



ΕΦΗΜΕΡΙΔΑ ΤΗΣ ΚΥΒΕΡΝΗΣΕΩΣ ΤΗΣ ΕΛΛΗΝΙΚΗΣ ΔΗΜΟΚΡΑΤΙΑΣ

18 Μαΐου 2020

ΤΕΥΧΟΣ ΔΕΥΤΕΡΟ

Αρ. Φύλλου 1896

ΑΠΟΦΑΣΕΙΣ

Αριθμ. 45504

Χρηματοδότηση του Ταμείου Διμερών Σχέσεων ΧΜ ΕΟΧ 2014-2021, με Διαχειριστή την Ειδική Υπηρεσία Προγραμματισμού, Συντονισμού και Παρακολούθησης της Υλοποίησης των Χρηματοδοτικών Μηχανισμών Ευρωπαϊκού Οικονομικού Χώρου (ΕΟΧ) - Εθνικό Σημείο Επαφής με πόρους κατά 100% του Χρηματοδοτικού Μηχανισμού Ευρωπαϊκού Οικονομικού Χώρου (ΧΜ ΕΟΧ) περιόδου 2014-2021.

**Ο ΥΦΥΠΟΥΡΓΟΣ
ΑΝΑΠΤΥΞΗΣ ΚΑΙ ΕΠΕΝΔΥΣΕΩΝ**

Έχοντας υπόψη:

1. Το άρθρο 90 του «Κώδικα νομοθεσίας για την Κυβέρνηση και τα κυβερνητικά όργανα», που κυρώθηκε με το άρθρο πρώτο του π.δ. 63/2005 (Α' 98), όπως ισχύει.

2. Το π.δ. 147/2017 (Α' 192) «Οργανισμός του Υπουργείου Οικονομίας και Ανάπτυξης».

3. Το π.δ. 81/2019 (Α' 119) «Σύσταση, συγχώνευση, μετονομασία και κατάργηση Υπουργείων και καθορισμός των αρμοδιοτήτων τους Μεταφορά υπηρεσιών και αρμοδιοτήτων μεταξύ Υπουργείων».

4. Το π.δ. 83/2019 (Α' 121) «Διορισμός Αντιπροέδρου της κυβέρνησης, Υπουργών, Αναπληρωτών Υπουργών και Υφυπουργών».

5. Την υπ' αρ. 13249/4-2-2020 (Β' 526) κοινή υπουργική απόφαση «Καθορισμός Συστήματος Διαχείρισης και Ελέγχου για την υλοποίηση του Χρηματοδοτικού Μηχανισμού του Ευρωπαϊκού Οικονομικού Χώρου (Χ.Μ. - ΕΟΧ) περιόδου 2014-2021 - Κατανομή των Πόρων» και ειδικότερα το άρθρο 4.6 αυτής.

6. Την υπ' αρ. 47/18.7.2019 (Β' 3100) κοινή απόφαση Πρωθυπουργού και Υπουργού Ανάπτυξης και Επενδύσεων «Ανάθεση αρμοδιοτήτων στον Υφυπουργό Ανάπτυξης και Επενδύσεων, Ιωάννη Τσακίρη».

7. Τον ν. 4314/2014 (Α' 265) «Α) Για τη διαχείριση, τον έλεγχο και την εφαρμογή αναπτυξιακών παρεμβάσεων για την προγραμματική περίοδο 2014 - 2020, Β) Ενσωμάτωση της Οδηγίας 2012/17 του Ευρωπαϊκού Κοινοβουλίου και του Συμβουλίου της 13ης Ιουνίου 2012 (ΕΕ L 156/16.6.2012) στο ελληνικό δίκαιο, τροποποίηση του ν. 3419/2005 (Α 297) και άλλες διατάξεις», όπως ισχύει.

8. Τον ν. 4608/2019 (Α' 66) "Ελληνική Αναπτυξιακή Τράπεζα και προσέλκυση Στρατηγικών Επενδύσεων και άλλες διατάξεις", όπως ισχύει και ιδίως το άρθρο 34 παρ.8, το οποίο αντικατέστησε την περ. β της παρ. 8 του αρ. 58 του ν. 4314/2014 (Α' 265).

9. Τον ν. 4605/2019 (Α' 52) «Εναρμόνιση της ελληνικής νομοθεσίας με την Οδηγία (ΕΕ) 2016/943 του Ευρωπαϊκού Κοινοβουλίου και του Συμβουλίου της 8ης Ιουνίου 2016 σχετικά με την προστασία της τεχνολογίας και των επιχειρηματικών πληροφοριών που δεν έχουν αποκαλυφθεί (εμπορικό απόρρητο) από την παράνομη απόκτηση, χρήση και αποκάλυψή τους (ΕΕ L 157 της 15.6.2016) - Μέτρα για την επιτάχυνση του έργου του Υπουργείου Οικονομίας και Ανάπτυξης και άλλες διατάξεις», όπως ισχύει και ιδίως το άρθρο 27.

10. Τον ν. 4270/2014 (Α' 1434) «Αρχές Δημοσιονομικής Διαχείρισης και εποπτείας [ενσωμάτωσης της Οδηγίας 2011/85/ΕΕ] - δημόσιο λογιστικό και άλλες διατάξεις» και ειδικότερα τα άρθρα 121-123, όπως ισχύουν.

11. Την υπ' αρ. 134453/23.12.2015 (Β' 2857) κοινή υπουργική απόφαση για τις Ρυθμίσεις για τις πληρωμές των δαπανών του Προγράμματος Δημοσίων Επενδύσεων (ΠΔΕ) και σχετικές Οδηγίες της Ειδικής Υπηρεσίας Θεσμικής Υποστήριξης.

12. Την υπ' αρ. 85335/13.8.2015 (Β' 1706/2015) κοινή υπουργική απόφαση για τον Επανακαθορισμό της λειτουργίας του κεντρικού λογαριασμού 23/200850 για την εθνική συγχρηματοδότηση των Διαρθρωτικών Ταμείων, Ταμείου Συνοχής και ΕΟΧ.

13. Την υπ' αρ. 137675/ΕΥΘΥ 1016 /19.12.2018 (Β' 5968) υπουργική απόφαση με τίτλο "Αντικατάσταση της υπ' αριθμ. 110427/ΕΥΘΥ/1020/20.10.2016 υπουργικής απόφασης με τίτλο «Τροποποίηση και αντικατάσταση της υπ' αριθμ. 81986/ΕΥΘΥ 712/31.7.2015 υπουργική απόφαση "Εθνικοί κανόνες επιλεξιμότητας δαπανών για τα προγράμματα του ΕΣΠΑ 2014 - 2020 - Έλεγχος νομιμότητας δημοσίων συμβάσεων συγχρηματοδοτούμενων πράξεων ΕΣΠΑ 2014-2020 από Αρχές Διαχείρισης και Ενδιάμεσους Φορείς - Διαδικασία ενστάσεων επί των αποτελεσμάτων αξιολόγησης πράξεων"».

14. Την υπ' αρ. 23451/ΕΥΣΣΑ 493/24.2.2017 (Β' 677) υπουργική απόφαση με τίτλο «Διαδικασίες κατάρτισης, έγκρισης και υλοποίησης προγραμμάτων Τεχνικής Βοήθειας, διαδικασίες δημιουργίας και διατήρησης κατα-

λόγων προμηθευτών για την ανάθεση και υλοποίηση ενεργειών τεχνικής βοήθειας», όπως τροποποιήθηκε με την υπ' αρ. 28876/ΕΥΣΣΑ 498 (Β' 938/2018) υπουργική απόφαση και ισχύει.

15. Την υπ' αρ. 14235/6.2.2020 εγκύκλιο Οδηγιών για την Έγκριση και Χρηματοδότηση του ΠΔΕ 2020 και τον Προγραμματισμό Δαπανών ΠΔΕ 2021 - 2023.

16. Την υπ' αρ. 58969 ΕΥ ΧΜ-ΕΟΧ 738/25.5.2017 (Β' 2012) υπουργική απόφαση για τη «Διάρθρωση της Ειδικής Υπηρεσίας Προγραμματισμού, Συντονισμού και Παρακολούθησης της υλοποίησης των Χρηματοδοτικών Μηχανισμών του Ευρωπαϊκού Οικονομικού Χώρου (ΕΥ - Χ.Μ. ΕΟΧ), του άρθρου 53Α του ν. 4314/2014».

17. Το διεθνές Πρωτόκολλο 38c της Συμφωνίας Ευρωπαϊκού Οικονομικού Χώρου, το οποίο συστήνει τον Χρηματοδοτικό Μηχανισμό ΕΟΧ 2014-2021 (εφεξής, ΧΜ ΕΟΧ 2014-2021), μέσω του οποίου οι δότριες χώρες συνεισφέρουν στη μείωση των οικονομικών και κοινωνικών ανισοτήτων εντός του Ευρωπαϊκού Οικονομικού Χώρου.

18. Τον από 8-9-2016 «Κανονισμό για την εφαρμογή του Χρηματοδοτικού Μηχανισμού ΕΟΧ των ετών 2014-2021 (Regulation on the implementation of the European Economic Area - EEA Financial Mechanism 2014-2021)», όπως υιοθετήθηκε από την Επιτροπή Χρηματοδοτικού Μηχανισμού βάσει του άρθρου 10.5 του Πρωτοκόλλου 38c της Συμφωνίας ΕΟΧ.

19. Τις λοιπές κατευθυντήριες οδηγίες (Guidelines) περιόδου 2014-2021 που έχουν θεσπισθεί και υιοθετηθεί από την Επιτροπή Χ.Μ. ΕΟΧ (FMC), όπως ισχύουν.

20. Το από 31-10-2017 Μνημόνιο Κατανόησης (Memorandum of Understanding) για την υλοποίηση του Χρηματοδοτικού Μηχανισμού Ευρωπαϊκού Οικονομικού Χώρου περιόδου 2014-2021 που υπεγράφη μεταξύ της Δημοκρατίας της Ισλανδίας, του Πριγκιπάτου του Λιχτενστάιν, του Βασιλείου της Νορβηγίας αφενός και της αφετέρου Ελληνικής Δημοκρατίας, εκπροσωπούμενης από το Υπουργείο Ανάπτυξης και Επενδύσεων, (εφεξής, Μνημόνιο Κατανόησης), όπως ισχύει.

21. Την από 2-4-2019 Συμφωνία Ταμείου Διμερών Σχέσεων που υπεγράφη μεταξύ των Δοτριών χωρών αφενός και της Ελληνικής Δημοκρατίας αφετέρου, όπως εκπροσωπείται αρμοδίως από το Υπουργείο Ανάπτυξης και Επενδύσεων (εφεξής, Συμφωνία Ταμείου Διμερών Σχέσεων), όπως ισχύει και η οποία αποτελεί αναπόσπαστο μέρος της παρούσας απόφασης (Παράρτημα Ι).

22. Το έγγραφο του Εθνικού Σημείου Επαφής για την συγκρότηση και λειτουργία της Μικτής Επιτροπής για το Ταμείο Διμερών Σχέσεων του άρθρ. 4.2 της κοινής υπουργικής απόφασης 13249/4-2-2020 (Β' 526) ΣΔΕ ΕΟΧ (εφεξής, Μικτή Επιτροπή), με τίτλο «Σύνθεση, ρόλος και λειτουργία της Μικτής Επιτροπής για το Ταμείο Διμερών Σχέσεων - Joint Committee for Bilateral Funds, JCBF μεταξύ των Δοτριών χωρών και της Ελλάδας, το οποίο υιοθέτησε η Μικτή Επιτροπή για το Ταμείο Διμερών Σχέσεων, σύμφωνα με τα πρακτικά της από 16/10/2018 συνεδρίασής της.

23. Τα πρακτικά των συνεδριάσεων και τις αποφάσεις της Μικτής Επιτροπής για το Ταμείο Διμερών Σχέσεων του άρθρ. 4.2 της κοινής υπουργικής απόφασης 13249/4-2-2020 (Β' 526) ΣΔΕ ΕΟΧ.

24. Το Σχέδιο Δράσης (Workplan) Ταμείου Διμερών Σχέσεων του άρθρ. 2.4 της από 2.4.2019 Συμφωνίας Ταμείου Διμερών Σχέσεων (εφεξής, Σχέδιο Δράσης) (Παράρτημα ΙΙ), το οποίο υιοθέτησε η Μικτή Επιτροπή για το Ταμείο Διμερών Σχέσεων, σύμφωνα με τα πρακτικά της από 27/2/2020 συνεδρίασής της.

25. Το γεγονός ότι από την απόφαση αυτή δεν προκαλείται περαιτέρω δαπάνη σε βάρος του κρατικού προϋπολογισμού από εκείνη, ύψους 61.094.560 ευρώ, που αναφέρεται στη υπ' αρ. 13249/4-2-2020 (Β' 526) κοινή υπουργική απόφαση «Καθορισμός Συστήματος Διαχείρισης και Ελέγχου για την υλοποίηση του Χρηματοδοτικού Μηχανισμού του Ευρωπαϊκού Οικονομικού Χώρου (Χ.Μ. - ΕΟΧ) περιόδου 2014-2021 - Κατανομή των Πόρων», αποφασίζουμε:

1. Τη χρηματοδότηση του Ταμείου Διμερών Σχέσεων ΧΜ ΕΟΧ 2014-2021 του άρθρου 4.6 της κοινής υπουργικής απόφασης 13249/4-2-2020 (Β' 526) ΣΔΕ ΕΟΧ (εφεξής, Ταμείο Διμερών Σχέσεων), με Διαχειριστή την Ειδική Υπηρεσία Προγραμματισμού, συντονισμού και παρακολούθησης της υλοποίησης των Χρηματοδοτικών Μηχανισμών Ευρωπαϊκού Οικονομικού Χώρου (ΕΥ ΧΜ ΕΟΧ) - Εθνικό Σημείο Επαφής, με το ποσό των δυο εκατομμυρίων τριακοσίων τριάντα τεσσάρων χιλιάδων ευρώ (€ 2.334.000), κατ' ανώτατο επιτρεπτό όριο, στο πλαίσιο υλοποίησης του Χρηματοδοτικού Μηχανισμού Ευρωπαϊκού Οικονομικού Χώρου (ΧΜ ΕΟΧ) περιόδου 2014-2021.

2. Το ως άνω ποσό χρηματοδότησης, όπως ορίζεται στην Συμφωνία Ταμείου Διμερών Σχέσεων, καλύπτεται κατά 100% (ήτοι € 2.334.000) από πόρους του Χρηματοδοτικού Μηχανισμού Ευρωπαϊκού Οικονομικού Χώρου (ΧΜ ΕΟΧ, εφεξής) περιόδου 2014-2021.

3. Η χρηματοδότηση καλύπτει τη χρονική περίοδο επιλεξιμότητας των δαπανών από την υπογραφή του Μνημονίου Κατανόησης (Memorandum of Understanding) έως την καταληκτική ημερομηνία υλοποίησης Ταμείου Διμερών Σχέσεων ΧΜ ΕΟΧ 2014-2021, ήτοι από την 31 Οκτωβρίου 2017 έως την 30η Απριλίου 2025.

4. Το Ταμείο Διμερών Σχέσεων χρησιμοποιείται για τη στήριξη δραστηριοτήτων που αποσκοπούν στην ενίσχυση των διμερών σχέσεων μεταξύ των δοτριών χωρών του ΧΜ ΕΟΧ 2014-2021 και της Ελλάδας, σύμφωνα με το άρθρο 4.1 της κοινής υπουργικής απόφασης 13249/4-2-2020 (Β' 526) ΣΔΕ ΕΟΧ.

5. Η υλοποίηση του Ταμείου Διμερών Σχέσεων, καθώς και οι υποχρεώσεις του Εθνικού Σημείου Επαφής και των άλλων εθνικών αρχών διέπονται από το θεσμικό πλαίσιο του ΧΜ ΕΟΧ 2014-2021 και το εθνικό δίκαιο, όπως ορίζονται στην υπ' αρ. 13249/4-2-2020 (Β' 526) «κοινή υπουργική απόφαση «Καθορισμός Συστήματος Διαχείρισης και Ελέγχου για την υλοποίηση του Χρηματοδοτικού Μηχανισμού του Ευρωπαϊκού Οικονομικού Χώρου (Χ.Μ. - ΕΟΧ) περιόδου 2014-2021 - Κατανομή των Πόρων» και είναι δεσμευτικό.

Ειδικότεροι όροι και προβλέψεις υλοποίησης ορίζονται:

(α) στην από 2.4.2019 Συμφωνία Ταμείου Διμερών Σχέσεων (Παράρτημα Ι της παρούσας),

(β) στο Σχέδιο Δράσης (Workplan) Ταμείου Διμερών Σχέσεων του άρθρ. 2.4 της από 2.4.2019 Συμφωνίας Ταμείου Διμερών Σχέσεων (Παράρτημα ΙΙ της παρούσας),

(γ) στο Έγγραφο του Εθνικού Σημείου Επαφής για την συγκρότηση και λειτουργία της Μικτής Επιτροπής για το Ταμείο Διμερών Σχέσεων του άρθρ. 4.2 της κοινής υπουργικής απόφασης 13249/4-2-2020 (Β' 526) ΣΔΕ ΕΟΧ (εφεξής, Μικτή Επιτροπή), με τίτλο «Σύνθεση, ρόλος και λειτουργία της Μικτής Επιτροπής για το Ταμείο Διμερών Σχέσεων - Joint Committee for Bilateral Funds, JCBF μεταξύ των Δοτριών χωρών και της Ελλάδας, όπως το υιοθετεί η Μικτή Επιτροπή για το Ταμείο Διμερών Σχέσεων και ισχύει.

6. Το Εθνικό Σημείο Επαφής συντάσσει και υποβάλλει στην Μικτή Επιτροπή Σχέδιο Δράσης (Workplan) Ταμείου Διμερών Σχέσεων του άρθρ. 2.4 της από 2.4.2019 Συμφωνίας Ταμείου Διμερών Σχέσεων (Παράρτημα ΙΙ της παρούσας). Το Σχέδιο Δράσης εγκρίνεται και τροποποιείται με απόφαση της Μικτής Επιτροπής για το Ταμείο Διμερών Σχέσεων και παραμένει σε ισχύ χωρίς να απαιτείται τροποποίηση της παρούσας απόφασης.

7. Ο προϋπολογισμός του Ταμείου Διμερών Σχέσεων (€ 2.334.000) κατανέμεται: α) στα προγράμματα τα οποία υλοποιούν οι ελληνικές εθνικές αρχές, στα οποία και εκχωρείται το αντίστοιχο ποσό, β) στα προγράμματα του άρθρ. 6.13 της κοινής υπουργικής απόφασης 13249/4-2-2020 (Β' 526) ΣΔΕ ΕΟΧ, γ) στην υλοποίηση διμερών έργων σε εθνικό επίπεδο. Για την περίπτωση (α) της παρούσας παραγράφου, ο Διαχειριστής εκάστου Προγράμματος αναλαμβάνει τις αρμοδιότητες και υποχρεώσεις του ρόλου του σύμφωνα με την κοινή υπουργική απόφαση 13249/4-2-2020 (Β' 526) ΣΔΕ ΕΟΧ, άρθρ. 5.6 για την διαχείριση του εκχωρούμενου ποσού και η υλοποίηση των διμερών έργων στο πλαίσιο αυτού. Ταυτόχρονα ο Διαχειριστής Προγράμματος κοινοποιεί τις αποφάσεις ένταξης διμερών έργων στο Εθνικό Σημείο Επαφής, συνεργάζεται με αυτό για την πιστοποίηση των δαπανών και του υποβάλλει τις προβλεπόμενες από το ΣΔΕ ΕΟΧ αναφορές και εκθέσεις, καθώς και άλλα στοιχεία ή έγγραφα που ζητούνται σχετικά με την υλοποίηση του ποσού εκχώρησης του Ταμείου Διμερών Σχέσεων στο πρόγραμμά τους. Για τις περιπτώσεις (β) και (γ) της παρούσας παραγράφου, το Εθνικό Σημείο Επαφής αναλαμβάνει κατ' αναλογία τις αρμοδιότητες και υποχρεώσεις Διαχειριστή Προγράμματος σύμφωνα με την κοινή υπουργική απόφαση 13249/4-2-2020 (Β' 526) ΣΔΕ ΕΟΧ, άρθρ. 5.6. για την διαχείριση των αντίστοιχων ποσών κατανομής και την υλοποίηση των διμερών έργων στο πλαίσιο αυτών. Τα διμερή έργα με Φορέα Υλοποίησης το Εθνικό Σημείο Επαφής στο πλαίσιο της κατανομής στην περίπτωση (γ) της παρούσας παραγράφου, υλοποιούνται σύμφωνα με τις ισχύουσες προβλέψεις για την υλοποίηση έργων με Φορέα Υλοποίησης το Εθνικό Σημείο Επαφής της Τεχνικής Βοήθειας του άρθρ. 8.11 της κοινής υπουργικής απόφασης 13249/4-2-2020 (Β' 526) ΣΔΕ ΕΟΧ.

8. Το Εθνικό Σημείο Επαφής διατηρεί την ευθύνη για την σύνταξη και υποβολή των ενδιάμεσων οικονομικών εκθέσεων, των εκθέσεων σχετικά με τα ποσά των τόκων που εισπράχθηκαν βάσει των άρθρων 6.11, 6.12, 9.3,

9.4 και 9.7 της κοινής υπουργικής απόφασης 13249/4-2-2020 (Β' 526) ΣΔΕ ΕΟΧ για το σύνολο του Ταμείου Διμερών Σχέσεων, καθώς και την υποβολή στην Αρχή Πιστοποίησης των προβλέψεων των πιθανών αιτήσεων πληρωμών που θα απαιτηθούν ώστε η Αρχή Πιστοποίησης να εκπληρώσει τις υποχρεώσεις σύμφωνα με το άρθρο 9.5 της κοινής υπουργικής απόφασης 13249/4-2-2020 (Β' 526) ΣΔΕ ΕΟΧ. Το Εθνικό Σημείο Επαφής διατηρεί επίσης την ευθύνη για την εν γένει παρακολούθηση της υλοποίησης της εκχώρησης του Ταμείου Διμερών στα προγράμματα, και υποβάλλει αναφορά για τη χρήση των πόρων και την πορεία υλοποίησης για το σύνολο του Ταμείου Διμερών Σχέσεων στο πλαίσιο της ετήσιας Έκθεσης Στρατηγικής, σύμφωνα με το άρθρ. 4.6 παρ. 2 της κοινής υπουργικής απόφασης 13249/4-2-2020 (Β' 526) ΣΔΕ ΕΟΧ.

9. Η αρχική κατανομή ποσών της παραγράφου 7 προκύπτει από τις προβλέψεις του Μνημονίου Κατανόησης. Η κατανομή τροποποιείται με αποφάσεις της Μικτής Επιτροπής για το Ταμείο Διμερών Σχέσεων. Η εκάστοτε εν ισχύ κατανομή συμπεριλαμβάνεται στο Σχέδιο Δράσης, όπως τροποποιείται και ισχύει.

10. Τα ποσά του Ταμείου Διμερών Σχέσεων που εκχωρούνται στα προγράμματα που υλοποιούν οι ελληνικές αρχές, όπως αυτά προκύπτουν από την αντίστοιχη κατανομή η οποία συμπεριλαμβάνεται στο Σχέδιο Δράσης (Workplan) Ταμείου Διμερών Σχέσεων, το οποίο υιοθέτησε η Μικτή Επιτροπή για το Ταμείο Διμερών Σχέσεων, σύμφωνα με τα πρακτικά της από 27/2/2020 συνεδρίασης της έχουν ως ακολούθως:

- Ποσό ύψους 50.000 € εκχωρείται στο πρόγραμμα με τίτλο «Κοινωνική ένταξη και ενδυνάμωση Ρομά» (Programme B - Roma Inclusion and Empowerment), με Διαχειριστή Προγράμματος (Programme Operator) την Ειδική Υπηρεσία - «Επιτελική Δομή ΕΣΠΑ Τομέα Απασχόλησης και Κοινωνικής Οικονομίας», του Υπουργείου Εργασίας και Κοινωνικών υποθέσεων, για την υλοποίηση διμερών έργων στο πλαίσιο του Προγράμματος, εφόσον το πρόγραμμα προχωρήσει στην υπογραφή Προγραμματικής Συμφωνίας και στην έκδοση υπουργικής απόφασης Χρηματοδότησης.

- Ποσό ύψους 50.000 € εκχωρείται στο πρόγραμμα με τίτλο: «Διαχείριση Υδάτινων Πόρων» (Programme D - Water Management), με Διαχειριστή Προγράμματος (Programme Operator) την Ειδική Υπηρεσία - Επιτελική Δομή ΕΣΠΑ, Τομέα Περιβάλλοντος του Υπουργείου Περιβάλλοντος και Ενέργειας, για την υλοποίηση διμερών έργων στο πλαίσιο του Προγράμματος.

- Ποσό ύψους 100.000 € εκχωρείται στο πρόγραμμα με τίτλο: «Ανανεώσιμες Πηγές Ενέργειας - Εξοικονόμηση ενέργειας» (E. Programme: Renewable Energy, Energy Efficiency), με Διαχειριστή Προγράμματος (Programme Operator) το Κέντρο Ανανεώσιμων Πηγών Ενέργειας - ΚΑΠΕ, για την υλοποίηση διμερών έργων στο πλαίσιο του προγράμματος.

- Ποσό ύψους 100.000 € εκχωρείται στο πρόγραμμα με τίτλο «Χρηστή διακυβέρνηση, θεσμοί και διαφάνεια» (Programme F - Good Governance, Accountable Institutions, Transparency), με Διαχειριστή Προγράμματος

(Programme Operator) την Ειδική Υπηρεσία Διαχείρισης και Εφαρμογής Τομέα Τεχνολογιών Πληροφορικής & Επικοινωνιών (ΕΥΔΕ-ΤΠΕ) του Υπουργείου Ψηφιακής Διακυβέρνησης, για την υλοποίηση διμερών έργων στο πλαίσιο του προγράμματος, εφόσον το πρόγραμμα προχωρήσει στην υπογραφή Προγραμματικής Συμφωνίας και στην έκδοση υπουργικής απόφασης Χρηματοδότησης.

- Ποσό ύψους 125.000 € εκχωρείται στο πρόγραμμα με τίτλο: «Άσυλο και Μετανάστευση (Ενίσχυση εθνικών συστημάτων ασύλου και μετανάστευσης)» (Programme G - Asylum and Migration (Capacity building of national asylum and migration management systems) με Διαχειριστή Προγράμματος (Programme Operator) την Υπηρεσία Διαχείρισης Ευρωπαϊκών και Αναπτυξιακών Προγραμμάτων (Υ.Δ.Ε.Α.Π.) του Υπουργείου Προστασίας του Πολίτη, για την υλοποίηση διμερών έργων στο πλαίσιο του προγράμματος.

11. Τα διμερή έργα της ως άνω εκχώρησης εγγράφονται σε Συλλογική Απόφαση (ΣΑ) του αρμοδίου φορέα χρηματοδότησης του Διαχειριστή Προγράμματος, πλην αιτιολογημένων αιτημάτων όπου δύναται να εγγράφονται σε ΣΑ του οικείου φορέα, εφόσον ο Έλληνας φορέας υλοποίησης - εταίρος αποτελεί φορέα της Κεντρικής Διοίκησης, υπουργείο ή φορέα εποπτευόμενο από υπουργείο.

12. Στα διμερή έργα που υλοποιούνται με την ευθύνη διαχείρισης κατά τις προβλέψεις της κοινής υπουργικής απόφασης 13249/4-2-2020 (Β' 526) ΣΔΕ ΕΟΧ από το Εθνικό Σημείο Επαφής, εγγράφονται σε Συλλογική Απόφαση (ΣΑ) του Υπουργείου Ανάπτυξης και Επενδύ-

σεων, πλην αιτιολογημένων αιτημάτων όπου δύναται να εγγράφονται σε ΣΑ του οικείου φορέα, εφόσον ο Έλληνας φορέας υλοποίησης - εταίρος αποτελεί φορέα της Κεντρικής Διοίκησης, υπουργείο ή φορέα εποπτευόμενο από υπουργείο.

13. Σε περίπτωση διμερών έργων του Ταμείου που υλοποιούνται από φορείς που έχουν την έδρα τους στο εξωτερικό και δεν προχρηματοδοτούνται από το ΠΔΕ, η Αρχή Πιστοποίησης δύναται να μεταφέρει από το Τραπεζικό Λογαριασμό που τηρείται στην Τράπεζα της Ελλάδος τα ποσά που δικαιούνται να λάβουν οι υπόψη φορείς, στους Τραπεζικούς τους Λογαριασμούς μετά από έγγραφό του Διαχειριστή Προγράμματος.

14. Η παρούσα απόφαση τροποποιείται: α) με κάθε τροποποίηση της συμφωνίας Ταμείου Διμερών Σχέσεων, β) με κάθε τροποποίηση του ποσού εκχώρησης προς τα προγράμματα που υλοποιούν οι ελληνικές αρχές, όπως αυτή προκύπτει από τις τροποποιήσεις του Σχεδίου Δράσης, γ) σε κάθε άλλη περίπτωση κατά την οποία τυχόν τροποποίηση του θεσμικού πλαισίου υλοποίησης καθιστά υποχρεωτική την τροποποίηση των όρων και των διαδικασιών χρηματοδότησης του Ταμείου Διμερών Σχέσεων.

15. Η ισχύς της παρούσας απόφασης αρχίζει από τη δημοσίευσή της στην Εφημερίδα της Κυβερνήσεως και παραμένει σε ισχύ για περίοδο πέντε ετών μετά την ημερομηνία έγκρισης της «Τελικής Έκθεσης Στρατηγικής» από την Επιτροπή ΧΜ ΕΟΧ. Εάν, όμως, για οποιονδήποτε λόγο η Συμφωνία Ταμείου Διμερών Σχέσεων τερματισθεί, τότε αυτοδικαίως παύει να ισχύει και η παρούσα απόφαση.

ΠΑΡΑΡΤΗΜΑ Ι
Συμφωνία Ταμείου Διμερών Σχέσεων, Χ.Μ. ΕΟΧ 2014-2021.
(Πρωτότυπο, υπογραμμένη την 2-4-2019 στην αγγλική γλώσσα).

Annex 4 – Bilateral Fund Agreement

European Economic Area Financial Mechanism 2014-2021

AGREEMENT

between

The Financial Mechanism Committee and the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs
hereinafter referred to as the “Donors”,

and

The Special Service of Planning, Coordination and Monitoring of the Implementation of
Financial Mechanisms of the European Economic Area of
the General Secretariat for Public Investments & the NSRF
of the Ministry of Economy & Development,
hereinafter referred to as the “National Focal Point”,

representing GREECE,
hereinafter referred to as the “Beneficiary State”

together hereinafter referred to as the “Parties”

on the Fund for Bilateral Relations hereinafter referred to as the “agreement”

Chapter 1

Scope, Legal Framework, Definitions and responsibilities

Article 1.1

Scope

This agreement between the Donors and the National Focal Point lays down the rights and obligations of the Parties regarding the use of the Fund for Bilateral Relations under the financial contribution from the EEA Financial Mechanism 2014-2021 (hereinafter referred to as the "Mechanism").

Article 1.2

Legal Framework

1. This agreement shall be read in conjunction with the following documents, which constitute the legal framework of the EEA Financial Mechanism 2014-2021:

- (a) the Protocol 38c to the EEA Agreement on the EEA Financial Mechanism (2014-2021);
- (b) the Regulation on the implementation of the EEA Financial Mechanism 2014-2021 (hereinafter referred to as the "Regulation");
- (c) the Memorandum of Understanding on the Implementation of the EEA Financial Mechanism 2014-2021 (hereinafter referred to as the "MoU"), entered into between the Donor States and the Beneficiary State; and
- (d) any guidelines adopted by the Donors in accordance with the Regulation.

2. The legal framework as set forth in paragraph 1 of this Article is binding for the Parties. An act or omission by a Party to this agreement that is incompatible with the legal framework constitutes a breach of this agreement by that Party.

Article 1.3

Definitions

Terms used and institutions and documents referred to in this 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 agreement.

Article 1.4

Co-operation

1. The Parties shall take all appropriate and necessary measures to ensure fulfilment of the obligations and objectives arising out of this agreement.
2. The Parties agree to provide all information necessary for the good functioning of this

agreement and to apply the principles of implementation as set out in Article 1.3 of the Regulation.

3. The Parties shall promptly inform each other of any circumstances that interfere or threaten to interfere with the successful implementation of this agreement.

4. In executing this 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 agreement.

Chapter 2

Budget, objective and implementation system for the Fund for Bilateral Relations

Article 2.1

Budget

1. In accordance with Article 4.6 of the Regulation, the Beneficiary State, acting through the National Focal Point, has set aside EUR 2,334,000 for a Fund for bilateral relations.

2. The Fund for Bilateral Relations is supported by the EEA Financial Mechanism, in accordance with the allocations set in paragraph 3.

3. The support from the EEA Financial Mechanism to the Fund for Bilateral Relations is EUR 2,334,000.

Article 2.2

Objective

The Fund for Bilateral Relations shall be used to support activities aiming at strengthening bilateral relations between the Donor States and the Beneficiary States, in line with Article 4.1 of the Regulation. Such activities may take place both in the context of implementation of programmes or through joint initiatives beyond the programmes.

Article 2.3

Joint Committee for Bilateral Funds

1. The National Focal Point shall establish a Joint Committee for Bilateral Funds (JCBF) as soon as possible after the signature of the MoU. Its tasks shall *inter alia* include:

a) discussing matters of bilateral interests, identifying initiatives and reviewing the overall progress towards reaching the objective of strengthened bilateral relations;

b) adopting the Work Plan for the fund for bilateral relations to be discussed at the annual meeting; and

c) identifying and allocating bilateral funds to programmes of bilateral interest.

2. The Joint Committee for Bilateral Funds shall meet at least once a year prior to the annual meeting. The National Focal Point is responsible for organising the meetings.

3. The Joint Committee for Bilateral Funds shall be chaired by the National Focal Point and composed of representatives from the Donor States, and from the Beneficiary State, including the respective ministry of foreign affairs.

4. Not applicable.

5. The National Focal Point is responsible for preparing the draft agenda, which shall be sent to the members of the Joint Committee for Bilateral Funds and the FMO at least two weeks before the meeting for comments.

6. Decisions from the Joint Committee for Bilateral Funds shall be taken by consensus between the members of the Committee. In case no consensus can be reached, the decision shall be taken by the FMC.

7. Decisions taken at the meeting of the Joint Committee shall be set out in the agreed minutes. The National Focal Point is responsible for the drafting of the minutes from the meeting, summarising the main points discussed at the meeting and following the structure of the agenda. These minutes shall be decision oriented, follow-up oriented and task oriented.

8. Decisions of the Joint Committee may also be made in writing between the members.

Article 2.4 Work Plan

1. The National Focal Point shall, in consultation with the Donors, prepare a draft description of the proposed implementation and activities under the Fund for Bilateral Relations for the duration of the Fund (hereinafter referred to as the "Work Plan"). The Work Plan shall *inter alia* include a brief description of the implementation system for the Fund for Bilateral Relations, major activities to be organised under the Fund, and the programmes of bilateral interest.

2. The draft Work Plan shall be submitted to the members of the Joint Committee for Bilateral

Funds and the FMO for comments at least four weeks prior to the meeting of the Joint Committee.

3. The draft Work Plan shall be further developed and adopted by the Joint Committee for Bilateral Funds.

4. The Work Plan will be discussed at the Annual Meeting.

5. Modifications to the Work Plan shall be decided by the Joint Committee for Bilateral Funds and reported on at the Annual Meeting.

6. Any comments to the Work Plan made at the Annual Meeting shall be taken into account by the Joint Committee for Bilateral Funds.

Article 2.5

Allocation of funds for bilateral relations

1. Allocation of funds for bilateral relations shall be based on the principles of transparency, equal treatment, accountability and sound financial management.

2. The Parties agree that the following activities, as a minimum, will be implemented under the Fund for Bilateral Relations:

Projects within the programming areas as allocated in the 2014-2021 MoU and projects/activities as approved by the JCBF and contained in the Work Plan.

3. Parts of the funds for bilateral relations shall be made available to Programme Operators for activities aiming at strengthening bilateral relations between the Donor States and the Beneficiary State. The allocation of funds for bilateral relations to Programme Operators shall be based on expressions of interest submitted by the Programme Operators. Programmes of particular bilateral interest identified in the MoU shall be given priority.

4. Funds for bilateral relations allocated to programmes shall be managed by the relevant Programme Operator, in accordance with any recommendation from the Joint Committee for Bilateral Funds. The management of the funds for bilateral relations by the Programme Operators shall be proportionate to the size of the funds allocated to their respective programme, should be aimed at facilitating the participation of Donor State entities in the funds and should be based on the principles referred to in paragraph 1.

5. Decisions on the management and use of the funds for bilateral relations allocated to programmes implemented in cooperation with Donor Programme Partners and/or International Partner Organisations shall be taken by consensus between the Programme Operator, Donor

Programme Partner and/or International Partner Organisation.

6. The Programme Operators shall report to the National Focal Point on the use of the funds for bilateral relations allocated to their programme.

Article 2.6 Reporting

The National Focal Point shall, in accordance with Article 4.6 paragraph 2 of the Regulation, report on the use of the Fund for Bilateral Relations in the Strategic Report, as defined in Article 2.6 of the Regulation.

Article 2.7 Communication

1. All communication to the Donors regarding this agreement shall take place in English and be directed to the Financial Mechanism Office (hereinafter referred to as the "FMO"), which represents the Donors towards the National Focal Point in relation to the implementation of this agreement.

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.

3. 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 2.8 Representations and Warranties

1. This agreement is based on information provided by, through, or on behalf of the National Focal Point to the Donors.

2. The National Focal Point represents and warrants that all information provided by, through, or on behalf of the National Focal Point in connection with this agreement is authentic, accurate and complete.

Chapter 3 Finance

Article 3.1 Eligible expenditures

1. Expenditure on the Fund for Bilateral Relations is eligible if it complies with the provisions of Article 8.8 of the Regulation.

2. Notwithstanding and in addition to the provisions of paragraph 1 of this Article, expenditures under this agreement are only eligible if they comply with the general principles on eligibility of expenditure contained in Chapter 8 of the Regulation, as applicable.

3. The first date of eligibility of expenditures under this agreement shall be 31 October 2017.

4. The final date of eligibility of expenditures under this agreement shall be 30 April 2025.

Article 3.2 Proof of expenditure

Costs incurred by the National Focal Point, the Programme Operators or any final beneficiary under this agreement shall be supported by documentary evidence as required in Article 8.12 of the Regulation.

Article 3.3 Payments

1. Payments under this agreement shall be made when all relevant conditions for payments stipulated in this agreement and the Regulation have been fulfilled.

2. Payments 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, 9.4 and 9.5 of the Regulation. The final balance shall be calculated and reported in the last interim financial report.

3. The level of the advance payment is EUR 350,000. The advance payment shall be made upon signature of this agreement. In exceptional cases, extraordinary advance payments may be made prior to the signing of this agreement.

4. Interim payments shall be paid based on an interim financial report submitted by the National Focal Point in a format provided by the FMC, certified by the Certifying Authority in accordance with Article 5.4 of the Regulation, and approved by the FMC. Article 9.3 paragraphs 3 to 9 of the Regulation apply *mutatis mutandis* to interim payments under this agreement.

5. At the latest by 20 February, 20 April, 20 September and 20 November each year, the Certifying Authority shall send to the FMC, in a format provided by the FMC (Annex 8 to the Regulation), a justified forecast of likely payment applications from the Fund for Bilateral Relations.

6. Notwithstanding paragraphs 1 to 5 above, Chapter 9 of the Regulations shall apply *mutatis mutandis* to all aspects related to payments.

Article 3.4**Transparency and availability of documents**

The Beneficiary State shall ensure an audit trail for financial contributions from the EEA Financial Mechanism 2014-2021 under this agreement, in accordance with Article 9.8 of the Regulation.

Article 3.5**Irregularities, suspension and reimbursements**

The Donors have 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 4**Final provisions****Article 4.1****Contact information**

1. The contact information of the National Focal Point is:

Special Service of planning, coordination and monitoring of the implementation of Financial Mechanisms of the European Economic Area, of the General Secretariat for Public Investments & the NSRF - **Hellenic Ministry of Economy & Development**.

3, Metropoleos Str

Athens 10563

Telephone: +30-2103726004, +30-2103332000

Telefax (general): + 30-210-3332449

E-mail: contact-eeagrants@mneec.gr

2. The contact information for the Donors and the FMO is:

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 agreement.

Article 4.2**Dispute settlement**

1. The Parties waive their rights to bring any dispute related to the 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 Donors 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 4.3**Termination**

1. The Donors may, after consultation with the National Focal Point, terminate this 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.
2. This 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 4.2 or the right of the Donors to make use of the remedies provided in Chapter 13 of the Regulation.

Article 4.4**Waiver of responsibility**

1. Nothing contained in this agreement shall be construed as imposing upon the Donors or the FMO any responsibility of any kind to any third party for the supervision, execution, completion, or operation of any actions or obligations entered into pursuant to this agreement.
2. The Donors do not assume any risk or responsibility whatsoever for any damages, injuries, or other possible adverse effects caused as a result of actions entered into pursuant to this agreement. It is the full and sole responsibility of the National Focal Point to satisfactorily address such issues.
3. Neither the European Free Trade Association, its Secretariat, including the FMO, its officials or

employees, nor the Donors, their officials or employees, can be held liable for any damages or injuries of whatever nature sustained by the National Focal Point, the Beneficiary State, Programme Operators, Project Promoters or any other third person, in connection, be it direct or indirect, with this agreement.

Article 4.5

Modification of the agreement

1. Unless otherwise explicitly stipulated in this agreement, any modification of this agreement is subject to prior approval by the Donors.

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

Article 4.6

Entry into force and duration

1. This agreement shall enter into force on the date of the last signature of the Parties.

2. This agreement shall remain in force until five years have elapsed after the date of the acceptance of the final Strategic Report.

This agreement is drawn up in two originals in the English language.

For the Donors

For the National Focal Point

Signed in Oslo on 7 March 2019

Signed in Athens on 2 April 2019

Niels Engelschiøn

Efstathios Giannakidis

Chairman
Financial Mechanism Committee

Deputy Minister
Ministry of Economy and Development

ΠΑΡΑΡΤΗΜΑ II

Σχέδιο Δράσης (Workplan) Ταμείου Διμερών Σχέσεων του άρθρ. 2.4 της από 2.4.2019 Συμφωνίας Ταμείου Διμερών Σχέσεων, ΧΜ ΕΟΧ 2014-2021

(Πρωτότυπο, εγκεκριμένο την 27-2-2020 στην αγγλική γλώσσα) .



EEA Grants 2014-2021 in Greece

FUND FOR BILATERAL RELATIONS

Work Plan

(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)

Version 1

February 27, 2020



HELLENIC REPUBLIC
**MINISTRY OF
DEVELOPMENT AND INVESTMENTS**

General Secretariat for Public Investments & the NSRF

Special Service EEA Grants - National Focal Point

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PREAMBLE

In the context of Memorandum of Understanding –MoU, for the EEA Grants 2014 - 2021 the Beneficiary State sets aside a sum at least equal to 2% of the total EEA FM 2014-2021 funding, so that a fund may be established to enhance bilateral relations between Donor Countries and the Beneficiary State. The exact amount is stipulated in the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU). According to the MoU signed between the Donor Countries and Greece on October 31, 2017, the budget allocated for the Bilateral Relations Fund amounts to €2,334,000 and is 100% financed by the EEA Grants 2014-2021.

The Bilateral Relations Fund is a flexible financing resource used to support initiatives aiming at strengthening relations between the Donor Countries Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway and Greece as the Beneficiary State, so that they may enhance their cooperation strategy, networking and exchange of knowledge between their entities. The Fund should further strengthen political, professional, social and economic ties and lay foundations between the Donors and Greece.

The initiatives may be implemented either within the Programmes agreed on in the Memorandum of Understanding and are operated by Greek authorities or through initiatives taken outside the Programmes, managed by the NFP. Initiatives associated with the Programmes contracted directly by FMC/FMO, are also managed by the NFP. The NFP maintains the responsibility for the Bilateral Fund implementation monitoring and reporting in its entirety.

The Joint Committee for the Bilateral Funds 2014-2021 (JCBF), established according to the Regulations on the implementation of the EEA and Norwegian Financial Mechanisms 2014-2021, Art. 4.2 and Art. 3.2.1 of the Bilateral Guideline, has the tasks of:

- a) discussing matters of bilateral interests, identifying initiatives and reviewing the overall progress towards reaching the objective of strengthened bilateral relations;
- b) adopting the Work Plan for the fund for bilateral relations to be discussed at the annual meeting; and
- c) identifying and allocating bilateral funds to programmes of bilateral interest.

The present Work plan, according to Annex 3 of the Bilateral Fund Agreement presents the strategy that will be followed for the implementation of the Bilateral Fund. In particular, the work plan provides a brief overview of the proposed activities under the fund and a brief description of the management and control system provisions for the implementation of the fund.

Alongside the legal framework of the Bilateral Fund as set forth in Art.1.2 of the Bilateral Fund Agreement, this Work Plan shall be read in conjunction with the a) the Document for the Composition, role and functioning of JCBF, b) the Management and Control System at the national level.

The present work plan is subject to annual review and necessary modifications where appropriate during the years of its implementation. The initial Work plan, its reviews and modifications are discussed and decided by the JCBF, they are presented and reviewed by the annual meetings and are reported in the strategic report. The initial Work plan and its budget table modifications are annexed to the Ministerial Decree for the implementation of the Bilateral Fund.

1. Background

Greece has friendly and constructive diplomatic and bilateral relations with the Donor states of Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway, while the countries have also a longstanding and fruitful cooperation in the context of EEA since 1994. Additionally the countries cooperate in a number of international organizations and institutions (NATO, EEA, OECD, U.N., Council of Europe, etc.).

Iceland

Greece's diplomatic relations with the **Republic of Iceland** on a bilateral basis are supported through a parallel accreditation of the Icelandic Embassy in Oslo. An Honorary Consulate General of Iceland is also located in Athens and deals mainly with consular matters. Similarly, a Honorary Consulate General of Greece exists in Reykjavik. Few Greek citizens live in Iceland. Nevertheless a Greek-Icelandic Cultural Club in Reykjavik is active and is mainly supported by 200 Icelanders whose aim is to strengthen cultural bonds between the two nations.

Liechtenstein

Greece's political relations with the Principality of Liechtenstein can be considered good. The Greek Embassy in Bern has parallel accreditation for Liechtenstein.

There are regular contacts between the two countries above all in the context of international organizations. One of the main fields of cooperation between the two countries is the successful exchange of support for their respective candidacies in international fora. The relationship between the two countries has been significantly improved due to the implementation of the EEA Grants since 1999.

Norway

Greece has longstanding and well established bilateral relations with the **Kingdom of Norway**, with which diplomatic relations were initiated in 1918. Currently there is a Greek community in Norway (ca 1.300 citizens) which represents immigrants from as early as the 60's. Reversely Greece is one of the most preferable tourist destinations for Norwegian citizens. Cooperation between Greek and Norwegian institutions has been achieved through EEA Grants' partnerships mainly of prior funding periods.

Bilateral cooperation was established long ago in culture and archeology, mainly through the activities of the Norwegian Institute at Athens. Also, Norwegian culture – classical and contemporary – through cooperation with Greek entities is prominent on a regular basis (architecture exhibitions, concerts, photo exhibitions, theatre, etc.).

EEA

The countries' cooperation in the context of EEA, has been long and constructive, with Greece being a beneficiary of the EEA Grants since their initial launching in 1994. Over these three decades, EEA Grants have allocated about 180 million Euros to Greece for the implementation of more than 300 projects and have achieved substantial impact in many diverse fields like civil society, asylum and migration, environment, culture and science. At the same a well-established networking of public authorities, institutions and other entities and a significant volume of experience and mutual understanding and has been acquired in the context of the implementation.

The longstanding cooperation of the countries in the context of the EEA FM in Greece, as well as the wider context of their relationship in the spirit of mutual respect, interest and exchange set the ground for an ambitious and fruitful footprint of the Bilateral Fund in the period 2014-2021.

2. Main objective

Greece and the Donor countries are like minded countries, sharing the same set of values. At the same time all four countries recognize and take responsibility of the current challenges that the world and humanity faces, such as the climate crisis, the humanitarian challenges, the need for sustainable use of natural and maritime resources, the need for peace, stability and security. All countries share the will to work together for green competitive and inclusive Europe, as the communication message of EEA Grants 2014-2021 states, and they promote policies in this direction.

Based on this baseline as well as on the positive results and the lessons learned from the implementation of the EEA Financial Mechanisms in the previous periods, the Bilateral Fund has the will to develop its full potential and maximize its impact, in order to fully achieve the objectives.

Bilateral fund as part of the EEA FM 2014-2021 follows and implements its strategic approach. Furthermore, as stated in the MoU, bilateral relations between the Donor States and the Greece shall be strengthened with the aim of stimulating and developing long-term cooperation within all areas listed in the Annex to Protocol 38c. It is also an ambition to strengthen bilateral cooperation at political level and European level in areas of common interest.

Priority sectors and policy areas according to Regulation and MoU

Thus the Bilateral Fund finances bilateral initiatives which contribute to the objectives of a) reduction of economic and social disparities in the European Economic Area and b) to the strengthening of bilateral relations between the Donor States and the Beneficiary States, through financial contributions primarily in the priority sectors, set in the Regulation and the MoU:

- (a) Innovation, research, education and competitiveness;
- (b) Social inclusion, youth employment and poverty reduction;
- (c) Environment, energy, climate change and low carbon economy;
- (d) Culture, civil society, good governance, fundamental rights and freedoms; and
- (e) Justice and home affairs.

Specific policy areas of common interest for the Donor States and Greece, within the priority sectors, have been endorsed by respective programmes, set in the MoU. Bilateral fund complements this endorsement and contributes to the enhanced cooperation and improved mutual knowledge and understanding between Donor and Beneficiary States, in their respective areas, which are:

- Innovation, Business Development and SMEs
- Roma Inclusion and Empowerment
- Local Development and Poverty Reduction
- Water Management
- Renewable Energy, Energy Efficiency
- Good Governance, Accountable Institutions, Transparency
- Asylum and Migration (Capacity building of national asylum and migration management systems)
- Asylum and Migration (Addressing urgent needs for the reception and screening of new arrivals and for the accommodation of vulnerable groups)

- Civil Society

Policy areas of common interest beyond MoU programmes

Further to the policy areas supported with programmes by MoU, Bilateral Fund might in principle be open to all thematic areas from all sectors which may document and justify a mutual interest, benefit and ground of bilateral cooperation. The implementation of the Bilateral Fund in the period 2014-2021 can provide a platform for increased political, cultural, professional and academic relations and will prepare the ground for future wider cooperation of entities and sectors. To this end, stakeholders from both the Donor States and Greece will be able to access and benefit from the fund for specific activities.

Indicatively and not limited to, policy areas of common interest and enhanced potential for bilateral cooperation between the Donor States and Greece which might be benefitted from the Bilateral Fund, are listed below. Their justification is based on the Minutes of the meetings of the JCBF and in particular of the 1st meeting, on the results of the Conference for Gender equality in Reykjavik in 2019 endorsed by EEA Grants, on the predefined initiatives proposed by the JCBF members, as well as on the expressed interest of the dignitaries of the Donor countries and Greece on several occasions within the implementation of EEA Grants and beyond.

Blue growth, marine resources and shipping

Greece and two of the Donor countries, Iceland and Norway are maritime countries, with long shore lines and thousands of islands in total. Greece and Norway have both a long tradition in shipping. The fate of all three countries is linked with the sea and blue economy with sustainable use of marine resources is a top priority for all three of them. Therefore a closer collaboration in this field can be highly beneficial for all parts. Activities may address issues such as advanced technology in the field, fight against marine litter and microplastics, contingency plans for oil spills, etc.

Culture and arts

Donor countries as well as Greece are countries with rich and vibrant culture and arts scene, for which they are all proud of. As culture awareness and appreciation is a pivotal element in the approach and likelihood of countries and people, culture and arts policy area has a special and important role in the effort of strengthening the bilateral relations. Music, fine and visual arts, literature and publications are fields where bilateral relations can focus on. Another interesting field of added value for Greece might be the expertise that Donor countries have developed in combining modern architecture with environmentally friendly solutions, in a result of character that combines functionality, sustainability and artistic vibe.

Gender equality and social welfare

Donor countries, especially the Nordic countries, have achieved substantial results and have gained worldwide recognition in gender equality, as they in the first places of relevant word indexes. At the same time they are actively promoting social welfare policies as an integral part of their sustainability model. Iceland in particular has expressed special interest in this policy area on the grounds of its achievements in gender equality and its best practice in a social welfare watch for the effective counter measures and damage control at a time crisis. Therefore, bilateral initiatives in this policy area can have a powerful contribution and impact in the respective efforts of Greece. In this direction Bilateral Fund can contribute in bringing together and networking the government, institutional, academic, civil society and

other stakeholders working in the field, in transferring expertise and best practices and in introducing research, successful tools and techniques in the field.

Climate change and civil protection, natural disasters contingency

A critical area addressing the challenges we face in dealing with climate change and environment disruption. All countries share awareness and are keen to promote policies in this direction. Several efforts are underway to this effect. Greece is receiving assistance from various sources and considers the cooperation with the Donor states in this field of added value, given their commitment to sustainability and their significant effort to carve out technological and other solutions. Therefore expertise and networking in fields like reduction of greenhouse gas emissions, prevention and management of natural disasters will be highly beneficial.

Modalities and management

The endorsement of the Bilateral Fund to the MoU policy areas as well as the availability for the policy areas beyond MoU will be implemented through two main axis of the Bilateral Fund:

1. Bilateral funds to programmes

In the case of programmes implemented by the Greek national authorities, allocations will be managed by the Programme Operators. In the case of programmes managed by FMO/Fund Operators, allocations will be managed by the National Focal Point. According to "Composition, role and functioning of the Joint Committee for Bilateral Funds – JCBF" document to the funds allocated to programmes apply the following terms :

1. Any allocation of bilateral funds to programmes included in the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) is not subject to further approval by the JCBF.
2. The JCBF may decide to grant additional bilateral funds to programmes of bilateral interest.
3. The allocation of additional funds for bilateral relations as described in paragraph (b) above, shall be based on expressions of interest submitted by the Programme Operators.
4. Following assessment, the JCBF allocates funds to programmes of bilateral interest. The funds shall be managed in accordance with any recommendation from the JCBF.

2. Bilateral funds at the national level

According to "Composition, role and functioning of the Joint Committee for Bilateral Funds – JCBF" document to the funds allocated to programmes apply the following terms :

Calls:

1. At least one call for proposals will be published in the 2014-2021 BFNL framework. The JCBF shall decide the budget of the open call.
2. Where the JCBF decides to launch (an) open call(s) under the BF, the NFP shall be responsible for organising calls for proposals and drafting the call text, including eligibility criteria, according to the provisions of the Work Plan.
3. The JCBF and the FMO shall be consulted on the call text and comments received shall be duly taken into consideration.
4. The call(s) shall be published on the websites of the NFP, the Donor Embassies and the EEA and Norway Grants.
5. Rules for awarding funds and award decisions shall be agreed by the JCBF.

No call has been decided and published by the time of Workplan v1.

Predefined initiatives:

1. All members of the JCBF may propose predefined bilateral initiatives to be included in the Work Plan. Proposals shall be sent to the NFP in order to be assessed and submitted for consultation/approval to the members of the JCBF, with the FMO in copy, along with the related modification of the Work Plan.

3. Implementation system

The Bilateral Fund implementation falls under the Management and Control System at the national level, which is set in effect by a Joint Ministerial Decree, accompanied by a Manual of Procedures. The MCS at the national level a) transposes

and provisions.

The NFP, as the BF Operator, the EEA Grants 2014-2021 Regulation, b) sets the national provisions for the implementation framework. The Manual of Procedures sets the procedures, workflows and templates for the day to day implementation.

The Bilateral Fund Agreement and the Work plan as adopted by the JCBF will be transposed into the national framework of implementation with another Ministerial Decree, which is foreseen in the JMD MCS. The BF MD will designate the NFP as the overall BF Operator and will set the entire framework of implementation, including the BF specific elements, such as allocation to programmes, financing and payment flows, ETC. . The MD will also adopt the document "Composition, role and functioning" and will include, where necessary, its rules initiates where necessary and facilitates all provisions and procedures related to BF, including those related to the mandate of the JCBF, such as for the submission and review of proposals, the adoption of predefined initiatives, the tasks of reviewing matters of bilateral interest and overall progress of the Bilateral Fund, the adoption of the Workplan, the identification and allocation of bilateral funds to Programmes, etc.

Particularly, as regards to the Workplan, the NFP, in consultation with the Donors, prepares the draft Work Plan which then is submitted for comments and further development to JCBF members and to FMO. The Work Plan includes inter alia a brief description of the areas of intervention, implementation system, major activities to be organised under the Fund, etc. It includes also all selected predefined initiatives, possible calls of proposals and selected initiatives managed by NFP, including those related to Programmes contracted directly by FMO and the budget breakdown, including allocations to the programmes. The Work Plan is adopted by the JCBF. Modifications to the Work Plan may be proposed by any of the members at any time. The modification proposal is prepared by the NFP, submitted to the members of the JCBF and the FMO for comments, and is reported at the Annual meeting, which discusses its progress. Any comments to the Work Plan made at the Annual Meeting shall be taken into account by the JCBF. The NFP will report on the use of the fund for bilateral relations, including the work of the JCBF, in the Strategic Report and at the Annual Meeting. The JCBF shall be invited to comment on the bilateral relations section of the Strategic Report before the NFP submits it to the Donors.

As regards to eligible expenditure, expenditures related to following activities are eligible for the Bilateral Fund:

- (a) Activities aiming at strengthening bilateral relations between the Donor States and the Beneficiary States;
- (b) The search for partners for donor partnership projects prior to or during the preparation of a project application, the development of such partnerships and the preparation of an application for a donor partnership project;
- (c) Networking, exchange, sharing and transfer of knowledge, technology, experience and best practice between entities in Beneficiary States and entities in the Donor States and/or international organisations;

(d) Activities aiming at strengthening cooperation and exchanging experiences and best practices between the Programme Operators and similar entities within the Beneficiary States and Donor States, as well as international organisations, provided at least one entity within the Donor States is involved in the activity.

The above activities can be implemented through actions that may, indicatively, be related, but not restricted to the following:

- Technical cooperation schemes and exchange of expertise
- Secondments, practical training, short-term training
- Workshops and seminars on topics of mutual interest
- Educational excursions and visits
- Reports, studies, research projects, data collection
- Campaigns, reports and promotional material

Travel costs, including subsistence allowance per day, for Greek public sector are ruled by national provisions, valid also for EEA Grants. Having regard to the principle of proportionality, travel costs, including subsistence allowance, for all other cases than Greek public sector may be eligible up to 50% above national provisions thresholds (example: where daily allowance for public sector is 80E, for non-public sector may be up to 120E). Above this limit expenditure may be eligible, upon a justified documentation. Salary/experts or other costs related to work deliverables on the traveling days are not calculated in the subsistence allowance.

As regards to the BF initiatives implementation, the main provisions are:

At the implementation level after selection, NFP acts as an Operator under the provisions of the MCS at the national level, in the case of:

- a) BF allocated to the programmes managed by FMO/Fund Operators and
- b) Initiatives of axis 2

Respectively POs of the programmes managed by Greek authorities, act as Operators for their part of the BF.

The NFP will be responsible for the overall monitoring and reporting for the entire Bilateral Fund including funds allocated to Programmes. The NFP will be responsible for reporting to Grace and submitting IFRs for the entire Bilateral Fund.

NFP and POs may also act as BF initiative promoters. Separation of tasks will be documented upon submitting initiative(s) proposal(s).

If the Work Plan provides for the use of an open call for proposals, the NFP, acting as Programme Operator will publish the Call following mutatis mutandis the provisions in the Operational area I of the Manual of Procedures. The entire Procedure including call of proposals terms and conditions, as well as

evaluation and selection of initiatives will be under the instructions and approval of the JCBF at the time of Call.

The procedures for the proposal and selection of initiatives are foreseen in the document for Composition, role and functioning of the Joint Committee for Bilateral Funds between the Donor States and Greece and the MCS at the national level adopts them as such. The NFP has developed a standard template for predefined initiatives' proposals, which must be used for all proposed initiatives.

To conclude the selection procedure the NFP or the POs respectively will invite the promoter to submit Technical Bulletin via MIS and all the necessary supporting documents including the cooperation agreement with the bilateral partner. The NFP or the POs respectively will issue a selection decision for each initiative, which falls under JMD MCS Art. 7.6 for Project contract. Upon issuance of Project contract a budget line is registered to PIP.

After selection, all BF initiatives will be implemented according the MCS- Manual of Procedures in the operational areas II_Project Monitoring, III_Programme Monitoring, IV_Irregularities and Complaints, V_Financial Management of Programmes, VI_Audits from Audit Authority. In these areas are included all management and control procedures during implementation, such as public procurement where applicable, monitoring of deliverables progress and financing, administrative and on spot verifications of expenditure, irregularities and complaints management, IFRs and PO reporting, etc. The verification of expenditure for the bilateral initiatives allocated to be implemented by the Program Operators is a shared task between the POs and the NFP, in consequent steps before the submission of the expenditure to the Certifying Authority.

For the needs of the standardized generic MCS templates and MIS, terms related to implementation of programmes may also apply to BF, i.e. project, project promoter, programme operator, etc.

NFP will inform and notify FMO for all developments in the context of Bilateral Fund.

All rules and procedures related to BF will be also aggregated to the BF Annex of Manual of Procedures.

To facilitate smooth implementation, the NFP will issue a practical guide for the BF initiative promoters. The practical guide will be developed after the adoption of MCS at the national level and will be based on it.

4. Bilateral Priority Programmes

Programme number	DPP(s)	Funds allocated in MoU	JCBF Allocations	Total allocation	Comments
A Innovation, Business development and Smes	NA	€ 150.000		€ 150.000	
B Roma Inclusion and Empowerment	-	€ 50.000		€ 50.000	
C Local Development and Poverty Reduction	-	€ 50.000		€ 50.000	
D Water Management	-	€ 50.000		€ 50.000	
E Renewable Energy, Energy Efficiency	-	€ 50.000	€ 50.000	€ 100.000	
F Good Governance Accountable Institutions	-	€ 100.000		€ 100.000	
G Asylum and Migration (Capacity building of national asylum and migration authorities)	Norwegian Directorate of Immigration (UDI)	€ 125.000		€ 125.000	
H Asylum and Migration (Addressing urgent needs for the reception and screening of asylum seekers)	Norwegian Directorate of Immigration (UDI)	€ 125.000		€ 125.000	
I Civil Society	-	€ 0		€ 0	

5. Major activities

Activities carried out by the NFP

Initiative 1

Title:	Bilateral activities at the national level
Implementing entity (donor or beneficiary state entity):	<i>National Focal Point</i>
Partner(s) (each initiative shall involve minimum one donor state entity and one beneficiary state entity):	<i>If tenable, Norwegian Embassy of Athens. Otherwise, to be suggested</i>
Allocation (a detailed budget is not required):	<i>80.000</i>
Short description:	<i>Initiative proposed on the basis of experience from previous period and the recognized need for an available and flexible budget line, in order to fund timely and without administration burdens individual activities such as one trip or a small scale event. In case in the future there is a need for an initiative by NFP on a specific targeted activity which requires a budget more than 60.000E, then a separate distinct initiative will be proposed.</i>

Planned results¹

OUTPUT	INDICATOR	TARGET
<i>Individual visits between Donor countries and Greece for information, networking, expertise exchange</i>	<i>Number of individual visits of experts</i>	<i>20</i>
<i>Promotion of BF (i.g. networking and matching events, events targeted to specific stakeholders, Informative events to selected promoters, etc.)</i>	<i>Number activities</i>	<i>15</i>

¹ Please refer to the Results Guideline

Pre-defined initiatives at the national level

Initiative 2

Title		Transmissions
Implementing entity (donor or beneficiary state entity):		Onassis Foundation
Partner(s) (each initiative shall involve minimum one donor state entity and one beneficiary state entity):		ULTIMA Festival
Allocation (a detailed budget is not required):		284.400 €
Short description:		<i>The project is in the field of culture and arts, focusing in music. With its actions such as university exchanges, sound art residencies, community and schools' art projects, devised production and public art programs it aims to enhance bilateral collaboration of artists, university music departments, and other entities' related to music and art scene.</i>
Planned results ²		
OUTPUT	INDICATOR	TARGET
Collaboration of university music departments	Exchange of visits for teachers and students	3 exchanges 30 students
Sound art residencies	Residency programmes in Lofoten and Syros	6 Residencies (2x3), 30 artists participating
Communities and schools art projects	Capacity building exchanges	4 exchange visits (2x2), 10 experts
Devised production	Performances	2 large scale performances
Public art programs	Exchange residencies Project proposals	2 Exchange residencies 2 Project proposals

² Please refer to the Results Guideline

Initiative 3

Title	<i>Youth Employment and Gender Equality: Mobilizing human capital for sustainable growth in Greece</i>
Implementing entity (donor or beneficiary state entity):	Hellenic Foundation for European and Foreign Policy (ELIAMEP)
Partner(s) (each initiative shall involve minimum one donor state entity and one beneficiary state entity):	Fafo Institute for Labor and Social Research (Fafo)
Allocation (a detailed budget is not required):	119.076,62
Short description:	The difficulties of young people and women to access the labor market in Greece deprive the country's economy of the labor potential of some of the most dynamic segments of Greek society. Given the urgent need to address the output gap produced by the crisis and to reform the national growth model towards innovation and extroversion, mobilization of and investment on Greece's human capital is of paramount importance for Greece's economic future. In this context, the aim of the proposed initiative is twofold: (a) document and analyze the conditions of the Greek labor market and examine the main barriers that constrain access for the young people, placing an emphasis on gender aspects of such barriers; and (b) formulate appropriate policy proposals on how to facilitate the access of young people to the Greek labor market, including specific recommendations on how to overcome gender related barriers. The project will seek to benefit from and utilize knowledge transfer, experience and good practices from Norway, as well as from other Nordic countries.

Planned results³

OUTPUT	INDICATOR	TARGET
Youth barometer	Number of Young people participating to the	1.000 participants to the survey
Gender Considerations	Number of women participating to the survey	50% of the total number of participants to the Youth Barometer
Workshop in Norway	Number of Participants in the workshop in Norway	15 participants: 3 researchers from ELIAMEP, 5 researchers from Fafo and 7 policy makers and stakeholders from Norway.
2 Focus Groups to get feedback from young people up to 25 y.o.	Number of Participants of age up to 25 y.o.	30 participants for each workshop = 60 in total
1 Focus Group on women's early career challenges	Number of participants of age between 25-34	30 participants
Public Event to present final report, with the participation of people from the workshops, and including a workshop for the discussion of the report with Fafo representatives	Number of Participants	120 participants

³ Please refer to the Results Guideline

6. Budget

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

Title	Budget	Comments
Activities carried out by the NFP	€ 80.000	Corresponds to selected initiative 1 that NFP will implement to cover all independent, individual costs, such as experts travel costs or a small scale event. A bilateral partner must be assigned.
Call for proposals (<i>national level. In case several calls are foreseen, please add one line for each call</i>)	-	Not decided/allocated up to this point. An open call for thematic areas might be considered at the programming period mid-term, in relation to the implementation progress or evaluations at the time. (Minutes, 2 nd JCBF meeting)
Pre-defined activities (<i>total budget for planned pre-defined activities at national level</i>)	€ 1.000.000	It breakdowns to: € 284.400 selected initiative 2 € 119.076,62 selected initiative 3 € 596.523,38 amount for planning next selections
Bilateral funds for programme A <i>Innovation, Business development and Smes</i>	€ 150.000	
Bilateral funds for programme B <i>Roma Inclusion and Empowerment</i>	€ 50.000	
Bilateral funds for programme C <i>Local Development and Poverty Reduction</i>	€ 50.000	
Bilateral funds for programme D <i>Water Management</i>	€ 50.000	
Bilateral funds for programme E <i>Renewable Energy, Energy Efficiency</i>	€ 100.000	MoU bilateral ambitions at 50.000€ Additional 50.000€ approved by JCBF (Minutes, 2 nd JCBF meeting)
Bilateral funds for programme F <i>Good Governance Accountable Institutions Transparency</i>	€ 100.000	
Bilateral funds for programme G <i>Asylum and Migration (Capacity building of national asylum and migration management systems)</i>	€ 125.000	
Bilateral funds for programme H <i>Asylum and Migration (Addressing urgent needs for the reception and screening of asylum seekers and for accommodation of vulnerable groups)</i>	€ 125.000	
Bilateral funds for programme I <i>Civil Society</i>	N/A	
Funds still to be allocated	€ 504.000	
TOTAL	€ 2.334.000	

Η απόφαση αυτή να δημοσιευθεί στην Εφημερίδα της Κυβερνήσεως.

Αθήνα, 8 Μαΐου 2020

Ο Υφυπουργός

ΙΩΑΝΝΗΣ ΤΣΑΚΙΡΗΣ