

CZECH REPUBLIC

The Czech Republic has received funding since entering the EU and EEA in 2004. For the period of 2009-2014, the Czech Republic has been allocated €131.8 million; up from €110.9 million over the previous five year period. Projects may be implemented until 2016.

KEY AREAS OF SUPPORT

- › Improving mental health services and reducing health inequalities
- › Protecting biodiversity and reducing vulnerability to climate change
- › Enhancing research cooperation between the Czech Republic and Norway
- › Promoting gender equality
- › Strengthening civil society
- › Revitalising important European cultural and natural heritage

BILATERAL COOPERATION

Six Norwegian public entities are involved in the implementation of programmes in the Czech Republic, with partners from Iceland and Liechtenstein participating on scholarships. The Council of Europe will lend its considerable expertise to programmes on judicial capacity building and correctional services.

The Norwegian Environment Agency is taking part as a partner in the programme on environment and climate change. The Research Council of Norway and the Norwegian Centre for International Cooperation in Education are involved in research and scholarships. The Norwegian Institute of Public Health is involved in the public health programme, while the Arts Council Norway is contributing to the small grants scheme for cultural exchange. Innovation Norway manages the programme on decent work and tripartite dialogue.

At a national level, funding is available through the bilateral funds to support networking and foster project partnerships.

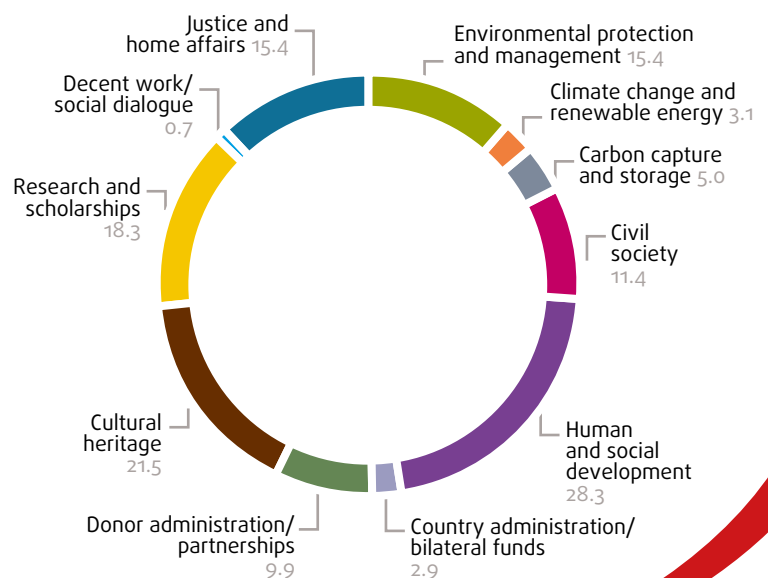
The EEA and Norway Grants provide €1.8 billion in funding to 150 programmes in 16 beneficiary countries. EEA Grants €993.5 million (Norway 95.8%, Iceland 3.0%, Liechtenstein 1.2%). Norway Grants €804.6 million, financed by Norway alone.



EEA GRANTS	€61.4 M	TOTAL FUNDING	
NORWAY GRANTS	€70.4 M	€131.8 M	
		Czech Republic	EU-28
GDP per capita in PPS (EU=100)		82	100
Economic growth (% change on previous year)		-0.9	0.1
Unemployment rate (%)*		6.1	10.2
Youth unemployment rate (%)*		15.9	22.2
Public debt (% of GDP)		45.7	85.4
Gender pay gap (%)		22.1	16.4
At-risk-of-poverty rate (%)		14.6	24.5
Human development index		15 (EU-28 ranking)	
Corruption perception index*		22 (EU-28 ranking)	

Sources: Eurostat, UNDP, Transparency International
All data is from 2013 except where * indicates 2014

DISTRIBUTION OF FUNDING (€ MILLION)



IN FOCUS

COMMUNITY-BASED CARE FOR THE MENTALLY ILL

According to EU estimates, one in four Europeans suffers from a mental health problem at least once during their lifetime. People with mental health problems face a higher risk of poverty and social exclusion than the general population.

In most European countries, mental health services have been underfunded for many years. The Czech Republic is no exception and institutional care is still the norm. Under the Norway Grants, a new system is being established to allow patients to be treated within their local community rather than in remote institutions. This is an important step towards transforming the Czech psychiatric system from institutional to community-based care. Gradually preparing patients for return to normal life helps reduce the chance of relapse. Czech NGOs will provide patient support and follow-up and will raise awareness of mental illnesses within their local community.

STRENGTHENING TIES THROUGH RESEARCH

Research, innovation and education are at the top of the EU agenda for growth and job creation. The Norway Grants support a major bilateral research programme between the Czech Republic and Norway. The programme is helping to substantially strengthen cooperation between researchers from the two countries and enhance research capacity.

In line with Czech national priorities and based on an analysis of cooperation between Czech and Norwegian

researchers within the EU's Seventh Framework Programme, the selected thematic fields are social sciences, humanities, environment and health. At least one Czech and one Norwegian participant are involved in each project.

Projects support, for example, young researchers and those returning from parental leave. Small and medium-sized enterprises may be involved in cooperation with research organisations.

REVITALISING CULTURAL HERITAGE

Bringing cultural treasures back to life, and making them accessible for local communities and tourists alike, contributes to economic growth and job creation.

The Czech Republic has a wealth of cultural monuments and historical buildings; 12 sites are on UNESCO's world heritage list. However, many of the country's heritage sites have fallen into a critical state of disrepair. Through the EEA Grants, Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway are supporting the revitalisation of cultural heritage sites, making them accessible to the public. Projects promoting cultural diversity, cultural exchange and cultural expression of minority groups have also received support.

[Read more about all the programmes:
www.eeagrants.org/czech-republic](http://www.eeagrants.org/czech-republic)

Programme	Partner(s)		Grant (€ million)
Environment and climate change	Norwegian Environment Agency	■	18.4
Carbon capture and storage (CCS)		■	5.0
NGO Fund		■	11.4
Children and youth at risk		■	2.7
Local and regional initiatives		■	1.2
Cultural heritage and cultural diversity	Arts Council Norway	■	21.5
Decent work and tripartite dialogue	Innovation Norway*	■	0.7
Research cooperation	Research Council of Norway	■	14.5
Scholarships	Icelandic Centre for Research / National Agency for International Education Affairs (Liechtenstein) / Norwegian Centre for International Cooperation in Education	■ ■	3.8
Capacity-building and institutional cooperation		■	1.8
Public health initiatives	Norwegian Institute of Public Health	■	19.2
Gender equality and work-life balance		■	3.4
Domestic and gender-based violence		■	4.2
Schengen and cross-border crime		■	6.3
Judicial capacity-building and correctional services	Council of Europe	■	5.0

■ EEA Grants ■ Norway Grants *Programme Operator