Global Europe Results Framework Indicator Methodology Note

1. Indicator name
GERF 2.10: Number of countries supported by the EU to (a) develop and/or revise, (b) implement digital-related policies/strategies/laws/regulations

2. Technical details

Please use the information provided in OPSYS or the SWD.

Results Dashboard code(s): *(a) 65217; (b) 65218.*

Unit of measure: *Number of (#).*

Type of indicator: *Quantitative (not qualitative) – Numeric (not percentage); Actual ex-post (not estimated or ex-ante); Cumulative (not annual).*

Level(s) of measurement: *Specific Objective – Outcome; Direct Output; Output.*

Disaggregation(s): *None.*

DAC sector code(s): *15110 – Public sector policy and administrative management; 15130 – Legal and judicial development.*

Main associated SDG: *9.b Support domestic technology development, research and innovation in developing countries, including by ensuring a conducive policy environment for, inter alia, industrial diversification and value addition to commodities.*

Other associated SDGs: *1.3 access to equal rights resources and services; 9.5 support upgrade technology; 16.7 participatory decision-making; 17.9 capacity building.*

Associated GERF Level 1 indicator: *1.8 ITU ICT Regulatory Tracker*

Associated GERF Level 3 indicators:

3.2 Amount and share of EU-funded external assistance directed towards digitalisation

3.3 Amount and share of EU-funded external assistance contributing to strengthening investment climate

3.4 Amount and share of EU-funded external assistance contributing to: (a) aid for trade, (b) aid for trade to LDCs, and (c) trade facilitation

3.6 Number and share of EU-funded external interventions supporting the implementation of political, economic and social reforms and joint agreements in partner countries

3.13 Number and share of EU- external interventions promoting gender equality and women's empowerment

3.14 Number and share of EU-funded external interventions promoting disability inclusion

3.16 Amount and share of EU-funded external assistance qualifying as ODA

3. Policy context and rationale

Data and digital technologies are transforming our economies and societies at an

unprecedented speed and scale. They have the potential to foster inclusive growth, tackle inequality and transform the delivery of public services, enabling the achievement of the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). However, with digitalisation also comes the risk that existing inequalities will be deepened, and that it will be misused to undermine democracy and social cohesion and infringe on human rights.

The COVID-19 pandemic has highlighted the importance of access to secure and trustworthy digital infrastructure and technology underpinned by proper policies and legislation. The crisis also demonstrated that digital policy is never value-neutral and the importance of a human-centric vision, in competition with other models on offer.

In addition, the world is confronted with an ever-growing digital divide and rapid technological changes. While digitalisation is becoming pervasive in all sectors of our economies and societies, access to and use of internet and digital technologies is not equally distributed across the world. Nearly 40% of the world's population remains unconnected, of which the vast majority live in Least Developed Countries. Women and girls are among those most at risk of exclusion, as are people with disabilities, the elderly, the economically marginalised and refugees.

The EU is committed to making the human-centric digital transformation a fully inclusive and transformative process, ensuring that the gains and opportunities of digitalisation are distributed across all segments of the population, reaching out to the least developed areas and the most vulnerable people in the world.

To meet this ambition, the EU will offer digital economy packages that combine infrastructure investment with country-level assistance to support policies and legislation that advance a human-centric approach for the digital economy and society. It will do so by putting the needs of human beings at the centre, and by seeking to ensure that digital economies are fair and inclusive and digital rights and principles (as enshrined in the European Declaration on Digital Rights and Principles) are respected and promoted. Such policies, legislation and regulation will, for example, ensure the protection of personal data and include measures relating to cybersecurity, trustworthy AI and open and competitive markets for communications networks and services.

4. Logframe inclusion

If an intervention generates the result measured by this indicator, then it must be reported in OPSYS. Corporate targets have been set for the indicators used to monitor the Strategic Plan and the Multiannual Financial Framework (see Section 9). Progress towards these targets is reported annually in the Annual Activity Plan (for the Strategic Plan) and the Programme Performance Statements (for the Multiannual Financial Framework). These values are calculated by aggregating the results reported in OPSYS. These reports ultimately contribute to the Annual Management Performance Report submitted by the European Commission to the Council and Parliament during the annual budgetary discharge procedure. If targets are not met, explanations must be provided. Therefore, it is crucial that all results are recorded in OPSYS.

There are two ways of doing this:

- Include the indicator directly in the logframe (recommended approach);

- Match the indicator to the closest logframe indicator (only if the indicator was not originally included in the logframe and modification is not possible).

Why? The matching functionality in OPSYS only accommodates reporting current values and does not yet support encoding baselines and targets. This is a significant drawback because targets are a valuable piece of information, especially at the beginning of a Multiannual Financial Framework. Indeed, results take time to materialise as they are the last step in the chain, appearing only after programming, commitments, contracting, and spending have occurred. Targets allow to see what results are expected long before they materialise, which is reassuring to the different stakeholders concerned with accountability. **Therefore, include all corporate indicators directly in the logframe whenever possible, and reserve the matching functionality only for cases when this is not feasible**.

5. Values to report

The following values must be determined in line with the definitions provided in Section 6.

Baseline value: the value measured for the indicator in the baseline year. The baseline value is the value against which progress will be assessed.

Current value:

- **For logframe indicators**: the most recent value for the indicator at the time of reporting. The current value includes the baseline value which is reported separately for logframe indicators in OPSYS.
- **For matched indicators**: the most recent value for the results achieved at the time of reporting since the start of implementation of the intervention. This value is obtained by taking the most recent value for the indicator at the time of reporting and subtracting off the baseline value which is not reported separately for matched indicators in OPSYS.

Current values will be collected at least once a year and reported cumulatively throughout the implementation period.

Final target value: the expected value for the indicator in the target year.

Intermediate target values (milestones). A tool has been developed in OPSYS to generate intermediate targets automatically[1].

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[1] This has been done in the context of the Primary Intervention Questionnaire (PIQ) for the EAMR. Three new KPIs provide an overall assessment of ongoing interventions (current performance and future performance) and completed interventions (final performance). Scores will be calculated for all INTPA and NEAR interventions participating in the annual results data collection exercise.
- *KPI 10* reflects the relevance, efficiency and effectiveness of ongoing interventions. The information on relevance is provided by the Operational Manager's response to a question in a survey. The information on efficiency and effectiveness is provided either by the logframe data, if sufficient data is available, or the response to a question in a survey, if not.
- *KPI 11* reflects expectations regarding the most probable levels of relevance, efficiency, effectiveness and sustainability that can be achieved by ongoing interventions in the future. In this case, all the information is provided by the Operational Manager's responses to questions in a survey.

- **For outputs**: the intermediate targets are generated using a linear interpolation between the baseline and target values because it is assumed that outputs materialise sooner and more progressively over implementation (than outcomes).
- **For outcomes**: the expected progression over the course of implementation will vary across interventions. During the creation of a logframe, the expected outcome profile must be selected (OPSYS offers four options[2]) and this selection triggers the generation of intermediate targets for all 30 June and 31 December dates between the baseline and target dates for all output and outcome quantitative indicators. All automatically generated intermediate targets values and dates can be subsequently modified by the Operational Manager or the Implementing Partner with the approval of the Operational Manager.

6. Calculation of values

Specify all assumptions made, list definitions for all technical terms, provide any relevant guidance on (double) counting, and include checklist for quality control.

The value for this indicator is calculated by counting the number of countries supported by the EU to (a) develop and/or revise, (b) implement digital-related policies/strategies/laws/regulations, using the technical definitions and counting guidance provided below. Please double check your calculations using the quality control checklist below.

Technical definitions

Policies/strategies/laws/regulations: these should be understood in a broad manner and include government policies, strategies and legislation at national or sub-national levels. They include sectoral or crosscutting reform policies and/or strategies, and primary and secondary legislation. 'Sub-national' refers to any government entity below the national level, regardless of the political, financial or administrative character of the country.

Digital policies/strategies/laws/regulations: the digital transformation is the ongoing integration of digital technology and digitised information across the economy and society. Policies/strategies/laws/regulations that advance a human-centric digital transformation put the needs of human beings at the centre, and seek to ensure that digital economies are fair and inclusive and that our (digital) societies respect the digital rights and principles defined in the European Declaration on Digital Rights and Principles and the Universal Charter of Human Rights.

(a) Developed and/or revised; (b) under implementation: 'developed' policies are those endorsed by the authorities relevant for the local context. This indicator includes

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- *KPI 12* reflects the relevance, efficiency and effectiveness of completed interventions. The information on relevance is provided by the Operational Manager's response to a question in a survey. The information on efficiency and effectiveness is provided by the logframe data if sufficient data is available, or the response to a question in a survey, if not.

[2] a. *steady progress*: The outcomes are achieved continuously throughout implementation; b. *accelerating progress*: The outcomes are achieved towards the end of implementation; c. *no progress until end*: The outcomes are mostly achieved at the end of implementation; d. *none of the above*.

policies being revised with EU support, but requires the revisions to be endorsed by the relevant authorities and/or democratic processes. 'Under implementation' means that EU resources are contributing to the policies/strategies/laws/regulations being put into practice (e.g. through capacity building, investments in infrastructure, organisation of events, outreach, etc.), with the help of an appropriate and available budget and/or action plan with clear responsibilities.

Counting guidance

1. If the intervention supports the development and/or implementation of digital policies/strategies/laws/regulations, then it is mandatory to include this indicator in the logframe, even if the intervention is implemented in a single country and the value to be reported is one. Indeed, this indicator might not be useful for monitoring purposes, but it is necessary to ensure accurate corporate reporting.
2. The policies/strategies/laws/regulations must promote a digital transformation that is human-centric.
3. Regional, national or sub-national policies, strategies, laws, regulations, frameworks, memoranda, development plans, agreements, etc. may be counted.
4. Countries receiving support to (a) develop and/or revise and (b) implement policies/strategies/laws/regulations should be reported separately. The same country can be reported under both (a) and (b) if EU support is provided both at the development and/or revision stage and then later at the implementation stage.
5. Overseas countries and territories (OCTs) should be counted as countries
6. Double counting is not allowed: a country can be counted only once under (a) and only once under (b), in the same reporting period. This means that if the same country benefits from one or more forms of support, over one or more years of the same reporting period, from the same intervention or different interventions, that country should be counted only once.

Quality control checklist

1. Has the indicator been included directly in the logframe? Reserve the OPSYS matching functionality only for cases when this is not feasible.
2. If the indicator has been included directly in the logframe, does the current value *include* the baseline value? If the indicator has been matched to a logframe indicator, does the current value *exclude* the baseline value?
3. Do the policies/strategies/laws/regulations promote a digital transformation that is human-centric?
4. Have the policies/strategies/laws/regulations been endorsed by the relevant authorities? Proposals not yet endorsed should not be counted.
5. Is the GERF value a whole number? The number of countries cannot be a decimal number.
6. Have OCTs been included? OCTs are counted as countries.
7. (a) only: have you included the strategies revised with EU support, even if they were not developed with EU support?
8. (b) only: have you considered the strategies implemented with EU support, even if they were not developed and/or revised with EU support?
9. (b) only: have you considered all types of implementations? These could consist in an action plan, a budget, M&E mechanisms, capacity building,

outreach, etc.

10. Can the policies/strategies/laws/regulations be counted under both (a) and (b)? If the EU has assisted with both development and/or revision and implementation, it can contribute to both GERF indicators.

11. Has double counting been avoided? Countries can be counted only once under (a) and once under (b).

12. Have the countries been listed in the comment field? This facilitates quality control of double counting between national and regional interventions.

13. Have all calculations been recorded in the calculation method field? Have all relevant explanations been reported in the comment field?

7. Examples of calculations

Example 1

In the framework of a thematic programme, the EU is supporting the government of Country A to draft data protection legislation. In 2021, consultations are organised with civil society and the private sector, while technical assistance is provided to ensure that the proposed legislation builds on the GDPR experience and aligns with the highest human rights standards. In 2022, the ministry in charge approves the draft legislation and proposes it for adoption by the government and parliament. The text is significantly revised during further consultations with the parliament, throughout which the EU continues to provide support on how to ensure respect for human rights. In 2024 the new legislation is approved by the government, and the EU provides capacity building support to implement the legislation.

The Implementing Partner reports the following information in OPSYS:

Number of countries supported by the EU to:	2021	2022	2023	2024
a) develop and/or revise digital policies/strategies/laws/regulations	0	1	1	1
b) implement digital policies/strategies/laws/regulations	0	0	0	1

When the Operational Manager reviews the results encoded in OPSYS, they consult the methodology note to check whether the value for part (a) can be reported in 2022 (year of approval by the ministry) instead of 2024 (year of approval by the government). Since the methodology note specifies only 'endorsement', the Operational Manager concludes that approval by the ministry is sufficient and approves the values encoded by the Implementing Partner in OPSYS.

Example 2

In Country B, the EU is developing a digital package. The country's government asks the EU to revise the country's national digital strategy as part of a broader action to support digital governance, which includes drafting legislation on data protection, developing a whole-of-government policy on e-services and setting up an interoperability framework.

In 2021, the action provides support for the revision of the country's digital strategy to ensure

that further work on specific legislation and policy development is well aligned. In 2022, support is provided to draft the data protection legislation. Both the revised national strategy and the data protection legislation are endorsed by the authorities at the end of the same year. In 2023 and 2024, support is provided to develop an e-services policy, along with an appropriate interoperability framework, both of which are endorsed by the Ministry of Digitalisation by the end of 2024. In 2024, the EU Delegation supports the implementation of the interoperability framework by providing hardware, IT architecture development support and capacity building.

The Implementing Partner reports the following information in OPSYS:

Number of countries supported by the EU to:	2021	2022	2023	2024
a) develop and/or revise digital policies/strategies/laws/regulations	0	1	1	1
b) implement digital policies/strategies/laws/regulations	0	0	0	1

When the Operational Manager reviews the results encoded in OPSYS, they confirm the following points:

- In 2021, support is provided to develop the national digital strategy and data protection legislation. However, given that neither are endorsed by the relevant authorities until the following year, they can only be counted in 2022 (under part (a)).
- Given that this indicator counts support at country level, the value to report is one, even though more than one policy/regulation/strategy has been supported.
- Given that reporting is cumulative, the country continues to be reported every subsequent year.
- In 2024, support is provided to implement the interoperability framework, therefore, the country can now also be reported under part (b).

Consequently, the Operational Manager approves the values encoded by the Implementing Partner in OPSYS.

8. Data sources and issues

Please use the data source categories specified in OPSYS.

EU intervention monitoring and reporting systems: *Progress and final reports for the EU-funded intervention; ROM reviews; EU-funded feasibility or appraisal reports*.

Public sector reports: Laws and regulations; Strategies and policy documents.

Include any issues relating to the availability and quality of the data.

9. Reporting process & Corporate reporting

The data collected on this indicator will be reported in OPSYS by the Implementing Partner.

The values encoded in OPSYS will be verified, possibly modified and ultimately validated by the Operational Manager. Once a year the results reported will be frozen for corporate reporting. The methodological services in HQ that are responsible for GERF corporate reporting will perform quality control on the frozen data and aggregate as needed to meet the different corporate reporting requirements.

This indicator is used for corporate reporting in the following contexts:

        ○ *NDICI via the Annual Report*
        ○ *NDICI via the Programme Statements*
        ● *INTPA Strategic Plan via the Annual Activity Report*
        ○ *NEAR Strategic Plan via the Annual Activity Report*
        ○ *FPI Strategic Plan*

This indicator has been included in the following other Results Measurement Frameworks:

        ○ *EFSD+*
        ○ *GAP III*
        ○ *IPA III*
        ○ *TEI-MORE*

10. Other uses

GERF 2.10 can be found in the following thematic results chains, along with other related indicators:

- [Digitalisation](#)
- [Human Rights](#)

GERF 2.10 can be found in the following groups of EU predefined indicators available in OPSYS, along with other related indicators:

- Democracy
- Digitalisation
- Human Rights

For more information, see: [Predefined indicators for design and monitoring of EU-funded interventions | Capacity4dev (europa.eu)](#)

Include references to external bodies using the same or similar indicator.

11. Other issues