

	digital connectivity energy transport health education and research	<input type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	
	Migration @ (methodology for tagging under development)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Reduction of Inequalities @ (methodology for marker and tagging under development)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Covid-19	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
BUDGET INFORMATION				
12. Amounts concerned	Budget line(s) (article, item): 14.020120 Total estimated cost: EUR 12 000 000 Total amount of EU budget contribution EUR 12 000 000			
MANAGEMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION				
13. Type of financing	Direct management through: - Grants - Procurement (services and supplies) Indirect management with the entity to be selected in accordance with the criteria set out in section 4.4.3			

1.2 Summary of the Action

Poor business environment is among the biggest challenges for the economic development of Sierra Leone. The main objective of this action is to improve the business environment and competitiveness in order to foster economic growth and job creation. It has three outcomes:

- 1) Competitiveness of local MSMEs;
- 2) National Quality System¹;
- 3) Business environment institutional reforms.

The first outcome will focus on providing MSMEs with quality business development services which would allow them to increase their productivity, sales and improve their export readiness. The action targets start-ups incubators and accelerators as well as companies in nascent scaling-up phase which have limited access to capital, financial services and business training. Sustainable business practices and production in line with the EU trade and business regulations will be promoted. For this purpose, partnerships with private, public and non-governmental business support organisations will be established.

¹ National Quality System (NQS) is a combination of initiatives, institutions, organisations, activities and people. It is a tool for defining, developing and verifying quality requirements for products and services. It verifies that products and services actually meet these requirements. NQS ensures that the quality requirements and the products and services they generate, meet the best practices related to the participation in the international trade.