Information communicated by the EFTA States regarding State aid granted under the Act referred to in point 1j of Annex XV of the EEA Agreement (Commission Regulation (EU) No 651/2014 declaring certain categories of aid compatible with the internal market in application of Articles 107 and 108 of the Treaty) (General Block Exemption Regulation)

PART I

Aid reference	GBER 55/2014/REG	
EFTA State	Norway	
EFTA State reference number		
Region	Name of the Region(s): (NUTS) Telemark County	Regional aid status: Mixed areas
Granting authority	Name	Telemark Utviklingsfond/Telemark Development Fund
	Postal address Web address	Postboks 2844 N-3702 Skien, Norway http://www.telemarkutviklingsfond.no
Title of the aid measure	Telemark Utviklingsfonds støtteordning/Telemark Development Fund's Aid Scheme	
National legal basis (Reference to the relevant national official publication)	Telemark Utviklingsfond/Telemark Development Fund is established in accordance with an agreement dated 9 December 2009 between the County of Telemark on the one side and eight municipalities on the other side (Fyresdal, Hjartdal, Kvitseid, Nissedal, Seljord, Tinn, Tokke and Vinje). The Fund will grant aid in accordance with the Fund's bylaws/statutes, in which it is stated that aid shall be granted in accordance with the EEA State Aid Rules and promote development within the County of Telemark. Additionally, the Fund will enter into agreements with the aid recipients	
Web link to the full text of the aid measure	The full text will be made available on: http://www.telemarkutviklingsfond.no/	
Type of measure	☒ Scheme	
Amendment of an existing aid scheme or *ad hoc* aid		EFTA Surveillance Authority aid reference:
	☒ Modification	GBER 18/2014/REG. Bonuses in accordance with Article 25
Duration	☒ Scheme	19/12/2014 to 31/12/2020
Economic sector(s) concerned	☒ All economic sectors eligible to receive aid	
Type of beneficiary	☒ SME	
	☒ Large undertakings	
Budget	Total annual amount of the	Annual budget: NOK 30 million

	budget planned under the scheme	kroners
Aid instrument	☒ Grant/Interest rate subsidy	
	☒ Loan/Repayable advances	

PART II

Primary objective - General objectives (list)	Objectives (list)	Maximum aid intensity in % or Maximum annual aid amount in NOK	SME - bonuses in %
Regional aid - investment aid (Art. 14)	☒ Scheme	15%	10% for medium sized, 20% for small enterprises
Regional aid - operating aid (Art. 15)	☒ Transport costs of goods in eligible areas (Art. 15(2)(a))	100%	
☒ SME aid (Arts. 17 - 18 - 19-20)		Investment aid to SMEs (article 17): 20% for small enterprises, 10% for medium sized enterprises. Aid for consultancy in favour of SMEs (article 18): 50%. Aid to SMEs for participation in fairs (Article 19): 50%.	
SME aid - SMEs' access to finance (Arts. 21-22)	☐ Risk finance aid (Art. 21)	…national currency	
	☒ Aid for start-ups (Art. 22)	Loans up to a maximum nominal	

			amount of 9.1 million kroners (NOK), or 13.6 million kroners (NOK) for undertakings eligible for regional aid. Grants up to 3.6 million kroner (NOK) gross grant equivalent or 5.5 million kroners (NOK) in areas eligible for regional aid. These amounts may be doubled for small and innovative enterprises. (exchange rate 9.1)	
Aid for research, development and innovation (Arts. 25 - 30)	Aid for research and developme nt projects (Art. 25)	☒ Fundamental research (Art. 25(2)(a))	100%	
		☒ Industrial research (Art. 25(2) b))	50%, this may be increased by 15% up to a maximum aid intensity of 80% when the conditions in Article 25 no. 6 (b) (i) or (ii) are fulfilled	20% for small enterpris es, 10% for medium sized enterpris es
		☒ Experimental development (Art. 25(2)(c))	25%, this may be	20% for small

			increased by 15% provided that the conditions in Article 25 no. 6 (b) (i) or (ii) are fulfilled	enterprises, 10% for medium sized enterprises
		☒ Feasibility studies (Art. 25(2)(d))	50%	20% for small enterprises, 10% for medium sized enterprises
	☒ Aid for innovation clusters (Art. 27)		50%, 55% for investment aid for clusters situated in areas eligible for regional aid.	
	☒ Innovation aid for SMEs (Art. 28)		50%, 100% for innovation advisory and support services provides that the total amount of aid for innovation advisory and support services does not exceed 200 000 euros per undertaking within any	

		three year period.	
	☒ Aid for process and organisational innovation (Art. 29)	15%	35%
	☒ Aid for research and development in the fishery and aquaculture sector (Art. 30)	100%	
☒ Training aid (Art. 31)		50%, 60% if the training is given to workers with disabilities or disadvantaged workers, 100% where the aid is granted in the maritime transport sector.	20% small, 10% medium
☒ Aid for culture and heritage conservation (Art. 53)		For investment aid, the aid amount shall not exceed the difference between the eligible costs and the operating profit of the investment. For operating aid, the aid amount shall not exceed what is necessary to cover the operating losses and a reasonable profit over the relevant period. However, for	

	aid not exceeding 1 million euro, the maximum amount of aid may be set at 80% of the eligible costs.	
☒Aid for sport and multifunctional recreational infrastructures (Art. 55)	For investment aid, the aid amount shall not exceed the difference between the eligible costs and the operating profit of the investment. For operating aid for sports infrastructures, the aid amount shall not exceed the operating losses over the relevant period. However, for aid not exceeding 1 million euro, the maximum amount of aid may be set at 80 % of eligible costs	
☒Investment aid for local infrastructures (Art. 56)	The aid amount shall not exceed the difference between the eligible costs and the	

	operating profit of the investment.	