

# *ANNUAL PROGRAMME REPORT*

## *FM14-21*

Poland

PL-INNOVATION Business Development and Innovation

2021

## A. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In the end of the year 2021 the implementation of Business Development and Innovation Programme within the Norwegian Financial Mechanism 2014-2020 was at the stage of completing the contracting process and starting the implementation of the selected projects.

During the reporting period (the year 2021) the final decision on selection of projects was taken in each of the grant schemes of the first call for proposals. PARP organized 3 Selection Committee meetings, approved the lists of projects prepared by the Selection Committee (a list of projects recommended to be awarded - in each of the grant schemes, a list of projects recommended to be rejected - in each of the grant schemes, a reserve list of projects, which may be awarded if there are available funds in the budget – only in the Green Industry Innovation scheme) and on their basis made the final award decision.

Later PARP published on the website the list of projects recommended to be granted support in each of the grant schemes – in Green Industry Innovation and Blue Growth on February 26, in Welfare technologies on March 18 and in SGS on June 18. Finally 160 projects were recommended to be granted support - 78 projects for an amount of EUR 49,863,213.26 in Green Industry Innovation, 12 projects for an amount of EUR 9,959,743.37 in Blue Growth, 14 projects for an amount of EUR 13,957,497.19 in Welfare technologies and 56 projects for an amount of EUR 7,269,191.97 in SGS. Additionally 45 projects for an amount of EUR 22,994,677.05 were included in the reserve list of projects in the Green Industry Innovation scheme.

After publication of the lists of projects recommended to be awarded on PARP's website the process of signing project contracts has started. By the end of the reporting period 119 project contracts have been signed for an amount of about EUR 57 million of which 35 contracts concerned partnership projects.

In general, the nature of the projects recommended for support was very diverse, however a domination of the following sectors in the projects selected in the particular Programme schemes could be observed:

- in the Green Industry Innovation scheme: the majority of the projects were planned to be implemented in the manufacturing (steel, wood, plastic or rubber), treatment and disposal of non-hazardous waste, as well as the repair of machinery and the retail sale sectors;
- in the Blue Growth scheme: the majority of the projects were planned to be implemented in the amusement and recreation sector, construction of water projects, as well as the sports facilities;
- in the Welfare Technologies scheme, the projects recommended for support were planned to be implemented in the human health and medical practice, residential care, software and computer programming as well as education sectors;
- in the Small Grant Schemes for female enterprises: the majority of the projects were planned to be implemented in the production, health care, IT, specialized designing and development works as well as services and activities improving physical conditions. Additionally, in this

scheme 38 of selected projects were planned to be implemented in the Welfare Technologies area, 17 projects were planned to be implemented in the Green Industry Innovation area and 1 project was planned to be implemented in the Blue Growth area.

The role of the Norwegian partners in the partnership projects was also very broad and was related i.e.: to delivery of tangible assets adapted to the project promoters' needs as well as the advisory and mentoring in the Small Grant Schemes for female enterprises.

Considering the results of the calls, as well as those planned to be achieved after implementation of selected projects one can assume that:

- the Blue Growth scheme was tailored to the needs of the Polish SMEs acting in the support area, as the number of the projects submitted, the scope of those projects and the quality of the applications allowed to use the available allocation.
- the Green Industry Innovations scheme was very popular among project promoters, what shows big interest of Polish SMEs in making their activities greener. Because the number of submitted applications substantially exceeded the available allocation, this scheme benefited the budget increase allowing to satisfy the needs of beneficiaries.
- the Welfare Technologies scheme was very popular among the project promoters, however, the scope of submitted projects, as well as their quality didn't allow to select a sufficient number of projects meeting the selection criteria. The most problematic were especially: the necessity of including into project scope a development component, addressing the projects to the most disadvantaged target group or using innovative medical technologies. Many of the submitted projects were focused rather on wellness than welfare and domination of basic medical services, as well as social services was visible.
- the Small Grant Schemes for female enterprises was the most popular among the project promoters, however, the scope of submitted projects, as well as their quality didn't allow to select a sufficient number of projects meeting the selection criteria. The most problematic were especially: the necessity of including into project scope a development component, addressing the projects to the most disadvantaged target group or using innovative medical technologies in the projects from the welfare area.

PARP started also to carry out onsite and from behind the desk monitoring activities in respect of projects implemented on the basis of signed grant contracts. These activities were concentrated mainly on verification of material and financial implementation of these projects and their compliance with the scope of activities described in the application for support, correctness of procedures on selection of contractors and compliance with the requirements specified in the grant contract and relevant guidelines.

On the basis of risk analysis conducted in respect of grant contracts signed until the end of August 2021, six projects were selected for onsite monitoring visits which took place in the period from November to December 2021. Additionally payment requests submitted by the beneficiaries were verified. Until the end of the reporting period first payments to the beneficiaries have been made on the basis of the approved payment requests – 12 advance

payments for an amount of about EUR 820 thousand and 7 interim payments for an amount of EUR 880 thousand.

The monitoring activities and contacts with the beneficiaries show that the biggest challenge and difficulty for entrepreneurs is the need of selecting contractors and conducting procurement for the projects in compliance with the national public procurement law (the rule specified in the Article 8.15 of the Regulation).

Moreover during the reporting period PARP prepared and sent the request for amendment of the Programme Agreement concerning changes in budget allocated to the schemes, changes in the Programme indicators and implementation of provision allowing for flexible use of all the funds remaining in the Programme which may be reallocated to the focus area of Blue Growth in order to announce a second round of the call for proposals in this scheme. The need of sending this request arose from the fact that according to the Donors's decision of June 1, 2021, additional EUR 10 million from the financial reserve specified in the Memorandum of Understanding was allocated to the Programme and that a part of the funds allocated to the completed calls for proposals was unused.

This request was accepted by the Donors and Addendum to the Programme Agreement was signed in the beginning of November 2021. On this basis and in order to maximise the use of funds allocated to the Programme PARP prepared the documentation required for the announcement of the second call for proposals in the Blue Growth grant scheme in the beginning of 2022.

During 2021 PARP implemented also various measures to encourage Polish companies and Norwegian entities to establish business contacts and bilateral cooperation. For this purpose several onsite and online bilateral events in the form of webinars and matchmakings were organised in cooperation with the Donor Programme Partner i.e. Innovation Norway.

Additionally PARP prepared and implemented also the next call for proposals for bilateral cooperation support for Polish and Norwegian SMEs (the Travel Grants scheme) - "Call for Proposals for Cooperation Development Support no. 1/2021". This call was aimed at supporting Polish - Norwegian bilateral cooperation development by attendance of Polish and Norwegian SMEs in business events taking place in Norway and Poland. Beneficiaries need to organise economic missions including participation in: a) selected fairs or conferences / congresses, b) bilateral events organised by PARP and Innovation Norway and c) business meetings in Poland and Norway. The call was launched on August 20, 2021. Around 60 applications were submitted and all the budget allocated for the call was consumed. Finally 33 applicants were selected to be granted support.

Since all applicants of the above call were from Polish entities PARP prepared the documentation needed for the announcement of another call for proposals for the Travel Grants scheme in the beginning of 2022. This call will be only for Norwegian entities. The aim of the call will be to encourage Norwegian entities to participate in several bilateral events which will be organised and held in Poland. The aim of this call is to increase the chance of participation of Norwegian entities in the abovementioned events.

In 2021 PARP conducted informational and promotional campaign aiming at providing information on the Programme and the role and significance of the Donor States. The Programme has been promoted during abovementioned bilateral events and through the PARP's website and social media. Additionally the Programme was promoted through press announcements and articles, radio broadcast, promotional articles and on-line campaigns. Information on the Programme was provided also by PARP's information centre which advised applicants and beneficiaries on Programme rules. Moreover PARP organised two online trainings and one webinar for Beneficiaries concerning implementation of projects under the Programme. All of them were also published on PARP's website and YouTube.

Risk analysis included in the Annex 4 of this report was prepared basing on current situation, actual progress in Programme implementation and circumstances caused by Covid-19 pandemic. Since the last risk analysis prepared in order to be included in the Annual Programme Report for the year 2020 the assessment of individual risk can differ but the score of overall risk of the Programme remained approximately the same. New risks have emerged and some of the previous risks are now outdated.

## B. PERFORMANCE

### 1. Programme context

The most important legislative change in 2020 influencing implementation of the Programme was the modification of the regional aid map which determines the intensity of regional investment aid. The former regional aid map for the years 2014-2021 expired on December 31, 2021. Since 2022 the intensity of regional investment aid is determined in accordance with the Regulation of the Council of Ministers of 14 December 2021 on the establishment of the regional aid map for the years 2021-2027.

As a result of the above and according to the plans of launching a second round of the call for proposals in the Blue Growth grant scheme and signing grant contracts in 2022, PARP needed to amend the regulation on providing financial aid unrelated to operational programmes by the Polish Agency for Enterprise Development with regard to the public aid granted in accordance to the regional aid map. The amendment to the abovementioned regulation was published in Polish Journal of Laws on December 23, 2021.

When it comes to the economic issues influencing mostly negatively implementation of the Programme there are some important factors which should be taken under consideration.

First of all the Covid-19 pandemic created a new social and economic situation and due to that affected many aspects of activities carried out within the Programme. It caused some delays especially in the assessment process which continues to influence subsequent stages of Programme implementation. In some cases the pandemic caused also prolonged procedures related to obtaining administrative decisions (such as building permits and environmental decisions) by the applicants submitting documents required for the conclusion of grant contracts.

Pandemic restrictions hindered also implementation of bilateral initiatives. Many of onsite events like trade fairs were postponed or cancelled for epidemiological reasons which forced the change of approach to organisation of events aiming at adjusting the formula (onsite or online events) and the date to the actual possibilities.

Conditions for implementation of projects are also influenced by factors that have changed significantly since the deadline for submitting grant applications. In many sectors and various markets difficulties and delays related to supply chains have emerged since the beginning of the pandemic. Additionally prices of many goods, inflation rate and exchange rate of the zloty to the euro have increased. Financial situation in many sectors has deteriorated. The abovementioned market changes will probably hamper implementation of the selected projects.

When analysing Programme context it is worth to underline the importance of the Green industry innovation grant scheme. Poland is one of the countries with a low rate of eco-innovation ([https://ec.europa.eu/environment/ecoap/indicators/index\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/environment/ecoap/indicators/index_en)) and the aim of the abovementioned scheme is to increase the competitiveness of enterprises using green industry innovation solutions which contribute to the development of enterprise's economic activity and at the same time better waste management, energy efficiency, lower emissions to the atmosphere or more efficient materials management. Similar challenges related to circular economy, sustainable development, energy efficiency and other environmental aspects are addressed also by the other Programmes which will be implemented in Poland. The Green industry innovation grant scheme is therefore consistent with the current trending purpose of the public financial support.

On the other hand the Blue Growth grant scheme is a niche support instrument specific to this Programme and distinguishing it from the other Programmes addressed to Polish enterprises.

Similarly the Small Grant Schemes for female enterprises fills the gap in the Programmes addressed to entrepreneurs in Poland. It responds to the problems existing in Poland and associated with usually smaller businesses and the lower survival rate of female enterprises than those run by men. Support which combines business financing with strengthening the competences to run business is a good answer to the identified reasons for this state of affairs (source: Global Entrepreneurship Monitor Report Poland, PARP 2017). The results of this scheme will be analyzed by PARP in terms of using right tools and the possibility of further similar financing under various Programmes.

The Covid pandemic has strengthened the market demand for welfare products and services such as physical electronic devices, telemedicine, robotics and automation that increases the quality of life, thereby strengthening companies operating in this area. For this reason the scope of Welfare Technologies scheme responds well to the current market needs. It is worth mentioning that support for companies operating in this market is offered in many Programmes implemented in Poland however, in that case this specific group of entrepreneurs was distinguished with its unique needs and due to that this scheme should fill the gap in the market. The results of this scheme will be analyzed by PARP in terms of the possibility of offering similar support under other Programmes implemented in Poland.

## 2. Programme results

### **Outcome 1: Increased competitiveness of enterprises within the focus areas of green industry innovation, blue growth and welfare technology**

The most significant results achieved in the programme are those related to the following outputs:

1. number of SMEs supported to develop new product/technologies in green industry – the number of companies, who declare that thanks to the implementation of their projects, they would develop new products or technologies is 20, whilst the target value is 7. It means that almost 3 times more project promoters than it was assumed at the phase of the Programme preparation are willing to base their projects on their own solutions (developed by themselves) – instead of applying external solutions. In consequence the share of more innovative projects should be bigger than expected (20 out of 57 projects i.e. almost 35% declare that they would develop the products or technologies while implementing projects). Taking into account that the applicants should prove the innovativeness of their projects at the company's level, the fact that they will develop products or technologies means that those products or technologies would be better tailored to the market or applicants' needs. Thus, the level of this indicator will be significantly overachieved, as already now it exceeds the target level (300%), although not all the projects recommended to be supported were contracted.

2. number of female enterprises supported to develop new product/technologies processes/solutions – the achieved number of female companies, who declare that thanks to the implementation of their projects would develop new products or technologies is 43 whilst the target value was 25. It means that almost 2 times more female entrepreneurs than it was assumed at the phase of the Programme preparation are willing to base their projects on their own solutions (developed by themselves) – instead of applying external solutions. In consequence, the share of more innovative projects should be bigger than expected (43 out of 46 projects contracted in the Small Grant Schemes for female enterprises, i.e. almost 94%, declare that they would develop the products or technologies while implementing projects). The level of this indicator will be significantly overachieved, as it reached the level of almost 180%, although not all the projects recommended for support were contracted.

3. share of selected female enterprises supported by mentoring activities - the achieved level of this indicator is almost 68%, whilst the target value was 30% (31 out of 46 projects contracted in the Small Grant Schemes for female enterprises declare that in the course of the their projects' implementation they would benefit from the mentoring services). That indicates high willingness of female companies to develop their managerial skills based on the best examples and practices present on the market. It can be assumed that this aspect of Programme was effectively emphasised during the Call for proposals and this is the positive result of the activities taken by the Programme Operator and Programme Donor Partner (Innovation Norway). The level of this indicator is planned to be significantly overachieved.

It is assumed that the following Programme indicators will be achieved at the level different than set as target at the programming stage:

1. Enterprises supported to increase their blue growth potential (the environment in marine and inland waters area):

- Number of SMEs supported to apply blue growth technologies/processes/solutions (new to the enterprise)
- Number of SMEs supported to develop new product/technologies in blue growth
- Number of SMEs supported to commercialize new technologies/processes/solutions in blue growth.

The number of applications recommended for support was lower than planned at the programming stage, thus the level of the target indicators could not be achieved. The next call for projects is planned to be launched in January 2022 in order to achieve the planned level of the indicators.

2. Enterprises supported to increase their innovation potential in welfare technologies:

- Number of SMEs supported to apply technologies/processes/solutions (new to the enterprise)
- Number of SMEs supported to develop new product/technologies in welfare technologies
- Number of SMEs supported to commercialize new technologies/processes/solutions in welfare technologies

The number of applications recommended for support was lower than planned at the programming stage, thus the level of the target indicators could not be achieved. As the savings which occurred after the project selection were reallocated to the new call in the Blue Growth scheme, the level of the indicators finally achieved will be proportional to the allocation finally assigned to this scheme.

3. Female enterprises supported in the programme focus areas (green industry innovation, blue growth, welfare technologies)

- Number of female enterprises supported to apply innovative technologies/processes/solutions (new to the enterprise)
- Number of female enterprises supported to commercialize new technologies/processes/solutions

Also in this scheme the number of applications recommended for support was lower than planned at the programming stage, thus the savings which occurred after the project selection were reallocated to the new call in the Blue Growth scheme. However, in the case of this scheme the level of the indicators indicated above, achievement of which is declared by the beneficiaries is not only adjusted to the allocation. Additionally, the number of female entrepreneurs declaring that they would develop new product/technologies processes/solutions is higher than planned and that those declaring that they would apply

existing innovative technologies/processes/solutions. As described below, it is in general a positive trend showing that the companies are willing to develop products/technologies/processes/solutions better tailored to their own needs or to the needs of their clients.

As mentioned above, the reasons for underachievement of the target indicators is connected with the different than expected scope or quality of projects submitted in the schemes: Blue Growth, Welfare Technologies and Small Grant Schemes for female enterprises, what in turn resulted with smaller number of selected projects and smaller than planned allocation to be absorbed in those schemes. As, the savings which occurred in these schemes were reallocated to the Green Industry Innovation scheme and the new call in the Blue Growth. Therefore, the results which are expected to be achieved are proportional to the allocation assigned.

The reason of the overachievement of the target indicator is the fact that the willingness of project promoters to develop products/technologies/processes/solutions was bigger than expected at the programming stage. The selection process allowed to choose projects which are focused not only on the application of existing solutions, but prefer development of the solutions better responding to their needs.

The additional results not included in the results framework worth to be mentioned concern first of all the fact that the Programme benefited from an enormous interest of applicants - 740 projects were submitted within a call for proposals organized in the 4 Programme schemes. The significant number of the applicants (219) were interested in getting support within the Green Industry Innovation scheme. In this scheme the quality of applications was the best – more than 50% of projects (123) met the selection criteria: 78 were recommended for support and 45 were on the reserve list and could be financed thanks to the increase of the Programme budget. Additionally, this budget increase together with reallocation of savings from the Welfare technologies and Small Grant Schemes for female enterprises gave PARP a possibility of launching a new call for projects in the Blue growth scheme, what is planned in the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter of 2022. Thanks to this call the results of the Programme are planned to be substantially increased. The first call within the Blue Growth scheme was also successful – the quality of applications was good (ca 50% success rate), which is the good prognosis for the next call.

As the projects are at the very early stage of their implementation, it is too early to provide concrete examples of the results achieved, and the above analysis is made based on the declarations included in the applications for which the project contracts were signed.

#### **Bilateral Outcome: Enhanced collaboration between beneficiary and donor state entities involved in the programme**

Referring to the bilateral outcome, ca. 29,5% (35 out of 119) of the concluded project contracts concern projects planned to be implemented in partnerships with Norwegian entities. As the supported projects are at the very early stage of their implementation, it is too early to provide concrete examples of the bilateral results achieved in the particular projects. The target level of this indicator is 30% and there are still about 70 projects which

haven't been contracted and several of them are planned to be implemented in partnership with Norwegian entities. Among those some projects are considered as risky, thus in those cases the project contracts may not be signed. Therefore there is a risk that the target level of this indicator may not be fully achieved.

However, among 31 projects with mentoring activities supported in the Small Grant Scheme for female enterprises 20 foresee involvement of Norwegian Mentor (more than 65%), which can improve achievement of the Programme indicator according to the Programme Agreement.

When talking about enhancing the bilateral collaboration it is worth emphasizing that during 2021 PARP implemented various measures to encourage Polish companies and Norwegian entities to establish business contacts and bilateral cooperation. In some cases the established cooperation may result in bilateral projects or initiatives, but probably not supported with the funds of the Norway Grants. The first call for proposals and the assessment process in each of the grant schemes had been completed and the second call for proposals is planned only in the Blue Growth grant scheme. The possibilities of establishing bilateral cooperation resulting in implementation of the partnership projects within the Programme are now very limited.

In 2021 the following activities aiming at encouraging bilateral cooperation were implemented by PARP in cooperation with Innovation Norway:

1. Organisation of "Accelerating energy efficiency in SMEs" webinar and online matchmaking event for Polish and Norwegian companies representing energy saving and related industries, held on February 25, 2021. The event was held during the OZE ENEX Trade Fair in Kielce. The purpose of this event was to transfer knowledge and experience to facilitate bilateral cooperation between Polish and Norwegian companies from the green technology sector. The webinar was attended by 39 participants including: (6 Norwegian listeners, 2 Icelandic listeners, 1 Croatian listener, 30 Polish listeners). There were 14 meetings held through the b2match platform.
2. Organisation of "Cluster benchmarking 2020: Polish clusters potential and Polish-Norwegian cooperation" webinar and online matchmaking event for Polish and Norwegian industrial clusters, held on May 26, 2021. The event was aimed at strengthening cooperation between Polish and Norwegian clusters and cooperation networks. The event aimed to transfer knowledge and experience, as well as to initiate and develop bilateral cooperation between Polish and Norwegian cluster organisations from the sector of green, blue and welfare technologies. The event on the first day was attended by 106 persons (21 entities from Norway, 1 entity from Iceland, 1 from Sweden, 83 entities from Poland). On the second day of the event 57 persons were present. The above persons represented: 7 listeners from Norway, 1 listener from Belgium, 1 listener from Greece, 2 listeners from Slovakia, 46 listeners from Poland. 31 meetings took place via the b2match platform.
3. Preparation and implementation of the next call for proposals for bilateral cooperation support for Polish and Norwegian SMEs (the Travel Grants scheme) - "Call for Proposals for Cooperation Development Support no. 1/2021". This call was aimed at supporting Polish - Norwegian bilateral cooperation development by attendance of Polish and Norwegian SMEs

in business events taking place in Norway and Poland. Beneficiaries need to organise economic missions including participation in: a) selected fairs or conferences / congresses, b) bilateral events organised by PARP and Innovation Norway and c) business meetings in Poland and Norway. The call was launched on August 20, 2021. Around 60 applications were submitted and all the budget allocated for the call was consumed. All applicants were from Polish entities. More than 50% of applications concerned green technology area, around 1/3 were focused on welfare technologies and 14% were dedicated to blue growth technologies. Finally 33 applicants were selected to be granted support.

4. Preparation of documentation needed for the announcement of another call for proposals for the Travel Grants scheme. This call will be only for Norwegian entities. The aim of the call will be to encourage Norwegian entities to participate in several bilateral events which will be organised and held in Poland. Since the allocation for the first call was consumed by Polish entrepreneurs, PARP decided to target the new call at Norwegian entrepreneurs to increase the chance of their participation in the abovementioned events.
5. Organisation of "Towards sustainable construction: the presence and future" seminar and business mixer for Polish and Norwegian companies, held in Lillestrøm on October 21, 2021. The event was related to green building in connection with Bygg Reis Deg 2021 in Lillestrøm. The purpose of this event was to transfer knowledge and experience and to develop bilateral cooperation between Polish and Norwegian companies in the green technology sector. The event was attended by 67 participants (14 persons representing organisations from Norway and 53 persons representing organisations from Poland).
6. Organisation of bilateral event related to the circular economy (The 5th Norwegian Circular Economy Conference) in connection with Oslo Innovation Week 2021 (webinar and online b2b meetings). The purpose of this event was to develop bilateral cooperation between Polish and Norwegian companies in the green technology sector. The event was attended by 14 participants from Poland. The event was held on November 25, 2021.
7. Implementation of communication activities described in Annex 2 to this Report.
8. Close and constant cooperation with the Donor Programme Partner – Innovation Norway in encouraging the bilateral cooperation among Polish and Norwegian entities and in the assessment of eligibility of Norwegian partners and quality of the project partnerships.

As mentioned before the cooperation between PARP and the Donor Programme Partner i.e. Innovation Norway plays a significant role in building the bilateral relations under the Programme. Both institutions closely and intensively cooperated since the start of Programme implementation. The abovementioned cooperation is carried out at both formal and working levels. The formal cooperation is performed under the Cooperation Committee consisting of representatives of both institutions with the participation of observers i.e. representatives of the National Focal Point, Financial Mechanism Office and Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

In 2021 two Cooperation Committee meetings were organised during which various issues were discussed and agreed. Considering the perspective of Programme implementation and bilateral relations the most important arrangements of this Committee in 2021 concerned proposals for using the budget unused in the completed call for proposals and additional financial allocation to the Programme (launching the new call for proposals in the Blue

Growth grant scheme), allocation of the bilateral fund budget and types of bilateral activities, successive schedules of bilateral activities and events to be organized and implemented.

When it comes to implementation of bilateral activities agreed during the Cooperation Committee meetings PARP and Innovation Norway closely and intensively cooperated in organizing bilateral events. Detailed and operational issues were discussed and agreed through working arrangements which allows for faster and more flexible response to changing conditions or circumstances. Until now both institutions successfully organized together several bilateral events financed from the Fund for Bilateral Relations aiming at encouraging bilateral relations and partnerships between Polish entrepreneurs and Norwegian entities in all focus areas of the Programme.

Additional field of good cooperation of both institutions referred to joint assessment of partnership projects submitted in the call for proposals. The assessment of projects was completed in 2021. Innovation Norway verified the eligibility of the project partners and quality of the partnerships under the projects. Innovation Norway participated also in all three Selection Committee meetings as one of the observers.

According to the results of the completed call for proposals, the types of projects selected to be granted support and the plans do launch second call for proposals in the Blue Growth grant scheme there is a chance that the target value amounting to 30% of bilateral output concerning donor partnership projects supported will be achieved.

### 3. Implementation

#### Cooperation with International Partner Organisations (IPOs)

N/A

## C. LEARNING

### 1. Monitorings carried out

#### Onsite monitoring activities:

Six projects PL-INNOVATION-0001; PL-INNOVATION-0004; PL-INNOVATION-0005; PL-INNOVATION-0011; PL-INNOVATION-0021; and PL-INNOVATION-0032 were subject to the scheduled monitoring from November to December 2021. These projects have been selected on the basis of risk analysis conducted in respect of grant contracts signed until the end of August 2021.

The monitoring visits took place onsite and during project implementation in all cases.

The scope of the monitoring included verification of the actual existence of the project, actual progress of project implementation (including whether services were provided and supplies were delivered), delivery of product or provision of service in full compliance with the project agreement, compliance with information and communication requirements,

existence of original financial documents and fulfilment of obligations resulting from the project agreement and relevant guidelines.

In the case of five projects the results of onsite monitoring were without any reservations. In the case of One project there were reservations concerning only the incorrect placing of the logos on the website. The monitoring activities concerning project number PL-INNOVATION-0001 included also the analysis of a payment request; in the other cases, the beneficiaries have not settled the expenditures yet.

Since the projects are at an early stage of implementation and monitored beneficiaries did not submit documents concerning selection of contractors to PARP, relevant documents were not subject to verification during onsite monitoring visits.

During onsite monitoring activities there weren't identified any weaknesses resulting in the need to impose financial corrections or consider the expenditure as non-eligible.

#### **From behind the desk monitoring activities - payment requests verifications:**

In 2021, 43 payment requests were submitted under all four schemes: 15 - Green Industry Innovation; 3 - Blue Growth; 4 - Welfare technologies; 21 - Small Grants Schemes for female enterprises.

The above requests included: 18 advance payment requests; 16 reimbursement requests; 3 advance payment settlements; 4 reports on the implementation progress.

During the verification of each payment request, the material progress described by the beneficiary is monitored as well as the fulfilment of information and communication requirements concerning the beneficiary's website. In the case of verification of reimbursement requests and advance payment settlements, the documentation concerning financial implementation and selection of contractors is additionally verified on a defined sample. Additionally it is also verified if the actual project implementation complies with the material scope of the project described in the application for support and with the requirements specified in the grant contract and relevant guidelines.

Until the end of 2021 in the case of three payment requests some shortcomings in the process of selecting contractor were identified.

## **2. Evaluations carried out**

Until now any evaluation has not been carried out. Programme Operator plans to carry out the ex post evaluation of the Programme in 2024.

## **3. Lessons learned from monitoring, evaluation and implementation**

### **Lessons learned from the stage of projects selection:**

Considering the results of the calls, as well as those planned to be achieved after implementation of selected projects one can assume that:

- the Blue Growth scheme was tailored to the needs of the Polish SMEs acting in the support area, as the number of the projects submitted, the scope of those projects and the quality of the applications allowed to use the available allocation.
- the Green Industry Innovations scheme was very popular among project promoters, what shows big interest of Polish SMEs in making their activities greener. Because the number of submitted applications substantially exceeded the available allocation, this scheme benefited the budget increase allowing to satisfy the needs of beneficiaries.
- the Welfare Technologies scheme was very popular among the project promoters, however, the scope of submitted projects, as well as their quality didn't allow to select a sufficient number of projects meeting the selection criteria. The most problematic were especially: the necessity of including into project scope a development component, addressing the projects to the most disadvantaged target group or using innovative medical technologies. Many of the submitted projects were focused rather on wellness than welfare and domination of basic medical services, as well as social services was visible.
- the Small Grant Schemes for female enterprises was the most popular among the project promoters, however, the scope of submitted projects, as well as their quality didn't allow to select a sufficient number of projects meeting the selection criteria. The most problematic were especially: the necessity of including into project scope a development component, addressing the projects to the most disadvantaged target group or using innovative medical technologies in the projects from the welfare area.

#### **Lessons learned from monitoring activities implemented in 2021:**

As the projects are at an early stage of implementation and the beneficiaries did not submit to PARP a large number of documents which can be a subject to verification, during the onsite monitoring activities there weren't identified any weaknesses resulting in the need to impose financial corrections or consider the expenditure as non-eligible.

Whereas the verification of the payment requests as well as the number of enquiries (both telephone and email) show that despite the training, the process of selecting suppliers/contractors is the most difficult subject for the beneficiaries. In particular, the need of selecting contractors according to the rules laid down in the Public Procurement Law Act is very problematic despite interpretation of provisions and specification of provisions relevant for entrepreneurs in the guidelines of the NFP on selecting contractors.

In PARP's opinion, it would be reasonable to waive the necessity for the beneficiaries to conduct their procurement for the projects in compliance with the national public procurement law (the rule specified in the Article 8.15 of the Regulation). Instead, it would be sufficient to extend the deadline for publishing the request for proposals in the relevant database (for smaller procurements the internet database of bids containing the announcements of beneficiaries is used; this database is indicated in the guidelines of the NFP on selecting the contractors ) and the necessity of publishing the request for proposals in the Official Journal of the European Union.

In Poland entrepreneurs are not accustomed to use the Public Procurement Law Act as a purchasers, even if they implement projects supported with public aid. Generally the scope of this Act is not adjusted to the needs of entrepreneurs implementing projects and selecting contractors. That is why the requirements of this Act need to be adequately interpreted which is quite complicated especially for smaller entities. Proper application of the Act requires usually expert knowledge and experience in this field. Entrepreneurs normally don't have competences in this field and need clear and uncomplicated guidelines.

Under the current requirements there is a threat that there will be a lot of irregularities in the area of the process of selecting contractors and PARP will have to impose financial corrections in many cases. This can result in lower use of the Programme budget. PARP believes that also for bigger purchases there are other possibilities than use of national public procurement law to ensure that contractors are selected with respect for principles specified in Article 8.15 point 3 and 4 of the Regulation. Easier and clearer rules can simplify implementation of projects and due to that absorption of funds can be more effective and perception of Norway Grants can be more favourable among entrepreneurs.

**Delays experienced in Programme implementation:**

Until the end of the reporting period there were some delays experienced in the Programme which influenced also further implementation of this Programme.

During the first half of 2021 the assessment process was completed in all of the grant schemes however it lasted longer than it was previously anticipated. This has been caused mostly by some delays in deadlines. The deadline for submitting applications in the calls for proposals previously set on March 31, 2020 had to be postponed until May 14, 2020 due to the impact of Covid-19 pandemic. Consequently the period of calls for proposals has been extended by one and a half months. This resulted in later than planned launching of projects assessment and therefore postponement of the anticipated conclusion of this process, but also in large number of submitted applications. The increased number of submitted applications also significantly influenced the duration of assessment period.

Additionally due to the obligation to evaluate projects with the assistance of external experts PARP needed to choose the contractor as the supplier of external expert's services in public tender procedure. The call for offers in this tender was launched in the beginning of the year, but the deadline for submission of offers needed to be postponed due to the impact of Covid-19 pandemic. After the contractor had been chosen an appeal against the decision of tender commission was filed by one of the other offerers. This caused further delay in completion of the tender procedure. The agreement with the chosen contractor was finally signed at the end of August, 2020. For this reason the external experts were able to start the content-related evaluation only in October, 2020.

Additionally at the stage of administrative and eligibility assessment almost 90% of applications required corrections made by the applicants and PARP needed to send a lot of requests for improvement. This approach allowed PARP not to reject many of good projects having shortcomings or errors which could have been corrected by the applicants. This

approach caused additional delays, but it was justified and allowed to select the best projects which contribute most to the Programme objectives.

The assessment process took longer also because of the need of clarification of some legal issues concerning cost eligibility and interpretation of state aid rules, in particular related to aid for ports and harbours and aid for environmental activities.

Taking into consideration the abovementioned circumstances it should be stated that Covid-19 pandemic significantly influenced the process of project assessment. Trying to minimize the negative effects of delays in this process caused inter alia by the pandemic, but also basing on experience gained during the evaluation of projects submitted in two grant schemes i.e. Green Industry Innovation and Blue Growth, PARP decided to implement two different solutions which aimed at speeding up the final decision concerning selection of projects to be recommended for support.

On the basis of consultation and arrangements within the Cooperation Committee PARP decided to organize more than one i.e. three Selection Committee meetings considering the progress of projects assessment in each grant scheme. This allowed for earlier support for projects submitted in the grant schemes in which the assessment was completed than it would be possible in the case of one Selection Committee meeting organized after completion of the assessment in all of the grants schemes.

The second solution which was implemented on the basis of experience in the assessment gained earlier in the Green Industry Innovation and the Blue Growth grant scheme was the simplification and rationalization of the evaluation process by reduction of number of requests for clarifications and improvements sent to the applicants of the Welfare technologies grant scheme and the Small Grants Schemes for female enterprises in which the content-related assessment was later and the quality of projects was lower.

The requests for clarifications and improvements were not sent in the case of projects which were not in line with the overall goal of the Programme or the grant scheme. Such projects were assessed on the basis of the version of application which was forwarded to the content-related assessment.

Moreover PARP intensively cooperated with the external experts participating in the assessment and with the contractor being the supplier of their services. The progress in assessment performed by the external experts was monitored on an ongoing basis. If possible, shorter periods for assessment were agreed with some experts. Additionally PARP resigned from services of experts who had not respected the deadlines earlier. The contractor providing experts' services also encouraged experts to work effectively. PARP imposed financial penalties on the contractor for not keeping the deadlines by the experts.

The process of contracting was also slower than previously anticipated, however the implementation procedures do not provide the contracting deadlines. The deadline for signing grant contract depends on preparedness of an applicant and completeness of required documentation and administrative permits.

The most frequent reasons of prolonged procedure of signing grant contracts were delays in submitting documents required for the conclusion of the contract (such as financial statements, external financing agreements, administrative decisions like building permits and environmental decisions), submitting documents requiring improvements (such as the de minimis aid and public aid form, the Micro, Small or Medium-Sized Enterprise status statement) and changing financial sources for the projects causing the need of amending applications and additional verification of compliance with the conditions for the granting.

PARP has implemented some measures to mitigate contracting delays. Selected projects were analysed on an ongoing basis whether they are ready for contracting. On the basis of this analysis the monthly plans of contracting were prepared aiming at acceleration of the process and prompt signing of the grant contracts with the applicants having all the required documentation. PARP's employees stayed in constant contact with the applicants and supported them in completing required documentation. The contracting process was also facilitated by introducing the electronic way of signing contracts by applicants who have the electronic signature and providing the possibility of signing contracts in the PARP's venue. Additionally the applicants did not need to send the financial statements in case they are available in public electronic registers. Due to that in some cases the need of sending the documentation was eliminated.

The slower contracting process influenced the progress in implementation of projects and the amount of payments which were made by PARP to the beneficiaries. The commencement of actual implementation of projects was postponed by the beneficiaries until the conclusion of grant contracts. Due to that many of the beneficiaries were in 2021 at the stage of selecting suppliers and contractors. That is why they did not incur costs which could be included in payment requests. It also turned out that some beneficiaries resigned from advance payments (inter alia because of the costs of collateral i.e. bank guarantees) and decided to request later only for the interim payments. Due to that in 2021 PARP made to the beneficiaries payments for an amount of EUR 1,694,937.

It should be taken into consideration that the Covid-19 pandemic could still influence especially the implementation of projects. Some resignations from implementation of projects could occur due to unstable economic situation and deteriorating financial situation of some beneficiaries. Some beneficiaries will probably request for limiting the scope of their projects which could cause reduction of the amount of payments to them. Also some delays in project implementation could occur and some beneficiaries could have difficulties in completing the implementation of their projects within the date of eligibility.

As far as possible the potential savings will be reallocated to a second round of the call for proposals in the Blue Growth grant scheme, if the current final date of eligibility (30 April 2024) will allow the applicants to complete implementation of their projects. For this purpose the provisions of flexible reallocations were introduced to the Programme Agreement. According to these provisions any funds remaining uncommitted further to any call for proposals may be reallocated to projects or the second call for proposals under the blue growth focus area, if still feasible considering the time frame of the Programme.

In PARP's opinion the extension of the eligibility period or the possibility of settlement of projects completed after expiry of the eligibility period would allow to limit the amount of potential savings and increase the possibility of successful completion of projects.

The Covid-19 had and probably will have a visible impact also on the implementation of bilateral activities and the Travel Grants Scheme. Restrictions related to this pandemic hinder organisation of bilateral events which causes constraints in spending funds available in the Fund for Bilateral Relations.

That is why when planning the implementation of initiatives PARP applies the flexible approach to organisation of bilateral events aiming at adjusting the formula (onsite or online events) and the date to the actual possibilities. If necessary, the schedule of activities can be revised and changed.

The flexible approach has been also implemented to the rules of Travel Grants Scheme. Flexibility provisions were introduced to the documentation of the call for proposals which should enable beneficiaries to adjust the actual implementation to the current possibilities.

## **D. ANNEXES**

- 1. Updated achievements in the results framework**
- 2. Communication summary**
- 3. Overview of contracted projects**
- 4. Risk management**
- 5. Monitoring plan**
- 6. Evaluation report**
- 7. Agreement conditions**

## Annex 1: Updated achievements in the results framework

Objective: Increased value creation and sustainable growth								
Outcome 1: Increased competitiveness of enterprises within the focus areas of green industry innovation, blue growth and welfare technology								
Indicator	Unit of measurement	Baseline	Achievements until end of previous reporting period	Achievements until end of December 2021			Target	Comment
				Numerator	Denominator	Value		
<b>Number of innovative technologies/processes/solutions applied (new-to-the-enterprise)</b>	Cumulative number	0	-	Reported 2023, 2024			205	-
<b>Number of innovative products, services or processes commercialized</b>	Cumulative number	0	-	Reported 2023, 2024			55	-
<b>Number of innovative technologies/processes/solutions developed</b>	Cumulative number	0	0 (APR 2020)	-	-	0	70	The projects are at the stage of contracting or beginning of implementation, therefore this indicator hasn't been achieved yet.
<i>Sector</i>								
<i>Green</i>	-	-	-	-	-	0	-	-
<i>Blue</i>	-	-	-	-	-	0	-	-
<i>ICT</i>	-	-	-	-	-	0	-	-
<i>Welfare/ambient</i>	-	-	-	-	-	0	-	-
<i>Not specified</i>	-	-	-	-	-	0	-	-
<b>Number of jobs created</b>	Cumulative number	0	0 (APR 2020)	-	-	0	300	The projects are at the stage of contracting or beginning of implementation, therefore this indicator hasn't been achieved yet.
<i>Gender</i>								
<i>Female</i>	-	-	-	-	-	0	-	-
<i>Male</i>	-	-	-	-	-	0	-	-

<i>Not specified</i>	-	-	-	-	-	0	-	-
<i>Age</i>								
<i>Children and youth (0-17)</i>	-	-	-	-	-	0	-	-
<i>Young adults (18-29)</i>	-	-	-	-	-	0	-	-
<i>Adults (30-64)</i>	-	-	-	-	-	0	-	-
<i>Elderly (65+)</i>	-	-	-	-	-	0	-	-
<i>Not specified</i>	-	-	-	-	-	0	-	-
<b>Number of registered applications for Intellectual Property Protection</b>	Cumulative number	0	0 (APR 2020)	-	-	0	15	The projects are at the stage of contracting or beginning of implementation, therefore this indicator hasn't been achieved yet.
<b>Estimated annual CO2 emissions reductions (tons)</b>	Annual number	0	0 (APR 2020)	-	-	0	120,000	The projects are at the stage of contracting or beginning of implementation, therefore this indicator hasn't been achieved yet.
<b>Estimated annual decrease of energy consumption (GWh)</b>	Annual number	0	-	Reported 2023, 2024			170	-
<b>Estimated annual collection of waste from production and operational processes for re-use or recycling or decrease in waste production (tons)</b>	Annual number	0	-	Reported 2023, 2024			120,000	-
<b>Estimated annual growth in turnover</b>	Percentage	N/A	-	Reported 2023, 2024			5	-
<b>Estimated annual growth in net operational profit</b>	Percentage	N/A	-	Reported 2023, 2024			5	-
<b>Output 1.1: Enterprises supported to increase their green innovation potential</b>								
Indicator	Unit of measurement	Baseline	Achievements until end of previous reporting period	Achievements until end of December 2021			Target	Comment
				Numerator	Denominator	Value		

Number of SMEs supported to apply green technologies/processes/solutions (new to the enterprise)	Cumulative number	0	2 (IFR 2021)	-	-	55	85	Based on the declarations included in the applications for which the project contracts were signed.
Number of SMEs supported to develop new product/technologies in green industry	Cumulative number	0	2 (IFR 2021)	-	-	20	7	Based on the declarations included in the applications for which the project contracts were signed.
Number of SMEs supported to commercialize new technologies/processes/solutions in green industry	Cumulative number	0	1 (IFR 2021)	-	-	13	7	Based on the declarations included in the applications for which the project contracts were signed.
<b>Output 1.2: Enterprises supported to increase their blue growth potential (the environment in marine and inland waters area)</b>								
Indicator	Unit of measurement	Baseline	Achievements until end of previous reporting period	Achievements until end of December 2021			Target	Comment
				Numerator	Denominator	Value		
Number of SMEs supported to apply blue growth technologies/processes/solutions (new to the enterprise)	Cumulative number	0	1 (IFR 2021)	-	-	2	20	Based on the declarations included in the applications for which the project contracts were signed.
Number of SMEs supported to develop new product/technologies in blue growth	Cumulative number	0	2 (IFR 2021)	-	-	2	3	Based on the declarations included in the applications for which the project contracts were signed.
Number of SMEs supported to commercialize new technologies/processes/solutions in blue growth	Cumulative number	0	0 (IFR 2021)	-	-	0	3	Based on the declarations included in the applications for which the project contracts were signed.
<b>Output 1.3: Enterprises supported to increase their innovation potential in welfare technologies</b>								
Indicator	Unit of measurement	Baseline	Achievements until end of previous	Achievements until end of December 2021			Target	Comment
				Numerator	Denominator	Value		

			reporting period					
Number of SMEs supported to apply technologies/processes/solutions (new to the enterprise)	Cumulative number	0	0 (IFR 2021)	-	-	5	10	Based on the declarations included in the applications for which the project contracts were signed.
Number of SMEs supported to develop new product/technologies in welfare technologies	Cumulative number	0	1 (IFR 2021)	-	-	10	20	Based on the declarations included in the applications for which the project contracts were signed.
Number of SMEs supported to commercialize new technologies/processes/solutions in welfare technologies	Cumulative number	0	1 (IFR 2021)	-	-	7	20	Based on the declarations included in the applications for which the project contracts were signed.
<b>Output 1.4: Female enterprises supported in the programme focus areas (green industry innovation, blue growth, welfare technologies)</b>								
Indicator	Unit of measurement	Baseline	Achievements until end of previous reporting period	Achievements until end of December 2021			Target	Comment
				Numerator	Denominator	Value		
Number of female enterprises supported to apply innovative technologies/processes/solutions (new to the enterprise)	Cumulative number	0	0 (IFR 2021)	-	-	20	75	Based on the declarations included in the applications for which the project contracts were signed.
Number of female enterprises supported to develop new product/technologies processes/solutions	Cumulative number	0	0 (IFR 2021)	-	-	43	25	Based on the declarations included in the applications for which the project contracts were signed.
Number of female enterprises supported to commercialise new technologies/processes/solutions	Cumulative number	0	0 (IFR 2021)	-	-	11	15	Based on the declarations included in the applications for which the project contracts were signed.
Share of selected female enterprises supported by mentoring activities	Percentage	0.00 %	0 (IFR 2021)	31	46	67.39 %	30.00 %	Based on the declarations included in the applications for

								which the project contracts were signed.
Bilateral Outcome: Enhanced collaboration between beneficiary and donor state entities involved in the programme								
Indicator	Unit of measurement	Baseline	Achievements until end of previous reporting period	Achievements until end of December 2021			Target	Comment
				Numerator	Denominator	Value		
<b>Level of trust between cooperating entities in the beneficiary state and the donor state</b>	Scale 1-7	TBD, Survey to be carried out by the FMO	-	-	-	-	4.5, Target is $\geq 4.5$ , and an increase on the baseline value	Survey to be carried out by the FMO.
<i>State type</i>								
<i>Beneficiary State</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Donor State</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Not specified</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Level of satisfaction with the partnership</b>	Scale 1-7	TBD, Survey to be carried out by the FMO	-	-	-	-	4.5, Target is $\geq 4.5$ , and an increase on the baseline value	Survey to be carried out by the FMO.
<i>State type</i>								
<i>Beneficiary State</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Donor State</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Not specified</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

<b>Share of cooperating organizations that apply the knowledge acquired from bilateral partnership</b>	Percentage	0.00 %	-	-	-	-	50, Target is minimum 50%	Survey to be carried out by the FMO.
<i>State type</i>								
<i>Beneficiary State</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Donor State</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Not specified</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Share of donor business partnerships which continue after project implementation period</b>	Percentage	0.00 %	-	Reported 2023, 2024			50, Target is minimum 50%	-
<b>Bilateral Output 1: Donor partnership projects supported</b>								
Indicator	Unit of measurement	Baseline	Achievements until end of previous reporting period	Achievements until end of December 2021			Target	Comment
				Numerator	Denominator	Value		
<b>Share of projects involving cooperation with a donor project partner</b>	Percentage	0.00 %	40 (IFR 2021)	35	119	29.41 %	30, Target is minimum 30% of selected projects	Based on the declarations included in the applications for which the project contracts were signed.
<i>Donor State</i>								
<i>Norway</i>	-	-	-	35	119	29.41 %	-	-
<i>Iceland</i>	-	-	-	0	0	-	-	-
<i>Liechtenstein</i>	-	-	-	0	0	-	-	-
<i>Not specified</i>	-	-	-	0	0	-	-	-

## Annex 2: Communication summary

### 1. Best practice examples

As the presented projects are at the very early stage of their implementation, they were selected more on the basis of the compliance of their assumptions with the objectives of the Programme than on their correct implementation which can be assessed later.

1. Scheme: SGS (Welfare area); PL-INNOVATION-0055; 2021-10-01–2022-09-30; Beneficiary: Neuron Spółka z o.o.; Grant: 198 937,76 EUR

Neuron has for two decades been involved in inpatient and outpatient rehabilitation of people with psychomotor dysfunctions. Under this project beneficiary is planning to introduce an innovative rehabilitation service provided by means of an exoskeleton powered by lower limbs and a tilt table with a stepping device. These types of solutions address the needs of people whose motor skills are significantly reduced due to accidents or severe neurological diseases - these people are unable to recover on their own or through traditional rehabilitation. Market research shows that in Poland the supply of rehabilitation services using exoskeleton and upright standing table is not sufficient. Apart from purchasing the above-mentioned devices, beneficiary will establish cooperation with a research unit which will help him develop functional documentation, pilot the implementation of the service, train his staff, and develop methods and guidelines for quality assessment of rehabilitation processes. Neuron will provide services using exoskeletons and standing tables during rehabilitation holidays (8-14 days) in one of its rehabilitation centres.

2. Scheme: Green Industry Innovation; PL-INNOVATION-0034; 2021-07-01–2022-03-31; Beneficiary: P.P.H.U. EXPO-DREW PACAN KAZIMIERZ; Partner: International Development Norway AS; Grant: 886 749,91 EUR

The most rapidly developing branch of the construction market is ecological construction. The project introduces the results of Expo-Drew's own research and development work, i.e. ecological fencing panels made of waste materials, which are innovative on the national scale. The panels are made of composite boards consisting of 80% waste material, i.e. wood flour and PVC, from the current production of ceramic tiles and exhibition systems. Inside there are elements made of sheet metal or steel closed profile. By introducing the project, Expo-Drew contributes to the growth of circular economy - in the first year after completion of the project the beneficiary will reuse about 73.50 tons of waste. The modern equipment of the production line has low electricity consumption. An additional environmentally friendly element of the project is a highly efficient co-generation unit producing energy from gas. In total, the beneficiary will reduce energy consumption by 0.12 GWh and CO<sub>2</sub> emissions by at least 106 tons per year. The beneficiary will employ 6 new people. The following production machines will be purchased - laser machining centres, automatic racks for storing raw materials and products, and a container co-generation unit. The beneficiary will also make use of advisory services of the Norwegian partner, which operates within the SINTEF research institute. The partner will adjust Expo-Drew production processes to the Industry 4.0 methodology and digital transformation.

## 2. Best bilateral cooperation examples

As the presented projects are at the very early stage of their implementation, they were selected more on the basis of the compliance of their assumptions with the objectives of the Programme than on their correct implementation which can be assessed later.

1. Scheme: Blue Growth; PL-INNOVATION-0001; 2020-04-19–2021-12-31; Beneficiary: 3Bird K.Gajko J.Ksepko sp.j.; Partner: STABLE AS; Grant: 472 230,25 EUR

It is expected that along with the development of offshore wind energy projects, their cumulative environmental impacts will increase. That will require measures minimizing the negative impact of offshore wind farms on migrating birds. The project aims at commercializing a service of research of migrating birds, which involves studies of bird flight at higher sea levels, and will provide information on the number of bird flights at ceilings of <20 m. Measurements of migratory bird flights, collected by means of a stabilized ornithological radar, will be the basis for calculations of the predicted bird mortality around wind farms. Therefore, our service of studying the flights of migratory birds will bring environmental benefits in the form of reduced collisions of birds with offshore wind turbines, and financial benefits consisting in optimizing wind turbine shutdown times only to periods of increased risk of bird collisions with such wind turbines. Until now detection studies at higher sea levels could not be achieved in that scope, and the project innovation stems from stabilizing bird radars. The stabilizing platform, together with a structure connecting the platform to the radar system, will be designed and constructed by the Norwegian project partner, STABLE AS, that will also test the sea swell compensation of the stabilized ornithological radar in close-to-natural conditions. When the stabilized radar unit is ready, it will be tested by an independent research institute.

2. Scheme: SGS (Welfare area); PL-INNOVATION-0040; 2021-07-01–2022-12-31; Beneficiary: KYOJI sp. z o.o.; Partner: Ilder AS; Grant: 129 810,38 EUR

The need for project results from the diagnosed problems in examining the intensity of emotions and feelings in people with mental disorders and suffering from chronic diseases with permanent and severe pain. Kyoji has developed a device for recording the intensity and time of moods, behaviours and pain, which will improve communication between those patients and their doctors, therapists and caregivers. The device can send data wirelessly to the smartphone application. The aim of project is to improve the existing device by adding functional features such as: wireless charging, a higher tightness class, higher mechanical strength and the ability to connect and transfer data to and from a medical facility/institution. The Norwegian partner is an IT services company which will delegate two experts to work on the project: the project coordinator who will be responsible for supervision over all the works and consultations in the technological area, and a technical expert who will be responsible for consultations in the field of embedded software, machine learning and Big Data.

## 3. The programme in a nutshell

<p><b>What is the added value of this programme?</b></p>	<p>The Programme is a great opportunity for improving the competitiveness of Polish small and medium-sized enterprises, as well as to support them in development and implementation of innovative technologies, solutions, processes, products and services. Strong added value of the Programme is to create opportunities for business co-operation through direct meetings between Polish and Norwegian enterprises, exchange of experiences and presentation of offers. As a result, it strengthens trade exchange between Poland and Norway.</p>		
<p><b>Include up to two quotes about this programme. Please include the name, last name and title of the person.</b></p>	<p><b>Quote 1</b></p>		
	<p>Direct meetings between Polish and Norwegian enterprises, exchange of experiences and presentation of offers are a great chance for further business co-operation. Over the last years, trade exchange between Poland and Norway has been developing strongly, and our activity allows to strengthen this trend.</p>		
	<p><b>Author</b></p>	<p><b>Name</b> Mikołaj Różycki</p>	<p><b>Title</b> acting President of PARP</p>
	<p><b>Quote 2</b></p>		
	<p>Entrusting PARP with running the Norwegian grant program for entrepreneurs it is a proof of trust and recognition for the Agency's previous successes in supporting the SMEs sector. We are pleased that with our help entrepreneurs will receive funds from the largest program implemented so far as part of the Norwegian Financial Mechanism in Poland. The program is another step on the road to improving the competitiveness of Polish enterprises. First of all, by supporting the development and implementation of innovative technologies, solutions, processes, products and services.</p>		
<p><b>Author</b></p>	<p><b>Name</b> Adam Banaszak</p>	<p><b>Title</b> Deputy President of PARP</p>	

#### 4. Visibility of the Grants and the Donors

PARP has implemented informational and promotional activities in accordance with Art 3.3 of the Regulation and in compliance with the Information and Communication Requirements in the Annex 3 to the Regulation. The main objective of the abovementioned measures is to provide information on the Programme and the role and significance of the Donor States.

In 2021 PARP used various communication measures and undertook a number of different activities in this field, which are as follows:

- 7 announcements and press articles published on websites of various business mass media mainly having national coverage or sectoral importance
- 1 radio broadcast "Day with Funds" on the Polskie Radio channel and a dedicated article about Norway Grants; the broadcast gathered 21 thousands listeners
- 2 online trainings for Beneficiaries; both were published on PARP's website and YouTube and viewed 400 times

- 1 webinar for Beneficiaries recorded in the studio with a moderator, subjected implementation of projects under the Programme; webinar published on PARP's website and YouTube and displayed 250 times
- 9 promotional articles published on PARP's website and visited 7,500 times
- promotional on-line campaign: Promotional campaign the establishment of Polish-Norwegian cooperation at the ByggReisDeg 2021 Fair in Lillestrøm (Norway); on Google by advertising banner and key words – resulted 888 989 banner views, 7973 clicks by 5,557 users; on Facebook by graphic advertisement– resulted in 127 388 ad impressions, 2,330 clicks on ads, 782 users viewed the event page
- promotional on-line campaign of good examples of projects financed under Norway Grants; on Google by advertising banner and key words – 70,834 views, 38,881 reach, 2,806 post engagements (comment, share), 276 link clicks
- PARP's social media – the total reach of posts was 160 000
- direct mailings with information on the Programme directed to potential applicants and public or business entities - Local Government Units (2 800 records); Database of innovative – scientific entrepreneurs (296 records); Technology Parks (68 records); Database of entrepreneurs interested NMF (120 records)
- PARP's information centre providing advice for applicants and beneficiaries – more than 980 consultations
- bilateral events: 1) Accelerating energy efficiency in SMEs was an event related to green technology sector. Webinar was attended by 39 participants. There were 14 meetings held through the b2match platform; 2) Cluster Benchmarking 2020 - Polish clusters potential and Polish-Norwegian cooperation from the sector of green, blue and welfare technologies. The event on the first day was attended by 106 persons. On the second day of the event, 57 persons were present. 31 meetings took place via the b2match platform; 3) The 5th Norwegian Circular Economy Conference in connection with Oslo Innovation Week 2021 in the green technology sector. The event was attended by 14 participants from Poland; 4) Towards sustainable construction: the present and future - seminar and business mixer meetings with Polish companies. The event was related to green building in connection with Bygg Reis Deg 2021 and was attended by 67 participants.

## 5. Media coverage

### Example 1

Coverage	Type	National
Description	Puls Biznesu. Granty dla Ekofirm. A description of the result of call for proposal under Green Industry Innovation Scheme and Welfare Technologies Scheme. Article of June 9, 2021, range: 7,8k copies, reaching: 2,4k users.	
Relevant links	-	

### Example 2

<b>Coverage</b>	<b>Type</b>	National
<b>Description</b>	Wprost.pl. How the Norway grants help in the development of innovation in Poland. Article of June 29, 2021., range: 729,3k unique users, reaching: 10,5k users.	
<b>Relevant links</b>	<a href="https://biznes.wprost.pl/gospodarka/10461777/fundusze-norweskie-pomagaja-w-rozwoju-innowacji-w-polsce.html">https://biznes.wprost.pl/gospodarka/10461777/fundusze-norweskie-pomagaja-w-rozwoju-innowacji-w-polsce.html</a>	

*Example 3*

<b>Coverage</b>	<b>Type</b>	National
<b>Description</b>	gramwzielone.pl. A result of call for proposal under Green Industry Innovation Scheme and Blue Growth Scheme. Article of June 29, 2021, range: 261,9k unique users, reaching: 14,3k users.	
<b>Relevant links</b>	<a href="https://gramwzielone.pl/parp-60-mln-euro-z-funduszy-norweskich-dla-90-firm?v=1&amp;sid=1">https://gramwzielone.pl/parp-60-mln-euro-z-funduszy-norweskich-dla-90-firm?v=1&amp;sid=1</a>	

*Example 4*

<b>Coverage</b>	<b>Type</b>	National
<b>Description</b>	Wnp. Pl. New call for proposals in Blue Growth Scheme in January 2022. Article of December 8, 2021. Range: 837k unique users, reaching: 45,7k users.	
<b>Relevant links</b>	<a href="https://www.wnp.pl/tech/innowacje-w-obszarze-wod-srodladowych-lub-morskich,511927.html">https://www.wnp.pl/tech/innowacje-w-obszarze-wod-srodladowych-lub-morskich,511927.html</a>	

**6. Website and social media**

*6.a. Links to the programme website and social media accounts*

<b>Link to programme website</b>			
PL: <a href="https://www.parp.gov.pl/funduszenorweskie">https://www.parp.gov.pl/funduszenorweskie</a> ; ENG: <a href="https://en.parp.gov.pl/norway-grants">https://en.parp.gov.pl/norway-grants</a>			
<b>Total number of page views in the reporting year</b>	<b>Change, compared to last year (in absolute numbers)</b>	<b>Total number of unique visitors in the reporting year</b>	<b>Change, compared to last year (in absolute numbers)</b>
88369	298302	21319	54767

<b>Specific link or handle</b>	<b>Posts published in</b>	<b>Total likes in the</b>	<b>Total comments in</b>	<b>Total shares/Retweets etc. in</b>	<b>Followers gained since</b>
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for the account	the reporting year	reporting year	the reporting year	the reporting year	programme launch
Facebook	<a href="https://www.facebook.com/parpgovpl">https://www.facebook.com/parpgovpl</a>				
	13	194	7	66	100102
Twitter	<a href="https://twitter.com/parpgovpl">https://twitter.com/parpgovpl</a>				
	8	42	0	31	11875
Instagram	<a href="https://www.instagram.com/parp_partnerwsukcesie">https://www.instagram.com/parp_partnerwsukcesie</a>				
	0	0	0	0	0
LinkedIn	<a href="https://www.linkedin.com/company/polish-agency-for-enterprise-developmen...">https://www.linkedin.com/company/polish-agency-for-enterprise-developmen...</a>				
	4	79	8	7	28087

### *6.b. Results of website and social media activities*

PARP established and updated Polish and English website dedicated to the Programme. This website contains:

- information on the Programme, the EEA and Norway Grants and the Donor(s);
- documents constituting Programme implementation basis;
- information on the calls for proposals;
- useful links to other websites relevant for the Programme implementation such as the website of the EEA and Norway Grants; the website of the EEA and Norway Grants implemented in Poland in the previous and current edition of the EEA and Norway Grants; the website related to the Donor Programme Partner and potential partners from donor countries;
- contact information;
- updated news concerning Programme implementation, bilateral cooperation and events, interesting information about Donor countries;
- other informational and promotional materials like webinars for potential applicants and information or links to online events.

Interesting information, materials and news are also published on PARP's social media such as Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn and You Tube (<https://www.youtube.com/user/parpgovpl>), which are used not only for communication but also for promotional purposes.

Through social media PARP provided information on calls for proposals, bilateral events, training meetings for applicants, progress in project assessment and on conferences and trade fairs where the Programme was promoted.

## **7. Visuals**

[Official start of the "Entrepreneurship Development and Innovations" program under the Norwegian Financial Mechanism in PARP - EEA & Norway Grants media library \(ealibrary.org\)](#)

[Physical modalities in modern physiotherapy - EEA & Norway Grants media library \(ealibrary.org\)](#)

[Environmental management in marinas and ports: possible scenarios, available technologies - EEA & Norway Grants media library \(ealibrary.org\)](#)

[Innovative solutions supporting the operations and increasing the competitiveness of marinas and ports - EEA & Norway Grants media library \(ealibrary.org\)](#)

[Green marinas and ports: shore-to-ship power solutions - EEA & Norway Grants media library \(ealibrary.org\)](#)

[Physical modalities in modern physiotherapy \(2/2\): Innovative treatments, new equipment - EEA & Norway Grants media library \(ealibrary.org\)](#)

[The post-COVID Rehabilitation - EEA & Norway Grants media library \(ealibrary.org\)](#)

[Perspectives for development of the rehabilitation industry \(2/2\): A micro-entrepreneur point of view - EEA & Norway Grants media library \(ealibrary.org\)](#)

[The concept of corporate social responsibility with regard to social business model in the energy industry - EEA & Norway Grants media library \(ealibrary.org\)](#)

[Innovativeness of the renewable energy industry in the face of environmental and social challenges in the post-COVID-19 era - EEA & Norway Grants media library \(ealibrary.org\)](#)

[Waste management in the post-COVID-19 era - EEA & Norway Grants media library \(ealibrary.org\)](#)

[Strategy for increasing energy efficiency in SMEs - smart ways to make money - EEA & Norway Grants media library \(ealibrary.org\)](#)

[IoT systems and their role in improving energy efficiency: exemplary solutions available for SMEs - EEA & Norway Grants media library \(ealibrary.org\)](#)

[Energy efficiency of a SME - smart ways to save money - EEA & Norway Grants media library \(ealibrary.org\)](#)

[Mercedes-Benz plant in Jawor - more energy generated than consumed by Ewa Łabno-Fałęcka, Mercedes-Benz Polska Sp. z o.o. - EEA & Norway Grants media library \(ealibrary.org\)](#)

[Marian Gorynia EN - EEA & Norway Grants media library \(ealibrary.org\)](#)

[Cluster internationalisation: a cause to increase competitiveness? - EEA & Norway Grants media library \(ealibrary.org\)](#)

[Horizon Europe - research and innovation funding program until 2027 - EEA & Norway Grants media library \(ealibrary.org\)](#)

[Clusters & decarbonisation of the industry: the Upper Austrian Way - EEA & Norway Grants media library \(eealibrary.org\)](#)

[travel\\_lilestroem\\_4 - EEA & Norway Grants media library \(eealibrary.org\)](#)

[travel\\_lilestroem3 - EEA & Norway Grants media library \(eealibrary.org\)](#)

### Annex 3: Overview of contracted projects

Outcome	Projects	#	# of donor project partners	Amount contracted	% of outcome budget contracted
<b>Outcome 1: Increased competitiveness of enterprises within the focus areas of green industry innovation, blue growth and welfare technology</b>	Pre-defined	0	0	€ 0	0.00 %
	Contracted through open calls	73	14	€ 51,085,472	48.44 %
	Contracted through small grants scheme	46	16	€ 5,917,259	5.61 %
	<b>Total Outcome 1</b>	<b>119</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>€ 57,002,731</b>	<b>54.05 %</b>
<b>Programme</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>119</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>€ 57,002,731</b>	<b>54.05 %</b>

## Annex 4: Risk management

Programmatic risks						
Risk description	Risk related to	Likelihood	Consequence	Risk score	Response type	Validity
The risk of not spending funds from the bilateral fund due to an insufficient number of bilateral activities	Strengthening bilateral relations	2	2	2.00	Mitigate	
	<b>Description of planned response</b>	Intensive activity of PO aimed at organizing and initiating bilateral activities. Close cooperation with DPP. Flexible approach toward changing circumstances and conditions affecting implementation of activities. Involving new stakeholders in organization of bilateral activities and encouraging their participation in events. Launching new edition of travel grants to support Polish and Norwegian entities' participation in events. Inventing new types of activities facilitating cooperation between companies.				
	<b>Description of actual response</b>	Intensive activity of PO aimed at organizing and initiating bilateral activities. Close cooperation with DPP. Flexible approach toward changing circumstances and conditions affecting implementation of activities. Involving new stakeholders in organization of bilateral activities and encouraging their participation in events. Launching two new calls of travel grants to support Polish and Norwegian entities' participation in events (one call of Norwegian only). Increasing the Travel Grant budget.				
	<b>Planned future response</b>	Continuation of intensive activity of PO aimed at organizing and initiating bilateral activities. Close cooperation with DPP. Flexible approach toward changing circumstances and conditions affecting implementation of activities. Involving new stakeholders in organization of bilateral activities and encouraging their participation in events. Inventing new types of activities facilitating cooperation between companies including new call for bilateral grant scheme on cluster cooperation.				

The risk of not spending funds from the bilateral fund due to decreased number of onsite events	Strengthening bilateral relations	2	2	2.00	Mitigate	
	<b>Description of planned response</b>	Continuation of flexible approach toward adaptation to changing circumstances and conditions affecting implementation of activities. Continuation of increasing the number of virtual/online events. Inventing new types of bilateral activities and events which can be implemented and which will facilitate the bilateral cooperation and will be relevant and useful for Polish and Norwegian companies.				
	<b>Description of actual response</b>	Flexibility in adaptation to changing circumstances and conditions affecting implementation of activities. Continuation of increasing the number of virtual/online events. If possible, organization of on site events.				
	<b>Planned future response</b>	Flexibility in adaptation to changing circumstances and conditions affecting implementation of activities. Continuation of increasing the number of virtual/online events. If possible, organization of on site events. Inventing new events which can be implemented and which will facilitate the bilateral cooperation and be relevant and useful for Polish and Norwegian companies.				
Not spending entire budget of the Programme due to unused all funds from the resolved calls,new aid map which reduces the intensity of support for not yet granted projects, withdrawals,exchange rate differences,other savings in the implementation process	Reducing social and economic disparities	3	3	3.00	Mitigate	New
	<b>Description of planned response</b>	Contracting projects from the reserve list in Green Industry Innovation scheme. Launching a new call in Blue Growth Scheme. According to the PA annex, using the possibility of flexible reallocation of savings to the new Call. Creating a large reserve list for the call for Blue Grant Scheme. Proposition of making the project cost in new Call eligible from the moment of approval of the reserve list. Flexible and helpful approach to project promoters to let them use their budgets in a rational way.				

Not spending entire budget of the Programme due to low interest of entrepreneurs in the second Call for proposals in Blue Growth scheme	Reducing social and economic disparities	2	3	2.45	Mitigate	New
	<b>Description of planned response</b>	Informational and promotional campaign targeted at a specific group of enterprises operating in blue sectors. Using the awarded projects to show potential beneficiaries the types of ideas which can be granted in the Call. More precise records in the documentation for beneficiaries.				
Not spending entire budget of the Programme due to insufficient number of positively assessed projects in the second Call for proposals in Blue Growth scheme	Reducing social and economic disparities	2	3	2.45	Mitigate	New
	<b>Description of planned response</b>	Informational and promotional campaign targeted at a specific group of enterprises operating in blue sector including meetings for applicants, webinars, publication of guidelines for applicants, consultations on Programme rules. Using the awarded projects to show potential beneficiaries the types of ideas which can be granted in the Call. More precise records in the documentation for beneficiaries. Publication of FAQs.				
<b>Operational risks</b>						
<b>Risk description</b>	<b>Risk related to</b>	<b>Likelihood</b>	<b>Consequence</b>	<b>Risk score</b>	<b>Response type</b>	<b>Validity</b>
The risk of not reaching the target of 30% of selected female enterprises being supported by mentoring activities	Both objectives	1	2	1.41	Mitigate	
	<b>Description of planned response</b>	Carrying out the assessment of applications submitted in Small Grant Schemes for female entrepreneurs and promoting partnership projects related to cooperation with Norwegian mentor by giving them additional points.				
	<b>Description of actual response</b>	Implementation of full scope of planned response.				
	<b>Planned future response</b>	Monitoring and supervision over implementation of projects.				

The risk of not reaching the target of estimated annual CO2 emissions reductions (tons)	Reducing social and economic disparities	2	2	2.00	Mitigate	
	<b>Description of planned response</b>	Continuation of project assessment process and promoting projects with higher CO2 emissions reduction by giving them additional points.				
	<b>Description of actual response</b>	Preparation of a new call for proposal in Blue Growth Scheme. Project assessment process in new call and promoting projects with higher CO2 emissions reduction by giving them additional points.				
	<b>Planned future response</b>	Project assessment process in new call for Blue Growth Scheme and promoting projects with higher CO2 emissions reduction by giving them additional points.				
The risk of not reaching the target of 30% share of projects involving cooperation with a donor project partner	Strengthening bilateral relations	3	2	2.45	Mitigate	
	<b>Description of planned response</b>	Continuation of project assessment during which additional points are given to partnership projects which are also given higher scores for greater contribution to Programme objectives. Including partnership projects submitted in Small Grants Scheme and related to cooperation with Norwegian mentor in the target value of this indicator.				
	<b>Description of actual response</b>	Preparation of a new call for proposal in Blue Growth Scheme. Project assessment in new call during which additional points are given to partnership projects which are also given higher scores for greater contribution to Programme objectives.				
	<b>Planned future response</b>	Project assessment in new call for Blue Growth Scheme during which additional points are given to partnership projects which are also given higher scores for greater contribution to Programme objectives.				

The risk of irregularities during projects' implementation	Reducing social and economic disparities	4	3	3.46	Mitigate	
	<b>Description of planned response</b>	Monitoring and supervision over implementation of projects. Carrying out control of projects by verification requests for payment. Carrying out on-the-spot monitoring. Application of contractual provisions in the case of irregularities. Organization of information meetings and trainings for Beneficiaries.				
	<b>Description of actual response</b>	Implementation of full scope of planned response.				
	<b>Planned future response</b>	Continuation of monitoring and supervision over implementation of projects. Carrying out control of projects by verification requests for payment. Carrying out on-the-spot monitoring. Application of contractual provisions in the case of irregularities. Organization of information meetings and trainings for Beneficiaries.				
The risk of not reaching the target of the number of SMEs supported to commercialize new technologies/processes/solutions in welfare technologies	Reducing social and economic disparities	4	2	2.83	Accept	
	<b>Description of planned response</b>	Continuation of supervising projects assessment performed by external experts and Programme Operator's employees. Conducting supervision on progress in implementing projects.				
	<b>Description of actual response</b>	The risk materialized, there is no further plan to response.				
	<b>Planned future response</b>	The risk materialized, there is no further plan to response.				
The risk of resignations from project implementation due to unstable economic	Reducing social and economic disparities	3	2	2.45	Mitigate	

situation and deteriorating financial situation of Beneficiaries	<b>Description of planned response</b>	Using the possibility provided for in the text of call for proposals concerning preparation of reserve lists of projects which can be supported in case of resignations of other Applicants or Beneficiaries.				
	<b>Description of actual response</b>	Preparation of a new call regarding Blue Growth Scheme. Conclusion of an annex to the PA, which allows for flexible reallocation of savings to the new Call. Proposition of making the project cost in new call for Blue Growth Scheme eligible from the moment of approval of the reserve list.				
	<b>Planned future response</b>	Flexible approach to project promoters. Consent to a postponement of the project start time. Consent to changes in a project budget (between the budget line). Consent to changes of extension of the project implementation period if they do not exceed the eligibility period. Institutional monitoring carried out together with the beneficiaries.				
The extension of the assessment process in the 2 call for proposals in Blue Growth due to potentially large number of submitted projects, considering limited budget for services of experts.	Reducing social and economic disparities	2	3	2.45	Mitigate	New
	<b>Description of planned response</b>	Transfer funds within the budget for expert assessment, if needed. Re-select the contractor evaluating the projects, if needed. Constant cooperation with selected contractor providing evaluation services carried out by external experts. Ensuring the participation of competent and sufficient number of Programme Operator's employees in the assessment process. Constant supervision of an assessment process. Eventually, submitting the request to FMO for an extension of the expenditure eligibility period.				
Low quality of projects submitted in the second Call for proposals in Blue Growth scheme.	Reducing social and economic disparities	3	3	3.00	Mitigate	New
	<b>Description of planned response</b>	Improvement of documentation for applicants to be more precise. Info-promo campaign including meetings for applicants, webinars, publication of guidelines for applicants, consultations on Programme rules. Publication of FAQs.				

Not implementing the entire project within the expenditure eligibility period due to the delays in contracting projects and obstacles with finding contractors.	Reducing social and economic disparities	2	2	2.00	Mitigate	New
	<b>Description of planned response</b>	Flexible approach to project promoters. Consent to changes in a project budget (between the budget line). Institutional monitoring carried out together with the beneficiaries. Eventually, submitting the request to FMO for an extension of the expenditure eligibility period.				
Not reaching the target of the number of SMEs supported to apply blue growth technologies/processes/solutions (new to the enterprise).	Reducing social and economic disparities	2	2	2.00	Mitigate	New
	<b>Description of planned response</b>	Launching of a new call for proposals in Blue Growth Scheme. Ensuring participation of sufficient number of competent external experts, constant cooperation with selected contractor providing evaluation services carried out by external experts. Ensuring the participation of competent and sufficient number of Programme Operator's employees in the assessment process. Constant supervision of assessment process. Conducting supervision on progress in implementing projects.				
Not reaching the target of the number of SMEs supported to develop new product/technologies in blue growth.	Reducing social and economic disparities	2	2	2.00	Mitigate	New
	<b>Description of planned response</b>	Launching a new call for proposals in Blue Growth Scheme. Ensuring participation of sufficient number of competent external experts, constant cooperation with selected contractor providing evaluation services carried out by external experts. Ensuring the participation of competent and sufficient number of Programme Operator's employees in the assessment process. Constant supervision of assessment process. Conducting supervision on progress in implementing projects.				

Low interest of Norwegian entrepreneurs in participating in bilateral events.	Strengthening bilateral relations	3	3	3.00	Mitigate	New
	<b>Description of planned response</b>	Launching new call of Travel Grants scheme to support only Norwegian entities' participation in events. Close cooperation with DPP to find good Norwegian speakers and to mobilize Norwegian entities. Broader scope of target group (not only Norwegian SMEs). Repeatable promotional activities 1-2 months before each event. Offering remote support/consultations on how to submit the proposal and settle travel grants cost. Providing presentations/workshops/consultations with practical guidelines during events.				
No use of awarded grants by entrepreneurs in Travel Grant Scheme due to Covid-19, i.e. cancelling the flight, cancelled or postponed meeting, changing formula of the meeting from on-site to on-line.	Strengthening bilateral relations	1	2	1.41	Mitigate	New
	<b>Description of planned response</b>	Monitoring the possibility of travel and a flexible approach to cancelled/postponed trade fairs and to change of their formula, as long as the related beneficiaries' requests are consistent with the Travel Grants call documentation. Consequently, flexible approach to the prolongation of deadlines.				
<b>Overall risk of the programme</b>						
		<b>Likelihood</b>	<b>Consequence</b>	<b>Risk score</b>		
OVERALL RISK OF THE PROGRAMME		3	2	2.45		

## Annex 5: Monitoring plan

No.	Project internal ID (projects that on November 25, 2021. signed contracts for the project)	Project code	Regular project monitoring from behind the desk-payment requests verifications	Monitoring at any location directly related to the implementation of the project*								
				during the project implementation			at the end of the project implementation **			during the durability of project		
				YES/NO	YES/NO	monitoring criteria	planned date	YES/NO	monitoring criteria	planned date	YES/NO	monitoring criteria
1	NORW.19.01.02-20-0001/20	PL-INNOVATION-0001	YES	NO	N/A	N/A	NO	N/A	N/A	NO	N/A	N/A
2	NORW.19.01.01-14-0001/20	PL-INNOVATION-0002	YES	NO	N/A	N/A	NO	N/A	N/A	NO	N/A	N/A
3	NORW.19.01.01-30-0011/20	PL-INNOVATION-0003	YES	NO	N/A	N/A	NO	N/A	N/A	NO	N/A	N/A
4	NORW.19.01.03-06-0004/20	PL-INNOVATION-0004	YES	NO	N/A	N/A	NO	N/A	N/A	NO	N/A	N/A
5	NORW.19.01.02-28-0004/20	PL-INNOVATION-0005	YES	NO	N/A	N/A	NO	N/A	N/A	NO	N/A	N/A

6	NORW.19.01.01-16-0001/20	PL-INNOVATION-0006	YES	NO	N/A	N/A	NO	N/A	N/A	NO	N/A	N/A
7	NORW.19.01.01-26-0003/20	PL-INNOVATION-0007	YES	NO	N/A	N/A	NO	N/A	N/A	NO	N/A	N/A
8	NORW.19.01.01-30-0006/20	PL-INNOVATION-0008	YES	NO	N/A	N/A	NO	N/A	N/A	NO	N/A	N/A
9	NORW.19.01.01-12-0021/20	PL-INNOVATION-0009	YES	NO	N/A	N/A	NO	N/A	N/A	NO	N/A	N/A
10	NORW.19.01.01-04-0001/20	PL-INNOVATION-0010	YES	NO	N/A	N/A	NO	N/A	N/A	NO	N/A	N/A
11	NORW.19.01.01-14-0013/20	PL-INNOVATION-0011	YES	NO	N/A	N/A	NO	N/A	N/A	NO	N/A	N/A

12	NORW.19.01.01-26-0002/20	PL-INNOVATION-0012	YES	NO	N/A	N/A	NO	N/A	N/A	NO	N/A	N/A
13	NORW.19.01.01-04-0004/20	PL-INNOVATION-0013	YES	NO	N/A	N/A	NO	N/A	N/A	NO	N/A	N/A
14	NORW.19.01.01-06-0014/20	PL-INNOVATION-0014	YES	NO	N/A	N/A	NO	N/A	N/A	NO	N/A	N/A
15	NORW.19.01.02-28-0017/20	PL-INNOVATION-0015	YES	YES	Verification of the actual existence of the project, the delivery of the products/services/works and incurring of the expenditure for their implementation in compliance with the project agreement, verification of the physical progress, compliance with publicity and visibility rules as well as existence of original documents and correct information on the	3Q	NO	N/A	N/A	NO	N/A	N/A

					material and financial implementation of the project that has been provided by the beneficiary							
16	NORW.19.01.01-22-0001/20	PL-INNOVATION-0016	YES	NO	N/A	N/A	NO	N/A	N/A	NO	N/A	N/A
17	NORW.19.01.01-10-0018/20	PL-INNOVATION-0017	YES	NO	N/A	N/A	NO	N/A	N/A	NO	N/A	N/A
18	NORW.19.01.01-32-0004/20	PL-INNOVATION-0018	YES	NO	N/A	N/A	NO	N/A	N/A	NO	N/A	N/A
19	NORW.19.01.01-14-0002/20	PL-INNOVATION-0019	YES	NO	N/A	N/A	NO	N/A	N/A	NO	N/A	N/A

20	NORW.19.01.01-12-0015/20	PL-INNOVATION-0020	YES	YES	Verification of the actual existence of the project, the delivery of the products/services/works and incurring of the expenditure for their implementation in compliance with the project agreement, verification of the physical progress, compliance with publicity and visibility rules as well as existence of original documents and correct information on the material and financial implementation of the project that has been provided by the beneficiary	2Q	NO	N/A	N/A	NO	N/A	N/A
21	NORW.19.01.03-20-0001/20	PL-INNOVATION-0021	YES	NO	N/A	N/A	NO	N/A	N/A	NO	N/A	N/A
22	NORW.19.01.01-10-0009/20	PL-INNOVATION-0022	YES	NO	N/A	N/A	NO	N/A	N/A	NO	N/A	N/A

23	NORW.19.01.03-06-0003/20	PL-INNOVATION-0023	YES	YES	Verification of the actual existence of the project, the delivery of the products/services/works and incurring of the expenditure for their implementation in compliance with the project agreement, verification of the physical progress, compliance with publicity and visibility rules as well as existence of original documents and correct information on the material and financial implementation of the project that has been provided by the beneficiary	3Q	NO	N/A	N/A	NO	N/A	N/A
24	NORW.19.01.03-02-0001/20	PL-INNOVATION-0024	YES	NO	N/A	N/A	NO	N/A	N/A	NO	N/A	N/A

25	NORW.19.01.01-10-0003/20	PL-INNOVATION-0025	YES	NO	N/A	N/A	NO	N/A	N/A	NO	N/A	N/A
26	NORW.19.01.01-12-0009/20	PL-INNOVATION-0026	YES	NO	N/A	N/A	NO	N/A	N/A	NO	N/A	N/A
27	NORW.19.01.01-12-0022/20	PL-INNOVATION-0027	YES	NO	N/A	N/A	NO	N/A	N/A	NO	N/A	N/A
28	NORW.19.01.01-30-0014/20	PL-INNOVATION-0028	YES	NO	N/A	N/A	NO	N/A	N/A	NO	N/A	N/A
29	NORW.19.01.03-18-0011/20	PL-INNOVATION-0029	YES	YES	Verification of the actual existence of the project, the delivery of the products/services/works and incurring of the expenditure for their implementation in compliance with the project agreement, verification of the physical progress, compliance with publicity and visibility rules as well as existence of original documents and correct information on the material and financial implementation of the project that has been provided by the beneficiary	2Q	NO	N/A	N/A	NO	N/A	N/A

30	NORW.19.01.01-10-0015/20	PL-INNOVATION-0030	YES	NO	N/A	N/A	NO	N/A	N/A	NO	N/A	N/A
31	NORW.19.01.03-22-0002/20	PL-INNOVATION-0031	YES	NO	N/A	N/A	NO	N/A	N/A	NO	N/A	N/A
32	NORW.19.01.01-30-0016/20	PL-INNOVATION-0032	YES	NO	N/A	N/A	NO	N/A	N/A	NO	N/A	N/A
33	NORW.19.01.01-12-0026/20	PL-INNOVATION-0033	YES	YES	Verification of the actual existence of the project, the delivery of the products/services/works and incurring of the expenditure for their implementation in compliance with the project agreement, verification of the physical progress, compliance with publicity and visibility rules as well as existence of original documents and correct information on the material and financial implementation of the project that has been provided by the beneficiary	2Q	NO	N/A	N/A	NO	N/A	N/A

34	NORW.19.01.01-10-0007/20	PL-INNOVATION-0034	YES	NO	N/A	N/A	YES	Verification of the actual existence of the project, the delivery of the products/services/works and incurring of the expenditure for their implementation in compliance with the project agreement, verification of the physical progress, compliance with publicity and visibility rules as well as existence of original documents and correct information on the material and financial implementation of the project that has been provided by the beneficiary	4Q	NO	N/A	N/A
35	NORW.19.01.01-14-0008/20	PL-INNOVATION-0035	YES	NO	N/A	N/A	NO	N/A	N/A	NO	N/A	N/A
36	NORW.19.01.01-12-0024/20	PL-INNOVATION-0036	YES	NO	N/A	N/A	NO	N/A	N/A	NO	N/A	N/A
37	NORW.19.01.01-18-0005/20	PL-INNOVATION-0037	YES	NO	N/A	N/A	NO	N/A	N/A	NO	N/A	N/A
38	NORW.19.01.01-14-0011/20	PL-INNOVATION-0038	YES	NO	N/A	N/A	NO	N/A	N/A	NO	N/A	N/A
39	NORW.19.01.03-28-0002/20	PL-INNOVATION-0039	YES	NO	N/A	N/A	NO	N/A	N/A	NO	N/A	N/A

40	NORW.19.01.04-12-0019/20	PL-INNOVATION-0040	YES	NO	N/A	N/A	NO	N/A	N/A	NO	N/A	N/A
41	NORW.19.01.01-18-0007/20	PL-INNOVATION-0041	YES	NO	N/A	N/A	NO	N/A	N/A	NO	N/A	N/A
42	NORW.19.01.01-18-0026/20	PL-INNOVATION-0042	YES	NO	N/A	N/A	NO	N/A	N/A	NO	N/A	N/A
43	NORW.19.01.04-22-0028/20	PL-INNOVATION-0043	YES	YES	Verification of the actual existence of the project, the delivery of the products/services/works and incurring of the expenditure for their implementation in compliance with the project agreement, verification of the physical progress, compliance with publicity and visibility rules as well as existence of original documents and correct information on the material and financial	2Q	NO	N/A	N/A	NO	N/A	N/A

					implementation of the project that has been provided by the beneficiary							
44	NORW.19.01.03-06-0002/20	PL-INNOVATION-0044	YES	NO	N/A	N/A	NO	N/A	N/A	NO	N/A	N/A
45	NORW.19.01.04-18-0015/20	PL-INNOVATION-0045	YES	NO	N/A	N/A	NO	N/A	N/A	NO	N/A	N/A
46	NORW.19.01.04-22-0013/20	PL-INNOVATION-0046	YES	NO	N/A	N/A	NO	N/A	N/A	NO	N/A	N/A

47	NORW.19.01.04-18-0009/20	PL-INNOVATION-0047	YES	NO	N/A	N/A	YES	Verification of the actual existence of the project, the delivery of the products/services/works and incurring of the expenditure for their implementation in compliance with the project agreement, verification of the physical progress, compliance with publicity and visibility rules as well as existence of original documents and correct information on the material and financial implementation of the project that has been provided by the beneficiary	3Q	NO	N/A	N/A
48	NORW.19.01.01-10-0011/20	PL-INNOVATION-0048	YES	NO	N/A	N/A	NO	N/A	N/A	NO	N/A	N/A
49	NORW.19.01.01-24-0007/20	PL-INNOVATION-0049	YES	NO	N/A	N/A	NO	N/A	N/A	NO	N/A	N/A
50	NORW.19.01.04-28-0032/20	PL-INNOVATION-0050	YES	NO	N/A	N/A	NO	N/A	N/A	NO	N/A	N/A
51	NORW.19.01.04-06-0008/20	PL-INNOVATION-0051	YES	NO	N/A	N/A	NO	N/A	N/A	NO	N/A	N/A
52	NORW.19.01.01-30-0008/20	PL-INNOVATION-0052	YES	NO	N/A	N/A	NO	N/A	N/A	NO	N/A	N/A

53	NORW.19.01.01-16-0002/20	PL-INNOVATION-0053	YES	YES	Verification of the actual existence of the project, the delivery of the products/services/works and incurring of the expenditure for their implementation in compliance with the project agreement, verification of the physical progress, compliance with publicity and visibility rules as well as existence of original documents and correct information on the material and financial implementation of the project that has been provided by the beneficiary	3Q	NO	N/A	N/A	NO	N/A	N/A
54	NORW.19.01.04-22-0017/20	PL-INNOVATION-0054	YES	NO	N/A	N/A	NO	N/A	N/A	NO	N/A	N/A
55	NORW.19.01.04-04-0007/20	PL-INNOVATION-0055	YES	NO	N/A	N/A	NO	N/A	N/A	NO	N/A	N/A

56	NORW.19.01.01-12-0018/20	PL-INNOVATION-0056	YES	NO	N/A	N/A	NO	N/A	N/A	NO	N/A	N/A
57	NORW.19.01.04-28-0012/20	PL-INNOVATION-0057	YES	NO	N/A	N/A	NO	N/A	N/A	NO	N/A	N/A
58	NORW.19.01.04-28-0033/20	PL-INNOVATION-0058	YES	NO	N/A	N/A	NO	N/A	N/A	NO	N/A	N/A
59	NORW.19.01.04-18-0005/20	PL-INNOVATION-0059	YES	NO	N/A	N/A	NO	N/A	N/A	NO	N/A	N/A
60	NORW.19.01.04-22-0005/20	PL-INNOVATION-0060	YES	NO	N/A	N/A	NO	N/A	N/A	NO	N/A	N/A
61	NORW.19.01.04-02-0007/20	PL-INNOVATION-0061	YES	NO	N/A	N/A	NO	N/A	N/A	NO	N/A	N/A

62	NORW.19.01.04-30-0002/20	PL-INNOVATION-0062	YES	NO	N/A	N/A	NO	N/A	N/A	NO	N/A	N/A
63	NORW.19.01.04-06-0033/20	PL-INNOVATION-0063	YES	YES	Verification of the actual existence of the project, the delivery of the products/services/works and incurring of the expenditure for their implementation in compliance with the project agreement, verification of the physical progress, compliance with publicity and visibility rules as well as existence of original documents and correct information on the material and financial implementation of the project that has been provided by the beneficiary	4Q	NO	N/A	N/A	NO	N/A	N/A
64	NORW.19.01.04-14-0018/20	PL-INNOVATION-0064	YES	NO	N/A	N/A	NO	N/A	N/A	NO	N/A	N/A

65	NORW.19.01.01-22-0009/20	PL-INNOVATION-0065	YES	NO	N/A	N/A	NO	N/A	N/A	NO	N/A	N/A
66	NORW.19.01.04-06-0012/20	PL-INNOVATION-0066	YES	NO	N/A	N/A	NO	N/A	N/A	NO	N/A	N/A
67	NORW.19.01.01-04-0007/20	PL-INNOVATION-0067	YES	NO	N/A	N/A	NO	N/A	N/A	NO	N/A	N/A
68	NORW.19.01.04-02-0032/20	PL-INNOVATION-0068	YES	NO	N/A	N/A	NO	N/A	N/A	NO	N/A	N/A
69	NORW.19.01.04-06-0010/20	PL-INNOVATION-0070	YES	NO	N/A	N/A	NO	N/A	N/A	NO	N/A	N/A

\* In extraordinary situations, e.g. during the epidemic risk and the state of an epidemic or state of emergency, i.e. martial law, emergency or natural disaster, monitoring of projects is allowed in a remote form with the use of means of remote communication, not requiring a controlling team visit to the place of project implementation/headquarters of the monitored entity.

\*\*in the case of extension of the project implementation deadline beyond 30/11/2022, in a project subject to monitoring, after submitting an application for final payment, the project will be inspected during its implementation

## Annex 6: Evaluation report

Until now any evaluation has not been carried out. Programme Operator plans to carry out the ex post evaluation of the Programme in 2024.

## Annex 7: Agreement conditions

General	
Condition	Fulfilled status
<p>The National Focal Point shall ensure that the Programme Operator encourages synergies with other programmes in Poland, including for Environment and Energy and Climate Change and Research.</p>	<p>Is condition fulfilled? – N/A Comment</p> <p>The synergies with other Programmes in Poland, especially with Environment, Energy and Climate Change and Research previously were encouraged by various mainly communication measures. The Programme Operators exchanged between themselves information on their Programmes. They invited representatives of each other to participate in the Programme opening conferences and events or training meetings for potential applicants thereby information on these Programmes was able to reach a wider audience of potential applicants.</p> <p>Moreover, both previously and last year the Programme Operators shared experience on operational implementation issues, but also on substantive matters such as practical information on state aid rules. For example PARP benefited from the experience of the Programme Operator of the Environment, Energy and Climate Change Programme in the aid for environmental protection.</p> <p>PARP's representative participated in the proceedings of the Selection Committee operating under the Environment, Energy and Climate Change Programme.</p> <p>The representative of NCBiR (the Operator of Research Programme) participated as a speaker in the webinar "Cluster benchmarking 2020: Polish clusters potential and Polish-Norwegian cooperation" held on May 26, 2021.</p> <p>PARP addressed also an invitation to the Ministry of Climate concerning participation in an event in the area of ocean economy planned to be held on April 5, 2022.</p>

	<p>In the recent time the pandemic restrictions have influenced the feasibility of joint initiatives. In the subsequent years there should be more possibilities of fulfilling the synergy condition. When planning the bilateral events and communication activities PARP will analyse the possibilities of encouraging synergies with other Programmes. The representatives of other Programme Operators will be invited to participate in these events and initiatives.</p>
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