Norwegian Financial Mechanism 2014-2021

PROGRAMME AGREEMENT

between

The Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs

and

The Central Coordination Unit Directorate, administrative unit within the Ministry of Finance (NFP),
hereinafter referred to as the "National Focal Point",
representing Bulgaria,
hereinafter referred to as the "Beneficiary State"

together hereinafter referred to as the "Parties"

for the financing of the Programme "Home Affairs"

hereinafter referred to as the "Programme"

Chapter 1
Scope, Legal Framework, and Definitions

Article 1.1
Scope

This programme agreement between the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs (hereinafter referred to as the NMFA) 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 Norwegian Financial Mechanism 2014-2021 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 Norwegian Financial Mechanism 2014-2021:

(a) Agreement between the Kingdom of Norway and the European Union on the Norwegian Financial Mechanism 2014-2021 (hereinafter referred to as the Agreement);(b) the Regulation on the implementation of the Norwegian Financial Mechanism 2014-2021 (hereinafter referred to as the "Regulation") issued by Norway in accordance with Article 10(5) of the Agreement;

(c) the Memorandum of Understanding on the Implementation of the Norwegian Financial Mechanism 2014-2021 (hereinafter referred to as the "MoU"), entered into between Norway and the Beneficiary State; and

(d) any guidelines adopted by the NMFA 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 the annexes to 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 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. 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 Norwegian Financial Mechanism 2014-2021 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, the Irregularities Authority and the Programme Operator properly perform the tasks assigned to them in the Regulation, this programme agreement and the programme implementation agreement;

(c) take all necessary steps to ensure that the Programme Operator is fully committed and able to implement and manage the Programme;

(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;

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

2. The NMFA 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 and outcomes of the Programme

1. This programme agreement sets out the objective, 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, 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. In case the Programme is also supported by the EEA Financial Mechanism, this programme agreement shall be interpreted in conjunction with the agreement regulating that support.

3. The financial plan annexed to this programme agreement shall:

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

(b) indicate the agreed advance payment, if any.

4. 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 NMFA with reference to paragraph 2 of Article 6.3 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
Programme implementation agreement

With reference to Article 6.8 of the Regulation and without prejudice to paragraph 2 thereof, the National Focal Point shall, before any payment is made to the Programme, sign a programme implementation agreement with the Programme Operator. The National Focal Point shall notify the NMFA of such signing.

Article 2.7
Reporting

The National Focal Point shall ensure that the Programme Operator provides financial reports, annual programme reports and a final programme report in accordance with Chapter 9 and Articles 6.11 and 6.12 of the Regulation as well as statistical reporting in accordance with guidelines adopted by the NMFA.

Article 2.8
External monitoring

The external monitoring and audit referred to in Articles 11.1, 11.2, 11.3 and 11.4 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 2.9
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 NMFA.

2. Programme specific exceptions from paragraph 1, if any, are set in the annexes to this programme agreement.

3. Expenditures incurred in breach of this article are not eligible.

4. Should there be a doubt as to whether the proposed modifications require approval by the NMFA, the National Focal Point shall consult the NMFA before such modifications take effect.

5. Requests for modifications shall be submitted and assessed in accordance with Article 6.9 of the Regulation.

Article 2.10
Communication

1. All communication to the NMFA 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 NMFA 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 into 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 2.11
Contact information

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

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

Financial Mechanism Office
Att: Director
EFTA Secretariat
Rue Joseph II, 12-16
1000 Brussels
Telephone: +32 (0)2 286 1701
Telefax (general): +32 (0)2 211 1889
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 2.12
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 NMFA 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 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 7.6 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 paragraph 1(w) 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 7.7 of the Regulation.

2. The partnership agreement shall be in English if one of the parties to the agreement is an entity from Norway.

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

4. The creation and implementation of the relationship between the Project Promoter and the project partner shall comply with the applicable national and European Union law on public procurement as well as Article 8.15 of the Regulation.

5. 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. Subject to Article 8.7 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.

2. Eligible expenditures of projects are those actually incurred by the Project Promoter or project partners, meet the criteria set in Article 8.2 of the Regulation and fall within the categories and fulfil the conditions of direct eligible expenditure set in Article 8.3 of the Regulation, the conditions regarding the use of standard scales of unit costs set in Article 8.4 of the Regulation as well as indirect costs in accordance with Article 8.5 of the Regulation.

4. The first date of eligibility of expenditures in projects shall be set in the project contract in accordance with Article 8.13 of the Regulation. The first date of eligibility of any pre-defined projects shall be no earlier than the date on which the National Focal Point notifies the NMFA of a positive appraisal of the pre-defined projects by the Programme Operator in accordance with paragraph 3 of Article 6.5 of the Regulation.

5. 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
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 9.4 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. The level of advance payments and their off-set mechanism is set in this programme agreement.

4. The National Focal Point shall ensure that payments are transferred in accordance with paragraph 2 of Article 9.1 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 4.4
Transparency and availability of documents

The National Focal Point shall ensure an audit trail for financial contributions from the Norwegian Financial Mechanism 2014-2021 to the Programme in accordance with Article 9.8 of the Regulation.

Article 4.5
Irregularities, suspension and reimbursements

The NMFA 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 NMFA 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 NMFA 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 paragraph 1(h) of Article 13.1 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 paragraph 1(h), 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 NMFA, 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 NMFA 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 NMFA, 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 NMFA or the FMO any responsibility of any kind for the supervision, execution, completion, or operation of the Programme or its projects.

3. The NMFA 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 NMFA 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 NMFA, its officials or employees, 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

Signed in Sofia, Bulgaria on 23/05/2018

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Ingvild Naess Stub

For the National Focal Point

Signed in Sofia, Bulgaria on 23/05/2018

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Ivan Ivanov

Annex I to the Programme Agreement

Programme Operators and Partners	
Programme Operator:	Ministry of Interior - Bulgaria
Donor Programme Partner:	National Police Directorate (POD) Norwegian Directorate of Immigration (UDI) Norwegian Ministry of Justice and Public Security (NMOJ)
IPO:	Council of Europe (CoE)
Other Programme Partner(s):	-

Programme Objective	Strengthened rule of law

PA	Outcome/Output	Expected programme results	Indicator	Disaggregation	Unit of measurement	Source of verification	Frequency of reporting	Baseline values	Baseline year	Target value
PA18	Outcome 1	Increased capacity of the national authorities in the asylum and migration area	Level of compliance with EU standards on asylum (1-5)[1]	N/A	Scale 1-5	External assessment report	2024	3	2017	4
			Annual number of unaccompanied minors receiving services (social support services, language, schooling, legal aid)	N/A	Annual number	Project Promoters' records	Annually (APR)	0	N/A	100
			Number of third-country nationals supported to return voluntarily to the country of origin	N/A	Cumulative number	Project Promoters' records	Annually (APR)	0	N/A	200
	Output 1.1	Accommodation capacity provided in reception centre for vulnerable	Number of places available in the reception centre	N/A	Cumulative number	Project Promoters' records	Semi-annually (APR and September IFR)	0	N/A	50

[1] Scale: Very Low, Low, Medium, High, Very High.

		asylum seekers, in particular unaccompanied minors	Average annual occupancy rate in reception centre	N/A	Percentage	Project Promoters' records	Semi-annually (APR and September IFR)	0 %	N/A	80 %
	Output 1.2	Capacity of government institutions in the area of asylum and migration increased	Number of officials of responsible asylum, migration and border police authorities trained	Gender	Cumulative number	Project Promoters' records, Attendance sheets	Semi-annually (APR and September IFR)	0	N/A	500
			Number of legal representatives/ guardians trained	Gender	Cumulative number	Project Promoters' records, Attendance sheets	Semi-annually (APR and September IFR)	0	N/A	10
			Manual for the designated representatives of unaccompanied minors seeking international protection developed	N/A	Binary	Project Promoters' records	Annually (APR)	No	N/A	Yes
	Output 1.3	Support to voluntary return of third-country nationals, with a focus on vulnerable groups and reintegration assistance provided	Number of third-country nationals provided with reintegration assistance after return to the country of origin	N/A	Cumulative number	Project Promoters' records	Semi-annually (APR and September IFR)	0	N/A	40
PA20	Outcome 2	Improved capacity for law enforcement agencies in crime prevention and investigation	Percentage of compliance of the forensic laboratory activities on examination of drugs with the national forensic standards set in the Concept for Development of the Forensic Science in Bulgaria	N/A	Percentage	Project Promoters' records	Annually (APR)	25 %	2017	80 %

			Percentage of compliance of the forensic laboratory activities on examination of ICT with the national forensic standards set in the Concept for Development of Forensic Science in Bulgaria	N/A	Percentage	Project Promoters' records	Annually (APR)	10 %	2017	60 %
			Percentage of compliance of the forensic laboratory activities on dactyloscopic examination with the national forensic standards set in the Concept for Development of Forensic Science in Bulgaria	N/A	Percentage	Project Promoters' records	Annually (APR)	33 %	2017	66 %
			Number of pre-trial investigations against organised crime completed annually	N/A	Annual number	Project Promoters' records Official law enforcement records	Annually (APR)	122	2017	134
			Percentage of coverage of the single radio system TETRA standard in Blagoevgrad district extended	N/A	Percentage	Project Promoters' records	Annually (APR)	30 %	2017	60 %
			Percentage of coverage of the single radio system TETRA standard in Smolyan district extended	N/A	Percentage	Project Promoters' records	Annually (APR)	70 %	2017	80 %
	Output 2.1	General Directorate for Combating Organised Crime (GDCOC) officials, magistrates, and other	Number of study visits	N/A	Cumulative number	Project Promoters' records, Attendance sheets	Annually (APR)	0	N/A	10
			Number of professional staff trained in investigation and	Gender	Cumulative number	Project Promoters' records,	Semi-annually (APR and	0	N/A	500

		practitioners trained for effective and efficient investigations of various forms of transnational and organised crime	prevention of organised crime			Attendance sheets	September IFR)			
	Output 2.2	Technical capabilities of GDCOC for countering organised crime enhanced	Number of IT equipment (PCs and multifunction devices) for improving analytical capabilities and digitalisation of cases at General Directorate for Combating Organised Crime supplied and installed	N/A	Cumulative number	Project Promoters' records	Semi-annually (APR and September IFR)	0	N/A	400
			Analytical software for effective data analysis and processing developed and installed	N/A	Binary	Project Promoters' records	Annually (APR)	No	N/A	Yes
	Output 2.3	Improved conditions of GDCOC facilities for organised crime prevention and investigation	Number of premises, renovated and equipped for training and sustained competence development of GDCOC experts	N/A	Cumulative number	Project Promoters' records	Annually (APR)	0	N/A	2
			Number of facilities for interrogation and recognition of detained/suspected persons or witnesses in line with the EU standards and best practices renovated and equipped	N/A	Cumulative number	Project Promoters' records	Annually (APR)	0	N/A	2
			Number of facilities for storing and proper preservation of evidences (in order to guarantee the	N/A	Cumulative number	Project Promoters' records	Annually (APR)	0	N/A	1

			rights of the accused in pre-trial proceedings) renovated and equipped							
	Output 2.4	Extended coverage of the communication infrastructure of the Ministry of Interior	Number of new TETRA base stations (incl. hardware and software) delivered and installed	N/A	Cumulative number	Project Promoters' records	Annually (APR)	0	N/A	6
			Number of technical staff for operation and maintenance of the communication infrastructure trained	Gender	Cumulative number	Project Promoters' records, Attendance sheets	Semi-annually (APR and September IFR)	0	N/A	15
	Output 2.5	Training Centre of the International Operational Cooperation Directorate equipped and functional	Number of translation booths with associated equipment delivered	N/A	Cumulative number	Project Promoters' records	Annually (APR)	0	N/A	2
	Output 2.6	Foreign language training provided to officials of International Operational Cooperation Directorate for development of the communication abilities and improving the international police information exchange with bodies like	Number of officials of International Operational Cooperation Directorate provided with foreign language training	Gender	Cumulative number	Project Promoters' records, Attendance sheets	Semi-annually (APR and September IFR)	0	N/A	60

		Europol, Interpol, etc.								
	Output 2.7	Training provided on EU and international systems for exchange of operative police information	Number of law enforcement officials trained	Gender	Cumulative number	Project Promoters' records, Attendance sheets	Semi-annually (APR and September IFR)	0	N/A	860
	Output 2.8	Improved capacity of the Regional Directorates of the Ministry of the Interior and the General Directorate of the National Police for collecting material evidence from crime scenes	Number of mobile forensic technical laboratories for forensic units at the regional directorates of the Ministry of Interior involved in crimes scene inspection delivered	N/A	Cumulative number	Project Promoters' records	Annually (APR)	0	N/A	10
	Output 2.9	Premises of the Regional Directorates of the MoI used for storing of material evidence from criminal proceedings renovated	Number of material evidence warehouses renovated and equipped at the General Directorate National Police	N/A	Cumulative number	Project Promoters' records	Annually (APR)	0	N/A	10
	Output 2.10	Traceable chain of custody for registering and tracking seized material	IT system for registering and tracking seized material evidence established	N/A	Binary	Project Promoters' records	Annually (APR)	No	N/A	Yes
			Number of police officers responsible for the	Gender	Cumulative number	Project Promoters'	Semi-annually	0	N/A	200

		evidence developed	collection and storage of material evidence trained			records, Attendance sheets	(APR and September IFR)			
	Output 2.11	Expanded capacity for laboratory forensic examinations at the Research Institute of Forensic Science and five regional laboratories developed and enlarged	Number of manuals on expert forensic examinations developed and distributed	N/A	Cumulative number	Project Promoters' records	Annually (APR)	0	N/A	1
			Number of training courses on existing and new laboratory analyses and forensic examinations to develop and expand knowledge of experts at Research Institute of Forensic Science and five regional laboratories	N/A	Cumulative number	Project Promoters' records, Attendance sheets	Annually (APR)	0	N/A	8
	Output 2.12	Increased capacity of General Directorate Border Police for implementing compensatory measures at the internal borders with Romania and Greece	Number of round tables/ workshops/ meetings/ forums on increasing knowledge and skills on Schengen acquis and encouraging the bilateral cooperation and communication with Romania and Greece	N/A	Cumulative number	Project Promoters' records	Annually (APR)	0	N/A	3
			Number of participants in the round tables/ workshops/ meetings/ forums	Gender	Cumulative number	Project Promoters' records	Annually (APR)	0	N/A	60
			Number of buildings at Regional Directorate Border Police (RDBP) Ruse and RDBP Smolyan repaired and renovated	N/A	Cumulative number	Project Promoters' records	Annually (APR)	0	N/A	7
			Number of specialised equipment for RDBP Ruse and RDBP Smolyan delivered	N/A	Cumulative number	Project Promoters' records	Annually (APR)	0	N/A	22

			Number of specialised trainings carried out for border police officials	N/A	Cumulative number	Project Promoters' records	2021 and then annually	0	N/A	4
			Number of participants in the specialised trainings for border police officials	Gender	Cumulative number	Project Promoters' records	Semi-annually (APR and September IFR)	0	N/A	80
PA20	Outcome 3	Improved situation for the Roma population	Percentage of Roma population who trust the police	N/A	Percentage	External survey	2024	35 %	2017	50 %
			Number of complaints of Human Rights violations committed by the police in Roma populated areas	N/A	Cumulative number	Project Promoters' records, official police records	Annually (APR)	10	2017	20[2]
			Level of compliance with the Istanbul Convention[3]	N/A	Percentage	External assessments report	2024	45 %	2017	90 %
			Number of Roma reached	Gender	Cumulative number	Project Promoters' records, Attendance sheets	Annually (APR)	0	N/A	700
	Output 3.1	Increased capacity to prevent and reduce human rights violations	Number of premises equipped and renovated at the Centre for multi-ethnic police training at the Academy of the Ministry of Interior	N/A	Cumulative number	Project Promoters' records	Annually (APR)	0	N/A	3
			E-learning platform of the AMoI upgraded with specialized course on prevention of ill-treatment by the police	N/A	Binary	Project Promoters' records	Annually (APR)	No	N/A	yes

[2] Police practice shows that human rights awareness-raising campaigns in Roma populated areas usually lead to an increase of the number of complaints on HR-violations filed against the police
[3] Increasing compliance with the Istanbul Convention will provide benefit at national level, including but not limited to the Roma populated areas.

			Number of police training centres that have included prevention of ill-treatment by the police in the initial police training	N/A	Cumulative number	Project Promoters' records	Annually (APR)	0	N/A	3
			Number of training halls in Centres for Specialization and Vocational Training renovated	N/A	Cumulative number	Project Promoters' records	Annually (APR)	0	N/A	3
			New curricula for training in HR developed and implemented by police serving in Roma populated areas	N/A	Cumulative number	Project Promoters' records	Semi-annually (APR and September IFR)	0	N/A	2
			Number of police officers trained by the Academy of the Ministry of Interior in prevention and reduction of human rights violations while acting in multi-ethnic environment, esp. Roma communities	Gender, Roma	Cumulative number	Project Promoters' records, Attendance sheets	Semi-annually (APR and September IFR)	0	N/A	1,840
			Number of trained trainers – MoI officials – on prevention of ill-treatment by police	Gender, Roma	Cumulative number	Project Promoters' records, Attendance sheets	Semi-annually (APR and September IFR)	0	N/A	40
	Output 3.2	Improved Administrative capacity for prevention and combating violence against Roma women and protection of victims of violence in line with the Istanbul Convention	Number of police officials trained for implementation of risk assessment on DGBV cases, including on combating Roma stereotypes	Gender, Roma	Cumulative number	Project Promoters' records, Attendance sheets	Semi-annually (APR and September IFR)	0	N/A	200

	Output 3.3	Automated Information System "Domestic Violence" developed and operational	Automated Information System "Domestic Violence" developed and operational	N/A	Binary	Project Promoters' records	Annually (APR)	No	N/A	Yes
			Number of MoI and Ministry of Justice officials, social workers and NGO representatives trained on DGBV related issues	N/A	Cumulative number	Project Promoters' records, Attendance sheets	Semi-annually (APR and September IFR)	0	N/A	830
	Output 3.4	Improved coordination and dialogue between police and Roma society to prevent radicalisation, violent extremism and hate speech	Number of studies on the prevention of radicalisation, violent extremism and hate speech completed	N/A	Cumulative number	Project Promoters' records	Annually (APR)	0	N/A	1
			Number of reception rooms at regional police directorates in regions with Roma population renovated	N/A	Cumulative number	Project Promoters' records	Annually (APR)	0	N/A	20
			Number of awareness raising campaigns on issues referring to radicalisation, violent extremism and hate speech organised	N/A	Cumulative number	Project Promoters' records, Attendance sheets	Semi-annually (APR and September IFR)	0	N/A	5
			Number of police officials trained on prevention and detection of radicalisation, incl. Case studies, best practice and community policing	Gender, Roma	Cumulative number	Project Promoters' records, Attendance sheets	Semi-annually (APR and September IFR)	0	N/A	240
	Output 3.5	Increased awareness of Roma on asylum and migration matters	Number of information sessions, discussions, workshops and other awareness raising activities carried out	N/A	Cumulative number	Project Promoters 'records, audio/video/print material produced as part of the campaign	Annually (APR)	0	N/A	36

			Number of communities where information sessions are held	N/A	Cumulative number	Project Promoters 'records, audio/video/print material produced as part of the campaign	Annually (APR)	0	N/A	3
			Number of awareness raising campaigns carried out	N/A	Cumulative number	Project Promoters' records, Attendance sheets	Semi-annually (APR and September IFR)	0	N/A	3
PA16	Outcome 4	Increased capacities of Bulgarian authorities to tackle economic crime and corruption	Number of pre-trial investigations of corruption within the police launched annually	N/A	Annual number	Project Promoters' records; Official law enforcement records	Annually (APR)	67	2017	75
			Number of cases with operational information processed during investigations of corruption	N/A	Cumulative number	Project Promoters' records; Official law enforcement records	Annually (APR)	200	2017	300
	Output 4.1	Enhanced capacity of ISD for prevention of corruption within the police	Anonymous Open Lines for corruption cases modernised	N/A	Binary	Project Promoters' records	Annually (APR)	No	N/A	Yes
			Number of ISD officials trained in the field of combating corruption, on professional ethics and standards	Gender	Cumulative number	Project Promoters' records, Attendance sheets	Semi-annually (APR and September IFR)	0	N/A	150
	Output 4.2	Improved assessment methods of police integrity	Number of Methodologies for assessment of police integrity developed	N/A	Cumulative number	Project Promoters' records	Annually (APR)	0	N/A	3
	Output 4.3	Training and enhanced technical capacity provided to	Number of GDNP officials trained for implementation of anti-corruption measures	Gender	Cumulative number	Project Promoters' records, Attendance sheets	Semi-annually (APR and September IFR)	0	N/A	70

		GDNP for prevention of corruption in other state institutions								
	Output 4.4	Specialized training provided to Bulgarian authorities to recover and manage criminal assets	Number of experts of the Commission for Illegal Assets Forfeiture (CIAF), law enforcement agencies and prosecutors trained	Gender	Cumulative number	Project Promoters' records, Attendance sheets	Semi-annually (APR and September IFR)	0	N/A	110
	Output 4.5	Technical capabilities of the CCCIAF, (upgrading of IT infrastructure, establishing secure communications channels and cybersecurity system) improved	Number of upgrades of information management/exchange and analytical platforms incl. hardware and software components	N/A	Cumulative number	Project Promoters' records	Annually (APR)	0	N/A	1
			Number of cyber security solutions installed	N/A	Cumulative number	Project Promoters' records	Annually (APR)	0	N/A	1
PA20	Bilateral Outcome	Enhanced collaboration between beneficiary and donor state entities involved	Level of satisfaction with the partnership	N/A	Scale 1-7	Survey results	Annually (APR)	5.5[4]	2021[5]	4.5[6]
			Level of trust between cooperating entities in Beneficiary States and Donor States	N/A	Scale 1-7	Survey results	Annually (APR)	5.56[7]	2021[8]	4.5[9]

[4] Based on the survey carried out on behalf of the FMO
[5] Survey carried out on behalf of the FMO
[6] Target is ≥4.5, and an increase on the baseline value
[7] Based on the survey carried out on behalf of the FMO
[8] Survey carried out on behalf of the FMO
[9] Target is ≥4.5, and an increase on the baseline value

		in the programme	Share of cooperating organisations that apply the knowledge acquired from bilateral partnership	N/A	Percentage	Survey results	Annually (APR)	N/A	N/A	60 %
	Bilateral Output 1	Projects involving cooperation with a donor project partner supported	Number of projects involving cooperation with a donor project partner	N/A	Cumulative number	Project Promoters' records, Attendance sheets	Semi-annually (APR and September IFR)	0	N/A	2
	Bilateral Output 2	International networks involving partners from Bulgaria and Norway supported	Number of international networks where partners from Bulgaria and Norway participate together	N/A	Cumulative number	Project Promoters' records, Attendance sheets	Semi-annually (APR and September IFR)	0	N/A	2

Conditions

General

1. At least 10% of the total eligible costs of the programme shall target the improvement of the situation of the Roma population. The fulfilment of this condition shall be reported on, through the use of quantitative and qualitative data, *inter alia*, in the annual and final programme reports.

2. The maximum level of funding available from the total eligible expenditure of the programme for infrastructure (hard measures) shall be 63%.

3. During the implementation of the programme, the Programme Operator shall seek to ensure synergies with the 'Justice' programme implemented in Bulgaria under the Norwegian Financial Mechanism 2014-2021, in order to strengthen the justice chain, *inter alia*, regarding access to justice, good governance, gender based-violence and trafficking in human beings.

4. The National Focal Point and the Programme Operator shall seek coordination and synergies with other Roma inclusion relevant measures across the different programmes of the EEA and Norwegian Financial Mechanisms 2014-2021 in Bulgaria.

5. For the predefined projects set out under Section 5.1 of Annex II to the Programme Agreement, the National Focal Point shall ensure that the Programme Operator ensures that the appraisal foreseen in Article 6.5.3 of the Regulation is externalised and carried out by a legal entity independent of and unrelated to the Programme Operator.

6. For predefined projects no. 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11 and 13 (numbering under Section 5.1 of Annex II to the Programme Agreement), the Programme Operator's responsibilities regarding the verification of payment claims described in Article 5.6.1 e) of the Regulation, and the verification of the project outputs described in Article 5.6.1 g) of the Regulation, shall be externalised and be carried out by a legal entity independent of and unrelated to the Programme Operator. The NMFA shall approve the entity to be charged with these tasks prior to the first disbursement to the predefined projects.

7. The National Focal Point shall ensure that the Programme Operator ensures that project promoters who have, in line with this Agreement, purchased, constructed, renovated or reconstructed any buildings:

• 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.

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Pre-eligibility

No costs shall be eligible under pre-defined projects no. 1, 9 and 14 (numbering under Section 5.1 of Annex II to the Programme Agreement) before the revised detailed descriptions and budgets for the pre-defined projects have been submitted and approved by the NMFA.

Pre-payment

Not applicable

Pre-completion

Not applicable

Post-completion

Not applicable

Eligibility of costs - period	**First date**	**Final date**
Eligibility of costs	10/12/2016	30/04/2025
Grant rate and co-financing		
Programme eligible expenditure (€)		€ 24,451,198
Programme grant rate (%)		85.00 %
Maximum amount of Programme grant - EEA Financial Mechanism (€)		-
Maximum amount of Programme grant - Norwegian Financial Mechanism (€)		€ 20,783,518
Maximum amount of Programme grant - Total (€)		€ 20,783,518

PA	Budget Heading	Norway Grants	Total grant	Programme grant rate	Programme co-financing	Programme eligible expenditure	Advance payment
PA20	Programme management	€ 1,402,067	€ 1,402,067	85.00 %	€ 247,424	€ 1,649,491	€ 231,992
PA18	Outcome 1 (Norway Grants)	€ 4,534,637	€ 4,534,637	85.00 %	€ 800,230	€ 5,334,867	€ 885,900
PA20	Outcome 2 (Norway Grants)	€ 10,373,296	€ 10,373,296	85.00 %	€ 1,830,582	€ 12,203,878	€ 1,861,726
PA20	Outcome 3 (Norway Grants)	€ 2,192,827	€ 2,192,827	85.00 %	€ 386,969	€ 2,579,796	€ 387,000
PA16	Outcome 4 (Norway Grants)	€ 2,280,691	€ 2,280,691	85.00 %	€ 402,475	€ 2,683,166	€ 427,500
Total		**€ 20,783,518**	**€ 20,783,518**	**85.00 %**	**€ 3,667,680**	**€ 24,451,198**	**€ 3,794,118**

Retention of management costs	
Retention of management costs - Percentage of the management costs	10.00 %
Retention of management costs - Planned Euro value	€ 164,949

Home Affairs

Operational rules (Annex II)

1. **Programme summary**

This Annex sets out the operational rules for the programme. The programme agreement is based on the MoU, the concept note and comments made by the NMFA. 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 Interior. The National Police Directorate (POD), the Norwegian Ministry of Justice and Public Security and the Norwegian Directorate of Immigration (UDI) are Donor Programme Partners (DPPs). The Council of Europe (CoE) is International Partner Organisation (IPO).

The programme objective, "Strengthened rule of law", will be attained through four outcomes:

- Outcome 1 "Increased capacity of the national authorities in the asylum and migration area". The outcome shall be supported by way of two calls for proposals and one predefined project: "Increasing the administrative capacity of the national authorities in the asylum and migration area" (PDP no. 2). The calls for proposals shall focus on:
    - Return of third-country nationals;
    - Improving the national asylum and migration capacities, especially as regards provision of conditions for vulnerable migrants and in particular for unaccompanied minors.
- Outcome 2 "Improved capacity for law enforcement agencies in crime prevention and investigation"
  The outcome shall be supported by way of six pre-defined projects: "Increasing the capacity of General Directorate "Combating Organized Crime" for more effective investigation of organised and transnational crime" (PDP no. 3), "Extension of the Communication Infrastructure of MoI" (PDP no. 4), "Enhancement of the International Police Cooperation and the Prevention of International Criminal Activities" (PDP no. 5), "Improvement of the capacity of police and forensic activity dealing with material evidence in pre-trial investigation process" (PDP no. 6), "Development of Expert Forensic Examinations and Activities at the Research Institute of Forensic sciences at the Ministry of Interior (RIFS) and technical upgrade and expansion of the possibilities of five basic regional forensic laboratories" (PDP no. 7), "Development of the cooperation within the Schengen area" (PDP no. 8).
- Outcome 3 "Improved situation for Roma population"
  The outcome shall be supported by way of four pre-defined projects: "Capacity building of the police officers working in multi-ethnic environment, including Roma communities and prevention of ill-treatment by the police" (PDP no. 9), "Improvement of the efficiency of the police activity in the field of domestic and gender-based violence" (PDP no. 10), "Improvement of the coordination and dialogue between police and Roma society" (PDP no. 11) and "Awareness raising of local communities in areas with significant share of Roma population on asylum and migration issues" (PDP no. 12).
- Outcome 4 "Increased capacities of Bulgarian authorities to tackle economic crime and corruption"
  The outcome shall be supported by way of two pre-defined projects: "Preventing and combating corruption" (PDP no. 13) and "Enhanced capacities of Bulgarian authorities to recover and manage criminal assets" (PDP no. 14).

In case of savings in the projects funded under this programme, reallocation of funds to PDP no. 14, through a modification of this programme agreement, for activities relevant to the newly established anti-corruption unit of CCCIAF, shall be prioritised.

2. Eligibility

2.1 Eligible applicants:

The rules on eligibility of project promoters and project partners for the call for proposals are set in Article 7.2 of the Regulation.

In accordance with Article 7.2.1 of the Regulation, international organisations or bodies or agencies thereof are eligible project promoters.

2.2 Special rules on eligibility of costs:

Costs are eligible in accordance with chapter 8 of the Regulation.

In accordance with Article 8.5.1 e) of the Regulation, project promoters or project partners that are international organisations or bodies or agencies thereof, may identify their indirect costs in accordance with the relevant rules established by such organisations.

For projects selected under the Call for proposals under outcome 1 on Voluntary return of third country nationals in the country of origin, an additional category of eligible expenditure in the form of one-time cash or cash-equivalent allowance payable to returnees when leaving Bulgaria as well as reintegration assistance to the beneficiaries in the country of origin may be accepted in the project contract with the project promoter.

3. Bilateral relations

3.1 Bilateral relations

The programme shall contribute to strengthening bilateral relations between Bulgaria and Norway.

The programme shall as appropriate facilitate donor partnership projects.

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

4. Selection of projects and financial parameters

4.1 Open calls and availability of funds (including number of calls, duration of calls, and estimated size):

	Indicative timing	**Total available amount**	**Maximum/Minimum grant applied for**
Call for proposals under **outcome 1** "Increased capacity of the national authorities in the asylum and migration area" - Return of third-country nationals	05/2021	€ 400,000	€ 400,000/€ 200,000
Call for proposals under outcome 1 "Increased capacity of the national authorities in the asylum and migration area"	12/2020	€ 3 496 423,55[10]	€ 1 000,000/€ 200,000

[10] The total available amount for the call shall be considered as a maximum amount; The call will be launched with a budget of EUR 3 000 000; The remaining EUR 1 000 000 shall be kept as a reserve to fund projects put on the reserve list of that call. If there are no quality projects to be funded, it shall be allocated to other outcomes based on an assessment of the programme's needs and following a modification of the programme agreement at a later stage.

– Improving the national migration and asylum capacities			

4.2 Selection procedures:
The project evaluation and award of grants shall be in accordance with Article 7.4 of the Regulation.

The Programme Operator shall be responsible for project evaluation and for the award of grants.

The Programme Operator shall appoint a person who is going to lead and coordinate the selection process.

Experts nominated by the Programme Operator shall review the applications for compliance with administrative and eligibility criteria. Applicants whose applications are rejected at this stage shall be informed and given a reasonable time to appeal that decision.

Each application that meets the administrative and eligibility criteria shall be reviewed by two impartial experts appointed by the Programme Operator, at least one of which shall be independent of the Programme Operator and the Selection Committee. The experts shall separately score the project according to the selection criteria published with the call for proposals. For the purposes of ranking the projects, the average of the scores awarded by the experts shall be used. If the difference between the scores given by the two experts is more than 20% of the higher score, a third expert, who shall be impartial and independent of the Programme Operator and the Selection Committee, shall be commissioned by the Programme Operator to score the project independently. In such cases, the average score of the two closest scores shall be used for the ranking of the projects.

The Programme Operator shall establish a Selection Committee. The Selection Committee shall consist of a Chairman and a secretary – representatives of the Programme Operator – without voting rights, and at least three voting members, including representatives of the Programme Operator. At least one of the voting members shall be external to the Programme Operator and its Partners. The NMFA, the IPO, the National Focal Point and the DPPs shall be invited to participate in the Selection Committee meetings as observers.

The Programme Operator shall provide the Selection Committee with a list of the ranked projects. The Selection Committee shall review the ranked list of projects. The decision of the Selection Committee shall be taken by consensus of all voting members. The Selection Committee may modify the ranking of the projects in justified cases, in accordance with objective and commonly agreed criteria related to the objectives of the programme. The justification for modifications shall be detailed in the minutes of the meeting of the Selection Committee. The minutes shall be signed by all members of the Selection Committee. The Chairman of the Selection Committee shall submit a report, including the list of the recommended projects, together with a reserve list and the list of rejected project proposals and the reason for their rejection, to the Programme Operator.

The Programme Operator shall verify that the selection process has been conducted in accordance with the Regulation and that the recommendations from the Selection Committee comply with the rules and objectives of the programme. Following such verification, the Programme Operator shall, based on the decision of the Selection Committee, make a decision on which projects shall be supported. The Programme Operator may return the report to the Selection Committee requesting a repetition of the selection process in case of a violation of the procedure that can be remedied or not approve the report when there has been a serious violation of the procedure. The Programme Operator may modify the decision of the Selection Committee in justified cases.

The Programme Operator shall notify the applicants about the results of the selection process within a reasonable time and publicise the results. If the modification of the ranking of the projects by the Selection Committee results in a project's rejection, or if the Programme Operator modifies the decision

of the Selection Committee, the Programme Operator shall inform the applicants affected and provide them with a justification for the modification.

4.3 Project grant rate:
Grants to all projects from the programme may be up to 100% of total eligible expenditure of the project. In the case of projects where the project promoter is a social partner, as defined in Article 1.6 of the Regulation, the project grant rate may be up to 90% of total eligible expenditure of the project. 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.

5. Additional mechanisms within the Programme
5.1 Pre-defined projects
PDP 1 was cancelled and replaced by an open call, "Increased capacity of the national authorities in the asylum and migration area" – Improving the national migration and asylum capacities.

1) ""Increasing the administrative capacity of the national authorities in the asylum and migration area""

Project Promoter:	State Agency for Refugees at the Council of Ministers
Donor project partner(s):	Norwegian National Police Immigration Service (PU)
Other project partner(s):	Migration Directorate, Ministry of Interior - Bulgaria General Directorate Border Police, Ministry of Interior - Bulgaria National Legal Aid Bureau (NLAB)
Total maximum eligible costs:	€ 1,438,443
Project grant rate:	100.00 %
Maximum project grant amount:	€ 1,438,443

Programme outcome the project contributes to: "Increased capacity of the national authorities in the asylum and migration area".

The project will strengthen the administrative capacity of the State Agency for Refugees (SAR) for the effective fulfilment of its obligations, and shall contribute to ensuring the sustainability of the acquired knowledge and enhancing the specific skills related to reception, accommodation, proceedings for granting international protection, and social and cultural adaptation, including individual assessment of the needs of applicants for international protection, through improvement of the professional skills of the experts of SAR and obtaining key and upgraded competencies.

The project will include, *inter alia*, the following main activities:

- Preparing of functional analysis of SAR;

- Renovation of minimum 4 halls and repair/purchase of equipment;
- Trainings and supervision:
    - for experts of SAR regarding the assessment of gender-based violence and updating of standard operational procedures;
    - for inter-institutional teamwork for better practical interaction;
    - for exchange of good practices and experience (abroad) for teams including representatives of local authorities, the State Agency for Child Protection, the Social Assistance Agency and other institutions competent to work with unaccompanied minors and also to analyse the current legislation;

  - for designated representatives of unaccompanied minors and juveniles. Preparation of a manual for the work of the appointed legal guardians;
  - on the topic of representation of unaccompanied children under Art. 25 of the Law on Asylum and Refugees: selection, rights and obligations, responsibilities, interaction and reporting.
- Conducting two annual seminars for employees of SAR to take into account the results achieved on the basis of the previous half-year;
- Enhancing knowledge regarding the countries of origin of applicants for international protection – social, cultural, educational, religious and economic characteristics;
- Conduct trainings for case workers, registration and accommodation officers, vulnerability assessment experts, as well as trainings together with officers/ officials from GDBP on "Trafficking in human beings";
- Training of case workers and registration officers on additional methods and approaches to conduct interviews based on/in accordance with the ethnic affiliation, as well as preparation of tools for work with different groups of persons seeking international protection;
- Training in the field of legal psychology for registration officers, case workers, and social experts;
- Preparation of minimum 4 videos for information and publicity purposes, preparation of information materials and brochures;
- Capacity building for the General Directorate Border Police of the Ministry of Interior through increasing the administrative capacity of the staff of the Chief Directorate Border Police for working with UAMs and increasing the administrative capacity of the staff of Chief Directorate Border Police in the field of counteracting trafficking in UAMs;
- Capacity building for the Migration Directorate of the Ministry of Interior, including. exchange of experience and best practices with Norwegian partners;
- Training seminars for enhancing the administrative capacity for Migration Directorate employees working with third country nationals seeking international protection.

2) ""Increasing the capacity of General Directorate "Combating Organised Crime" for more effective investigation of organised and transnational crime""

Project Promoter:	General Directorate "Combating Organised Crime", Ministry of Interior - Bulgaria
Donor project partner(s):	National Criminal Investigation Service (KRIPOS) Oslo Police District
Total maximum eligible costs:	€ 4,000,000
Project grant rate:	100.00 %
Maximum project grant amount:	€ 4,000,000

Programme outcome the project contributes to: "Improved capacity for law enforcement agencies in crime prevention and investigation".

The project will enhance the national capabilities for combating transnational and organized crime and will enhance the cooperation with the Norwegian National Criminal Investigation Service (KRIPOS) and international organisations such as Interpol, Europol and foreign partner law enforcement agencies. The project will strengthen the justice chain and the knowledge and capacity of officials in the General Directorate "Combating Organised Crime" (GDCOC), magistrates and other practitioners in the field of countering organised crime. In addition, the facilities for storing and proper preservation of evidences will be improved. Experts from international organisations like Europol, Eurojust and Interpol will also be invited to take part in the workshops to share their experience and knowledge with participants in workshops and trainings.

The project will include, *inter alia*, the following main activities:

- Improving the professional qualification in prevention, identification, investigation and proper prosecution of various forms of transnational and organised crime;
- Capacity-building and training for professional staff in investigation and prevention of organised crime;
- Development and enhancement of the existing interagency guidelines and standard operating procedures for investigation and prevention of organised crime;
- Improvement of the investigation capacity of GDCOC in line with the EU standards and best practices through renovation of premises for training and upgrading facilities for interrogation and recognition of detained/suspected persons;
- Improving facilities for storing and proper preservation of evidences in order to guarantee the rights of the accused in pre-trial proceedings;
- Improved administrative capacity of GDCOC experts and other practitioners in prevention and investigation of transnational organized crimes through workshops related to investigation of trafficking in human beings, anticorruption, cybercrime, traffic of cultural and historical goods, money laundering, tax crimes, smuggling, traffic of migrants etc.
- Developing the technical efficiency for combating transnational organized crime groups;
- Improving analytical capabilities and digitalisation of cases at General Directorate for Combating Organised Crime by providing IT equipment (PCs and multifunction devices);
- Improving analytical and operational capacities of GDCOC through digitalisation of pre-trial investigations of GDCOC developed and installed and through deployment of analytical software for effective data analysis and processing developed and installed.

3) ""Extension of the Communication Infrastructure of MoI""

Project Promoter:	Communication and Information Systems Directorate, Ministry of Interior - Bulgaria
Total maximum eligible costs:	€ 1,400,000
Project grant rate:	100.00 %
Maximum project grant amount:	€ 1,400,000

Programme outcome the project contributes to: “Improved capacity for law enforcement agencies in crime prevention and investigation”.

The project will improve the coordination of the national law enforcement authorities by strengthening the TETRA communication systems in the Bulgarian-Greek border area, which are used as channels for illegal migration; trafficking in drugs and human beings as well as sex tourism and slavery. The project will further contribute to the improvement of the capabilities of the Bulgarian law enforcement agencies to exchange information and secure communications with the Greek counterparts. The project addresses the needs for better radio coverage along the Bulgarian-Greek border and in particular the regions of Blagoevgrad district (the towns of Bansko and Gotse Delchev) and of Smolyan district (the town of Dospat).

This project envisages delivery, installation, integration and testing of communication equipment and software and training of the MoI technical staff for operation and maintenance of the communication infrastructure.

4) ""Enhancement of the International Police Cooperation and the Prevention of International Criminal Activities""

Project Promoter:	International Operational Cooperation Directorate, Ministry of Interior - Bulgaria
Total maximum eligible costs:	€ 290,000
Project grant rate:	100.00 %
Maximum project grant amount:	€ 290,000

Programme outcome the project contributes to: “Improved capacity for law enforcement agencies in crime prevention and investigation”.

The project will enhance the international police cooperation capabilities and the qualification of the law enforcement officials, through specialized training of law enforcement officials for work with the existing systems and databases, methods and channels for exchange of information and international police cooperation. The specialized training is related to the upcoming integration of AFIS and facial recognition into SIS, the inclusion of the alerts on the new article 40 “unidentified suspect/offender” and the expansion of the object categories of article 38 alerts, the start of implementation of the measures provided in the alerts on article 24 “entry ban” by Bulgarian authorities, and other new SIS features, as well as the new system for smarter and stronger borders – the ETIAS.

Through training in PRINCE2 project methodology, the project will contribute to strengthening the administrative capacity for implementation of projects for enhancement of the international police cooperation and prevention of international criminal activity. In addition, the project will facilitate the exchange of experience and knowledge in the fields of SIRENE, INTERPOL and Europol information exchange with Greece.

The project will include, *inter alia*, the following main activities:

- Completing the training centre of the project promoter and providing fully functional facility equipped with translation systems;
- Foreign language and PRINCE2 trainings;
- IT equipment for exchange of information delivered to respond to future police systems improvements;
- Training on EU and international systems for exchange of operational police information.

5) ""Improvement of the capacity of police and forensic activity dealing with material evidence in pre-trial investigation process""

Project Promoter:	General Directorate “National Police” at the Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Interior - Bulgaria
Other project partner(s):	Regional Directorates of MoI in Bourgas, Varna, Veliko Tarnovo, Pazardjik, Pleven, Plovdiv, Sofia, Stara Zagora, Haskovo, Metropolitan Directorate of MoI
Total maximum eligible costs:	€ 3,680,000
Project grant rate:	100.00 %
Maximum project grant amount:	€ 3,680,000

Programme outcome the project contributes to: “Improved capacity for law enforcement agencies in crime prevention and investigation”.

The project is aimed at the improvement of the crime scene investigation, including improvement of the crime scene inspection for finding and collecting evidence, and improvement of the system for

storing of evidence. The project will result in the implementation of minimum quality standards during crime scene inspection and improve the evidence management process, including ensuring the management of the evidence from the crime scene to the court and achieving a significant reduction of time required to process evidence and prepare expert conclusions.

The project will include, *inter alia*, the following main activities:

- Delivery of equipment for mobile forensic technical laboratories to perform on-site inspections to help fix and seize traces and gather evidence on the spot in cases of urgency and field testing;

- Trainings for police officers responsible for the collection and storage of material evidence;
- Upgrading premises for storing material evidence up to the EU standards and in accordance with the inter-ministerial requirements through renovation and equipment of material evidence warehouse;
- Establishing IT system for registering and tracking seized material evidence.

6) ""Development of Expert Forensic Examinations and Activities at the Research Institute of Forensic Sciences at the Ministry of Interior (RIFS) and technical upgrade and expansion of the possibilities of five basic regional forensic laboratories""

Project Promoter:	Research Institute of Forensic Sience
Donor project partner(s):	National Criminal Investigation Service (KRIPOS)
Total maximum eligible costs:	€ 1,973,220
Project grant rate:	100.00 %
Maximum project grant amount:	€ 1,973,220

Programme outcome the project contributes to: “Improved capacity for law enforcement agencies in crime prevention and investigation”.

The overall goal of the project is to strengthen the forensic capacity of Bulgaria for precise and overall evaluation of evidence collected for criminal and civil cases. The project will improve the forensic infrastructure in Bulgaria which is a requirement for all European countries on the way to the common objectives stated in the strategy “European Forensic Science Area 2020”. The project will strengthen the capacity for forensic examination of drug substances, for examination of latent fingerprints, id documents, biological traces and digital material evidence, and for establishing the authenticity of identity documents of illegally residing or detained illegal emigrants, to increase the capacity and the quality of collecting and examining evidence in relation to computer and computer-related crimes and to create specialised working stations for analysing information carriers, network devices and communication devices.

The project will include, *inter alia*, the following main activities:

- Technical equipment for five regional forensic laboratories;
- Specialized training courses for experts in different fields of forensic science;
- Organising a conference in Bulgaria with experts from Norway and Bulgaria on the topic of “Presentation of the results of the work with the new equipment, benefits from the acquired knowledge and abilities in solving specific expert tasks”;
- Writing and publishing “A Handbook on Forensic Science”.

7) ""Development of the cooperation within the Schengen area""

Project Promoter:	General Directorate Border Police, Ministry of Interior - Bulgaria
Total maximum eligible costs:	€ 860,656
Project grant rate:	100.00 %
Maximum project grant amount:	€ 860,656

Programme outcome the project contributes to: “Improved capacity for law enforcement agencies in crime prevention and investigation”.

The project aims to support cooperation within the Schengen area. It will support the development and the future introduction of compensatory measures in the border area of the future internal borders. It also aims to improve bilateral cooperation in the field of internal border management and facilitate the introduction of compensatory measures related to border surveillance after the accession of the Republic of Bulgaria to the Schengen area.

After the Bulgarian-Turkish border the Bulgarian-Greek border is the most vulnerable and active in terms of illegal crossings. There is a trend of increased migratory pressure at the Bulgarian-Greek border at the expense of a reduced pressure at the Bulgarian-Turkish border. Since the beginning of 2018 the situation at the border with Greece is characterized as quite intense. This situation is an outcome of the increased security measures applied along the Bulgarian-Turkish border and the significant increase in the number of migrants in Greece as a result of the increase in cases of illegal crossing by sea from Turkey to the Greek islands. Analysis of the situation at the borders shows a clear tendency for the Bulgarian-Romanian border being second after the Bulgarian-Serbian as the most vulnerable to illegal exits of third-country nationals. While control at the Bulgarian-Serbian border, which is external border to EU, receives significant national and EU support, the control and surveillance along the Bulgarian-Romanian border relies solely on national investments in infrastructure and development of the bilateral cooperation in terms of exchange of information, support of the joint Bulgarian-Romanian contact center, and joint trans-border surveillance and pursuit activities.

In this regard, support measures that will facilitate the effective border control at the internal borders at which it has not been lifted yet will be implemented. The equipment that will be acquired in this regard will be subsequently used in order to reinforce the execution of compensatory measures in the border area.

- The project will include, *inter alia,* the following main activities: Strengthening cross-border cooperation and coordination with Romanian and Greek border police authorities;
- Increasing the effectiveness of the border management on the Bulgarian-Romanian and Bulgarian-Greek border through improving the working conditions of the personnel;
- Improving the technical capabilities for border control and surveillance in the areas of Regional Directorate Border Police (RDBP) Ruse and RDBP Smolyan;
- Strengthening the capacity (knowledge and skills) of the General Directorate Border Police (incl. RDBP Ruse and RDBP Smolyan) personnel through providing specialized trainings.

8) ""Capacity building of the police officers working in multi-ethnic environment, including Roma communities and prevention of ill-treatment by the police""

Project Promoter:	The Academy of the Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Interior - Bulgaria
Other project partner(s):	Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) - Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR)
Total maximum eligible costs:	€ 630,000
Project grant rate:	100.00 %

Maximum project grant amount: € 630,000

Programme outcome the project contributes to: “Improved situation for the Roma population”.

The project will contribute to the prevention of violation of human rights by the police while acting in a multi-ethnic environment, with special focus on the Roma population, enhancing the police officers skills related to prevention of domestic violence, trafficking in human beings and pickpocketing in Roma community and prevention of ill-treatment by the police.

The project will include, *inter alia*, the following main activities:

- Awareness raising and training among police officers on crime prevention, Roma values and culture and European antidiscrimination standards; increasing knowledge of police officers on Roma community (e.g. on Roma history, culture, values etc.), preventing the stereotypes against Roma, reducing the prejudices, mistreatment and ethnic profiling; involving Roma community, NGOs and international partners in trainings to share experience;

- Training of trainers provided for police officers located in regions with predominantly Roma population on prevention of ill-treatment by police;
- Administrative capacity in policing in multicultural society enhanced;
- Baseline study and analysis of policing on the current situation, including legislation, domestic violence, trafficking in human beings and pickpocketing in Roma community;
- Renovation and the provision of equipment for 6 training auditorium rooms;
- Development of module for e-learning platform on prevention of ill-treatment. The module will be put in operation on e-platform during the project implementation;
- Development of a training curriculum and conducting training on prevention of ill-treatment by police. Trainings will take place at the Centers for Specialized Police Training in Pazardzhik, Varna and Kazanlak.

9) ""Improvement of the efficiency of the police activity in the field of domestic and gender-based violence""

Project Promoter:	General Directorate “National Police” at the Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Interior - Bulgaria
Total maximum eligible costs:	€ 620,000
Project grant rate:	100.00 %
Maximum project grant amount:	€ 620,000

Programme outcome the project contributes to: “Improved situation for the Roma population”.

The project will improve the capacity of the Bulgarian Police to respond to cases of domestic and gender based violence (DGBV) and contribute to the development of efficient policies in the area of combating this human right violation. The project will improve the situation of the Roma population. The project will be implemented in areas with high Roma population and will focus on prevention, risk assessment, support to victims and collection of data on DGBV in Roma communities.

The project will include, *inter alia*, the following main activities:

- Elaboration of algorithm of risk assessment on recognition of DGBV cases and the attached protocols;
- Training of police officials for implementation of risk assessment on DGBV cases, including on combating Roma stereotypes. The trainings will include Training the trainers seminars;

- Trainings for police officials in protection of victims of DGBV;
- Exchange of information with NGO's, GREVIO, CEDAW, FRA, CoE for gathering best practices and relevant data;
- Elaboration and hardware delivery for Automated Information System (AIS) "Domestic violence" for entering, processing and storage of the data related to DGBV, including 3-year maintenance of the system;
- Providing training and increasing capacity of professionals on providing and using data from AIS with view to meeting the minimum EU and International reporting and monitoring requirements on DGBV.

10) ""Improvement of the coordination and dialogue between police and Roma society""

Project Promoter:	General Directorate "National Police" at the Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Interior - Bulgaria
Other project partner(s):	Regional Directorates of MoI in Vidin, Bourgas, Varna, Stara Zagora, Montana, Sliven, Plovdiv, Yambol, Pazardjik, Metropolitan Directorate of MoI
Total maximum eligible costs:	€ 650,000
Project grant rate:	100.00 %
Maximum project grant amount:	€ 650,000

Programme outcome the project contributes to: "Improved situation for the Roma population".

The project will contribute to the improvement of the situation for the Roma population and result in improvement of coordination and dialogue between police and Roma society. The project will also contribute to the prevention of radicalisation, violent extremism and hate speech and the establishment of informal networks at national and regional level for exchange of ideas, knowledge and good practices in these topics. The project will support mutual initiatives of all public institutions working in Roma communities (police, child protection services, education). Measures for improvement of the coordination of the regional police directorates and local Roma organisations, creation of better conditions for multi-ethnic dialogue and better understanding of Roma cultural values are foreseen in this regard. Trainings for police officers to enhance their skills and competence to recognize early signs of radicalism in its different forms are also envisaged.

The project will include, *inter alia*, the following main activities:

- Study of needs and gaps in the knowledge of national actors in the field of prevention of radicalization, violent extremism and hate speech and exchange of experience with other EU member states;
- Trainings of police officers in prevention and detection of radicalism and community policing, including adaptation of training material, training in community policing methods;
- Improving the conditions of the reception rooms in police stations with predominantly Roma population;
- Enhancing the cooperation between police and Roma population through nation-wide information and explanation campaigns, elaboration of lecturing material, involvement of different local leaders/mediators, organising meetings and lectures with children, their parents for overcoming anti-Roma stereotypes and discrimination, mutual initiatives of the State Agency for Protection of Children and the Police in schools.

11) ""Awareness raising of local communities in areas with significant share of Roma population on asylum and migration issues""

Project Promoter:	International Organisation for Migration (IOM)
Total maximum eligible costs:	€ 679,796
Project grant rate:	100.00 %
Maximum project grant amount:	€ 679,796

Programme outcome the project contributes to: “Improved situation for the Roma population”.

The project will contribute to improved knowledge of asylum and migration legislation and risks of abuse and exploitation in Bulgaria and EU/EEA among the Roma population. The Roma population are a high-risk group for exploitation and abuse, and the project envisages developing and piloting a prevention campaign related to migration both in Bulgaria and other EU/EEA countries. The Roma population has limited knowledge on the asylum and migration issues such as smuggling, trafficking, selling fake address registrations, labour exploitation and other pertinent challenges related to migration in the EU/EEA.

The project will include, *inter alia*, the following main activities:

- Elaboration of a comprehensive analysis/assessment of the situation of the Roma population as regards the migration related issues to better target the topics to be tackled;
- Awareness raising campaigns among the Roma communities on legal aspects, rights and responsibilities of asylum seekers and undocumented migrants in Bulgaria;
- **Information sessions, discussions, workshops and other awareness raising activities on legal aspects of working in the EU/EEA, risks and prevention of exploitation, including risks of labour trafficking, conditions for staying and working in EU/EEA; access to social and health services in the EU/EEA**

12) ""Preventing and combating corruption""

Project Promoter:	Internal Security Directorate, Ministry of Interior - Bulgaria
Other project partner(s):	General Directorate National Police of the Ministry of Interior
Total maximum eligible costs:	€ 1,933,390
Project grant rate:	100.00 %
Maximum project grant amount:	€ 1,933,390

Programme outcome the project contributes to: “Increased capacities of Bulgarian authorities to tackle economic crime and corruption”.

The project will enhance the administrative capacity of prevention and counteraction of corruption within the police. The whistle blower mechanism and the integrity within police will be improved. The technical capacity for prevention of corruption in other state institutions will be enhanced.

The project will include, *inter alia*, the following main activities:

- Training of employees of the Internal Security Directorate which will include practically oriented themes on: review of the anticorruption institutional and management practices, identification of the gaps; corruption in the police, including conflict of interest, new forms of corruption in police related to the trafficking of refugees, organized terrorism, illegal transfer of excise goods;
- Development of the existing whistle-blowing mechanism - Anonymous Open Line for handling of corruption cases within the police - using newly developed software;

- Developing new software for internal databases, automated analysis and monitoring;
- Elaboration of methodology and tools for the introduction of anti-corruption measures and operational tactics, including professional integrity tests, polyphysiographic studies, automated monitoring of social networks;
- Technical equipment for supporting the implementation of anti-corruption measures by Internal Security Directorate and ensuring implementation of tasks related to management, coordination, operational criminal analysis, monitoring and evaluation through IT-based technologies;
- Training of 70 officials of General Directorate National Police, exchange of experience and best practices in the field of counteraction of corruption. Delivery of IT equipment and software for GDNP.

13) ""Enhanced capacities of Bulgarian authorities to recover and manage criminal assets""

Project Promoter:	Commission for Combating Corruption and Illegal Assets Forfeiture (CCCIAF)
Total maximum eligible costs:	€ 749,776
Project grant rate:	100.00 %
Maximum project grant amount:	€ 749,776

Programme outcome the project contributes to: “Increased capacities of Bulgarian authorities to tackle economic crime and corruption”.

The project will strengthen the systems for combating corruption, tracing, seizing and forfeiting proceeds of crime, which is a crucial step towards the implementation of Bulgaria's priority of preventing and combating organized crime and corruption, reinstating justice and compensating the victims of crime. The project will enhance the capacities of staff of the CCCIAF to conduct anti-corruption investigations and to trace criminal assets, in particular in cross-border cases; it will develop the international counterpart networks available to the CCCIAF to pursue confiscations abroad and participate in joint investigative teams. It will also allow the CCCIAF to effectively cooperate bilaterally with foreign authorities by forfeiting assets on behalf of their counterparts. Furthermore, the project will improve the knowledge and skills of CCCIAF staff in core areas of legal aspects and enhance the IT infrastructure of the Commission.

The project will include, *inter alia*, the following main activities:

- Establish a Regional Platform on Asset recovery organized in Bulgaria with guest countries predominantly from the Southeastern Europe/Balkan region. Networking, knowledge sharing, discussions on dealing with cross-border asset recovery cases to promote and expand co-operation among the countries in this aspect;

- Specialized trainings and seminars for CCCIAF inspectors on Legal Entities Analysis/Dissection, Financial investigations/ asset tracing techniques and typologies, Legal matters like civil, commercial and property law, as well as civil litigation, open source intelligence data acquisition and software applications for data analysis;
- Develop specifically designated curriculum in cooperation with the Bulgarian universities;
- Certified training;
- Workshops with domestic institutions on current challenges and setbacks hindering co-operation;
- Certified trainings courses on effective management of forfeited/seized assets, provided by foreign experts.

5.2 Financial Instruments
Not applicable.

6. Programme Management
6.1 Payment flows
The Programme Operator shall ensure that payments to projects are made in a timely manner. Interim and final payments to the projects shall be based on approved project reports.

Payments of the project grant shall take the form of advance payments, interim payments and a final payment. The level of advance payment to projects shall be set out in the project contract. The maximum level of advance payment shall be as follows:

	Advance payment	**Interim payments**	**Final payment (reimbursement)**
Projects	Up to 30%	30-90%	10%

The first advance instalment shall be paid following the signature of the project contract. Subsequent payments shall be paid after the approval of project interim reports. The final payment will be paid after approval of the final report.

An advance payment of a percentage of the total grant amount shall be paid within one month from the submission of a request after signature of the project contract. The interim payments shall be paid within one month after the approval of project interim reports.

Upon approval of the final project report a final balance payment, if applicable, shall be made within one month.

The approval of project interim and final reports shall take place within two months from the submission of the required information.

The periodicity of reporting periods, and deadlines for reporting will be further detailed in the description of the Programme Operator's management and control systems.

In case of euro-denominated contracts with entities from Norway or with intergovernmental organisations, the Programme Operator shall transfer the amounts in euro.

6.2 Verification of payment claims
Project Promoters shall submit interim and final project reports containing information on project progress and incurred expenditure.

In line with the point (i) of Article 5.6.2 of the Regulation incurred expenditure reported shall be subject to administrative verifications before the report is approved. Verifications to be carried out shall cover administrative, financial, technical and physical aspects of projects, as appropriate and be in accordance with the principle of proportionality.

Additionally, in line with point (ii) of Article 5.6.2 of the Regulation on–the-spot verifications of projects, which may be carried out on a sample basis, shall be carried out.

The detailed procedure for verification will be further detailed in the description of the Programme Operator's management and control systems.

6.3 Monitoring and reporting

The Programme Operator shall monitor, record and report on progress towards the programme's outcomes in accordance with the provisions contained in the legal framework. The Programme Operator shall ensure that suitable and sufficient monitoring and reporting arrangements are made with the project promoters in order to enable the Programme Operator and the National Focal Point to meet its obligations to the NMFA.

When reporting on progress achieved in Annual and Final Programme Reports, the Programme Operator shall disaggregate results achieved as appropriate and in accordance with instructions received from the FMO.

6.4 Programme administrative structures

Not applicable.

7. Communication

The Programme Operator shall comply with Article 3.3 of the Regulation, the Information and Communication Requirements in Annex 3 of the Regulation and the Communication plan for the programme.

8. Miscellaneous

Not applicable.