



REPUBLIC OF CYPRUS

COMBINED STRATEGIC AND ANNUAL PROGRAMME REPORT

**EEA and Norway
Financial Mechanisms 2014-2021**

National Focal Point

**Directorate General Growth,
Ministry of Finance**

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A. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This is the third combined Strategic and Annual Programme Report for the EEA and Norway Grants 2014-2021, prepared by the Directorate General Growth (DG Growth), Ministry of Finance, acting as the National Focal Point (NFP) and the Programme Operator (PO) of the Programme “Local Development and Poverty Reduction”.

The Report is prepared in accordance with Article 2.6 of the Regulation of the EEA and Norway Financial Mechanisms 2014-2021 and it reflects the progress made for the Programme in the period January-December 2021.

Twelve pre-defined projects are under implementation in the period under review. One project contract was signed in April 2021, whereas the other eleven project contracts were signed in July-September 2020.

The mid-term review was completed in December 2021 with the approval by the Donors of the allocation of the Reserve amount of €347.300 to two of the pre-defined projects under the ‘Local development and poverty reduction programme’: “Multifunctional Community Centre for people with special needs” (€304.800) and “Solidarity Network Nicosia In Action (NicInAct)” (€42.500), where additional activities will reinforce the results of these projects and have a greater impact on their beneficiaries.

Despite of COVID-19 pandemic, most of the projects have progressed in accordance with their timelines. However the cost of materials and equipment which had a significant rise due to COVID-19, had an impact on the projects’ budgets. As the projects were in the first year of their implementation, it is premature to perceive the actual impact.

Another challenge of the COVID-19 pandemic was the impact on the bilateral relations, where the bilateral initiatives which were mainly expert exchanges, seminars and workshops, were held behind in the year under review. It is noted however, that some of the initiatives took place via on-line sessions. The NFP/PO was in communication with the Norwegian Embassy in Athens and the FMO in order to find new bilateral partners as well as new ways of promoting bilateral initiatives.

During the year, the Grants received public exposure through information and publicity events from the project promoters of the projects implemented under the EEA and Norway Grants as well through the social media of the National Focal Point/Programme Operator. A highlight was the visit to Cyprus of the Norwegian Ambassador in Athens in October 2021, where he visited a number of projects and discussed with the project promoters the progress and future plans of the projects.

Considering all the challenges faced in 2021, the NFP/PO and the project promoters, continued to work with dedication and enthusiasm towards achieving the project results and reaching the targets agreed in the Programme Agreement.

B. PERFORMANCE

CY-LOCALDEV Local Development and Poverty Reduction

1. Programme context

In this section, reference is made on the political, legislative and economic developments in Cyprus that could affect the implementation of the Programme “Local Development and Poverty Reduction”.

The projects under the Programme cover a number of different sectors of the Cyprus economy and society, such as the areas of environment, health, culture and social welfare. All these projects aim to contribute to the goal of reducing social and economic disparities in the EEA area and strengthening bilateral relations.

Environment

The pandemic crisis has demonstrated the need to invest more in environmentally friendly technologies and leverage the climatological realities of Cyprus to invest in energy production that comes from nature as means of creating a positive impact in the efficiency and effectiveness. The crisis demonstrates the need for changes and improvements in the technologies used.

The aim is the transition to climate neutrality, through the achievement of the national targets in energy efficiency and renewable energy for 2030. Specifically, Cyprus is committed to increase the share of Renewable Energy Sources (RES) to 23% of the total gross final energy consumption and to 26% of the total gross final electricity consumption, as well as to maintain 39% in heating and cooling and 14% in the transport sector.

In view of the European Green Deal towards climate neutral economy, the Cyprus government has introduced significant measures contributing to climate neutrality, including sustainable transport, circular economy, renewable energy, improving waste management, reducing air-pollution, protecting the biodiversity and sustainable production.

The main objective is to design and plan the cost-effective policies and measures that will help to achieve the medium and long-term national energy and climate goals, contribute to the economic development and respond to the challenge of other environmental goals.

Furthermore, in the Cyprus Recovery and Resilience Plan 2021-2026, the aim under climate and energy efficiency is to support schemes so as to assist households, enterprises, municipalities, communities and the wider public sector and NGOs to

implement energy efficiency and renewable energy investments. In this respect, investments related to the energy upgrade of public buildings and other public infrastructure, including in the water treatment sector will be promoted. Also, incentives for the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions in agriculture, industries, businesses and other organisations, are also planned.

Moreover, it is considered of utmost importance that national authorities minimise the risk of forest fires within or near the Cyprus State Forests and enable faster and more effective intervention of the fire fighting forces, and hence reduce the possibility of small forest fires growing big and threaten the forests with partial or complete destruction. Equally important is to enhance citizens' safety, protect their property and preserve the natural environment from the forest fires. This will be achieved through the purchase of firefighting aircraft, vehicles, equipment and provision of services, such as firefighting operations and training.

During 2021, 74 forest fires were recorded that burned more than 100 square kilometres in total. However, the most devastating fire of 2021, both in terms of damage and in terms of victims, was the fire that broke out in June 2021 in the mountainous areas of Limassol and Larnaca districts. A total number of eight communities were evacuated due to the large fire, while four people were found dead. The area of the burned land exceeded 55 square kilometers with houses and agricultural crops completely destroyed.

Another big forest fire of 2021, occurred in June near Agia Marina Xyliatou in the Nicosia District, where the fire burned 28 square kilometers, mostly of forest land.

Health

In the area of public health, the COVID-19 pandemic revealed some structural problems as to the coordination of actions, long-term planning and monitoring techniques.

The recent pandemic further highlighted the importance of the preparedness of the health system, both in the public and private sectors, so as to deal with emergencies and also provide assistance for the benefit of the whole society.

The strategic goals of the Ministry of Health are related to the implementation of sustainable reforms within a healthcare system that focuses on prevention, social provision and continuous upgrading of the provided services based on good practices and accessibility, equally to all citizens.

A key characteristic of the recently implemented, as of June 2019, General Health System (GHS), is the enhanced access of all citizens to healthcare services. The COVID-19 pandemic demonstrated the need to further improve and modernise the health care system and complete the implementation of the sector reform.

In this framework, one of the main targets of the Cyprus Resilience and Recovery Plan 2021-2026, is the establishment of a Resilient and Effective Health System with the promotion of reforms and investments in the healthcare sector that will increase the efficiency, accessibility and overall resilience of the GHS.

To this end, it includes specific measures towards the development of policies and monitoring of key metrics to support data-driven decisions leading to assurance of adequate supplies and infrastructure that will improve the capacity of hospital units and the working conditions of health staff. In addition, it will provide the digitalisation of cross border healthcare and surveillance of infectious diseases, contributing to the digital transition and strengthening public health policies, assuring a patient-centred environment thus enriching social cohesion. Finally, it also includes incentives for hospitals to achieve a high level of standardised healthcare comparable to international standards and the accreditation of both private and public hospitals.

Another goal of the RRP is the development of the strategic plan and coordination capacity for the treatment of COVID-19 patients. By strengthening the capacity of the main COVID-19 Care Unit, the need for further Units in other hospitals to treat COVID-19 patients will reduce, increasing predictability and effectiveness, coherence and capacity in the treatment of COVID-19 patients.

Migration and Asylum

Cyprus, due to its geographical location near the Middle East, continues to receive disproportionate numbers of refugees and asylum seekers from Asia and the Middle East, compared to its capacity. The problems faced by Cyprus are magnified even more due to the flow of immigrants from the areas of the occupied part of Cyprus where the government of the Republic has no control. According to the latest data, refugees and asylum seekers account to 4% of the Cyprus population, whereas the average for the EU is 1%.

For the management of the migration flows in Cyprus, the government tries to proceed with quick asylum procedures, ensuring that the real beneficiaries of international protection can in a short period, enjoy the benefits provided for by the international conventions as well as by national legislation.

The Asylum Service of the Ministry of Interior coordinates and supervises the operation and management of reception and accommodation centres for applicants of international protection and their families according to the Refugee Law. These Reception and Accommodation Centres play a significant role in the immediate provision of accommodation and hence of suitable reception conditions as provided by the relevant Reception Conditions Directive. More specifically, there are two main such facilities, the Emergency Reception Centre Pournara in the Nicosia District and the Kofinou Reception Centre for Asylum Seekers in the Larnaca District. In June 2021,

a number of housing units were delivered for the needs of the Reception Centre for Applicants for International Protection at “Limnes” in the Larnaca District.

In the migration flows there are also unaccompanied minors, mainly boys, aged 16-18, where the Social Services are responsible for their protection and wellbeing. In this respect, and in view of providing appropriate accommodation and relevant services (medical, legal, educational, etc.), a project under the EEA grants is under implementation with the renovation of a building in the Larnaca district.

Social welfare

The Labour market situation in Cyprus has deteriorated since the outbreak of COVID-19 pandemic as a result of the economic contraction (negative growth rate of -5,1% in 2020) resulting in an upward trend of unemployment, especially amongst the most vulnerable. The unemployment rate in the first half of 2021 averaged at 8,5%, compared to 7,1% in the first half of 2020 and for the youth unemployment increased to 18,3% in the first half of 2021 compared to 16,2% in the corresponding half of 2020.

In order to support young unemployed people as well as the most vulnerable groups, the Ministry of Labour and Social Insurance works at strengthening outreach activities by building partnerships with local actors and introducing various schemes and programmes, through trainings and relevant information campaigns.

In accordance with the National Strategy on Social Policy, activities towards promoting children’s welfare, active inclusion and combating poverty are high on the priorities of the Ministry of Labour and Social Insurance, as well as other stakeholders who are involved in improving the negative impact of economic crisis on the living conditions of vulnerable groups.

Furthermore, in July 2021 a Deputy Ministry for Social Welfare was established, in order to tackle more effectively all related issues. The Deputy Ministry aims at providing equal access to social services in an effective way, to all the people living in Cyprus, ensuring that vulnerable groups are protected through the improvement of their standard of living by providing the needed services and assistance.

Covid-19

The COVID-19 crisis had a negative impact on the economic development of Cyprus. All economic sectors were negatively affected. Unemployment, especially among the young people has increased. Cost of living has risen with significant increase in costs, especially of imported items, including fuel prices, affecting all areas of social and economic life.

The necessary measures taken by the government to protect public health as well as to address the consequences of the loss of jobs, productivity, and lockdowns, had unavoidably a significant impact on public finances.

As far as the social impact of the pandemic is concerned, it is noted that the adverse economic development resulted in a negative impact on the vulnerable groups. Therefore the EEA and Norway grants allocated in this programming period to support a number of projects, will further assist the efforts of society to provide high quality services to these groups.

As far as bi-communal cooperation is concerned, it is noted that this has not been impacted by Covid-19, as the projects are progressing without major problems.

Resilience and Recovery Plan (RRP)

The DG Growth, Ministry of Finance is the responsible authority for the Recovery and Resilience Plan (RRP) in Cyprus and it has created a new dedicated Directorate within the Directorate General so as to coordinate the work of the RRP. It has also recently employed new personnel to support the work on this Plan.

The work and capacity of the team at the DG Growth, Ministry of Finance, working on the EEA/Norway grants (NFP and PO), has not been affected by the RRP and it will not be affected in the future as the number of officers working on the grants will remain the same as described in the Management and Control Systems of the NFP and PO.

As far as the project promoters are concerned, as their projects are already well into implementation, with most of them planned to be completed by October 2023, they will not be affected by any future projects under the RRP that might be implemented by their departments/organisations.

Furthermore, the funds of the RRP will cover mostly big infrastructural projects and grant schemes in the policy areas of public health and civil protection, the green transition, economic resilience and competitiveness, the digital transition, the labour market, education and human capital, and they are expected to be implemented by 2026.

Given the nature and the timing of the RRP and taking into consideration the small amount of the EEA and Norway grants to Cyprus, it is not anticipated that these will have a negative impact on the current or the future EEA/Norway grants.

DG EPCD Name Change

After a Council of Ministers Decision on 7/10/2021 and Law (191)I of 2021, published in the Official Government Gazette on 21/12/2021, the name of the Directorate

General for European Programmes, Coordination and Development (DG EPCD) has been changed to Directorate General Growth, Ministry of Finance, as of 21/12/2021.

This name change of DG EPCD was considered necessary in the framework of the role of the DG EPCD which focuses on promoting long term sustainable development.

The duties of the NFP and PO remain the same, as well as the personnel within the DG Growth, Ministry of Finance, working on the EEA and Norway Grants.

Furthermore, it is noted that the DG Growth, Ministry of Finance, continues to work on the same issues as the DG EPCD with the same personnel and at the same premises.

2. Results

Outcome 1: Enhanced capacity to preserve the environment and improve air quality

PDP 6 - Separate collection and management of hazardous waste produced by households

In August 2021 the Project Promoter (PP) signed a contract with the sub-contractor for the provision of the mobile units. The units are expected to be delivered by the end of in February 2022. Furthermore, in September 2021, the PP signed a contract with another sub-contractor in order to plan and apply the project's communication strategy. Both sub-contractors have been assigned by the PP through public procurement procedures.

In the meantime, the PP is also preparing all the other actions needed so that the four mobile units which will visit the various communities for the collection of hazardous waste produced by households, are ready to start visiting the communities by March 2022. These activities include the preparation for an event, the preparation of the advertising/ information material, the completion of the commercials of the project and the preparation of the list of the places that the units will visit.

PDP 7 - Reduction of risk of damage caused by wildfires in Cyprus' forests

The PP has signed the contracts for the purchase of the firefighting equipment and are expected to be delivered in 2022. The personal tools/personal equipment and the firefighting have already been delivered.

The communication campaign is progressing in line with the set timeframe and about 500 people participated at information seminars about forest fires (30 of them at a two days seminar (training of trainers – Forest Officers of the Department of Forests), 45

of them were volunteers at a two days seminar and the other 425 were forest firefighters and staff of the Department of Forests at one day seminar).

The PP, in cooperation with the Press and Information Office (PIO), produced 1 radio and 2 TV spots that have been broadcasted during the Forests Protection Week, in all the TV channels in Cyprus. Additionally, posters, road signs, information leaflet in Greek and English language, glass pad, mouse pads, caps and a rollup banner have been prepared and delivered at the Department with the Norway Grants logo to be used for the publicity and dissemination of the project.

PDP 8 - Assessment of climate change effects on pollution in transport in Cyprus (ACCEPT)

Scientific progress at this stage is in line with the time-plan. Results that characterize the Saharan dust transport events and transport of volcanic ash from the eruption of Etna in March 2021 were presented. The Atmospheric Sensor development continues with efforts for assembling the equipment with calibration tests being performed at the Instrumentation & Nanotechnology Laboratory of the Cyprus Institute.

Additionally, the Department of Civil Aviation (DCA) authorized Balloon-UAV test flights up to 6Km, which is a significant development for the objectives of the project. A series of evaluation analyses of the pollution and dust model outputs has been performed by utilizing a variety of regional observations. The repositories were updated with the latest EURO-CORDEX projections for daily temperature and precipitation contributing to the quality checks and pre-process to extract the specific information for Cyprus.

The 2nd annual project meeting took place on the 20th of September 2021 and information and photos of the event were disseminated through the PPs social media channels.

On the 11th of October 2021, the Centre of Excellence (CARE-C) of the Cyprus Institute organised the “2nd International Conference on Climate Change in the Eastern Mediterranean and Middle East (EMME) - Pre-Conference Workshops”. Following the Conference, a public webinar was held, where issues on air quality and climate change in Cyprus and their effects on human health were discussed.

Ten scientific researches were involved in the project, compared to the 4 researchers being the target value. The additional researchers are on a part-time basis working on the project, but it was necessary to involve them in order to achieve better results in the project implementation. In addition eight professional staff involved in the project participated in on-line training seminars.

Outcome 2: Improved access to health care

PDP 10 - Childhood Cancer Diagnostic Laboratory

The PP hired on 1/4/2021 and trained the three Laboratory assistants who will work on the project. The equipment NGS NexSeq Illumina 2000 was purchased and installed at the end of November 2021. The relevant equipment will enable the detection of genes relating to pediatric cancer in order to decide the best possible solution for the purposes of the relevant therapies.

As part of the Communications strategy, three TV spot-films were produced for bone marrow donor recruitment that were played on all major TV stations. Donor recruitment campaigns continued with the registration of about 2.000 new donors.

A comprehensive quality system was established, with the Karaiskakio Foundation Quality Management team undertaking the development and maintenance of the project's Quality System. The new diagnostic assay was verified under the established quality standards of the Karaiskakio Foundation and successfully accredited under the ISO field in September 2021.

Furthermore, 35 patients received the services of the Foundation, by the end of September 2021. The total number of patients for the duration of the project is 100 persons.

PDP 11 - New infrastructure for diagnosis and treatment of patients (CING)

Scientific progress at this stage is in line with the timeframe. The two of the three specialised equipment were installed and the third one will be installed in early 2022. Information about the project and the contribution of the Norway Grants has been disseminated in newspapers and online.

Several antibodies for the recognition of blood cell subpopulations have been tested and employed in an analysis of primary and immortal erythroid cells. The results have been peer-reviewed and published in the MDPI International Journal of Molecular Sciences, under the title "Distinct miRNA signatures and networks discern fetal from adult erythroid differentiation and primary from immortalized erythroid cells".

Moreover, a substantial review of the scientific area covered by the current grant has been published in MDPI Cells, Therapy Development by Genome Editing of Hematopoietic Stem Cells.

Both publications have acknowledged the contribution of the Norway Grants.

Furthermore, 68 professional staff was trained during four seminars in the period March-May 2021, in fields covering Genome Editing, neuropathologies and flow cytometry in the assessment of cell-based cancer therapies, with related surface markers. The number of trained professional surpassed the targeted value of 60 that was initially foreseen.

PDP 12 - Centre for children and adolescents with neuro-developmental disorders (NDD)

The building where the centre will operate is at the final phase of preparation and the therapeutic equipment is expected to be purchased with the centre's operation. Two occupational therapists, a psychologist and an office staff have been hired, while the speech therapist is expected to be hired in early 2022. Meanwhile, the various therapies take place at the Makarios children's hospital, until the full operation of the centre at the new premises.

Outcome 3: Improved access to social and economic services

PDP 2 - Gastronomy from A to Z – Gastronomy School at Troodos area

The relevant documents of the tendering procedure for the construction of the Gastronomy Training Centre have been prepared by the architect and the engineering team. They need to be verified by the tendering department of the Limassol District Administration (the project partner, which is responsible for the construction of the Centre), before proceeding in the call for public tender in the first quarter of 2022. The contract is expected to be signed within 2022.

PDP 3 - Digitising the Museum of Cyprus

The PP hired eight archeologists in April 2021 and purchased the necessary equipment (laptops and monitors). On 1 May 2021, the 8 archeologists started the digitization process of the 96.000 movable antiquities stored in the Cyprus museum. A total of 10.681 movable antiquities were digitized until October 2021.

The PP sent to the PO on 30/9/2021, a request for a three month extension to the implementation of the project, due to COVID-19, and the new completion date of the project is now the 31st of January 2024.

PDP 4 - Multifunctional Community Centre for people with special needs

The construction activities proceeded as planned and the project is running smoothly and according to the plan. Some major activities completed are the basement dividing

walls, total insulation of basement internally and externally, structure and frame work along with the inclined roof, earthworks surrounding the basement walls, electrical and mechanical works related to the walls and drainage systems at the basement.

In the framework of the allocation of the Reserve amount of the EEA Grants, the Donors agreed in December 2021, after the NFP's proposal, to allocate the reserve amount of €304.800 to PDP4, in order to finance the construction of an independent house in the Agios Loukas community Centre area. This house will accommodate up to eight residents with multiple mental and physical disabilities, for round the clock care, for short and long term. This house will complement the building that is constructed under PDP4 and it will create a highly visible result with great value added to the project. The plan is to build a total of 5 such houses if additional funds become available.

PDP 5 - Cyprus Reception Centre for Unaccompanied Minors

In order to proceed with the preparation of the tender documents for the renovation of the building for the purposes of the project, the PP is expecting the building's structural designs by the District Department of Public Works in Larnaca. However due to COVID-19 and work overload, there is a delay in finalizing these designs.

In view of this delay, the PP cannot finalise the tender documents and thus there is a delay on the call for tenders and renovation of the building. As the implementation period is already under way with no results from the part of the involved services, the PO has sent a letter to the Deputy Minister for Social Welfare for immediate action to resolve this matter. The reaction of the Deputy Minister is expected soon.

PDP 9 - Solidarity Network Nicosia In Action (NicInAct)

The renovation of the Zemenidis building for the Solidarity Hub, where the social services will be provided, was completed in early 2021. The opening event took place on 30 March 2021 with a wide media coverage, including a live link and Facebook posts by the PP and PO.

The Solidarity Hub is in full operational mode and the total number of beneficiaries served from March 2021 until the end of December 2021 was 143 through a total number of 671 sessions. More specifically, a total of 18 sessions for legal services, 16 sessions for family budget advice, and 582 sessions for psychosocial support. Another 20 sessions were implemented for consultation support, 30 sessions for employment consultation, 3 sessions for entrepreneurship consultation and 2 sessions for occupational therapy services.

The actors that are working together with the PP for providing services to beneficiaries signed a number of MOU. The signature ceremony of the MOU with a total of 34 actors

took place at the Nicosia Municipal Theatre on 3 June 2021 and the event initiated the operation of the actors' network.

The project was well publicized both through physical exhibitions and interaction with the public during street work and in the framework of public events where the foundation was invited to present the project.

In addition, activities implemented in collaboration with partners and other actors were also publicized through social media, such as the UNHCR training that was implemented on 13/7/2021, for the staff and partners of the foundation.

In order to publicize the street work, the street social worker informed the public at Nicosia city-centre on the services offered by the project and for the street social work. The event was publicized on social media on 18/9. The project NIC-IN-ACT was also presented at the UPSKILL Festival at Eleftheria Square (in Nicosia city-centre), where the project and its services were promoted to the public and a relevant post was published on 26/9.

In the framework of the provision of social services, the Minister of Labour and Social Insurance visited the premises of the Zemenidi building and discussed with the PP on the services offered by the project. The Minister provided a very positive feedback to PP about the project and she confirmed the availability of the Ministry and especially of the social welfare services for cooperation with the Nicosia Multifunctional Foundation for the benefit of vulnerable populations in Nicosia.

In the framework of the allocation of the Reserve amount of the Norway Grants, the Donors agreed in December 2021, after the NFP's proposal, to allocate the reserve amount of €42.500 to PDP9, in order to implement further activities. This amount will re-enforce the activities provided to serve more beneficiaries, as the programme has already been successful with a lot of people benefiting from it.

Outcome 4: Strengthened capacity of businesses on Corporate Social Responsibility Pre-defined projects

PDP 1 - Corporate Sustainability Supporting Framework

The project has been appraised by the PO and the contract was signed on 26 April 2021. After the signing of the contract, the Project Promoter began the preparatory stage of drafting the subsidising scheme. In this context, the PP reviewed several issues, inter alia, the competency requirements of persons providing consulting services on Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) as well as for validating /verifying the CSR strategy developed by enterprises, according to the criteria of the Tool (Specification).

The draft of the subsidizing scheme is on its final stage and is expected to be published in early 2022.

Market research and preliminary consultations were conducted with interested software developing firms and promotional firms, regarding venue and electronic equipment needed for the informative/ training sessions. Furthermore, preliminary consultations were also conducted with interested educators /trainers on CSR.

Bi-Communal Cooperation

Most of the pre-defined projects have a bi-communal character, as the Turkish Cypriots can benefit from the services offered/results achieved by the projects, such as the Nicosia-in-action, the Childhood cancer Diagnostic Laboratory, the New Infrastructure of diagnosis and treatment of patients, the Centre for Children and Adolescents with Neuro-Developmental Disorders, the Multifunctional Community Centre for people with special needs as well as the Assessment of Climate Change Effects on Pollution Transport in Cyprus.

It is noted that for the Nicosia-in-Action project that is fully operational, services have been provided to a number of people of various nationalities, including Turkish Cypriots.

Also, projects such as the Nicosia-in-Action and the Multifunctional Community Centre for people with special disabilities, will include in their websites a description of their projects in the Turkish language and interpretation, when needed, will be ensured for all patient/user groups.

As the projects have a social inclusion, health and an environmental character, anyone in need can get support or benefit from, as all the services provided by the project promoters are accessible to all people living in Cyprus, including the Turkish Cypriots.

3. Implementation

Financial status

The table below shows the committed/budgeted amounts of the twelve pre-defined projects under the Programme of the Local Development and Poverty Reduction, as well as the payments made by the PO by 31 December 2021.

The total project cost (shown in column 6) is the amount included in the contracts signed between the PO and the PPs and the payments by the PO to the PPs (shown in column 7), are the cumulative amounts paid by the PO, from the date of signing the project contracts, up to 31/12/2021.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
No. of PDP	Project Title	EEA/Norway Grants	CY contribution	Project Promoter's co-financing	Total Project Cost	Payments by the PO from Project Contract signing to 31/12/2021
		€	€	€	€	€
1	Corporate Sustainability Supporting Framework	255.000	45.000	-	300.000	1.277
2	Gastronomy from A to Z – Gastronomy School at Troodos area	467.500	82.500	-	550.000	0
3	Digitising the Museum of Cyprus	443.700	78.300	-	522.000	74.365
4	Multifunctional Community Centre for people with special needs	850.000	150.000	111.111	1.111.111	593.998
5	Cyprus Reception Centre for Unaccompanied Minors	425.000	75.000	-	500.000	0
6	Separate collection and management of hazardous waste produced by households	425.000	75.000	-	500.000	0
7	Reduction of risk of damage caused by wildfires in Cyprus' forests	750.000	132.353	-	882.353	56.138
8	Assessment of Climate Change Effects on Pollution	722.500	127.500	-	850.000	168.122

	Transport in Cyprus, "ACCEPT"					
9	Solidarity Network Nicosia In Action (NicInAct)	425.000	75.000	-	500.000	197.276
10	Childhood Cancer Diagnostic Laboratory	722.500	127.500	94.444	944.444	95.312
11	New infrastructure for diagnosis and treatment of patients	505.750	89.250	66.111	661.111	0
12	Center for Children and Adolescents with Neuro-Developmental Disorders (NDD)	578.000	102.000	-	680.000	2.216
	TOTAL:	6.569.950	1.159.403	271.666	8.001.019	1.188.704

Interim Financial Reports

In 2021, two Interim Financial Reports (IFRs) were submitted for the Programme, IFR 2 (on 15 March 2021) and IFR 3 (on 15 September 2021). The table below summarises the expenditure claimed (including the Programme Management), in the IFRs:

	Programme Local Development and Poverty Reduction	Total grant €	Project Promoters co-financing €	Total eligible expenditure €	Expenditure claimed in IFR 2 & IFR 3 €	Total Expenditure claimed in IFRs 1-3 €
1	Pre-defined Projects	7.729.353*	271.666	8.001.019	429.990	429.990
2	Programme Management	666.765**	-	666.765	106.965	236.965
	TOTAL:	8.396.118	271.666	8.667.784	536.955	666.955

* EEA/Norway Grants €6.569.950 + CY €1.159.403 = €7.729.353

** EEA/Norway Grants €566.750 + CY €100.015 = €666.765

EEA/Norway Grants Contribution: €6.569.950 + €566.750 = €7.136.700

CY Contribution: €1.159.403 + €100.015 = €1.259.418 +
€8.396.118

Project Promoters Contribution: €271.666 +

Total Eligible Expenditure: €8.667.784

Conformity with specific requirements

There are seven conditions that are stipulated in the Programme Agreement and should be met for the implementation of the Programme. These are the following:

- 1) The NFP in its dual role as Programme Operator shall ensure that the project promoters,
 - Keep any buildings purchased, constructed, renovated or reconstructed under the project in their ownership for a period of at least 5 years following the completion of the project and continue to use such buildings for the benefit of the overall objectives of the project for the same period;
 - Keep any buildings purchased, constructed, renovated or reconstructed under the project properly insured against losses such as fire, theft and other normally insurable incidents both during project implementation and for at least 5 years following the completion of the project; and
 - Set aside appropriate resources for the maintenance of any buildings purchased, constructed, renovated or reconstructed under the project for at least 5 years following the completion of the project. The specific means for implementation of this obligation shall be specified in the project contract.
- 2) The National Focal Point in its dual role as Programme Operator shall ensure that the project promoters refrain from any acts or omissions that:
 - Are incompatible with the property rights of natural or legal persons protected under the applicable laws of the Republic of Cyprus, the Convention for the Protection of Human Right and Fundamental Freedoms or the case law of the European Court of Human Rights;
 - Imply acceptance of entry or exit points of the Republic of Cyprus beyond those that are compatible with international law.

- 3) Payments to project promoters and, if applicable, project partners shall only be made through legally operating banking institutions in the Republic of Cyprus.
- 4) Any supporting evidence for expenditures provided for payments shall not be considered eligible if these are derived from a so-called “public authority” or any other so-called “official institution” in the areas of the Republic of Cyprus where the Government of the Republic of Cyprus does not exercise effective control and authority.
- 5) The overall objective of bi-communal projects and their guiding principle is to contribute the reunification of Cyprus as set out in the relevant UN Security Council resolutions.
- 6) Bi-communal activities and bilateral partnerships shall be encouraged within all relevant projects.
- 7) No action or omission of the project promoters or any project partners is intended to imply recognition of any public authority in Cyprus, other than the Government of the Republic of Cyprus.

All the above conditions have been addressed in the Project contracts signed with the PPs and in the checklist of the PO prepared for assessing the progress of the Projects.

It is noted that the PO ensures that the conditions are met through the monitoring of the implementation of the projects by the PPs and through the evaluation of the Project Progress Reports submitted by the PPs during the year.

Progress by the Joint Committee on Bilateral Funds

In accordance with Article 2.3 of the Bilateral Fund Agreement signed on 21/8/2019, the Joint Committee for Bilateral Funds (JCBF) held its second meeting on the 2nd of March 2021. Present at the meeting were representatives from the Donors (the Norwegian Embassy in Athens, the Embassy of Iceland in Stockholm), the Cypriot Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the FMO and the NFP.

At the second meeting, a status update on the approved pre-defined bilateral initiatives was presented by the NFP. As noted at the meeting, due to COVID-19, there was a delay in the implementation of the approved activities, since they included site visits, seminars etc. However, the project promoters were in close contact with their bilateral partners and some of them proceeded with on line sessions.

The main conclusions of the JCBF were related to the challenges COVID-19 brought to the PPs where they should find new ways to implement their bilateral initiatives, find new bilateral partners and try to adapt to the new situation.

In view of the above, the Cyprus NFP is in close cooperation with the FMO and the Norwegian Embassy in Athens so as to assist the implementation of more bilateral initiatives. More specifically, the FMO will organize an online workshop on 26 January 2022 where all the PPs and other interested stakeholders have been invited to join in order to get informed on the Bilateral Funds, find new ways to cooperate with bilateral partners and propose new initiatives.

As far as the progress of the implementation of the four bilateral initiatives approved by the JCBF is concerned, this is shown in **Table 1** below:

Table 1

BILATERAL INITIATIVE	STATUS UPDATE
<p>ACCEPT</p> <p>“Assessment of Climate Change Effects on Pollution Transport in Cyprus, “ACCEPT””</p>	<p>The 1st training has been carried out as planned, on 24-25/6/2021. The training was online and 2 researchers from the Cyprus Institute, who are actively involved in the ACCEPT project, participated.</p> <p>The topic of the training was “The use of EBAS platforms for the use, storage and analysis of data related to air pollution and through the ACTRIS platform”. The training also included the practical use of the platform by using data from the Cyprus Institute and analysis of data in reports.</p> <p>The 2nd training took place on the 8th of December 2021 and it was also online. Five researchers from the Cyprus Institute, who are actively involved in the ACCEPT project, participated. The topic of the training was again “The use of EBAS platforms for the use, storage and analysis of data related to air pollution and through the ACTRIS platform”.</p> <p>Photos have been published through all the social media channels of ACCEPT and through the website of the Department of Environment.</p>
<p>CING</p> <p>“New infrastructure for diagnosis and treatment of patients”</p>	<p>In March-May 2021 four virtual meetings have taken place, with the overall participation of 68 participants from Norway and Cyprus. Another four virtual events are planned for the period March-May 2022.</p> <p>Furthermore, 10 out of originally 15 Norway-based scientists contacted have confirmed their interest in meetings in the three cities in Norway (Oslo, Bergen, Tromsø) and in their potential participation in a workshop in Cyprus. This will be</p>

	<p>effected once the pandemic situation makes this possible and as determined by the bilateral initiatives budget and travel and accommodation cost at the time. The In-person meetings in Norway are currently planned for mid-2022.</p>
<p>KARAIKAKIO “Epidemiology of Asbestos Cancer in Cyprus and Biomarker Discovery”</p>	<p>The PP is currently in the process of collecting the relevant samples. As soon as all the samples are collected, experimental work will commence with DNA extraction and purification and the molecular profiling of each sample.</p> <p>Also, the PP has been in constant communication with online meetings with the partner in Norway and a preliminary scientific protocol has been established.</p>
<p>MFA “UNSCE 1325 in Cyprus”</p>	<p>On 21-22 of September 2021, three experts from Norway visited Cyprus in order to provide a training to Cypriot stakeholders.</p> <p>The training provided the essential tools and expertise for a more thorough implementation of the necessary actions and activities of the NAP on 1325 by the MFA and other Departments, and will also serve to enable Cypriot stakeholders to further train other Governmental Services.</p>

Management and control system (MCS)

MCS of the NFP/CA/IA/AA

During the year, a systems review was carried out by the Audit Authority and it was brought to the attention of the NFP that an established audit procedure shall be incorporated in the MCS of the NFP, Certifying Authority, Irregularities Authority and Audit Authority, with regards to Technical Assistance and Bilateral Fund.

The relevant verification procedures were incorporated in the MCS, after mutually agreed with the CA and AA, under the section of the MCS on the Certifying Authority, which is the Authority in charge for the verification of these funds.

In view of the change in the name of DG EPCD to DG Growth, Ministry of Finance, on 21/12/2021, the MCS for the NFP/CA/IA/AA has been amended to include the new name of the NFP.

MCS of the PO

During the year all projects were subject to verification by the appointed external audit firm in accordance with the regulation of EEA and Norway Grants and the terms established in the MCS for the PO. The results were satisfactory and in accordance with guidelines provided as per the MCS. The verification procedure is ongoing and it is monitored accordingly.

The MCS for the PO was also updated to include the change of the name of the NFP from DG EPCD to DG Growth, Ministry of Finance, as well as to include the name of Mr. Pambos Charalambous as part of the PO team, in replacement of Ms Dafni Mavrommati.

C. LEARNING

1. Monitoring

The PO had regular online meetings with all the Project Promoters throughout 2021, so as to have a regular update on the project implementation and assist the PPs in any issues/problems that might arise. The PO had also a very frequent communication with all the PPs via email and telephone calls.

The Monitoring Plan is provided in Annex 5 to this Report.

2. Evaluation

In this reporting period, no external evaluations have been carried out.

However, following the submission of the Progress Reports by the PPs, in intervals of 3 or 6 months, the PO conducted desk-based reviews, on-line meetings and site-visits, accordingly.

Furthermore, based on the lessons learned from previous programming periods, the PO created a better system to evaluate and monitor the projects.

3. Lessons learned

In view of the experience and lessons learned from the implementation of programmes in the previous programming periods, the NFP/PO organized on-line meetings and had regular contacts by email and telephone calls, with all the PPs in order to better monitor the implementation of the projects. In these meetings/contacts, the NFP/PO discussed with the PPs the project progress and noted if there were any issues/problems during the year.

In order to further assist the PPs in the implementation process, the NFP/PO in cooperation with the FMO and the Norwegian Embassy in Athens, organized on-line trainings so as to provide additional help and clear possible enquiries from the part of the PPs.

Furthermore, due to COVID-19, some of the project activities have been affected, as there is a high rate of COVID-19-patients within the PPs' organisations, thus making it more difficult to proceed with the activities as planned. In view of this, PPs proceeded with the implementation of some of their activities in different time frames than the planned ones, in order to minimize any delays in the implementation of the projects. Also, on-line communication and meetings were established in the daily work of the PPs.

D. WORK PLAN

For the year 2022, the following activities are expected to be carried out:

Period	Activity
January	<p>Submission of the Combined Strategic and Annual Programme Report for 2021, by the NFP/PO</p> <p>Preparation of the tender documents for the Provision of Services for the implementation of the Communication Strategy and the Communication Plan, by the NFP/PO</p> <p>Workshop for Bilateral Funds, organized by the FMO, 26/1/2022</p>
February	<p>Submission by the Certifying Authority of the Forecasts of likely payments by 20/2/2022</p> <p>Review by the PO of the Project Reports prepared by the PPs and submission to the External Service Provider for the verification of the Expenditure incurred</p> <p>Tendering procedure for an external service provider for the Provision of Services for the implementation of the Communication Strategy and the Communication Plan</p> <p>Participation in the Annual Communication Workshop, 2/2/2022</p>
March	<p>Annual Meeting with the Donors, 15/3/2022</p> <p>Meeting of the Joint Committee for Bilateral Funds (JCBF), 15/3/2022</p>

	<p>Preparation by the PO and submission by the CA of the Interim Financial Reports for the Local Development and Poverty Reduction Programme, the Technical Assistance and the Bilateral Relations Fund, by 15/3/2022</p> <p>Evaluation of the tenders and signing with the successful tenderer of the Contract for the Provision of Services for the implementation of the Communication Strategy and the Communication Plan</p> <p>Payments by the PO to the PPs after the verification by the External Service Provider of the expenditures claimed by the PPs in their Progress Reports</p>
April	Submission by the Certifying Authority of the Forecasts of likely payments by 20/4/2022
May	Review by the PO of the Project Reports prepared by the PPs and submission to the External Service Provider for the verification of the Expenditure incurred
June	Payments by the PO to the PPs after the verification by the External Service Provider of the expenditures claimed by the PPs in their Progress Reports
July	N/A
August	Review by the PO of the Project Reports prepared by the PPs and submission to the External Service Provider for the verification of the Expenditure incurred
September	<p>Submission by the Certifying Authority of the Forecasts of likely payments by 20/9/2022</p> <p>Preparation by the PO and submission by the CA of the Interim Financial Reports for the Local Development and Poverty Reduction Programme, the Technical Assistance and the Bilateral Relations Fund, by 15/9/2022</p> <p>Payments by the PO to the PPs after the verification by the External Service Provider of the expenditures claimed by the PPs in their Progress Reports</p>
October	Review by the PO of the Project Reports prepared by the PPs and submission to the External Service Provider for the verification of the Expenditure incurred
November	Submission by the Certifying Authority of the Forecasts of likely payments by 20/11/2022

	Payments by the PO to the PPs after the verification by the External Service Provider of the expenditures claimed by the PPs in their Progress Reports
December	Preparation of the Combined Strategic and Annual Programme Report
During the year 2022	<p>Meetings of the PO with the Project Promoters for updates on the implementation of the projects (in regular intervals)</p> <p>Proceed with the formal procedures for the allocation of the EEA Grants reserve amount of €304.800 to PDP4 'Multifunctional Community Centre for people with special needs' and the Norway Grants reserve amount of €42.500 to PDP9 'Solidarity Network Nicosia in Action «NicInAct»' and the modifications of the Memorandum of Understanding and the Programme Agreement</p> <p>Bi-monthly communication meetings with the FMO/Norwegian Embassy in Athens/NFP/PO</p>

E. ANNEXES

1. Updated results (indicator achievements)
2. Communication summary
3. Overview of contracted projects
4. Risk management
5. Monitoring plan
6. Evaluation plan
7. Evaluation report
8. Technical assistance report
9. Agreement conditions

Annex 1: Updated results (indicator achievements)

CY-LOCALDEV Local Development and Poverty Reduction

Objective: Strengthened social and economic cohesion								
Outcome 1: Enhanced capacity to preserve the environment and improve air quality								
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 beneficiaries of services provided	Cumulative number	0	-	-	-	-	10,000	No results to show yet since the units for the project Hazardous have not been delivered yet
<i>Gender</i>								
<i>Female</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Male</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Not specified</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Number of new products/technologies developed	Cumulative number	0	-	-	-	-	2	No results yet since the final products for the project ACCEPT have not been developed.
<i>Sector</i>								
<i>Green</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Blue</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>ICT</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Welfare/ambient</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Not specified</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Output 1.1: Increased awareness of the general public on hazardous waste management								
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 awareness raising campaigns carried out (on hazardous waste management)	Cumulative number	0	-	-	-	-	1	The campaign will be carried out upon the functioning of the hazardous waste collection units
Output 1.2: Increased awareness of the general public on wildfires' prevention								
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 awareness raising campaigns carried out (on forest wildfires' prevention)	Cumulative number	0	-	-	-	1	1	
Number of participants to information campaigns about forest fires at mountainous villages	Cumulative number	0	-	-	-	500	1,000	The value of 500 participants refers to the period up to 30/6/2021
Output 1.3: Scientific knowledge on air pollution in Cyprus reinforced								
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 researchers supported	Cumulative number	0	-	-	-	10	4	
<i>Gender</i>								
<i>Female</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Male</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Not specified</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Number of professional staff trained	Cumulative number	0	-	-	-	8	10	-
<i>Age</i>								
<i>Children and youth (0-17)</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Young adults (18-29)</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

<i>Adults (30-64)</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Elderly (65+)</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Not specified</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Gender</i>								
<i>Female</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Male</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Not specified</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Outcome 2: Improved access to health care								
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 beneficiaries of services provided	Cumulative number	0	-	-	-	35	400	The value of 35 (target 100) beneficiaries refers to the PDP10 (Karaiskakio) for the period up to 30/9/2021 For the PDP11 (target value 200) and the PDP12 (target value 100), there are no beneficiaries served in 2021.
<i>Gender</i>								
<i>Female</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Male</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Not specified</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Number of jobs created	Cumulative number	0	-	-	-	3	3	The value refers to the PDP10 (Karaiskakio)
<i>Gender</i>								
<i>Female</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Male</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Not specified</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Age</i>								
<i>Children and youth (0-17)</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

<i>Young adults (18-29)</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Adults (30-64)</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Elderly (65+)</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Not specified</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Number of new products/technologies developed	Cumulative number	0	-	-	-	3	9	The value of 3 refers to the PDP11 (CING)
<i>Sector</i>								
<i>Green</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Blue</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>ICT</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Welfare/ambient</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Not specified</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Output 2.1: Paediatric cancer diagnostic laboratory upgraded								
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 diagnostic algorithms developed	Cumulative number	0	-	-	-	3	5	It refers to the period up to 30/9/2021
Output 2.2: Bone marrow donor registry expanded								
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 awareness raising campaigns carried out	Cumulative number	0	-	-	-	1	1	-
Number of additional bone marrow donors registered	Cumulative number	0	-	-	-	2.000	2,000	-
Output 2.3: Capacity of Cyprus Institute of Neurology and Genetics (CING) strengthened								
Indicator	Unit of measurement	Baseline	Achievements until end of	Achievements until end of December 2021			Target	Comment

			previous reporting period	Numerator	Denominator	Value		
Number of professional staff trained (in Genome Editing and Cytometry)	Cumulative number	0	-	-	-	68	60	It refers to the period up to 30/6/2021
<i>Gender</i>								
<i>Female</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Male</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Not specified</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Output 2.4: National Centre on Neuro-Developmental Disorders established								
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 professional staff trained (on NDDs diagnosis)	Cumulative number	0	-	-	-	-	10	Training of the staff will take place in 2022
<i>Gender</i>								
<i>Female</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Male</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Not specified</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Outcome 3: Improved access to social and economic services								
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 beneficiaries of services provided	Cumulative number	0	-	-	-	143	325	
<i>Financial Mechanism</i>								
<i>EEA Grants</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Norway Grants</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Gender</i>								

<i>Female</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Male</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Not specified</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Number of visitors to a park with indigenous plants	Cumulative number	0	-	-	-	-	300	The park is still not in place
Number of jobs created – hiring of researchers for the digitization	Cumulative number	0	-	-	-	8	8	-
<i>Financial Mechanism</i>								
<i>EEA Grants</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Norway Grants</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Gender</i>								
<i>Female</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Male</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Not specified</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Age</i>								
<i>Children and youth (0-17)</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Young adults (18-29)</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Adults (30-64)</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Elderly (65+)</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Not specified</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Number of new products/technologies developed	Cumulative number	0	-	-	-	-	1	-
<i>Financial Mechanism</i>								
<i>EEA Grants</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Norway Grants</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Sector</i>								
<i>Green</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Blue</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>ICT</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Welfare/ambient</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Not specified</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

Number of unaccompanied asylum-seeking minors receiving services	Cumulative number	0	-	-	-	-	100	The development of Centre to accommodate the unaccompanied minors has not been completed
<i>Financial Mechanism</i>								
<i>EEA Grants</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Norway Grants</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Gender</i>								
<i>Female</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Male</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Not specified</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Output 3.1: Gastronomy School established								
Indicator	Unit of measurement	Baseline	Achievements until end of previous reporting period	Achievements until end of December 2021			Target	Comment
				Numerator	Denominator	Value		
Construction of Gastronomy Training centre and a park with indigenous plants completed	Binary	No	-	-	-	-	Yes	The tender documents are being prepared.
Number of professional staff trained (at Gastronomy School)	Cumulative number	0	-	-	-	-	100	The training of the staff has not started.
<i>Financial Mechanism</i>								
<i>EEA Grants</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Norway Grants</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Gender</i>								
<i>Female</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Male</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Not specified</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Output 3.2: Movable antiquities preserved								
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 antiquities digitised	Cumulative number	0	-	-	-	10.681	96,000	It refers to the period up to 31/10/2021
Output 3.3: Multifunctional Community Centre for people with special needs developed								
Indicator	Unit of measurement	Baseline	Achievements until end of previous reporting period	Achievements until end of December 2021			Target	Comment
				Numerator	Denominator	Value		
Construction of Multifunctional Community Centre completed	Binary	No	-	-	-	-	Yes	The Construction of the Community Centre is still on-going
Number of Civil Society organisations directly funded	Cumulative number	0	-	-	-	1	1	-
<i>Financial Mechanism</i>								
<i>EEA Grants</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Norway Grants</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Output 3.4: Reception centre for unaccompanied asylum-seeking minors developed								
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 Centres developed	Cumulative number	0	-	-	-	-	1	The tender documents are under review.
Number of professional staff trained	Cumulative number	0	-	-	-	-	50	The training of the staff has not started.
<i>Financial Mechanism</i>								
<i>EEA Grants</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Norway Grants</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Gender</i>								
<i>Female</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

<i>Male</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Not specified</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Output 3.5: Integrated social service delivery model established								
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 awareness raising campaigns carried out	Cumulative number	0	-	-	-	1	1	-
<i>Financial Mechanism</i>								
<i>EEA Grants</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Norway Grants</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Solidarity Network Hub established	Binary	No	-	-	-	Yes	Yes	-
Outcome 4: Strengthened capacity of businesses on Corporate Social Responsibility								
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 CY businesses applying CSR concepts	Cumulative number	TBD, After the initial survey	-	-	-	-	(+10%)	The PP is still working on the preparation of the relevant documents in order to inform the CY businesses
Output 4.1: Corporate Sustainability Supporting Framework developed								
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 businesses that have received support to improve their performance on CSR issues	Cumulative number	0	-	-	-	-	50	Support has not started yet
Number of professional staff trained (on CSR principles)	Cumulative number	0	-	-	-	-	200	Training of professional staff has not started yet
<i>Gender</i>								
<i>Female</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Male</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Not specified</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

Annex 2: Communication summary

a. Visibility of the Grants and the donors

The main objectives of the Communication Strategy are to inform all relevant stakeholders of the funding provided by the Donor States, the overall objectives and outcomes of the Financial Mechanisms and the impact of the implementation of the Programme in Cyprus in several priority areas, as well as to facilitate and promote bilateral relations between the Donors and the Beneficiary States.

All the information and communication strategy measures to be taken, will primarily target the general public with the involvement of the key stakeholders, mainly the PP's, the FMO, the Norwegian Embassy in Athens and the Donor Countries. Special emphasis shall be given to the continuous collaboration with the PP's, knowing that this is crucial for the successful implementation of this strategy and the MOU.

In order to implement the Communication Strategy and Communication Plan, the NFP will hire an external service provider. The tender documents are being prepared and it is expected that the signing of the Contract with the successful tenderer will be completed in early 2022.

b. Website and social media

The NFP/PO has a dedicated website for EEA and Norway Grants. The address for the website is <http://www.eegrants.gov.cy> and the information provided is in English and Greek. This website will be updated with information from the NFP/PO as well as the PPs. The NFP is in the final stage of updating the website according to the Web Content Accessibility Guidelines for the visually impaired. More specifically, the website will have a new format and its content will be updated. The main aim is that the website will be more modern and user friendly so visitors can easily find all relevant information.

The NFP/PO is posting on its social media accounts (Facebook and Instagram), news, information and photos from the projects to promote their activities and increase visibility, whilst also promoting other activities relevant to the grants, such as trainings and events organized, with the overarching goal to increase awareness to the general public. More specifically, the NFP/PO will create and post to all its social media accounts videos of each of the 12 projects. The aim is to create and show the story for each project, from start to finish, so as to show the progress and the results achieved.

The general public which is one of the main target groups of the communication plan will be able to observe the results achieved on all the projects implemented under the EEA and Norway Grants.

Provision of Support Services for the implementation of the Communication Strategy and Communication Plan of DG Growth, Ministry of Finance, in the context of fulfilling its publicity obligations as a National Contact Point for the EEA/Norway Financial Mechanisms 2014-2021.

The social media accounts managed by the NFP on Facebook and Instagram are:

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/eeaandnorwaygrantscyprus/>

Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/eeagrantscy/>

LinkedIn: will be created in 2022

c. Best practice examples

PDP7 - Reduction of risk of damage caused by wildfires in Cyprus' forests:

The PP of the PDP7 has developed two video spots with the cooperation of the Press and Information Office (PIO) that were used for TV and Radio Campaigns. The main idea was to create awareness as to how to prevent the outbreak of fires and protect the environment. Awareness is critical since according to forest fire statistics, 9 out of 10 forest fires are caused by human activities, most of which due to negligence.

PDP9 - Solidarity Network Nicosia In Action (NicInAct):

The project of the PDP9 has been promoted through the Alpha Cyprus TV channel. More specifically, the project manager of the project presented the mission and services provided at the Solidarity Hub through a live link at the premises of the Zemenidis building. Many social media posts and shares followed and gave widespread publicity to the project.

Additionally, a social media campaign ran and the public was invited to submit an application for programmes of the foundation through the online platform i.e. for the open special school as well as for the services provided within the NICINACT project. Also, NICINACT was present at the UPSKILL Festival at Eleftheria Square, the central square in Nicosia, where the project and its services were promoted to the public and a relevant post was published.

PDP10 - Childhood Cancer Diagnostic Laboratory:

The PP of PDP10 created three small TV spots for Donor Recruitment. The main idea behind the films was to show that any person, can become a donor and that any person can be a patient. The spots were shot in different places with different people, e.g. a flower shop to show an employee who was a donor and then the hospital to show the patient, a tapestry shop to show that a tapestry salesperson can become a donor and then the bedroom of a child, to show the patient, and lastly a garbage collection truck, to show that

a garbage collector can become a donor and then the house of a young couple, to show the patient. The ending of each film was done at the Karaiskakion Foundation, where it all starts, with a “swap” from a newly registered donor. The films were playing on all major TV channels during the whole month of September 2021. The end result was to increase the donor’s registry by 2000 donors and achieve more registries than the targeted.

d. Multimedia

A number of the PPs (e.g. PDP 7 - Wildfires, PDP 9 – Nicosia-in-action and PDP 10 - Karaiskakio) created TV spots or videos that were uploaded in their social media accounts but also promoted through TV and Radio channels.

Annex 3: Overview of contracted projects

CY-LOCALDEV Local Development and Poverty Reduction

Outcome	Projects	#	# of donor project partners	Amount contracted	% of outcome budget contracted
Outcome 1: Enhanced capacity to preserve the environment and improve air quality	Pre-defined	3	0	€ 2,232,353	100.00 %
	Contracted through open calls	0	0	€ 0	0.00 %
	Contracted through small grants scheme	0	0	€ 0	0.00 %
	Total Outcome 1	3	0	€ 2,232,353	100.00 %
Outcome 2: Improved access to health care	Pre-defined	3	0	€ 2,125,000	100.00 %
	Contracted through open calls	0	0	€ 0	0.00 %
	Contracted through small grants scheme	0	0	€ 0	0.00 %
	Total Outcome 2	3	0	€ 2,125,000	100.00 %
Outcome 3: Improved access to social and economic services	Pre-defined	5	0	€ 3,072,000	100.00 %
	Contracted through open calls	0	0	€ 0	0.00 %
	Contracted through small grants scheme	0	0	€ 0	0.00 %
	Total Outcome 3	5	0	€ 3,072,000	100.00 %
Outcome 4: Strengthened capacity of businesses on Corporate Social Responsibility	Pre-defined	1	0	€ 300,000	100.00 %
	Contracted through open calls	0	0	€ 0	0.00 %
	Contracted through small grants scheme	0	0	€ 0	0.00 %
	Total Outcome 4	1	0	€ 300,000	100.00 %
Programme	Total	12	0	€ 7,729,353	100.00 %

Annex 4: Risk management

CY-LOCALDEV Local Development and Poverty Reduction

Programmatic risks						
Risk description	Risk related to	Likelihood	Consequence	Risk score	Response type	Risk N/A
Procurements process delay and appeals	Reducing social and economic disparities	2	2	2.00	Mitigate	No
	Description of planned response	All the procurements will run at the early stages of the projects, in order to have adequate time to solve any problems. Additionally, the tenders will include specific terms and conditions, so that all parties concerned are aware of the specificities of the procedures and therefore eliminate any misunderstandings				
	Description of actual response	Most of the Project Promoters prepared their tender documents and proceeded with the signing of the contracts with the successful tenderers. In one case, in the PDP5, the delay in the procurement process has not yet negatively affected the implementation of the project, as the construction works can be implemented within the project's timeline.				
	Planned future response	The PO will be in close contact with the PPs with pending procurement processes, especially for construction works. Close monitoring on a monthly basis will be established, until the relevant procedures are in place and implementation progresses.				
Limited access or dissemination for training seminars/opportunities	Reducing social and economic disparities	1	3	1.73	Mitigate	No
	Description of planned response	Employ additional means of dissemination, besides established e-mailing lists, in order to attract participants to related events. These may include personal invitations addressed at senior level and formalized education events with collaborating institutions.				
	Description of actual response	Invitations to mainly on-line seminars/events were sent by emails to personal email addresses but also to the Services/Departments' official email addresses, in order to disseminate the information.				

	Planned future response	The method used already had a positive impact in informing the relevant people, so we will continue with this method of information.				
Inadequate technical support for equipment	Reducing social and economic disparities	2	3	2.45	Mitigate	No
	Description of planned response	Incorporate track record of service and certificates of equipment representation as part of the tender procedure.				
	Description of actual response	In the tender documents, service of the equipment is part of the tender documents and service/materials guarantee for a specific time frame is usually offered by the manufacturers.				
	Planned future response	Close communication between the PO and the PPs for any problems that might arise in technical support for equipment purchased.				
Operational risks						
Risk description	Risk related to	Likelihood	Consequence	Risk score	Response type	Risk N/A
Inadequate contractors (communication and/or operational)	Reducing social and economic disparities	2	4	2.83	Mitigate	No
	Description of planned response	1) Involve administration staff in trainings for managing grants projects, maintain regular contact with NFP and PO and propose solutions/ adjustments, develop and apply transparent, simple and solid internal operating procedures based on the Regulation and guidance documents, 2) All the procurements will be run at the early stages of the projects 3) Request informal quotations prior to official tenders in order to speed up drafting of tender documents and allow for realistic tender requirements.				
	Description of actual response	Most of the tender procedures have been concluded and contracts have been signed. In the year under review, no problems were encountered, as far as inadequate contractors are concerned.				
	Planned future response	The projects with pending procurement procedures will be monitored closely by the PO in order to provide additional guidance if needed.				

Inability to attract/engage the right staff in adequate numbers	Reducing social and economic disparities	1	3	1.73	Mitigate	No
	Description of planned response	1) Revise and consider a more proactive recruitment strategy (head hunting, publicity, and involvement of recruitment firms); Extend Announcement Periods of Recruitment; and review critically the cause and redefine hiring strategy including remuneration aspects. 2) Apply meritocratic salary and promotion system to maximize retention of capable staff.				
	Description of actual response	The PPs that needed to engage staff for the implementation of their projects have completed the relevant procedures, and all staff is now in place. No problems were encountered in the period under review.				
	Planned future response	As the PPs are into the implementation of their projects with the project teams in place, no problems are anticipated. However, close communication between the PO and the PP will continue.				
Low participation by the beneficiaries/target groups	Reducing social and economic disparities	1	4	2	Mitigate	No
	Description of planned response	All the project promoters will inform their beneficiaries/target groups about their project and their outcomes, through promotional activities. The activities and their results will be communicated accordingly to the relevant beneficiary groups. The PPs will be in close contact with the PO so any problems faced in reaching their target groups, will be encountered early in the implementation process. Therefore, adequate participation by the beneficiaries will be secured.				
	Description of actual response	Beneficiaries and target groups have been informed about the project's activities through social media, websites and through other promotional activities such as videos and TV spots. As the projects are in the process of implementation, some of the target groups will be able to participate after the completion of the projects.				
	Planned future response	On-line communication with the beneficiaries/target groups will continue, reaching out to these groups for higher participation.				

Covid-19 impacts project timelines and projects are not completed by April 2024	Reducing social and economic disparities	2	4	2.83	Mitigate	No
	Description of planned response	(a) All procurement procedures for the construction, purchase of equipment and hiring of personnel, will be run as soon as possible, even if they have been planned to be implemented at a later stage. This will ensure that possible delays due to Covid-19 will not affect the final project implementation deadline. (b) The PPs will exercise real discipline in terms of project management so that all activities are implemented without delays.				
	Description of actual response	The PO was in close communication with the PPs for the implementation of their projects and any changes due to COVID-19 that needed to be incorporated during the year, they have been addressed.				
	Planned future response	Close cooperation and monitoring of the implementation process of all projects, so solutions can be sought for the timely implementation and completion of all projects.				
Overall risk of the programme						
		Likelihood	Consequence	Risk score		
OVERALL RISK OF THE PROGRAMME		2	3	2.45		

Annex 5: Monitoring plan

Project #	Project name	Monitoring action	Planned timing: Q1, Q2, Q3, Q4	Criteria for monitoring (especially for site visits)	Risk issue with the project (if applicable)	Comments
CY-LOCALDE V-0001	Corporate Sustainability Supporting Framework	Close cooperation with the PP and check that the subsidy scheme has been developed	Q2	Check that the trainings are scheduled	Failure to produce deliverables in time	Project activities will be regularly monitored in order to identify in time any possible problems that may arise.
CY-LOCALDE V-0002	Gastronomy from A to Z – Gastronomy School at Troodos area	Regular monitoring	Q2 & Q4	Site visits	1. Construction cost exceeds planned budget, 2. Delays in the planned progress of the construction works	1. Additional national funds will cover the extra expenses, 2. Special clauses will be included in the construction contract for possible delays
CY-LOCALDE V-0003	Digitising the Museum of Cyprus	Close cooperation with the PP in order to ensure that the digitization is performed as planned	Q2 & Q4	Reporting	1. Technical issues arising during data mitigation from old server, 2. Inability to reach the specified target digitised objects due to efficiency issues	1. Mitigate the risk by providing clear-cut rules for technical support in the contract signed with the private company, 2. Special provisions at the experts 'contract for prompt delivery of digitised material
CY-LOCALDE V-0004	Multifunctional Community Centre for people with special needs	Regular monitoring	Q2 & Q4	Site visits	1. Delays in construction due to: (i) lack of coordination between the constructor, the mechanical and the electrical engineers (ii) labour shortages	1. Possible delays have been estimated and considered in the overall construction period 2. Close monitoring by architect and project manager 3. Careful selection of constructor involved

					<p>Unexpected site conditions/infrastructure,</p> <p>2. Exceed agreed construction budget due to unforeseen increases in prices of materials, labour and delays</p>	<p>1. Close monitoring by architect and project manager</p> <p>2. All immovable items have been included in the project cost and there will be no added cost</p>
CY-LOCALDE V-0005	Cyprus Reception Centre for Unaccompanied Minors	Regular monitoring	Q2 & Q4	Site visits	<p>1. Delays in the tendering procedures</p> <p>2. Delays in the implementation of the various project components</p>	<p>1. Careful preparation of tender documents, and careful and fully justifiable evaluation of tenders.</p> <p>2. Efficient and close monitoring of each activity implementation, close cooperation between all involved entities, so that the predetermined deadlines are met.</p>
CY-LOCALDE V-0006	Separate collection and management of hazardous waste produced by households	<p>Close cooperation with the PP in order to ensure that the project is implemented as planned (telephone calls and meetings).</p> <p>-Preparation of all the relevant documents according to the regulation</p>	Q2 & Q4	Site-visits where the Units will be situated	<p>1. Procurement process delays and possible appeals</p> <p>2. Inadequate contractors (communication and/or operational)</p>	<p>1. All the procurements run at the early stages of the project, the tenders include specific terms and conditions, so that all parties concerned are aware of the specificities of the procedures and eliminate any misunderstandings.</p> <p>2. Involve administration staff in trainings for managing the project, maintain regular contact with NFP and PO.</p>

CY-LOCALDE V-0007	Reduction of risk of damage caused by wildfires in Cyprus' forests	Close cooperation with the PP in order to ensure that the project is implemented as planned	Q2 & Q4	Check that the Publicity and Information Campaigns and the Purchase of forest firefighting equipment are on schedule.	Procurements process delay and appeal	All the procurements run at the early stages of the project, the tenders include very specific terms and conditions, so that all parties concerned are aware of the specificities of the procedures and therefore eliminate any misunderstandings.
CY-LOCALDE V-0008	Assessment of climate change effects on pollution in transport in Cyprus (ACCEPT)	Close cooperation with the PP in order to ensure that the project continuous as planned (telephone calls and meetings).	Q2 & Q4	Check that the WPs are on schedule, with no delays.	<p>1. Difficulties at Obtaining Permits for Deploying (Sensor) Networks for Atmospheric Monitoring</p> <p>2. Problems at Developing and Testing the New UAV-based Technology for Air Pollution</p>	<p>1. All the necessary Sampling and Monitoring Facilities are already controlled and regulated by the Consortium Members.</p> <p>2. All the Development Facilities (Labs) are controlled and regulated by Consortium Members, while Testing Facilities are granted to Consortium Members on a permanent basis by National Competent Authorities (Department of Civil Aviation).</p>
CY-LOCALDE V-0009	Solidarity Network Nicosia in Action «NicInAct»	<p>Close cooperation with the PP in order to ensure that the project continuous as planned (telephone calls and meetings).</p> <p>Regular Monitoring at the Hub</p>	Q2 & Q4	<p>Check that the timetable plan provided by the PP is followed on time</p> <p>Visits at the hub</p>	<p>1. Administration related delays</p> <p>2. Not adequate access of citizens to the services of the network</p>	1. Involve municipality administration staff in trainings for managing EEA grants project, maintain regular contact with FMO to inform about potential delays and propose solutions/adjustments, develop and apply transparent, simple and solid internal operating procedures based on the Regulation and guidance documents and conduct internal training.

						2. The partnership is working continuously on all levels (communications/information/publicity, networks and NGOs, policy-level) to ensure the maximum beneficiary numbers and facilitate the access to groups which necessitate more targeted outreach methods. Referral mechanisms already exist with external actors which will be further developed and formalized.
CY-LOCALDE V-0010	Childhood cancer diagnostic laboratory	Close cooperation with the PP in order to ensure that the project continuous as planned (telephone calls and meetings).	Q2 & Q4	Check that the timetable plan provided by the PP is followed on time	Equipment procurement delays	<p>All the procurements run at the early stages of the project, the tenders include very specific terms and conditions, so that all parties concerned are aware of the specificities of the procedures and therefore eliminate any misunderstandings.</p> <p>An information session for Public Procurement will be organized for personnel working on procurement.</p>
CY-LOCALDE V-0011	New infrastructure for diagnosis and treatment of patients	Close cooperation with the PP in order to ensure that the project continuous as planned (telephone calls and meetings every 2 or 3 months).	Q2 & Q4	Check that the timetable plan provided by the PP is followed on time	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Equipment procurement delays 2. Limited access or dissemination for training opportunities 3. Inability to engage qualified personnel for the proposed research 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Request informal quotations prior to official tenders in order to speed up drafting of tender documents and allow for realistic tender requirements 2. Employ additional means of dissemination, besides established e-mailing lists, in order to attract

					(permanent staff with the required know-how and motivation is already in place at the PP)	<p>participants to related events. Those may include personal networking at senior level and formalized education events with collaborating institutions.</p> <p>3. Apply meritocratic salary and promotion system to maximize retention of capable staff</p>
CY-LOCALDE V-0012	Centre for children and adolescents with neuro-developmental disorders (NDD)	<p>Close cooperation with the PP in order to ensure that the project continuous as planned (telephone calls and meetings).</p> <p>Regular Monitoring at the Center</p>	Q2 & Q4	Visits at the Center and checking that the timetable plan provided by the PP is followed on time.	<p>1. Lack of health specialties such as Child Psychiatrists, Pediatricians, Geneticist.</p> <p>2. Equipment procurement delays</p>	<p>1. Buy services for the specialties that have no interest for full time occupation.</p> <p>2. All the tenders will include very specific terms and conditions, so that all parties concerned are aware of the specificities of the procedures and therefore eliminate any misunderstandings.</p>

Annex 6: Evaluation plan

Programme Information				Evaluation Information							
Programme no. and title	Sector	Duration (start/End)	Budget (EUR)	Type of Evaluation Formative/ Summative Impact/Implementation	Evaluation Objectives Reason and learning goals	Timing Mid-term or Final Evaluation (Ex-post) Year	Data needs and collection methods Reports, Interviews Surveys Others	Evaluation Start/End Data	Budget (EUR)	Past Evaluations (if any) Type and Completion Date	Knowledge Sharing Who will benefit from the evaluation? How will findings be shared?
PA10 – Local Development and Poverty Reduction		29 June 2020 / 30 April 2024	7.136.700	Summative	The evaluation will assess all projects under the Programme. During the evaluation process, three OECD criteria will be examined, namely that of Relevance, Effectiveness and Sustainability. Regarding relevance, the evaluators will assess whether the specific projects served the interests and priorities of the target groups as set in the project contracts.	Final evaluation (ex-post) 2024	Reports, interviews	Sept – Dec 2024	25.000		PPs, PO and NFP will benefit. The findings will be distributed to the PPs and the PO/NFP teams and they will be shared in the website of the NFP

					<p>Additionally, in order to assess the effectiveness of the activities implemented, the evaluators will examine the extent to which the planned results have been achieved.</p> <p>Furthermore, sustainability of the projects will be assessed to indicate the extent the benefits achieved will continue to have lasting effects, after the project closure.</p>						

Annex 7: Evaluation report

Not Available

Annex 8: Technical Assistance Report

A. In the period under review, the Directorate General Growth, (DG Growth), Ministry of Finance, in its role as the National Focal Point performed the following activities:

- (1) Organised the 2nd Annual Meeting of the Programming Period 2014-2021, with the Donors, on 2/3/2021. The meeting took place on-line due to the Covid-19 pandemic.
- (2) Organised the 2nd Joint Committee for Bilateral Funds on 2/3/2021 with participants from the Donors, the Cyprus Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the NFP. This meeting took place on-line back to back with the Annual Meeting.
- (3) Signed (in its role as PO), one Project Contract with the Authority for Cooperative Societies, the project promoter of the project "Corporate Sustainability Supporting Framework", on 26/4/2021.
- (4) Organised online meetings in June-July 2021 with all the PPs and their partners in order to update us on project progress and discuss proactive actions to address any issues raised.
- (5) Had a meeting with the Norwegian Ambassador to Greece and Cyprus, Mr Frode Overland Andersen and Ms Anne Havnor, from the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, during their visit to Cyprus on 11-13 October 2021, to discuss project and programme progress.
- (6) Had a meeting with the Country Officer at the FMO, Ms Lina Marcinkute, during her visit to Cyprus on 2-5 November 2021 to discuss project and programme progress.
- (7) Performed on the site visits in October and November 2021 to a number of Projects (PDP 4 – Multifunctional Community Centre for people with special needs, PDP 7 – Reduction of risk of damage caused by wildfires in Cyprus' forests, PDP 9 – Solidarity Network Nicosia in Action and PDP 10 – Childhood Cancer diagnostic laboratory) during the visits of the Norwegian Ambassador, Mr Frode Overland Andersen, Ms Anne Havnor and Ms Lina Marcinkute.
- (8) Submitted the Interim Financial Reports for the Local Development and Poverty Reduction Programme (in its role as PO), the Technical Assistance and the Bilateral Relations Fund for the periods 1/7/2020-31/12/2020 (IFR#2) and 1/1/21-30/6/21 (IFR#3) on 15/3/2021 and 15/3/2021 respectively.
- (9) In cooperation with the Certifying Authority, prepared the forecasting for likely payments to be submitted on 20/2, 20/4, 20/9 and 20/11/2021.
- (10) In September 2021, the NFP attended as an observer the workshops organised by the Fund Operator, GrantXpert Consulting Ltd, to explain to potential NGOs, the Civil Society Programme and how to apply.
- (11) On 12/10/2021, the NFP attended, as an observer, a meeting organised by GrantXpert Consulting Ltd, the Fund Operator of the Civil Society Programme, as well as a technical meeting.
- (13) Participated in bi-monthly Communication sessions with the FMO to discuss updates and obtain useful information of how to proceed with communication initiatives.
- (14) Participated in on-line training sessions/workshops for the NFP/PO, CA, AA and the PPs, organised by the FMO and the Norwegian Embassy in Athens, as follows:
 - On 14/1/2021 the NFP workshop discussion for the sharing of experience of main challenges and best practises to overcome

- On 3/6/2021 the Norwegian Embassy in Athens organized a workshop for participants (including POs and PPs) from Greece and Cyprus on Storytelling
- On 4/6/2021 - Training/Workshop on Programme Modifications delivered by the Results and Evaluation unit of the FMO
- On 14/6/2021 - Training/workshop on data analysis and collection, delivered by the Results and Evaluation unit of the FMO
- On 22/6/2021 - Training on Evaluations delivered by the Results and Evaluation Unit of the FMO
- On 22-23/9/2021 - the Annual Communication Workshop organized by the FMO
- On 6/10/2021 – the FMO Online preparatory meeting - Communications Training: coordination meeting with Greece & Cyprus

B. In the period under review, the Verifications and Certification Directorate of the Treasury of the Republic, in its role as the Certifying Authority, performed the following activities:

- (1) In cooperation with the NFP/PO, prepared and submitted to the FMO the forecasting for likely payments on 20/2, 20/4, 20/9 and 20/11/2021.
- (2) Certified the expenditure included in the IFRs submitted by the PO and then submitted the IFRs to the FMO through Grace by 15/3/2021 and 15/9/2021.
- (3) Participated in workshops organised by the FMO.

C. In the period under review, the Internal Audit Service of the Republic, in its role as the Audit Authority, through outsourcing of its activities to an external auditor appointed via public procurement procedures established in Cyprus and in line with EU regulation, performed the following activities:

- (1) Performed on a sample selection their audit procedures for the Management and Control System, Technical Assistance and Management fees, as well as selection of specific projects for audit. The procedure is on-going.
- (2) Participated in workshops organised by the FMO.

Budget overview

The table below provides information on the implementation of the Technical Assistance (TA) budget for the period from January to December 2021:

Allocated Budget €	Incurred Expenditure January-December 2021 €	Cumulative expenditure Incurred by 31/12/2021 €
172.500	11.756	38.725

Procurement

The procurement for the outsourcing to an independent external service provider for the verification procedure of the 12 projects was finalised and the offer was assigned to the auditing firm, HMI & Partners Ltd with a contract signed on 28/1/2021.

The verification is carried smoothly and in line with the contract terms. No significant issues are noted.

Staffing

For the period under review the following amendments were performed in the staff of the NFP/PO:

- As of 16/3/2021 to 30/11/2021, Ms Marina Pieri was temporarily assigned 90% of her time as PO to replace Ms Dafni Mavrommati as the latter was on maternity leave.
- As of 1/12/2021 onwards, Mr. Pambos Charalambous was assigned as PO in replacement of Ms Dafni Mavrommati, who was transferred to another Directorate within the DG Growth, Ministry of Finance. Ms Marina Pieri was then released to take back all her NFP duties.

The staff working on the EEA/Norway Grants for 2021 are as follows:

Name of staff	Official position	Main tasks	Level of effort (% of working time)	Funded through the Grants (Y/N)
National Focal Point				
Ioanna Kleanthous	Director	Deputy head of NFP	10%	Y
Leda Skordelli	Senior Coordination Officer	NFP duties, Responsible for the implementation of the Programs under the grants	60%	Y
Marina Pieri	Accountant	NFP duties, Responsible for the implementation of the Programmes under the grants	100%	Y
Myranda Toumazou	Planning Officer A'	PO duties	100%	Y (from PO management cost)

Pambos Charalambous	Coordination Officer A'	PO duties	100%	Y (from PO management cost)
Certifying Authority				
Stavri Ttofa	Senior Officer	Reviews and evaluation in capacity as CA	1%	N
Despina Koushiappa	Accountant	Verifications of payments and submissions of IFRs and Forecasting of likely payments in capacity as CA	20%	N
Elena Papoui	Accountant	Verifications of payments and submissions of IFRs and Forecasting of likely payments in capacity as CA	5%	N
Name of Audit Authority				
Stylianios Ioannides	Senior Internal Audit Officer	Overall review and coordination of the audit work	3%	N
Chara Efthymiou	Internal Audit Officer	Review of the MCSs of the NFP and PO, and preparation of audit reports	10%	N
Philippos Georgiou	Internal Audit Officer	Review of the MCSs of the NFP and PO, and preparation of audit reports	5%	N
Irregularities Authority				
Stavri Ttofa	Senior Officer	Reviews in capacity as IA	1%	N
Despina Koushiappa	Accountant	Preparation and submission of Irregularities reports	10%	N
Elena Papoui	Accountant	Preparation and submission of Irregularities reports	2%	N

Annex 9: Agreement conditions

CY-LOCALDEV Local Development and Poverty Reduction

General	
Condition	Fulfilled status
<p>1) The National Focal Point in its dual role as Programme Operator shall ensure that the project promoters:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Keep any buildings purchased, constructed, renovated or reconstructed under the project in their ownership for a period of at least 5 years following the completion of the project and continue to use such buildings for the benefit of the overall objectives of the project for the same period; • Keep any buildings purchased, constructed, renovated or reconstructed under the project properly insured against losses such as fire, theft and other normally insurable incidents both during project implementation and for at least 5 years following the completion of the project; and • Set aside appropriate resources for the maintenance of any buildings purchased, constructed, renovated or reconstructed under the project for at least 5 years following the completion of the project. The specific means for implementation of this obligation shall be specified in the project contract. 	<p>Is condition fulfilled? - Yes</p> <p>Comment</p> <p>This Condition has been included in the Project Contracts, in the annexes of the Project Progress Reports to be submitted to PO in specified intervals during the year and it is communicated and explained to the PPs.</p>

<p>2) The National Focal Point in its dual role as Programme Operator shall ensure that the project promoters refrain from any acts or omissions that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Are incompatible with the property rights of natural or legal persons protected under the applicable laws of the Republic of Cyprus, the Convention for the Protection of Human Right and Fundamental Freedoms or the case law of the European Court of Human Rights; • Imply acceptance of entry or exit points of the Republic of Cyprus beyond those that are compatible with international law. 	<p>Is condition fulfilled? - Yes Comment</p> <p>This Condition has been included in the Project Contracts, in the annexes of the Project Progress Reports to be submitted to PO in specified intervals during the year and it is communicated and explained to the PPs.</p>
<p>3) Payments to project promoters and, if applicable, project partners shall only be made through legally operating banking institutions in the Republic of Cyprus.</p>	<p>Is condition fulfilled? - Yes Comment</p> <p>This Condition has been included in the annexes of the Project Progress Reports to be submitted to PO in specified intervals during the year and it is communicated and explained to the PPs.</p>
<p>4) Any supporting evidence for expenditures provided for payments shall not be considered eligible if these are derived from a so-called “public authority” or any other so-called “official institution” in the areas of the Republic of Cyprus where the Government of the Republic of Cyprus does not exercise effective control and authority.</p>	<p>Is condition fulfilled? - Yes Comment</p> <p>This Condition has been included in the annexes of the Project Progress Reports to be submitted to PO in specified intervals during the year and it is communicated and explained to the PPs.</p>
<p>5) The overall objective of bi-communal projects and their guiding principle is to contribute the reunification of Cyprus as set out in the relevant UN Security Council resolutions.</p>	<p>Is condition fulfilled? - Yes Comment</p>

	<p>This Condition has been included in the annexes of the Project Progress Reports to be submitted to PO in specified intervals during the year and it is communicated and explained to the PPs.</p>
<p>6) Bi-communal activities and bilateral partnerships shall be encouraged within all relevant projects.</p>	<p>Is condition fulfilled? - Yes Comment</p> <p>This Condition has been included in the annexes of the Project Progress Reports to be submitted to PO in specified intervals during the year and it is communicated and explained to the PPs.</p>
<p>7) No action or omission of the project promoters or any project partners is intended to imply recognition of any public authority in Cyprus, other than the Government of the Republic of Cyprus.</p>	<p>Is condition fulfilled? - Yes Comment</p> <p>This Condition has been included in the annexes of the Project Progress Reports to be submitted to PO in specified intervals during the year and it is communicated and explained to the PPs.</p>