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 Lithuania 2021-2028

(Version 2.0 adopted on 15.09.2026 by Joint Committee on Bilateral Fund)

1. Objective and priorities

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

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Please state the bilateral objective and outline any priorities identified by the Joint Committee for the Bilateral Fund. Priorities could be e.g. key areas or upcoming large events.

The **EEA and Norway Financial Mechanisms** aim to reduce economic and social disparities in Europe while strengthening **bilateral relations between the donor states Norway, Iceland and Liechtenstein and** Lithuania.

This objective will be pursued through initiatives that facilitate **partnership building, exchange of expertise and joint activities** among public institutions, civil society organisations, research and innovation actors, cultural institutions and other stakeholders. By fostering long-term cooperation and sharing good practices, the initiative aims to enhance **mutual knowledge, institutional capacity and trust**, thereby supporting the broader goals of the **EEA and Norway Financial Mechanisms**.

The bilateral objective will be operationalised through targeted, result-oriented cooperation with a clear focus on institutional and civil society partnerships and sustainable outcomes.

During fourth period 2021-2028 priorities for initiatives are foreseen in these priorities areas:

1. Democracy, civil society and societal resilience

Strengthening democratic participation, civic engagement and societal resilience, including support for civil society organisations, independent media and media literacy, gender equality initiatives, and engagement of diaspora communities in democratic and social development.

2. Research, Innovation and Cultural Cooperation

Support for applied research and innovation activities addressing societal challenges, with emphasis on knowledge transfer and practical application of research results. The area also includes historical research focused on the history of bilateral relations and targeted cultural cooperation initiatives that promote social cohesion and democratic values, as well as projects focused on the digitalisation and accessibility of cultural heritage.

3. Digital transformation and cybersecurity

Enhancing digital resilience and secure digital development, including cybersecurity capacity, responsible use of artificial intelligence and emerging technologies, digital skills development, and innovative digital solutions for public services and governance.

4. Energy Efficiency and Local Renewable Energy Solutions

Promoting the green energy transition through targeted initiatives such as energy efficiency improvements in public buildings, small-scale local renewable energy projects and community energy models, smart energy management solutions, and capacity building for municipalities and institutions in energy transition planning.

5. Protection of Fundamental Rights and Prevention of Gender-Based Violence

Strengthening institutional responses to gender-based violence, ensuring protection of victims, and promoting gender equality through targeted bilateral cooperation. This priority continues and further develops cooperation established in the previous funding period.

6. Strengthening Law Enforcement Cooperation

Enhancing operational cooperation between Lithuanian and donor state law enforcement institutions, particularly in addressing serious and organised crime. This priority continues and further develops cooperation established in the previous funding period.

These priority areas contribute to the overall objectives of the EEA and Norway Grants, namely the reduction of economic and social disparities and the strengthening of bilateral relations between donor and beneficiary states and support key thematic areas such as democratic resilience, social inclusion, and sustainable development.

2. Implementation system

Please include a brief description of the implementation system for the Bilateral Fund. The modalities for allocating funds should be outlined, e.g.calls, pre-defined activities, activities carried out by the NFP.

Bilateral Fund allocations are defined in the Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs). Decisions on the use of these funds are taken by the Joint Committee for the Bilateral Fund (JCBF).

The Bilateral Fund will be implemented through:

- Pre-defined initiatives – initiatives indicated in the MoUs (up to EUR 2 million), and additional initiatives approved by the JCBF;
- Calls for proposals – launched and managed by the JCBF for additional bilateral initiatives.

Selection and implementation of initiatives will follow the Rules and procedures of JCBF and other relevant documents agreed by the JCBF.

All supported initiatives will comply with applicable requirements on transparency, financial management, and reporting.

The Donors' electronic system for grant management (GRACE) will be used to ensure regular reporting and information exchange with the Donor States.

The JCBF will ensure that supported initiatives demonstrate clear bilateral value added, alignment with the defined priority areas, and potential for sustainable results.

The National Focal Point (NFP) will be responsible for administrative coordination, compliance, and overall monitoring of implementation.

3. Donor Shares and Donor Priorities

Please include the individual Donor shares (in Euros) and any priorities indicated by the Donors.

The Donor shares for the bilateral fund under the EEA Financial Mechanism were approved at the Financial Mechanism Committee level. The allocation earmarked for each Donor State is as follows:

Iceland – EUR 134,254.

Liechtenstein – EUR 100,000.

Norway – EUR 2,221,075.

In addition, the total allocation under the Norway Financial Mechanism amounts to EUR 2,516,946.

Donor priorities are expressed in the MoUs – 2 pre-defined bilateral initiatives:

1. a pre-defined bilateral initiative on **Gender-Responsive Policing in Lithuania and participation in the SYNERGY Network** against Gender-based and Domestic Violence shall be supported with maximum €2 million from the funds for bilateral relations at national level (EEA Financial Mechanism);

1. pre-defined bilateral initiative in cooperation with the Norwegian National Crime Investigation Service **to enhance police cooperation** shall be supported by the funds for bilateral relations at national level with a maximum of € 2 million. Measures shall target serious and organised crime with a primary focus on drug-related crimes and shall include intelligence activities, common investigation activities and operation and/or action activities (Norway Financial Mechanism).

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

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)	€ 0	
Funds still to be allocated	€ 4,972,275	
Total	**€ 4,972,275**	