Annex I – Regional aid coverage by EEA EFTA State for 2022–2027

Norway	Statistical region	GDP per capita	Percentage of national population
Predefined 'c' areas (sparsely populated areas)	NO021, NO022 Innlandet	—	7.30%
	NO061, NO062 Trøndelag	—	8.66%
	NO071 Nordland	—	4.60%
	NO072, NO073 Troms og Finnmark	—	4.58%
Non-predefined 'c' areas	—	—	6.87%
Total population coverage 2022–2027	—	—	32.02%

Iceland	Statistical region	GDP per capita	Percentage of national population
Predefined 'c' areas (sparsely populated areas)	IS00 Iceland	—	100%
Total population coverage 2022–2027	—	—	100%

Liechtenstein	Statistical region	GDP per capita	Percentage of national population
Non-predefined 'c' areas	—	—	7.50%
Total population coverage 2022–2027	—	—	7.50%

Annex II – [...]

[…].

Annex III – Method to be used for allocating non-predefined 'c' coverage among EEA EFTA States

ESA will calculate the non-predefined 'c' coverage for each EEA EFTA State by applying the following method:

(1)   ESA will identify any statistical regions at level 3 in the EEA EFTA States that are not in any of the following areas:

–   eligible 'a' areas set out in Annex I;

–   former 'a' areas set out in Annex I;

–   sparsely populated areas set out in Annex I.

(2)   Among the statistical regions at level 3 identified under Step 1, ESA will identify those that have either:

–   a GDP per capita ([1]) below or equal to the national GDP per capita disparity threshold ([2]) or;

–   an unemployment ([3]) rate above or equal to the national unemployment disparity threshold ([4]), or above or equal to 150% of the national average or;

–   a GDP per capita below or equal to 90% of the EEA average or;

–   an unemployment rate above or equal to 125% of the EEA average.

(3)   The allocation of non-predefined 'c' coverage for EEA EFTA State i (A_i) is calculated by using the following formula (expressed as a percentage of the EEA population):

$A_i = p_i / P \times 100$

where:

p_i is the population ([5]) of the statistical regions at level 3 in EEA EFTA State i identified under Step 2.

P is the sum of the population of the statistical regions at level 3, and of the NUTS 3 regions, identified under Step 2 in respectively the present and the Commission Guidelines.

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[1]   All GDP per capita referred to in this Annex are based on the average over the last three years for which Eurostat data are available, i.e. 2016-2018.

[2]   The national GDP per capita disparity threshold for EEA EFTA State i (TG_i) is calculated using the following formula (expressed as a percentage of national GDP per capita):
$(TG)_i = 85 \times ((1 + 100 / g_i) / 2)$
where: g_i is the GDP per capita of EEA EFTA State i, expressed as a percentage of the EEA average.

[3]   All unemployment data referred to in this Annex are based on the average of the last three years for which Eurostat data are available, i.e. 2017–2019. However, these data do not contain information at level 3 and therefore unemployment data for the level 2 region in which those level 3 regions are located are used.

[4]   The national unemployment rate disparity threshold for EEA EFTA State i (TU_i) is calculated using the following formula (expressed as a percentage of the national unemployment rate):
$(TU)_i = 115 \times ((1 + 100 / u_i) / 2)$
where: u_i is the national unemployment rate of EEA EFTA State i, expressed as a percentage of the EEA average.

[5]   Population figures for level 3 regions are calculated on the basis of the population data used by Eurostat to calculate the regional GDP per capita for 2018.

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<u>Annex IV – Method to define assisted areas experiencing population loss as referred to in section 7.4.5</u>

In accordance with paragraph 188, EEA EFTA States may identify the areas experiencing a population loss as follows:

–   EEA EFTA States must identify assisted areas at the level of statistical regions at level 3 under Article 61(3)(a) and (c) of the EEA Agreement;

–   Eurostat data on population density for the period 2009–2018 must be used, based on the most recent statistical regions classification available;

–   EEA EFTA States must demonstrate a population loss of more than 10% over the period 2009–2018.

–   Where the statistical regions classification was changed during the previous 10 years, then EEA EFTA States must use the data on population density for the longest available time period.

EEA EFTA States must include the areas thus identified when issuing a notification under paragraph 189.

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Annex V – Information to be provided when notifying a regional aid map

(1)   EEA EFTA States must provide information for each of the following categories of areas proposed for designation, if applicable:

–   'a' areas;

–   former 'a' areas;

–   sparsely populated areas;

–   very sparsely populated areas;

–   [...];

–   assisted areas experiencing population loss as referred to in section 7.4.5;

–   non-predefined areas 'c' areas designated on the basis of Criterion 1;

–   non-predefined areas 'c' areas designated on the basis of Criterion 2;

–   non-predefined areas 'c' areas designated on the basis of Criterion 3;

–   non-predefined areas 'c' areas designated on the basis of Criterion 4;

–   non-predefined areas 'c' areas designated on the basis of Criterion 5;

(2)   Under each category, EEA EFTA States must provide the following information for each proposed area:

–   identification of the area (using the statistical regions level 2 or 3 region code of the area, the LAU code of the areas that form the contiguous area or other official denominations of the administrative units concerned);

–   the proposed aid intensity in the area for the period 2022–2027 or, for former 'a' areas, for the periods 2022–2024 and 2025–2027 (indicating any increase of aid intensity as under paragraphs 180, 181, 183 or 184, 185 and 186, if applicable);

–   the total resident population of the area, as stated in paragraph 177.

(3)   For the designation of sparsely and very sparsely populated areas, EEA EFTA States must provide sufficient proof that the applicable conditions in paragraph 169 are met.

(4)   For non-predefined areas designated on the basis of Criteria 1–5, EEA EFTA States must provide sufficient proof that all applicable conditions laid down in paragraphs 175, 176 and 177 are met.

Annex VI – Definition of the steel sector

For the purpose of these Guidelines, 'steel sector' means the production of one or more of the following:

(a)   pig iron and ferro-alloys: pig iron for steelmaking, foundry and other pig iron, spiegeleisen and high-carbon ferro-manganese, not including other ferro-alloys;

(b)   crude and semi-finished products of iron, ordinary steel or special steel: liquid steel cast or not cast into ingots, including ingots for forging semi-finished products: blooms, billets and slabs; sheet bars and tinplate bars; hot-rolled wide coils, with the exception of the production of liquid steel for castings from small and medium-sized foundries;

(c)   hot finished products of iron, ordinary steel or special steel: rails, sleepers, fishplates, soleplates, joists, heavy sections of 80 mm and over, sheet piling, bars and sections of less than 80 mm and flats of less than 150 mm, wire rod, tube rounds and squares, hot-rolled hoop and strip (including tube strip), hot-rolled sheet (coated or uncoated), plates and sheets of 3 mm thickness and over, universal plates of 150 mm and over, with the exception of wire and wire products, bright bars and iron castings;

(d)   cold finished products: tinplate, terneplate, blackplate, galvanised sheets, other coated sheets, cold-rolled sheets, electrical sheets and strip for tinplate, cold-rolled plate, in coil and in strip;

(e)   tubes: all seamless steel tubes, welded steel tubes with a diameter of over 406.4 mm.

Annex VII – Information to be included in the application form for regional investment aid

1. Information about the aid beneficiary:
   - Name, registered address of main seat, main sector of activity (NACE code).
   - Declaration that the firm is not in difficulty, as defined under the rescue and restructuring guidelines.
   - Declaration detailing the aid (both de minimis and State aid) already received for other investments over the last three years in the same statistical region at level 3 where the new investment will be located. Declaration specifying regional aid received or to be received for the same project by other granting authorities.
   - Declaration specifying whether the beneficiary has closed a same or similar activity in the EEA two years preceding the date of this application.
   - Declaration specifying whether the beneficiary has the intention to close down such an activity at the moment of aid application within a period of two years after the investment to be subsidised is completed.
   - For aid granted under a scheme: non-relocation declaration and commitment.

2. Information about the investment to be supported:
   - Short description of the investment.
   - Short description of expected positive effects for the area concerned (for example, number of jobs created or safeguarded, R&D&I activities, training, creation of a cluster and project's possible contribution to the green ([6]) and digital transition of the regional economy).
   - Applicable legal basis (national, EEA or both).
   - Planned start of works and completion of the investment.
   - Location(s) of the investment.

3. Information about the financing of the investment:
   - Investment costs and other associated costs, cost benefit analysis for the notified aid measure.
   - Total eligible costs.
   - Aid amount needed to carry out the investment.
   - Aid intensity.

4. Information on the need for aid and its expected impact:
   - Short explanation of the need for aid and its impact on the investment decision or location decision. This must include an explanation of the alternative investment or location decision if aid is not granted.
   - Declaration of absence of an irreversible agreement between the aid beneficiary and contractors to carry out the investment.

([6]) Including, where relevant, information on whether the investment is environmentally sustainable within the meaning of the EU Taxonomy Regulation 2020/852, OJ L 198, 22.6.2020, p. 13–43 or other comparable methodologies.

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Annex VIII – Information referred to in paragraph 136

The information on individual awards referred to in paragraph 136.2 of the Guidelines must include the following:

–   Identity of the individual aid beneficiary ([7])

  –   name

  –   aid beneficiary's identifier

–   Type of aid beneficiary at the time of application:

  –   SME

  –   large enterprise

–   Statistical region in which the aid beneficiary is located, at level II or below

–   The main sector or activity of the aid beneficiary for the given aid, identified by the, NACE group (three-digit numerical code) ([8])

–   Aid element expressed in full in the national currency

–   Where different from the aid element, the nominal aid amount, expressed in full in the national currency ([9])

–   Aid instrument ([10]):

  –   grant/interest rate subsidy/debt write-off

  –   loan/repayable advances/reimbursable grant

  –   guarantee

  –   tax advantage or tax exemption

  –   risk finance

  –   other (please specify)

–   Date of award and date of publication

([7])   With the exception of business secrets and other confidential information in duly justified cases and subject to ESA's agreement (ESA's Guidelines on Professional Secrecy in State Aid Decisions, OJ L 154, 8.6.2006, p. 27, and EEA Supplement No 29, 8.6.2006, p. 1).

([8])   Regulation (EC) No 1893/2006 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 20 December 2006 establishing the statistical classification of economic activities NACE Revision 2 and amending Council Regulation (EEC) No 3037/90 as well as certain regulations governing specific statistical domains (OJ L 393, 30.12.2006, p. 1). The Regulation is incorporated into Annex XXI of the EEA Agreement by EEA Joint Committee Decision No 61/2007 (OJ L 266, 11.10.2007, p. 25, and EEA Supplement No 48, 11.10.2007, p. 18).

([9])   Gross grant equivalent, or where applicable, the amount of the investment. For operating aid, the annual aid amount per aid beneficiary can be provided. For fiscal schemes, this amount can be provided by the ranges set out in paragraph 139. The amount to be published is the maximum allowed tax benefit and not the amount deducted each year (e.g. in the context of a tax credit, the maximum allowed tax credit must be published rather than the actual amount, which might depend on the taxable revenue and vary each year).

([10])   If the aid is granted through multiple aid instruments, the aid amount must be specified by instrument.

- – Objective of the aid
- – Identity of the granting authority or authorities
- – Where applicable, name of the entrusted entity, and the names of the selected financial intermediaries
- – Reference of the aid measure (^{11})

(^{11}) As provided by ESA under the notification procedure referred to in Section 3.