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)

Bilateral Fund Work Plan Czech Republic 2021-2028

(Version 1.0 adopted on 22.06.2026 by Joint Committee on Bilateral Fund)

1. Objective and priorities

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

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

The overall objective of the Bilateral Fund is to strengthen bilateral relations between Czechia and the Donor States. The Bilateral Fund will be used as a flexible instrument to promote, develop and sustain bilateral cooperation.

The partnership of Czechia and Iceland and their societies is reinforced within the framework of the Bilateral Fund of the EEA Grants. With regard to the cooperation with Czechia, Iceland places emphasis on the shared commitments to sustainable development, democratic values, and social progress. Cooperation under the Bilateral Fund creates valuable opportunities for both countries to exchange knowledge, build capacity, and the develop innovative solutions in these areas. At the same time, joint initiatives promote active citizenship, strengthen democratic institutions, and enhance social cohesion. Continued collaboration in these priority areas is a valuable contribution to further deepen to relations between the two countries.

Liechtenstein and Czechia have had close historical ties for almost 800 years. The bilateral relations are rooted in centuries of shared history, cultural links and historical interactions, providing a strong foundation for present-day dialogue and cooperation. Today's Liechtenstein and Czechia have a close and multifaceted partnership, cooperating across a broad spectrum of areas including economic exchange, cultural engagement, educational collaboration, and cooperation within international and European frameworks.

Liechtenstein's priorities focus on strengthening cooperation and mutual understanding through several broad, interconnected areas. Emphasis is placed, inter alia, on education, culture, bilateral dialogue as well as the strengthening of democracy and the rule of law.

Initiatives may aim to foster mutual understanding by bringing people and institutions together through joint activities, learning opportunities and creative collaboration that promote shared values, participation and intercultural dialogue. At the same time, initiatives aim to foster reflection on shared history and support open dialogue.

The bilateral relationship between Norway and Czechia is close and strong and built on shared values. Both countries are partners in international organisations, in NATO and share a commitment to European security, transatlantic cooperation, and support for Ukraine.

Norway also cooperates closely with the European Union in a multitude of areas. The EEA and Norway Grants are a central pillar of Czech Norwegian bilateral cooperation, providing a platform to address shared challenges and opportunities. This cooperation is broad and mutually beneficial and covers green transition, research and innovation, human rights, Roma inclusion, health, education, culture and civil society.

The Bilateral Fund will support strategic initiatives with a clear bilateral dimension, mutual added value and active involvement of entities from Czechia and one or more Donor States. The focus will be on meaningful cooperation, exchange of knowledge, transfer of good practice, networking, capacity building, joint development of methods and tools, awareness-raising, policy dialogue, and the establishment or further development of long-term partnerships. The Bilateral Fund will also make funding available to support bilateral cooperation in improving correctional services in line with international and European human rights standards, as set out in the Memoranda of Understanding. This is a priority for both the Donors and the Czech Republic. Given the rapid changes in the global context, it is fundamental that the funds remain flexible and open to emerging strategic areas.

2. Implementation system

The Bilateral Fund at national level is managed by the National Focal Point. Decisions on the use of the Bilateral Fund are taken by the Joint Committee for the Bilateral Fund by consensus, in accordance with the Regulations, the Bilateral Fund Agreement, the Bilateral Guideline and the document "Joint Committee for the Bilateral Fund in the Czechia – Composition, Role and Functioning".

At the initial planning stage, the Bilateral Fund is expected to be implemented through a combination of predefined bilateral initiatives and calls for proposals.

Pre-defined bilateral initiatives

Pre-defined bilateral initiatives shall be used for strategic cooperation areas identified by the Donor States and Czechia represented by the National Focal Point and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic. Any pre-defined bilateral initiative shall have a clear bilateral dimension and shall involve at least one entity from the Czechia and at least one entity from a Donor State. The initiative shall contribute to the bilateral objective and demonstrate mutual added value, active cooperation and meaningful involvement of the partners.

Pre-defined initiatives will be considered within prioritized areas, including, but not limited to:

- Strengthening and protecting human rights, including gender equality and children's rights and participation
- Improved correctional services in line with international and European human rights standards
- Democratic and community resilience
- Social inclusion and public health
- Cooperation in education and research, shared history, and culture
- Other emerging strategic priorities.

Calls for proposals

Two calls are envisaged under the program: A general open call and a thematic open call.

The general open call is expected to support strategic, longer-term and sustainable bilateral initiatives. It is expected to be open to a broad range of thematic areas and types of activities, without a specific thematic restriction, provided that the proposed initiatives have a clear bilateral dimension and contribute to strengthening relations between entities in Czechia and entities in Iceland, Liechtenstein and/or Norway. The general open call is expected to be announced around the middle of 2027.

The aim of this call will be to make full use of the flexible nature of the Bilateral Fund and to enable a wide range of applicants to establish new bilateral partnerships or further develop existing cooperation. The call is intended as far as possible to complement, rather than duplicate, thematic bilateral cooperation at programme level.

The indicative grant range is approximately EUR 35,000–60,000 per initiative, subject to the final decision of the Joint Committee for the Bilateral Fund. The indicative allocation for this call is EUR 1,500,000.

The thematic open call is envisaged to support bilateral initiatives strengthening democratic resilience, information integrity and inclusive public and digital spaces. The call will focus on initiatives addressing hate speech and hate crime, disinformation, misinformation and manipulative information practices, including those amplified by digital platforms and artificial intelligence tools. The thematic open call is expected to be announced by the end of 2027.

The call may also support activities promoting media and information literacy, digital literacy, critical thinking, civic resilience and the ability to distinguish trustworthy information from hoaxes and manipulative content. Attention will be given to target groups especially exposed to disinformation and polarising narratives, including older people and young people.

This priority contributes to the thematic priorities of Democracy, rule of law and human rights, and Social inclusion and resilience. The indicative allocation for this call is EUR 1,000,000. The indicative grant range is expected to be similar to the general open call.

3. Donor Shares and Donor Priorities

The total allocation to the Bilateral Fund at national level is EUR 4,824,663.

The donor shares for the Bilateral Fund under the EEA and Norwegian Financial Mechanisms 2021-2028 were approved at the FMC level.

The individual Donor shares are as follows:

- **Iceland: EUR 92,470**
- **Liechtenstein: EUR 500,000**
- **Norway: EUR 4,232,193**

The share of the Bilateral Fund corresponding to the objective of strengthening relations with each individual Donor State will generally support bilateral initiatives involving a partner or promoter from that Donor State.

Where a bilateral initiative involves entities from more than one Donor State, the budget may be split between the relevant Donor shares or counted towards one of them, subject to the relevant donor share arrangements and the decision of the Joint Committee for the Bilateral Fund.

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	€ 4,824,663	
Total	**€ 4,824,663**	