

Work Plan

FUND FOR BILATERAL RELATIONS (hereinafter – FBR)

(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 Lithuania's 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 the ten largest investors to Lithuania. Circulation of goods between the countries is steadily growing and in 2020 reached EUR 1,24 billion – around threefold increase compared to 2010 level. Norway also comprise a significant share for foreign direct investments in Lithuania which in 2020 stood at EUR 638,06 million. 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 47 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 2020 data by Statistics Lithuania, 7.3 per cent of all emigration flow from Lithuania leads to Norway. 5 Lithuanian communities are concentrated in the largest cities of Norway.

In addition to bilateral relations, Lithuania and Iceland cooperate under Nordic – Baltic cooperation format “5+3” – among five Nordic and three Baltic states.

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. 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. Bilateral trade is constantly growing and in 2020 stood at EUR 49,3 million. 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. Around 4,600 (2021) 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:

- A 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;
- The 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 FBR 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:

- Norwegian Presidency of the Council of the Baltic Sea States in 2022
- Lithuanian Presidency of the Nordic – Baltic cooperation (NB8) in 2022
- European Capital of Culture – Kaunas (Lithuania) in 2022
- Norwegian Presidency of the Nordic Council of Ministers 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.) was 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 FBR 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 JCBF?

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: 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; emigrants. Moreover, it was stated that priority should be given in the sphere where Lithuania carries out structural reforms or on crosscutting issues. The relevance of bilateral relation domains is regularly discussed by the JCBF members. As a result, some new areas were recognized: gender equality; climate change; research and innovation.

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 significantly based on pre-defined activities which are selected by the JCBF members. The approved pre-defined bilateral activities reflect the following strategic domains for bilateral cooperation: 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, delivery of services, assessment of public health interventions), social investment, entrepreneurship; human rights (children; compliance with international standards in correctional service area; LGBT); tackling hate speech and promoting equal opportunities. *The pre-defined activities in the present Work Plan amount EUR 698,498.39.* 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).

- Allocations to *Programme Operators (6 Programmes)* amounts to EUR 700,000 as defined by the MoUs. A unifying feature across all the programmes regarding the development of bilateral relations (BR) is an uncertainty due to the Covid-19 pandemic. The pandemic has substantially curbed the feasibility of previously planned initiatives and unsettled the plausibility of the new ones. Although some of the initiatives managed to adapt and implement activities within the virtual environment, the risk of low disbursement of the FBR remains relevant as other initiatives have been terminated and POs refrain from organizing new open calls. As of now, no programme operator has expressed its interest for additional funds for bilateral initiatives within the programmes.
- Upcoming larger events financed from the FBR envisaged for the 2022 include: 1. 2nd public awareness raising campaign on promoting zero-tolerance approach towards hate speech, developed and executed based on information and best practice examples collected throughout the study visit; 2. International conference: Proud Cities Summit (8 June 2022); 3. Baltic Pride 2022: Pride Voices event in Vilnius (changed from Kaunas), March for Equality and Proud cities concert in Vilnius (June 2022)

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

Bilateral Funds' allocations are set in Memoranda 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 FBR and the reporting on it to the Financial Mechanisms Office and Donors.

The Selection of bilateral projects and/or bilateral initiatives is 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 the 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 programme, a meeting for potential areas of bilateral cooperation was organized for the stakeholders. In the first round of meetings, the members of JCBF designated main strategic domains for bilateral cooperation, i.e. cyber security, human rights, etc. Accordingly, priority in the selection of bilateral initiatives is given to the selected strategic areas. However, the relevance of bilateral relation strategic domains is regularly discussed by the JCBF members. As a result, new strategic areas are regularly added.

Currently, there are 14 strategic areas for bilateral cooperation under which 10 corresponding initiatives are included in this Work Plan.

3. Implementation system

Please include a brief description of the implementation system for the FBR. 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 – 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 for bilateral relations. In Programmes FBR 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 provided by Programmes' Operators. 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 (the whole amount has been allocated to BR initiatives); for the period 2022-2024 EUR 404,168.28 are envisaged for initiatives and projects.

The selection and implementation of initiatives is organized following 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 documents and records in Lithuania, necessary to ensure reliable accounting, monitoring and financial reporting systems.

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

Detailed information is 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 investment.
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

¹ Please refer to the Results Guideline

	The number of participants (staff) in the event	60
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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 15,999.07
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</p>

Short description: (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.

Duration: Q I, 2019 – Q III, 2020

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 38,960.32
Short description:	<p>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.</p> <p>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.</p>

² Please refer to the Results Guideline

Short description:

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 II, 2019 – Q II, 2022

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 presented	The number of documents	1
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	10

³ Please refer to the Results Guideline.

	participated	
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Initiative 4

Title	Protection of the Rights of the Child
Implementing entity (donor or beneficiary state entity):	Ministry of Social Security and Labour of the Republic of Lithuania
Partner(s) (each initiative shall involve minimum one donor state entity and one beneficiary state entity):	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 (a detailed budget is not required):	EUR 23,347
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, 2019 – Q IV, 2020

Planned results⁴

OUTPUT	INDICATOR	TARGET
A 5 day study visit to Iceland organized	The number of study visits	1
	The number of institutions and organizations visited	7
	The number of participants of study visit	10

⁴ Please refer to the Results Guideline

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	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 II, 2019 – Q I, 2020

Planned results⁵

⁵ Please refer to the Results Guideline

OUTPUT	INDICATOR	TARGET
Events on culture heritage and 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
Communication and dissemination of digital guidelines	The number of dissemination sources	72

Initiative 6

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:	<p>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.</p> <p>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.</p>

Short description:

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 on both 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.

Duration:

Q I-IV, 2019

Planned results⁶

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	The number of human rights activists and performers participated in BP 2019	122

⁶ Please refer to the Results Guideline

organized	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 7

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
Short description:	<p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>In Norway successful establishment of the National HTA Centre dates back to 1998 and Lithuanian collaboration with the</p>

Short description:

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, 2019 – Q IV, 2021

Planned results⁷

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

⁷ Please refer to the Results Guideline

	The number of HTA specialists collaboration meetings organised	1
	The number of HTA specialists attending	15

Initiative 8

Title	The Creation of International Synergies in Correctional Service Area
Implementing entity (donor or beneficiary state entity):	The Ministry of Justice of Lithuania
Partner(s) (each initiative shall involve minimum one donor state entity and one beneficiary state entity):	Directorate of Norwegian Correctional Service; The Prison Department under the Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Lithuania; The Training Centre Under the Prison Department
Allocation (a detailed budget is not required):	EUR 146,988
Short description:	<p>According to the reports of the European Committee for the Prevention of Torture and Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (CPT) for Lithuania, there are reported problems of ill-treatment of inmates, excessive use of force by prison staff, inter-prisoner violence, lack of meaningful activities and poor material conditions. This initiative is crucial for bringing the bilateral cooperation between Norway and Lithuania even closer together and it enables to promote comparability of Norway Grants results and activities between Norway and Lithuania and other beneficiary countries.</p> <p>With this initiative the collaboration between the correctional services between Norway and Lithuania and additionally with other beneficiary countries: Latvia, Czech Republic, Romania, Poland, Bulgaria (each of other beneficiary countries bears its own costs) will be increased.</p> <p>The aim of the initiative is to organize 1 high level international conference in Lithuania related to the topic of the new approach to the correctional service and activities of the working group "Evaluation and Indicators" which was established by the initiative of the Directorate of Norwegian Correctional Service (KDI).</p> <p>The activities of the latter working group aim at ensuring the use of a comparable methodology on Measuring Quality of Prison Life for Prisoners and Prison Staff (MQPL). Evaluation is a measure stimulating to meet international standards on correctional services and detention with reference to the European Prison Rules, CPT standards, Case Law of the European Court of Human Rights, UN Nelson Mandela Prison Rules.</p> <p>This methodology includes measuring elements like safety, security, use of violence, but is in general a tool to measure the</p>

Short description: quality of the performance of the correctional service. With this initiative the UK's experience will be transferred and shared among Norway and Lithuania. Lithuania will conduct the MQPL evaluation in Vilnius Correction House and Pravieniškės Correction House – Open Colony.

Duration: Q IV, 2020 – Q II, 2025

Planned results⁸

OUTPUT	INDICATOR	TARGET
International conference for correctional service experts in Lithuania	Number of international conferences held in Lithuania	1
The audience of the international conference in Lithuania	Number of participants	100
Training local researchers and correctional service experts in the MQPL methodology	Number of trained researchers and correctional service experts	10
Conducting the MQPL evaluations in non – pilot and pilot correctional institutions	Number of conducted the MQPL evaluations	3
Participation in seminars and conferences regarding the exchange of experience of conducting the MQPL methodology in other countries	Number of participants	10
Participation of the Lithuanian experts in the working group "Evaluation and Indicators" meetings	Number of participants	2

⁸ Please refer to the Results Guideline

Initiative 9

Title	#HATEFREE: Strengthening bilateral cooperation between Norway and Lithuania in tackling hate speech and promoting equal opportunities
Implementing entity (<i>donor or beneficiary state entity</i>):	Office of the Equal Opportunities Ombudsperson of the Republic of Lithuania
Partner(s) (<i>each initiative shall involve minimum one donor state entity and one beneficiary state entity</i>):	Royal Norwegian Embassy in Vilnius; Social Advertising Agency “Nomoshiti” (Lithuania) Networking partners (Norway): Likestillings - og diskrimineringsombudet LDO; National Organization for LGBT Persons FRI; Institute for Social Research; Oslo Police District
Allocation (<i>a detailed budget is not required</i>):	EUR 81,432
Short description:	<p>The initiative will be realized through four key group of activities, namely: (a) organizing a study visit to the Donor State for the members of a network of victim support service providers, (b) organizing a large-scale public awareness raising campaign on promoting zero-tolerance approach towards hate speech, (c) organizing the National Equality and Diversity Awards in 2021 and (d) organizing an international conference on providing services for victims of hate-motivated incidents within the framework of the National Human Rights Forum 2021. The proposed activities of the initiative will be implemented in cooperation with and direct participation of the Donor State partner, i.e. the Royal Norwegian Embassy in Vilnius, the National partner (i.e. social advertising agency “Nomoshiti”) and through the employment of know-how from the Networking Donor partners.</p> <p>The initiative is based on a well-established partnership, including partners from both the Donor State and the Beneficiary State. The Donor State partner, i.e. the Royal Norwegian Embassy in Vilnius, will be instrumental in implementing project activities. The Donor State partner will facilitate networking opportunities and provide input for study visit programme (i.e. study visit to the Donor State), will be directly involved in approving the final communication materials and outputs with the aim of promoting the presence of the EEA/Norway grants in Lithuania (i.e. awareness raising campaign), will be included into the activities of an independent expert jury and awarded with the general sponsorship status (i.e. National Equality and Diversity Awards 2021) and will be involved in selecting and inviting potential</p>

Short description:

conference panellists from the Donor State, developing the conference programme and implementing communication activities (i.e. international conference). The participation of the Networking partners is instrumental in facilitating the study visit to the Donor State, as their input will allow the participants from the Beneficiary State to employ the best practices, establish cooperation and foster mutual exchange. The voluntary contribution of the National partner, i.e. social advertising agency “Nomoshiti” will be specifically focused on implementing the large-scale public awareness raising campaign on promoting zero-tolerance approach towards hate speech. The initiative promoter and the National partner have successfully developed and implemented number of awareness raising campaigns on various topics (e.g. gender-based violence, gender stereotyping and self-help for women suffering from domestic violence, etc.). The already developed partnership practice will be instrumental in successfully promoting the presence of the EEA/Norway grants in Lithuania through the increased visibility of the programme.

As a result, based on the set four key group of activities initiative will produce multiple results: increased know-how of relevant local institutions in assisting hate victims; zero tolerance towards hate speech awareness campaign with a reach of 600 000 persons; the National Equality and Diversity Awards 2021 essential for mainstreaming equality and non-discrimination; strengthened cooperation and increased mutual knowledge/understanding between the Donor State and the Beneficiary State enabling the national equality body to organize the international conference on providing services for victims of hate-motivated incidents within the framework of the National Human Rights Forum 2021.

Duration:

Q I, 2021 – Q II, 2022

Planned results⁹

OUTPUT	INDICATOR	TARGET
Study visit to the Donor State for the members of a network of victim support service providers.	Three-day study visit by the Lithuanian delegation to the Donor State (i.e. Norway) concluded.	1 three-day study visit; at least 6 participants; at least 4 bilateral meetings with the selected Networking partners.

⁹ Please refer to the Results Guideline

<p>Public awareness raising campaign on promoting zero-tolerance approach towards hate speech, developed and executed based on information and best practice examples collected throughout the study visit.</p>	<p>National awareness-raising campaign implemented and at least 1 million people reached nationwide.</p>	<p>1st awareness raising campaign: 1 video ad broadcasted on national television (in Lithuanian with English, Russian and Polish subtitles), 3 radio ads (in Lithuanian), billboard posters displayed in three biggest cities for the period of 2 weeks (in Lithuanian), 10 press releases and articles (in Lithuanian), other means of communication (e.g. participation in TV and radio shows). 2nd awareness raising campaign: billboard posters displayed in three biggest cities (Vilnius, Kaunas, Klaipėda) and in periphery (at least 6 municipalities) for the period of 2 weeks (in Lithuanian), 8 press releases and articles (in Lithuanian).</p>
<p>National Equality and Diversity Awards in 2021.</p>	<p>National Equality and Diversity Awards in 2021 organized.</p>	<p>1 two-hour event, broadcasted live on national television; at least 400 participants in the event; 8 award categories; 24 nominees; online communication with at least 50 000 persons reached via various communication channels.</p>
<p>International conference on providing services for victims of hate-motivated incidents within the framework of the National Human Rights Forum 2021.</p>	<p>International conference organized with participation of at least 150 participants.</p>	<p>1 one-day event; at least 150 participants; at least 12 panellists, including at least 2 panellists from the Donor State; 3 thematic discussions on the topic of hate speech prevention; online communication with at least 15K persons reached via various communication channels.</p>

Initiative 10

Title	Leadership conference “reFOCUS” for business executives and decision makers
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Implementing entity <i>(donor or beneficiary state entity):</i>	ISM University of Management and Economics
Partner(s) <i>(each initiative shall involve minimum one donor state entity and one beneficiary state entity):</i>	Royal Norwegian Embassy in Vilnius; Lithuanian-Norwegian Chamber of Commerce; Norwegian-Lithuanian Chamber of Commerce
Allocation <i>(a detailed budget is not required):</i>	EUR 36,804
Short description:	<p>The pandemic has shaken economies; almost every market and sector has been touched and impacted in multiple ways. Businesses are solving multiple problems at a time and adopting the “survive today” strategy. While some of them are already planning after-crisis steps, others use this opportunity to aim for sustainable solutions that will create a better future. In nowadays situation, the pandemic crisis will not be resolved without partnerships and mutual trust, unity in aiming at results, knowledge sharing and caring about people and environment.</p> <p>4 project partners drawing on the Norwegian experience, and emphasizing the need of bilateral business partnership and knowledge sharing, will organize a high-profile leadership conference as a platform for valuable knowledge sharing. Initiative promoter will be the main organizer of the conference whose main intent will be to turn the focus to the one-step ahead leadership and the strategic future trends. By gathering bilateral project partners, who will take parts in the project by actively communicating the conference idea and intent with valuable business contacts in Norway and Lithuania, the project team will be able to invite market professionals, experts and visionaries from Lithuania and Norway to participate in the conference. Businesses will get insights for the currently important topics, while the discussion will reveal the most future-relevant topics which will lead to the selection of the most crucial ones to be presented in the conference aiming to change the foresight into one-step-ahead approach for high level executives in decision-making.</p>
Duration:	Q I, 2021 – Q III, 2021

Planned results¹⁰

OUTPUT	INDICATOR	TARGET
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¹⁰ Please refer to the Results Guideline

Bilateral (Norwegian and Lithuanian) conference for business executives	Number of attendees from Norway and Lithuania (live participation)	300 (the number might be adjusted in line with the COVID-19 regulations for the prospective date)
	Number of attendees through live broadcast online	500
Communication campaign to raise the awareness of Norwegian business culture	Number of articles on local media introducing Norwegian business culture examples and benefits	5
	Number of Facebook/LinkedIn posts regarding the topics of the conference including Norwegian business culture examples	10

Initiative 11

Title	Mainstreaming equal opportunities in twin cities (Vilnius-Oslo)
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 City Municipality; Vilnius City Municipality; Lithuanian Diversity Charter
Allocation (<i>a detailed budget is not required</i>):	EUR 149,068
Short description:	The municipalities of Vilnius and Oslo are implementing initiatives and programmes aiming to ensure equal opportunities for its constituents. However, as twin cities Vilnius and Oslo would benefit from sharing the best practices in implementing equal opportunities. There is a need to establish a network of representatives from Vilnius and Oslo municipalities, socially responsible businesses and a human rights NGOs in order to encourage the cooperation and increase knowledge and understanding between Norwegian and Lithuanian partners. The cooperation between Vilnius and Oslo would result in a good practice paper aiming to ensure equal opportunities, activities and events that would mainstream equal opportunities and foster supportive relations between the residents of Vilnius and Oslo. The initiative will also seek to expand the network and establish collaboration on equality mainstreaming with Warsaw and other city municipalities. The partnership of the initiative was established back in 2019 when the National LGBT rights organization LGL in collaboration with socially responsible businesses under the umbrella of the Lithuanian Diversity Charter organized the Baltic

Short description:

Pride festival which was an unprecedented success. In 2020, representatives of LGL met with the representatives of Oslo City Municipality who voiced their interest to pursue quality collaboration with the Vilnius City Municipality in aiming to mainstream equal opportunities. However, it is essential to involve not only Vilnius and Oslo city municipalities, but also representatives of socially responsible businesses and civil society in order to ensure implementation of equal opportunities in all areas life and reflect the needs of socially vulnerable groups. The aim of the proposed initiative is to mainstream equal opportunities in twin cities (Vilnius-Oslo) and foster diversity at municipal level by involving Vilnius and Oslo municipalities, socially responsible businesses and human rights NGO. The initiative will aim to foster exchange of best practices between Vilnius and Oslo municipalities on securing equal opportunities in twin cities. The proposed initiative will encourage the cooperation and increase knowledge and understanding between Norwegian and Lithuanian partners and encourage a positive change in ensuring equal opportunities at municipal level.

Planned results¹¹

OUTPUT	INDICATOR	TARGET
Study visit in Oslo	Number of study visits and number of participants from Donor and Beneficiary States	1 study visit. 6 participants from the Beneficiary State, 6 participants from the Donor States, 12 participants in total
Coordination meetings	Number of coordination meetings and number of participants from Donor and Beneficiary States	3 online coordination meetings. 12 participants from the Beneficiary State and 12 participants from the Donor States, 24 participants in total
Study visit in Vilnius	Number of study visits. Number of participants from Donor and Beneficiary States. Number of good practice papers.	1 study visit. 6 participants from the Donor States, 6 participants from the Beneficiary State, 12 participants in total. 1 good practice paper.

¹¹ Please refer to the Results Guideline

International conference: Proud Cities Summit	Number of international conferences. Number of speakers from Donor and Beneficiary States. Number of participants. Number of online participants.	1 international conference. 3 speakers from the Donor States, 5 speakers from the Beneficiary State. 150 participants. 8000 online participants.
Baltic Pride 2022: Pride Voices event, March for Equality and Proud cities concert in Vilnius	Number of performers from Donor and Beneficiary States. Number of participants.	2 performers from the Donor States, 8 performers from the Beneficiary and other States. 250 participants at the Pride Voices event. 10000 participants at the March For Equality. 15000 participants at the Proud cities concert.
Promotional activities, materials and campaigns.	Number of magazines and printed copies. Number of promotional campaigns and promotional visuals. Number of social media ads. Number of people reached by promotional activities and campaigns.	1 magazine (1000 printed pieces). 1 promotional campaign (30 posts). 20 promotional visuals. 1 advertising campaign (20 posts). At least 20.000 people reached by promotional activities and campaigns.

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>)	€ 698.498,39	
Funds for programmes allocated in MoUs:	700,000.00	
Funds still to be allocated for 2019-2021 period	€ 0.00	
Funds set aside for the 2022-2024 period:	€ 404.168.28	
Funds to be allocated to Programmes based on expression of interest:	€ 551,333.33	
TOTAL	€2,354,000.00	