

ANNEX II- Operational rules

1. Programme summary

This Annex sets out the operational rules for the programme. The programme agreement is based on the MoU, the concept note and comments made by the NMFA. Commitments, statements and guarantees, explicit as well as implicit, made in the concept note, are binding for the National Focal Point and the Programme Operator unless otherwise explicitly stipulated in the annexes to this programme agreement.

The Programme Operator is the Ministry of Interior. The National Police Directorate (POD), the Norwegian Ministry of Justice and Public Security and the Norwegian Directorate of Immigration (UDI) are Donor Programme Partners (DPPs). The Council of Europe (CoE) is International Partner Organisation (IPO).

The programme objective, “Strengthened rule of law”, will be attained through four outcomes:

- Outcome 1 “Increased capacity of the national authorities in the asylum and migration area”
The outcome shall be supported by way of one call for proposals and two pre-defined projects (PDPs): “Establishing an Interim Care Facility for Unaccompanied Minors (UAM)” (PDP no. 1) and “Increasing the administrative capacity of the national authorities in the asylum and migration area” (PDP no. 2). The call for proposals shall focus on return of third-country nationals.
- Outcome 2 “Improved capacity for law enforcement agencies in crime prevention and investigation”
The outcome shall be supported by way of six pre-defined projects: “Increasing the capacity of General Directorate “Combating Organized Crime” for more effective investigation of organised and transnational crime” (PDP no. 3), “Extension of the Communication Infrastructure of MoI” (PDP no. 4), “Enhancement of the International Police Cooperation and the Prevention of International Criminal Activities” (PDP no. 5), “Improvement of the capacity of police and forensic activity dealing with material evidence in pre-trial investigation process” (PDP no. 6), “Development of Expert Forensic Examinations and Activities at the Research Institute of Forensic sciences at the Ministry of Interior (RIFS) and technical upgrade and expansion of the possibilities of five basic regional forensic laboratories” (PDP no. 7), “Increasing the effectiveness of SANS for combating economic crime including money laundering, terrorism financing, and predicate criminality” (PDP no. 8).
- Outcome 3 “Improved situation for Roma population”
The outcome shall be supported by way of four pre-defined projects: “Capacity building of the police officers working in multi-ethnic environment, including Roma communities and prevention of ill-treatment by the police” (PDP no. 9), “Improvement of the efficiency of the police activity in the field of domestic and gender-based violence” (PDP no. 10), “Improvement of the coordination and dialogue between police and Roma society” (PDP no. 11) and “Awareness raising of local communities in areas with significant share of Roma population on asylum and migration issues” (PDP no. 12).

- Outcome 4 “Increased capacities of Bulgarian authorities to tackle economic crime and corruption”
 The outcome shall be supported by way of two pre-defined projects: “Preventing and combating corruption” (PDP no. 13) and “Enhanced capacities of Bulgarian authorities to recover and manage criminal assets” (PDP no. 14).

In case of savings in the projects funded under this programme, reallocation of funds to PDP no. 14, through a modification of this programme agreement, for activities relevant to the newly established anti-corruption unit of CCCIAF, shall be prioritised.

2. Eligibility

2.1 Eligible applicants:

The rules on eligibility of project promoters and project partners for the call for proposals are set in Article 7.2 of the Regulation.

In accordance with Article 7.2.1 of the Regulation, international organisations or bodies or agencies thereof are eligible project promoters.

2.2 Special rules on eligibility of costs:

Costs are eligible in accordance with chapter 8 of the Regulation.

In accordance with Article 8.5.1 e) of the Regulation, project promoters or project partners that are international organisations or bodies or agencies thereof, may identify their indirect costs in accordance with the relevant rules established by such organisations.

3. Bilateral relations

3.1 Bilateral relations

The programme shall contribute to strengthening bilateral relations between Bulgaria and Norway.

The programme shall as appropriate facilitate donor partnership projects.

The further use of the funds for bilateral relations allocated to the programme shall be agreed in the Cooperation Committee.

4. Selection of projects and financial parameters

4.1 Open calls and availability of funds (including number of calls, duration of calls, and estimated size):

	Indicative timing	Total available amount	Maximum/Minimum grant applied for
Call for proposals under outcome 1 “Increased capacity of the national authorities in the asylum and migration area”	02/2019	€ 400,000	€ 400,000/€ 200,000

4.2 *Selection procedures:*

The project evaluation and award of grants shall be in accordance with Article 7.4 of the Regulation.

The Programme Operator shall be responsible for project evaluation and for the award of grants.

The Programme Operator shall appoint a person who is going to lead and coordinate the selection process.

Experts nominated by the Programme Operator shall review the applications for compliance with administrative and eligibility criteria. Applicants whose applications are rejected at this stage shall be informed and given a reasonable time to appeal that decision.

Each application that meets the administrative and eligibility criteria shall be reviewed by two impartial experts appointed by the Programme Operator, at least one of which shall be independent of the Programme Operator and the Selection Committee. The experts shall separately score the project according to the selection criteria published with the call for proposals. For the purposes of ranking the projects, the average of the scores awarded by the experts shall be used. If the difference between the scores given by the two experts is more than 20% of the higher score, a third expert, who shall be impartial and independent of the Programme Operator and the Selection Committee, shall be commissioned by the Programme Operator to score the project independently. In such cases, the average score of the two closest scores shall be used for the ranking of the projects.

The Programme Operator shall establish a Selection Committee. The Selection Committee shall consist of a Chairman and a secretary – representatives of the Programme Operator – without voting rights, and at least three voting members, including representatives of the Programme Operator. At least one of the voting members shall be external to the Programme Operator and its Partners. The NMFA, the IPO, the National Focal Point and the DPPs shall be invited to participate in the Selection Committee meetings as observers.

The Programme Operator shall provide the Selection Committee with a list of the ranked projects. The Selection Committee shall review the ranked list of projects. The decision of the Selection Committee shall be taken by consensus of all voting members. The Selection Committee may modify the ranking of the projects in justified cases, in accordance with objective and commonly agreed criteria related to the objectives of the programme. The justification for modifications shall be detailed in the minutes of the meeting of the Selection Committee. The minutes shall be signed by all members of the Selection Committee. The Chairman of the Selection Committee shall submit a report, including the list of the recommended projects, together with a reserve list and the list of rejected project proposals and the reason for their rejection, to the Programme Operator.

The Programme Operator shall verify that the selection process has been conducted in accordance with the Regulation and that the recommendations from the Selection Committee comply with the rules and objectives of the programme. Following such verification, the Programme Operator shall, based on the decision of the Selection Committee, make a decision on which projects shall be supported. The Programme Operator may return the report to the Selection Committee requesting a repetition of the selection process in case of a violation of the procedure that can be remedied or not approve the report when there has been a serious violation of the procedure. The Programme Operator may modify the decision of the Selection Committee in justified cases.

The Programme Operator shall notify the applicants about the results of the selection process within a reasonable time and publicise the results. If the modification of the ranking of the projects by the Selection Committee results in a project's rejection, or if the Programme Operator modifies the decision of the Selection Committee, the Programme Operator shall inform the applicants affected and provide them with a justification for the modification.

4.3 Project grant rate:

Grants to all projects from the programme may be up to 100% of total eligible expenditure of the project. In the case of projects where the project promoter is an NGO or a social partner, as defined in Article 1.6 of the Regulation, the project grant rate may be up to 90% of total eligible expenditure of the project. The project grant rate shall in all cases be set at a level that complies with the State Aid rules in force and takes into account any and all other forms of public support granted to projects. Any remaining costs of the project shall be provided or obtained by the project promoter.

5. Additional mechanisms within the Programme

5.1 Pre-defined projects

There will be fourteen pre-defined projects implemented under the programme:

1) “Establishing an Interim Care Facility for Unaccompanied Minors (UAM)”

Project Promoter: State Agency for Child Protection

Donor project partner(s): N/A

Other project partner(s): Bulgarian Red Cross, State Agency for Refugees

Programme outcome the project contributes to: “Increased capacity of the national authorities in the asylum and migration area”

Total maximum eligible project costs: € 4,000,000

Project grant rate: 100%

Maximum project grant amount: € 4,000,000

The project will establish an interim care facility for unaccompanied migrant minors (UAMs) as an integral part of the system for child protection with capacity of 50 accommodation places.

The interim care facility will provide safe space, proper care and social, health and educational services, in addition to security against any kind of abuse and trafficking.

The project will include, *inter alia*, the following main activities:

- Establishment, infrastructure and functioning of the interim care facility;
- Provision of social, health and educational services to the UAMs accommodated in the facility including trainings of staff of the facility;
- Development and implementation of specific procedures for referral, reception and care of UAMs.

2) “Increasing the administrative capacity of the national authorities in the asylum and migration area”

Project Promoter: State Agency for Refugees at the Council of Ministers

Donor project partner(s): National Police Immigration Service (NPIS)

Other project partner(s): Migration Directorate (MD-MoI), General Directorate Border Police (GDBP-MoI)

Programme outcome the project contributes to: “Increased capacity of the national authorities in the asylum and migration area”

Total maximum eligible project costs: € 1,506,000

Project grant rate: 100%

Maximum project grant amount: € 1,506,000

The project will strengthen the administrative capacity of the State Agency for Refugees (SAR) for the effective fulfilment of its obligations, and shall contribute to ensuring the sustainability of the acquired knowledge and enhancing the specific skills related to reception, accommodation, proceedings for granting international protection, and social and cultural adaptation, including individual assessment of the needs of applicants for international protection, through improvement of the professional skills of the experts of SAR and obtaining key and upgraded competencies.

The project will include, *inter alia*, the following main activities:

- Preparing of functional analysis of SAR;
- Renovation of minimum 4 halls and repair/purchase of equipment;
- Trainings and supervision:
 - for experts of SAR regarding the assessment of gender-based violence and updating of standard operational procedures;
 - for inter-institutional teamwork for better practical interaction;
 - for exchange of good practices and experience (abroad) for teams including representatives of local authorities, the State Agency for Child Protection, the Social Assistance Agency and other institutions competent to work with unaccompanied minors and also to analyse the current legislation;
 - for designated representatives of unaccompanied minors and juveniles. Preparation of a manual for the work of the appointed legal guardians;
 - for mayors and deputy mayors on how to select representatives of unaccompanied minors;
- Conducting two annual seminars for employees of SAR to take into account the results achieved on the basis of the previous half-year;
- Enhancing knowledge regarding the countries of origin of applicants for international protection – social, cultural, educational, religious and economic characteristics;
- Conduct trainings for case workers, registration and accommodation officers, vulnerability assessment experts, as well as trainings together with officers/ officials from GDBP on “Trafficking in human beings”;
- Training of case workers and registration officers on additional methods and approaches to conduct interviews based on/in accordance with the ethnic affiliation, as well as preparation of tools for work with different groups of persons seeking international protection;
- Training in the field of legal psychology for registration officers, case workers, and social experts;
- Preparation of minimum 4 videos for information and publicity purposes, preparation of information materials and brochures;
- Capacity building for the General Directorate Border Police of the Ministry of Interior through increasing the administrative capacity of the staff of the Chief Directorate Border Police for working with UAMs and increasing the administrative capacity of the staff of Chief Directorate Border Police in the field of counteracting trafficking in UAMs;
- Capacity building for the Migration Directorate of the Ministry of Interior, including, exchange of experience and best practices with Norwegian partners;
- Training seminars for enhancing the administrative capacity for Migration Directorate employees working with third country nationals seeking international protection.

3) “Increasing the capacity of General Directorate “Combating Organised Crime” for more effective investigation of organised and transnational crime”

Project Promoter: General Directorate “Combating Organised Crime” – Ministry of Interior

Donor project partner(s): National Criminal Investigation Service (KRIPOS), Oslo Police District

Other project partner(s):

Programme outcome the project contributes to: “Improved capacity for law enforcement agencies in crime prevention and investigation”

Total maximum eligible project costs: € 4,000,000

Project grant rate: 100%

Maximum project grant amount: € 4,000,000

The project will enhance the national capabilities for combating transnational and organized crime and will enhance the cooperation with the Norwegian National Criminal Investigation Service (KRIPOS) and international organisations such as Interpol, Europol and foreign partner law enforcement agencies. The project will strengthen the justice chain and the knowledge and capacity of officials in the General Directorate “Combating Organised Crime” (GDCOC), magistrates and other practitioners in the field of countering organised crime. In addition, the facilities for storing and proper preservation of evidences will be improved. Experts from international organisations like Europol, Eurojust and Interpol will also be invited to take part in the workshops to share their experience and knowledge with participants in workshops and trainings.

The project will include, *inter alia*, the following main activities:

- Improving the professional qualification in prevention, identification, investigation and proper prosecution of various forms of transnational and organised crime;
- Capacity-building and training for professional staff in investigation and prevention of organised crime;
- Development and enhancement of the existing interagency guidelines and standard operating procedures for investigation and prevention of organised crime;
- Improvement of the investigation capacity of GDCOC in line with the EU standards and best practices through renovation of premises for training and upgrading facilities for interrogation and recognition of detained/suspected persons;
- Improving facilities for storing and proper preservation of evidences in order to guarantee the rights of the accused in pre-trial proceedings;
- Improved administrative capacity of GDCOC experts and other practitioners in prevention and investigation of transnational organized crimes through workshops related to investigation of trafficking in human beings, anticorruption, cybercrime, traffic of cultural and historical goods, money laundering, tax crimes, smuggling, traffic of migrants etc.
- Developing the technical efficiency for combating transnational organized crime groups;
- Improving analytical capabilities and digitalisation of cases at General Directorate for Combating Organised Crime by providing IT equipment (PCs and multifunction devices);
- Improving analytical and operational capacities of GDCOC through digitalisation of pre-trial investigations of GDCOC developed and installed and through deployment of analytical software for effective data analysis and processing developed and installed.

4) “Extension of the Communication Infrastructure of MoI”

Project Promoter: Communication and Information Systems Directorate

Donor project partner(s): N/A

Other project partner(s): N/A

Programme outcome the project contributes to: “Improved capacity for law enforcement agencies in crime prevention and investigation”

Total maximum eligible project costs: € 1,400,000

Project grant rate: 100%

Maximum project grant amount: € 1,400,000

The project will improve the coordination of the national law enforcement authorities by strengthening the TETRA communication systems in the Bulgarian-Greek border area, which are used as channels for illegal migration; trafficking in drugs and human beings as well as sex tourism and slavery. The project will further contribute to the improvement of the capabilities of the Bulgarian law enforcement agencies to exchange information and secure communications with the Greek counterparts. The project addresses the needs for better radio coverage along the Bulgarian-Greek border and in particular the regions of Blagoevgrad district (the towns of Bansko and Gotse Delchev) and of Smolyan district (the town of Dospat).

This project envisages delivery, installation, integration and testing of communication equipment and software and training of the MoI technical staff for operation and maintenance of the communication infrastructure.

5) “Enhancement of the International Police Cooperation and the Prevention of International Criminal Activities”

Project Promoter: International Operational Cooperation Directorate

Donor project partner(s): N/A

Other project partner(s): N/A

Programme outcome the project contributes to: “Improved capacity for law enforcement agencies in crime prevention and investigation”

Total maximum eligible project costs: € 290,000

Project grant rate: 100%

Maximum project grant amount: € 290,000

The project will enhance the international police cooperation capabilities and the qualification of the law enforcement officials, through specialized training of law enforcement officials for work with the existing systems and databases, methods and channels for exchange of information and international police cooperation. The specialized training is related to the upcoming integration of AFIS and facial recognition into SIS, the inclusion of the alerts on the new article 40 “unidentified suspect/offender” and the expansion of the object categories of article 38 alerts, the start of implementation of the measures provided in the alerts on article 24 “entry ban” by Bulgarian authorities, and other new SIS features, as well as the new system for smarter and stronger borders – the ETIAS.

Through training in PRINCE2 project methodology, the project will contribute to strengthening the administrative capacity for implementation of projects for enhancement of the international police cooperation and prevention of international criminal activity. In addition, the project will facilitate the exchange of experience and knowledge in the fields of SIRENE, INTERPOL and Europol information exchange with Greece.

The project will include, *inter alia*, the following main activities:

- Completing the training centre of the project promoter and providing fully functional facility equipped with translation systems;
- Foreign language and PRINCE2 trainings;
- IT equipment for exchange of information delivered to respond to future police systems improvements;
- Training on EU and international systems for exchange of operational police information.

6) “Improvement of the capacity of police and forensic activity dealing with material evidence in pre-trial investigation process”

Project Promoter: General Directorate National Police

Donor project partner(s): N/A

Other project partner(s): Regional Directorates of MoI in Bourgas, Varna, Veliko Tarnovo, Pazardjik, Pleven, Plovdiv, Sofia, Stara Zagora, Haskovo, Metropolitan Directorate of MoI

Programme outcome the project contributes to: “Improved capacity for law enforcement agencies in crime prevention and investigation”

Total maximum eligible project costs: € 3,680,000

Project grant rate: 100%

Maximum project grant amount: € 3,680,000

The project is aimed at the improvement of the crime scene investigation, including improvement of the crime scene inspection for finding and collecting evidence, and improvement of the system for storing of evidence. The project will result in the implementation of minimum quality standards during crime scene inspection and improve the evidence management process, including ensuring the management of the evidence from the crime scene to the court and achieving a significant reduction of time required to process evidence and prepare expert conclusions.

The project will include, *inter alia*, the following main activities:

- Delivery of equipment for mobile forensic technical laboratories to perform on-site inspections to help fix and seize traces and gather evidence on the spot in cases of urgency and field testing;
- Trainings for police officers responsible for the collection and storage of material evidence;
- Upgrading premises for storing material evidence up to the EU standards and in accordance with the inter-ministerial requirements through renovation and equipment of material evidence warehouse;
- Establishing IT system for registering and tracking seized material evidence.

7) “Development of Expert Forensic Examinations and Activities at the Research Institute of Forensic Sciences at the Ministry of Interior (RIFS) and technical upgrade and expansion of the possibilities of five basic regional forensic laboratories”

Project Promoter: Research Institute of Forensic Sciences, MoI

Donor project partner(s): National Criminal Investigation Service (Kripas)

Other project partner(s): N/A

Programme outcome the project contributes to: “Improved capacity for law enforcement agencies in crime prevention and investigation”

Total maximum eligible project costs: € 2,100,000

Project grant rate: 100%

Maximum project grant amount: € 2,100,000

The overall goal of the project is to strengthen the forensic capacity of Bulgaria for precise and overall evaluation of evidence collected for criminal and civil cases. The project will improve the forensic infrastructure in Bulgaria which is a requirement for all European countries on the way to the common objectives stated in the strategy “European Forensic Science Area 2020”. The project will strengthen the capacity for forensic examination of drug substances, for examination of latent fingerprints, id documents, biological traces and digital material evidence, and for establishing the authenticity of identity documents of illegally residing or detained illegal emigrants, to increase the capacity and the quality of collecting and examining evidence in relation to computer and computer-related crimes and to create specialised working stations for analysing information carriers, network devices and communication devices.

The project will include, *inter alia*, the following main activities:

- Technical equipment for five regional forensic laboratories;

- Specialized training courses for experts in different fields of forensic science;
- Organising a conference in Bulgaria with experts from Norway and Bulgaria on the topic of “Presentation of the results of the work with the new equipment, benefits from the acquired knowledge and abilities in solving specific expert tasks”;
- Writing and publishing “A Handbook on Forensic Science”.

8) “Increasing the effectiveness of SANS for combating crime including money laundering, terrorism financing and predicate criminality”

Project Promoter: State Agency for National Security (SANS)

Donor project partner(s): N/A

Other project partner(s): N/A

Programme outcome the project contributes to: “Improved capacity for law enforcement agencies in crime prevention and investigation”

Total maximum eligible project costs: € 941,506

Project grant rate: 100%

Maximum project grant amount: € 941,506

The project aims to support the introduction and implementation of modern, adequate mechanisms to combat economic crimes. The project will develop SANS's capabilities to prevent money laundering and terrorist financing, to increase the monitoring capabilities for different financial sectors under the responsibility of financial intelligence unit by conducting trainings and study visits and it will develop a risk-based oversight methodology and open source intelligence training for SANS employees.

The project will include, *inter alia*, the following main activities:

- Two study visits in foreign financial investigation units for exchange of best practices in the development of the capacity for data-mining of the anti-money laundering and counter terrorism financing (AML/CFT) information;
- Enhanced methodology for risk-based supervision through two study visits in foreign FIUs and one training: Training for SANS staff (financial security and financial intelligence directorates) enhancing the capabilities in open source intelligence (OSINT);
- Establish of encrypted connections for exchanging information among the competent authorities under Directive (EU) 2015/849 of the European Parliament and the Council (of EEA relevance) for enhanced aggregation of the data sources and information;
- Awareness raising among obliged entities under the AML/CFT legislation and enhancing their capabilities to properly apply the legislation requirements (adopted for the transposition of the Directive (EU) 2015/849 of the European Parliament and the Council (of EEA relevance);
- Establishing an Automated Information System that will aid the creation, processing, storage and exchange of information between the structural units of SANS in the following areas of activity: Management, Analysis and estimation, Control, Finances, Logistics.

9) “Capacity building of the police officers working in multi-ethnic environment, including Roma communities and prevention of ill-treatment by the police”

Project Promoter: The Academy of the Ministry of Interior

Donor project partner(s): N/A

Other project partner(s): N/A

Programme outcome the project contributes to: “Improved situation for the Roma population”

Total maximum eligible project costs: € 630.000

Project grant rate: 100%

Maximum project grant amount: € 630,000

The project will contribute to the prevention of violation of human rights by the police while acting in a multi-ethnic environment, with special focus on the Roma population, enhancing the police officers skills related to prevention of domestic violence, trafficking in human beings and pickpocketing in Roma community and prevention of ill-treatment by the police.

The project will include, *inter alia*, the following main activities:

- Awareness raising and training among police officers on crime prevention, Roma values and culture and European antidiscrimination standards; increasing knowledge of police officers on Roma community (e.g. on Roma history, culture, values etc.), preventing the stereotypes against Roma, reducing the prejudices, mistreatment and ethnic profiling; involving Roma community, NGOs and international partners in trainings to share experience;
- Training of trainers provided for police officers located in regions with predominantly Roma population on prevention of ill-treatment by police;
- Administrative capacity in policing in multicultural society enhanced;
- Baseline study and analysis of policing on the current situation, including legislation, domestic violence, trafficking in human beings and pickpocketing in Roma community;
- Renovation and the provision of equipment for 6 training auditorium rooms;
- Development of module for e-learning platform on prevention of ill-treatment. The module will be put in operation on e-platform during the project implementation;
- Development of a training curriculum and conducting training on prevention of ill-treatment by police. Trainings will take place at the Centers for Specialized Police Training in Pazardzhik, Varna and Kazanlak.

10) “Improvement of the efficiency of the police activity in the field of domestic and gender-based violence”

Project Promoter: General Directorate National Police

Donor project partner(s): N/A

Other project partner(s): N/A

Programme outcome the project contributes to: “Improved situation for the Roma population”

Total maximum eligible project costs: € 620,000

Project grant rate: 100%

Maximum project grant amount: € 620,000

The project will improve the capacity of the Bulgarian Police to respond to cases of domestic and gender based violence (DGBV) and contribute to the development of efficient policies in the area of combating this human right violation. The project will improve the situation of the Roma population. The project will be implemented in areas with high Roma population and will focus on prevention, risk assessment, support to victims and collection of data on DGBV in Roma communities.

The project will include, *inter alia*, the following main activities:

- Elaboration of algorithm of risk assessment on recognition of DGBV cases and the attached protocols;
- Training of police officials for implementation of risk assessment on DGBV cases, including on combating Roma stereotypes. The trainings will include Training the trainers seminars;
- Trainings for police officials in protection of victims of DGBV;
- Exchange of information with NGO’s, GREVIO, CEDAW, FRA, CoE for gathering best practices and relevant data;

- Elaboration and hardware delivery for Automated Information System (AIS) "Domestic violence" for entering, processing and storage of the data related to DGBV, including 3-year maintenance of the system;
- Providing training and increasing capacity of professionals on providing and using data from AIS with view to meeting the minimum EU and International reporting and monitoring requirements on DGBV.

11) "Improvement of the coordination and dialogue between police and Roma society"

Project Promoter: General Directorate National Police

Donor project partner(s): N/A

Other project partner(s): Regional Directorates of MoI in Vidin, Bourgas, Varna, Stara Zagora, Montana, Sliven, Plovdiv, Yambol, Pazardjik, Metropolitan Directorate of MoI

Programme outcome the project contributes to: "Improved situation for the Roma population"

Total maximum eligible project costs: € 650,000

Project grant rate: 100%

Maximum project grant amount: € 650,000

The project will contribute to the improvement of the situation for the Roma population and result in improvement of coordination and dialogue between police and Roma society. The project will also contribute to the prevention of radicalisation, violent extremism and hate speech and the establishment of informal networks at national and regional level for exchange of ideas, knowledge and good practices in these topics. The project will support mutual initiatives of all public institutions working in Roma communities (police, child protection services, education). Measures for improvement of the coordination of the regional police directorates and local Roma organisations, creation of better conditions for multi-ethnic dialogue and better understanding of Roma cultural values are foreseen in this regard. Trainings for police officers to enhance their skills and competence to recognize early signs of radicalism in its different forms are also envisaged.

The project will include, *inter alia*, the following main activities:

- Study of needs and gaps in the knowledge of national actors in the field of prevention of radicalization, violent extremism and hate speech and exchange of experience with other EU member states;
- Trainings of police officers in prevention and detection of radicalism and community policing, including adaptation of training material, training in community policing methods;
- Improving the conditions of the reception rooms in police stations with predominantly Roma population;
- Enhancing the cooperation between police and Roma population through nation-wide information and explanation campaigns, elaboration of lecturing material, involvement of different local leaders/mediators, organising meetings and lectures with children, their parents for overcoming anti-Roma stereotypes and discrimination, mutual initiatives of the State Agency for Protection of Children and the Police in schools.

12) "Awareness raising of local communities in areas with significant share of Roma population on asylum and migration issues"

Project Promoter: International Organisation for Migration

Donor project partner(s): N/A

Other project partner(s): N/A

Programme outcome the project contributes to: "Improved situation for the Roma population"

Total maximum eligible project costs: € 680,000

Project grant rate: 100%

Maximum project grant amount: € 680,000

The project will contribute to improved knowledge of asylum and migration legislation and risks of abuse and exploitation in Bulgaria and EU/EEA among the Roma population. The Roma population are a high-risk group for exploitation and abuse, and the project envisages developing and piloting a prevention campaign related to migration both in Bulgaria and other EU/EEA countries. The Roma population has limited knowledge on the asylum and migration issues such as smuggling, trafficking, selling fake address registrations, labour exploitation and other pertinent challenges related to migration in the EU/EEA.

The project will include, *inter alia*, the following main activities:

- Elaboration of a comprehensive analysis/assessment of the situation of the Roma population as regards the migration related issues to better target the topics to be tackled;
- Awareness raising campaigns among the Roma communities on legal aspects, rights and responsibilities of asylum seekers and undocumented migrants in Bulgaria;
- Information sessions, discussions, workshops and other awareness raising activities on legal aspects of working in the EU/EEA, risks and prevention of exploitation, including risks of labour trafficking, conditions for staying and working in EU/EEA; access to social and health services in the EU/EEA

13) “Preventing and combating corruption”

Project Promoter: Internal Security Directorate of the Ministry of Interior (ISD-MoI)

Donor project partner(s): N/A

Other project partner(s): General Directorate National Police of the Ministry of Interior

Programme outcome the project contributes to: “Increased capacities of Bulgarian authorities to tackle economic crime and corruption”

Total maximum eligible project costs: € 2,100,000

Project grant rate: 100%

Maximum project grant amount: € 2,100,000

The project will enhance the administrative capacity of prevention and counteraction of corruption within the police. The whistle blower mechanism and the integrity within police will be improved. The technical capacity for prevention of corruption in other state institutions will be enhanced.

The project will include, *inter alia*, the following main activities:

- Training of employees of the Internal Security Directorate which will include practically oriented themes on: review of the anticorruption institutional and management practices, identification of the gaps; corruption in the police, including conflict of interest, new forms of corruption in police related to the trafficking of refugees, organized terrorism, illegal transfer of excise goods;
- Development of the existing whistle-blowing mechanism - Anonymous Open Line for handling of corruption cases within the police - using newly developed software;
- Developing new software for internal databases, automated analysis and monitoring;
- Elaboration of methodology and tools for the introduction of anti-corruption measures and operational tactics, including professional integrity tests, polyphysiographic studies, automated monitoring of social networks;
- Technical equipment for supporting the implementation of anti-corruption measures by Internal Security Directorate and ensuring implementation of tasks related to management, coordination, operational criminal analysis, monitoring and evaluation through IT-based technologies;

- Training of 70 officials of General Directorate National Police, exchange of experience and best practices in the field of counteraction of corruption. Delivery of IT equipment and software for GDNP.

14) “Enhanced capacities of Bulgarian authorities to recover and manage criminal assets”

Project Promoter: Commission for Combating Corruption and Illegal Assets Forfeiture (CCCIAF)

Donor project partner(s): N/A

Other project partner(s): N/A

Programme outcome the project contributes to: “Increased capacities of Bulgarian authorities to tackle economic crime and corruption”

Total maximum eligible project costs: € 750,000

Project grant rate: 100%

Maximum project grant amount: € 750,000

The project will strengthen the systems for combating corruption, tracing, seizing and forfeiting proceeds of crime, which is a crucial step towards the implementation of Bulgaria's priority of preventing and combating organized crime and corruption, reinstating justice and compensating the victims of crime. The project will enhance the capacities of staff of the CCCIAF to conduct anti-corruption investigations and to trace criminal assets, in particular in cross-border cases; it will develop the international counterpart networks available to the CCCIAF to pursue confiscations abroad and participate in joint investigative teams. It will also allow the CCCIAF to effectively cooperate bilaterally with foreign authorities by forfeiting assets on behalf of their counterparts. Furthermore, the project will improve the knowledge and skills of CCCIAF staff in core areas of legal aspects and enhance the IT infrastructure of the Commission.

The project will include, *inter alia*, the following main activities:

- Establish a Regional Platform on Asset recovery organized in Bulgaria with guest countries predominantly from the Southeastern Europe/Balkan region. Networking, knowledge sharing, discussions on dealing with cross-border asset recovery cases to promote and expand co-operation among the countries in this aspect;
- Specialized trainings and seminars for CCCIAF inspectors on Legal Entities Analysis/Dissection, Financial investigations/ asset tracing techniques and typologies, Legal matters like civil, commercial and property law, as well as civil litigation, open source intelligence data acquisition and software applications for data analysis;
- Develop specifically designated curriculum in cooperation with the Bulgarian universities;
- Certified training;
- Workshops with domestic institutions on current challenges and setbacks hindering co-operation;
- Certified trainings courses on effective management of forfeited/seized assets, provided by foreign experts.

5.2 Financial Instruments

Not applicable

6. Programme Management

6.1 Payment flows

The Programme Operator shall ensure that payments to projects are made in a timely manner. Interim and final payments to the projects shall be based on approved project reports.

Payments of the project grant shall take the form of advance payments, interim payments and a final payment. The level of advance payment to projects shall be set out in the project contract. The maximum level of advance payment shall be as follows:

	Advance payment	Interim payments	Final payment (reimbursement)
Projects	Up to 30%	30-90%	10%

The first advance instalment shall be paid following the signature of the project contract. Subsequent payments shall be paid after the approval of project interim reports. The final payment will be paid after approval of the final report.

An advance payment of a percentage of the total grant amount shall be paid within one month from the submission of a request after signature of the project contract. The interim payments shall be paid within one month after the approval of project interim reports.

Upon approval of the final project report a final balance payment, if applicable, shall be made within one month.

The approval of project interim and final reports shall take place within two months from the submission of the required information.

The periodicity of reporting periods, and deadlines for reporting will be further detailed in the description of the Programme Operator’s management and control systems.

In case of euro-denominated contracts with entities from Norway or with intergovernmental organisations, the Programme Operator shall transfer the amounts in euro.

6.2 Verification of payment claims

Project Promoters shall submit interim and final project reports containing information on project progress and incurred expenditure.

In line with the point (i) of Article 5.6.2 of the Regulation incurred expenditure reported shall be subject to administrative verifications before the report is approved. Verifications to be carried out shall cover administrative, financial, technical and physical aspects of projects, as appropriate and be in accordance with the principle of proportionality.

Additionally, in line with point (ii) of Article 5.6.2 of the Regulation on-the-spot verifications of projects, which may be carried out on a sample basis, shall be carried out.

The detailed procedure for verification will be further detailed in the description of the Programme Operator’s management and control systems.

6.3 Monitoring and reporting

The Programme Operator shall monitor, record and report on progress towards the programme’s outcomes in accordance with the provisions contained in the legal framework. The Programme Operator shall ensure that suitable and sufficient monitoring and reporting arrangements are made with the project promoters in order to enable the Programme Operator and the National Focal Point to meet its obligations to the NMFA.

When reporting on progress achieved in Annual and Final Programme Reports, the Programme Operator shall disaggregate results achieved as appropriate and in accordance with instructions received from the FMO.

6.4 Programme administrative structures

Not applicable

7. Communication

7.1 Communication

The Programme Operator shall comply with Article 3.3 of the Regulation, the Information and Communication Requirements in Annex 3 of the Regulation and the Communication plan for the programme.

8. Miscellaneous

Not applicable

