute to the development of projects of common interest relating to efficient, interconnected and multimodal networks and infrastructure for smart, interoperable, sustainable, inclusive, accessible, safe and secure mobility in accordance with the objectives of Regulation (EU) No 1315/2013; and
   (ii) 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;
(b) in the energy sector:
   (i) to contribute to the development of projects of common interest relating to further integration of an efficient and competitive internal energy market, interoperability of networks across borders and sectors, facilitating decarbonisation of the economy, promoting energy efficiency and ensuring security of supply; and
   (ii) to facilitate cross-border cooperation in the area of energy, including renewable energy;
(c) in the digital sector:
   to contribute to the development of projects of common interest relating to the deployment of and access to safe and secure very high capacity networks, including 5G systems, and to the increased resilience and capacity of digital backbone networks on Union territories by linking them to neighbouring territories, as well as to the digitalisation of transport and energy networks.

LIFE Programme

Budget: €5.432 billion
Link: *Full text of the regulation*

Regulation (EU) 2021/783, Art. 3: The **general objective** of the LIFE Programme shall be to contribute to the shift towards a sustainable, circular, energy-efficient, renewable energy-based, climate-neutral and - resilient economy, in order to protect, restore and improve the quality of the environment, including the air, water and soil, and to halt and reverse biodiversity loss and to tackle the degradation of ecosystems, including by 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.

Specific objectives:

(a) to develop, demonstrate and promote innovative techniques, methods and approaches for reaching the objectives of 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, 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;

(b) to support the development, implementation, monitoring and enforcement of relevant Union legislation and policy on the 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 by enhancing the capacities of public and private actors and the involvement of civil society;

(c) to act as a catalyst for the large-scale deployment of successful technical and policy-related solutions for implementing relevant Union legislation and policy on the environment, including nature and biodiversity, and on climate action and the transition to renewable energy or increased energy efficiency, by replicating results, by integrating related objectives into other policies and into public and private sector practices, by mobilising investment and by improving access to finance.

(1) the field 'Environment', which includes:

   (a) the subprogramme 'Nature and Biodiversity'

   (b) the subprogramme 'Circular Economy and Quality of Life'

(2) the field 'Climate Action', which includes:

   (a) the subprogramme 'Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation';

   (b) the subprogramme 'Clean Energy Transition'

Single Market Programme (successor of COSME)

Budget: €4.2 billion
Link: *Full text of the regulation*

Regulation (EU) 2021/690, Art. 3: Programme objectives

General objectives of the Programme:

(a) to improve the functioning of the internal market, and especially to protect and empower citizens, consumers and businesses, in particular SMEs, by enforcing Union law, facilitating market access, setting standards and promoting human, animal and plant health and animal welfare, whilst respecting the principles of sustainable development and ensuring a high level of consumer protection, as well as by enhancing cooperation between the competent authorities of Member States and between the competent authorities of Member States and the Commission and the decentralised Union agencies;

(b) to develop, produce and disseminate high-quality, comparable, timely and reliable European statistics which underpin the design, monitoring and evaluation of all Union policies and help citizens, policymakers, authorities, businesses, academia and the media to make informed decisions and to actively participate in the democratic process.

Specific objectives of the Programme:

(a) making the internal market more effective, inter alia, in the light of the digital transformation, by:
  (i) facilitating the prevention and removal of discriminatory, unjustified or disproportionate obstacles and supporting the development, implementation and enforcement of Union law in the areas of the internal market for goods and services, including by improving the application of the principle of mutual recognition, of public procurement rules, of company law, of contract and extra-contractual law, of anti-money laundering rules, of the free movement of capital and of financial services and competition rules, including by developing user-centric governance tools;
  (ii) supporting effective market surveillance throughout the Union, with a view to ensuring that only safe and compliant products offering a high level of protection of consumers and other end-users are made available on the Union market, including products sold online, as well as with a view to achieving greater homogeneity among, and increasing the capacity of, the market surveillance authorities across the Union;

(b) strengthening the competitiveness and sustainability of SMEs and achieving additionality at Union level through measures that:

  (i) provide various forms of support to SMEs as well as clusters and business network organisations, including in the tourism sector, thereby fostering the growth, scale-up and creation of SMEs;
  (ii) facilitate access to markets including through the internationalisation of SMEs;
  (iii) promote entrepreneurship and the acquisition of entrepreneurial skills;

(iv) promote a favourable business environment for SMEs, support the digital transformation of SMEs and promote new business opportunities for SMEs, including those that are social economy enterprises and those with innovative business models;

(v) support the competitiveness of industrial ecosystems and sectors, as well as the development of industrial value chains;

(vi) promote the modernisation of industry, contributing to a green, digital and resilient economy;

(c) ensuring the effective functioning of the internal market through standardisation processes that:

(i) enable the financing of European standardisation and the participation of all relevant stakeholders in setting up European standards;

(ii) support the development of high-quality international financial and non-financial reporting and auditing standards, facilitate their integration into the Union law, and promote the innovation and development of best practices in corporate reporting;

(d) promoting the interests of consumers and ensuring a high level of consumer protection and product safety by:

(i) in respect of consumers:

— empowering, assisting and educating consumers, businesses and representatives of civil society in particular concerning consumer's rights under Union law;
— ensuring a high level of consumer protection, sustainable consumption and product safety in particular for the most vulnerable consumers in order to enhance fairness, transparency and trust in the internal market;
— ensuring that the interests of consumers in the digital world are duly taken into consideration;
— supporting competent enforcement authorities and consumer representative organisations and actions which enhance the cooperation between competent authorities, with particular emphasis on issues raised by existing and emerging technologies;
— contributing to improving the quality and availability of standards across the Union; efficiently addressing unfair commercial practices;
— ensuring that all consumers have access to efficient redress mechanisms and are provided with adequate information on markets and consumers rights, and promoting sustainable consumption, in particular through raising awareness about specific characteristics and the environmental impact of goods and services;

(ii) in respect of consumers and other financial services end-users:

— enhancing the participation of consumers, other financial services end-users and representatives of civil society in financial services policy-making;
— promoting a better understanding of the financial sector and of the different categories of commercialised financial products;
— ensuring that the interests of consumers in the area of retail financial services are protected;

(e) contributing to a high level of health and safety for humans, animals and plants in plant, animal, food and feed areas, inter alia, by preventing, detecting and eradicating animal diseases and plant pests, including by means of emergency measures that are taken in the event of large-scale crisis situations and unforeseeable events affecting animal or plant health, and by supporting the improvement of the welfare of animals, the fight against antimicrobial resistance and the

development of sustainable food production and consumption, as well as by stimulating the exchange of best practices between stakeholders in those fields;

(f) developing, producing, disseminating and communicating high-quality European statistics in line with the quality criteria laid down in Article 12(1) of Regulation (EC) No 223/2009, in a timely, impartial and cost-efficient manner, through a strengthened European Statistical System, referred to in Article 4 of Regulation (EC) No 223/2009, and enhanced partnerships within that system and with all relevant external parties, using multiple data sources, advanced data analytics methods, smart systems and digital technologies, and providing a national and, where possible, regional breakdown.

Digital Europe Programme (DIGITAL)

Budget: € 7.59 billion
Link: *Full text of the regulation*

Regulation (EU) 2021/694, Art. 3: The **general objectives** of the Programme shall be to support and accelerate the digital transformation of the European economy, industry and society, to bring its benefits to citizens, public administrations and businesses across the Union, and to improve the competitiveness of Europe in the global digital economy while contributing to bridging the digital divide across the Union and reinforcing the Union's strategic autonomy, through holistic, cross-sectoral and cross-border support and a stronger Union contribution.

The Programme shall be implemented in close coordination with other Union programmes as applicable, and shall aim:

(a) to strengthen and promote Europe's capacities in key digital technology areas through large-scale deployment;
(b) in the private sector and in areas of public interest, to widen the diffusion and uptake of Europe's key digital technologies, promoting the digital transformation and access to digital technologies.

Interrelated specific objectives:

(a) Specific Objective 1 – High Performance Computing

operational objectives:

(a) 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;
(b) 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;
(c) 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.

The actions under Specific Objective 1 shall be primarily implemented through the European High Performance Computing Joint Undertaking established by Regulation (EU) 2018/1488

(b) Specific Objective 2 – Artificial Intelligence

operational objectives:

(a) 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;
(b) make the capacities referred to in point (a) 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;
(c) reinforce and network AI testing and experimentation facilities in Member States;
(d) 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 commercial exploitation and foster the uptake of AI-based solutions in areas of public interest and in society.

The actions under Specific Objective 2 shall be implemented primarily through direct management.

(c) Specific Objective 3 – Cybersecurity and Trust

operational objectives:

(a) 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;
(b) support the building-up and best use of European knowledge, capacity and skills related to cybersecurity and the sharing and mainstreaming of best practices;
(c) ensure a wide deployment of effective state-of-the-art cybersecurity solutions across the European economy, paying special attention to public authorities and SMEs;
(d) reinforce capabilities within Member States and private sector to help them comply with Directive (EU) 2016/1148 of the European Parliament and of the Council(25)including through measures supporting the uptake of cybersecurity best practices;
(e) improve resilience against cyberattacks, contribute towards increasing risk-awareness and knowledge of cybersecurity processes, support public and private organisations in achieving basics levels of cybersecurity, for example by deploying end-to-end encryption of data and software updates;
(f) 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').

The actions under Specific Objective 3 shall be implemented primarily through the European Cybersecurity Industrial, Technology and Research Competence Centre and the Network of National Coordination Centres in accordance with the Cybersecurity Competence Centre Regulation.

(d) Specific Objective 4 – Advanced Digital Skills

operational objectives:

(a) support the design and delivery of high-quality, long-term training and courses, including blended learning, for students and for the workforce;
(b) 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;
(c) 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.

The actions under Specific Objective 4 shall be implemented primarily through direct management.

(d) Specific Objective 5 – Deployment and Best Use of Digital Capacity and Interoperability

operational objectives:

(a) 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;
(b) 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;
(c) 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;
(d) facilitate the development, update and use of solutions and frameworks by public administrations, businesses and citizens, including of open-source solutions and the re-use of interoperability solutions and frameworks;
(e) offer the public sector and the Union industry, in particular SMEs, easy access to testing and piloting of digital technologies and increase the use thereof, including their cross-border use;
(f) 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);
(g) 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 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;

(h) 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;

(i) support cooperation towards achieving a European ecosystem for trusted data sharing and digital infrastructures using, inter alia, services and applications based on distributed ledger technologies (e.g. blockchain), 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;

(j) build up and strengthen the European Digital Innovation Hubs and their network.

The actions under Specific Objective 5 shall be implemented primarily through direct management.

Other Programmes not considered:

Common Agriculture Policy (CAP)

Innovation fund

External Instrument

InvestEU

Space Programme

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2. Sources for content of the IPA III fund

Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance (IPA) – *€14.5 billion*

Link: *Key document*

Thematic priorities for assistance (Annex II)

(a) **Establishing and promoting from an early stage the proper functioning of the institutions necessary in order to secure the rule of law.**
Interventions in this area shall aim at: establishing independent, accountable and efficient judicial systems, including transparent and merit-based recruitment and promoting judicial cooperation, evaluation and promotion systems and effective disciplinary procedures in cases of wrongdoing; ensuring the establishment of robust systems to protect the borders, manage migration flows and provide asylum to those in need; developing effective tools to prevent and fight organised crime, trafficking in human beings, migrants smuggling, money laundering/financing of terrorism and corruption; promoting and protecting human rights, rights of persons belonging to minorities including Roma as well as lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons fundamental freedoms, including freedom of the media and data protection.

(b) **Reforming public administrations in line with the Principles of Public Administration.**
Interventions shall aim at: strengthening public administration reform frameworks; improving strategic planning and inclusive and evidence-based policy and legislative development; enhancing professionalisation and de-politicisation of public service by embedding meritocratic principles; promoting transparency and accountability; improving quality and delivery of services, including adequate administrative procedures and the use of citizen centred eGovernment; strengthening public financial management and the production of reliable statistics.

(c) **Strengthening economic governance:**
Interventions shall aim at supporting participation in the economic reform programme (ERP) process and systematic cooperation with international financial institutions on fundamentals of economic policy. Enhancing the capacity to strengthen macroeconomic stability and supporting progress towards becoming a functioning market economy with the capacity to cope with competitive pressures and market forces within the Union;

(d) **Strengthening the Union and its partners' capacity to prevent conflict, build peace and address pre-and post-crisis**
including through early warning and conflict-sensitive risk analysis; promoting people to people networking, reconciliation, peace-building and confidence-building measures, supporting capacity building in support of security and development (CBSD) actions.

(e) **Strengthening the capacities of civil society organisations**
and social partners' organisations, including professional associations, in beneficiaries listed in Annex I and encouraging networking at all levels among Union-based organisations and those of beneficiaries listed in Annex I, enabling them to engage in an effective dialogue with public and private actors.

(f) **Promoting the alignment of partner countries' rules,**
standards, policies and practices to those of the Union, including state aid rules.

(g) **Strengthening access to and quality of education, training and lifelong learning at all levels, and offering support to cultural and creative sectors.**

Interventions in this area shall aim at: promoting equal access to quality early-childhood education and care, primary and secondary education, improving the provision of basic skills; increasing educational attainment levels, reducing early school-leaving and reinforcing teachers' training. Developing vocational education and training (VET) systems and promoting work-based learning systems to facilitate the transition to the labour market; improving the quality and relevance of higher education; encouraging alumni related activities; enhancing access to lifelong learning and supporting investment in education and training infrastructure particularly with a view to reducing territorial disparities and fostering non-segregated education and including through the use of digital technologies.

(h) **Fostering quality employment and access to the labour market.**
Interventions in this area shall aim at: tackling high unemployment and inactivity by supporting sustainable labour market integration in particular of young people (especially those not in employment, education or training (NEET)), women, long-term unemployed and all under-represented groups. Measures shall stimulate quality job creation and support the effective enforcement of labour rules and standards across the entire territory. Other key areas of intervention shall be to support gender equality, promoting employability and productivity, the adaptation of workers and enterprises to change, the establishment of a sustainable social dialogue and the modernisation and strengthening of labour market institutions such as public employment services and labour inspectorates.

(i) **Promoting social protection and inclusion and combating poverty.**
Interventions in this area shall aim at modernising social protection systems to provide effective, efficient, and adequate protection throughout all stages of a person's life, fostering social inclusion, promoting equal opportunities and addressing inequalities and poverty. Interventions in this area shall also focus on: integrating marginalised communities such as the Roma; combating discrimination based on sex, racial or ethnic origin, religion or belief, disability, age or sexual orientation; enhancing access to affordable, sustainable and high quality services, such as early childhood education and care, housing, healthcare and essential social services and long term care, including through the modernisation of social protection systems.

(j) **Promoting smart, sustainable, inclusive, safe transport and removing bottlenecks in key network infrastructures,**
by investing in projects with high EU value-added. The investments should be prioritised according to their relevance to TEN-T connections with the EU, contribution to sustainable mobility, reduced emissions, environmental impact, safe mobility, in synergy with the reforms promoted by the Transport Community Treaty.

(k) **Improving the private-sector environment and competitiveness of enterprises,**
including smart specialisation, as key drivers of growth, job creation and cohesion. Priority shall be given to projects which improve the business environment.

(l) **Improving access to digital technologies and services and strengthening research, technological development and innovation**
by investing in digital connectivity, digital trust and security, digital skills and entrepreneurship as well as research infrastructure and enabling environment and promoting networking and collaboration.

(m) **Contributing to the security and safety of food supply**
and the maintenance of diversified and viable farming systems in vibrant rural communities and the countryside.

(n) **Protecting and improving the quality of the environment,**
addressing environmental degradation and halting biodiversity loss, promoting the conservation and sustainable management of terrestrial and marine ecosystems and renewable natural

resources, promoting resource efficiency, sustainable consumption and production and supporting the transition to green and circular economies, contributing to the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions, increasing resilience to climate change and promoting climate action governance and information and energy efficiency. IPA III shall promote policies to support the shift towards a resource-efficient, safe and sustainable low-carbon economy and strengthen disaster resilience as well as disaster prevention, preparedness and response. It shall also promote a high level of nuclear safety, radiation protection, and the application of efficient and effective safeguards of nuclear material in third countries as well as the establishment of frameworks and methodologies for the application of efficient and effective safeguards for nuclear material.

(o) Promoting the highest nuclear safety standards,
including nuclear safety culture, emergency preparedness, responsible and safe management of spent fuel and radioactive waste, decommissioning and remediation of former nuclear sites and installations; radiation protection and the accountancy and control of nuclear materials;

(p) Increasing the ability of the agri-food and fisheries sectors
to cope with competitive pressure and market forces as well as to progressively align with the Union rules and standards, while pursuing economic, social and environmental goals in balanced territorial development of rural and coastal areas.

3. Sources for content of the NDICI fund

Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument (NDICI)

Budget: € 80.59 billion
Link: *Full text of the regulation*

Regulation (EU) 2021/947, Art. 3: **general objectives**

(a) uphold and promote the Union's values, principles and fundamental interests worldwide, in order to pursue the objectives and principles of the Union's external action, as laid down in Article 3(5) and Articles 8 and 21 TEU, thus contributing to the reduction and, in the long term, the eradication of poverty, to 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;

(b) contribute to the promotion of multilateralism, the achievement of the international commitments and objectives that the Union has agreed to, in particular the SDGs, the 2030 Agenda and the Paris Agreement;

(c) promote stronger partnerships with third countries, including with the European Neighbourhood Policy countries based on mutual interests and ownership with a view to fostering stabilisation, good governance and building resilience.

Specific objectives:

(a) 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;

(b) to develop special strengthened partnerships and enhanced political cooperation with the European Neighbourhood Policy countries, founded on cooperation, peace and stability and a shared commitment to the universal values of democracy, the rule of law and respect for human rights, and aiming towards deep and sustainable democracy and progressive socio-economic integration as well as people-to-people contacts;

(c) at global level:
  (i)   to protect, promote and advance democracy, the rule of law, including accountability mechanisms, and human rights, including gender equality and the protection of human rights defenders, including in the most difficult circumstances and urgent situations;
  (ii) to support civil society organisations;
  (iii) to stability and peace and prevent conflict, thereby contributing to the protection of civilians; and
  (iv) to address other global challenges such as climate change, the protection of biodiversity and the environment, as well as migration and mobility;

(d) to respond rapidly to:

  (i)   situations of crisis, instability and conflict, including those which may result from migratory flows and further forced displacement, and hybrid threats;
  (ii) resilience challenges, including natural and man-made disasters, and linking of humanitarian aid and development action; and
  (iii) Union foreign policy needs and priorities.

Regulation (EU) 2021/947, Art. 4: **scope and structure**

Union funding under the Instrument shall be implemented through:

(a) **geographic programmes (Annex II) | Areas of cooperation** (Neighbourhood; Sub-Saharan Africa; Asia and the Pacific; Americas and the Caribbean)

PEOPLE | Good governance, democracy, the rule of law and human rights, including gender equality

(a) Strengthening and promoting democracy and inclusive democratic processes, the rule of law, the fight against corruption, governance and oversight, including transparent, inclusive and credible electoral processes as well as transparent, accountable, effective and inclusive institutions at all levels, including legislative bodies, an independent judiciary, strengthening a meaningful political participation and representation;

(b) Strengthening the promotion, protection and fulfilment of human rights and fundamental freedoms in compliance with international human rights law, including the Universal Declaration of Human Rights; supporting and protecting human rights defenders; supporting and monitoring complaint and redress mechanisms with regard to human rights violations and abuses at national and local level; contributing to the implementation of global and regional instruments and frameworks, increasing the capacities of civil society in their implementation and monitoring;

(c) Fighting against discrimination in all its forms, and promoting the principle of equality and non-discrimination, in particular gender equality, rights and empowerment of women and girls, the rights of the child, persons with disabilities, persons belonging to minorities, lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans and intersex (LGBTI) persons, and indigenous peoples as set out in the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP);

(d) Supporting, strengthening and empowering a thriving civil society and its independent, active and multiple roles in political transitions, reform processes and democratic transformations, and promoting an open and enabling space for civil society and citizens' engagement in political life and in scrutiny of decision-making as well as countering the shrinking of democratic space; supporting and promoting the participation of all in political processes and public life;

(e) Improving the pluralism, independence and professionalism of a free and independent media, as well as enhancing media literacy and tackling disinformation; strengthening digital rights, including rights to access information; strengthening the right to privacy and data protection;

(f) Building resilience of states, societies, communities and individuals to political, economic, environmental, food, demographic and societal pressures and shocks, natural and man-made disasters and health crises including pandemics;

(g) Strengthening the development of democratic and inclusive public institutions at international, national and sub- national levels, including local authorities; strengthening the capacity for gender-responsive budgeting and planning; as well as an independent, effective, efficient and accountable judicial system, the promotion of the rule of law, international justice, accountability and affordable access to justice for all;

(h) Supporting public administration reform processes at national and sub-national levels, including through the use of citizen-centred eGovernment systems and other digital solutions for building robust, accountable and transparent public administration and service delivery systems, strengthening legal frameworks and institutional set up, national statistical systems and capacities, including with regard to disaggregating data by income, sex, age and other factors, sound public finance management including

external audit, and contributing to the fight against corruption, tax avoidance, tax evasion and aggressive tax planning;

(i) Supporting national and local governments and administrations to create the required infrastructure to enable all civil registrations (from birth through to death) to be accurately registered, and officially recognised, and duplicated documents to be published when necessary in order to ensure that all citizens officially exist and are able to exercise their fundamental rights;

(j) Promoting inclusive, balanced and integrated territorial, rural and urban policies and development through strengthening public institutions and bodies at the national and sub-national levels, supporting capacity building of local authorities and mobilising their expertise to promote a territorial approach to local development including efficient decentralisation, fiscal decentralisation, and state restructuring processes;

(k) Increasing transparency and accountability of public institutions at national and sub-national levels and publicly- owned enterprises and improving access for all to information on public affairs, strengthening public procurement including encouraging the development of environmental, social and economic sustainability criteria and targets and public finance management at regional, national and local level, supporting the development and deployment of eGovernance systems and strengthening service delivery;

(l) Supporting the sustainable, accountable, conflict sensitive and transparent management of natural resource sectors and related revenues, and reforms to ensure fair, just, efficient and sustainable tax policies.

PEOPLE | Eradicating poverty, fighting against inequalities and discrimination, and promoting human development

(a) Eradicating poverty in all its dimensions, including through public services on health, nutrition, education and social protection, tackling discrimination and inequalities and leaving no one behind;

(b) Supporting sustainable agriculture, forestry and fisheries to increase food security, create economic opportunities and jobs;

(c) Enhancing efforts for the adoption of policies and appropriate investment to promote, protect and fulfil the rights of women and girls, young people and children, and persons with disabilities, to facilitate their engagement and meaningful participation in social, civic and economic life, and to ensure their full contribution to inclusive growth and sustainable development;

(d) Promoting the respect, protection and fulfilment of the rights of women and girls and their empowerment, including economic, labour and social rights, land rights, as well as rights referred to in Article 8(4), eliminating sexual and gender-based violence in all forms, including harmful practices such as early, forced and child marriage and female genital mutilation;

(e) Addressing the linkages of global demographic growth and demographic shifts to sustainable development in all relevant dimensions including gender equality, health, social protection, social cohesion, education and employment;

(f) Paying special attention to those who are disadvantaged, vulnerable and marginalised, including children and youth, older persons, persons with disabilities, LGBTI persons, persons belonging to minorities and indigenous peoples, refugees, internally displaced people, persons affected by armed conflict and stateless persons;

(g) Promoting an integrated approach to supporting communities, particularly the most marginalised, vulnerable, poorest and hardest to reach persons, including by improving universal access to basic needs and services, including in the health, education, nutrition and social protection fields;

(h) Supporting the provision of a safe, nurturing environment for children as an important element for fostering a healthy young population able to reach its full potential. This includes promoting the transition from institutional to community-based care for children. It also includes giving children, particularly the most marginalised, the best start in life by investing in early childhood development and ensuring that children experiencing poverty or inequality have access to basic services such as health, nutrition, education and social protection;

(i) Supporting universal access to sufficient, affordable, safe and nutritious food and healthy diets, particularly for those in the most vulnerable situations, inter alia children under the age of five, adolescents, both girls and boys, and women, especially during pregnancy and breastfeeding, as well as strengthening food and nutrition resilience and the continuum of care, particularly in countries facing protracted or recurrent crises; prevent stunting, wasting and other forms of malnutrition; fostering multi-sectoral, nutrition-sensitive approaches to agriculture;

(j) Supporting universal access to safe and sufficient drinking water sanitation, and hygiene, and sustainable and integrated water management, in particular at local level;

(k) Achieving universal health coverage, with equitable access for all individuals and communities to quality and affordable health services, including sexual and reproductive health care services in the context of the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action and the Programme of Action of the ICPD and the outcomes of their review conferences, through supporting the building of inclusive strong, quality and resilient health systems that are accessible to all, and enhancing capacity for early warning, risk reduction, management and recovery; complementing action through the Union's framework programme for research and innovation to tackle global health threats, develop safe, efficient and affordable vaccines, medicines and treatments against poverty-related and neglected diseases, and to improve responses to health challenges including communicable diseases, antimicrobial resistance and emerging diseases and epidemics;

(l) Supporting universal and equitable social protection and strengthening social safety nets, support networks and systems to guarantee basic income, prevent lapses into extreme poverty and build resilience;

(m) Promoting inclusive sustainable urban development to address urban inequality, focusing on those most in need;

(n) Supporting local authorities, including through decentralised cooperation, capacity development and resource mobilisation, to improve in urban and rural areas the localisation of the SDGs through the delivery and responsiveness of basic services and equitable access to food and nutrition security, accessible, decent and affordable housing and the quality of life, in particular for those living in informal settlements and slums, strengthening and promoting accessible participation and complaint mechanisms, especially for disadvantaged and excluded persons and groups;

(o) Promoting the achievement of internationally agreed goals in education, with particular focus on strengthening free education systems, through inclusive and equitable quality formal, informal and non-formal education and promoting life-long learning opportunities for all, and at all levels, particularly during early childhood and primary

years, technical and vocational training, also in emergency and crisis situations, and with special attention to women and girls; and including through training and professional development for teachers, and the use of digital technologies to improve education teaching and learning;

(p) Supporting actions of capacity building, learning mobility between the Union and partner countries or between partner countries themselves, as well as of cooperation and policy dialogue with institutions, organisations, local implementing bodies and authorities, from those countries;

(q) Promoting cooperation in the areas of science, technology and research in particular addressing poverty related and societal changes, open data, big data, artificial intelligence and innovation, while preventing the phenomenon of brain drain;

(r) Stepping up coordination amongst all relevant actors at all levels to help the transition from a natural or man-made emergency situation to the development phase; ensuring joined-up planning and programming of cooperation interventions, that are coherent with humanitarian aid, and, where relevant, peacebuilding actions, on the basis of joint analysis;

(s) Supporting freedom of thought, conscience and religion or belief, including by means of measures to eliminate all forms of hatred, intolerance and discrimination based on religion or belief and by fostering tolerance and respect for religious and cultural diversity within and among societies;

(t) Promoting intercultural dialogue and cultural diversity in all its forms, and preserve and promote cultural heritage, and unlocking the potential of creative industries for sustainable, social and economic development;

(u) Supporting actions, and promoting cooperation, in the area of sport to contribute to the empowerment of women, young people, individuals and communities as well as to the health, education and social inclusion objectives of the 2030 Agenda;

(v) Promoting the dignity and resilience of long-term forcibly displaced persons and their inclusion in the economic and social life of host countries and host communities, including at local level.

PEOPLE | Migration, forced displacement and mobility

(a) Strengthening bilateral, regional and international partnerships on migration, forced displacement and mobility based on an integrated and balanced approach, covering all aspects of migration including assistance in implementing Union bilateral or regional agreements, dialogues and arrangements, including those on return and readmission, legal pathways and mobility partnerships, in full respect of international law and human rights obligations;

(b) Supporting sustainable reintegration of returning migrants and their families, as well as safe and dignified returns amongst partner countries in full respect of humanitarian and human rights obligations under international and Union law;

(c) Addressing and mitigating root causes of irregular migration and forced displacement;

(d) Tackling irregular migration and forced displacement; reducing the vulnerabilities in the context of migration including those caused by human trafficking and smuggling, as well as including supporting measures to protect victims of exploitation and abuse; and stepping up cooperation on integrated border management in line with international and Union law, human rights law, humanitarian law and data protection standards;

(e) Strengthening scientific, technical, human and institutional capacity for the management of migration, including human rights trainings, support partner countries'

reception, processing, asylum and return procedures; strengthening cross-border cooperation on exchange of information in compliance with data protection standards and obligations related to the right to privacy under international human rights law; and supporting the collection and use of accurate and disaggregated data as a basis for evidence-based policies in order to facilitate orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration and mobility;

(f) Supporting effective and human rights based migration policies, at all levels, including protection programmes;

(g) Promoting conditions for facilitating, as appropriate, legal migration and well-managed mobility, while respecting competences of the Member States, and people-to-people contacts, including in education, research and innovation, cultural exchange and intercultural dialogue, including by providing accurate and timely information, maximising the development impact of regular migration;

(h) Improving a common understanding of the migration–development nexus, recognising that orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration and mobility, peace, good governance, stability, inclusive growth and sustainable development are strongly interlinked, and pursuing synergies within these various dimensions;

(i) Ensuring the protection, the respect and fulfilment of the human rights of all migrants, refugees, forcibly displaced persons and internally displaced persons, including those displaced due to climate change, paying special attention to vulnerable groups;

(j) Supporting development oriented solutions for forcibly displaced persons, internally displaced persons and their host communities, including through socio-economic inclusion with access to labour market, decent jobs, education and services, to promote the dignity, resilience and self-reliance of displaced persons;

(k) Supporting diaspora engagement in countries of origin to contribute to sustainable development, including through the involvement of local authorities and civil society organisations, taking into account their potential for investments, supporting their solidarity and entrepreneurial initiatives;

(l) Promoting faster, cheaper and safer remittance transfers in both source and recipient countries, thus harnessing their potential for development.

(m) thematic programmes;

PLANET | Environment and climate change

(a) Strengthening scientific, technical, human and institutional capacity for climate and environmental management, mainstreaming and monitoring; strengthening regional, national and local climate and environmental governance, and facilitating access to public and private sources for disaster risk reduction, ecosystems and biodiversity conservation and climate finance, as well as insurance;

(b) Supporting adaptation to climate change, with special emphasis on particularly vulnerable States and populations; contributing to partners' efforts to pursue their commitments on climate change, ecosystems and biodiversity conservation, including at local level, in line with the Paris Agreement and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction. Those efforts include the implementation of the NDCs and mitigation and adaptation plans of action including synergies between adaptation and mitigation, through global initiatives such as the NDC Partnership, as well as their commitments under other multilateral environmental agreements, such as the UN Convention on Biological Diversity and the UN Convention to Combat Desertification;

(c) Developing and/or strengthening sustainable green and blue growth and circular economy in all economic sectors;

(d) Promoting access to sustainable energy in developing countries; strengthening sustainable renewable energy cooperation, in full compliance with highest international standards including for the assessment of both national and transboundary safety and environmental impacts. Promoting and increasing cooperation on energy efficiency and the production and use of renewable energy sources; promoting access to reliable, secure, affordable, clean and sustainable energy services; supporting, in particular small-scale, mini-grid and off-grid solutions of high environmental and developmental value, and local and decentralized solutions that ensure energy access for people living in poverty and in remote areas;

(e) Building capacity to mainstream environmental sustainability and climate change objectives, and pursuing green growth into national and local development strategies including supporting sustainability criteria in public procurement;

(f) Promoting the phasing-out of environmentally harmful fossil fuel subsidies, stable and transparent energy markets and the deployment of smart grids and the use of digital technologies for sustainable energy management;

(g) Promoting corporate social responsibility, due diligence in supply chains, and the consistent application of the 'precautionary approach' and the 'polluter pays' principles;

(h) Promoting environmentally sustainable agriculture practices, including agroecology and biodiversity as well as to enhance mitigation and adaptation to climate change and promote environmental and social resilience and healthy ecosystems;

(i) Improving local, national, regional and continental multi-modal transport networks and services to strengthen further opportunities for sustainable climate-resilient economic development and job creation, in view of low- emission, climate resilient development. Strengthening transport facilitation and liberalisation, improve sustainability, road safety and resilience of transport domains;

(j) Strengthening the involvement of local authorities and communities and indigenous peoples in climate change responses, the fight against biodiversity loss and wildlife crime, conservation of ecosystems and the conflict sensitive governance of natural resources, including through the improvement of land tenure and water resources management. Promoting sustainable urban development and resilience in urban areas; strengthening and promoting participation and access to complaint and redress mechanisms at national and local level, especially for indigenous peoples as set out in the UNDRIP;

(k) Promoting education for sustainable development to empower people to transform society and build a sustainable future;

(l) Promoting the conservation, sustainable and conflict sensitive management and use, and restoration of natural resources, healthy terrestrial and non-terrestrial ecosystems and halting biodiversity loss, protecting wildlife, including combating poaching and illegal wildlife trafficking; strengthening consultation and promoting regional transboundary cooperation and ensuring free, prior informed consent and effective participation of indigenous peoples as set out in the UNDRIP;

(m) Promoting integrated, sustainable, participatory and conflict sensitive management of water resources and transboundary water cooperation in accordance with international law, involving where relevant local authorities;

(n) Promoting conservation and enhancement of carbon stocks through sustainable management of land use, land-use change, and forestry and combating environmental

degradation, desertification and land and forest degradation and drought, involving where relevant local authorities;

(o) Promoting forestation and protection of natural forests; reducing deforestation and promoting forest law enforcement, governance and trade, and combating illegal logging, trade of illegal timber and wood products.
Supporting better governance and capacity building for the sustainable management of natural resources, including through subnational governments; supporting the negotiation and the implementation of voluntary partnership agreements;

(p) Supporting ocean governance, including the protection, restoration and preservation of coastal and marine areas in all its forms, including ecosystems, the fight against marine litter, the fight against illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing and the protection of maritime biodiversity in accordance with the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea;

(q) Strengthening regional disaster risk reduction, preparedness and resilience, including through investment, and through promoting a community-based and people-centred approach, in synergy with climate change adaptation policies and actions;

(r) Promoting resource efficiency and sustainable consumption and production, in particular throughout the entire supply chain, towards the transition to a circular economy, including by curbing the use of natural resources financing conflicts, and by supporting compliance by stakeholders with relevant initiatives; tackling pollution, reducing air pollutants, in particular black carbon and promoting a sound management of chemicals and waste;

(s) Supporting efforts to improve sustainable economic diversification, competitiveness, local value-added in supply chains and sustainable trade, private sector development with a particular focus on low-emission climate-resilient green growth, SMEs and cooperatives, taking advantage of the benefits of existing trade agreements with the Union for sustainable development;

(t) Promoting the achievement of commitments regarding biodiversity conservation in international agreements;

(u) Increasing the integration and mainstreaming of climate change and environmental objectives through support for methodological and research work;

(v) Addressing global and trans-regional effects of climate change having a potentially destabilising impact on development, peace and security.

PROSPERITY | Inclusive and sustainable economic growth and decent employment

(a) Supporting entrepreneurship, including through microfinance, decent employment and employability through the development of skills and competences, education and vocational training, the improvement of the full application of international labour standards and including social dialogue and the fight against child labour, working conditions in a healthy environment, gender equality, living wages and the creation of opportunities particularly for the youth as well as women;

(b) Supporting national and local development paths that maximise positive social outcomes and impacts, reduce the risk of exclusion and marginalisation of certain groups, promoting fair, efficient and sustainable taxation and redistributive public policies, and the setting-up and strengthening of sustainable social protection systems and social insurance schemes; supporting efforts at national and international levels to combat tax evasion and tax havens;

(c) Improving the business environment and investment climate at local and national levels, creating an enabling regulatory environment for economic development and supporting companies, in particular SMEs, including start-ups, as well as cooperatives, social enterprises and women entrepreneurs in expanding their business and creating jobs, supporting the development of a solidarity economy and enhancing responsible business conduct and private sector accountability;

(d) Promoting corporate accountability and redress mechanisms for violations of human rights related to private sector activities; supporting efforts at local, regional and global level to ensure corporate compliance with human rights standards and regulatory developments, including on mandatory due diligence, and with international commitments on business and human rights;

(e) Strengthening social and environmental sustainability, inclusiveness, corporate social responsibility and responsible business conduct, and respecting and promoting human rights standards and principles throughout the entire value chains, supporting shared value addition and fair trading conditions;

(f) Increasing relevance, effectiveness and sustainability of public spending, including through promoting sustainable public procurement; and promoting more strategic use of public finance, including through blending instruments to crowd in additional public and private investment;

(g) Boosting the potential of cities as hubs for sustainable and inclusive growth and innovation;

(h) Promoting internal economic, social and territorial cohesion, forging stronger links between urban and rural areas and facilitating the development of both creative industries and a sustainable tourism sector as a leverage for sustainable development;

(i) Boosting and diversifying sustainable and inclusive agricultural and food value chains, promoting food security and economic diversification, value addition, regional integration, competitiveness and fair trade, and strengthening sustainable, low-emission and climate-change-resilient innovations;

(j) Focusing on ecologically efficient agricultural intensification for smallholder farmers, and in particular women, by providing support for effective and sustainable national policies, strategies and legal frameworks, and for equitable and sustainable access to, and management of resources, including land and land right, water, other agricultural inputs, and (micro) credit;

(k) Supporting greater participation of civil society, including at regional level, in particular farmer organisations in policy making and research programmes and increasing their involvement in the implementation and evaluation of government programmes;

(l) Supporting and promoting sustainable fisheries management and sustainable aquaculture;

(m) Fostering universal access to affordable, reliable and sustainable energy, promoting a low-emission, climate- resilient, resource-efficient and circular economy in line with the objectives of the Paris Agreement and the 2030 Agenda;

(n) Promoting smart, sustainable, inclusive, safe mobility, as well as improving transport connectivity with the Union;

(o) Promoting accessible, affordable, inclusive, reliable and secure digital connectivity and strengthening the digital economy; promoting digital literacy and skills; fostering digital entrepreneurship and job creation; promoting the use of digital technologies as an enabler for sustainable development; addressing cybersecurity, data privacy and other regulatory issues linked to digitalisation;

(p) Developing and strengthening markets and sectors in a way that would bolster inclusive, sustainable and climate- resilient growth and fair trade, as well as reduce the socio-economic marginalisation of vulnerable groups;

(q) Supporting the regional integration agenda and optimal trade policies in support of inclusive and sustainable development, strengthening countries' capacity to trade, and supporting the consolidation and implementation of trade agreements between the Union and its partners, including holistic and asymmetrical agreements with developing country partners, in line with human rights standards; promoting and strengthening multilateralism, sustainable economic cooperation, as well as measures aimed at promoting and strengthening the rules of the World Trade Organization;

(r) Promoting cooperation in the areas of science, technology and research, digitalisation, open data, big data and artificial intelligence and innovation, including the development of science diplomacy;

(s) Promoting intercultural dialogue and cultural diversity in all its forms, developing local crafts as well as contemporary arts and cultural expressions, preserving and promoting cultural heritage, unlocking the potential of creative industries for sustainable, social and economic development, and guaranteeing as well as strengthening rights of indigenous peoples as set out in the UNDRIP, and local communities and their effective participation and empowerment;

(t) Empowering women to take up a greater economic role and in decision-making, including at local level;

(u) Improving access to decent work for all in a healthy environment, and creating more inclusive and well-functioning labour markets and employment policies directed towards decent work, respect for human rights and labour rights, including living wages for all, especially women and youth;

(v) Promoting fair, sustainable, undistorted, conflict-sensitive and non-corrupted access to extractive sectors, while respecting human rights; increasing transparency, due diligence and investor responsibility while promoting private sector accountability; applying measures to accompany Regulation (EU) 2017/821 of the European Parliament and of the Council

PEACE | Peace, stability and conflict prevention

(a) Contributing to peace, the prevention of conflict and therefore to stability through building resilience of states, sub-national governments, societies, communities and individuals to political, economic, environmental, food, demographic, security and societal pressures and shocks, including by countering hybrid threats and supporting resilience assessments designed to identify the local capacities within societies that allow them to withstand, adapt to and quickly recover from these pressures and shocks; addressing political and economic exclusion and other long-term structural and root causes of conflict, insecurity and instability;

(b) Promoting a culture of non-violence, including by supporting formal, informal and non-formal peace education;

(c) Supporting conflict prevention, early warning and peacebuilding through mediation and dialogue, crisis management, and stabilisation and post-conflict reconstruction, including an enhanced role for women at all of these stages; promoting, facilitating and building capacity in confidence building, mediation, dialogue and reconciliation, good neighbourly relations and other measures contributing to the prevention and settlement of conflicts, with particular regard to emerging inter-community tensions as

well as conciliation measures between segments of societies and protracted conflicts and crises;

(d) Supporting rehabilitation and reintegration of victims of armed conflicts, supporting disarmament, demobilisation and reintegration of former combatants and their families into society and addressing the social effects of restructuring the armed forces, including the specific needs of women;

(e) Enhancing women's and youth systematic participation, including in decision-making and implementation, in peace negotiations, reconciliation processes, conflict prevention and peacebuilding and their inclusion, meaningful civil and political participation and social recognition in line with UNSCR 1325 (2000), in particular in fragile, conflict and post-conflict situations and countries, also in order to address the disproportionate impact of violent conflict on them and better consider their special needs during conflict;

(f) Preventing all forms of sexual and gender-based violence, including the use of sexual violence as a weapon of war;

(g) Supporting gender- and conflict-sensitive security sector reform that guarantees the respect, promotion and fulfilment of the Union fundamental values and good governance principles and gradually provides individuals, civil society and the state with more effective, democratic and accountable security capacities and instruments for sustainable development and peace;

(h) Supporting capacity-building of military actors in support of development and security for development, in accordance with Article 9;

(i) Supporting regional and international disarmament initiatives and arms export control regimes and mechanisms;

(j) Supporting local, national, regional and international initiatives contributing to security, stability and peace, including disarmament initiatives and arms export control regimes and mechanisms, demining and mine-action as well as linking those different initiatives, and addressing the socio-economic impact on the civilian population, including the needs of women, of antipersonnel landmines, unexploded ordnance or explosive remnants of war;

(k) Preventing and countering radicalisation leading to violent extremism and terrorism, as well as protecting individuals from such threats, including by means of context-specific, conflict- and gender-sensitive actions;

(l) Supporting ad hoc, local, national, regional and international tribunals, truth and reconciliation commissions and mechanisms;

(m) Fighting against any form of violence, corruption and organised crime and money laundering;

(n) Promoting transboundary cooperation regarding the sustainable, conflict-sensitive and participatory management of shared natural resources in accordance with international and Union law and respecting and promoting human rights of affected individuals and groups including indigenous peoples as set out in the UNDRIP and local communities;

(o) Cooperating with third countries in the peaceful use of nuclear energy in the areas of health, agriculture and food safety, ensuring full compliance with the highest international standards; as well as supporting social actions addressing the consequences on the population in countries exposed to any radiological accident and aiming at improving their living conditions; promoting knowledge-management, training and education in nuclear-related fields. Where applicable, these activities shall be coherent with those of the European Instrument for International Nuclear Safety Cooperation;

(p) Enhancing maritime security and safety to allow for safe, secure, clean and sustainably managed oceans;

(q) Supporting capacity-building in cyber security, resilient digital networks, data protection and privacy, in line with human rights standards and principles.

PARTNERSHIP | Partnership

(a) Enhancing country ownership, partnership and constructive dialogue, including with civil society, in order to contribute to greater effectiveness of development cooperation in all its dimensions (giving special consideration for the specific challenges of LDCs and countries affected by conflict and fragility, as well as specific transitional challenges of middle income countries and more advanced developing countries), implementing a rights-based approach to development cooperation, encompassing all human rights and ensuring that no one is left behind;

(b) Deepening political, economic, social, environmental and cultural dialogue between the Union and third countries and regional and international organisations, and supporting implementation of bilateral and international commitments;

(c) Fostering greater inclusiveness and collaboration of all actors in the implementation of development cooperation and external action policies, seeking to share lessons learned, maximise capacities, added value, excellence and experience, thus reinforcing common goals, values and interests and the ambition of working better together;

(d) Encouraging good neighbourly relations, regional integration, enhanced connectivity, cooperation and inclusive and constructive dialogue, including, inter alia, enhanced regional cooperation in the framework of the EU Strategy for connecting Europe and Asia, the EU Strategy on Central Asia, the EU-Africa partnership, the Black Sea regional cooperation, the Arctic cooperation and the Northern Dimension;

(e) Supporting and increasing cooperation by partner countries and regions with neighbouring Union outermost regions and with overseas countries and territories;

(f) Promoting an enabling environment for civil society organisations and foundations, enhancing their meaningful, continuous and structured participation in domestic and international policies and their capacity to perform their roles as independent development and governance actors; and strengthening multi-stakeholder approaches and new ways of partnering with civil society actors, including women's rights organisations; supporting democracy and expanding civic space; promoting a substantive and structured dialogue with the Union and the effective use and implementation of country roadmaps for Union engagement with civil society;

(g) Engaging with local authorities and supporting their role as policy and decision-makers to boost local development, including the business environment, and improved governance, as well as development and governance actors; promoting an enabling regulatory and institutional framework allowing local authorities to exercise their mandate, enhancing their meaningful, continuous and structured participation in domestic and international policies; and strengthening multi-stakeholders and multilevel governance approaches and new ways of partnering with local authorities;

(h) Engaging more effectively with the population, including human rights defenders, in third countries, including by making full use of economic, cultural and public diplomacy;

(i) Engaging industrialised and more advanced developing countries on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, global public goods and challenges, including in the area of South-South and triangular cooperation;

(j) Encouraging regional integration and cooperation, in a result-oriented way through support for regional integration and dialogue;

(k) Building partnerships with the private sector for creating jobs and enhancing livelihoods in partner countries.

(b) **thematic programmes (Annex III) | Areas of intervention**

HUMAN RIGHTS AND DEMOCRACY | Upholding human rights and fundamental freedoms for all

contributing to forging societies in which participation, tolerance, non-discrimination, human dignity, equality, social justice, international justice and accountability prevail. This includes two major axes:

(a) Monitoring, promoting and strengthening respect for and observance of all human rights, be they civil and political, as well as economic, social and cultural rights.

This shall include, inter alia, actions: to abolish the death penalty, promote the fight against enforced disappearances, to prevent and eliminate torture, ill-treatment and other cruel, inhumane and degrading punishment or treatment, to promote freedom of expression, assembly and association, freedom of thought, conscience and religion or belief; to promote and protect gender equality and women and girls' empowerment in all spheres of life, including in education, health and those areas and rights referred to in Article 8(4), work- life balance, political decision-making and supporting measures to eliminate all forms of violence against women and girls; to promote and protect, the rights of the child, women, youth, LGBTI persons, including measures to decriminalise homosexuality, persons belonging to national or ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities, indigenous peoples as set out in the UNDRIP, and persons with disabilities, and to fight racism, xenophobia and discrimination based on any grounds. Within the specified scope, Union assistance shall particularly address the most context-sensitive human rights issues, respond to the shrinking space for civil society active in the promotion and protection of human rights, as well as counter other emerging and complex challenges;

(b) Protecting and empowering human rights defenders worldwide, in particular in countries where disrespect for human rights and fundamental freedoms is particularly pronounced and systematic, including where restrictive measures have been introduced to limit their actions and their action is critical to reinforce the institutional and legal human rights framework. Emergency, medium-term and long-term assistance as well as sustainable measures shall be given to human rights defenders and civil society, in particular local human rights defenders and civil society, including through a dedicated mechanism for the protection of human rights defenders, to carry out their work unhindered.

HUMAN RIGHTS AND DEMOCRACY | Developing, supporting, consolidating and protecting democracy

addressing all aspects of democratic governance, including reinforcing political pluralism, representation, and accountability, reinforcing democracy at all levels, enhancing citizen and civil society participation, supporting credible, inclusive and transparent electoral processes as well as supporting citizen capacity in monitoring democratic and electoral systems, through the support to domestic citizen election observation organisations and their regional networks. Democracy shall be strengthened by upholding the main pillars of democratic systems, democratic norms and principles, free, independent and pluralistic

media, both online and offline, internet freedom, the fight against censorship, accountable and inclusive institutions, including parliaments and political parties, and the fight against corruption. Union assistance shall support civil society action in strengthening the rule of law, promoting the independence of the judiciary and of the legislature, supporting and evaluating legal and institutional reforms and their implementation, monitoring democratic and electoral systems and promoting access to affordable justice for all, including to effective and accessible complaint and redress mechanisms at national and local level.

HUMAN RIGHTS AND DEMOCRACY | Promoting effective multilateralism and strategic partnership

contributing to reinforcing capacities of international, regional and national instruments and mechanisms in promoting and protecting human rights, democracy and the rule of law. Strategic Partnerships shall be boosted, with a particular attention to the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, the International Criminal Court and other relevant international, regional and national human rights mechanisms. Furthermore, the programme shall promote education and research on human rights and democracy, including through the Global Campus of Human Rights.

CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANISATIONS | Inclusive, participatory, empowered and independent civil society and democratic space in partner countries

(a) Creating an enabling and accessible environment for citizen participation and civil society action, including through foundations by supporting active civil society participation in policy dialogues and the consolidation of dialogue platforms for non-state actors;

(b) Supporting and building the capacity of civil society organisations, and foundations, to act as both actors of development and good governance in their own right;

(c) Capacity building for civil society organisations for their support of vulnerable and marginalised groups by providing basic social services such as health - including nutrition, education, social protection, and access to safe water, sanitation and hygiene;

(d) Supporting and empowering women's organisations and other relevant organisations working on gender equality as well as women human rights defenders to have the opportunity to work and be protected against threats and violence;

(e) Increasing the capacity of civil society networks, platforms and alliances in partner countries;

(f) Enabling civil society to carry out their work, through, inter alia, capacity building, coordination and institutional strengthening for civil society organisations, taking into account the importance of enabling space for their actions and access to funding, including to engage within their organisations and between different types of stakeholders. Fostering dialogue between civil society organisations and governments on public policy.

CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANISATIONS | Inclusive and open dialogue with and between civil society actors

(a) Promoting inclusive multi-stakeholder dialogue fora, including interaction and coordination between citizens, civil society, local authorities, Member States, partner countries, the private sector and other key development stakeholders;

(b) Enabling cooperation and exchange of knowledge and experience between and with civil society actors domestically and internationally;

(c) Fostering cooperation and partnerships of civil society organisations with international intergovernmental organisations, including capacity building aimed at promoting and monitoring the implementation of international and regional instruments, including those concerning human rights, justice, the rule of law and democracy;

(d) Ensuring a substantive and continued structured dialogue and partnerships with the Union.

CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANISATIONS | Awareness, understanding, knowledge and engagement of European citizens regarding development issues

(a) Empowering people to increase their engagement on development issues and the SDGs, including through raising public awareness, promoting formal, informal and non-formal education for development, especially among youth, and promoting knowledge sharing between the relevant actors, focusing on the Union Member States, candidate and potential candidate countries;

(b) Mobilising public support in the Union, candidate countries and potential candidates for sustainable and inclusive development strategies, including poverty reduction, in partner countries.

PEACE, STABILITY AND CONFLICT PREVENTION | Assistance for conflict prevention, peacebuilding and crisis preparedness

The Union shall provide technical and financial assistance covering support for conflict-sensitive measures aimed at building and strengthening the capacity of the partners to analyse risks, prevent conflict, build peace and address pre- and post-crisis needs in close coordination with the UN and other international, regional and sub-regional organisations, and State, civil society and local authorities actors, in relation to their efforts mainly in the following areas, including specific attention to gender equality, ensuring the effective participation and empowerment of women and youth:

(a) early warning and conflict-sensitive risk analysis in policy-making and the implementation of policy;

(b) facilitation and building capacity in confidence-building, mediation, dialogue and reconciliation measures, including at community level, with particular regard to emerging inter-community tensions, especially with a view to the prevention of genocide and crimes against humanity;

(c) conflict prevention;

(d) strengthening capacities for participation and deployment in civilian stabilisation, peacekeeping and peacebuilding missions;

(e) improving post-conflict recovery as well as post-disaster recovery, with relevance to the political and security situation;

(f) supporting stabilisation, safety of individuals and human security restoration measures, including mine action, demining and transitional justice in line with relevant multilateral agreements;

(g) supporting peacebuilding and state-building actions, involving, where appropriate, civil society organisations, states and international organisations, as well as strengthening state-society relations;

(h) contributing to the further development of structural dialogue on peacebuilding issues at various levels, between civil society and partner countries, and with the Union;

(i) crisis response and preparedness;

(j) curbing the use of natural resources to finance conflicts, and supporting compliance by stakeholders with initiatives such as the Kimberley Process Certification Scheme, and including legal acts such as Regulation (EU) 2017/821, especially as regards the implementation of efficient domestic controls over the production of, and trade in, natural resources;

(k) capacity building of military actors in support of development and security for development in accordance with Article 9;

(l) supporting actions promoting gender equality and women's empowerment, in particular through implementation of UNSCRs 1325 (2000) and 2250 (2015) as well as participation and representation of women and youth in formal and informal peace processes;

(m) promoting a culture of non-violence, including by supporting formal, informal and non-formal peace education;

(n) supporting actions strengthening the resilience of states, societies, communities and individuals, including resilience assessments designed to identify the endogenous capacities within societies that allow them to withstand, adapt to and quickly recover from pressures and shocks;

(o) supporting international criminal tribunals and ad hoc national tribunals, truth and reconciliation commissions, transitional justice and other mechanisms for the legal settlement of human rights claims and the assertion and adjudication of property rights;

(p) supporting measures to combat the illicit use of, and access to, firearms, small arms and light weapons;

(q) supporting know-how transfer, the exchange of information and best practices, risk or threat assessment, research and analysis, early warning systems, training and service delivery.

PEACE, STABILITY AND CONFLICT PREVENTION | Assistance in addressing global and trans-regional threats and emerging threats

The Union shall provide technical and financial assistance to support partners' efforts and Union actions addressing global and trans-regional threats and emerging threats mainly in the following areas:

(a) threats to law and order, and to the security and safety of individuals including terrorism, radicalisation leading to violent extremism, organised crime, cyber-crime, hybrid threats, illicit trafficking, trade and transit; in particular strengthening the capacity of law enforcement and judicial and civil authorities involved in the fight against terrorism, organised crime, including cyber-crime;

(b) threats to public spaces, critical infrastructure, including international transport, including passenger and freight traffic, energy operations and energy distribution, cybersecurity;

(c) threats to public health, including sudden epidemics with a potential trans-national impact;

(d) threats to environmental stability, maritime security threats, threats having a potentially destabilising impact on peace and security, deriving from climate change impacts;

(e) mitigation against risks, whether of an intentional, accidental or natural origin, related to chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear materials or agents and risks to related installations or sites, or explosive remnants of wars and conflicts, in particular in the following areas:

    (i) supporting and promoting civilian research activities as an alternative to defence-related research;

    (ii) enhancing safety practices related to civilian facilities where sensitive chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear materials or agents are stored or are handled in the context of civilian research programmes;

    (iii) supporting, within the framework of Union cooperation policies and their objectives, the establishment of civil infrastructure and relevant civilian studies necessary for the dismantlement, remediation or conversion of weapons-related facilities and sites where these are declared to be no longer part of a defence programme;

    (iv) strengthening the capacity of the competent civilian authorities involved in the development and enforcement of effective control of illicit trafficking in chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear materials or agents (including the equipment for their production or delivery);

    (v) developing the legal framework and institutional capacities for the establishment and enforcement of effective export controls, in particular on dual-use goods, including regional cooperation measures and as regards the implementation of the provisions of the Arms Trade Treaty and the promotion of adherence to it;

    (vi) developing effective civilian disaster-preparedness, emergency planning and response, and capabilities for clean-up measures.

    Where applicable, these activities shall be coherent with those of the European Instrument for International Nuclear Safety Cooperation;

(f) capacity building of military actors in support of development and security for development, in accordance with Article 9.

GLOBAL CHALLENGES | PEOPLE | Health

(a) Developing crucial elements of an effective and comprehensive health system, including communicable diseases, that are best addressed at a global level to secure equitable, affordable, inclusive and universal access to health services, including those referred to in Article 8(4);

(b) Promoting, providing and expanding essential services and psychological support services for victims of violence, in particular women and children rape victims;

(c) Reinforcing global initiatives that are key enablers of universal health coverage through global leadership on a 'health in all policies' approach with a continuum of care, including health promotion, from prevention to post-treatment;

(d) Addressing global health security and antimicrobial resistance through communicable diseases research, including on poverty-related and neglected and vaccine-preventable diseases and control, combating fake medicines, translating knowledge into safe, accessible and affordable products (including generic medicines) and diagnostics and related health technologies, and policies that tackle the changing disease burden (non-communicable diseases, all forms of malnutrition and environmental risk factors), and shape global markets to improve access to affordable essential health commodities and health services, including those referred to in Article 8(4);

(e) Supporting global initiatives for the development of safe, efficient and affordable vaccines.

GLOBAL CHALLENGES | PEOPLE | Education

(a) Promoting the achievement of internationally agreed goals in education through joint global efforts for accessible, inclusive and equitable quality education and training, including of teachers, at all levels, for all ages, also in emergency and crisis situations and with a particular priority on strengthening free education systems;

(b) Strengthening knowledge, skills and values through partnerships and alliances, including support for education data and analysis, research and innovation, knowledge exchange, and education networks, for active citizenship and productive, educated, democratic, inclusive and resilient societies;

(c) Supporting global action on reducing all dimensions of discrimination and inequalities, such as the gaps between girls/women and boys/men, and between different groups in society, to ensure that everyone has equal opportunity to take part in economic, political, social and cultural life;

(d) Supporting inclusive and quality education in fragile environments;

(e) Supporting actions and promoting cooperation in the area of sport to contribute to the empowerment of women and of young people, individuals and communities.

GLOBAL CHALLENGES | PEOPLE | Gender equality and women's and girls' empowerment

(a) Committing to advance gender equality and girls' and women's empowerment in all spheres; including support to establish a more enabling economic, political and social environment for the fulfilment of girls' and women's rights that will enable them to fully participate in society, have equal opportunities for leadership in social, economic, political and civil life and be a driver of development;

(b) Leading and supporting global efforts, partnerships and alliances for the rights of women and girls, as set out in the UN Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and the Optional Protocol thereto to eliminate all forms of discrimination against women and girls, including exclusion that women suffer in the different areas of their private and public lives such as the labour market and access to social and health services;

(c) Leading and supporting global efforts, partnerships and alliances for the rights of women to eliminate all forms of violence, harmful practices against women and girls, including physical, psychological, sexual and gender-based violence, female genital mutilation, as well as forced, early and child marriage and economic, political and other types of violence and discrimination, including in crisis situations as well as the exclusion that women suffer in the different areas of their private and public lives;

(d) Addressing root causes of gender inequalities as a means of supporting conflict prevention and peacebuilding; promoting the empowerment of women, including in their roles as development actors and peacebuilders;

(e) Promoting the protection and fulfilment of all women's and girls' rights, including those referred to in Article 8(4);

(f) Promoting the protection and fulfilment of rights of women and girls, including economic, political, labour and social rights and those referred to in Article 8(4).

GLOBAL CHALLENGES | PEOPLE | Children and Youth

(a) Promoting universal access to all social and health services for children and youth, including the most marginalised, with a focus on health, nutrition, education, social protection, and early childhood development, including through dedicated youth friendly services;

(b) Promoting new initiatives to build stronger child protection systems in third countries, ensuring that children get the best start in life and are protected in all areas from violence, abuses and neglect, including by promoting the transition from institutional to community-based care for children;

(c) Promoting children's and young people's empowerment by opening spaces for their active and meaningful participation in matters that concern them, in particular to political life and to peace process and mediation efforts, by supporting initiatives of inter-cultural dialogue among youth organisations and by preventing marginalisation and exclusion;

(d) Stepping up assistance to youth to support them in acquiring relevant skills and in accessing decent and quality jobs through education, vocational and technical training, as well as digital technologies;

(e) Promoting youth empowerment and responsible citizenship, by opening spaces for their active and meaningful participation in political life and in peace process and mediation efforts, by supporting initiatives of inter-cultural dialogue among youth organisations and by preventing marginalisation and exclusion;

(f) Creating an enabling environment that provides new and innovating opportunities for youth civic engagement, youth entrepreneurship and youth employment.

GLOBAL CHALLENGES | PEOPLE | Migration, forced displacement and mobility

(a) Ensure continued Union leadership in shaping the global agenda on migration and forced displacement governance in all its dimensions, particularly to facilitate orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration, in line with human rights, and international refugee law and international humanitarian law;

(b) Steering and supporting global and cross-regional policy dialogues, including on South-South migration, and exchange and cooperation on migration and forced displacement;

(c) Supporting the implementation of international and Union commitments on migration and forced displacement, including at UN level;

(d) Improving the global evidence base, including on the migration/development nexus, and initiate actions of pilot character aiming at developing innovative operational approaches in the area of migration and forced displacement;

(e) Boosting strategic partnerships with relevant international organisations to support international cooperation and migration governance according to international human rights law and international refugee law.

GLOBAL CHALLENGES | PEOPLE | Decent work, social protection, inequality and inclusion

(a) Shaping the global agenda and support initiatives on the integration of a strong pillar on equity and social justice in accordance to European values;

(b) Contributing to the global agenda on decent work for all in a healthy environment, on the basis of the core ILO labour standards, including on social dialogue, living wages and the fight against child labour, corporate social responsibility, in particular in making global value chains sustainable and responsible, and enhancing knowledge on effective

gender-responsive employment policies that respond to labour market needs and promote socio-economic inclusion, including vocational education and training and life-long learning;

(c) supporting global initiatives on business and human rights, including corporate accountability for rights violations and access to remedies;

(d) Supporting global initiatives on universal social protection that follow the principles of efficiency, sustainability and equity; including support to address inequality in order to enhance gender equality and social cohesion, in particular with the setting-up and strengthening of sustainable social protection systems, social insurance schemes;

(e) Continuing global research and development through social innovation that enhances social inclusion and addresses the rights and specific needs of the most vulnerable sections of society;

(f) Promoting and supporting efforts to make social, political and economic life more inclusive and to address socio-economic drivers of conflict.

GLOBAL CHALLENGES | PEOPLE | Culture

(a) Promoting initiatives for cultural diversity, intercultural and interreligious dialogue for peaceful inter- community relations;

(b) Supporting culture as an engine for sustainable social and economic development and reinforcing cooperation on, and preservation of, cultural heritage;

(c) Developing local crafts, as a means to preserve local cultural heritage and foster sustainable development;

(d) Reinforcing cooperation on safeguarding, conservation and enhancement of cultural heritage, including the preservation of particularly vulnerable cultural heritage, in particular from minority and isolated communities and indigenous peoples as set out in the UNDRIP;

(e) Supporting agreements for the return of cultural property to their countries of origin;

(f) Supporting cultural cooperation, including through exchanges, partnerships and other initiatives and the recognition of the professionalism of authors, artists and cultural and creative operators;

(g) Supporting cooperation and partnerships among sport organisations.

GLOBAL CHALLENGES | PLANET | Ensuring a healthy environment and tackling climate change

(a) Strengthening global climate and environmental governance, the implementation of the Paris Agreement, the UN Convention on Biological Diversity, the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change and the UN Convention to Combat Desertification and other multilateral environmental agreements;

(b) Contributing to the external projection of the Union's environment and climate change policies;

(c) Integrating environment, ecosystems and biodiversity conservation, climate change, disaster risk reduction and preparedness objectives in policies, plans and investments including through improved knowledge and information;

(d) Implementing international and Union initiatives to promote climate change adaptation and mitigation and climate-resilient low-emission development, including through the implementation of the NDCs and long- term low emission and climate-resilient strategies, promoting disaster risk reduction, address environmental degradation and halting biodiversity loss, promoting the conservation and sustainable use and management of terrestrial and marine ecosystems and renewable natural resources,

including land, water, oceans, fisheries and forests, promoting forestation and protection of natural forest, addressing deforestation, desertification, land degradation, illegal logging and wildlife trafficking, tackling pollution, including marine litter, and ensuring a healthy environment, addressing climate and environmental issues, including displacement due to natural disasters, promoting resource efficiency, sustainable consumption and production, integrated water resource management and the sound management of chemicals and waste and supporting the transition to low emission, climate-resilient green and circular economies, as well as promoting corporate responsibility and a responsible business conduct;

(e) Promoting environmentally sustainable agricultural practices, including agro-ecology, in order to protect ecosystems and biodiversity and enhance environmental and social resilience to climate change, with a particular focus on supporting smallholder farmers, workers and artisans;

(f) Implementing international and Union initiatives to address biodiversity loss, promoting the conservation, sustainable use and management of terrestrial and marine ecosystems and associated biodiversity;

(g) Promoting phase-out of environmentally harmful fossil fuel subsidies, encouraging adoption of cost- reflective tariffs by energy utilities, and exploring more cost-effective and climate-friendly alternatives for social protection.

GLOBAL CHALLENGES | PLANET | Sustainable Energy

(a) Supporting global efforts, commitments, partnerships and alliances, including sustainable energy transition;

(b) Promoting energy security for partner countries and local communities, including diversification of sources and routes, considering price volatility issues, emission reduction potential, improving markets and fostering energy and, in particular, electricity interconnections and trade;

(c) Encouraging partner governments to embrace energy sector policy and market reforms so to establish a conducive environment for inclusive growth and investments increasing access to energy services for all that are climate-friendly, affordable, modern, reliable and sustainable, with priority to renewable energy and energy efficiency;

(d) Exploring, identifying, mainstreaming globally and supporting financially sustainable business models with scalability and replicability potential providing innovative and digital technologies through innovative research ensuring increased efficiency, in particular for decentralised approaches providing energy access through renewable energy including in areas where the local market capacity is limited.

GLOBAL CHALLENGES | PROSPERITY | Sustainable and inclusive growth, decent jobs and private sector engagement

(a) Promoting sustainable private investment through innovative financing mechanisms and risk-sharing

(b) Improving business environment and investment climate, developing a socially and ecologically responsible local private sector, supporting enhanced public-private dialogue, and building capacities, competitiveness and resilience of local SMEs and start-ups, as well as of cooperatives and social enterprises, and their integration into the local, regional and global economy;

(c) Promoting financial inclusion by fostering access to and effective use of financial services, such as micro- credit and savings, micro-insurance and payment transfer, by SMEs and households, in particular disadvantaged and vulnerable groups;

(d) Supporting the implementation of the Union trade policy and trade agreements, in line with sustainable development; strengthening partner countries' capacities to trade and improving access to partner country markets and boosting fair trade, responsible and accountable investment and business opportunities for companies from the Union while eliminating barriers to market access and investment, as well as aiming at easing access to climate-friendly technologies, while ensuring as much as possible added value sharing and human rights due diligence in supply chains, taking into account policy coherence for development;

(e) Promoting an effective policy mix supportive of economic diversification, value addition, and regional integration and sustainable green and blue economy;

(f) Fostering access to digital technologies, including promoting access to finance and financial inclusion, as well as e-commerce;

(g) Promoting sustainable consumption and production and innovative technologies and practices for low- emission, resource efficient and circular economy;

(h) Strengthening social and environmental sustainability, corporate social responsibility and responsible business conduct throughout the entire value chains;

(i) Combating money laundering, corruption, illicit financial flows as well as tax evasion and avoidance. Promoting progressive taxation, anti-corruption measures and policies for redistributive public expenditures;

(j) Promoting inclusive growth, including by promoting and supporting women's and youth's participation and by proactively identifying and addressing economic marginalisation of specific groups.

GLOBAL CHALLENGES | PROSPERITY | Food and nutrition security

(a) Supporting and influencing international strategies, organisations, mechanisms and actors that roll-out major global policy issues and frameworks around sustainable food and nutrition security, reducing fragmentation in the global nutrition architecture and contributing to accountability on international commitments on food security, nutrition and sustainable agriculture;

(b) Improving global public goods pursuing an end to hunger and malnutrition; ensuring equitable access to food including by helping to address the financing gap for nutrition, including through tools such as the Global Network on Food Crises to enhance the capacity to adequately respond to food crises and nutrition;

(c) Improving in a coordinated and accelerated manner cross-sectoral efforts to increase capacity for diversified local and regional food production, ensure nutritional and food security and access to drinking water, and enhance the resilience of the most vulnerable, particularly in countries facing protracted or recurrent crises;

(d) Reaffirming at global level the central role of sustainable agriculture and fisheries and aquaculture, including smallholder agriculture, livestock-keeping and pastoralism for increased food security, poverty eradication, job creation, equitable and sustainable access to, and management of resources, including land and land rights, water, open source seeds and other agricultural inputs and (micro) credit, mitigating and adapting to climate change, resilience and healthy ecosystems;

(e) Providing innovations through international research and reinforce global knowledge and expertise, promotion and reinforcement of local and autonomous adaptation

strategies, in particular related to climate change adaptation and mitigation, agrobiodiversity, global and inclusive value chains, fair trade, food safety, responsible investments, governance of land and natural resource tenure.

GLOBAL CHALLENGES | PARTNERSHIPS | Strengthen the role of local authorities as actors of development through

(a) Increasing the institutional and operational capacity of European and partner countries' local authorities and their networks and alliances, as development actors and partners in policy-making to contribute to the formulation, implementation and monitoring of policies and agreements with a focus on the interests of local communities; to enhance their role in raising awareness about decentralisation reform, local and urban development; to ensure a substantive and continued structured policy dialogue in the field of development and to promote democratic governance, in particular through the Territorial Approach to Local Development including decentralisation processes, participation and accountability;

(b) Increasing interactions with European citizens on Development Education and Awareness Raising (including knowledge sharing and engagement), in particular in relation to the SDGs, including in the Union and associated territories as well as candidate countries and potential candidate countries.

GLOBAL CHALLENGES | PARTNERSHIPS | Promote inclusive societies

and multi-stakeholder initiatives, good economic governance, including fair and inclusive domestic revenue mobilisation, especially in the context of international tax cooperation by implementing measures against tax avoidance and evasion, transparent public finance management and effective and inclusive public spending in line with human rights obligations and principles of good governance.

GLOBAL CHALLENGES | PARTNERSHIPS | Support the assessment and documentation of progress in implementing partnership and effectiveness principles

(c) **rapid response actions (Annex IV) | Areas of intervention**

1. Actions contributing to peace, stability and conflict prevention

in situations of urgency, emerging crisis, crisis and post- crisis, including those which may result from migratory flows and forced displacement.
Rapid response actions referred to in point (a) of Article 4(4) shall be designed for an effective, efficient, integrated and conflict sensitive Union response to the following exceptional and unforeseen situations:

(a) a situation of urgency, crisis, fragility, hybrid threats, emerging crisis or natural disasters, where relevant for stability, peace and security;

(b) a situation posing a threat to peace, democracy, law and order, the protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms, or the security and safety of individuals, in particular those exposed to sexual and gender-based violence in situations of instability;

(c) a situation threatening to escalate into armed conflict or to severely destabilise the third country or countries concerned.

Those rapid response actions may cover the following:

(a) support, through the provision of technical and logistical assistance, for the efforts undertaken by international, regional and local organisations and by State and civil society actors in promoting confidence-building, mediation, dialogue and reconciliation, transitional justice, women's and youth empowerment, in particular with regard to community tensions and protracted conflicts;

(b) support for the implementation of UNSCRs on women, youth, peace and security;

(c) support for the establishment and functioning of interim administrations mandated in accordance with international law;

(d) support for the development of democratic, pluralistic state institutions, including measures to enhance the role of women in such institutions, effective civilian administration and civilian oversight over the security system, as well as measures to strengthen the capacity of law-enforcement and judicial authorities involved in the fight against terrorism, organised crime and all forms of illicit trafficking;

(e) support for international criminal tribunals and ad hoc national tribunals, truth and reconciliation commissions, transitional justice and other mechanisms for the legal settlement of human rights claims and the assertion and adjudication of property rights;

(f) support for reinforcement of State capacity - in the face of significant pressures to rapidly build, maintain or restore its core functions, and basic social and political cohesion;

(g) support for measures necessary to start the rehabilitation and reconstruction of key infrastructure, housing, public buildings and economic assets, and essential productive capacity, as well as other measures for the re-starting of economic activity, the generation of employment and the establishment of the minimum conditions necessary for sustainable social development;

(h) support for civilian measures related to the demobilisation and reintegration of former combatants and their families into civil society, and where appropriate their repatriation, as well as measures to address the situation of child soldiers and female combatants;

(i) support for measures to mitigate the social effects of restructuring the armed forces;

(j) support for measures to address, within the framework of Union cooperation policies and their objectives, the socio-economic impact on the civilian population of anti-personnel landmines, unexploded ordnance or explosive remnants of war. Activities financed under the Instrument may cover, inter alia, risk education, mine detection and clearance and, in conjunction therewith, stockpile destruction;

(k) support for measures to combat, within the framework of Union cooperation policies and their objectives, the illicit use of and access to firearms, small arms and light weapons;

(l) support for measures to ensure that the specific needs of women and children in crisis and conflict situations, including preventing their exposure to gender-based violence, are adequately met;

(m) support for the rehabilitation and reintegration of the victims of armed conflict, including measures to address the specific needs of women and children;

(n) support for measures to promote and defend respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, democracy and the rule of law, and the related international instruments;

(o) support for socio-economic measures to promote equitable access to, and transparent management of, natural resources in a situation of crisis or emerging crisis, including peacebuilding;

(p) support for measures to address the potential impact of sudden population movements with relevance to the political and security situation, including measures addressing the needs of host communities;

(q) support for measures to promote the development and organisation of civil society and its participation in the political process, including measures to enhance the role of women in such processes and measures to promote independent, pluralist and professional media;

(r) support for measures in response to natural or man-made disasters which pose a threat to stability, and to threats to public health linked to pandemics, in the absence of, or by way of complement to, Union humanitarian and civil protection assistance;

(s) capacity building of military actors in support of development and security for development, in accordance with Article 9.

2. Actions contributing to strengthening resilience and linking humanitarian aid, development actions and, where relevant, peacebuilding

Rapid response actions referred to in point (b) of Article 4(4) shall be designed to effectively strengthen resilience and to increase coordination, coherence and complementarity between humanitarian aid, development actions and, where relevant, peacebuilding which cannot be swiftly addressed through geographic and thematic programmes.

Those rapid response actions may cover the following:

(a) strengthen resilience, tackle factors of fragility and address potential drivers of conflict by supporting individuals, communities, institutions, and countries to better prepare for, withstand, adapt to and quickly recover from political, economic, and societal pressures and shocks, natural or man-made disasters, conflicts, pandemics and global threats, including by identifying and strengthening their existing capacities; by reinforcing the capacity of a state - in the face of significant pressures to rapidly build, maintain or restore its core functions, and basic social and political cohesion, as well as supporting societies, communities and individuals to manage opportunities and risks in a peaceful and conflict sensitive manner and to build, maintain or restore livelihoods and social services in the face of major pressures by supporting relevant international and multilateral initiatives for the same ends;

(b) mitigate the short-term adverse effects resulting from exogenous shocks creating macroeconomic instability and aim at safeguarding socio-economic reforms and priority public expenditure for socio-economic development and poverty reduction;

(c) carry out short-term rehabilitation and reconstruction to enable the victims from natural or man-made disasters, conflicts and global threats to benefit from a minimum of socio-economic standards and, as soon as possible, create the conditions for a resumption of development on the basis of long-term objectives set by the countries and regions concerned and affected populations; this includes addressing the urgent and immediate needs arising from the displacement of people and the communities that host them following natural or man-made disasters;

(d) assist the region, state, at national or local level, or relevant international or civil society organisations, in setting up short term disaster prevention and preparedness mechanisms, including for prediction and early warning, with a view to reducing the consequences of disasters;

(e) support measures operationalising integrated approaches particularly by improving coordination and the application of conflict sensitive approaches by humanitarian, development and, where relevant, peacebuilding actors.

3. Actions addressing Union foreign policy needs and priorities

Rapid response actions to support the objectives set out in point (c) of Article 4(4) shall support Union foreign policy across political, economic and security issues. Those actions shall enable the Union to act where there is an urgent or imperative foreign policy interest, or a window of opportunity to achieve its objectives, requiring a rapid reaction and which are difficult to address by other means.

Those rapid response actions may cover the following:

(a) support for the Union's bilateral, regional and inter-regional cooperation strategies, promoting policy dialogue and developing collective approaches and responses to challenges of global concern, such as migration and forced displacement, climate change and security issues, including mediation, and exploiting windows of opportunity in this regard;

(b) support for Union trade policy and the negotiation, implementation and enforcement of trade agreements; and for improving access to partner country markets and boosting trade, investment and business opportunities for companies from the Union, in particular SMEs, while eliminating barriers to market access and investment and protecting intellectual property rights, by means of economic diplomacy, business and regulatory cooperation, with the adaptations necessary for the specific situation of the partner country, taking into account the principle of policy coherence for development as laid down in Articles 208 and 212 TFEU and the international commitments referred to in Article 3(1) of this Regulation;

(c) contributions to the implementation of the international dimension of internal Union policies such as, inter alia, environment, climate change, energy, science and education and cooperation on management and governance of the oceans as well as supporting regulatory convergence;

(d) promotion of widespread understanding and visibility of the Union and of its role on the world scene, by means of strategic communication, public diplomacy, people-to-people contacts, cultural diplomacy, cooperation in educational and academic matters, and outreach activities to promote the Union's values and interests.

Those rapid response actions shall execute innovative policies or initiatives, corresponding to current or evolving short- to medium-term needs, opportunities and priorities, including with the potential of informing future actions under geographic or thematic programmes. Those actions shall focus on deepening the Union's relations and dialogue and building partnerships and alliances with key countries of strategic interest, especially those emerging economies and middle-income countries who play an increasingly important role in world affairs, global governance, foreign policy, the international economy, and multilateral fora.