

FRAMEWORK AGREEMENT

between

THE SWISS FEDERAL COUNCIL

and

**THE GOVERNMENT OF THE HELLENIC
REPUBLIC**

on

**THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE SECOND SWISS
CONTRIBUTION TO SELECTED MEMBER STATES OF
THE EUROPEAN UNION TO SUPPORT MEASURES IN
THE AREA OF MIGRATION**

THE SWISS FEDERAL COUNCIL (hereinafter referred to as 'Switzerland')

and

THE GOVERNMENT OF THE HELLENIC REPUBLIC (hereinafter referred to as 'Greece'),

hereinafter collectively referred to as the 'Parties' and individually as the 'Party'

- NOTING the solidarity of Switzerland with the endeavours of the European Union (EU) to support measures in the area of migration;
- COMMITTED to further strengthening the migration management structures within the EU and within Greece;
- BUILDING upon the successful bilateral cooperation between Switzerland and Greece;
- SHARING AND PROMOTING the fundamental values of democracy, the rule of law and political pluralism;
- RESPECTING AND DEFENDING human rights, human dignity and fundamental freedoms;
- REFERRING to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals;
- HAVING REGARD to the friendly relations between the Parties;
- DESIRING to further strengthen these relations and the fruitful cooperation between the Parties;
- REFERRING to the 'Memorandum of Understanding between the European Union and Switzerland on a contribution by Switzerland towards reducing economic and social disparities and for cooperation in the area of migration in the European Union' signed on 30th June 2022 for a total amount of CHF 1,302,000,000 (one billion three hundred and two million Swiss francs) to selected EU Member States for cooperation in the areas of cohesion and migration (hereinafter referred to as the 'second Swiss Contribution');
- NOTING the cooperation in the area of cohesion of up to CHF 1,102,000,000 (one billion one hundred and two million Swiss francs) under the second Swiss Contribution;
- IN VIEW of the cooperation in the area of migration of up to CHF 200,000,000 (two hundred million Swiss francs) under the second Swiss Contribution,

hereby agree as follows:

Article 1 – Definitions

For the purposes of this Framework Agreement:

'Contribution' means the maximum non-refundable financial contribution granted by Switzerland to Greece under this Framework Agreement;

'Country-Specific Set-Up' (Annex 1) means the thematic allocations of the Contribution and specific rules agreed between Switzerland and Greece as well as the attribution of responsibilities and tasks to entities involved in the implementation of the Switzerland-Greece Cooperation Programme and in Support Measures respectively;

'Memorandum of Understanding' means the Memorandum of Understanding between the European Union and Switzerland on a contribution by Switzerland towards reducing economic

and social disparities and for cooperation in the area of migration in the European signed on 30th June 2022 for a total amount of CHF 1,302,000,000 (one billion three hundred and two million Swiss francs) to selected EU Member States for cooperation in the areas of cohesion and migration;

'National Coordination Unit' means the national public entity of Greece designated to act on its behalf for the implementation of the Switzerland-Greece Cooperation Programme;

'Programme' means a coherent set of Programme Components carried out in line with national priorities, policies or strategies of the Partner State with the support of the Contribution comprising a single comprehensive implementation and budget framework with overarching goals. A Programme may be accompanied by a policy dialogue;

'Project' means an indivisible series of activities, carried out with the support of the Contribution, which is aimed at achieving agreed objectives and outcomes and is not part of a Programme;

'Regulations' means the Regulations on the implementation of the second Swiss contribution in the area of migration issued by Switzerland and containing the general rules and procedures on the implementation of the Switzerland-Greece Cooperation Programme;

'Support Measure' is used as generic term and means a specific Project, Programme or Technical Support within the framework of the Switzerland-Greece Cooperation Programme;

'Support Measure Agreement' means an agreement between the Parties and, if need be, additional contracting parties, on the implementation of a Support Measure;

'Switzerland-Greece Cooperation Programme' means the bilateral programme for the implementation of this Framework Agreement.

'Technical Support' means part of the Contribution provided under the Cooperation Programme for the preparation of Support Measures and for the efficient and effective implementation of the Cooperation Programme.

Article 2 – Legal Framework

1. This Framework Agreement, together with the following documents, constitutes the legal framework of the implementation of the second Swiss Contribution in the area of migration:

(a) the Regulations and subsequent amendments thereof;

(b) Support Measure Agreements, or other agreements between the Parties, resulting from the Framework Agreement; and

(c) any operational procedures or guidelines adopted by Switzerland after consultation with Greece

2. In the event of conflicts or inconsistencies between the provisions of these instruments, the aforementioned order of precedence shall apply.

Article 3 – Objectives and Principles

1. The overall objective of the Switzerland-Greece Cooperation Programme is to strengthen the migration management structures in Europe and within Greece, building upon and further strengthening the bilateral relations between Switzerland and Greece.

2. The Parties shall select Support Measures that contribute to the achievement of the overall objective of the Cooperation Programme and which, with the exception of Technical Support, contribute to the objective of the second Swiss Contribution to manage migration and support integration. The Support Measures shall contribute to one of the following specific objectives:

- a) Strengthening the asylum procedure;
- b) Strengthening existing or developing new infrastructures for asylum seekers and migrants;
- c) Strengthening voluntary return and reintegration procedures and preventing irregular migration.

3. Support Measures, with the exception of Technical Support and unless otherwise agreed upon by the Parties, shall be assigned to at least one thematic area of cooperation, as set out in the Regulations. The Parties shall achieve a thematic focus for the Contribution. Therefore, the Parties shall mutually agree on thematic areas to receive support under the Switzerland-Greece Cooperation Programme, as set out in the Country-Specific Set-Up

4. The Parties shall encourage partnerships and the exchange of expertise between actors from Greece and Switzerland.

5. Support Measures shall respect social inclusion and ensure environmental sustainability.

6. All actions under the Switzerland-Greece Cooperation Programme shall be implemented in line with the objectives, principles, strategic directions and thematic focus as outlined in the Country-Specific Set-Up and the Regulations.

Article 4 – Financial Framework

1. Switzerland agrees to grant a Contribution to Greece of up to CHF 40'000'000 (Forty million Swiss francs) with reference to the agreed thematic areas and according to the indicative allocation defined in the Country-Specific Set-Up.

2. The Contribution in paragraph 1 does not include expenditures by Switzerland on the management costs of the 'Switzerland-Greece Cooperation Programme' and on the 'Swiss Expertise and Partnership Fund Migration'. The latter is a fund administered by Switzerland, aimed at making Swiss expertise available to selected EU Member States, ensuring the quality and sustainability of Support Measures, strengthening bilateral relations and fostering partnerships between Switzerland and Greece.

3. It is planned that the Switzerland-Greece Cooperation Programme ends in 2026. Each Support Measure Agreement shall therefore, in principle, end at the latest in 2026. However, as the period of eligibility of expenditures from Support Measures, as defined in Chapter 6 of the Regulations, ends on 3 December 2029, inclusive, it is possible, in exceptional circumstances, to accept expenditures until this date provided that an amendment to the Support Measure has been agreed in accordance with Article 4.12 of the Regulations. Funds not used for a Support Measure until the end of the period of eligibility of expenditures shall no longer be available to Greece.

4. Under the Switzerland-Greece Cooperation Programme, with the exception of the amounts reserved for Swiss management costs and the Swiss Expertise and Partnership Fund Migration, the Contribution should be provided in the form of non-refundable grants or concessional financial facilities such as credit lines, guarantee schemes, equity, debt participation, and loans.

5. The financing from the Contribution shall not exceed 60% of the eligible expenditures from the Support Measure, except for:

- a) Projects or Programmes receiving additional financing in the form of budget allocations from national, regional or local authorities, in which case the financing from the Contribution may not exceed 85% of the total eligible expenditures;
 - b) Projects or Programmes implemented by non-governmental organisations, which may be financed to a degree higher than 60% or fully by the Contribution;
 - c) Technical Support, which may be financed to a degree higher than 60% or fully by the Contribution;
 - d) Support Measures in the form of credit lines, guarantee schemes, equity and debt participation and loans to the private sector, which may be financed to a degree higher than 60% or even fully by the Contribution.
6. Greece shall ensure compliance with applicable rules on state aid and public procurement.

Article 5 – Principles for Support Measures

1. Support Measures shall be implemented in accordance with the legal framework pursuant to Article 2.
2. Greece is responsible for the identification of Support Measures, which are
 - a. relevant and in line with national priorities;
 - b. effective in addressing the identified needs;
 - c. feasible and efficient to implement;
 - d. expected to have impact;
 - e. designed to create sustainable benefits.
3. Greece shall avoid any duplication of and/or overlap with any part of a Support Measure which is receiving support from any other structural and/or cohesion funds, such as the European Funds, the European Economic Area Financial Mechanism or the Norwegian Financial Mechanism, as the case may be.
4. Each Support Measure shall be approved first by Greece and then by Switzerland.
5. Each Support Measure shall be subject to a Support Measure Agreement.
6. The Parties attach high importance to the monitoring, evaluation and auditing of the Support Measures and the Contribution. Each Party shall share, without delay, any useful information requested by the other Party. The Parties shall ensure effective coordination and monitoring of the Switzerland-Greece Cooperation Programme.
7. Switzerland, or any third party appointed to act on its behalf, shall have the right to visit, monitor, review, audit and evaluate all activities and procedures related to the implementation of the Support Measures, as deemed appropriate by Switzerland. Greece shall provide any and all information, assistance and documentation, which may be requested or useful, to allow Switzerland to exercise such right.
8. In order to ensure effective implementation of the Switzerland-Greece Cooperation Programme, the competent authorities referred to in Article 6 shall hold annual meetings. The

purpose of such meetings shall be to review the progress achieved in the Switzerland-Greece Cooperation Programme, agree on any necessary measures to be taken, and provide a forum for discussion of issues of bilateral interest.

Article 6 – Competent Authorities

1. Greece has authorised a national public entity to act on its behalf as the National Coordination Unit (see Country-Specific Set-Up). The National Coordination Unit shall have overall responsibility for reaching the objectives of the Switzerland-Greece Cooperation Programme as well as for its implementation in accordance with this Framework Agreement.
2. Switzerland has authorised the Federal Department of Justice and Police, acting through the State Secretariat for Migration (SEM), to act on its behalf for the implementation of the Switzerland-Greece Cooperation Programme.

Article 7 – Liability

The responsibility of Switzerland with regard to the Switzerland-Greece Cooperation Programme is limited to providing funds in accordance with the relevant Support Measure Agreements. No liability to Greece, to any public or private entity involved in a Support Measure or to any third parties is or will be assumed by Switzerland.

Article 8 – Common Concern

The Parties share a common concern to prevent and fight against corruption, which jeopardises good governance and the proper use of resources needed for development, and, in addition, endangers fair and open competition in procurement procedures based upon price and quality. The Parties therefore agree to combine their efforts to fight corruption and, in particular, agree that any offer, gift, payment, remuneration or benefit of any kind whatsoever, made to whomsoever, directly or indirectly, with a view to being awarded a mandate or contract under this Framework Agreement, or during the performance hereof, will be construed as an illegal act or corrupt practice. Any act of this kind constitutes sufficient grounds for terminating this Framework Agreement and the relevant Support Measure Agreement, cancelling the procurement or resulting award, or taking any other proportionate corrective measure laid down by applicable law. The Parties shall promptly inform each other of any well-founded suspicion of an illegal act or corrupt practice.

Article 9 – Amendments

1. Any amendment to this Framework Agreement including an additional allocation of funds pursuant to Article 10 paragraph 6 shall be made in writing with the mutual agreement of the Parties.
2. Notwithstanding paragraph 1 above, the Country-Specific Set-Up may be amended by mutual agreement of the competent authorities referred to in Article 6 through an exchange of letters between them.

Article 10 – Final Provisions

1. The Country-Specific Set-Up (Annex 1) shall form an integral part of this Framework Agreement.
2. This Framework Agreement shall enter into force on the day of its signature by the Parties.

3. Any dispute which may result from the application of this Framework Agreement shall be resolved by diplomatic means.
4. This Framework Agreement may be terminated at any time by one of the Parties giving six months' prior written notice. Prior to making such a decision, the Parties shall enter into consultation regarding the reasons for the termination.
5. In the event of termination of this Framework Agreement, its provisions shall continue to apply to the relevant Support Measure Agreements concluded before the termination of this Framework Agreement. The Parties shall decide by mutual agreement on any other consequences of the termination.
6. An additional allocation of funds to Greece might be granted on the basis of an evaluation that will be carried out by the SEM, by way of an amendment to article 4 of this Framework Agreement and by adding a new Country-Specific Set-Up, to be agreed upon by the Parties.

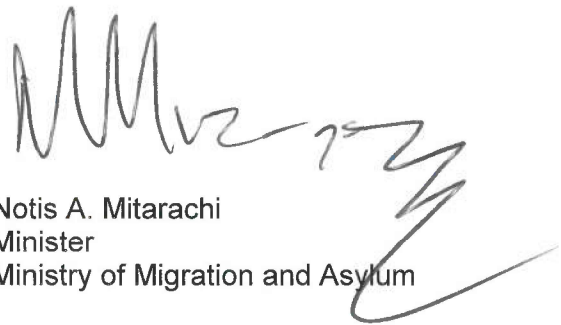
Signed in Luxembourg on 14 October 2022, in two original copies in the English language.

For the Swiss Federal Council



Karin Keller-Sutter
Federal Councillor
Federal Department of Justice
and Police

For the Government of the Hellenic
Republic



Notis A. Mitarachi
Minister
Ministry of Migration and Asylum

Annex 1

COUNTRY-SPECIFIC SET-UP

FRAMEWORK AGREEMENT

between

THE SWISS FEDERAL COUNCIL

and

**THE GOVERNMENT OF THE HELLENIC
REPUBLIC**

On

**THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE SECOND SWISS CONTRIBUTION
TO SELECTED MEMBER STATES OF THE EUROPEAN UNION TO
SUPPORT MEASURES IN THE AREA OF MIGRATION**

1. General provisions

- 1.1. This Country-Specific Set-Up is an integral part of the Framework Agreement between the Swiss Federal Council (hereinafter referred to as “Switzerland”) and the Government of the Hellenic Republic (hereinafter referred to as “Greece”) on the implementation of the second Swiss Contribution to selected Member States of the EU to support measures in the area of migration (hereinafter referred to as the “Framework Agreement”).
- 1.2. For the purposes of this Country-Specific Set-Up, the definitions in the Framework Agreement shall apply.
- 1.3. This Country-Specific Set-Up lays down the thematic allocations of the Contribution and the specific rules agreed between Switzerland and Greece, as well as the attribution of responsibilities and tasks to entities involved in the implementation of the Switzerland-Greece Cooperation Programme and in Support Measures respectively.
- 1.4. For specific rules and procedures not provided in the Country Specific Set-Up, the provisions of Regulations shall apply

2. Roles and responsibilities for the Switzerland – Greece Cooperation Programme

2.1. National Coordination Unit

The Partner State has authorized the Secretary General for Migration Policy in the General Secretariat of Migration Policy of Ministry of Migration and Asylum to act on its behalf as National Coordination Unit of the Switzerland – Greece Cooperation Programme.

The role and responsibilities of the National Coordination Unit are set out in the Regulations.

2.2. Paying Authority

The Paying Authority is the General Directorate of Administrative and Financial Services of Ministry of Migration and Asylum. The roles and responsibilities of the Paying Authority are set out in the Regulations.

2.3 Audit Authority

The Audit Authority is the General accounting office financial audit committee of the Ministry of finance. The roles and responsibilities of the Audit Authority are set out in the Regulations.

3. Parameters of cooperation

3.1. Thematic allocation

Specific objective & thematic area	Indicative allocation of the contribution [in CHF millions]
Managing migration and supporting integration	
1. Implementing efficient and high quality asylum procedures in accordance with the relevant EU law	CHF 15
(i) Asylum procedures and structures	
(ii) Asylum instruments and processes	
(iii) Capacity building and knowledge transfer in the asylum procedure context	
2. Contributing to the improvement of infrastructure, in particular as far as reception conditions are concerned	CHF 10
(iv) Reception facilities for migrants	
(v) Reception facilities for vulnerable migrants	
3. Supporting assisted voluntary return and reintegration.	CHF 14,2
(vi) State's and international organisations' capacities in the field of voluntary return and reintegration	
(vii) Voluntary return and reintegration structures	
(viii) Voluntary return and reintegration programmes	
(ix) Prevention of irregular migration	
4. Technical support	
(x) Technical Assistance Fund	CHF 0.6
(xi) Support Measure Preparation Fund	CHF 0.2
Total allocation	CHF 40

Any unused balances in all the Support Measures of the Switzerland-Greece Cooperation Programme may be transferred to any other approved Support Measure provided the feasibility until the end of the eligibility period, by mutual agreement (e.g. confirmed in the minutes of meetings or by correspondence) between the Competent Authorities mentioned in Article 6 of the Framework Agreement in the course of the implementation of the Switzerland-Greece

Cooperation Programme. For the consequent modification of the Support Measure, Article 4.12 Regulations shall apply.

3.2. Pre-specified parameters per thematic area

Implementing efficient and high quality asylum procedures in accordance with the relevant EU law

(i) Asylum procedures and structures

Directly selected or pre-identified Support Measures

Support Measure name	Improvement of the Regional Asylum Offices
Support Measure type	Project
Objectives	The objective of the support measure is to improve current Regional asylum offices (RAO's), in order to increase the capacity in treating asylum cases. These include improving the overall standard of the offices, especially with a focus on the waiting rooms and hearing rooms in which asylum seekers are received.
Strategic Focus	The support measure would increase the capacity of the asylum offices to carry out their daily work. This would lead to more cases being handled at the RAO's and the procedures becoming more efficient. The impact for the final beneficiaries would be more comfortable and secure waiting and hearing areas and shorter waiting times for asylum decisions. It would also lead to a decrease in pending cases which would contribute to the overall amelioration of the asylum procedure in Greece. The above action is part of the National strategy for migration which aims to improve the Asylum Process and minimize the impact on the local communities by creating/improving infrastructures and reducing the burden on local communities by speeding up the Asylum procedures in accordance to the European regulations for migration.
Project or Programme Operator	Monitoring of European Programs and Funding-Directorate of Support-Asylum Services
Swiss Support Measure Partner(s)	tbd
Other specificities related to the Support Measure	none

(ii) Asylum instruments and management processes

Directly selected or pre-identified Support Measures

Support Measure name	Creation of a research hub for Country of Origin Information (COI) and identification procedures
Support Measure type	Programme

Objectives	Creation of a research-hub to cross-reference information at the level of document authenticity control (passports/certificates/documents etc.) Books, Subscription to electronic libraries, purchase of a transcription system and participation in a program to find a language dialect and/or to confirm it, contributes to addressing challenges that arise in relation to the spoken language of applicants for international protection and the evaluation of the claim of citizenship. The linguistic analysis can contribute to the verification of the declared nationality of the applicant for international protection, providing a rapid and qualitative analysis.
Strategic Focus	By increasing the access to information for the caseworkers, the procedures will become more efficient and accurate thus improving the asylum process for the asylum applicants.
Project or Programme Operator	Monitoring of European Programs and Funding-Directorate of Support-Asylum Services
Swiss Support Measure Partner(s)	tbd
Other specificities related to the Support Measure	none

(iii) Capacity building and knowledge transfer in the asylum procedure context

Directly selected or pre-identified Support Measures

Support Measure name	Training of personnel working in the asylum procedure
Support Measure type	Programme
Objectives	The support measure would aim to increase the overall knowledge and capacity of migration case workers in Greece with the aim of rendering the processes more efficient and secure. It will consist of projects aiming at increasing knowledge in Country of Origin information and country of origin identification as well as knowledge in the Greek asylum law and the Asylum process. This would include data knowledge transfer activities, courses and trainings. Furthermore, the objective is to increase the capacity of the Asylum Service by hiring new fixed-term employees. The overall intent is that around 13,000 interviews and 13,000 decisions have been undertaken per year and that there has been a strengthening of the Asylum process at the level of a) performance b) receiving appeals/legal assistance,

	c) granting necessary documentation for refugees
Strategic Focus	The increase of the Asylum services' capacity and the continuous training of staff will speed up the procedures, thus improving the asylum process for the asylum seekers
Project or Programme Operator	Monitoring of European Programs and Funding-Directorate of Support-Asylum Services
Swiss Support Measure Partner(s)	Experts from the Swiss State Secretariat for Migration could be included as partners for transfer of best practices.
Other specificities related to the Support Measure	UNHCR uses legal experts from the Greek Asylum services to provide legal assistance to asylum seeker. A training in asylum law and support to asylum seekers in this context should be included as part of the programme in cooperation with UNHCR Greece. In the case of projects being implemented by UNHCR, derogations from the relevant provisions of the Regulations, including but not limited to payments, audits/verification, evaluation, reporting and irregularities, shall be specified in the Support Measure Agreement.

Contributing to the improvement of infrastructure, in particular as far as reception conditions are concerned

(iv) Reception facilities for migrants

n/a

(v) Reception facilities for vulnerable migrants

Directly selected or pre-identified Support Measures

Support Measure name	Construction of reception facilities
Support Measure type	Programme
Objectives	To increase the reception capacity of asylum seekers in Greece to go in line with conditions corresponding to the EU standards
Strategic Focus	By increasing the reception capacity, the conditions for asylum seekers will become better and the national structures strengthened.
Project or Programme Operator	Monitoring of European Programs and Funding-Directorate of Support-Asylum Services
Swiss Support Measure Partner(s)	Possibility to involve NGOs involved in Swiss reception structures to share knowledge and best practices

Other specificities related to the Support Measure	none
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Supporting assisted voluntary return and reintegration

(vi) State's and international organizations' capacities in the field of voluntary return and reintegration

Directly selected or pre-identified Support Measures

Support Measure name	Training of voluntary return and reintegration case workers
Support Measure type	Project
Objectives	The overall goal of the project is to increase the number of voluntary returns from Greece (intent is 3.500 voluntarily returns per year). By hiring and training fixed-term employees on how to conduct voluntary return discussions with beneficiaries, more persons will learn about the availability of such an option. Furthermore, the project will fund the creation of information material on voluntary returns.
Strategic Focus	The above action is in accordance with the national strategy on migration since the voluntarily returns will reduce the impact on local communities and improve the asylum process.
Project or Programme Operator	Monitoring of European Programs and Funding-Directorate of Support-Asylum Services
Swiss Support Measure Partner(s)	Experts from the Swiss State Secretariat for Migration could be included as partners for transfer of best practices. Additionally, Swiss Organizations involved in AVR (for example IOM CH, Red Cross CH, Caritas) as well as Cantonal Authorities could be included as partners.
Other specificities related to the Support Measure	This project should be carried out in close cooperation with IOM. IOM could also potentially be included as a project partner.

(vii) Voluntary return and reintegration structures
n/a

(viii) Voluntary return and reintegration programmes
n/a

(ix) Prevention of irregular migration

Directly selected or pre-identified Support Measures

Support Measure name	Integration in an Olympic Spirit
Support Measure type	Project
Objectives	The overall objective is to increase the integration of refugees in Greece. By doing so, the likelihood of irregular migration can be decreased. The

	participation in the events organized in the framework of the project can lead to creating a sense of being part of the local community.
Strategic Focus	The support measure will convey to a population of approximately 5.000 (2.000 unaccompanied minor and 3.000 asylum seekers in sites/cities) beneficiaries per year, focusing on the values and the general philosophy of Olympism, as a means to promote the principles of cultural diversity, peaceful coexistence and solidarity. The support measure contributes to the country strategy of successful integration as it is familiarizing asylum seekers with the culture and practices of host communities. By creating linkages and inter-cultural exchanges between the host and hosted communities, the project seeks to promote the cooperation of the communities, create the sense of being part of the same community through interconnected lives, and eventually jointly design and implement joint events, that will demonstrate the potential and benefits of migrants' integration. Activities will be designed through a participatory approach and will include: trainings and awareness-raising events around cultural orientation (basic notions concerning the European and Greek culture, history, tradition, contemporary customs etc.), life skills (e.g. communication skills, practical daily matters, financial literacy etc.), knowledge on practical aspects of European citizens' life (e.g. living and working in the EU), and on the shared European values (e.g. freedom, equality, justice) which draw from the spirit of Olympism. Other sensitization events and nation-wide media campaigns will also be organized to sensitize the local key stakeholders and further promote this initiative.
Project or Programme Operator	IOM Greece
Swiss Support Measure Partner(s)	Possibility to involve competent Swiss Cantons and NGOs as well as Swiss research institutes as partners.
Other specificities related to the Support Measure	The co-financing rate will be decided upon in the Support measure agreement and could exceed 60%. Derogations from the relevant provisions of the Regulations, including but not limited to payments, audits/verification, evaluation, reporting and irregularities, shall be specified in the Support Measure Agreement.

4. Partner State specific rules and procedures

n/a

In the event of a conflict between the Regulations and these specific provisions, the specific provisions of this Annex shall prevail.