*Revised by the JCBF*

*13/04/2021*

***General Requirements for Bilateral Relation Initiatives under the 2014-2021 European Economic Area and Norwegian Financial Mechanisms’ Fund for Bilateral Relation (FBR):***

* All bilateral relation (BR) initiatives should contribute to the general aim – to strengthen cooperation and increase mutual knowledge/ understanding between the Donor States (Norway, Liechtenstein, Iceland) and Beneficiary State (Lithuania).
* BR initiatives can be implemented in any sphere or field relevant to BR between Donor States and Beneficiary State. However, priority is given to the BR initiatives that coincide with the yet uncovered strategic themes dedicated for bilateral relation: climate change; cyber security; energy and environment; civil society; emigrants; research and innovation; structural reforms and crosscutting issues.
* BR initiatives should not duplicate activities/ aims covered by Programmes.
* Nature of initiatives/ activities: joint activities of common interest.

*Examples of activities:* matchmaking events not tied to one particular programme; technical cooperation and exchange of experts; secondments and internships; capacity building and short term training; workshops and seminars on topics of common interest; study tours and visits; data collection, reports, studies and publications; campaigns, exhibitions and promotional material, etc. More examples of initiatives/ activities can be found in the [Work Plan](https://docs.google.com/viewer?url=https://www.eeagrants.lt/mfiles/Documents/items/158/work_plan_amendment_approved_by_jcbf_2020-12-23_.pdf&embedded=true).

* Implementation period: It is expected that initiatives would begin from 01.01.2022 the earliest, and complete till 30.04.2025 the latest.
* Eligible implementing entity: public institution or private entity with a high competence or mandate in the field of BR initiative.
* Eligibility of partners: at least one partner (legal person) from Beneficiary State and at least one partner (legal person) Donor State involved in planning and the implementation of BR initiative. The same requirements of eligibility are applied to implementing entity and partner. Please refer to [Partnership Guide](https://eeagrants.org/partnership-opportunities/partnership-guide#participate-in-the-eea-and-norway-grants) on how to enter into partnership.
* Activities: non-profit.
* Eligible expenditure: no expenditure before the approval of the initiative. Please note that simplified cost options may be applied (please refer to [FBR administration rules](https://e-seimas.lrs.lt/portal/legalAct/lt/TAD/c6331620fd8311e89b04a534c5aaf5ce?jfwid=-wwk4olz88)).
* Maturity of the initiative: BR initiative should be submitted to one of the Joint Committee for the Bilateral Relation members only after partnership is established (a written approval from a partner(s) about participation and role in the initiative should be annexed to the description of the bilateral initiative (explicit agreement from Donor State partners to participate in joint activities (e-mails; letters of intent; agreement between partners, etc.).
* For more information please refer to [FBR administration rules](https://e-seimas.lrs.lt/portal/legalAct/lt/TAD/c6331620fd8311e89b04a534c5aaf5ce?jfwid=-wwk4olz88) (in Lithuanian) and [Bilateral Guidelines](https://eeagrants.org/sites/default/files/resources/2014-2021%20Bilateral%20guideline.pdf).

*Submission of the initiative:*

* *Detailed BR initiative description should be filled in English in a BR relation initiative* [*proposal template*](https://www.norwaygrants.lt/mfiles/Documents/items/70/bilateral_relation_initiative_proposal_template.docx)*.*
* *The description should be submitted as DOC or DOCx files. Other annexes should be submitted as* PDF files to prevent accidental loss of data.
* *Description should be sent during the submission period with a cover letter the National Focal Point by:*

*Mail:* [*finmin@finmin.lt*](mailto:finmin@finmin.lt) *or by post:*

The Ministry of Finance of Lithuania

attn. Investment Department/ The National Focal Point

Lukiškių str. 2, 01512 Vilnius

Lithuania

*For more information contact the NFP by e-mail:* matas.cancingeris@finmin.lt