## Fund for bilateral relations at Programme level

## 1. Budget:

**29 300 euro**

The Bilateral fund is open for applications for reimbursement until the decision for financing the pre-defined projects or until the Fund sources are spent.

**2. Aim**:

Search for project partners from the Donor States prior to or during the preparation of a project application for pre-defined project, strengthening the partnership relations, signing the partner agreements, exchange of experience, transfer of knowledge, technologies, and best practices between the project promoters and partners from the Donor states.

**3.** **Eligible applicants:**

Project promoters from all pre-defined projects under the Local development, poverty reduction and enhanced inclusion of vulnerable groups Programme, and potential partners from the Donor States**.** The stakeholders shall submit an application for prior approval. Funding will be considered as an additional source of funding, i.e. other than the project budget. Due to the limited financial resource, up to two representatives per Project Promoter (both from the potential Applicant and its Bulgarian project partner) can take part in the visit to donor-country or up to two representatives from the Donor project partner can take part in the visit to Bulgaria.

**4. Eligible expenditures:**

Daily allowance, accommodations, travel costs, according to the national legislation (The Ordinance of the official missions and specializations abroad), internal transport in the Donor State/Beneficiary state, expenditures for meetings with partners.

**5.** **Applicants will be required to submit (in English):**

The application for prior approval along with the invitation letter, detailed description of the activities and estimated budget. The deadline for submission of the request is two weeks before the planned activity.

**6. Grant rate and maximum amount:**

Grant rate – 100%;

Maximum amount of funding – travel costs, daily expenses, accommodation, internal transport and expenditures for meetings with partners – **€ 3,000 per person**.

**7. Evaluation of applications**:

The External European Programmes Directorate (EEPD) at the Ministry of Education and Science, as Programme operator approve / does not approve the request for prior approval in 3 (three) working days after receiving the application. The applicants will be notified for the decision by electronically signed e-mail.

**8. Verification and reimbursement:**

The applicant shall submit the request for reimbursement after the visit along with copies of all applicable documents – invoices, boarding passes, flights tickets, orders, reports, etc. The PO verifies the documents and makes a payment in 5 (five) working days after the approval of the request.