**Open Call for Bilateral Initiatives in the area of Green Transition**

**between Poland and Norway**

under the

**Fund for Bilateral Relations**

EEA and Norway Grants 2014 – 2021

**Poland**

The Fund for Bilateral Relations (hereinafter referred to as “the Fund”) was established to enhance cooperation and improve mutual knowledge and understanding between Poland and the Donor States – Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway.

**The aim of this Call is to establish cooperation between Poland and Norway. All initiatives must be implemented in bilateral cooperation between entities from Poland and Norway**

**Summary**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Launch and closure** | 15.09.2022 till 15.11.2022 |
| **Area of support** | Green transition |
| **Total allocation** | €2,5 million; the allocation can be modified by JCBF if needed |
| **Min/max grant** | Min grant is €50 000  Max grant €250 000 |
| **Duration of initiative** | Up to 12 months |
| **Applicants/partners** | Legal persons, public or private, commercial or non-commercial, or non-governmental organisations, established in Poland or Norway. |
| **Further conditions** | Partnership between Polish and Norwegian entities is mandatory.  Applications and all communication shall be in English  The state aid and de minimis aid is not granted as part of the call. |

**Scope, time line**

This call supports bilateral initiatives between Polish and Norwegian entities in the area of green transition, i.e. the transformation necessary to tackle climate change and environmental challenges.

The call particularly aims at the following areas: renewable energy and other forms of clean energy solutions, zero-emission transport including green shipping, smart/sustainable city solutions, carbon capture and storage, circular economy. This list is not exhaustive and proposals in other areas can be considered, provided they demonstrate their relevance for green transition.

The duration of the initiatives is up to 12 months.

**Grant amount, grant rate, minimum and maximum grant**

The total grant amount for the call is €2,5 million.

The grant rate is 100% of the total eligible costs, i.e. no co-financing is requested.

The minimum grant amount is €50 000, the maximum is €250 000.

**Eligible applicants and partners**

Any entity, public or private, commercial or non-commercial and non-governmental organisations, established as a legal person in Poland or in Norway, is eligible as applicant or partner.

Each applicant can submit one application. Each partner can be a partner in one application

The application shall include letters of commitment from the partners or partnership agreement. The partnership agreement needs to be signed before signing the initiative contract (if approved for financing), at latest.

**Eligible activities**

Any activities in line with Article 8.8 of the Regulations[[1]](#footnote-1) and strengthening bilateral relations, enhancing cooperation and improving mutual knowledge and understanding between Poland and Norway in the area of green transition. The call supports well-balanced partnerships where all parties benefit from the cooperation, and where the applicant and the partner(s) plan and implement the initiative in collaboration.

The initiative must be in compliance with applicable state aid rules.

**Eligible expenditures**

The eligibility of expenditure is subject to the existence of a clear bilateral profile of the activities, that serve the tangible purpose of strengthening bilateral relations between Poland and Norway.

To be eligible, expenditures must be in line with the general principles on the eligibility of expenditures, as set forth in Article 8.2 of the Regulation[[2]](#footnote-2).

The management costs (including the overheads, if applicable) cannot constitute more than 10% of the initiative budget. The cost of an audit report (being the mandatory proof of expenditures) does not fall under the management costs category, but is an eligible cost within the initiative.

**Process**

Applications shall be submitted electronically by email using the template In Annex.

Applications must be submitted between 15.09.2022 and 15.11.2022 till end of the day to the e-mail address: green.call@mfipr.gov.pl.

The NFP will carry out the formal eligibility check of the submitted applications.

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| No | Control question | YES | NO | Comments |
| 1 | |  | | --- | | Was the Grant Application delivered by the deadline, using the standard template and method of delivery? | |  |  |  |
| 2 | |  | | --- | | Are the mandatory attachments attached to the Grant Application (letter of intent/partnership agreement and state aid test)? | |  |  |  |
| 3 | Does the state aid test attached states that there is no state aid? |  |  |  |
| 4 | |  | | --- | | Is the timeframe of the initiative implementation in compliance with the length and period specified in the Call? | |  |  |  |
| 5 | |  | | --- | | Is the minimal and maximum limit of the initiative budget ensured? | |  |  |  |
| 6 | Does the application include Partners from Norway and Poland? |  |  |  |

The applications that meet the formal criteria will be sent to the content related assessment which will be carried out by the Selection Committee, to be set-up and coordinated by the Royal Norwegian Embassy to Poland .

The composition of the Selection Committee is as follows:

* Representative of the Norwegian Research Council, Donor Programme Partner in PL-Research
* Representative of the Polish Ministry of Climate and Environment, Programme Operator for PL-Climate
* Representative of the Norwegian Water Resources and Energy Directorate (NVE), Donor Programme Partner in PL-Climate
* Representative of FMO
* Representative of NFP
* Representative of Royal Norwegian Embassy to Poland

The representatives of the PO Climate, of the DPP for Climate and DPP for Research are members of the Selection Committee with voting rights. The NFP, the FMO and the Norwegian Embassy are observers in the Selection Committee without voting rights. The Selection Committee makes decisions by consensus. The Royal Norwegian Embassy to Poland acts as secretariat to the Selection Committee.

The Selection Committee will assess the applications on the following criteria:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **CRITERIA** | **EVALUATION QUESTIONS** | **Score** |
| **Tangible Results**  **(0-10)** | How relevant and meaningful for green transition is the scope of the initiative?  Are the proposed activities coherent with the scope of the initiative and with the area of green transition? |  |
| **Efficiency**  **(0-5)** | Are the objectives SMART (Specific, Measurable, Assignable, Realistic and Time-bound)?  Is the budget efficient, reasonable, proportionate, and coherent with the results? Are the expenditure justified? |  |
| **Innovative Results/Scaling up (0-5)** | Does the application clearly explain how the results represent new solutions or approaches?  Does the application clearly explain how the results can be disseminated/scaled up? |  |
| **Bilateral Involvement**  **(0-10)** | Does the initiative demonstrate clear mutual interest related to green transition?  Does the initiative present a clear bilateral scope with clear mutual interest?  Is the partnership relevant? Is there an adequate balance in the partnership? Are roles clear? |  |

The initiatives with an overall score of over 60% and not less than 50% for any individual criterion can go further in the process. Initiatives with an overall score below 60% and with less than 50% for any individual criterion are rejected.

The Selection Committee establishes a ranking list of proposals ranked according to the overall score. The NFP forwards this list to the JCBF for granting decision.

The JCBF decides by consensus to award funding or not to the application. When awarding funding, the JCBF may set conditions or require modifications. When awarding funding, the JCBF is not bound by the order of numerical scores and can take into account other objective factors, such as geographic or thematic diversity of the initiatives. If justified, JCBF can decide that none of the initiatives receive funding.

The NFP will notify applicants of the JCBF decision. There is no appeal procedure regarding the decisions of Selection Committee or JCBF.

The approved initiatives will be published on the website [www.eog.gov.pl](http://www.eog.gov.pl)

The NFP will make the necessary contractual agreements with the initiatives that receive funding.

**Financing and reporting**

The NFP shall ensure that payments to initiatives are made in a timely manner. Except for the first advance instalment, the payment to the inititaitve shall be based on approved report.

Payments shall take the form of advance instalment and a payment of the final balance. The advance instalment will be transferred to the project within 30 days from the signature of the initiative contract and shall not exceed 70% of the inititative budget.

The reimbursement of final payment is based on the approved Final Report submitted by the final beneficiary within two months after the completion of substantive implementation. The expenditures

included in the final report must be certified by an auditor. The cost of the auditor is eligible within the initiative.

The intiative contract refers to grant amount in EUR (on the basis of the initiative proposal template) and the payments are made in NOK/PLN (according to the beneficiary).

**Further information**

Any amendments to this call text shall be published on the website [www.eog.gov.pl](http://www.eog.gov.pl)

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Questions related to this call text can be sent to green.call@mfipr.gov.pl and will be replied by 10 working days.

Applicants are recommended to become familiar with the following documents:

* Bilateral Guideline
* Regulation on implementation of the EEA Financial Mechanism 2014 – 2021 and Regulation on implementation of the Norwegian Financial Mechanism 2014 – 2021
* NFP Bilateral Guidelines
* NFP procurement guidelines

**Annexes**

* Proposal of initiative template
* Contract template
* State aid template

1. Regulation on the Implementation of the EEA Financial Mechanism 2014-2021 and Regulation on the Implementation of the Norwegian Financial Mechanism 2014-2021 [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. idem [↑](#footnote-ref-2)