

Research cooperation

Investment in research and innovation is crucial to sustainable economic recovery and improving Europe's competitiveness. Strengthening cooperation in research is a priority shared by both the donor and beneficiary countries. Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway are contributing more than €132 million to promote research cooperation.

WHY FOCUS ON RESEARCH COOPERATION?

Current overall European spending on research and development (R&D) sits at 2% of gross domestic product (GDP). The EU has set a target that combined public and private research spending should reach 3% of GDP by 2020. Investing in science, research and technology is crucial to:

- > Help European companies innovate and stay competitive
- > Create more and better jobs in Europe
- > Secure economic and social welfare

Despite marked improvements in some of the beneficiary countries, overall spending on R&D continues to lag behind the EU average.¹ Reducing this deficit and creating an environment that encourages high-quality research and technological innovation is crucial to keep pace with global competition and drive growth.

Better cooperation and coordination is vital to overcome duplication and fragmentation in research efforts. Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway are active participants in EU programmes such as Horizon 2020 – the new EU programme for research and innovation which supports transnational European research cooperation.

WHAT WILL WE ACHIEVE?

Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway have allocated more than €132 million to research programmes in the Czech Republic, Estonia, Greece, Hungary, Latvia, Poland and Romania.

The programmes contribute to enhancing the research-based knowledge development in the beneficiary countries and increasing collaboration in research projects.

¹ Eurostat (2012) Gross domestic expenditure on R&D in the EU-27 (figures from 2010)



© Estonian Science Foundation

HOW WILL WE ACHIEVE IT?

Support from the Grants is focused on:

- > Increasing research cooperation between Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway and the beneficiary countries
- > Strengthening research capacity in the beneficiary countries
- > Increasing the application of research results

Programmes fund collaborative research projects on topics including:

- > social sciences and the humanities
- > health
- > environment and climate change
- > energy
- > carbon capture and storage
- > gender equality

Several projects are supporting research on the consequences of climate change on the environment and on improving the efficiency of alternative energy resources. In the field of health, numerous projects are targeting cancer research from various perspectives, such as risk factors analysis, diagnosis and treatment.

Projects in the field of social sciences and the humanities span a wide range of topics such as gender studies, language, migration, demographics, and social integration of vulnerable groups.

HOW DOES IT WORK?

Projects are supported under the dedicated research programmes established in seven EU countries. Funding for research projects is also available under programmes in other areas supported by the Grants. Projects are selected following calls for proposals organised by the programme operator in each country. Calls are published on the websites of the programme operators and donor programme partners and on www.eeagrants.org.

BILATERAL COOPERATION

Partnerships between organisations in the donor and the beneficiary countries are mandatory for all research programmes except for the one in Greece. The Research Council of Norway and the Icelandic Centre for Research are involved as donor programme partners and play a strategic role in programme planning and implementation. They also facilitate project partnerships.

To encourage cooperation, funding is available through the bilateral funds. This can be used to develop joint project applications or to facilitate partner searches, as well as for activities not directly related to projects such as networking, joint events or the exchange of best practice.

COUNTRY OVERVIEW: RESEARCH COOPERATION

Country	Research cooperation with Norway	Research cooperation with Norway, Iceland and/or Liechtenstein	Partners	Grant amount (€ million)
Czech Republic	•		• Research Council of Norway	14.5
Estonia	•		• Research Council of Norway	3.0
Greece		• (partnerships encouraged but not mandatory)		3.0
Hungary*	•		• Research Council of Norway	24.1
Latvia	•		• Research Council of Norway	4.5
Poland	•		• Research Council of Norway	63.2
Romania		•	• Icelandic Centre for Research • Research Council of Norway	20.0
Total				132.3

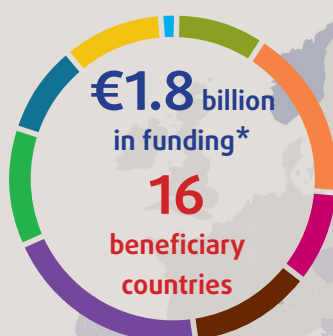
■ EEA Grants

■ Norway Grants

*Payments currently suspended in Hungary: bit.ly/1K41Ybl

ABOUT THE EEA AND NORWAY GRANTS

Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway provide funding to:



AREAS OF SUPPORT

- Environmental management
- Climate change
- Civil society
- Cultural heritage and diversity
- Human and social development
- Green industry innovation
- Justice and home affairs
- Research and scholarships
- Decent work and social dialogue

* EEA Grants €993.5 million (Norway 95.7%, Iceland 3.2%, Liechtenstein 1.1%) – Norway Grants €804.6 million, financed by Norway alone