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 Croatia 2021-2028

(Version 1.0 adopted on 26.03.2026 by Joint Committee on Bilateral Fund)

1. Objective and priorities

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

In the scope of implementing EEA and Norway Grants 2021-2028 in the Republic of Croatia, objective of the Bilateral Fund is strengthening bilateral relations between the Donor States Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway and the Republic of Croatia through fostering trust, building strategic partnerships for reaching mutually beneficial relationships.

This objective shall be pursued in a framework of close co-operation between Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway and the Republic of Croatia, respecting the common values and principles of respect for human dignity, freedom, democracy, equality, the rule of law and the respect for human rights, including the rights of persons belonging to minorities.

The EEA and Norway Grants promote the following three overall thematic priorities in the funding period 2021-2028:

- European green transition;
- Democracy, rule of law and human rights; and
- Social inclusion and resilience.

On national level, these priorities are addressed through programmes: (1) Green and Blue Business Innovation, (2) Green Transition, (3) Justice, and (4) Local Development. Bilateral Fund will be used to address priorities within or outside of these programmes.

Priorities suggested by Joint Committee for the Bilateral Fund (JCBF):

- Education, science and research;
- Culture;
- Resilience and security.

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.

The implementation system for the Bilateral Fund is founded on the regulatory framework governing the EEA and Norway Grants 2021-2028 and the requirements established in the Bilateral Fund Agreement (BFA).

Funds from the Bilateral Fund can be allocated through two main mechanisms on national level:

- Calls for proposals: when the JCBF decides to organise calls, the National Focal Point (NFP) is responsible for drafting the call text and organising the selection process. This must be based on principles of transparency, equal treatment, accountability, and sound financial management.

- Pre-defined bilateral initiatives: any member of the JCBF, or a potential promoter, may propose predefined bilateral initiatives to be included in the Work Plan. The proposals should be sent to the NFP, who does an initial eligibility check and can request further details from the promoter. The NFP then submits the proposal to the JCBF for consideration and approval. As the decision-maker for the use of the Bilateral Fund, the JCBF takes the final decisions on predefined bilateral initiatives and calls at national level.

JCBF will meet once a year or more often if necessary. Tentative dates of JCBF meetings:

- March 2026
- March 2027 etc.

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 shares are as follows:

Donor country	**Allocation under EEA BF**
Norway	€ 736,955
Iceland	€ 44,546
Liechtenstein	€ 105,000

In addition, the allocation under Norway Grants amounts to € 819,119.

Total: € 1,705,619

4. Open calls

Title	JCBF approval date	Amount available	Applications received	Total grant applied for	Applications approved 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	€ 1,705,619	
Total	**€ 1,705,619**	