EEA Financial Mechanism 2021-2028

PROGRAMME AGREEMENT

between

The Financial Mechanism Committee
established by Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway

and

The Estonian State Shared Service Centre (SSSC),
hereinafter referred to as the "National Focal Point",

representing Estonia,
hereinafter referred to as the "Beneficiary State"

together hereinafter referred to as the "Parties"

for the financing of the Programme "Crisis Preparedness"
hereinafter referred to as the "Programme"

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Chapter 1
Scope, legal framework, and definitions

Article 1.1
Scope

This Programme Agreement between the Financial Mechanism Committee (hereinafter referred to as the FMC) and the National Focal Point lays down the rights and obligations of the Parties regarding the implementation of the Programme and the financial contribution from the EEA Financial Mechanism 2021-2028 to the Programme.

Article 1.2
Legal Framework

1. This Programme Agreement shall be read in conjunction with the following documents which, together with this Programme Agreement, constitute the legal framework of the EEA Financial Mechanism 2021-2028:

a) Protocol 38d to the EEA Agreement on the EEA Financial Mechanism 2021-2028;

b) the Regulation on the implementation of the EEA Financial Mechanism 2021-2028 (hereinafter referred to as the "Regulation");

c) the Memorandum of Understanding on the Implementation of the EEA Financial Mechanism 2021-2028, entered into between the Donor States and the Beneficiary State; and

d) any guidelines adopted by the FMC in accordance with the Regulation.

2. In case of an inconsistency between this Programme Agreement and the Regulation, the Regulation shall prevail.

3. The legal framework is binding for the Parties. An act or omission by a Party to this Programme Agreement that is incompatible with the legal framework constitutes a breach of this Programme Agreement by that Party.

Article 1.3
Definitions

Terms used and institutions and documents referred to in this Programme Agreement shall be understood in accordance with the Regulation, in particular Article 1.6 thereof, and the legal framework referred to in Article 1.2 of this Programme Agreement.

Article 1.4
Annexes and hierarchy of documents

1. Annexes attached hereto form an integral part of this Programme Agreement. Any reference to this Programme Agreement includes a reference to its annexes unless otherwise stated or clear from the context.

2. The provisions of the annexes shall be interpreted in a manner consistent with this Programme Agreement. Should the meaning of any provision of the said annexes, so interpreted, remain inconsistent with this Programme Agreement, the provisions of the annexes shall prevail, provided that these provisions are compatible with the Regulation.

3. Commitments, statements and guarantees, explicit as well as implicit, made in the preparation of the programme are binding for the National Focal Point and the Programme Operator unless otherwise explicitly stipulated in this Programme Agreement.

Chapter 2
The Programme

Article
2.1 Co-operation

1. The Parties shall take all appropriate and necessary measures to ensure fulfilment of the obligations and objectives arising out of this Programme Agreement.

2. The Parties agree to provide all information necessary for the good functioning of this Programme Agreement, including risk assessment and response analysis, and to apply the principles of implementation as set out in the Regulation.

3. The Parties shall promptly inform each other of any circumstances that interfere or threaten to interfere with the successful implementation of the Programme.

4. In executing this Programme Agreement the Parties declare to counteract corrupt practices. Further, they declare not to accept, either directly or indirectly, any kind of offer, gift, payments or benefits which would or could be construed as illegal or corrupt practice or giving rise to a conflict of interest. The Parties shall immediately inform each other of any indication of corruption or misuse of resources related to this Programme Agreement.

Article 2.2
Main responsibilities of the Parties

1. The National Focal Point is responsible and accountable for the overall management of the EEA Financial Mechanism 2021-2028 in the Beneficiary State and for the full and correct implementation of this Programme Agreement. In particular, the National Focal Point undertakes to:

a) comply with its obligations stipulated in the Regulation and this Programme Agreement;

b) ensure that the Certifying Authority, the Audit Authority and the Programme Operator properly perform the tasks assigned to them in the Regulation and this Programme Agreement;

c) take all necessary steps to ensure that the Programme Operator is fully committed and able to implement and manage the Programme, including ensuring the appropriate allocation of staff and other resources, throughout the programme period;

d) take the necessary measures to remedy irregularities in the implementation of the Programme and ensure that the Programme Operator takes appropriate measures to remedy irregularities in projects within the Programme, including measures to recover misspent funds; and

e) make all the necessary and appropriate arrangements in order to strengthen or change the way the Programme is managed.

2. The FMC shall, subject to the rules stipulated in the legal framework referred to in Article 1.2 of this Programme Agreement, make available to the Beneficiary State a financial contribution (hereinafter referred to as "the programme grant") to be used exclusively to finance the eligible cost of the Programme.

Article 2.3
Objective(s) of the Programme

1. This Programme Agreement sets out the objective(s), outcome(s), outputs, indicators and targets for the Programme.

2. The National Focal Point shall ensure that the Programme Operator implements and completes the Programme in accordance with the objective(s), outcome(s), outputs, indicators and targets set for the Programme.

Article 2.4
Programme grant

1. The maximum amount of the programme grant, the programme grant rate, and the estimated eligible cost of the Programme shall be as specified in this Programme Agreement.

2. The programme budget annexed to this Programme Agreement shall:

a) contain a breakdown between the Programme's budget headings; and

b) indicate the agreed advance payment, if any.

3. The management cost of the Programme Operator shall not exceed the amount specified in this Programme Agreement.

Article 2.5
Special conditions and programme specific rules

1. This Programme Agreement shall list any conditions set by the FMC with reference to Article 6.3.2 of the Regulation. The National Focal Point shall ensure compliance with these conditions and take the necessary steps to ensure their fulfilment.

2. The National Focal Point shall ensure compliance with any other programme specific rules laid down in this Programme Agreement.

Article 2.6
Reporting

The National Focal Point shall ensure that the Programme Operator provides financial reports and a Final Programme Report in accordance with Chapter 9 and Article 6.8 of the Regulation as well as other reporting in accordance with guidelines adopted by the FMC.

Article 2.7
Monitoring and audits

The monitoring and audits referred to in Chapter 10 and Chapter 11 of the Regulation shall not in any way relieve the National Focal Point or the Programme Operator of their obligations under the legal framework regarding monitoring of the Programme and/or its projects, financial control and audit.

Article 2.8
Modification of the Programme

1. Unless otherwise explicitly stipulated in this Programme Agreement, any modification of the Programme is subject to prior approval by the FMC.

2. Budget reallocations to and from calls and pre-defined projects (both within the same outcome and between outcomes) are permitted without a modification of the Programme Agreement or prior approval by the FMC for an amount of up to 10% of the total allocation for each planned call or pre-defined project.

3. Changes to the Programme which have been agreed in their entirety through a modification of the relevant Memorandum of Understanding do not require a modification of the Programme Agreement. In such cases, the Programme Agreement shall be updated by the FMC.

4. Programme specific exceptions from paragraph 1, if any, are set in the annexes to this Programme Agreement.

5. Expenditures in breach of this Article are not eligible.

6. Should there be a doubt as to whether a modification of the Programme Agreement is

required, the National Focal Point shall consult the FMC before such modifications take effect.

7. Requests for modifications shall be submitted and assessed in accordance with Article 6.7 of the Regulation.

Article 2.9
Communication

1. All communication to the FMC regarding this Programme Agreement shall take place in English and be directed to the Financial Mechanism Office (hereinafter referred to as the FMO), which represents the FMC towards the National Focal Point and the Programme Operator in relation to the implementation of the Programme.

2. To the extent that original documents are not available in the English language, the documents shall be accompanied by full and accurate translations in English. The National Focal Point shall bear the responsibility for the accuracy of the translation that it provides and the possible consequences that might arise from any inaccurate translations.

Article 2.10
Contact information

1. The contact information of the Programme Operator is as specified in this Programme Agreement.

2. The contact information for the FMC and the Financial Mechanism Office are:

Financial Mechanism Office

Att: Managing Director

EFTA House

Avenue des Arts, 19H

1000 Brussels

Telephone: +32 (0)2 286 1701

E-mail: fmo@efta.int

3. Changes of or corrections to the contact information referred to in this Article shall be given in writing without undue delay by the Parties to this Programme Agreement.

Article 2.11
Representations and warranties

1. This Programme Agreement and the awarding of the programme grant is based on information provided by, through, or on behalf of the National Focal Point to the FMC prior to the signing of this Programme Agreement.

2. The National Focal Point represents and warrants that the information provided by, through, or on behalf of the National Focal Point, in connection with the implementation or conclusion of this Programme Agreement are authentic, accurate and complete.

Chapter 3
Projects

Article 3.1
Selection of projects and award of grants

1. The National Focal Point shall ensure that the Programme Operator selects projects in accordance with Chapter 7 of the Regulation and this Programme Agreement.

2. Eligibility of Project Promoters and project partners is stipulated in Article 7.2 of the Regulation and, in accordance with paragraph 4 thereof, subject only to the limitations stipulated in this Programme Agreement.

3. Pre-defined projects shall be outlined in this Programme Agreement.

4. The National Focal Point shall take proactive steps to ensure that the Programme Operator complies fully with Article 7.5.2 of the Regulation.

Article 3.2
Project contract

1. For each approved project a project contract shall be concluded between the Programme Operator and the Project Promoter.

2. In cases where a project contract cannot, due to provisions in the national legislation, be made between the Programme Operator and the Project Promoter, the Beneficiary State may instead issue a legislative or administrative act of similar effect and content.

3. The content and form or the project contract shall comply with Article 7.9 of the Regulation.

4. The National Focal Point shall ensure that the obligations of the Project Promoter under the project contract are valid and enforceable under the applicable law of the Beneficiary State.

Article 3.3
Project partners and partnership agreements

1. A project may be implemented in a partnership between the Project Promoter and project partners as defined in point (y) of Article 1.6 of the Regulation. If a project is implemented in such a partnership, the Project Promoter shall sign a partnership agreement with the project partners with the content and in the form stipulated in Article 7.10 of the Regulation.

2. If one of the parties to the agreement is an entity from the Donor States, the partnership agreement

shall be in English and shall be based on a template provided by the FMC.

3. The eligibility of expenditures declared by a project partner is subject to the same rules as would apply if the expenditures were declared by the Project Promoter.

4. The National Focal Point shall ensure that the Programme Operator verifies that the partnership agreement complies with this Article. A draft partnership agreement or letter of intent shall be submitted to the Programme Operator before the signing of the project contract.

Chapter 4
Finance

Article 4.1
Eligible expenditures

1. Without prejudice to Article 8.9 of the Regulation, eligible expenditures of this Programme are:

a) management costs of the Programme Operator in accordance with the detailed budget in the financial plan;

b) payments to projects within this Programme in accordance with the Regulation, this Programme Agreement and the project contract; and

c) payments to activities funded by the bilateral funds allocated to the programme.

2. Expenditures of Project Promoters and project partners are eligible provided that they are in accordance with the provisions of Chapter 8 of the Regulation and any further provisions contained in this Programme Agreement.

3. The first date of eligibility of expenditures in projects shall be set in the project contract in accordance with Article 8.14 of the Regulation. The first date of eligibility of any pre-defined project shall be no earlier than the date of entry into force of the Programme Agreement.

4. The maximum eligible costs of the categories referred to in paragraph 1 are set in this Programme Agreement. Programme specific rules on the eligibility of expenditure set in this Programme Agreement shall be complied with.

Article 4.2
Proof of expenditure

Costs incurred by Programme Operators, Project Promoters and project partners shall be supported by documentary evidence as required in Article 8.12 of the Regulation.

Article 4.3
Proof of conditions fulfilled for simplified cost options

Costs of the Programme Operators, Project Promoters and project partners that are covered by simplified cost options shall be supported by the proof of conditions fulfilled in accordance with Article 8.13 of the Regulation.

Article 4.4
Payments

1. Payments to the Programme shall be made when all relevant conditions for payments stipulated in this Programme Agreement and the Regulation have been fulfilled.

2. Payments to the Programme shall take the form of an advance payment, interim payments and payment of the final balance and shall be made in accordance with Articles 9.2, 9.3 and 9.5 of the Regulation.

3. Payments of the project grant to the Project Promoters may take the form of advance payments, interim payments and payments of the final balance.

4. The National Focal Point shall ensure that payments are transferred in accordance with Article 9.1.2 of the Regulation.

5. Chapter 9 of the Regulation shall apply to all aspects related to payments, including currency exchange rules and handling of interests on bank accounts.

Article 4.5
Transparency and availability of documents

The National Focal Point shall ensure an audit trail for financial contributions from the EEA Financial Mechanism 2021-2028 to the Programme in accordance with Article 9.8 of the Regulation.

Article 4.6
Irregularities, suspension and reimbursements

The FMC has the right to make use of the remedies provided in the Regulation, in particular Chapter 13 thereof. The National Focal Point has a duty to take all necessary measures to ensure that the provisions in Chapter 12 and 13 of the Regulation regarding irregularities, suspension of payments, financial corrections and reimbursement are complied with.

Chapter 5
Final provisions

Article 5.1
Dispute settlement

1. The Parties waive their rights to bring any dispute related to the Programme Agreement before any

national or international court and agree to settle such a dispute in an amicable manner.

2. If a demand for reimbursement to the FMC is not complied with by the Beneficiary State, or a dispute related to a demand for reimbursement arises that cannot be solved in accordance with paragraph 1, the Parties may bring the dispute before Oslo Tingrett.

Article 5.2
Termination

1. The FMC may, after consultation with the National Focal Point, terminate this Programme Agreement if:

a) a general suspension decision according to Article 13.6 of the Regulation or a decision to suspend payments according to point (h) of Article 13.1.1 of the Regulation has not been lifted within 6 months of such a decision;

b) a suspension of payments according to Article 13.1 of the Regulation, other than under point (h) of Article 13.1.1, has not been lifted within one year of such a decision;

c) a request for reimbursement according to Article 13.2 of the Regulation has not been complied with within one year from such a decision;

d) the Programme Operator becomes bankrupt, is deemed to be insolvent, or declares that it does not have the financial capacity to continue with the implementation of the Programme; or

e) the Programme Operator has, in the opinion of the FMC, been engaged in corruption, fraud or similar activities or has not taken the appropriate measures to detect or prevent such activities or, if they have occurred, nullify their effects.

2. This Programme Agreement can be terminated by mutual agreement between the Parties.

3. Termination does not affect the right of the Parties to make use of the dispute settlement mechanism referred to in Article 5.1 or the right of the FMC to make use of the remedies provided in Chapter 13 of the Regulation.

Article 5.3
Waiver of responsibility

1. Any appraisal of the Programme undertaken before or after its approval by the FMC, does not in any way diminish the responsibility of the National Focal Point and the Programme Operator to verify and confirm the correctness of the documents and information forming the basis of the Programme Agreement.

2. Nothing contained in the Programme Agreement shall be construed as imposing upon the FMC or the FMO any responsibility of any kind for the supervision, execution, completion, or operation of the Programme or its projects.

3. The FMC does not assume any risk or responsibility whatsoever for any damages, injuries, or other possible adverse effects caused by the Programme or its projects including, but not limited to inconsistencies in the planning of the Programme or its projects, other project(s) that might affect it or that it might affect, or public discontent. It is the full and sole responsibility of the National Focal Point and the Programme Operator to satisfactorily address such issues.

4. Neither the National Focal Point, the Programme Operator, entities involved in the implementation of projects, nor any other party shall have recourse to the FMC for further financial support or assistance to the Programme in whatsoever form over and above what has been provided for in the Programme Agreement.

5. Neither the European Free Trade Association, its Secretariat, including the FMO, its officials or employees, nor the FMC, its members or alternate members, nor the EFTA States, can be held liable for any damages or injuries of whatever nature sustained by the National Focal Point or the Beneficiary State, the Programme Operator, Project Promoters or any other third person, in connection, be it direct or indirect, with this Programme Agreement.

6. Nothing in this Programme Agreement shall be construed as a waiver of diplomatic immunities and privileges awarded to the European Free Trade Association, its assets, officials or employees.

Article 5.4
Entry into force and duration

1. This Programme Agreement shall enter into force on the date of the last signature of the Parties.

2. This Programme Agreement shall remain in force until five years have elapsed after the date of the acceptance of the Final Programme Report.

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This programme agreement is drawn up in two originals in the English language.

For the Donors	For the National Focal Point
Signed in Tallinn on 26/05/2026	Signed in Tallinn on 26/05/2026
.....	.....
Marius Dirdal	Urmo Merila
Ambassador of Norway	Head of National Focal Point

Annex I to the Programme Agreement

Roles	
Programme Operator:	Ministry of Interior
Donor Programme Partner:	Norwegian Directorate for Civil Protection (DSB)
IPO:	-
Other Programme Partner(s):	-

Indicator	Disaggregation	Unit of measurement	Data source	Baseline	Planned Target[1]
PA09 objective: Improved disaster resilience.					
Outcome 1: Strengthened institutional and societal capacity for civil protection, disaster preparedness, and resilience in safeguarding cultural heritage					
Share of people who know where and how to find safe shelter[2]	Age	Percentage	ERB Survey / National Internal Security Survey	N/A	40 %
Share of people who know about and understand Estonia's public warning system[3]	Age	Percentage	ERB Survey / National Internal Security Survey	N/A	40 %
Estimated number of people who engaged with and took an action in response to awareness campaigns (e.g., attending workshops, participating in crisis exercises, accessing digital/TV campaigns)	Age	Cumulative number	Project Promoters' records	0	400,000
Number of participants in cultural heritage networks self-reporting improved know-how after the training	Gender	Cumulative number	Project Promoters' records	0	400
Output 1.1: Enhanced capacity of civil protection volunteers and deminers to respond effectively to emergencies, including demining operations					
Number of Rescue Agency volunteers who have completed the training course on special capacities		Cumulative number	Project Promoters' records	0	100
Number of search and rescue (SAR) instructors who have completed the advanced training course on enhancing operational and instructional capabilities		Cumulative number	Project Promoters' records	0	15

[1] Planned targets included in the above table represent the level of ambition at the time of Programme Agreement conclusion or following major modifications of the Programme. These targets shall not be used to measure the level of success of the programme. Actual targets following project contracting shall be reported on annually in the Country Reports and the Final Programme Report.

[2] Same target value for youth and adults

[3] Same target value for youth and adults

Number of mass search and rescue mission coordinators who have completed the training course on mass rescue operations		Cumulative number	Project Promoters' records	0	6
Number of employees who have participated in the offshore wind farms SAR operations and helicopter crew briefings		Cumulative number	Project Promoters' records	0	10
RENS (Remote Explosive Neutralization Systems) system operational and ready for nationwide deployment to enhance explosive ordnance disposal safety		Binary	Project Promoters' records	No	Yes
Number of protective gear units available for deminers and demining volunteers		Cumulative number	Project Promoters' records	0	100
Output 1.2: Increased efficiency and innovation in IT solutions for managing volunteers, coordinating and transmitting public warnings, and collecting and sharing crisis information					
Core module of the volunteer management portal and its integration with external systems completed		Binary	Project Promoters' records	No	Yes
Automated monitoring system and additional public warning channels integrated into the public warning system		Binary	Project Promoters' records	No	Yes
Service design analysis for AI integration into the state crisis information helpline completed		Binary	Project Promoters' records	No	Yes
Share of participants involved in user testing of the volunteer management portal prototype who are women		Percentage	Project Promoters' records	N/A	50 %
Output 1.3: Improved public awareness of shelters and crisis preparedness, supported by the development of essential information materials and design models for their establishment and use					
Number of design competitions held to develop model urban shelters		Cumulative number	Project Promoters' records	0	1
Number of standard model urban portable shelters established and operational		Cumulative number	Project Promoters' records	0	10
Output 1.4: Improved capacity and frameworks for evacuating and safeguarding national priority heritage assets during crises, including through sustainable preservation practices					
Sub-action plan of the State Defense Plan for the Ministry of Culture updated		Binary	Project Promoters' records	No	Yes
Number of training courses and/or drills delivered on heritage protection		Cumulative number	Project Promoters' records	0	30

Number of employees of the cultural heritage sector that have completed a training course and/or drill on heritage protection	Gender	Cumulative number	Project Promoters' records	0	500
Share of State museums with a compiled or updated crisis management plan		Percentage	Project Promoters' records	N/A	100 %
Museum storage facility established on Hiiumaa island		Binary	Project Promoters' records	No	Yes
Output 1.5: Improved preservation, documentation, and usability of cultural heritage through 3D digitisation of priority sites, monuments, and museum objects, and digitisation of theatre productions					
Number of museum objects digitized in 3D		Cumulative number	Project Promoters' records	0	500
Number of listed buildings and heritage sites digitized in 3D		Cumulative number	Project Promoters' records	0	40
Number of theatre performances digitized		Cumulative number	Project Promoters' records	0	10
PA09 objective: Improved disaster resilience.					
Outcome 2: Strengthened resilience and inclusive participation of civil society and local communities in crisis preparedness and governance					
Share of municipalities whose residents' express satisfaction with local government engagement with citizens		Percentage	https://minuomavalitsus.ee/en	26 %	50 %
Number of participants self-reporting improved knowledge of crisis preparedness and resilience after training	Age	Cumulative number	Self-assessments, third-party evaluations, training/exercise results	0	1,500
Output 2.1: Strengthened local governance systems for inclusive and participatory engagement between municipalities, civil society, and residents					
Number of newly-established or strengthened functional networks that connect NGOs, communities, municipalities, and residents		Cumulative number	Network reports, meeting minutes, municipal records	0	30
Number of participatory governance models formally established at the local level through policy, regulation, or official administrative decision		Cumulative number	Training attendance sheets, certificates, follow-up surveys	0	10
Number of community leaders, NGO staff, and municipal officials that have completed training in participatory governance/facilitation	Age	Cumulative number	Training attendance sheets, certificates, follow-up surveys	0	500
Output 2.2: Enhanced capacities of civil society actors, community leaders, volunteers, and local authorities to anticipate, prepare for, and respond to crises					
Number of community leaders, volunteers, local government officials, and NGO staff that have completed a training course in crisis preparedness and response skills	Age	Cumulative number	Training attendance sheets, certificates, follow-up surveys	0	800

Number of local resource mappings and scenario plans developed in cooperation with communities		Cumulative number	Project documentation and community validation reports	0	15
Output 2.3: Strengthened local crisis-preparedness networks and collaboration between civil society, communities, and local authorities					
Number of newly established or strengthened functional local crisis preparedness networks that connect NGOs, local governments, and communities		Cumulative number	Network membership lists, cooperation agreements, meeting protocols, activity reports	0	15
Number of community-based crisis preparedness exercises conducted		Cumulative number	Exercise reports, attendance sheets, after-action reviews	0	20
Number of CSOs with improved readiness and resilience to respond to crises		Cumulative number	Self-assessments, expert assessments, resilience scorecards, exercise evaluation reports	0	25
Bilateral Outcome: Enhanced collaboration between beneficiary and donor state entities involved in the programme					
Level of relevance of the partnership		Scale 1-5	FMO bilateral survey	N/A	4
Level of effectiveness of the partnership		Scale 1-5	FMO bilateral survey	N/A	4
Level of efficiency of the partnership		Scale 1-5	FMO bilateral survey	N/A	4
Level of added value of the partnership		Scale 1-5	FMO bilateral survey	N/A	4
Level of sustainability of the partnership		Scale 1-5	FMO bilateral survey	N/A	4
Level of involvement of the project partner in the project		Scale 1-5	FMO bilateral survey	N/A	4
Level of trust between partners		Scale 1-5	FMO bilateral survey	N/A	4
Level of overall satisfaction with the partnership		Scale 1-5	FMO bilateral survey	N/A	4

Conditions

General

1. The Programme Operator shall ensure a functional separation within the Ministry of Interior of the tasks of the Programme Operator on one hand, and the role of Project Promoter for the pre-defined project no. 1 (as identified in section 3 of Annex II to this Agreement) on the other hand. The Audit Authority shall provide the National Focal Point with a positive assessment of a sufficient functional separation within one year from the entry into force of this Agreement.

2. The maximum level of funding for investment in infrastructure and equipment (hard measures) is set at 45 % of the total eligible expenditure of the Programme.

3. The National Focal Point shall ensure that the Programme Operator ensures that Project Promoters:

- Keep any buildings purchased, constructed, renovated or reconstructed under the project in their ownership for a period of at least 5 years following the completion of the project and continue to use such buildings for the benefit of the overall objectives of the project for the same period;
- Keep any buildings purchased, constructed, renovated or reconstructed under the project properly insured against losses such as fire, theft and other normally insurable incidents both during project implementation and for at least 5 years following the completion of the project; and
- Set aside appropriate resources for the maintenance of any buildings purchased, constructed, renovated or reconstructed under the project for at least 5 years following the completion of the project. The specific means for implementation of this obligation shall be specified in the project contract.

In case of a project where an entity other than the Project Promoter has been explicitly designated in the project contract and/or conditions for granting support as a recipient of the real estate, the Programme Operator shall ensure that the recipient fulfils the aforementioned obligations of the Project Promoter.

Pre-eligibility

4. No costs shall be eligible under pre-defined projects before a detailed budget for the respective pre-defined project, including the role and contribution of any Donor project partner(s), has been agreed with the Donor project partner(s) and submitted by the PO and the FMC has confirmed the grant to the project as described in Annex II to this Programme Agreement.

Pre-payment

Not applicable

Pre-completion

Not applicable

Post-completion

Not applicable

Eligibility of costs - period	**First date**	**Final date**
Eligibility of costs	28/05/2025	30/04/2032
Grant rate and co-financing		
Programme eligible expenditure (€)		€ 16,444,235.29
Programme grant rate (%)		85.00 %
Maximum amount of Programme grant - EEA Financial Mechanism (€)		€ 13,992,000.00
Maximum amount of Programme grant - Norwegian Financial Mechanism (€)		-
Maximum amount of Programme grant - Total (€)		€ 13,992,000.00

PA	Budget Heading	EEA Grants	Total grant	Programme grant rate	Programme co-financing	Programme eligible expenditure	Grant advance payment
PM	Programme management	€ 590,100.00	€ 590,100.00	85.00 %	€ 104,135.29	€ 694,235.29	n/a
PA09	Outcome 1 (EEA Grants)	€ 10,466,105.00	€ 10,466,105.00	85.00 %	€ 1,846,959.71	€ 12,313,064.71	n/a
PA09	Outcome 2 (EEA Grants)	€ 2,839,795.00	€ 2,839,795.00	85.00 %	€ 501,140.29	€ 3,340,935.29	n/a
BF	Bilateral funds at programme level	€ 96,000.00	€ 96,000.00	n/a[4]	n/a[5]	€ 96,000.00	n/a
Total[6]		**€ 13,992,000.00**	**€ 13,992,000.00**	**85.00 %**	**€ 2,452,235.29**	**€ 16,444,235.29**	**€ 0.00**

Retention of management costs	
Retention of management costs - Percentage of the management costs	10.00 %
Retention of management costs - Planned Euro value	€ 69,423.53

[4] Grant amount of Bilateral fund at programme level is not relevant for the calculation of programme grant rate

[5] Grant amount of Bilateral fund at programme level is not relevant for the calculation of programme co-financing

[6] The MoU was signed with rounded figures according to standard financial rules for rounding. The figures in the budget tables in Annex 1 to this Programme Agreement include the two decimals behind the rounded figures in the MoU.

Crisis Preparedness

Operational rules (Annex II)

1. Programme summary

This Annex sets out the operational rules for the programme. The Programme Agreement is based on the MoUs, the Concept Note, and comments made by the FMC. Commitments, statements and guarantees, explicit as well as implicit, made in the Concept Note, are binding for the National Focal Point and the Programme Operator unless otherwise explicitly stipulated in the annexes to this Programme Agreement.

The Programme Operator is the Ministry of the Interior of Estonia. Certain tasks of the Programme Operator may be delegated to the Grants Implementing Department of the State Shared Service Centre, however this does not in any way reduce or restrict the responsibility of the Programme Operator. The Norwegian Directorate for Civil Protection shall act as Donor Programme Partner.

The objective of the Programme "Crisis Preparedness" is to enhance Estonia's national crisis preparedness and resilience. The Programme contributes to this objective through two Outcomes, implemented through a combination of calls for proposals and pre-defined projects.

Outcome 1 "Strengthened institutional and societal capacity for civil protection, disaster preparedness, and resilience in safeguarding culture heritage" shall be addressed through two pre-defined projects (pre-defined project 1 and pre-defined project 2).

Pre-defined project 1 shall strengthen Estonia's crisis preparedness and resilience by combining technological innovation, community engagement and institutional cooperation in modernising the public warning system, improving civil protection and sheltering and introducing AI-based tools to enhance crisis communication.

Pre-defined project 2 shall strengthen the resilience of Estonia's cultural heritage sector through an integrated approach combining capacity building, digitisation and sustainable infrastructure to establish an evacuation readiness plan, enhance coordination between different stakeholders and digitise theatrical performances.

Outcome 2 "Strengthened resilience and inclusive participation of civil society and local communities in crisis preparedness and governance" shall be addressed through two open calls (call 1 and 2) and one pre-defined project (pre-defined project 3).

Call 1 shall support community-centred governance by funding initiatives that organize participatory local processes, build the capacity of community leaders and municipal officials, facilitate peer-learning exchanges, implement feedback mechanisms, and pilot inclusive governance models such as community councils and participatory platforms, thereby strengthening local ownership, civic engagement, community resilience, and crisis preparedness.

Call 2 shall focus on the development of community-centred crisis preparedness by building civil society capacity, establishing structured networks linking NGOs, local governments, residents and volunteers, and embedding participatory governance and advisory support through community coordinators to ensure communities are resilient, coordinated, and able to respond effectively to crises.

Pre-defined project 3 shall establish a nationwide network of community coordinators, building on the existing NGO and civil society advisory service, to facilitate local governance, strengthen community networks, promote civic participation, and enhance community-level crisis preparedness and resilience.

2. Selection of projects

2.1 Calls and availability of funds (including number of calls, duration of calls, and estimated size):

Modality	**Available amount (€)**	**Project grant rate (%)**	**Minimum and maximum project grant amount (€)**	**Indicative launch date and duration of call**
Outcome 2				
Call 1	€733,706	100%	€200,000 – €350,000	Launch date: Fall 2026 Duration: 3 months
Call 2	€877,551	100%	€200,000 – €440,000	Launch date: Fall 2026 Duration: 3 months

The project grant rate shall in all cases be set at a level that complies with the State Aid rules in force and takes into account any and all other forms of public support granted to projects. Any remaining costs of the project shall be provided or obtained by the Project Promoter and/or project partners.

2.2 Eligible applicants and project partners:

Modality	**Eligible applicants**	**Eligible partners**
Call 1	Any entity, public or private, commercial or non-commercial and non-governmental organisations, established as a legal person in Estonia.	Any public or private entity, commercial or non-commercial, as well as non-governmental organisations, established as a legal person either in the Donor States or Beneficiary States, or any international organisation or body or agency thereof, actively involved in, and effectively contributing to, the implementation of a project.
Call 2	Any entity, public or private, commercial or non-commercial and non-governmental	Any public or private entity, commercial or non-commercial, as well as non-governmental organisations, established as a legal person either in

	organisations, established as a legal person in Estonia.	the Donor States or Beneficiary States, or any international organisation or body or agency thereof, actively involved in, and effectively contributing to, the implementation of a project.

Partnership with Donor state entities shall be encouraged under both calls.

2.3 Selection procedures:

Not applicable.

3. Pre-defined projects

1) "Crisis Preparedness"

Project Promoter:	Ministry of Interior
Donor project partner(s):	Norwegian Directorate for Civil Protection (DSB) RS Sea Rescue Academy
Other project partner(s):	Rescue Services Agency Emergency Response Centre Ministry of the Interior's IT and Development Centre (SMIT) Police and Border Guard Board
Total maximum eligible costs:	€ 5,363,529
Project grant rate:	100.00 %
Maximum project grant amount:	€ 5,363,529
Estimated duration:	48 months

The project aims to enhance the effectiveness, safety and resilience of Estonia's civil protection system through a series of coordinated initiatives targeting both the general population and security and safety personnel. The project shall include the following components:

1. **Civil protection capacity building for residents** focusing on the integration of a public warning system, standardising shelter designs and raising public awareness about shelter use and enhancing crisis communication using artificial intelligence systems.
2. **Civil protection capacity building for security and safety personnel** including the integration of volunteers into civil protection, creation of a civic reserve and volunteer portal, training of Search and Rescue (SAR) personnel and volunteers, and enhancing the safety and sustainability of deminers and volunteers through acquisition of relevant systems and clothing.

3. **Strategic communication, dissemination and evaluation** enhanced through seminars, awareness-raising campaigns and international conferences focusing on volunteers in civil protection.

2) "Protection of Cultural Heritage"

Project Promoter:	Estonian National Heritage Board
Donor project partner(s):	Norwegian Directorate for Cultural Heritage (RA) Arts and Culture Norway (ACN)
Other project partner(s):	Estonian Maritime Museum Foundation Estonian Theatre Union Estonian State Real Estate Company Hiiumaa Museums Foundation Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Estonia
Total maximum eligible costs:	€ 6,949,536
Project grant rate:	100.00 %
Maximum project grant amount:	€ 6,949,536
Estimated duration:	55 months

The project aims to strengthen the disaster resilience of Estonia's cultural heritage sector by establishing a comprehensive system for safeguarding heritage in times of crisis. The maximum amount of funding allocated to investment in infrastructure and equipment (hard measures) in this project is €3,600,000. The project shall include the following components:

1. **System development and capacity building,** including the establishment of a national framework for protecting and preserving priority cultural assets in armed conflict, as well as developing an evacuation readiness plan for priority cultural heritage.
2. **Digitisation,** including the acceleration of the 3D digitisation of cultural heritage, strengthening the capacity for long-term digital preservation of 3D material and digitising theatrical performances to broaden access to culture.
3. **Infrastructure developments,** including the construction of a modern, energy-efficient museum storage facility on the island of Hiiumaa.

3) "Community Coordinators"

Project Promoter:	The Estonian National Foundation of Civil Society (NFCS)
Other project partner(s):	NGO Network of County Development Centres
Total maximum eligible costs:	€ 1,729,678
Project grant rate:	100.00 %
Maximum project grant amount:	€ 1,729,678
Estimated duration:	48 months

The aim of the project is to strengthen Estonia's community resilience by activating residents, developing local leadership, and expanding open governance practices at municipal and community level. By establishing community coordinators in county development centres, the project addresses the

need for a consistent system that brings communities, local governments and grassroot actors into regular cooperation. The project shall include the following components:

1. **Community development** including a nationwide NGO-based advisory network, where community advisors provide hands-on support for community organising, initiative development, and capacity-building.
2. **Open governance and resident participation** facilitated through equipping municipalities with practical open-governance tools, such as participatory planning, inclusive consultations, transparent communication and feedback mechanisms.
3. **Community-centred crisis preparedness** introduced through community-level crisis education, workshops and scenario-based exercises tailored to local needs.
4. **Organisation of workshop(s) in Norway**, with the involvement of the Donor Programme Partner, Norwegian Directorate for Civil Protection, where the Norwegian Association of Local and Regional Authorities, Frivillighet Norge, and other relevant Norwegian and Estonian entities will be invited to contribute.

4. Bilateral relations

The funds for bilateral relations at programme level shall be used to strengthen cooperation on civil preparedness between the Donor States, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania and Poland through exchange of experience and best practice on shared challenges. Support shall be provided for a variety of activities, *inter alia*, expert seminars and workshops, study visits and peer-to-peer learning, and community and civil society networking.

The use of the funds for bilateral relations allocated to the programme shall be agreed by the Cooperation Committee.

The Cooperation Committee shall consist of representatives from the Programme Operator and the Donor Programme Partner. The Programme Operator and the Donor Programme Partner shall agree on the rules and procedures applicable to the Cooperation Committee.

5. Programme management and financial parameters

5.1 Special rules on eligibility of costs:

- Management costs shall take the form of simplified cost options and eligible expenditure actually incurred, except for indirect costs, for which a flat rate of 15% of eligible direct staff costs shall apply, in accordance with Article 8.5.1 (b) of the Regulation.

5.2 Programme administrative structures:

The Programme is operated by the Ministry of the Interior of Estonia. The Grants Implementing Department of the State Shared Service Centre will act as implementing agency and will be involved in

the selection process as well as take on tasks related to verification of payments, payments to Project Promoters and monitoring of the projects. The organisational structure of the Programme Operator shall ensure independence and functional separation of the division responsible for verification of incurred expenditure and approval of payments from other divisions responsible for the implementation of the Programme.

6. Miscellaneous

Not applicable.