Work Plan

FUND FOR BILATERAL RELATIONS

(In accordance with Article 2.6 of the Bilateral Fund Agreement and Article 4.9 of the Regulations on the implementation of the EEA and Norwegian Financial Mechanisms 2021-2028)

BF work plan Poland 2021-2028

(Version 3.0 adopted on 03.08.2026 by Joint Committee on Bilateral Fund)

1. Objective and priorities

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

Poland and Donor Countries enjoy close, strategic relations founded on shared values, economic ties, and strong political and security cooperation.

Iceland is one of Poland's key political partners in numerous regional, European, and global initiatives. Both countries recognize NATO's essential role in maintaining peace and security across the Euro-Atlantic area. A vital element of our relationship is the significant Polish community in Iceland—the largest foreign group in the country—which contributes greatly to economic cooperation and creates new opportunities for partnership. Joint initiatives supported by grants have led to meaningful achievements in cultural development, the arts, and the strengthening of civil society in both nations. One of the most important tools for deepening bilateral cooperation under the EEA Grants framework is the advancement of renewable energy sources, particularly geothermal energy, which holds strategic importance for both countries.

In case of relations with Liechtenstein, main areas of common interest remain culture research and education.

Norway and Poland bilateral relationship is close and strong. Norway is a key economic partner for Poland, with bilateral trade reaching €11.4 billion in 2024 and over 400 Norwegian-capital companies active in Poland. While Norwegian investments contribute to economic growth and workplaces in Poland, Norway is a predictable and reliable partner in Poland's energy security and diversification strategy—especially through the Baltic Pipe. In May 2025, Poland's Minister of Climate Hennig Kloska and Norway's Minister of Energy Terje Aasland signed a strategic bilateral energy partnership with focus on energy security, green technologies and critical infrastructure protection. EEA Norway Grants are an important tool to further strengthen the cooperation between Norway and Poland. This cooperation is diverse with mutual benefits.

Bilateral political dialogue is highly dynamic, demonstrating the depth of the relationship. The Bilateral Fund 2021-2028 set up at national level draws lessons from the previous implementation of the Bilateral Fund, which was affected by a series of unprecedented challenges and transformative developments. Among the most significant were the COVID-19 pandemic and the Russia's brutal and illegal attack on Ukraine, as well as natural disasters, such as the 2024 floods in southern Poland all of which influenced the direction, priorities, and structure of the fund's activities. These circumstances showed the need for Bilateral Funds flexibility and the ability to respond to current needs.

The Fund for Bilateral Relations under the EEA and Norway Grants 2021–2028 aims to foster closer cooperation, mutual understanding, and knowledge exchange between Donor and Beneficiary States.

The aim and strategy of the bilateral funds 2021-2028 are closely aligned with the three overarching priorities of the EEA Norway Grants and other areas of common interest.

The ambition for the 2021–2028 period is to deepen and broaden bilateral engagement between Donor and Beneficiary States, with a strong emphasis on addressing current and common challenges through cooperation, and by building long-term relationships based on trust, shared values, and mutual benefit. The Fund serves as a strategic and flexible instrument to realize this ambition through joint initiatives, policy exchanges, and collaboration across institutions and sectors.

The total budget of the Fund for Bilateral Relations for Poland amounts to EUR 11,700,888, this budget is jointly supported by the EEA and Norwegian Financial Mechanisms, with respective contributions of EUR 5,987,769 and EUR 5,713,119.

The strategic priorities for the Bilateral Fund will be operationalized through a combination of pre-defined initiatives (PDPs) and open calls, where appropriate, with an indicative division of:

- 70 % for pre-defined initiatives, aimed at implementing high-impact projects with clearly defined bilateral goals.
- 30 % for open calls, enabling broad access to funding and encouraging diversity of initiatives and actors,

Pre-defined initiatives remain a key component and are proposed by JCBF members in accordance with paragraph 1 of the workplan “objectives and priorities”. They should be strategic in nature and in principle avoid overlapping with programme level bilateral funds. The catalogue of the potential bilateral activities (both predefined initiatives or in calls) should remain wide and open. The JCBF welcomes ambitious, high-value initiatives demonstrating strong relevance, feasibility and impact. The predefined initiatives are to be decided case by case by JCBF on an ongoing basis.

Calls may be launched, and pilot calls may also be organized. Calls should be announced and implemented in a planned and staged manner throughout the duration of the Fund, to ensure continuity and broad participation. The calls are to be decided by JCBF on an ongoing basis

2. Implementation system

The Fund for Bilateral Relations is managed by the Department for Assistance Programmes in the Ministry of Development Funds and Regional Policy in Poland, which plays the role of the National Focal Point (NFP) for the EEA FM and the NFM.

The Bilateral Fund will be administered by the JCBF, chaired by the NFP and composed of representatives of Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Poland; and the FMO as observer. The primary role of the JCBF, its composition, organization of meetings, and other tasks, are detailed in the Bilateral Fund Agreement and the Rules of Procedure. Dates of JCBF meetings are to be settled in dialogue with all JCBF members.

The NFP, in consultation with the Donors, prepares a draft Work Plan (WP) for the Fund for Bilateral Relations, based on ideas discussed and initiatives of bilateral interests identified by the JCBF.

As regards the initiatives selected via open calls, the NFP is responsible for organizing the calls for proposals and drafting the call text, including eligibility criteria, according to the provisions of the Work Plan. The JCBF and the FMO shall be consulted on the call text (the comments received shall be duly taken into consideration). The calls shall be published on the websites of the NFP and the EEA and Norway Grants and be advertised as widely as possible. Rules for awarding funds shall be agreed upon by the JCBF.

3. Donor Shares and Donor Priorities

The donor shares for the bilateral fund under the EEA Financial Mechanism were approved at the FMC level. The allocation earmarked for each Donor State is as follows: Iceland – EUR 324,203; Liechtenstein – EUR 300,000; Norway – EUR 5,363,566.

In addition, the total allocation under the Norway Financial Mechanism amounts to EUR 5,713,119,

4. Open calls

Title	JCBF approval date	Amount available	Applications received	Total grant applied for	Applications selected for funding	Total grant awarded

5. Predefined bilateral initiatives

Code	PL-BI001		
Title	NORPOLFACTOR 2		
Status	On-going		
Date of approval by JCBF	18/11/2025		
Grant awarded from Bilateral fund	€ 550,000		
Implementation period	01/12/2025 - 31/12/2027		
Promoter	Norwegian Institute of International Affairs (NUPI) (NO), silje.skoien@nupi.no		
Type of Initiative	Conference, Report, Study		
Share of Donor states		**Amount**	**Percent (%)**
	Norway	€ 550,000	100.00 %
Amount incurred			
Description:			
What issues or challenges does the initiative aim to address?	Russia's war against Ukraine has been going on for more than three years, its outcome is still uncertain, and the new administration in Washington has added another layer of uncertainty and complexity. This has implications for the future of Ukraine, and a marked impact on the evolution of transatlantic cooperation as well the European efforts at increasing Europe's relevance as a security provider. In addition, support for political parties that are skeptical both of European integration and NATO is on the rise in Europe. This may have consequences both for the cooperation in NATO and the EU, and also the level of support for these organizations. It is therefore highly relevant for both Norway and Poland.		
What does the initiative aim to do?	1) to examine security-related challenges facing Norway and Poland in a deteriorating international environment; (2) to produce and disseminate timely and crucial research-based knowledge to enhance national and international policies related to both state and societal security; and (3) to		

	communicate the knowledge and policy advice to the key allies and partners of both countries and to national and international public.
What bilateral benefits does the initiative aim to achieve?	The NORPOLFACTOR 2 will result in (1) an increased awareness of the strategic dilemmas Norwegian and Polish decisionmakers and societies face through dissemination of the project findings to a broader audience and national and international stakeholders; (2) increased national and societal resilience; (3) in a better coordination of their policies at the bilateral and multilateral levels.
What is the expected role of the individual partners?	Both the beneficiary and the partner will be involved in research, stakeholder meetings and study trips. They will have a leading role in activities that will take place in their respective country. In addition NUPI will take on the tasks of administering the grant. NUPI and the partner the CPF will be involved in research, organization of public events, stakeholder meetings and study trips. They will have a leading role in activities that will take place in their respective country, organizing study visits as well as events presenting the project and its findings to a broader audience and the relevant national and international stakeholders. The CPF will be responsible for dissemination of the project's findings at their key events Warsaw Security Forum 2026 and 2027 while NUPI will be responsible for sharing information on the project with the Norwegian audience.
Main results:	
What issues or challenges did the initiative aim to address?	
What did the initiative do?	
What bilateral benefits did the initiative achieve, and for whom?	
What was the role of the individual partners?	

Code	PL-BI002
Title	The Right to Health in a Changing Environment
Status	Under review by FMO
Date of approval by JCBF	03/08/2026

Grant awarded from Bilateral fund	€ 149,960		
Implementation period	01/09/2026 - 31/08/2029		
Promoter	The John Paul II Catholic University of Lublin (KUL) (PL), katarzyna.miaskowska-daszkiewicz@kul.pl		
Type of Initiative	Data collection, Report, Study, Publication		
Share of Donor states		**Amount**	**Percent (%)**
	Liechtenstein	€ 149,960	100.00 %
Amount incurred			

Description:	
What issues or challenges does the initiative aim to address?	The initiative examines the interaction between environmental degradation, human rights, and public health within a multi-level legal system at international, European, and national levels. It focuses on emerging case law of the European Court of Human Rights (ECtHR) and the Court of Justice of the European Union (CJEU) concerning environmental determinants of health.
What does the initiative aim to do?	The initiative will conduct doctrinal legal research, comparative legal analysis, and international expert consultations to analyse the right to health in a changing environment. Key activities include: (1) Literature review of academic sources on health rights and environmental law; (2) Systematic analysis and classification of ECtHR and CJEU case law on environmental determinants of health; (3) Comparative constitutional analysis of selected European jurisdictions; (4) Review of policy and legal frameworks at EU and national levels; (5) Organization of two international symposiums; (6) Regular bilateral project meetings between UFL and KUL researchers; (7) Joint participation in international conferences; (8) Publication of results in peer-reviewed journals and edited volumes; (9) Development of structured doctrinal framework relevant for law-making.
What bilateral benefits does the initiative aim to achieve?	The initiative strengthens bilateral relations between Liechtenstein (Donor State) and Poland (Beneficiary State) through sustained academic cooperation. It promotes the exchange of legal expertise and enables joint research on legal frameworks for health protection in the

	context of environmental change. Both countries benefit from enhanced legal knowledge and comparative perspectives (a two-way transfer of legal expertise and perspectives). International conferences and regular bilateral meetings foster long-term institutional and personal links between UFL and KUL, creating a sustainable network for future collaboration. Joint publications increase the international visibility of both institutions. The initiative's outcomes - including comparative legal analyses, and a structured doctrinal framework - support public authorities, policymakers, and courts in integrating environmental determinants into health protection. The initiative contributes to the EEA Grants objective of strengthening cooperation and promoting sustainable governance structures across Europe. The initiative will support also mutual capacity building, particularly by strengthening research skills, access to legal sources, and familiarity with different judicial and regulatory frameworks. Both partners will benefit from exposure to distinct approaches to the jurisprudence of environmental harm and human rights, including case law analysis and doctrinal methods.
What is the expected role of the individual partners?	KUL (Poland/Beneficiary): contributes expertise in administrative and constitutional law, health law and Central and Eastern European legal systems. Responsibilities include: co-directing research, organizing the international conference in Poland, leading analysis of national constitutional provisions on health rights, contributing legislative expertise and coordinating with the Centre for Medical Law of the Polish Academy of Sciences and international partners. UFL (Liechtenstein/Donor): contributes expertise in international law, EU law, life sciences and health law and national laws (Liechtenstein, Switzerland, Germany). Responsibilities include: co-directing research activities, organizing the international conference in Liechtenstein, leading comparative analysis of international and EU-level legal frameworks, coordinating the academic network with European partner universities, and contributing to joint publications. The partnership combines complementary expertise in international, European and national legal systems, ensuring a comprehensive comparative and multi-level analysis.
Main results:	

What issues or challenges did the initiative aim to address?	
What did the initiative do?	
What bilateral benefits did the initiative achieve, and for whom?	
What was the role of the individual partners?	

Title	**Small initiatives**
Grant awarded from Bilateral fund	
Amount incurred	

6. Activities carried out by the NFP

Title	Small initiatives
Grant awarded from Bilateral fund	
Amount incurred	

7. Summary

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

Title	Budget	Comments
Activities carried out by the NFP	€ 0	
Pre-defined activities (total budget for planned pre-defined activities at national level)	€ 699,960	
Funds still to be allocated	€ 11,000,928	
Total	**€ 11,700,888**	