

Principles and criteria for the selection of Regional TEIs

Team Europe Initiatives will be identified during the programming or the subsequent identification and formulation phase and will be included in the Annual Action Programmes. In view of ensuring that proposed TEIs closely adhere to the principles and priorities of the regional programming for, the proposed TEIs will be screened in two stages against the below set of principles and criteria.

To qualify as a Regional TEI the proposed TEI must adhere to the following programming **principles**:

- a. It must provide a **real added value** to country programming from a regional or continental perspective. Concretely, it should not be a collection of country level actions grouped together into a programme, but must address regional challenges that require a collective regional response;
- b. It must be underpinned by **strategic (joint) policy dialogue** that aims to support transformational change by delivering concrete results for the region / sub region and partner countries;
- c. It must focus on **identifying critical regional bottlenecks** that constrain the development at country, multi-country, regional or continental level;
- d. It must be **open to all members of Team Europe**¹ who are interested in working together in the design, financing, implementation and monitoring of TEI actions.

Once it has been established that a proposed Regional TEI adheres to the above principles, the following **criteria** will be used to guide the selection of Regional TEIs to be funded by the EU budget:

1. **Geographic coverage:** a minimum of 3 partner countries should be targeted by the initiative (with a multi-country or regional approach).
2. **European approach:** At least 4 Team Europe members need to participate (in terms of financial contribution) to the TEI. In regions or specific sectors where few European actors operate, at least 2 Team Europe members need to participate. Exceptionally, this criterion can be reviewed if there are objective constraints.
3. **Co-management:** In the case of Sub Saharan Africa regions and for sectors where sufficient EU actors exist, the NDICI financial contribution should in principle not exceed 50% of total (indicative) amount of a TEI, with the remaining contribution coming from other participating Team Europe members. In other regions, the EU contribution should in principle not exceed 70%.
4. **Ownership/alignment:** a TEI proposal should be formulated by Team Europe members and discussed with (buy-in secured) existing regional bodies/institutions, national governments and other key stakeholders, before being finalised.
5. **Cross-cutting:** a TEI should include concrete interlinkages between results that fall under 2 or more Priority Areas of the RIP and/or address cross-cutting issues. For regions, where the number of Priority Areas in the RIP is less than three, the results could fall under 1 or more Priority Areas. Synergies and complementarities between MIPs and RIPs should be maximized.

¹ Team Europe consists of the EU, its Member States, their diplomatic network, finance institutions including national development banks, and implementing agencies, as well as the European Investment Bank (EIB) and the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD).