

Activities related to Output 3.2

- Capacity support for the application for loans in national and hard currency through international cooperation with national financial markets and cooperation between development banks, funds and commercial banks.
- Support the capacity of national financial actors including commercial banks / development banks to be able to issue credits to economic actors and develop sustainable and local lending activities.

Activities related to Output 4.1

- Further development of features and modules for e-Commerce tools such as the Single Window (one-stop-shop, *Ventanilla Única*) for Foreign Trade and the Single Window for Foreign Investment for the use of economic actors and trainings for their use, support to the development of methodologies for their simplification, functional analysis, and strengthening of national capacity for the Windows.
- Establishing synergies with other cooperation programmes and projects within the MIP (support for sustainable municipalities, support to the Public Administration), other regional programmes (with emphasis on exchanges with Latin America and the Caribbean) and thematic programmes in the above-mentioned priority sectors, and cooperation agencies of Member States and other countries.
- Promotion and matchmaking for investments and joint ventures between economic actors in Cuba and MSMEs in the EU.

3.3 Mainstreaming

Environmental Protection & Climate Change

Outcomes of the EIA (Environmental Impact Assessment) screening (relevant for projects and/or specific interventions within a project)

The EIA (Environment Impact Assessment) screening classified the action as Category C (no need for further assessment).

Outcome of the CRA (Climate Risk Assessment) screening (relevant for projects and/or specific interventions within a project)

The Climate Risk Assessment (CRA) screening concluded that this action is “low risk” (no need for further assessment).

Rather, the project integrates climate change and environmental aspects as cross-cutting issues. The project will seek cost-effective climate change solutions to increase resilience and reduce the impacts of climate risks for MSMEs and other economic actors, and in turn strengthen the response to climate change challenges. Existing best practices and opportunities related to adaptation and mitigation of the effects of climate change will be examined through the identification of appropriate products, services, tools and processes. This will give preference to economic actors who employ circular economy models, which allows for the optimisation of resources, a reduction in the consumption of raw materials and the use of waste. The training will include tools and/or strategies to enable those leading MSMEs to make the best use of the resources available to them and to extend the life cycle of products. This is particularly important in the case of a country such as Cuba, where, for various external and internal reasons, access to resources is limited. This project is therefore equally in line with the strategic actions of *Tarea Viva*, which is the State Plan for Climate Change.

Gender equality and empowerment of women and girls

As per OECD Gender DAC codes identified in section 1.1, this action is labelled as G1. This implies that the initiative will have a cross-cutting gender approach in all its stages, from formulation to evaluation. In essence, the action will support concrete initiatives that are led by female entrepreneurs and provide training to incentivise women for the creation of successful MSMEs and PDLs. This initiative is in line with the Plan of Advance for Women by the Cuban Government, which calls for this sector to be given the necessary support to secure conditions and broaden opportunities in order to ensure equality in all its dimensions. In terms of implementation, the project management committee shall be made up of at least 50 % women and the decision-making entities linked to the initiative are at least 30 % headed by women. Women are one of the priority groups to be supported throughout the activity, as the logical framework matrix foresees specific results and activities aimed at contributing to gender equity, such as workshops for women entrepreneurs and MSMEs and PDLs and other