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 Cyprus 2021-2028

(Version 2.0 adopted on 08.09.2026 by Joint Committee on Bilateral Fund)

1. Objective and priorities

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

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 objective of the Bilateral Fund is to strengthen bilateral relations between Cyprus and the Donor States through enhanced cooperation, exchange of knowledge and expertise, and the development of sustainable partnerships between public institutions, civil society organisations and other relevant stakeholders.

Priorities of the Joint Committee

The Joint Committee has identified five key priorities for supporting initiatives. Particular emphasis is placed on activities related to: (a) green transition and the environment, (b) gender equality and gender-based violence, (c) digitalization and cybersecurity, (d) culture, and (e) institutional cooperation and capacity building.

In addition, priority is given to actions facilitating participation in or preparation for upcoming major bilateral or international events (such as conferences, high-level meetings, study visits or thematic workshops), as well as to initiatives that can lead to longer-term cooperation or the development of joint projects under existing or future funding mechanisms, within the five priority areas (green transition and environment, gender equality and gender-based violence, digitalization and cyber security, culture and institutional cooperation and capacity building).

The Joint Committee for the Bilateral Fund (JCBF) shall select bilateral initiatives for funding with the aim to contribute to the achievement of the above objectives and the promotion of the above priorities.

The National Focal Point shall manage the use of the fund for bilateral relations at national level which amounts to €339.516 in total (€154.510 from the Norwegian Financial Mechanism and €185.006 from the EEA Financial Mechanism).

The management of the Bilateral Fund including the selection process and the monitoring and reporting processes shall be agreed between the members of the JCBF.

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.

Given the small allocation of the Bilateral Fund (€339.516), the JCBF agreed that applications for funding from the Bilateral Fund of the EEA/Norway Grants 2021-2028 for bilateral initiatives will be conducted through an open online invitation for potential promoters, ensuring transparency in both the application and selection processes. Applicants will be required to fill out and submit a Google Form with all the necessary details by September 15, 2026. After that date, and based on the applications received, the NFP will provide a list of the proposed bilateral activities, including the NFP's assessment of their eligibility. The JCBF will then proceed with the selection and the final approval of the bilateral initiatives.

The Google Form will be published on the NFP website, on the Funding Programmes Portal (http://www.fundingprogrammesportal.gov.cy/), and will be advertised on social media.

Upon approval of an initiative by the JCBF, the NFP will inform the relevant applicants of the decision, after which they may proceed with implementing the approved initiative. As a general rule, funds will be disbursed to the beneficiaries after the implementation of the activity. In exceptional and duly justified cases, the NFP may grant pre-payments. The certification and verification of the expenses of the bilateral activities, will be performed by an officer of the National Focal Point and relevant payments to the beneficiaries will be approved by the Head of the National Focal Point.

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 FMC level. The allocation earmarked for each Donor State is as follows:

Iceland – €7.410

Liechtenstein – €55.000

Norway – €122.596.

In addition, the total allocation under the Norway Financial Mechanism amounts to €154.510.

The donor priorities are the following:

- Green Transition and Environment
- Gender Equality and Gender-Based Violence
- Digitilization and Cybersecurity
- Culture
- Institutional Cooperation and Capacity Building

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	€ 339,516	
Total	**€ 339,516**	