

4.2 Indicative Implementation Period

The indicative operational implementation period of this action, during which the activities described in section 3 will be carried out and the corresponding contracts and agreements implemented, is 60 months from the date of adoption by the Commission of this Financing Decision.

Extensions of the implementation period may be agreed by the Commission's responsible authorising officer by amending this Financing Decision and the relevant contracts and agreements.

4.3 Implementation of the Budget Support Component – N/A

4.4 Implementation Modalities

The Commission will ensure that the EU appropriate rules and procedures for providing financing to third parties are respected, including review procedures, where appropriate, and compliance of the action with EU restrictive measures.

4.4.1 Direct management (grants)

Grants: (direct management)

A part of this action may be implemented in direct management through grant(s).

(a) Purpose of the grant(s)

Grant(s) will be used to achieve the specific objectives 1 and 2 and the outputs related to SO1 and SO2 in terms of CSO capacity strengthening, trainings and management of a small grants' facility.

b) Type of applicants targeted

Targeted applicants will be civil society organisations. Key selection criteria will be notably the knowledge of the country context, local presence as well as professional experience and expertise in providing capacity building support to local civil society in Sri Lanka.

4.4.2 Direct management (procurement)

A part of the action will be implemented through direct management using partly procurement/service contracts. This procurement will contribute to Overall and Specific Objective 3 described in section 3.1. This procurement will take the form of a service contract for technical assistance. The global budgetary envelope reserved for procurement is 500 000 EUR. This technical assistance will be responsible for the delivery and coordination of the activities as mentioned in section 3.2, referred to the Specific Objective 3 analysing the civic space and legal environment as well as implementing a structured EU-civil society dialogue.

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

If the action cannot be implemented in direct management due to circumstances outside of the Commission's control, indirect management will be used with a pillar assessed entity, which will be selected by the Commission's services using the following criteria:

- technical expertise in the targeted sector (support to civil society, gender equality);
- knowledge of the political context and civil society landscape in Sri Lanka;
- close connection/networks (or demonstrated ability/willingness to develop them) with the relevant Sri Lankan public institutions, professional associations and civil society organisations;
- sufficient implementation/absorption capacity (including in terms of M&E) and;
- willingness to provide adequate visibility to the EU as per the EU visibility requirements.

The implementation by this entity entails the whole set of objectives, results and indicative activities under this action as outlined under sections 3.1 and 3.2 here above.