

FUND FOR BILATERAL RELATIONS

(In accordance with Article 2.4 of the Bilateral Fund Agreement and Article 4.2 of the Regulations on the implementation of the EEA and Norwegian Financial Mechanisms 2014-2021))

[Latvia]

List of abbreviations:

BCME - Baltic Centre for Media Excellence

BF – Fund of Bilateral Relations

CA – Certifying Authority

CBSS – Council of Baltic Sea States

CC – Cooperation Committee

DPP – Donor Programme Partner

DS – Donor States

FM – EEA and Norwegian Financial Mechanisms

FMD – Finance and Maintenance Department of the Ministry of Finance

FMO – Financial Mechanism Office

JCBF – Joint Committee for Bilateral Funds

NFP – National Focal Point

MoFA – Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Latvia

MoU – Memorandum of Understanding on the Implementation of the EEA Financial Mechanism and

Memorandum of Understanding on the Implementation of the Norwegian Financial Mechanism

PO – Programme Operator

Regulation - Regulation on the implementation of the European Economic Area (EEA) Financial Mechanism 2014-2021 and Regulation on the implementation of the Norwegian Financial Mechanism 2014-2021

1. Background

1.1. Please refer briefly to any major fields of cooperation characterising the existing bilateral relations between the BS and the DS.

Bilateral relations under the FM 09-14 were strengthened at national, programme and projects' level and results was seen in all 4 dimensions: extent of cooperation, shared results, improved knowledge, mutual understanding and wider effects. DS partners were involved in almost 37% of all projects which resulted in valuable cooperation for both sides in climate change, research and green innovations, culture, development of capacity at state, municipal and regional level, strengthening civil society and supporting the reform of correctional services. NGO fund established good cooperation with Norwegian Helsinki Committee. As well as within the Bilateral fund at national level several European level events were supported, e.g., "Riga – the European Capital of Culture in 2014" and "Latvian presidency of the Council of the EU 2015" what contributed in valuable cooperation with DS experts in broader sense and ensured public awareness about the FM and the DS at the high/EU level.

Under FMs 14-21 continuation of already established strong cooperation between DPPs and POs will be ensured in areas of local development, research and education, business development, environment and climate change and capacity building of correctional services, which facilitates development of bilaterally relevant programmes. In addition, further support will be provided from the BF to an already established cooperation within the area of independent media development (see section 5 "Major Activities").

1.2. Were there any lessons learned from the work to strengthen bilateral relations under the Financial Mechanisms 09-14? Briefly refer to past experiences, highlighting successes that can be built on.

Under the FM 09-14 DPPs, for example, in Climate programme and Capacity building programme, provided significant contributions to promote partnership between Latvian and DS institutions. For some programmes, for example Research and Scholarships Programme, main challenge for POs was a lack of interest from project promoters' side in the Bilateral fund at programme level measures as projects were already bilateral and DS partners were involved in core project activities. Another challenge was lack of DS partners' capacity as all 15 Beneficiary states were looking for partners simultaneously to involve them in bilateral activities. Since under FMs 09-14 bilateral cooperation was implemented at different levels then further under FMs 14-21 is possible to continue established cooperation and extend it.

1.3. Are there any on-going initiatives or upcoming events of importance for bilateral relations to build on? Could initiatives be tied to major events in the Donor or Beneficiary States (state visits, international chairmanships, EU Presidencies, European Capital of Culture, etc.?)

Several events of bilateral importance are coming up during the lifetime of this work plan and could potentially be supported under the BF, including:

- 1) Latvian Centenary Celebrations events in all Latvia and abroad (2017 - 2022);
- 2) Latvia and Norway will celebrate 100 years since Norway recognized Latvia *de jure* (2021).
- 3) Iceland celebrates 100 years as a free and sovereign state (2018);
- 4) Presidency of Latvia in CBSS (July 1, 2018-June 30, 2019);
- 5) Presidency of Latvia in the Baltic Council of Ministers (2019);
- 6) Norway's candidacy to the membership in the UN Security Council.

1.4. How can the funds best be used to promote and facilitate partnership projects under the programmes?

The optimal use of bilateral funds in Latvia will vary between programmes based on the specificities of each programme. It is up to CC of each programme to decide how to best use the BF allocated in the MoU to promote and facilitate partnership projects under the programmes. Matchmaking, networking events, exchange of experience, success stories and other partnership events organised by PO could be used for facilitation of partnership projects.

2. Main objective

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

2.1. Please outline the main aims and ambitions for the Fund for bilateral relations with reference to priority sectors, programmes and measures. Please include reference to any areas of common bilateral interest highlighted in the MoU that should be prioritised, as well as the areas identified by the Joint Committee for Bilateral Funds?

Bilateral relations between DS and Latvia shall be strengthened with the aim of stimulating and developing long-term cooperation within all areas listed in the Annex to Protocol 38c to the EEA Agreement and the Agreement between the Kingdom of Norway and the European Union. It is also an ambition to strengthen bilateral cooperation at political level and European level in areas of common interest. Bilateral priority programmes set in MoU are listed in section 4 “Bilateral Priority Programmes”. Main strategic areas for initiatives beyond the scope of the bilateral priority programmes identified by the JCBF are as follows:

- 1) education and research (cooperation between universities, institutes and libraries; people-to-people contacts, cooperation within think-thanks, youth development; media – development of the independent media and media literacy, research in the field of security policy);
- 2) art and culture (exchange of cultural experiences, exhibitions, concerts, cultural days, conservation of the cultural heritage; translation and popularization of Latvian literature; celebrations of centenary of Latvia);
- 3) cooperation projects between local governments (twin towns) (conferences and other type of networking and exchange of ideas between Latvian and DS local governments);
- 4) promotional activities for business development and bilateral cooperation (conferences and other type of networking and exchange of ideas between Latvian and DS organisations);
- 5) promotional events for bilateral cooperation (EEA and Norway Grants events and other events at conversation festival LAMPA in Cesis, Norwegian days in Latvia, etc);
- 6) promoting transparency and democratic participation.

Flexible implementation of the BF is foreseen, therefore above mentioned strategic areas could be altered or supplemented during the implementation period and amendments in this work plan can be initiated by JCBF members.

2.2. The modalities for allocating funds should be outlined, e.g. calls, pre-defined activities, activities carried out by the NFP, allocations to Programme Operators. Key issues and upcoming larger events should be included.

Allocation of the BF to strategic initiatives is foreseen through pre-defined initiatives. Such pre-defined initiatives will cover strategic areas of support, possibly including upcoming, larger events. According to the MoU one pre-defined initiative is foreseen to be implemented by BCME (presented in section 5 “Major Activities”).

As well in the MoU allocation is made to 6 programme operators for implementation of programme initiatives (presented in section 4 “Bilateral Priority Programmes”). Decision on the management and use of all bilateral funds at programme level will be made by the respective PO (in cooperation with the DPP in the CC, where relevant).

2.3. Please also shortly describe the management of Bilateral Funds, including the selection process.

The BF will be managed:

- 1) at strategic level by the JCBF. JCBF operates according to “Composition, Role and Functioning of JCBF 2014-2021” annexed to the Agreement on the BF signed between the Donors and NFP.
- 2) at operational level – by the NFP;
- 3) national review of initiatives will be ensured by an Advisory Working Group. It is an advisory body established according to the horizontal Regulations on the management of FM 2014-2021 approved by the Latvian Government and chaired by NFP to nationally discuss and to provide opinion about initiatives submitted to the secretariat of JCBF before the review of initiatives in JCBF as well as to provide national proposals for initiative.

Institutions involved in the management of the BF is presented in the Annex 1 and the selection process in Annex 2.

3. Implementation system

Please include a brief description of the implementation system for the Fund for bilateral relations. The modalities for allocating funds should be outlined, e.g. calls, pre-defined activities, activities carried out by the NFP, allocations to Programme Operators. A more detailed description will be included in the detailed description of the management and control systems.

The implementation system for the BF is in line with the DS Regulation and Bilateral Guidelines, as well as with the national normative acts.

The BF has two parts:

- 1) **programme initiatives.** Bilateral funds are already allocated to the programmes through the MoU (700 000 EUR as outlined in the overview under section 4). POs can request additional funds from the JCBF through expression of interest form (annex 4 of DS "Bilateral guidelines"). Decision on the management and use of bilateral funds at programme level will be made by the PO (in cooperation with the DPPs, where applicable, in the CC). NFP as observer in CC has a possibility to monitor and facilitate the use of the funds for bilateral relations at programme level. Provisions concerning implementation of programme initiatives (inter alia eligible applicants, expenditures, applicable state aid rules (if any)) will be included in the Programme's Regulations to be approved by the Latvian Government.
- 2) **strategic initiatives.** Pre-defined initiatives are foreseen with the indicative threshold 10 000 EUR and above in order to avoid unnecessary administration and to ensure visible results. JCBF members can propose initiatives at any time through proposal on strategic initiative¹. Promoters of the initiatives can be Latvian and DS institutions (state institutions, municipalities, NGOs etc.). Provisions concerning implementation of strategic initiatives (inter alia eligible applicants, expenditures and that only strategic initiatives without state aid can be supported under the BF) is included in the horizontal Regulations on the management of FM 2014-2021 approved by the Latvian Government.

Submission and approval of bilateral initiatives:

- 1) PO, JCBF members and representatives of the national Advisory Working Group may submit initiative's proposal to the NFP at any time when it is fully developed and partnership is established. Promoters of the initiatives can be any Latvian or Donor States entity. The NFP will provide assistance to the promoters of initiatives with practicalities regarding filling in the application form (proposal on strategic initiative and expression of interest form for programme initiatives). As well informative material on implementation of strategic initiatives prepared by NFP is available².
- 2) NFP provides administrative check of initiative's proposal according to the checklist³. If necessary, the promoter of initiative improves initiative's proposal.
- 3) NFP submits initiative's proposal to the Advisory Working Group for review and opinion. In case of the donors initiative, initiative's proposal will be sent to JCBF for consideration as well.
- 4) After the Advisory Working Group, NFP ensures submission of initiatives for decision in the Latvian Government for approval of national initiatives or provision of opinion on donor states initiatives. NFP can report about initiatives to the Latvian Government often like twice a year, it will be ensured case-by-case corresponding to planned start of initiative.
- 5) NFP ensures submission of initiative for decision in JCBF depending on planned start of initiative. In parallel to the process of submission of initiatives for decision in the Latvian Government or after decision is taken by the Latvian Government.
- 6) JCBF takes decision about initiative. If it is prior decision of the Latvian Government, then JCBF takes decision will be with conditionality of approval by the Latvian Government.
- 7) NFP informs promoter of the initiative about decision of JCBF.

¹ Available on the webpage <https://www.eegrants.lv/?id=135> section "Fund for bilateral relations".

² Available on the webpage <https://www.eegrants.lv/?id=135> section "Fund for bilateral relations"

³ Available on the webpage <https://www.eegrants.lv/?id=135> section "Fund for bilateral relations".

8) FMD prepares the draft agreement⁴ to be coordinated with the promoter of initiative (provisions for POs are set in the horizontal Regulations on the management of FM 2014-2021 approved by the Latvian Government). Implementation of the initiative starts after the conclusion of the agreement. Process of submission and approval process is presented in Annex 2.

Reporting on bilateral initiatives:

- 1) Submission of reports to NFP on expenditures incurred under the BF is foreseen at least once per year:
 - 1.1. **programme initiatives.** PO reports to NFP on expenditures incurred by PO and promoters of programme initiatives. PO will ensure verification of expenditures incurred by promoters of programme initiatives. If PO is promoter of programme initiative, then a competent and independent public officer or an independent auditor contracted by PO will ensure verification of POs' expenditures. If in the report PO's expenditures will be included, POs shall submit the report together with a report by a competent and independent public officer or an independent auditor. Provisions regarding reporting by PO to NFP is included in the horizontal Regulations on the management of FM 2014-2021 approved by the Latvian Government.
 - 1.2. **strategic initiatives.** Promoter of strategic initiative report to NFP on expenditures incurred by promoter of strategic initiative. A competent and independent public officer or an independent auditor contracted by promoters of strategic initiatives will ensure verification of expenditures incurred by promoter of strategic initiative. Promoter of strategic initiative shall submit the report together with a report by a competent and independent public officer or an independent auditor. In case if NFP is promoter of strategic level initiative, then the CA will ensure verification of expenditures incurred by NFP.
- 2) Verification of reports:
 - 2.1. FMD verifies: financial part of reports submitted by POs and promoters of strategic initiatives; whether the auditor is qualified to carry out such audit; and whether audit report certifies that claimed costs are made in compliance with Regulation, national laws and relevant national accounting practices.
 - 2.2. NFP verifies: content of reports submitted by the PO and promoters of strategic initiatives will be verified on base of initiative approved in the JCBF.
- 3) FMD compiles Interim Financial Reports and submits its to the CA.
- 4) CA certifies Interim Financial Reports and submits them to the FMO bi-annually.
- 5) NFP ensure strategic reporting on the overall progress towards achieving the bilateral objectives in the Strategic Report annually. The bilateral section of the draft Strategic Report will be consulted with the JCBF prior submission of the Strategic Report to the FMO.

⁴ Available on the webpage <https://www.eeagrants.lv/?id=135> section "Fund for bilateral relations".

4. Bilateral Priority Programmes

Programme	DPP(s)	BF allocated in MoU, EUR	JCBF Allocations, EUR	Total allocation, EUR	Comments
Business Development, Innovation and SMEs	Innovation Norway (IN)	125 000	TBD based on expression of interests from PO	125 000	
Research and Education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Research Council of Norway (RCN) • Norwegian Centre for International Cooperation in Education (SIU) • The Liechtenstein National Agency for International Education Affairs 	150 000	TBD based on expression of interests from PO	150 000	
Local Development, Poverty Reduction and Cultural Cooperation	Norwegian Association of Local and Regional Authorities (KS)	125 000	TBD based on expression of interests from PO	125 000	Arts Council Norway shall be actively involved in the preparation of the programme related to the programme area 'Cultural Entrepreneurship, Cultural Heritage and Cultural Cooperation'.
Climate Change Mitigation, Adaptation and Environment	Norwegian Environment Agency (NEA)	100 000	TBD based on expression of interests from PO	100 000	
Correctional Services	Directorate of Norwegian Correctional Services (KDI)	100 000	TBD based on expression of interests from PO	100 000	
International Police Cooperation and Combating Crime	N/A	100 000	TBD based on expression of interests from PO	100 000	International Partner Organisation - Council of Europe.

5. Major activities 2019

Please outline major initiatives foreseen under the Fund for bilateral relations. Following the results-based management approach, please keep a results-focus, identifying outputs with relevant indicators.

The initiatives shall contribute to the common bilateral outcome: Enhanced cooperation between Beneficiary State and Donor State entities involved.

Initiative 1

Title	Building Resilient Media and Inquisitive Audiences in the Baltic States
Implementing entity (beneficiary state entity):	Baltic Centre for Media Excellence ⁵ (BCME)
Partner(s) (each initiative shall involve minimum one donor state entity and one beneficiary state entity):	Norwegian Journalism Institute Norwegian media organization 'Faktisk.no'
Allocation (a detailed budget is not required):	400 000 EUR
Implementation period	April 2019 – March 2022
Short description:	The initiative envisages expansion of interactive resources and mentoring modules aimed at fostering resilience of independent media in Latvia and the Baltic states and improving coordination between like-minded governments from Europe and beyond that support media development in the region (further – donor governments). The initiative will enable BCME to develop, in close collaboration with the Norwegian partners, a set of needs-based data services and a repository of resources for media professionals, and to supply the donor governments with intelligence on media development in the region to assist them in setting priorities on the types of necessary interventions and funding modalities. Norwegian partners will provide knowledge and practical input in capacity building of the innovative local media and creation of high quality multimedia content.

Planned results⁶

NO	OUTCOME	INDICATOR	TARGET
1.	Media independence enhanced	Number of people who self-declare increased competence in use of media tools (disaggregated by countries):	
		Latvia	40
		Norway	0
		Total	40
		Number of people from the donor governments (Including Norway) who self-declare increased	

⁵ Under the fund for bilateral relations €400,000 are earmarked to an initiative with the Baltic Centre of Media Excellence (EEA FM MoU, Annex B, 2.Specific concerns).

⁶ Please refer to the Results Guideline

		knowledge related to independence of the media in the Baltic region:	
			Norway 3 Other 22 Total 25
2.	Enhanced collaboration between donor states and beneficiary state entities involved in the initiative	Level of satisfaction with the partnership (on a scale 1-7)	5
		Number of established network and long-term cooperation with partners and key stakeholders in Donor states	2

NO	OUTPUT	INDICATOR	TARGET
1.1.	New digital newsletters developed	Number of new digital newsletters developed	36
1.2.	Professional staff trained	Number of media professionals trained in cooperation with beneficiary state entities	75
1.3	Multimedia content created for the BCME website	Number of multimedia content created for the BCME website	10
1.4.	Coordination meetings for the donor governments	Number of coordination meetings for the donor governments held	7
1.5.	Applications for further funding for media support submitted	Number of applications for further funding submitted to grant application calls for media support in the Baltic region	2
1.6.	Awareness of project activities among media and donor governments	Level of awareness about the initiatives activities and outcomes among media and donor (on a scale 1-7)	7
2.1	Training and mentoring courses co-organized by donor state (Norway) and beneficiary state entities	Number of training courses co-organised by donor state (Norway) and beneficiary state entities	10

Initiative 2

Title	3D scanning and new technologies in cultural heritage management
Implementing entity <i>(beneficiary state entity):</i>	National heritage board of Latvia
Partner(s) <i>(each initiative shall involve minimum one donor state entity and one beneficiary state entity):</i>	Norwegian directorate of Cultural Heritage
Allocation <i>(a detailed budget is not required):</i>	126 606 EUR
Implementation period	October 2019 – April 2025
Short description:	The aim of the initiative is the capacity building of experts of the national heritage authorities in Latvia and Norway in using innovations and contemporary technology in heritage conservation. The initiative would facilitate setting up platform for further cooperation and knowledge exchange between experts of the beneficiary and donor states. Such knowledge sharing would promote higher quality conservation with appropriate methods involving wider range of experts and awareness of the latest technologies. The initiative foresees organization of bilateral workshops in Latvia and Norway for representatives of heritage authorities to acquire practical skills both in the scanning and in processing of the results obtained. As well elaboration of handbook for wide range of experts in Norway and Latvia, which explain the quality requirements, the recommended data storage formats and technological solutions, is planned.

Planned results⁷

NO	OUTPUT	INDICATOR	TARGET
1.	Workshops co-organised by donor and beneficiary state entities	Number of workshops co-organized by donor and beneficiary state entities. Number of experts.	2 workshops, 10 experts from each country in each workshop
2.	Objects scanned with 3D method	Number of objects scanned with 3D method	4
3.	Seminars for direct users of the research/scanning method (owners, architects, building engineers)	Number of seminars for direct users (owners, architects, building engineers). Number of participants.	2 seminars, 50 experts from each country in the seminars in respective countries.
4.	Handbook on using 3D scanning in heritage research	Number of handbooks on using 3D scanning in heritage research	1
5.	Knowledge and better understanding of innovations and contemporary technology use in heritage conservation.	Increased level of understanding and trained heritage professionals of the benefits and use of innovations and contemporary technology in heritage conservation.	N/A

⁷ Please refer to the Results Guideline

Initiative 3

Title	Participation in the Conversation Festival LAMPA
Implementing entity <i>(beneficiary state entity):</i>	Communications Department of the Ministry of Finance of Latvia
Partner(s) <i>(each initiative shall involve minimum one donor state entity and one beneficiary state entity):</i>	Norwegian Embassy in Riga
Allocation <i>(a detailed budget is not required):</i>	90 000 EUR
Implementation period	June 2019 – July 2024
Short description:	The aim of the initiative is to continue, in collaboration with the Norwegian Embassy in Riga, to provide information, explain and involve the public in Latvia in the support of the FM and achieved results in Latvia. The conversation festival LAMPA ensures an environment for direct communication and the exchange of thoughts among various representatives of the public and direct discussion with society on site. The initiative foresees participation in conversation festivals 4 times, including one participation is planned in one of the donor state, where similar democratic conversation festival takes place, such as cooperation with Arendal (Norway) within the festival – Arendalsuk etc. Discussions about the programmes supported by the FM will be organised in close cooperation with Norwegian Embassy in Riga and POs. DS representatives will be involved in discussions to share experience, to promote bilateral relations as well as to show the cultural characteristics of DS.

Planned results⁸

NO	OUTPUT	INDICATOR	TARGET
1.	Participation in the Conversation Festivals ensured	Number of events organised in cooperation with the Norwegian Embassy in Riga	4 events (expected audience reached within the scope of one event - 15 000)
2.	Two-day discussions were organised in the conversation festivals, the concept whereof has been developed in cooperation with the Norwegian Embassy in Riga, regarding the contribution of the FM, its importance and planned results.	Number of two full days' discussions, the concept whereof has been developed in cooperation with the Norwegian Embassy in Riga.	48 discussions
3.	Informative materials were developed about the programmes supported by and the projects implemented through the FM.	Number of informative materials developed in cooperation with the Norwegian Embassy in Riga and the FM programme operators.	20 infographics and other informative materials, up to 50 recorded videos of discussions from the events.

⁸ Please refer to the Results Guideline

4.	Information and knowledge about the fields supported by the FM. Transformed way of thinking.	Increased level of understanding regarding the fields supported by the FM and public benefits provided.	More informed decisions and choices made by people in everyday life.
5.	Information about the ongoing project selections and options for applying for the support of the FM.	Increased level of awareness of the opened and planned project selections of the FM.	Increased number of submitted project proposals.

Initiative 4

Title	Norway-Baltic Research Network. Critical Infrastructure: Institutional Coordination and Policy Preferences
Implementing entity <i>(beneficiary state entity):</i>	Latvian Institute of International Affairs
Partner(s) <i>(each initiative shall involve minimum one donor state entity and one beneficiary state entity):</i>	1) Norwegian Institute for International Affairs (Norway) 2) International Centre for Defence and Security (Estonia) 3) Institute of International Relations and Political Science at Vilnius University (Lithuania)
Allocation <i>(a detailed budget is not required):</i>	187 000 EUR
Implementation period	January 2020 - June 2021
Short description:	<p>The initiative will strengthen scientific cooperation and research exchange between Latvia and Norway, as well as Estonia and Lithuania. In addition, the initiative aims to establish a network of leading research think tanks to collaborate, with the aim of making more active use of available research tools, technological know-how and offices, as well as sending researchers to other institutes. This initiative will allow the four designated think tanks to set up a long-lasting cooperation network with a continuation after this specific research.</p> <p>The aim of the research proposed by the Norway-Baltic Research Network is to compare the critical infrastructure protection policies and national communication on critical infrastructure used by public authorities in three Baltic States (Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania) and Norway. The research will be conducted in the framework of the national legislation of the four countries, taking into account the specific and sensitive nature of the research theme.</p> <p>The initiative will provide an opportunity to discuss the necessary improvements in policy and communication on critical infrastructure, including in the media, with a view to strengthening confidence of society in public authorities, promoting pragmatic engagement of society in critical infrastructure provision and reducing the impact of communication that creates a sense of vulnerability in society.</p>

Planned results⁹

NO	OUTPUT	INDICATOR	TARGET
1.	Research consortium of scientists	A consortium for both this initiative and future initiatives and applications created	1
2.	Workshops co-organized by consortium partners	Number of workshops co-organized by consortium partners	5
3.	Final book with research results (audience)	Number of readers	10 000

⁹ Please refer to the Results Guideline

4.	Appearances in mass media	Number of interviews	20
5.	Audience reached via mass media during initiative's duration by communicating on research results and initiative itself	Number of persons	300 000
6.	Exchange of research findings, methodology and key data	Higher levels of expertise and quality of research	N/A
7.	Expert and public awareness on situation with critical infrastructure in region	Increased public and decision maker knowledge about importance and state-of-play of critical infrastructure in the region	N/A

Initiative 5

Title	The international cycle of conferences with participation of Norwegian and Latvian experts on issues topical for correctional services
Implementing entity <i>(beneficiary state entity):</i>	The Ministry of Justice of Republic of Latvia
Partner(s) <i>(each initiative shall involve minimum one donor state entity and one beneficiary state entity):</i>	Directorate of Norwegian Correctional Service
Allocation <i>(a detailed budget is not required):</i>	98 700 EUR
Implementation period	October 2020 – March 2025
Short description:	<p>The aim of the initiative is to strengthen the bilateral cooperation between institutions of correctional service system in Norway and Latvia, beyond the scope of the NFM 2014-2021 period programme “Correctional services”. More specifically, the target group will be staff of the correctional service in Norway and Latvia. Norway and Latvia established a very close and good cooperation in the previous programme period 2009-2014 and have achieved very good results – both on programme – and project level, and on the bilateral level.</p> <p>This cooperation was highly successful and Directorate of Norwegian Correctional Service (hereinafter – KDI) ranged the cooperation with Latvia as the best of all beneficiary countries that they were working with. Both Norway and Latvia see the great opportunity to build on this platform and are eager to develop the bilateral cooperation further.</p> <p>Both parties would like to organize common international conferences, with the participation of highest level of experts from Latvia and Norway, focusing on relevant professional topics for both sides. Moreover, Norway and Latvia would like to share this knowledge with other beneficiary countries that are trying to improve their own correctional services. KDI would therefore like to invite other beneficiary countries with programmes within the correctional services to participate in the conferences.</p>

Planned results¹⁰

NO	OUTPUT	INDICATOR	TARGET
1.	<i>International conferences in Latvia for correctional service specialists</i>	<i>Number of international conferences organized in Latvia</i>	2
2.	<i>The audience of the international conferences in Latvia</i>	<i>Number of participants</i>	140
3.	<i>Participation of the Latvian and Norwegian correctional service system specialists in the international events</i>	<i>Number of participants</i>	16

¹⁰ Please refer to the Results Guideline

4.	<i>ICPA conference on 2020</i>	<i>Number of participants (NOR and LV)</i>	3
5.	<i>Established summaries with conclusions, suggestions and further action plan after each of the event</i>	<i>Number of summaries developed</i>	8

Initiative 6

Title	Building public resilience through verified knowledge sources: a Latvian-Norwegian encyclopaedic approach
Implementing entity <i>(beneficiary state entity):</i>	National Library of Latvia
Partner(s) <i>(each initiative shall involve minimum one donor state entity and one beneficiary state entity):</i>	Store norske leksikon
Allocation <i>(a detailed budget is not required):</i>	52 801 EUR
Implementation period	September 2020 – November 2021
Short description:	<p>The main aim of this initiative is to make verified knowledge and understandable common-interest information more easily available to the general public of Latvia and Norway, in the context of misinformation, fake news and propaganda. This will be done through strengthening the competence of the editorial teams of the National Encyclopaedia (NE) and Store norske leksikon (SNL) of Norway. This includes the exchange of editorial policies, workflow methods, best practices and technical solutions, but also an increased understanding of the historic, societal, political and educational context of each country, in addition to their media, communications and misinformation landscapes. This will be done through three workshops that will be organized by and for the editorial teams of the two encyclopaedias, where both in-house and external expertise will be engaged to enhance the encyclopaedias' outreach to the public in the respective countries and strengthen and improve both content and technical solutions.</p> <p>Initiative is based on the idea of making available dissemination of the information for the wide public audience through modern and forward-looking media – expert-written encyclopaedia. Renaissance of the encyclopaedic approach is gaining strength currently in Europe which is evidenced by the recent activities in various countries finding solutions to the fight against disinformation and fake news. Even more – encyclopedias, as is shown in both Latvian and Norwegian case, could be essential in producing valuable extra-curricular content for the general educational institutions and the institutions of higher education. National encyclopedias also provide additional impetus for the securing place to the smaller languages, non-English native speaking population in the knowledge-based environment, using academic resources in providing reliable information to the general audience via their native tongue.</p>

Planned results¹¹

NO	OUTPUT	INDICATOR	TARGET
1.	Organized seminars by both parties.	Number of seminars co-organized by donor and beneficiary state entities. Number of experts.	3 seminars (20 persons, the same persons for each seminar)
2.	Guidelines about methodology for the online encyclopedia	Number of guidelines developed	3 (one for each workshop)
3.	New and enlarged content of encyclopedia	Number of articles	15 articles (at least 5 for each seminar)
4.	Understanding and knowledge of the basic principles of work content preparation methodology by other encyclopedia as well improvement of editing/working platform.	Increased awareness of the principles of encyclopedia creation in today's technological environment.	N/A

¹¹ Please refer to the Results Guideline

Initiative 7

Title	Building bridges between Latvian and Norwegian democracy festivals and municipalities
Implementing entity <i>(beneficiary state entity):</i>	Foundation for an Open Society DOTS – the organiser of the Conversation festival LAMPA
Partner(s) <i>(each initiative shall involve minimum one donor state entity and one beneficiary state entity):</i>	Arendalsuka Cēsis municipality Arendal municipality
Allocation <i>(a detailed budget is not required):</i>	56 200 EUR
Implementation period	May 2020 – December 2022
Short description:	<p>The aim of the project is to promote closer cooperation between Latvia and Norway, peer-to-peer learning among Conversation festival LAMPA and Arendalsuka, municipalities of Cesis and Arendal and to expand and deepen understanding in Latvia and Norway about current issues at European, national, municipal and festivals' levels.</p> <p>In an increasingly divided and polarised world, democracy festivals such as Conversation festival LAMPA and Arendalsuka have become outstanding platforms for discussing matters of societal concern about the respective countries, Europe and the world in face-to-face conversations. Co-created by a diverse array of civil society organisations, municipalities, public authorities, private companies, media, universities, political parties, embassies and international organisations, the festivals strengthen democracy and democratic conversation culture, open up policy-making processes to wider audiences, shorten the link between decision-makers, politicians and citizens, and create an open platform for direct engagement and interaction for people from different backgrounds.</p> <p>Cooperation between the festivals and the municipalities will expand the possibilities for interaction between Latvia and Norway to a broader citizenry – individuals, NGOs, businesses and others by giving a platform for jointly produced events at both festivals.</p>

Planned results¹²

NO	OUTPUT	INDICATOR	TARGET
1.	Created cooperation between democracy festivals Lampa and Arendalsuka	Number of events produced by conversation festival Lampa within festival Arendalsuka	2 One event in 2020, one event in 2021
2.	Created cooperation between democracy festivals Lampa and Arendalsuka	Number of events produced by conversation festival Lampa within festival Arendalsuka	1 One event in 2022
3.	Stakeholders and individuals benefited from bilateral cooperation	Number of stakeholders and individuals from Latvia, Norway and other countries	4 individuals per event, 12 in 3 events

¹² Please refer to the Results Guideline

		involved as speakers and experts.	
4.	Festival Arendsuka un Lampa visitors benefited from taking part in produced events	Number of visitors benefited from taking part in produced events	20 000 festival visitors each year/ 60 000 festival visitors in 3 years
5.	Strengthened and developed competences of festival organisers	Number of meetings	4 meetings
6.	Strengthened and developed cooperation between municipalities.	Number of visits and meetings	2 visits and 1 meeting
7.	Established cooperation and knowledge exchange between Arendsuka and Conversation festival LAMPA	Strengthened capacity of organizing teams of LAMPA and Arendsuka.	
8.	Developed cooperation and mutual learning opportunities among Cēsis and Arendal municipalities	Enhanced closer collaboration and deeper understanding about topics of relevance for both municipalities. Strengthened democratic dialogue between both municipalities	<u>N/A</u>
9.	Knowledge of the other country's cultural, political and socio-economic situation provided.	Attendees of festivals in Latvia and Norway educated about topical issues, ideas and solutions in Latvia and Norway. Increased level of understanding of the other country's cultural, political and socio-economic situation	<u>N/A</u>

6. Budget 2020

Please note that this budget follows the structure of the IFR template.

Title	Budget, EUR			Comments
	Allocated in the MoU	Allocated by the JCBF	Total	
Activities carried out by the NFP	0	-	0	
Call for proposals (<i>national level. In case several calls are foreseen, please add one line for each call</i>)	0	-	0	
Pre-defined activities (<i>total budget for planned pre-defined activities at national level</i>)	400 000 ¹³	512 607	912 607	
Research and Education	150 000	TBD based on expression of interests from POs	150 000	
Local Development, Poverty Reduction and Cultural Cooperation	125 000		125 000	
International Police Cooperation and Combating Crime	100 000		100 000	
Business Development, Innovation and SMEs	125 000		125 000	
Climate Change Mitigation, Adaptation and Environmental Improvement	100 000		100 000	
Correctional Services	100 000	98 700	198 700	JCBF decision No.6 on 19.09.2019.
Funds still to be allocated by JCBF	N/A	730 693	730 693	
TOTAL	1 100 000	1 342 000	2 442 000	

¹³ Under the fund for bilateral relations €400,000 are earmarked to an initiative with the Baltic Centre of Media Excellence (EEA FM MoU, Annex B, 2.Specific concerns).

Institutions involved in the management of the BF

JCBF (Embassies of Donor States (Norway, Iceland, Liechtenstein), MoFA, NFP)

- ✓ responsible for assessment of proposed initiatives;
- ✓ adopts the Work Plan;
- ✓ allocates bilateral funds, final decision to approve or reject the initiative (excluding already allocated funds in the MoU to POs) ;
- ✓ reviews overall progress of implementation of the BF.

Latvian Government

Makes decision on Advisory Working Group's opinion to be represented in the JCBF by the NFP and the MoFA.

Advisory Working Group

An advisory body established by the NFP to nationally discuss and to provide opinion about initiatives submitted to the secretariat of the JCBF before the review of initiatives in the JCBF as well as to provide national proposals for initiatives.

- ✓ Line Ministries (including POs);
- ✓ NGOs;
- ✓ NFP;
- ✓ Social and cooperation partners (largest umbrella NGOs of employees, employers, trade and municipalities, large cities)

NFP

- ✓ responsible for overall monitoring of implementation of the BF;
- ✓ Organising the JCBF meetings (including the Secretariat function);
- ✓ Certain administrative functions of the NFP will be ensured by the FMD, i.s., signing of agreements with promoters of strategic initiatives, verification of reports from POs and promoters of strategic initiatives, compilation of aggregated Interim Financial Reports and the final balance.

MoFA (JCBF member)

Defines the strategic areas of Latvia for the national level initiatives of the BF.

Provide proposals for strategic level initiatives

Submit initiative proposals to the JCBF for approval/rejection

Submits necessary documentation

Provide proposals for strategic or programme level initiatives

Provides opinion regarding the initiative proposals submitted by the JCBF members and POs

PO

Responsible for implementation of bilateral funds allocated to the programmes, i.s., ensures the best use of the funds and promotion of partnership projects under the programmes, signing of agreements with promoters of programmes' initiatives, verification of reports submitted by promoters of programmes' initiatives.

Provide proposals for programme level initiatives (for additional financing, not in the MoU allocated)

Provide proposals for strategic level initiatives

Donor States (JCBF members)



