EUROPEAN PEACEBUILDING LIAISON OFFICE

CIVIL SOCIETY DIALOGUE NETWORK

CSDN Meeting

Annual Action Plans for 2027 of the Thematic Programme on Peace, Stability and Conflict Prevention

Background Paper
October 2026

European Peacebuilding Liaison Office

The European Peacebuilding Liaison Office (EPLO) is the largest independent civil society platform of European NGOs, NGO networks and think tanks that are committed to peacebuilding and the prevention of violent conflict. EPLO's mission is to influence European policymakers to take a more active role in securing peace, resolving and preventing conflict through nonviolent means in all regions of the world, and to do so more effectively.

Civil Society Dialogue Network

The Civil Society Dialogue Network (CSDN) is a mechanism for dialogue between civil society and EU policymakers on issues related to peace and conflict. It is co-financed by the European Union (Neighbourhood Development and International Cooperation Instrument – Global Europe). It is managed by the European Peacebuilding Liaison Office (EPLO), a civil society network, in cooperation with the European Commission (EC) and the European External Action Service (EEAS). The sixth phase of the CSDN will last from 2026 to 2029. For more information, please visit the EPLO website.

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CSDN Meeting

Background Paper

Objective

The objective of this background paper is to provide a brief background on the structure and priorities of the Thematic Programme on Peace, Stability and Conflict Prevention under the Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument–Global Europe (NDICI-GE). It has been prepared in advance of the CSDN Meeting due to be held in Brussels on the 29th of October 2026.

The objective of this CSDN Meeting is to bring together EU institutions, civil society organisations and practitioners to discuss the implementation of the 2027 Annual Action Plans (AAP) of the EU's Thematic Programme on Peace, Stability and Conflict Prevention. More specifically, the meeting aims to first, present the priorities envisaged under the AAPs; and second, to facilitate an exchange with civil society on the challenges and opportunities associated with these priorities.

Background: Conflict Prevention and Peacebuilding in the EU Funding Architecture

The **Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF)** is the European Union's long-term budget, typically set for a seven-year period. It establishes the maximum amount of funding the EU can spend in various policy areas during that time. The MFF ensures financial stability and predictability, allowing the EU to plan and implement policies over the long term.

The MFF is divided into distinct categories, known as **Headings**, which correspond to the EU's policy priorities. The Heading most relevant for conflict prevention and peacebuilding is Heading 6, Neighbourhood and the World, which covers EU external action.

Multiannual Financial Framework[1]

Multiannual financial framework (EU-27) (EUR million, 2018 prices)

Commitment appropriations	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	Total 2021-2027
1. Single market, innovation and digital	19 712	19 666	19 133	18 633	18 518	18 646	18 473	132 781
2. Cohesion, resilience and values	49 741	51 101	52 194	53 954	55 182	56 787	58 809	377 768
2a. Economic, social and territorial cohesion	45 411	45 951	46 493	47 130	47 770	48 414	49 066	330 235
2b. Resilience and values	4 330	5 150	5 701	6 824	7 412	8 373	9 743	47 533
3. Natural resources and environment	55 242	52 214	51 489	50 617	49 719	48 932	48 161	356 374
of which: market-related expenditure and direct payments	38 564	38 115	37 604	36 983	36 373	35 772	35 183	258 594
4. Migration and border management	2 324	2 811	3 164	3 282	3 672	3 682	3 736	22 671
5. Security and defence	1 700	1 725	1 737	1 754	1 928	2 078	2 263	13 185
6. Neighbourhood and the world	15 309	15 522	14 789	14 056	13 323	12 592	12 828	98 419
7. European public administration	10 021	10 215	10 342	10 454	10 554	10 673	10 843	73 102
of which: administrative expenditure of the institutions	7 742	7 878	7 945	7 997	8 025	8 077	8 188	55 852
TOTAL COMMITMENT APPROPRIATIONS	154 049	153 254	152 848	152 750	152 896	153 390	155 113	1 074 300
TOTAL PAYMENT APPROPRIATIONS	156 557	154 822	149 936	149 936	149 936	149 936	149 936	1 061 058

Under Heading 6, several instruments are used to finance the implementation of EU foreign and security policy, humanitarian assistance, and international partnerships.

The largest instrument under Heading 6, is the Neighbourhood, Development, and International Cooperation– Global Europe (NDICI-GE) instrument.

[1] https://www.europarl.europa.eu/factsheets/en/sheet/29/multiannual-financial-framework

Instrument	Amount (million euro)	Share of Heading 6
NDICI- Global Europe	79 462	72%
Instrument for Pre-Accession assistance	14 162	13%
Humanitarian aid	11 569	10%
Common Foreign and Security Policy	2 679	2%
Overseas countries and territories including Greenland	500	1%
Other	2 225	2%

The **NDICI-GE** consolidates various EU external aid instruments into one framework, aiming to enhance the EU's ability to respond more flexibly to global challenges, promote sustainable development, and pursue EU interests abroad.

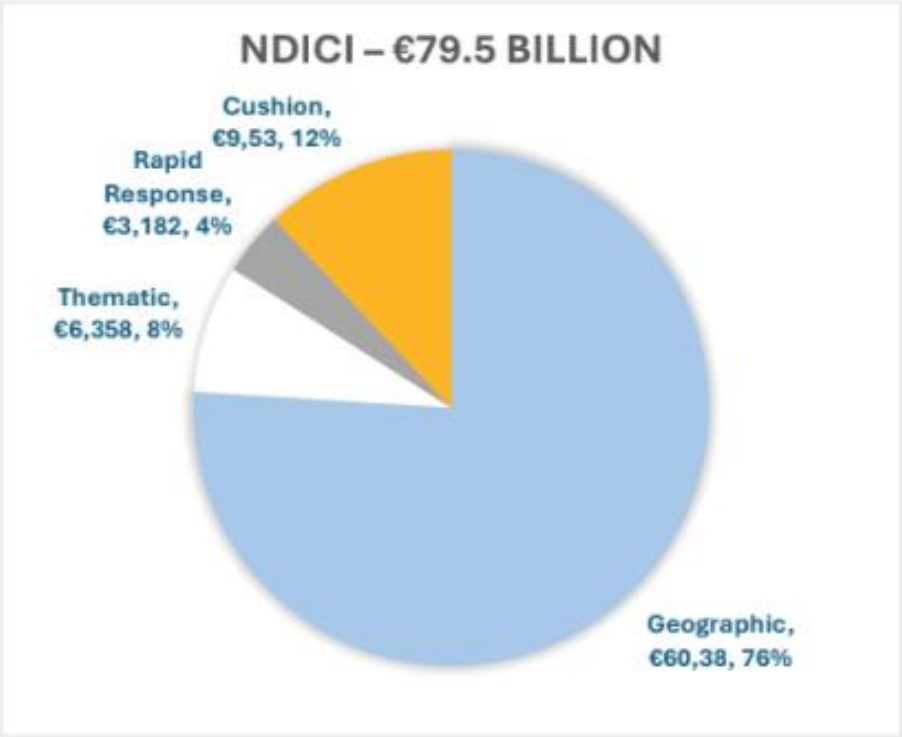
The total budget allocated to the NDICI-GE for this period (2021-2027) is approximately **€79.5 billion**. This funding is divided into three pillars and a cushion which can be used to top up the other pillars in accordance with need:

1. **Geographic Programmes** (~€60.4 billion): Covers four sub-regions: sub-Saharan Africa, Neighbourhood, Asia & Pacific, Americas & Caribbean.
2. **Thematic Programmes** (~€6.4 billion): Addresses global challenges including Human Rights and Democracy; Civil Society Organisations; Peace, Stability and Conflict Prevention; Global Challenges.
3. **Rapid Response Actions** (~€3.2 billion): Provides flexibility for crisis response, conflict prevention, and addressing instability.

   plus

   Emerging Challenges and Priorities Cushion (~€9.5 billion): Allows the EU to address unforeseen global challenges and emerging needs.[2]

[2] https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/programmes/ndici



Peace and security can be addressed under all pillars of the NDICI and the cushion. Rapid Response actions are mobilised to contribute to "peace, stability and conflict prevention in situations of urgency, emerging crisis, crisis and postcrisis" and aim to link humanitarian aid, development actions and peacebuilding.[3] The Emerging Challenges and Priorities Cushion consists of unallocated funds which can top up any of the three pillars in case of unforeseen circumstances, new needs, emerging challenges or new priorities. Neither of these components of the NDICI-GE are programmable.

Both the geographic and the thematic pillars of the instrument are programmable. The Geographic Programmes address root causes of insecurity such as social cohesion, gender discrimination, lack of basic services, etc. and are used to build the resilience of states, communities, and individuals at local, national and regional levels. **Peace, stability and conflict prevention is listed as an area of cooperation under the Geographic Programme** of the NDICI.

The most relevant pillar for peacebuilding and conflict prevention, and the focus of this background paper, is the **Thematic Programme on Peace, Stability and Conflict Prevention**.

[3] https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:32021R0947

Thematic Programme on Peace, Stability and Conflict Prevention (TP on PS &CP)

The total financial envelope for the Thematic Programme on Peace, Stability and Conflict Prevention for the period 2021-2027 is **€871 million**. It targets actions which have a specific added value in being carried out at global or trans-regional level. Actions may also be carried out independent of the consent of partner countries' governments. It is divided into two main priority areas**: Conflict Prevention, Peacebuilding and Crisis Preparedness** which accounts for 29% of the financial envelope and is overseen by FPI.2, and **Global, Transregional and Emerging threats**, managed by FPI.1 and making up 69% of the envelope.

The Multiannual Indicative Programme (MIP) sets the implementation priorities for the thematic programme for the seven-year programming period. The MIP for the Thematic Programme on Peace, Stability and Conflict Prevention was developed by the European External Action Service (EEAS) and the European Commission, in consultation with relevant EU delegations and services. Member States provide input in the NDICI-GE Committee before the final adoption of the MIP by the college of Commissioners.

Financial overview of the MIP 2021-2027[4]

PRIORITY	*Indicative amount (in MEUR) or percentage share of total budget (in %)*
Area of intervention: Assistance for conflict prevention, peacebuilding and crisis preparedness	***29%** of total budget*
Priority 1: Continuing to enhance capabilities relating to analytical tools, methodologies, and mechanisms	***4% - 7%***
Priority 2: Promote conflict prevention and conflict resolution measures	***13% - 18%***
Priority 3: Supporting peace processes and transitions of conflict-affected societies/ communities, including stabilisation and peacebuilding efforts	***6% - 10%***
Area of intervention: Assistance in addressing global, trans-regional and emerging threats	***69%** of total budget*
Priority 4: Counterterrorism, including preventing and countering violent extremism and radicalisation	**22% – 25%**
Priority 5: Mitigation of threats posed by intentional, accidental or naturally occurring release of chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear (CBRN) materials or agents and related risks to installations or sites	**18% – 21%**
Priority 6: Fighting global and trans-regional aspects of organised crime	**14% - 17%**
Priority 7: Addressing trans-regional and global threats to critical infrastructure and essential services	**6% - 9 %**
Priority 8: Addressing global and trans-regional effects of climate change and related environmental factors having a potentially destabilising impact	**3% - 5%**
***Support measures**[30]*	*2% of total budget*
TOTAL allocated for 2021-2027	870.970.044

[4] https://international-partnerships.ec.europa.eu/system/files/2022-01/mip-2021-c2021-8985-peace-stability-conflict-prevention-annex_en.pdf

Multiannual Indicative Programme 2021-2027 for the Neighbourhood Development and International Cooperation Instrument Thematic Programme on Peace, Stability and Conflict Prevention

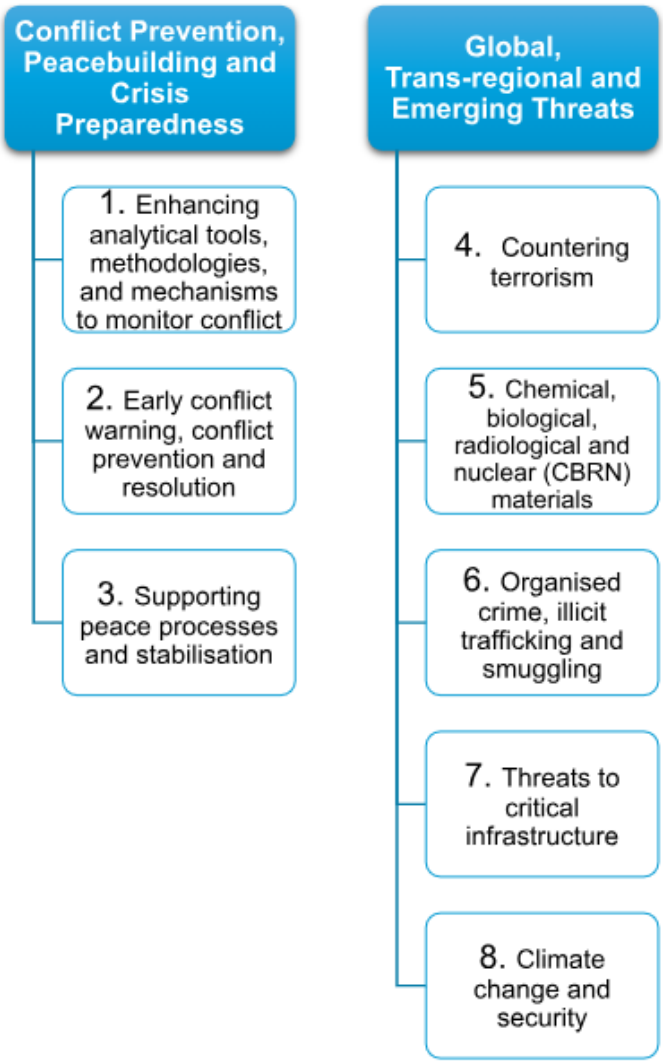
The NDICI-GE MIP on Peace, Stability and Conflict Prevention aims to "address insecurity and instability in a multidimensional, conflict sensitive and coherent way, thereby complementing actions under the NDICI–GE geographic and the rapid response pillars and activities funded under the European Peace Facility (EPF) and other financial instruments."

The MIP defines eight priorities, namely:

1. Continuing to enhance capabilities relating to **analytical tools, methodologies, and mechanisms** to better detect early signs of conflicts, monitor conflict and design appropriate responses.
2. Promoting **conflict prevention and conflict resolution measures**, including by facilitating and building capacity in confidence-building, **mediation, dialogue and reconciliation** processes.
3. **Supporting peace processes and transitions** in conflict-affected societies/ communities, including stabilisation and peacebuilding efforts.
4. **Counterterrorism**, including preventing and countering violent extremism and radicalisation.
5. Mitigation of threats posed by the intentional, accidental, or naturally occurring release of **chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear (CBRN) materials** or agents, and related risks to installations or sites.
6. Fighting the global and trans-regional aspects of **organised crime**.
7. Addressing trans-regional and global threats to **critical infrastructure**.
8. Addressing the global and trans-regional effects of **climate change** and environmental factors having a potentially destabilising impact on peace and security.

Capacity building assistance to military actors in support of development and security for development (CBDSD) is also a possible implementation modality under both areas of intervention of the thematic programme.

The eight priorities can be mapped onto the two priority areas of the Thematic Programme as follows:



The MIP identifies a further number of horizontal issues to be addressed by the TP on PS & CP:

- Respect for **democratic principles, the rule of law, human rights, good governance, international humanitarian law and gender equality**
- Inclusive, conflict-sensitive and partnership-based approaches to promoting stability and peace, including the **Women Peace and Security** (WPS) and **Youth Peace and Security** (YPS) agendas
- Interdependence between **climate change** and **environmental degradation** and peace and security
- Fostering **resilience and innovation** directly contributing to peace and stability efforts
- The internal-external security links
- The **humanitarian-development-peace nexus**

- **Security cooperation and dialogue** with partners and increasing international awareness of the EU as a global peace actor and security provider
- Support for rules-based **multilateralism**.

Annual Action Plans (AAPs) or Multiannual Action Plans are adopted which sketch out the implementation of the programme for the year or years in question, identifying indicative budget allocations, areas of intervention and modalities. In order to "enhance the efficiency, effectiveness and impact of assistance, as well as to facilitate the management of this thematic programme", not all priorities are addressed each year.

The **Annual Action Plans for 2027,** which will be the topic of this CSDN meeting, are the last ones under the current MFF budget cycle.

Programming under the Thematic Programme on Peace, Stability and Conflict Prevention until 2026

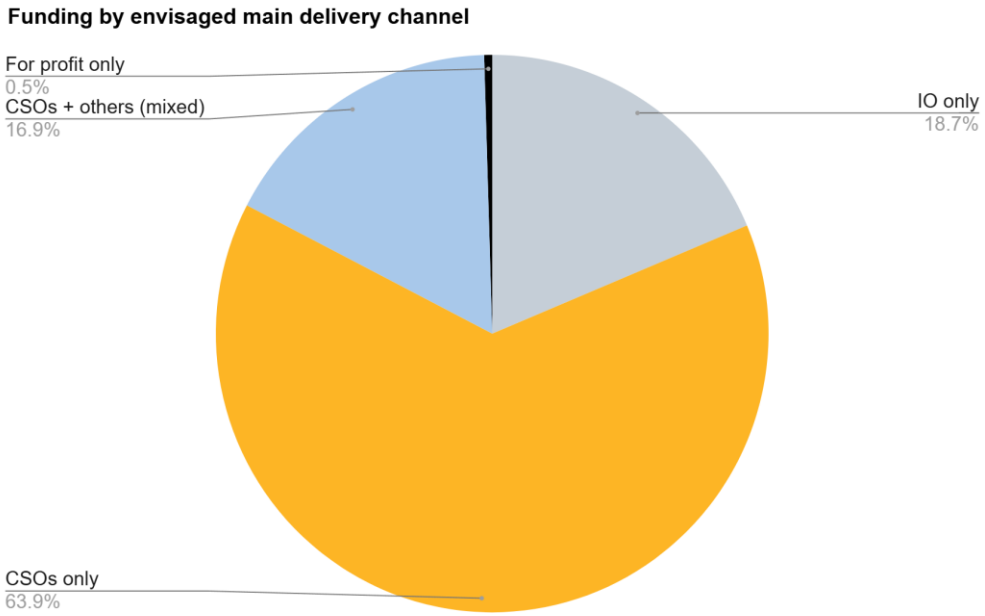
Conflict prevention, peacebuilding and crisis preparedness

Based on the action plans from 2021 to 2026, the EU has spent 24% of its Thematic Programme on Peace, Stability and Conflict Prevention on this area of intervention. 5 percentage points therefore remain to reach the 29% allocated under the Multi-annual Indicative Programme (MIP) of the Thematic Programme.

The AAPs identify the main delivery channels envisaged for the funding allocated to this area of intervention (in their annexes). However, the information available through these Action Plans and their annexes does not allow for verification of the channels through which the funding was ultimately delivered.

Funding by type of actors:

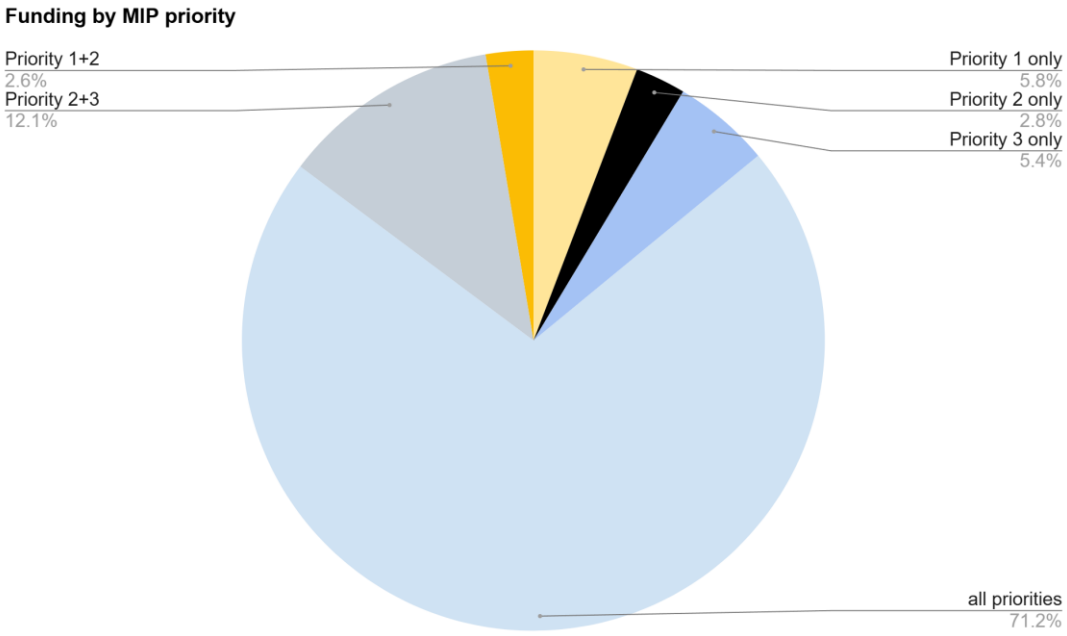
- CSOs have been the main type of actor delivering the thematic programme under this area of intervention, with 63.9% of the funding attached to CSOs as the main envisaged delivery channel.
- IOs are the second largest type of actor delivering the thematic programme under this area of intervention, with 18.7% of the funding attached to IOs as the main envisaged delivery channel.
- Another 16.9% of the funding had multiple delivery channels (including CSOs, UN, academia, for profit, Third Country Governments).



Funding by MIP priorities

As described above, three priorities were enshrined in the Multi-annual Indicative Programme (MIP) of the Thematic Programme for this area of intervention. These priorities are centered on (1) EU capabilities (2) mediation, conflict resolution & conflict prevention and (3) peace processes and stabilisation.

The programming planned in Annual Action Plans Annexes was very often associated with several priorities.



Global, trans-regional and emerging threats

Since 2021, the thematic programme has funded over 80 projects in 130 countries in the Global, trans-regional and emerging threats area of intervention. Please consult this interactive map to explore the goals, activities and geographic area of implementation of the various projects.You can also search projects through the projects list view to access advanced search and filtering tools for the projects. The project list reports the following projects per categories (please note this may not reflect the full list of projects):

- CBRN Risk mitigation (112 projects listed)
- Counter-Terrorism, Prevention of Violent Extremism (20 projects listed)
- Fight against organized crime (16 projects listed)
- Climate change and security (6 projects listed)
- Critical infrastructure protection (5 projects listed)

Consultations on programming under the next EU-budget

In July 2026, a CSDN Meeting was held on the pre-programming assessments for peace, security, stability and response to crises under the next EU budget cycle. Civil society shared inputs that are interlinked with the topic of this meeting on AAPs for 2027. The meeting report collected the following main recommendations:

1. Focus **peace & security thematic programming** on addressing issues that are not necessarily in the short-term political focus but remain important for peace and security; aim for **long-term impacts** rather than short-term outputs.
2. Keep future thematic programming aligned with **the Integrated Approach to External Conflicts and Crises.**
3. Maintain the **partnership with civil society** in thematic programming on peace and security.
4. Build more **synergies** between **programmable** thematic funding, programmable **geographic** funding and **non-programmable** funding (crisis response).
5. Address the interconnection of **challenges between global threats and peacebuilding** by working on the complementarity and nexus between the two areas of intervention but keeping the two areas programmatically distinct.
6. Significantly increase the focus on **climate change and environmental** impacts **on peace and security** and on **mis/disinformation** as part of the major, cross-cutting issues of continued relevance for both countering global threats and peacebuilding.
7. Include major new issues that have arisen since 2021, including the erosion of **international norms and of multilateralism**, **shrinking global civic space**, the

impact of **artificial intelligence** on peace and conflict and the repercussions of the rising demand for **critical minerals** on conflict dynamics.

8. Develop the EU's implementation of the **Women Peace and Security agenda** not only through protection but through approaches that strengthen the agency of women in peace and security, ensuring gender mainstreaming from design to implementation of EU actions; promote the participation of women in the security sector.
9. Focus on support to peacebuilding and conflict prevention **actions in third countries while maintaining EU analytical tools,** methodologies, and mechanisms to support early warning systems and responses.
10. Innovate by **testing** new tools and **combining** them with existing effective tools, in **co-creation** with implementing partners, with stable and flexible funding mechanisms.
11. Innovate by **investing more directly in local civil society actors**, through flexible contracting and funding approaches, and local engagement by EU Delegations.
12. Innovate by leveraging **untapped technological tools**, from new technologies (AI, civic tech, drones) to the use of underused technology, taking into account what is best adapted to the local tech environment.