

beneficiaries of development interventions, identifying if more than 40 per cent of beneficiaries are at the bottom two quintiles of the income or wealth distribution. It also allows to evaluate whether effective targeting has been done towards women, children and youth or other disadvantaged groups (e.g. ethnic minorities) or at territorial level.

5.3 Audit and Verifications

Without prejudice to the obligations applicable to contracts concluded for the implementation of this action, the Commission may, on the basis of a risk assessment, contract independent audit or verification assignments for one or several contracts or agreements.

6. STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND PUBLIC DIPLOMACY

The 2021-2027 EU Programming Cycle adopted a new approach to pooling, programming and deploying strategic communication and public diplomacy resources.

In line with the 2022 document “[Communicating and Raising EU Visibility: Guidance for External Actions](#)”, it is a contractual obligation for all entities implementing EU-funded external actions to inform relevant audiences of the EU’s support for their work by displaying the EU emblem and a short funding statement, as appropriate, in all communication materials related to the actions in question. This obligation will continue to apply regardless of whether the actions in question are implemented by the Commission, partner countries, service providers, grant beneficiaries, or commissioned or delegated entities such as UN agencies, international financial institutions, and EU Member State agencies.

However, action documents for specific sector programmes are in principle no longer required to include a provision for communication and visibility actions promoting the programmes concerned. These resources will instead be consolidated in Cooperation Facilities established by support measure action documents, allowing Delegations to plan and execute multiannual strategic communication and public diplomacy actions with sufficient critical mass to be effective on a national scale.