

Oslo, 7 June 2024

Subject: End of eligibility and savings under programmes

Dear colleagues at the National Focal Points,

Now that the eligibility of expenditure deadline for projects under the regular programmes has passed, I want to thank you for the significant efforts you have undertaken together with your partners to ensure that programmes reach their objectives.

As we enter the final stage of this Financial Mechanism the focus must be on the closure of programmes in line with the legal framework. We are pleased to see that the flexibility measures offered in 2022 have been used and hopefully will facilitate good results. This means that many projects are still in operation after the deadline for eligibility of costs, either by delayed delivery of goods and services that have been invoiced and paid before end of April 2024, or by national funding. I would like to remind that all projects need to be reported as finalised in the final programme report due in 2025. FMO is available to guide you through these processes and has offered training to all Beneficiary States in that regard.

The closure phase also means the emergence of potential savings. Many of you have reallocated savings to the Bilateral Funds. Now, with the limited time remaining until end of April 2025, I therefore ask you as National Focal Points to critically assess reallocation proposals and only propose reallocations to the Bilateral Funds where there are identified initiatives that can realistically be implemented in time, that have a clear and feasible scope in terms of content and funding, and that already have committed partners on both sides with sufficient capacity to manage and implement the activities.

Our good cooperation throughout the entire programme period is appreciated and highly valued. I look forward to a continuation when the new programme period starts.

Kind regards,



Leif Trana

Chair

Financial Mechanism Committee