

Exemption No 1 of the Bilateral Fund Guide v. 1.1

Validity from:	<i>date of approval on the electronic signature</i>	
She elaborated:	<i>Ľubica Emmerová, Lawyer Department for EEA and Norway Grants and Swiss Contribution</i>	<i>Signed: electronically</i>
Verified and submitted by:	<i>Jaroslav Mojžiš, Director of the Department for EEA and Norway Grants and Swiss Contribution</i>	<i>Signed : electronically</i>
Approves:	<i>Martin Hudzík, Director-General of the Section of European Territorial Cooperation</i>	<i>Signed : electronically</i>
Date of approval:	<i>date of approval on the electronic signature</i>	
Based on:	<i>own initiative</i>	
Exemption Type:	<i>Block exemption</i>	

Text of the exemption

In accordance with Article 3 of Guideline U-NKB-4/2019 of the Bilateral Fund Guide, the National Focal Point grants

Block Exemption

from Chapter 20, **point 1** of the Bilateral Fund Guide, ver. 1.1. (hereinafter referred to as the "Guide") **for beneficiaries in the framework of small-scale bilateral events supported under the FBR03 call.**

Under this exemption, the National Focal Point is entitled to determine the first date of eligibility of expenditure, even before the date on which the Joint Committee on Bilateral Funds has recommended the initiative for funding, with the following date to be fixed in the Grant Offer:

- a. **15 August 2024** for events starting between 15 August and 15 October 2024,
- b. **15 October 2024** for events starting between 15 October and 15 December 2024,
- c. **15 December 2024** for events starting between 15 December 2024 and 15 February 2025,
- d. **15 February 2025** for events starting between 15 February 2025 and 15 April 2025.

Justification for the exemption

In the Call FBR03, the National Focal Point specified the time intervals within which the applicant is entitled to submit a Grant Application for the implementation of a small-scale bilateral event (hereinafter referred to as the "Grant Application"). Call FBR03 was launched immediately after the reallocation of available funds to the Fund for Bilateral Relations, less than one year before the end of

the eligibility period (30.04.2025). The National Focal Point left a period of one month for the evaluation of the Grant Application to allow beneficiaries to use at least the end of the summer for the implementation of the events. For various reasons, such as the receipt of a large number of Grant Applications in the same time interval, the holiday period, the busyness of the members of the JBCF, the need to request additional information, or the need to re-vote on a grant application, a situation may arise where the JBCF does not recommend an initiative for funding until after the start of a given time interval or after the start of the implementation of a given initiative.

The National Focal Point is not prevented from granting an exemption by any of the provisions of the Legal Framework of the EEA FM and NFM, the Statutes and Rules of Procedure of the Joint Committee on Bilateral Funds, the Work Plan of the Joint Committee on Bilateral Funds or the provisions of the FBR03 Call.

Before granting the exemption, the National Focal Point verified that:

- in this particular case, **it is not** more appropriate to make a change to the relevant document, formalised by an amendment or by issuing a new version, as it concerns only the call FBR03,
- the granting of the exemption is genuinely justified by the exceptional circumstances set out in the justification

To be delivered:

1. Members of the Joint Committee on Bilateral Relations