

FUND FOR BILATERAL RELATIONS
Work Plan
PORTUGAL
V.05

Work Plan

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).

1. Background

According to the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU), signed on the 22nd May 2017 between Portugal and Iceland, the Principality of Liechtenstein and the Kingdom of Norway, a Fund for Bilateral Relations (FBR) with the total amount of € 2.054.000 was established for the whole implementation period (until 30th April 2025).

Based on to the Regulation and the Bilateral Agreement, the Portuguese National Focal Point (NFP) prepared the 1st Work Plan for the FBR, submitted for approval of the Joint Committee of the Bilateral Funds (JCBF) and adopted by written procedure in 27th July 2018. The 1st version of the Work Plan was intended to frame the bilateral fund for the first two years of implementation (2018-2020). In this regard, the Work Plan set the aim for an open call and several possible pre-defined activities to be explored in various priority areas identified as of high potential bilateral interest, such as, Business Development, Joint Research and Innovation, Public Health, Employment, Social Inclusion and Poverty Reduction, Disaster Prevention and Preparedness and Justice System and Correctional Services.

A 2nd version of the Work Plan was adopted in December 2020 to frame the use of the FBR for the following two years (2021-2022). Regular updates and proposals were discussed and adopted throughout the various JCBF meetings over the last years, including the approval of six pre-defined bilateral initiatives (PDP) in priority areas such as Business Development, Joint Research, Child and Youth at Risk, Gender Equality and Public Health.

The FBR Open Call #1 was launched in December 2018 with a total amount available of €200.000 with cut-off dates every four months until December 2020. The Open Call was considered to assess the potential bilateral interest, so that the JCBF could draw and adjust or re-plan the strategy for better results for implementation.

The success of the model adopted for granting part of the FBR through an open call with a very broad scope, had led the JCBF to decide on the approval of the reinforcement of the initial allocation to the Open Call from € 200.000 to € 600.000 and the extended period for applications until December 2021. Following official conversations in early 2021, within the context of the Financial Mechanism Committee (FMC), the three Donor countries Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway have agreed that any open calls carried out through the JCBF will only be aimed at Norwegian partners.

To further enhance bilateral results from the FBR Open Call #1, the JCBF agreed to direct the scope to innovative bilateral initiatives and to focus on bilateral initiatives with entities from Norway and on 1st July 2021 FBR Open Call #2 was open.

The MoU FBR allocations to the Programmes (€ 500.000) were timely transferred to Programme Operators (PO) in 2018, allowing the funding of several study trips to prepare bilateral pre-defined projects agreed within the Programmes, matchmaking events and travel grants for potential applicants that lead to bilateral partnerships in applications in most of the open calls.

On 9th July 2021, the Agreement on the Fund for Bilateral Relations, signed on 21st September 2017, between the NFP and the FMC, was amended to accommodate the increase of funds from the Reserve. The FBR was increased by € 903.000, from € 2.054.000 to € 2.957.000. Therefore, a 3rd version of the Work Plan was adopted to incorporate these additional funds allocation and the new scope for the Open Call, framing the use of the FBR for the period 2021-2022.

In April 2023, a modification to the MoU was approved to reallocate unspent amounts from the Blue Growth and Environment Programmes, thereby allowing for a reinforcement of the FBR. In the 4th version of the Work Plan, the FBR was increased by €465,000, from €2,957,000 to €3,422,000. The version outlines the use of the FBR for the next two years (2023-2025).

This document represents the 5th version of the Workplan, reflecting updates to the FBR following a comprehensive internal review conducted in July 2024. Additionally, it includes the revised total amounts for calls, adjusted based on the final assessments of completed projects.

Over the past year, the NFP has been actively working to facilitate FBR support for new, pre-defined initiatives in areas of bilateral interest between Portugal and the donor countries. As a result of these efforts, we anticipate securing approval for additional PDP in the coming months.

2. Main objective

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

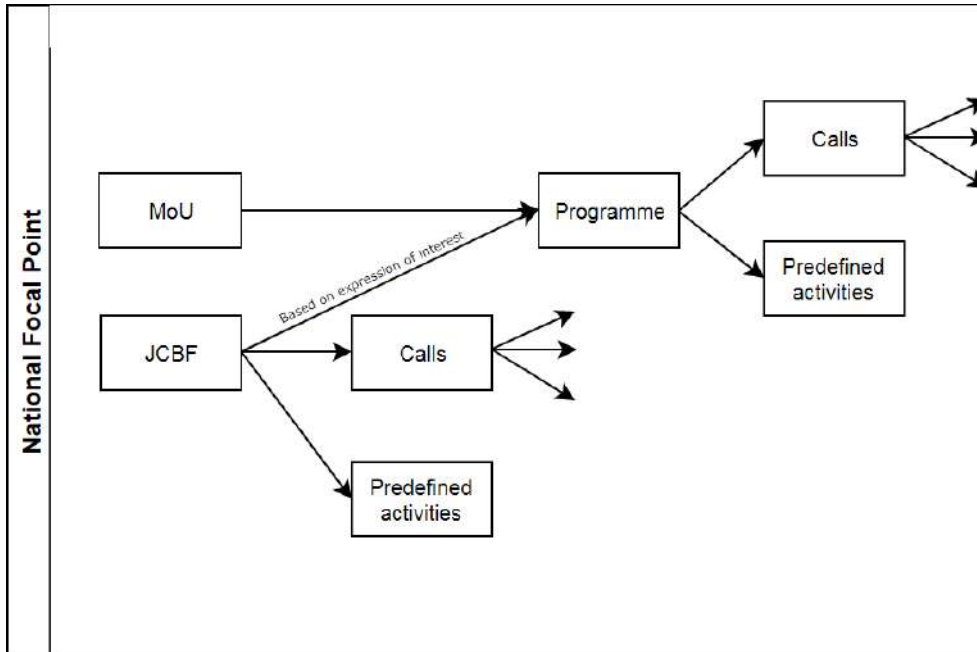
As we approach the closure of the European Economic Area Financial Mechanism (EEA FM) 2014-2021, the 5th version of the Work Plan emphasizes the need for the FBR to focus on strategic initiatives through predefined activities.

Thus, despite their success, the Calls were closed in 2023. The priority is now on predefined initiatives and reinforcing the bilateral component of the programmes. Additionally, efforts will be made to build a bridge to the next period of the EEA FM 2021-2027, which will focus on the thematic priorities: European green transition; Democracy, rule of law and human rights and social inclusion and resilience.

Until the end of the FBR, with the final date of eligibility being 30 April 2025, the NFP will focus on closing the projects resulting from the Calls and on the development and completion of the new PDPs.

3. Implementation system

The NFP oversees the management of the FBR. Part of the FBR is made available to the POs through pre-established allocations set in the MoU to which additional allocations decided by the JCBF may be approved, based on the evaluation of expressions of interest presented by the POs to finance activities organized under the Programmes.



The funds may be distributed through pre-defined initiatives or open calls.

Predefined activities are considered activities that have been previously agreed in the JCBF based on demonstrated bilateral interest between

entities from Portugal and from the Donor States, in compliance with the applicable national and European law on public procurement. Any member of the JCBF can present a pre-defined bilateral initiative proposal to be assessed.

A template was developed and is made available by the NFP. After a positive assessment from the JCBF on proposed pre-defined initiatives, the NFP shall collect a detailed proposal from the respective beneficiary promoter, including an outlined activity plan and a detailed budget to be approved by the JCBF through written procedure. Comments from the JCBF appointed members on the proposed activity plan and detailed budget shall be taken into account by the NFP.

The NFP can act as beneficiary promoter when a bilateral initiative is identified and agreed upon by the JCBF and no direct promoter is identified to carry it out. Direct costs of the NFP, Audit Authority and Certifying Authority resulting from the participation in bilateral activities or initiatives promoted under the EEA GRANTS shall be eligible under the FBR provided that the JCBF has given prior approval. This approval can be delivered by written procedure by the appointed members.

The granting of the FBR through **open call** shall be promoted by the NFP in accordance with the directions approved by the JCBF. The NFP proposes to the JCBF the call text for the support under the FBR. The adoption of the call text by the JCBF can be made by written procedure. Once the call text is adopted, the NFP shall promote a widely advertised of the open call, in Portuguese and English, namely in the websites of EEA Grants Portugal, EEA Grants.org, and

any other websites or relevant media for the open call. The NFP is responsible for the call text considering the Regulation requirements.

The open call is launched for the period agreed by the JCBF, with cut-off dates for the selection of applications every 4 or 6 months. The timing of the launching and cut-off dates for selection of activities for funding will be detailed on the JCBF meetings. Natural persons are not considered eligible ensuring that support is given to meaningful partnerships with strong sustainable potential for the future. The open call is similar to a small grant scheme and shall continue to aim at a minimum grant amount of € 5.000 and maximum € 15.000, subject to different thresholds decided by the JCBF based on the level of interest received.

The NFP is responsible to carry out a formal analysis of the applications. If an essential element is missing, following the formal analysis of the applications, the NFP will notify the entities, within 10 working days, to eliminate the detected deficiency/insufficiency, under the penalty of exclusion. Upon completion of the formal analysis of the application, the NFP will promote the merit assessment following the procedures agreed by the JCBF and considering the selection criteria and sub criteria published in the call text. The JCBF will recommend the entities for funding, maximum allocations and the excluded entities, taking into account the evaluation of the merit carried out and the amounts available. The entities will be notified of the final decision on the application by the NFP. The entities whose applications are not approved have a deadline set in the Code of Administrative Procedure to appeal/express their comments.

The allocation of the **FBR to Programmes** included in the MoU is not subject to any further approval by the JCBF or the NFP, therefore the NFP has, upon request from the POs, ensured the timely disbursement of bilateral funds to cover the POs needs, not exceeding the MoU allocation. Additional allocations from the FBR to POs beyond those made in the MoU shall be based on the expression of interest following the template available (Annex 4 of the bilateral guideline) submitted by the POs with an outline on the use and intended results from the funds requested and following the assessment by the JCBF. Payments under the additional allocations to POs shall be dependent on a minimum of 70% of reported and validated expenditure by the NFP regarding the previous payments.

FBR payments may take the form of advance payment, interim payment or final balance payment. All funds transfers shall be preceded by the signature of an Acceptance Agreement by the beneficiary, including the POs and shall define namely: scope, funding conditions, eligible expenditures, timeline, amount of the financial support and co-financing rate, payment method, beneficiaries bank account, obligations of the beneficiary and situations of suspension and/or reimbursement of payment of the financial support in case of non-compliance.

The **report on the use of the FBR** at national level shall be delivered in each JCBF meeting and annually on the Strategic Report. The POs shall report regularly to the NFP on the use of the FBR allocated to its programme and the NFP shall compile aggregated Interim Financial

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European Economic Area Financial Mechanism
Unidade Nacional de Gestão
National Focal Point

Reports (IFRs) based on input from POs and other promoters under the FBR. The POs and the beneficiaries shall report to the NFP on initiatives completed under the FBR allocated to the programmes. These reports shall include, beyond the financial information, a detailed description of the initiative, the results achieved and what was the contribution to reach the overall objectives of the EEA Grants.

A more detailed description of the implementation system of the FBR can be found in the description of the management and control systems at national level.

4. Bilateral Priority Programmes

Programme short name	DPPs	Funds allocated in MoU	JCBF Allocations	Total Allocations	Comments
PT-INNOVATION	Directorate for Higher Education and Skills (HK-DIR); Icelandic Centre for Research (RANNIS); Innovation Norway (IN); Research Council of Norway (RCN)	€ 200.000	-	€ 200.000	
PT-WORKLIFE	The Equality and Anti-discrimination Ombud (LDO)	€ 100.000	€ 78.037	€ 178.037	
PT-ENVIRONMENT	Innovation Norway (IN)	€ 100.000	€ 80.856	€ 180.856	
PT-CULTURE	Directorate for Cultural Heritage; Arts and Culture Norway	€ 100.000	€ 72.026	€ 172.026	

5. Open calls

Focus	Indicative Timing	Amount set aside. (EUR)	Max/Min amount grant
Support initiatives aiming at strengthening bilateral relations between Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway (Donor States) and Portugal	2020 - 4Q	€ 735.143	Minimum: € 5.000 and Maximum: € 15.000
Supporting Bilateral Initiatives between Portugal & Norway that clearly demonstrate innovative approaches and/or solutions with a clear bilateral aim and with tangible bilateral results	2021 - 4Q	€ 616.931	Minimum: € 5.000 and Maximum: € 15.000

The last open call applications period ended on 26.05.2023.

6. Major activities

Title	FBR/01 Norway-Iceland-Portugal: Business Opportunities with the EEA Grants support
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Implementing Entity (donor or beneficiary state entity):	Agência para o Investimento e Comércio Externo de Portugal, E. P. E. (AICEP)
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Partner(s) (each initiative shall involve minimum one donor state entity and one beneficiary state entity):	Innovation Norway (NO)
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Allocation (a detailed budget is not required):	€ 5.450
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Implementation date	November 2018 – March 2019
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Short description	Mission of Norwegian and Icelandic companies to participate in the Business Meeting in Portugal with the goal of promoting and developing joint projects in the realm of the blue economy, including the application of innovative research-driven technology and processes that are potential applicants and partners for the business component of the EEA Grants Blue Growth programme and beyond.
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Planned results¹

Output	Indicator	Target
Workshop seminars	number of participants	80
B2B meetings	number of participants	125

¹ Please refer to the Results Guideline

Title: FBR/03 Children and Youth at risk

Implementing Entity (donor or beneficiary state entity): Comissão Nacional de Promoção dos Direitos e Proteção das Crianças e Jovens (CNPDPJ)

Partner(s) (each initiative shall involve minimum one donor state entity and one beneficiary state entity): Agency for Child and Family Welfare Service of the City of Oslo (NO)

Allocation (a detailed budget is not required): € 19.337,78

Implementation date January 2019 – July 2020

Short description The Initiative embodied a means to strengthening the bilateral cooperation ties between Portugal and Norway through the development of actions within the scope of the promotion of the rights of the child, while envisaging the production of a Thematic glossary of child protection systems and of the promotion of children’s rights focused on the hearing of the child in especially vulnerable contexts, as well as of a digital Referential of good practices for enhancing child participation in the promotion and protection of the rights of the child. To this end, technical meetings involving the members of the technical team of the bilateral initiative took place and relevant stakeholders came together in thematic workshops and parallel events held in Portugal and in Norway, in which the most significant concepts were identified and debated as the base for a common approach and good practices were shared, to be available to all stakeholders involved in promoting or facilitating child participation: in public or private sectors; in governmental and non-governmental organizations; internationally, nationally, regionally or at local level; on a political, professional or voluntary basis, in the best interests of the child. Children in Portugal and in Norway also participated in workshops and consultation processes along the elaboration of both products, either to be heard on child participation, on the difficulties felt regularly regarding the implementation of this practice in

several contexts and on how they consider these constraints could be overcome. The contributions of children were mostly collected during a workshop with the participation of children and through the dissemination of an anonymous online questionnaire.

Planned results²

Output	Indicator	Target
Exchange of information, knowledge, experience in the thematic areas of the protection and promotion of children rights in special vulnerability contexts	Expert international meetings	6
Exchange of information, knowledge, experience in the thematic areas of the protection and promotion of children rights in special vulnerability contexts	Joint dissemination actions [including parallel events in PT (2) and in NO (2)]	4
Exchange of information, knowledge, experience in the thematic areas of the protection and promotion of children rights in special vulnerability contexts	Meetings with national entities in PT (2) and in NO (2)	4
Joint tools for dissemination of best practices	Digital Referential of Good Practices	1
Joint tools for dissemination of best practices	Thematic Glossary of Child Protection Systems and the Promotion of Children Right	1
Joint capacity building actions	Thematic Workshops	3

² Please refer to the Results Guideline

Title: FBR/4 Gender Equality Seminar in Iceland

Implementing Entity (donor or beneficiary state entity): Iceland Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Iceland MFA)

Partner(s) (each initiative shall involve minimum one donor state entity and one beneficiary state entity): Commission for Citizenship and Gender Equality (PT); Directorate of Equality (Jafnréttisstofa, Iceland) (IS); Equality and Anti-Discrimination Ombud of Norway (LDO) (NO)

Allocation (a detailed budget is not required): € 33.031

Implementation date October 2019 – January 2020

Short description The aim for this initiative was to hold a multinational conference that took place in Reykjavík, Iceland, on 31 October – 1 November 2019, in order to bring together agents of change for gender equality in the Beneficiary and Donor States and to foster potential future cooperation under the EEA Grants.

Planned results³

Output	Indicator	Target
Gender Equality Seminar	Number of participants	139

³ Please refer to the Results Guideline

Title:	FBR/05 NRP Sagres 2020 – Circum-navigation voyage Division of Marine Chemistry and Pollution - Hydrographic Institute (IH) (IH)
Implementing Entity	
Partner(s) (each initiative shall involve minimum one donor state entity and one beneficiary state entity):	Centre for Structural Chemistry - Faculty of Sciences of the University of Lisbon (CQE FCUL) (PT); Marine and Environmental Sciences Centre (MARE) - Faculty of Sciences and Technology - NOVA University Lisbon (FCT NOVA) (PT); Norwegian Institute for Water Research (NIVA) (NO)
Allocation (a detailed budget is not required):	€ 63.169 [JCBF approved amount. Final amount can still be subjected to change after NFP assessment.]
Implementation date	July 2020 - December 2021
Short description	NRP Sagres Circum-Navigation voyage aims to sampling and data collection of seawater from very different locations around the world. This voyage will allow collecting information from areas far from the coast and from main navigation routes, and areas with large anthropogenic pressure. This data collection will thus enable a comprehensive spatial evaluation of the distribution, routes and destinations of marine litter and microplastics around the world. The observation and characterization of the presence of marine litter and microplastics along the route will contribute, to understand what activities are at the origin of different types of contaminations (e.g. related fishing activities) and to increase the scientific knowledge on the distribution and abundance of marine litter and microplastics globally.

Planned results⁴

Output	Indicator	Target
Sampling and data collection	Number of samples	200
Publish scientific papers	Number of papers	1
Participation in scientific event	Participation in one scientific event	1
Disseminating the project to the general public	Website with the goals of the project	1

⁴ Please refer to the Results Guideline

Title: FBR/06 Public Health – Communicable diseases - eBug

Implementing Entity (donor or beneficiary state entity): Directorate-General for Health (DGS)

Partner(s) (each initiative shall involve minimum one donor state entity and one beneficiary state entity): Directorate-General for Education (DGE) (PT); Portuguese National Authority of Medicines and Health Products, I.P. (INFARMED) (PT); Antibiotic Centre for Primary Care (ASP) (NO); Norwegian Institute of Public Health (NIPH) (NO)

Allocation (a detailed budget is not required): € 99.346 [JCBF approved amount. Final amount can still be subjected to change after NFP assessment.]

Implementation date July 2019 – December 2023

Short description e-Bug is a pedagogical project in which the main aim is to educate children and young people across the globe, at junior and senior school level, about microbiology, spread and prevention of infectious diseases, benefits of prudent antibiotic use and how inappropriate use can have a negative impact on Antimicrobial resistance and Public Health.

Planned results⁵

Output	Indicator	Target
Public endorsement of Health and Education Ministries / Directorate General's, with an official commitment	Evidence of signed protocol of collaboration between Directorates Generals of Health and Education	1
Public endorsement of Health and Education Ministries / Directorate General's, with an official commitment	Evidence of signed protocol of collaboration between Norwegian Health Directorate and The Norwegian Institute of Public Health	1

Promote the collaboration and complementarity between health structures of the Ministry of Health and teaching structures of the Ministry of Education, with a primary focus on Education, a major partner in the entire process	Evidence of the setting of the national driving structures, in Portugal	2 per year
Promote the collaboration and complementarity between health structures of the Ministry of Health and teaching structures of the Ministry of Education	Evidence of the setting of the national structures in Norway	2 per year
5- Analysis and selection of material after the migration to the new website at a scientific and pedagogical level, and identification of the possible links to Portuguese national curricula	Evidence of content available in the platform with clear identification of the links to national curricula	1 link by level of teaching
Translation and adaptation of PHE selected content to Portuguese	All content translated in Portuguese	100%
Recruitment of teachers/schools for pilot phase	Number of teachers/schools	PT - 10 schools clusters and NO - 10 schools
Accomplishment of a Train the Trainers Course	Evidence of Online training course in place	2 (1 per country)
Accomplishment of pilot training course for teachers	Number of teachers with pilot e-Bug online training completed	PT - 20 teachers /10 school clusters NO - 20 teachers /10 schools
Accomplishment of pilot training course for children	Number of schools	PT - 10 school clusters and NO - 10 schools
Development of quality improvement interventions in a common model shared between Norway and Portugal	Evidence of shared interventions	1
Creation of new contents, namely through cooperation of the NO and PT teams after new content migration and full access to e-Bug platform Backoffice	Evidence of Portuguese and Norwegian new common contents	1 New content during the project

Promotion of e-Bug (stakeholders - teachers, community health nurses - Professional Societies, Social Media)	Public schools teachers with completed eBug online training	10%
Promotion of e-Bug (stakeholders - teachers, community health nurses- Professional Societies, Social Media)	School involved in the project	10% Public schools clusters in PT and 25% primary schools in NO
Promotion of e-Bug (stakeholders - teachers, community health nurses – Professional Societies, Social Media)	Number of accesses/number of students	25%
Sharing experiences on online or presential meetings between the two countries	Number of meetings between the two countries	1 per year
Development of cooperative research projects	Number of research projects Published	1 publication

⁵ Please refer to the Results Guideline

Title	FBR/07 Portugal and Iceland: investigating biodiversity and world changes together
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Implementing Entity
(donor or beneficiary state entity):

Público – media

Partner(s) (each initiative shall involve minimum one donor state entity and one beneficiary state entity):

University of Iceland (IS); Marine and Freshwater Research Institute (MFRI) (IS); Rif Field Station (IS); Southwest Iceland Nature Research Centre (NAT) (IS)

Allocation (a detailed budget is not required):

€ 7.276,87

Implementation date

June 2022

Short description

The BI aims to give Público's readers the chance to learn how cooperation between Portugal and Iceland, on scientific level, helps us all to better understand the world and create the tools to fight the tragic consequences of climate change.

In a trip to Iceland, two reporters from Público (writer and photographer) interview the six Portuguese scientists working there in different Icelandic institutions, related to biodiversity and the changes the climate and the natural world are facing. The readers are given the possibility to understand how these changes are affecting us all and, also, how collaborative work between different countries, scientists and research facilities are essential to develop this kind of scientific knowledge. This work also allows the readers, policy makers, stakeholders, students, and the scientific community to understand the kind of work that Icelandic partners develop.

The material brought is treated in seven different articles for the newspaper. The first article is a resume and presentation of the following articles, the remaining articles are one for each

scientist (text, photography and video). They are all published both on print and online editions of the newspaper. Promos, on paper and online, are made to divulgate the series, and, finally, a landing page online is created to congregate all the articles and videos published. The articles are also divulgated on the newspaper's social network.

Planned results⁶

Output	Indicator	Target
Interview/ photography/ video footage	Journalistic coverage (interview, photography and video)	6
Written article with on location photographs	Article	1
Video footage and edition	Video	1

⁶ Please refer to the Results Guideline

Title FBR/08 Empowering Public Administration through knowledge and innovation - capacity building exchange

Implementing Entity
(donor or beneficiary state entity): INA – National Institute of Public Administration

Partner(s) (each initiative shall involve minimum one donor state entity and one beneficiary state entity): Institute of Public Administration and Politics, University of Iceland

Allocation (a detailed budget is not required): € 38.314 [JCBF approved amount. Final amount can still be subjected to change after NFP assessment.]

Implementation date February 2024 – February 2025

Short description

The “Empowering Public Administration through Knowledge and Innovation - Capacity Building Exchange” is a dynamic initiative aimed at fostering collaboration between the public administration sectors of Portugal and Iceland. The program seeks to exchange best practices, enhance skills, and promote efficient governance. Through workshops, site visits, and joint projects, participants will immerse themselves in innovative administrative strategies.

This initiative has the following goals:

- Knowledge Exchange: Facilitate the sharing of best practices and insights in areas such as digital transformation, transparency and accountability, citizen engagement, sustainable practices, inclusive governance, performance management.
- Skill Enrichment: Provide hands-on learning experiences to refine skills in policy development, project management, and data-driven decision-making.

- **Cultural Bridging:** Cultivate cross-cultural understanding, harmonious cooperation to enhance collaboration and reinforcing the bilateral relations between the two countries.
- **Network Development:** Establish a strong network of professionals from Portugal and Iceland for ongoing information exchange and collaboration.

Planned results⁷

Output	Indicator	Target
Report	Reporting the knowledge gained, skills enhanced, including concrete examples of best practices observed. From the acquired knowledge specify which aspects are transferable to your own context or have already been applied.	1
Report	Reporting the knowledge gained, skills enhanced, including concrete examples of best practices observed. From the acquired knowledge specify which aspects are transferable to your own context or have already been applied.	1
Communication Activities. Meeting, in Lisbon, for the final project evaluation and follow-up.	Final Presentation: introducing the final report, with the key results and plan of action.	1 document
Publication by INA's Editorial	Publication of the project report, with around 250 pages and a bookmark, will be available as an eBook and printed on paper.	1 document

⁷ Please refer to the Results Guideline

Title	FBR/09 Benchmarking towards digital transformation in business registry
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Implementing Entity (donor or beneficiary state entity):	IRN – Portuguese Notary and Registration Institute
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Partner(s) (each initiative shall involve minimum one donor state entity and one beneficiary state entity):	The Brønnøysund Register Centre - Norway
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Allocation (a detailed budget is not required):	€ 12.369,48 [JCBF approved amount. Final amount can still be subjected to change after NFP assessment.]
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Implementation date	April 2024 – December 2024
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Short description	<p>This bilateral initiative aims to consolidate a relationship between central government registration agencies from Portugal and Norway, based on a joint effort to share information on topics of mutual interest such as legal frameworks, work experiences and processes, technological solutions, and administrative practices in the field of business registry.</p>
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The objective is to promote cooperation to obtain valuable insights that can be applied to improve national registration systems and simplify cross-border policies. Therefore, united by a common vision, the enrichment of expertise in the field of business registry is expected to be achieved in both countries. The initiative is primarily based on the mutual exchange of best practices and know-how about business registry in public administration among selected national experts, to learn from each other's actions, concepts, doctrines, and successful use cases.

It is worth noting that trust in business registration plays a

fundamental role in reducing economic and social disparities. Legal certainty reduces investment risks and promotes long-term stability; a robust legal framework enhances investors' belief in the rule of law.

Portugal and Norway can benefit from sharing best practices and lessons learned in the field of business registry to strengthen bilateral relations.

Planned results⁸

Output	Indicator	Target
Kick-off Meeting	Documents and News	2
Study Visit to Brønnøysund Register Centre in Norway	Documents and Posts	3
Workshops	Participants and feedback	20 participants; 80% positive feedback
Final Meeting	Documents and News	2

⁸ Please refer to the Results Guideline

Title FBR/10 Exhibition on EEA Cooperation / Celebration of Europe Day

Implementing Entity Embassy of Portugal in Oslo
(donor or beneficiary state entity):

Partner(s) (each initiative shall involve minimum one donor state entity and one beneficiary state entity): -

Allocation (a detailed budget is not required): € 783,50

Implementation date May 2024

Short description As a diplomatic mission, the Embassy of Portugal in Oslo has as its main goal representing Portugal in Norway, as well as promoting political, economic, cultural and people-to-people relations between two allied and partner countries. Part of these relations occur under the framework of the EEA Grants projects involving Portuguese and Norwegian entities. Considering the value of these projects in fostering closer bonds within a broader European cooperation project, the Embassy of Portugal intends to participate in the celebrations of the Europe Day in Oslo with an exhibition highlighting the importance and the impact of emblematic EEA Grants initiatives.

Planned results⁹

Output	Indicator	Target
Exhibition on EEA Cooperation / Celebration of Europe Day	Exhibition	1

⁹ Please refer to the Results Guideline

Title FBR/11 Preventing and combating fisheries crimes

Implementing Entity Portuguese Maritime Police
(donor or beneficiary state entity):

Partner(s) (each initiative shall involve minimum one donor state entity and one beneficiary state entity): Norwegian National Authority for Investigation and Prosecution of Economic and Environmental Crime (Økokrim)

Allocation (a detailed budget is not required): € 36.702 [JCBF approved amount. Final amount can still be subjected to change after NFP assessment.]

Implementation date July 2024 – January 2025

Short description

The commercial relationship between Portugal and Norway, in the fisheries sector, has been consolidated over the last years and is now a very significant factor in the economic balance of both countries.

In this matter, it is cod fishing that takes center stage, where the presence of the Portuguese fleet in Norwegian waters comes from the entry into force of the European Economic Area and not from the EC/Norway bilateral fisheries agreement.

This initiative aims to improve relations between the relevant authorities, with the objective of to share working practices in preventing and combating crime in the fisheries sector, between the national structures in operation.

At the same time, it is expected to build a strong network of contacts, particularly in safety regulations, which will be highly beneficial for future joint actions and collaborative efforts.

For this purpose, visits to Norway and to Portugal will be organized, each featuring a networking meeting and various

representative events.

Planned results¹⁰

Output	Indicator	Target
Knowledge sharing, where Portuguese and Norwegian criminal fisheries structure/best practices are transmitted to the counterpart	Study Visits	2 visits - 8 participants
	Visit Report	2

¹⁰ Please refer to the Results Guidelines

Title	FBR/12 Coastal Ocean SYnergies between Norway and Portugal (COSYNOPT)
Implementing Entity (donor or beneficiary state entity):	Portuguese Hydrographic Institute (IH)
Partner(s) (each initiative shall involve minimum one donor state entity and one beneficiary state entity):	Institute for Marine Research (IMR)
Allocation (a detailed budget is not required):	€ 29.519,68 [JCBF approved amount. Final amount can still be subjected to change after NFP assessment.]
Implementation date	September 2024 – March 2025
Short description	The COSYNOPT Bilateral Initiative builds from the common perception of the importance of the coastal ocean areas and of the challenges associated with the observation of these marine areas. IH and IMR are two key institutions that, in Portugal and Norway, maintain important installed capacities for the observations of the national coastal ocean areas, contributing to a European capacity that can support coastal ocean users and stakeholders. The present Bilateral Initiative will provide a framework for a broad discussion on how new observation strategies (e.g. Citizen Science), new technologies (e.g. robotic vehicles, eDNA sampling) or new approaches (e.g. Machine Learning or Artificial Intelligence) can be used to improve the observation of the coastal ocean environment and to build new knowledge and new products able to support coastal populations, policy makers and Blue Economy actors. The Bilateral Initiative will lead to the design of a specific collaborative action to be developed between IH and IMR, in collaboration with other key Portuguese and Norwegian institutions, which will focus the Nazaré area, in Portugal. The coastal ocean is the marine region that most directly interacts with human populations and from where

these populations receive the majority of the impacts from the ocean environment. It captures the most the human imagination and this can be capitalized to promote society awareness about the marine environment and young generations interest in marine sciences and technologies. COSYNOPT will specifically shape a communication strategy to explore this potential.

The main results to be achieved by the present Bilateral Initiative will be synthesized in the report “Coastal Ocean Synergies between Norway and Portugal”.

Planned results¹¹

Output	Indicator	Target
Visit of IMR delegation to IH	Number of IMR elements participating in the visit to IH	5
Visit of IH delegation to IMR	Number of IH elements participating in the visit to IMR	5
Meeting of IMR and IH researchers with key Portuguese research institutions and other entities	Number of Portuguese research institutions or other entities participating in the meeting	5
Meeting of IH and IMR researchers with key Norwegian research institutions and other entities	Number of Norwegian research institutions or other entities participating in the meeting	3
Joint Seminar on "Coastal Ocean Observation, Research and Challenges"	Number of Participants in the Seminar	40
Bilateral Initiative Management	Report of “Coastal Ocean Synergies between Norway and Portugal”	1

¹¹ Please refer to the Results Guidelines

Title	FBR/13 .PT and ISNIC initiative - Atlantic Roots, Digital Future
Implementing Entity (donor or beneficiary state entity):	Associação DNS.PT
Partner(s) (each initiative shall involve minimum one donor state entity and one beneficiary state entity):	ISNIC
Allocation (a detailed budget is not required):	€ 52.619,16 [JCBF approved amount. Final amount can still be subjected to change after NFP assessment.]
Implementation date	September 2024 – February 2025
Short description	<p>.PT (DNS.PT Association) and ISNIC, are the entities responsible for the management, maintenance and registration of domains under the country code top-level domain (ccTLD) corresponding to their countries, .pt and .is, respectively, and believe there is space for collaboration in the grounds of sustainability and cybersecurity.</p> <p>To operationalize the cooperation between these two organizations, this initiative will have three main moments: participation in two major digital events, references in Portugal (IDC Directions and Portugal Digital Summit), ISNIC will be invited to an interview at the PTSOC News, a magazine from the .PT Security Operations Center (PTSOC), which has an audience of more than 500 contacts, and both organizations will present a case study on their collaboration in CENTR, an international forum.</p> <p>Adding to that, a communication campaign will be launched in social media and digital outdoors in major cities.</p>

Planned results¹²

Output	Indicator	Target
Generate awareness among the business people	Participants in the session; Number of visitors to the booth	200 (participants in the session) 100 (visitors to the booth)
Generate awareness among the business people	Participants in the session; Number of visitors to the booth	100 (participants in the session) 600 (visitors to the booth)
Awareness: sustainable, secure and reliable online shopping	People reached and interactions	100.000 (reach) 2000 (interactions)
Awareness: sustainable, secure and reliable online shopping	Estimated outdoor interactions	150 (number of outdoors)
Cybersecurity awareness	People reached	400
Increased cooperation between countries and ccTLD's	Participants	2
Increased cooperation between countries and ccTLD's	Participants in the .PT session	40

¹² Please refer to the Results Guidelines

Title	Bilateral Event "Portuguese Public Funds Opportunities" in Lisbon
Implementing Entity (donor or beneficiary state entity):	National Focal Point - Portugal
Partner(s) (each initiative shall involve minimum one donor state entity and one beneficiary state entity):	Innovation Norway (NO)
Allocation (a detailed budget is not required):	€ 16.460
Implementation date	May 2022

Short description	<p>The aim for this initiative was to strengthen relationships between companies Portuguese and Norwegian companies, share information about the different financing existing in Portugal and the financing opportunities in Norway.</p> <p>The event had a hybrid character, being in person, but also broadcast live and made available through social communication of EEA Grants Portugal and IN.</p> <p>The program also included the organization of matchmaking meetings between Norwegian and Portuguese companies. Matchmaking was carried out in person on the day of the event and online, from 2nd to 4th May 2022, through the B2Match platform, for all companies that were unable to participate in person. The platform registered a total of 46 registrations, of which 17 corresponding to entities from Norway and 29 from Portugal.</p>
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Planned results¹³

Output	Indicator	Target
Participation of NO entities in person	number of participants	16
Meetings organized in the B2Match Platform by participants	number of meetings scheduled	30

¹³ Please refer to the Results Guideline

Title: Production of Films to publicize EEA Grants Portugal

Implementing Entity
(donor or beneficiary state entity): National Focal Point - Portugal

Partner(s) (each initiative shall involve minimum one donor state entity and one beneficiary state entity):

Allocation (a detailed budget is not required): €27.595

Implementation date September 2022

Short description The aim of this initiative was to produce a pack of films to promote EEA Grants Portugal (and the programme areas) and the importance of bilateral relations, for each programme/fund, namely:

- 2 films of initiatives of the Bilateral Relations Fund;
- 2 films of projects from the Blue Growth Programme;
- 2 films of projects from the Environment Programme;
- 2 films of projects from the Culture Programme;
- 2 films of projects from the Worklife Balance Programme;
- 2 films from projects of Active Citizen Fund

It was also created a teaser for each of the listed films. Additionally, a summary film has been produced, which includes segments from all the individual films.

Planned results¹⁴

Output	Indicator	Target
Production of films	number of films	13
Production of a teaser	number of teasers	1

¹⁴ Please refer to the Results Guideline

Title:	Business Bilateral Opportunities Event in Oslo
Implementing Entity (donor or beneficiary state entity):	National Focal Point - Portugal
Partner(s) (each initiative shall involve minimum one donor state entity and one beneficiary state entity):	Innovation Norway (NO)
Allocation (a detailed budget is not required):	€ 26.101
Implementation date	September 2022

Short description	<p>The event aims to strengthening relations between Portuguese and Norwegian companies.</p> <p>The event kept two matchmaking moments as before, in person and online, through the matchmaking platform B2match.</p> <p>A total of 30 companies participated in the event in person, including 9 Portuguese companies and 21 Norwegian companies.</p> <p>It was also organized a pre-meeting dinner, in a more informal ambiance, to create an engagement between the event attendees and facilitate the scheduling of some side meetings and contacts, that overcame the agenda of the day after, which inevitably contributed to the success of the main event.</p>
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Planned results¹⁵

Output	Indicator	Target
Participants in the pre-meeting dinner	number of participants	38
Meetings organized in the B2Match Platform by participants	number of meetings scheduled	48
Participation of PT entities in person	number of participants	9

¹⁵ Please refer to the Results Guideline

Title: The One Ocean Week (in Bergen)

Implementing Entity
(donor or beneficiary state entity): National Focal Point - Portugal

Partner(s) (each initiative shall involve minimum one donor state entity and one beneficiary state entity): Directorate General for Maritime Policy (DGPM) (PT); Secretary General for Environment (PT); Innovation Norway (NO)

Allocation (a detailed budget is not required): € 14.703

Implementation date April 2023

Short description

In August 2021, the Norwegian tall ship, Statsraad Lehmkuhl embarked on a 20-month long circumnavigation of the globe - The One Ocean Expedition. The goal was to create attention and share knowledge about the crucial role of the ocean for sustainable development from a global perspective. The One Ocean Expedition is a part of the UNs decade of ocean science for sustainable development. Through the expedition, the 108-year-old sail ship has served as a floating university and training vessel. Here, business, academia, professionals, and trainees have come together in a unique arena for collaboration. Statsraad Lehmkuhl is a symbol for, and an ambassador for a sustainable ocean. The expedition has received great international attention, and the ship has been visited by heads of state and diplomats from all the countries the ship has visited. During the Ocean Expedition, Statsraad Lehmkuhl stopped in Portugal twice and, by the time, the Blue Growth PO, DGPM, and the Embassy co-organized a seminar about Portuguese-Norwegian cooperation to promote “the blue in the green”, financed by the EEA grants.

On April 15, 2023, the ship returned to Bergen, in Norway. This marked the start of The One Ocean Week - a week filled with conferences, workshops, and activities related to maritime

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policy, marine research, and sustainable oceans.

In connection with The One Ocean Week, it was organized a three day- delegation visited from Portugal to Norway. The aim was twofold:

- 1 - To showcase some of the ongoing bilateral cooperation between Portugal and Norway related to the blue and sustainable ocean, financed by the EEA grants, and
- 2 - To discuss the synergies with the Blue Growth and Environment areas, as well as to identify best practices and opportunities for future cooperation.

The delegation program was composed of:

Day 1 - a **public seminar**, followed by internal **CC meetings** with Blue Growth and Environment Programme Operators, together with the DPPs and a **public screening of Ocean related films** resulting from the FILMar project;

Day 2 - visits to important ocean research institutions;

Day 3 - visit to the Nordhordland Biosphere reserve, project partner in the EEA-grants project Biosphere Reserves.

Planned results¹⁶

Output	Indicator	Target
Participants in the Seminar	number of participants	47
Participants in CC meetings	number of participants	19
Participants in FilMar session	number of participants	29
Participants in the Institutions visited	average of participants	37
Participants in the visit to the Nordhordland Biosphere reserve	number of participants	24

¹⁶ Please refer to the Results Guideline

Title: Ports modernization: Portuguese delegation visit to Norway

Implementing Entity (donor or beneficiary state entity): National Focal Point - Portugal and DGPM – Directorate General for Maritime Policy / Blue Growth Programme Operator

Partner(s) (each initiative shall involve minimum one donor state entity and one beneficiary state entity): Norwegian Embassy in Lisbon; Innovation Norway

Allocation (a detailed budget is not required): € 31.411 [final amount will still be updated, pending Innovation Norway invoice]

Implementation date June 2024

Short description In conjunction with the offshore wind development, the Portuguese authorities are drawing up plans for extensive investments in upgrading and modernizing ports and shipyards, including marine control traffic management and single window systems, which provides great opportunities for bilateral cooperation with Norway.

The effort to promote Norwegian green solutions in cooperation with Portugal will also help to follow up Europe's green initiatives, the opportunities arising from the EU's reconstruction plans and Norway's green alliance with the EU. These will also help to follow up recommendations from the Ocean Panel, of which both Norway and Portugal are members.

The delegation program was composed of:

Day 1 - a **visit to the Port of Oslo**, followed by an internal event **“Norwegian solutions for port digitalization”**, a networking lunch and bilateral meetings;

Day 2 - a **visit to the Port of Bergen**, followed by an internal event “**Norwegian solutions for port digitalization**”, a networking lunch and a visit to Equinor operational base Sandsli and, optionally, a visit to Corvus Energy, followed by a networking dinner;

Day 3 - **visit to the Wergeland Base AS.**

Planned results¹⁷

Output	Indicator	Target
Participants in the visit to the Port of Oslo	number of participants	25
Participants in the visit to the Port of Bergen	number of participants	25
Participants in the visit to Wergeland Base AS	number of participants	20

¹⁷ Please refer to the Results Guideline

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Title	30th anniversary of European Economic Area (EEA) Agreement
Implementing Entity (donor or beneficiary state entity):	National Focal Point - Portugal
Partner(s) (each initiative shall involve minimum one donor state entity and one beneficiary state entity):	Embassy of Norway in Portugal, Programme Operators, including the Active Citizens Fund
Allocation (a detailed budget is not required):	€ 72.213,03 [Current JCBF approved amount. Final amount will still be updated.]
Implementation date	October 2024
Short description	<p>Portugal has been one of the EEA Financial Mechanism beneficiary countries from the beginning, as well as the importance and results achieved by the projects supported over the years, this conference will be one of the most emblematic moments of the year. This conference will also be the NFP closing event and the opportunity to showcase the results of the Mechanism 2014-2021.</p> <p>The event will take the format of a Conference involving the donor countries and the Programme Operators and also high-level representatives of the Portuguese Republic, the Portuguese Government and representatives from the Donor Countries Embassies, along relevant organizations and national and international experts.</p>

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Planned results¹⁸

Output	Indicator	Target
30th anniversary of European Economic Area (EEA) Agreement event	Number of conferences	1

¹⁸ Please refer to the Results Guidelines

Title	Production of Films to publicise EEA Grants Portugal
Implementing Entity (donor or beneficiary state entity):	National Focal Point - Portugal
Partner(s) (each initiative shall involve minimum one donor state entity and one beneficiary state entity):	-
Allocation (a detailed budget is not required):	€ 30.750
Implementation date	October 2024
Short description	<p>For the 30th Anniversary Conference of the Agreement on the European Economic Area it will be created EEA Grants Portugal films, with infographics and editorial development.</p> <p>The video's aim is to increase the visibility of the EEA Grants, disseminating useful information on the key aspects and impact of the EEA Grants in Portugal, their respective thematic areas and the importance of bilateral relations.</p>

Planned results¹⁹

Output	Indicator	Target
Films from the current EEAFM 2014-2021: 1 per Programme/Fund; 1 summary film of all the Programmes/Funds of the current EEAFM 2014-2021; 1 film from previous EEAFMs)	Number of films	8
Teasers for the films from the current EEAFM 2014-2021: 1 per Programme / Fund)	Number of teasers	8

²⁰ Please refer to the Results Guideline

7. Budget

Title	Budget	Comments
Activities carried out by the NFP	€ 250.000	
Support initiatives aiming at strengthening bilateral relations between Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway (Donor States) and Portugal	€ 622.843	Amount revised as a result of the final balances calculated to date
Supporting Bilateral Initiatives between Portugal & Norway that clearly demonstrate innovative approaches and/or solutions with a clear bilateral aim and with tangible bilateral results	€ 612.255	Amount revised as a result of the final balances calculated to date
Pre-defined activities (total budget for planned pre-defined activities at national level)	€ 746.000	
PT-INNOVATION	€ 200.000	
PT-WORKLIFE	€ 178.037	
PT-ENVIRONMENT	€ 180.856	
PT-CULTURE	€ 172.026	
Funds still to be allocated	€ 226.773	
Total	€ 3.188.790	