

# **Annex**

## **COUNTRY-SPECIFIC SET-UP**

### **FRAMEWORK AGREEMENT**

between

THE SWISS FEDERAL COUNCIL

and

THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF  
ESTONIA

On

THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE SECOND SWISS  
CONTRIBUTION TO SELECTED MEMBER STATES OF  
THE EUROPEAN UNION TO REDUCE ECONOMIC AND  
SOCIAL DISPARITIES WITHIN THE EUROPEAN UNION

## **1. General provisions**

- 1.1. This Country-Specific Set-Up is an integral part of the Framework Agreement between the Swiss Federal Council (hereinafter referred to as “Switzerland”) and the Government of the Republic of Estonia (hereinafter referred to as “Estonia”) on the implementation of the second Swiss Contribution to selected Member States of the EU to reduce economic and social disparities within the EU (hereinafter referred to as the “Framework Agreement”).
- 1.2. For the purposes of this Country-Specific Set-Up, the definitions in the Framework Agreement shall apply.
- 1.3. This Country-Specific Set-Up lays down the thematic and geographic allocations of the Contribution and the specific rules agreed between Switzerland and Estonia, as well as the attribution of responsibilities and tasks to entities involved in the implementation of the Swiss-Estonian Cooperation Programme and in Support Measures respectively.
- 1.4. For specific rules and procedures not provided in the Country Specific Set-Up, the provisions of Regulations shall apply.

## **2. Roles and responsibilities for the Swiss – Estonian Cooperation Programme**

### **2.1. National Coordination Unit**

The Partner State has authorized the State Shared Service Centre (hereinafter SSSC) Grants Development Department to act on its behalf as National Coordination Unit of the Swiss – Estonian Cooperation Programme.

The SSSC is administrated by the Ministry of Finance of the Republic of Estonia. The Grants Development Department is directly subordinated to the Deputy Director General of the SSSC, who shall act as the Head of the National Coordination Unit. In its role as Head of the National Coordination Unit, the Deputy Director General of the SSSC is directly accountable to the Minister of Public Administration.

The Grants Development Department of the SSSC is also responsible for the coordination and management of the European Structural Investment Funds and other foreign investments (e.g. Norwegian Financial Mechanism and the European Economic Area Financial Mechanism)

The role and responsibilities of the National Coordination Unit are set out in the Regulations. In addition, the National Coordination Unit shall fulfill the tasks of the Paying Authority.

## **2.2. Paying Authority**

The Paying Authority is the SSSC. The roles and responsibilities of the Paying Authority are set out in the Regulations.

The National Coordination Unit takes on the tasks of the Paying Authority. Adequate functional separation of tasks of the National Coordination Unit and the Paying Authority shall be ensured. The Grants Payment Department shall fulfil the tasks of the Paying Authority. The Grants Payment Department is directly subordinated to the Deputy Director General of the SSSC.

The Grants Payment Department of the SSSC is responsible for the financial management of the European Structural Investment Funds and other foreign assistance (e.g. Norwegian and EEA Grants).

## **2.3. Audit Authority**

The Audit Authority is the Financial Control Department of the Ministry of Finance of the Republic of Estonia. The roles and responsibilities of the Audit Authority are set out in the Regulations.

The Financial Control Department carries out the functions of the Audit Authority for the European Structural Investment Funds and other foreign assistance. The head of the Financial Control Department shall be the head of the Audit Authority. The Financial Control Department is accountable to the Secretary-General of the Ministry of Finance of the Republic of Estonia, which again is accountable to the Minister of Finance concerning the responsibilities carried out by the Audit Authority. The Audit Authority shall be functionally independent of the National Coordination Unit. The roles and responsibilities of the Audit Authority are stipulated in the Regulation.

### 3. Parameters of cooperation

#### 3.1. Thematic allocation

<b>Specific objective &amp; thematic area</b>	<b>Indicative allocation of the Contribution [in CHF millions]</b>
<b>1. Promoting economic growth and social dialogue, reducing (youth) unemployment</b>	
(i) Vocational and professional education and training	0
(ii) Research and innovation	0
(iii) Financing for micro, small and medium-sized enterprises	0
<b>2. Managing migration and supporting integration. Increasing public safety and security</b>	
(iv) Migration management and promoting integration measures	18.60
(v) Improving public safety and security	0
<b>3. Protecting the environment and the climate</b>	
(vi) Energy efficiency and renewable energy	0
(vii) Public transport	0
(viii) Water and waste-water management	0
(ix) Waste management	0
(x) Nature conservation and biodiversity	6.93
<b>4. Strengthening of social systems</b>	
(xi) Health and social protection	0
(xii) Minorities and socially disadvantaged groups	0
<b>5. Civic engagement and transparency</b>	
(xiii) Civic engagement and transparency	0
<b>6. Technical support</b>	
(xiv) Technical Assistance Fund	0.39
(xv) Support Measure Preparation Fund	0.08
<b>Total allocation</b>	<b>26.0</b>

Any unused balances in all the Support Measure of the Swiss-Estonian Cooperation Programme may be transferred to any other approved Support Measure provided the feasibility until the end of the eligibility period, by mutual agreement (e.g. confirmed in the minutes of meetings or by correspondence) between the Competent Authorities mentioned in Article 6 of the Framework

Agreement in the course of the implementation of the Swiss-Estonian Cooperation Programme.  
For the consequent modification of the Support Measure, Article 4.12 Regulations shall apply.

### 3.2. Pre-specified parameters per thematic area

#### (iv) Migration management and promoting integration measures

Support Measure name	Supporting Social Inclusion	
Support Measure type	Programme	
Objectives	The programme sets out to implement the vision of the national strategy “Estonia 2035” and “Cohesive Estonia Strategy 2030” with the aim to unify value systems and strengthen people’s cultural, social and economic connection with the country.	
Strategic Focus	<p>The programme renders integration support in four areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Cultural and linguistic integration: Opportunities for practicing Estonian, improvement of the cultural integration between different communities, media literacy and parental counselling on adaption and integration.</li> <li>- Strengthening social systems and child protection thereby also addressing the specific needs of migrants and refugees.</li> <li>- Preparation of Estonian educational institutions and professionals and youth work specialists to work with children of migrants and refugees with the goal of facilitating their economic inclusion and work prospects, including professional recognition.</li> <li>- Civil society: to strengthen civil society through civic engagement and CSO action, focusing on social inclusion of migrants and refugees through social innovation.</li> </ul>	
Swiss indicative Commitment	18.6 million CHF	
Project or Programme Operator	Ministry of Culture	
Swiss Support Measure Partner(s)	Public institutions, private sector and civil society organisations with relevant expertise and experience in the integration of migrants in Switzerland.	
Other specificities related to the Support Measure	The Ministry of Social Affairs, the Ministry of Education and Research and the Ministry of Interior will act as programme component operators.	

**(ix) Nature conservation and biodiversity**

Support Measure name	Bio-Diversity Programme	
Support Measure type	Programme	
Objectives	Development of innovative monitoring and assessment solutions for endangered species and habitats listed in the EU Habitats and Birds Directive.	
Strategic Focus	The programme sets out to contribute to the improvement and preservation of conservation status of species and habitats through decision-making that relies on high-quality data, including innovative monitoring solutions. Further, the programme will add to the development of existing systems in order to ensure data transition between different systems and to make environmental data more accessible. The project will build up and validate a digital toolset for the governance of the system and carry out evaluations of management effectiveness for protected areas. The intervention will build on the results of various past and ongoing initiatives, like applied research projects on nature conservation in relation to climate change and on existing state monitoring and planning systems for protected areas.	
Swiss indicative Commitment	6.93 million CHF	
Project or Programme Operator	Ministry of Environment	
Swiss Support Measure Partner(s)	Public institutions, private sector and civil society organisations in Switzerland with relevant expertise and experience in biodiversity.	
Other specificities related to the Support Measure		

**4. Partner State specific rules and procedures**

Switzerland and Estonia agree to the following specific provisions in derogation/modification/complement/specification of the regulations:

- To complement Article 3.5 of the Regulation it shall be agreed that the National Coordination Unit takes on the tasks of the Paying Authority. Adequate functional separation of tasks shall be ensured.
- The following paragraph replaces Art 4.5 paragraph 1 of the Regulations: The Partner State shall arrange a transparent and fair selection process for Projects or Programme

Components. For this purpose the Partner State may establish or use existing national committee for governing areas.

- The following paragraph of Art. 4.11 paragraph 3 b) shall be deleted: The SCO shall not have the right to vote.
- The following paragraph replaces Art 4.11 Paragraph 3 c) of the Regulations: Decision-making in the Support Measure Steering Committee shall be based on consensus by the members with voting rights.
- To complement Articles 8.3.3 and 8.3.4 there is mutual understanding that the accounts where the advance payments are held are e-Treasury accounts that do not generate interest.
- The following paragraph replaces Article 8.4 Paragraph 2 of the Regulations: The Paying Authority shall convert the total of all expenditures incurred in the given reimbursement period into Swiss francs at the future exchange rate given by the Estonian State Treasury on the day of submitting the Reimbursement Request.
- The following paragraph replaces Art 11.4 Paragraph 2. of the Regulations: Before the proposed financial correction is applied, it may be proposed by the NCU to Switzerland. If Switzerland disagrees with the proposed financial correction over 10 000 CHF, Switzerland shall enter into a dialogue with the NCU within one month of receiving the proposal. The NCU may take into consideration the concerns of Switzerland.
- The following paragraph replaces Art 7.2 Paragraph 1 a) of the Regulations:
  - a) Switzerland requests a copy of relevant parts of the tender documents for non-objection and to engage in substantive technical exchange prior to the commencement of the procurement procedure. As a result of this assessment, Switzerland may recommend adjustments to the tender documents. These recommendations may be taken into account and the SCO shall be informed accordingly;

In the event of a conflict between the Regulations and these specific provisions, the specific provisions of this Annex shall prevail.