

Work Plan

FUND FOR BILATERAL RELATIONS

(In accordance with Article 2.4 of the Bilateral Fund Agreement and Article 4.2 of the Regulations on the implementation of the EEA and Norwegian Financial Mechanisms 2014-2021)

[Lithuania]

1. Background

Please refer briefly to any major fields of cooperation characterising the existing bilateral relations between the BS and the DS.

Lithuania has diplomatic relations with all three donor countries: the Republic of Iceland (hereinafter – Iceland), Kingdom of Norway (hereinafter – Norway) and the Principality of Liechtenstein (hereinafter – Liechtenstein). Iceland is the first foreign state which recognized the restoration of independence of Lithuania on 11 February 1991. Diplomatic relations with Iceland were established on 26 August of the same year. At present, the relations between Iceland and Lithuania in various fields are regulated by 6 bilateral treaties. On 24 August 1991 the restored independent State of Lithuania was recognized by Norway, and several days later (on 27 August) the diplomatic relations between the countries were established. The relations between Norway and Lithuania in various fields are regulated by 12 bilateral treaties. On 27 March 2001 Lithuania established diplomatic relations with Liechtenstein.

Lithuania and donor countries are members of the United Nations, Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe and the World Trade Organisation. Together with Norway and Iceland, Lithuania is a member of the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (hereinafter – NATO).

Lithuania and Norway share not only strong political ties, the countries maintain close business and cultural cooperation, as well as close cooperation between academic community, civil society and public authorities. Norway is an important and reliable partner of Lithuania in the fields of economy, energy security, defence and etc. Bilateral cooperation between Norway and Lithuania is constantly increasing, both countries have the same treatment to the situation in the Baltic region and are solidary looking at ways of solution. The role of Norway became crucial in providing the Baltic states with alternative energy resources. Norway is our main partner in reaching energy independence in natural gas sector. The project of liquefied natural gas (hereinafter – LNG) terminal implemented by Klaipėda Oil Terminal and Hoegh LNG in Klaipėda is the largest project of economic cooperation between Lithuania and Norway.

Since 2010 Norway appears among ten the largest investors to Lithuania. Circulation of goods between the countries was steadily growing and in 2015 made up almost EUR 873 million – twofold than in 2010, and the export value of the Lithuanian goods to Norway in 2016 grew by 7.1 per cent. The greatest potential for further cooperation is investment projects in the fields of information and communication technologies (ICT), financial technologies (FinTech), science and innovation as well as life sciences, defence industry and etc. Bilateral cooperation is also on-going in the fields of defence and its planning as well as training. The countries participate in joint exercises, consultations. The cooperation in regional security, including energy security, cyber security and hybrid threats, strategic communication and Eastern Partnership is of strategic importance to Lithuania.

About 45 thousand Lithuanians reside in Norway. Due to seasonal workers arriving to the country from Lithuania, the number of the Lithuanians residing in the country may be twofold. According to the data by Statistics Lithuania, almost 4 per cent of the Lithuanian emigrants lived in Norway at the end of 2014. 5 Lithuanian communities are concentrated in the largest cities of the country.

In addition to bilateral relations, Lithuania and Iceland cooperate under formula “5+3” – among five Nordic and three Baltic states – this cooperation between eight countries is unique in Europe and in the world.

Iceland, as NATO founder, actively supported the expansion process of the organisation and the invitation of

the three Baltic states to the Alliance at the NATO Summit in 2002 in Prague. Lithuania supports the development of bilateral dialogue and defence relations, welcomes the general approach to security challenges and Iceland's contribution to NATO Front Force Generation in Lithuania. An important cooperation is carried out through regional formats, especially NB8. It will further remain to be the central axis of bilateral relationship. Iceland will coordinate the work of NB8 in 2019. The cooperation in such areas as air and maritime surveillance, information and cyber security, joint military exercises and training strengthens relationship between the countries and the ability to act jointly. Iceland does not have its own armed forces, however, the country participates in the regional security environment formation, contributes financially to NATO operations, delegates civilian personnel. Lithuania and Iceland also coordinate activities in international organisations. In case of the Russian aggression in the Ukraine, Iceland made the decision on harmonising the national sanctions with the EU.

The importance is given to the development of bilateral business and economic relations between Iceland and Lithuania. Over 2016, reciprocal trade grew by almost 28 per cent. In Iceland the Lithuanian furniture, articles of timber, plastics are saleable goods; the cooperation in IT, financial technologies has a lot of potential. Iceland as a part of the European Economic Area also helps Lithuania to improve health care, environment, create wealth for children from families at risk.

Each year, during the commemoration of the Independence Day of Iceland, people in Lithuania initiate the action called "Thank you Iceland" by which they express their gratitude to the people of Iceland. About 1,700 Lithuanians live in Iceland with a solid and strong Lithuanian community, Sunday school, Lithuanian chorus.

Were there any lessons learned from the work to strengthen bilateral relations under the Financial Mechanisms 09-14? Briefly refer to past experiences, highlighting successes that can be built on.

National Bilateral Fund (NBF) under the Financial Mechanisms 2009-2014 provided the implementation of cooperation initiatives and the establishment and strengthening of partnerships beyond the scope of the national programmes. The NBF projects facilitated research as well as academic and political debate on energy security, democratic institutions, gender equality and human rights. It also identified policy implementation issues and provided concrete solutions and tools to address them (e. g. projects "Gender Equality Implementation in Research Institutions – Collaborative approach (GEIRICA)" and "Energy security in the Baltic Sea region" created added value not only to the academic community, but also to public policy at the higher levels (the EU, the Baltic Sea region)). Moreover, many projects contributed to the Lithuanian Presidency of the EU Council in 2013.

NBF, a new instrument, proved to be very useful as it provided the opportunity to implement relevant initiatives of bilateral cooperation with sustainable products outside the programmes, however, it was not exploited to full extent, as:

- the clear strategy how to use funds in most effective way and select (initiate, develop) the best bilateral initiatives was missing. The lesson learned strongly suggests the importance of strategic planning and involvement in decision making of all relevant for bilateral relations national and donors authorities;
- approach to finance pre-defined activities proved to be rather successful in reaching tangible bilateral cooperation results as well as flexible in addressing both beneficiary and donors interests and rather simple for the NFP in administration. However, organisation and managing of open calls for research co-operation are challenge to the NFP due to the limited administrative resources and lack of specific sectoral knowledges. Possibility to delegate administrative functions (organising of calls, contracting, verification of expenditures and financial management) of the NBF to the competent body with relevant experience and resources would allow the NFP to concentrate on strategic planning and ensure smoother administrative processes.

Are there any on-going initiatives or upcoming events of importance for bilateral relations to build on? Could initiatives be tied to major events in the Donor or Beneficiary States (state visits, international chairmanships, EU Presidencies, European Capital of Culture, etc.)?

Major events in the Donor or Beneficiary states in coming years:

- Council of the Baltic Sea States (CBSS) – presidencies:
 - Lithuanian: 1 July 2020 - 30 June 2021
 - Norway: 1 July 2021 - 30 June 2022
- Nordic – Baltic cooperation (NB8) presidencies:
 - Iceland – 2019
 - Lithuania – 2022
- Capital of Culture – Kaunas (Lithuania) in 2022

How can the funds best be used to promote and facilitate partnership projects under the programmes?

With the aim to facilitate partnership projects and ensure best use of funds potential initiatives' and/or projects' related institutions / organizations (Programme Operators (hereinafter – POs), PPs, members of Joint Committee for the Bilateral Funds 2014–2021 (hereinafter – JCBF), the President's Office, the Government's office, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Lithuania, the Ministry of National Defence of Lithuania, the Ministry of Energy of Lithuania, Government-owned non-profit organization "Enterprise Lithuania", enterprise Investment and Business Guarantees (INVEGA)) were involved since early stage of bilateral funds programme planning and preparation. Mutual understanding, participatory approach and strong partnerships create preconditions for successful and most relevant bilateral projects. On the management level the necessary legislation (on management and control, functions and rights; on selection, administration and implementation processes, etc.) is being prepared in parallel to ensure smooth, transparent and quick implementation of partnership projects or initiatives.

2. Main objective

Enhanced cooperation and improved mutual knowledge and understanding between Donor and Beneficiary States.

Please outline the main aims and ambitions for the Fund for bilateral relations with reference to priority sectors, programmes and measures. Please include reference to any areas of common bilateral interest highlighted in the MoU that should be prioritised, as well as the areas identified by the Joint Committee for Bilateral Funds?

On 26th April 2018 a pre-meeting and on 29th June the first formal meeting of the JCBF were organized. The members of JCBF meetings designated domains of initiatives that should be developed via bilateral cooperation as they are strategic ones, i. e. cyber security, cooperation between Lithuanian and Norwegian municipalities in the field of culture, entrepreneurship, energy and environment, Norway know-how, civil society, equal opportunities, children rights and emigrants. Moreover, it was stated that priority should be given in the sphere where Lithuania carries out structural reforms or on crosscutting issues.

In the Memorandums of Understanding (hereinafter – MoUs) Bilateral Funds are allocated to Programmes in these areas: Research, Health, Culture, Justice and Home Affairs, Business Development, Innovation and SMEs and Environment, Energy and Climate Change.

The modalities for allocating funds should be outlined, e. g. calls, pre-defined activities, activities carried out by the NFP, allocations to Programme Operators. Key issues and upcoming larger events should be included.

- The allocation of funds is largely based on pre-defined activities principle which was chosen following the JCBF recommendations. The pre-defined bilateral activities are related with: cooperation between municipalities in the field of cultural heritage; sharing best practices between institutions and/or relevant organizations in the sphere of innovation (social, business, services delivery), equal opportunities, human rights (children, people with disabilities); crosscutting issues (work-family life balance). *The pre-defined activities in the present Work Plan amount EUR 310.355,00.* It should be noted that the latter amount arrives from the maximum (ceiling) amount reserved for particular initiative (concrete amount per initiative/ project will be derived based on

expenditure justification documents and it could be less than the maximum amount).

- The Central Project Management Agency together with the National Focal Point (hereinafter – NFP) will carry out an initiative related with experience exchange on the investment approach application in the field of social investments. Despite the fact that the Central Project Management Agency and the NFP actively apply a cost-benefit approach to infrastructure investments, they lack competence in applying this approach to the social dimension. Thus, the experience of Donor countries is planned to be used to strengthen the capacity. It should be noted that these competences will be strengthened not only by representatives of the NFP, but also by the Donor partner representatives and the representatives of other Lithuanian institutions, partners (line ministries, administrations, etc.), i. e. by those using social investment approach in practice. *EUR 40.000 is foreseen for the implementation of this initiative.*
- Allocations to Programme Operators (6 Programmes) amounts to EUR 700.000 as defined by the MoUs.

Please also shortly describe the management of Bilateral Funds, including the selection process.

Bilateral Funds allocations are set in Memorandums of Understanding (hereinafter – MoU).

On allocations of Bilateral Funds for the implementation of Programmes the decision is taken by POs in cooperation with Cooperation Committee (hereinafter – CC).

On allocations of Bilateral Funds for initiatives beyond the Programmes, the decisions are taken by the JCBF. However, the NFP takes the overall responsibility for ensuring the correct use of the Fund for Bilateral Relation (hereinafter - FBR) and the reporting on it to the Financial Mechanisms Office and Donors.

The Selection of bilateral projects and/or bilateral initiatives will be organized following these documents: “Composition, role and functioning of the Joint Committee for Bilateral Funds 2014–2021” approved by the JCBF and “On EEA and NOR Financial mechanisms Implementation in Lithuania 2014-2021” (approved by the order No 1K-389 of the Minister of Finance of the Republic of Lithuania, adopted on 12th November, 2018). The latter document regulates FBR implementation and defines functions and responsibilities of relevant bodies involved in the implementation of FBR.

In order to select initiatives to be funded beyond the programmes, a meeting of stakeholders was organized by the Ministry of Finance on 18th September, 2018. In this meeting potential areas of bilateral cooperation were discussed. All the Ministries and other stakeholders were encouraged to submit proposals for bilateral cooperation. The stakeholders’ interest was great and amounted 2,39 MEUR. Priority was given to initiatives that corresponded priority areas of bilateral cooperation, i. e. areas stated in the earlier meetings of the joint committee, areas of structural reforms of Lithuania or areas of crosscutting issues. Thus, 9 major initiatives (pre-defined activities) were included in this Work Plan.

3. Implementation system

Please include a brief description of the implementation system for the Fund for bilateral relations. The modalities for allocating funds should be outlined, e.g. calls, pre-defined activities, activities carried out by the NFP, allocations to Programme Operators. A more detailed description will be included in the detailed description of the management and control systems.

Bilateral funds **dedicated to the Programmes** through allocations set in the MoU shall be distributed by POs in cooperation with the CC (where applicable), the composition of which is approved by the POs.

Three institutions – Central Project Management Agency (EEE and Norwegian Programmes Division), Research Council of Lithuania and Lithuanian Agency for Science, Innovation and Technology – will act as the POs in accordance with the PO’s responsibilities defined in the Regulations, national legal acts and in line with MoUs.

In Programmes a total amount of EUR 700 000 is dedicated through MoUs. In Programmes Funds for bilateral relations can be allocated by organizing open calls and based on pre-defined activities. Moreover, additional financing to the Programmes can be allocated by the JCBF based on expression of

interest. A reserve of 1/3 (EUR 551.333,33) of Funds is set aside for this purpose.

The decision regarding distribution of Bilateral funds **outside the Programmes** including the allocation of **additional funds to the Programmes** shall be made by the JCBF.

Bilateral Funds outside the programmes can be allocated based on pre-defined activities and by organizing open calls. For the period 2019–2021 EUR 551.333,33 amount is reserved (out of this amount € 240.978,33 is not pre-defined by this Work Plan) ; for the period 2022-2024 EUR 551.333,33 is reserved for initiatives and projects.

The selection and implementation of initiatives will be in line with the decisions of the JCBF and the Bilateral Fund Implementation Rules approved by the abovementioned order of the Minister of Finance of the Republic of Lithuania. These rules (prepared following the Regulations and MoUs) set FBR financing principles, approval of pre-defined projects / initiatives, calls for projects and their selection, eligible expenditure, accounting for FBR, detecting and reporting on irregularities and other procedures.

National Information System of the Mechanisms (NORIS) will be used for recording and storing of the Mechanisms management in Lithuania documents and records, necessary to ensure reliable accounting, monitoring and financial reporting systems.

Donors Information System of the Mechanisms (GRACE) will be used to provide actual information and reports to the donors. The information about JCBF activities will also be provided through the annual Strategic Reports and based on Donor and FMO request.

Detailed information will be provided in the description of the National management and control system.

4. Bilateral Priority Programmes

Programme number	DPP(s)	Funds allocated in MoU	JCBF Allocations	Total allocation	Comments
1. Research	<i>Research Council of Norway (RCN), Norwegian Centre for International Cooperation in Higher Education (SIU), National Agency for International Education Affairs (AIBA)</i>	€ 100,000		€ 100,000	
2. Health	<i>National Institute of Public Health, Norway (FHI)</i>	€ 100,000		€ 100,000	
3. Culture	<i>Norwegian Directorate for Cultural Heritage (RA), Norwegian Arts Council (ACN)</i>	€ 100,000		€ 100,000	
4. Justice and Home Affairs	<i>Norwegian Ministry of Justice (NMOJ), Directorate of Norwegian Correctional Service (KDI), Norwegian Courts Administration (DA), National Police Directorate (POD)</i>	€ 200,000		€ 200,000	
5. Business Development, Innovation and SMEs	<i>Innovation Norway</i>	€ 125,000		€ 125,000	
6. Environment, Energy, Climate Change	-	€ 75,000		€ 75,000	
Total Amount:		700,000		700,000	

5. Major activities

Please outline major initiatives foreseen under the Fund for bilateral relations. Following the results-based management approach, please keep a results-focus, identifying outputs with relevant indicators. The initiatives shall contribute to the common bilateral outcome: Enhanced cooperation between Beneficiary State and Donor State entities involved.

Initiative 1

Title	Experience Exchange on Investment Approach in Social Investment Area
Implementing entity (donor or beneficiary state entity):	The Central Project Management Agency
Partner(s) (each initiative shall involve minimum one donor state entity and one beneficiary state entity):	The Norwegian Ministry of Justice and Public Security, The Ministry of Finance of the Republic of Lithuania
Allocation (a detailed budget is not required):	EUR 40.000
Short description:	The Central Project Management Agency together with the Ministry of Finance, with a view to investing public funds effectively, applies an investment approach, i. e. it seeks to decide where to invest public funds based on calculations and planned return on investment. The application of this method allows objectively identify areas to be financed and assures that the problem is solved in an optimal way, investing limited resources and where they are needed most, justifying the expected investment impact and providing illustrative arguments for communication. Taking into account the interest of Norwegian Ministry of Justice and Public Security in applying investment approach and the knowledge and experience of Norwegian experts in the field of social investments, the experts of Donor country will be invited to share good practices on social impact evaluation. This activity will provide experience exchange platform for the staff of the institutions and agencies concerned, both in Norway and Lithuania and enhance their bilateral cooperation. Achieving additional knowledge in this area will ensure higher quality of performed functions, better cooperation with other institutions, better results of achieved activities and more effective public
Duration	Q III-IV, 2019

Planned results¹

OUTPUT	INDICATOR	TARGET
Best practices sharing conference on investment approach in social investment area organized	The number of conferences	1
	The number of participants (staff) in the event	60

¹ Please refer to the Results Guideline

Initiative 2

Title	Promotion of Social Innovations related to Welfare Technologies: Pre-study on Bilateral Opportunities in the Welfare Sector
Implementing entity (<i>donor or beneficiary state entity</i>):	Agency for Science, Innovation and Technology
Partner(s) (<i>each initiative shall involve minimum one donor state entity and one beneficiary state entity</i>):	Innovation Norway
Allocation (<i>a detailed budget is not required</i>):	EUR 16.000
Short description:	<p>Agency for Science, Innovation and Technology seeks to explore the opportunities of developing the welfare technologies sector in Lithuania and to explore whether the sector has a sufficient potential to set up series of bilateral activities.</p> <p>The emerging sector of welfare technology aims to provide solutions that strengthen people's mobility, independency and wellbeing with the help of new technologies. The challenge is to make the welfare system better equipped to meet the society's future challenges, including demographic trends towards an aging society.</p> <p>The objective of this pre-study, which will be carried out by the Agency for Science, Innovation and Technology, is to measure the growth potential of the Lithuanian welfare technologies sector and reveal possibilities for Lithuanian business (e. g. social and IT entities) to collaborate in activities in the welfare technology sector and get involved in Lithuanian-Norwegian joint search for innovative solutions.</p> <p>The feasibility pre-study is expected to address topics such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - current state of maturity of the welfare technology sector in Norway and Lithuania; - national approaches towards how to build a welfare technology sector focussed on innovation, research and development, commercialization, and export / internationalization of products and services in health and welfare technology; - the assessment of the potential to adopt the existing Norwegian approach (-es)/ strategy (-ies) in Lithuania and vice versa, and explore the possibility for launching measures targeted directly at the key economic players within the welfare sector in both countries. <p>Innovation Norway, which has been actively involved in national (Norwegian) cluster development programme and is actively involved in enhancing collaborative development activities in welfare sector, has been chosen as the main partner for this bilateral initiative.</p>
Duration:	Q I-IV, 2019

Planned results²

OUTPUT	INDICATOR	TARGET
Best practices study visits on the development of welfare technology sector organized	The number of study visits to Lithuania and Norway	2
	The number of participants	3
	The number of institutions and organizations visited	3
Feasibility pre-study on development of the innovative welfare technology eco-system prepared	The number of studies	1
Paper on proposals formulated for welfare technology eco-system development action plan and presented to the stakeholders	The number of documents	1

Initiative 3

Title	Improvement of Lithuanian Innovation System
Implementing entity <i>(donor or beneficiary state entity):</i>	Agency for Science, Innovation and Technology
Partner(s) <i>(each initiative shall involve minimum one donor state entity and one beneficiary state entity):</i>	Innovation Norway
Allocation <i>(a detailed budget is not required):</i>	EUR 39.000

² Please refer to the Results Guideline

Short description:

The initiative aims to provide a practical guidance based on Donor Partner's experience on how to foster innovation and deepen innovation capability of Lithuanian entities. Initiative is targeted at public institutions responsible for the formation and the implementation of the innovation policy in Lithuania.

Despite Lithuania's attempts to increase the level of innovation, its performance remains below the EU average. The efficiency of Lithuanian innovation system, as well as its effect on economic performance and competitiveness are still low. The implementation of the initiative would help to improve the measures to promote innovation, create innovation fostering mechanism and strengthen bilateral relations with Donor country partners.

Experience of Norwegian governmental institutions on triggering private sector to actively engage in innovation policy implementation, raising public awareness on the urgency for shift towards innovative processes and solutions, as well as exchange of good practices on promotion of innovation programmes among both private and public sector would be of great value.

Additionally, closer cooperation between Lithuanian and Norwegian governmental institutions involved in the implementation of the innovation policy would lay the ground for the joint bilateral innovation programmes. As a result of that bilateral business to business cooperation would be facilitated.

Innovation Norway, which is Norwegian Government's most important instrument for innovation and development of Norwegian enterprises and industry, has been selected as the major partner. The experience of Innovation Norway in support for companies in developing their competitive advantage and enhancing innovation is an invaluable asset in drafting the guidelines on improvement of Lithuania's innovation system.

Moreover, sharing experience on how the implementation of innovation programmes can be streamlined, at the same time ensuring effective cooperation between entities involved could be mutually beneficial.

Duration:

Q I-IV, 2019 – Q I-IV, 2020

Planned results³

OUTPUT	INDICATOR	TARGET
Paper on the proposal for improvement of Lithuanian innovation system prepared and presented	The number of documents	1
Paper on the proposal on measures for promotion of innovation among both private and public sector prepared and presented	The number of documents	1
Paper on proposal on strengthening bilateral relations related to innovation prepared and	The number of documents	1

³ Please refer to the Results Guideline.

presented		
Study visits within the field of innovation policy for Lithuanian entities in Norway provided (net duration of two days)	The number of study visits for Lithuanian entities to Norway held	3
	The number of institutions and organizations visited	5
	The number of employees of Lithuanian public entities participated	10

Initiative 4

Title	Protection of the Rights of the Child
Implementing entity (<i>donor or beneficiary state entity</i>):	Ministry of Social Security and Labour of the Republic of Lithuania
Partner(s) (<i>each initiative shall involve minimum one donor state entity and one beneficiary state entity</i>):	State Child Rights Protection and Adoption Service under Ministry of Social Security and Labour of the Republic of Lithuania; The Icelandic Government Agency for Child Protection
Allocation (<i>a detailed budget is not required</i>):	EUR 23.350
Short description:	<p>Considering the fact that since July 1, 2018 the system for the protection of the rights of the child in Lithuania became centralized, there is a need to strengthen the competencies of specialists working in the system. Although the theoretical level is more or less developed (methodologies, descriptions are available), practical implementation varies from region to region, there is a lack of united practice related to the response to violations of children's rights, specialists face challenges, not knowing how to address specific issues in a targeted way, and which specific measures can be applied in the context of a given situation.</p> <p>For this reason, the experience of other countries related to the protection of the rights of the child and the best interests of the child in the following aspects would be relevant: responses to the violations of the rights of the child and evaluation of the possible risk level; the process of removing a child from the family; identifying the needs of the family and the child; case management.</p> <p>In this case, study visit and dissemination of the gained experience and knowledge would be organized.</p>
Duration:	Q II-IV, 2019

Planned results⁴

OUTPUT	INDICATOR	TARGET
A 5 day study visit to Iceland	The number of study visits	1

⁴ Please refer to the Results Guideline

organized	The number of institutions and organizations visited	7
	The number of participants of study visit	10
Trainings sessions for child rights specialists organized	The number of training sessions	5
	The number of participants in training sessions	100
Training material prepared (approved by competent persons)	The number of manuals	1

Initiative 5

Title	Work-family Life Balance
Implementing entity (<i>donor or beneficiary state entity</i>):	The Ministry of Social Security and Labour of the Republic of Lithuania
Partner(s) (<i>each initiative shall involve minimum one donor state entity and one beneficiary state entity</i>):	Iceland Ministry of Welfare Ministry of Education, Science and Sport of the Republic of Lithuania
Allocation (<i>a detailed budget is not required</i>):	EUR 14.755

Short description:

The aim of the project is to learn good practice of Iceland related to development of family-friendly environment.

Considering the fact that currently the Seimas of the Republic of Lithuania is discussing the project of the Strategy for the Demographic, Migration and Integration Policy 2018-2030, the Ministry of Social Security and Labour is developing an action plan for the implementation of this strategy, which will be approved by the decision of the Government. A lot of focus is put in the mentioned strategy and action plan on the development of a family-friendly environment. One of the key factors in creating a family-friendly environment and increasing birth rate is the development of conditions for families that would help them to combine work and family responsibilities.

Also, in this case it is important to find ways to combine efforts of different sectors to support families properly, like education, social welfare and similar.

Experience of Donor country regarding development of favourable conditions for families to combine work and family responsibilities is important (e.g., family-friendly working environment, flexible forms of employment, childcare services, etc.). In this case, the experience of other countries, i. e. Iceland is important in the following aspects: access to flexible forms of employment; maternity / paternity leave; ensuring the availability of childcare services; development of community-based childcare services. Having in mind, that the content of planned visit is related closely to educational services (like e. g., childcare services), Ministry of Education, Science and Sport of the Republic of Lithuania is involved in the bilateral activity as one of the partners. It is expected that flexible forms of employment would be identified and some of them might require legislative changes.

Duration:

Q I-II, 2019

Planned results⁵

OUTPUT	INDICATOR	TARGET
A 5 day study visit to Iceland organized	The number of study visits	1
	The number of institutions and organizations visited	6
	The number of participants of study visit	13
Proposed measures for the Action Plan for Strategy for the Demographic, Migration and Integration Policy 2018-2030	The number of proposed measures	2

⁵ Please refer to the Results Guideline

Title	Deinstitutionalization of Persons with Disabilities
Implementing entity (<i>donor or beneficiary state entity</i>):	The Ministry of Social Security and Labour of the Republic of Lithuania
Partner(s) (<i>each initiative shall involve minimum one donor state entity and one beneficiary state entity</i>):	Department for the Affairs of the Disabled under the Ministry of Social Security and Labour of the Republic of Lithuania The Organisation of Disabled in Iceland
Allocation (<i>a detailed budget is not required</i>):	EUR 11.350
Short description:	<p>In line with the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, deinstitutionalization process is being implemented in Lithuania. In this Process one of the target groups is people with disabilities. The aim is to move from the institutional care of these persons to family and community-based services in order to empower a person to live as independently as possible in his/ her home or in the family-close environment with the support and guidance necessary for this person, to receive the necessary assistance and services as close as possible to his/ her place of residence and to engage in community life as well as in the labour market. It is also important to improve existing methodologies for identifying (determining) the disability, as the existing methodology used in Lithuania does not match and does not cover all the situations that are emerging in practice.</p> <p>Therefore, the experience of Donor country, i. e. Iceland on the following issues would be useful: determination of disability; a model for assessing and satisfying individual needs of people with disabilities; access to complex services for people with disabilities in the community; a model of support in the process of decision making, in order to empower and enable the inclusion of people with disabilities in the planning and assessment of services.</p>
Duration:	Q I-III, 2019

Planned results⁶

OUTPUT	INDICATOR	TARGET
A 5 day study visit to Iceland organized	The number of study visits	1
	The number of institutions and organizations visited	5
	The number of participants of study visit	10
Proposals formulated for Deinstitutionalization Action Plan changes	The number of proposals	2

⁶ Please refer to the Results Guideline

Initiative 7

Title	Cycle of Events "Cultural Routes as a tool for promoting regional development"
Implementing entity (<i>donor or beneficiary state entity</i>):	Ministry of Culture
Partner(s) (<i>each initiative shall involve minimum one donor state entity and one beneficiary state entity</i>):	Norwegian Directorate for Cultural Heritage, Norwegian Association of Municipalities, Arts Council Norway; Lithuanian Directorate for Cultural Heritage, Lithuanian Council for Culture, Association of Local Authorities in Lithuania, College of Cultural Self-Government
Allocation (<i>a detailed budget is not required</i>):	EUR 50.000
Short description:	Cultural routes in Lithuania lack systematic, coordinated approach, and the attempts to set cultural routes lack sustainability and vitality. It is observed that there is absence of skills in terms of combining both tangible and intangible heritage, common vision and unity between the local groups of interest. The bilateral cooperation in this project would be based on encouragement of Lithuanian municipalities to establish partnerships with Donor states' municipalities, which are involved in the development of cultural routes. Educational visits, joint creative workshops and seminars would not only help to clarify the problems encountered in Lithuania and learn about the experience of Donors within the field, but also would promote networking, partnerships between donor countries and local authorities in the development of cultural routes. The partnership could be based on both the development of existing European cultural paths and on the new ones, as well as consultations on the development of thematically similar cultural routes/ cultural routes twins in the partner countries. To ensure the widest possible reach, the material gathered during the events will lay in the digital guidelines.
Duration:	Q I-III, 2019

Planned results⁷

OUTPUT	INDICATOR	TARGET
Events on culture heritage communication and sustainability of cultural routes in Lithuania organized	The number of events	3 (1 workshop, 1 seminar, 1 conference).
	The number of attendees of the events	210
	The number of the municipalities in Lithuania reached	60
Culture routes' revitalization guidelines produced	The number of guidelines	1

⁷ Please refer to the Results Guideline

Communication dissemination of and digital guidelines	The number of dissemination sources	72
---	-------------------------------------	----

Initiative 8

Title	Baltic Pride 2019: Promoting LGBT* Human Rights through Norwegian-Baltic Cooperation
Implementing entity (<i>donor or beneficiary state entity</i>):	National LGBT* Rights Association LGL
Partner(s) (<i>each initiative shall involve minimum one donor state entity and one beneficiary state entity</i>):	Oslo Pride; Association of LGBT and their friends Mozaika; Estonian LGBT Association
Allocation (<i>a detailed budget is not required</i>):	EUR 41.000

Short description:

The proposed project seeks to promote sustainable cooperation among the three major LGBT* organizations in the Baltic States, namely LGL (Lithuania), Mozaika (Latvia) and the Estonian LGBT Association (Estonia), and their partners from the Donor state Norway, namely Oslo Pride, in advancing LGBT* human rights through the Baltic Pride platform. The project partners are selected based on ongoing long-term collaboration under the Baltic Pride which rotates every year in the three Baltic states framework and International Oslo Pride programme.

This project consortium consists of long-term partnership between the LGBT rights NGOs collaborating under the Baltic Pride, framework and International Oslo Pride programme. Partner organization from Donor state was mandated to participate in the project by consortium of organizations organizing Oslo Pride: FRI, Norwegian Helsinki Committee, Amnesty International Norway and Oslo Pride. The abovementioned organizations are the only organizations in Norway and Baltic states, organizing Prides in the abovementioned country's capital cities. LGL is the only organization in Lithuania organizing Pride events, having officially registered the trademark of Baltic Pride in 2018 and receiving permission by the Municipality of Vilnius to organize the Baltic Pride For Equality on 8 June. All abovementioned organizations are also members of European Pride Organisers Association. All partners have been in close collaboration since 2009, allowing representatives of partner organizations to meet on a yearly basis during the International Oslo Pride programme and exchange good practices in organizing Pride events. LGL, as the main applicant, will be responsible for coordinating all project activities and managing the fund. Partner organization from Donor state will benefit from travel costs during BP in order to be actively involved in exchanging relevant experiences, sharing and transferring knowledge and best practices in organizing Pride to Beneficiary States. The project partnership will seek to employ the successfully established framework of cooperation with the view of comprehensively responding to vividly changing LGBT* social realities both on national and regional levels. Through this initiative, we aim to enhance cooperation and improve mutual knowledge and understanding between Donor (Norway) and Beneficiary States (Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia). This objective will be implemented through transferring skills and good practices from the partner organization in the Nordic country, defining future goals, developing future strategies and presenting project outcomes to the relevant stakeholders, who will be shaping LGBT* policies in the future. The active contribution by the project partners in organizing the Baltic Pride 2019 activities in Vilnius (Lithuania) will seek not only to promote LGBT* human rights locally, but also to consolidate the partnership among the main LGBT* civil society organizations in the region with the view of strengthening potential for future cooperation.

Planned results⁸

OUTPUT	INDICATOR	TARGET
Exchange meetings with human rights activists from Norway and Baltic states	The number of meetings organized by donor and beneficiary states	2
	The number of human rights activists participated in meetings	24
Awareness raising campaign organized	The number of people reached through the billboard campaign in Lithuania	20 000
	The number of people reached through the social media campaign in Latvia, Estonia and Norway	10 000
Baltic pride (BP) 2019 LGBT awareness raising festival organized	The number of human rights activists and performers participated in BP 2019	122
	The number of people from donor and beneficiary states participated during the BP street event	10 000
International HR conference organized	The number of speakers from Norway participated in the HR Conference	1
	The number of human rights activists participated in the HR Conference	156
	The number of participants at Pride Voices	500

Initiative 9

Title	Strengthening the Assessment of Public Health Interventions through Norwegian-Lithuanian Cooperation
Implementing entity (<i>donor or beneficiary state entity</i>):	The Institute of Hygiene
Partner(s) (<i>each initiative shall involve minimum one donor state entity and one beneficiary state entity</i>):	The Norwegian Institute of Public Health; Lithuanian University of Health Sciences
Allocation (<i>a detailed budget is not required</i>):	EUR 74.900

⁸ Please refer to the Results Guideline

Short description:

Robust evidence is instrumental in making policy decisions and improving the efficiency of investment allocation. Health care resources in Lithuania are limited and opportunity costs of choosing one intervention over another are high. As new services, projects and interventions continue to emerge, it is important to evaluate them in the local context in the most efficient and effective manner.

Health Technology Assessment (hereinafter – HTA) is a strategic policy tool to assess which existing or new interventions ranging from service delivery models to public health technologies bring the greatest health gains for the best value. HTA is rooted in the scientific method and can include analyses of clinical effectiveness, acceptability to clients, economic considerations, return on investment, safety, etc. Even though HTA is institutionalised in many European countries, the scope, implementation and subsequent use and impact in policy decision-making vary greatly.

In Lithuania the development of the National HTA strategy started only in 2015 and strengthening institutional capacity, human resources and local understanding of the importance of HTA would promote evidence-based decision making. As international cooperation is identified as one of the key principles of building robust HTA system, continuous learning from the best practices is encouraged. The experience and know-how of Nordic countries in the field are exemplary.

In Norway successful establishment of the National HTA Centre dates back to 1998 and Lithuanian collaboration with the Norwegian Institute of Public Health - currently responsible for HTA in Norway - would facilitate robust research and international peer-review. The suggested project would focus on gaining experience from the Norwegian experts and researchers, capacity building, initiating collaborations on three HTAs in public health, and promotional activities to raise awareness and impact of the HTA reporting. Strengthened bi-lateral relations with international experts in the field would further promote scientific cooperation and utilisation and effectiveness of HTA in Lithuania. The implementing entity, the Institute of Hygiene (Hereinafter – IH) (Lithuania) and both partners - The Norwegian Institute of Public Health (Norway) and Lithuanian University of Health Sciences (hereinafter- LUHS) (Lithuania) - have agreed to collaborate on the project. LUHS has been proposed as no other university in Lithuania has institutional capacity and expertise to provide technical guidance to the IH. LUHS is the only Lithuanian university with the human resources already in place. One of the priorities of Health Research Institute under the LUHS Faculty of Public Health is “social and economic evaluation of health risk factors, health policy decisions and health technologies”. LUHS also has experience in implementing relevant evaluative research studies and projects. Recently, LUHS scientists provided expert guidance and consultations to support the implementation of HTA by the IH and the set-up of the pharmaceutical HTA system by the State Service on Medicines and Drugs Control. Furthermore, LUHS has adapted new HTA methodology in a local hospital setting. All these experiences make LUHS the most suitable partner.

Duration: Q III-IV, 2019 – Q II-IV, 2021

Planned results⁹

OUTPUT	INDICATOR	TARGET
Best practices sharing by the Norwegian Institute of Public Health and capacity building in HTA	The number of technical trainings on HTA, HTA reporting and effective communication strategies conducted in Lithuania	4
	The number of experts trained	10
	The number of study visits to Norway	1
	The number of participants in the study visit	6
Events organized to promote the evidence-based decision making and utilization of HTA	The number of seminars on application of HTA and other M&E reports in the decision making for policy makers	1
	The number of policy makers attending the seminars	50
HTA assessments initiated	The number of HTA protocols prepared	3
	The number of HTA specialists collaboration meetings organised	1
	The number of HTA specialists attending	15

6. Budget for 2019-2021

Please note that this budget follows the structure of the IFR template.

Title	Budget	Comments
Activities carried out by the NFP	€ 0	
Call for proposals (<i>national level. In case several calls are foreseen, please add one line for each call</i>)	€ 0	
Pre-defined activities (<i>total budget for planned pre-defined activities at national level</i>)	€ 310.355,00	
Funds for programmes allocated in MoUs:	700.000,00	
Funds still to be allocated for 2019-2021 period	€ 240.978,33	
Funds set aside for the 2022-2024 period:	€ 551.333,33	
Funds to be allocated to Programmes based on expression of interest:	€ 551.333,33	
TOTAL	€2.354.000,00	

⁹ Please refer to the Results Guideline