



EEA GRANTS NORWAY GRANTS
RESULTS AND OPPORTUNITIES
Status Report 2011

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FOREWORD

Through the EEA and Norway Grants, Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway are helping to bolster economic and social cohesion in Europe, and strengthen cooperation within the EEA.

Through the European Economic Area (EEA) Agreement, Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway participate in an internal market together with the 27 EU member states, encompassing 500 million people.

However, there are significant disparities between European countries in terms of economic and social development.

With the EEA and Norway Grants, Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway are helping to bolster economic and social cohesion in Europe, and strengthen cooperation within the EEA.

This report gives an insight into the wealth of activities that have been supported in the 15 beneficiary states. It sets the Grants in the context of needs and challenges in the countries concerned. It describes how these funds have made a difference to people's lives and local communities, for example through improved environmental conditions, better access to health care, increased research cooperation, and support for civil society and minority groups.

Here you can read how Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway and the beneficiary states have all benefited from exchanges of skills and knowledge. The Grants provide a platform for sharing experience, for pooling ideas and resources across borders, and thus strengthening ties between donor states and beneficiary states.

The funding period for 2009-2014 is well under way. Almost €1.8 billion has been allocated to targeted efforts in areas where there are demonstrable needs in the beneficiary states and where we, the donor states, can make a difference.

In shaping the new programmes, we have incorporated lessons learned from the previous funding period, and have improved the set-up to increase the Grants' impact. We have also brought on board international organisations, such as the Council of Europe and Transparency International, and given greater responsibility to the beneficiary states.

We hope you will enjoy reading about the achievements so far and the opportunities ahead. We look forward to building on our results, and we will maintain our commitment to a more cohesive Europe.



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PART 1: OVERVIEW

Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway contribute to reducing disparities in Europe and to strengthening bilateral relations with 15 EU countries in Central and Southern Europe.

This part provides an overview of economic, social and environmental trends and challenges in the 15 beneficiary states. Although disparities have shrunk over the past decade, the countries continue to face many challenges. It is within this context that the EEA and Norway Grants work to promote economic and social cohesion.



EEA GRANTS - NORWAY GRANTS

The EEA Grants and Norway Grants are based on a firm vision of Europe: a stable and prosperous Europe where social and economic inequalities are consigned to the past. It is a commitment to more than a shared future. It is also an acknowledgement of a shared past, based on a common foundation of European values of democracy and solidarity.

For Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway, the EEA Grants and Norway Grants are key policy instruments for implementing this commitment.

Through ongoing support to environment, health, education and research, justice, and cultural heritage, the donor states continue to build on the many valuable partnerships developed during the funding period 2004-2009.

Equally important, dedicated support for non-governmental organisations will enable civil society to continue to play a vital role in the development of European democracy, as well as in specific policy areas under the Grants.

Promoting cooperation is a concrete aim of the Grants. Strengthening ties between European countries brings mutual benefits – for institutions and organisations in both the beneficiary and in the donor states.

AT A GLANCE

Between 2004 and 2009, the three donor states made **€1.3 billion** available in EEA Grants and Norway Grants to the 12 newest EU member countries¹ and Greece, Portugal and Spain. Another **€1.79 billion** has been set aside from 2009 to 2014. Norway contributes around 97% of the total funding.²

Key areas of support include environment, civil society, human and social development, cultural heritage, research and scholarships, social dialogue, and justice and home affairs.

Donor states: Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway.

Beneficiary states: Bulgaria, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Estonia, Greece, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia and Spain.

¹ Greece, Portugal and Spain are eligible for funding under the EEA Grants, not the Norway Grants.

² Norway is the sole funder of the Norway Grants and contributes around 95% of the EEA Grants.

MAKING A DIFFERENCE

Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway share a mutual interest and responsibility with other European countries in promoting security, equality of opportunity, environmental sustainability and a decent standard of living for all in the European Economic Area.

The EEA Agreement between the EEA EFTA States Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway and the 27 EU member states provides an extensive framework for cooperation in Europe. As well as ensuring access to the internal market, the Agreement covers cooperation in many other important areas such as research and development, education, social policy, the environment, consumer protection, tourism and culture.

The **EEA Grants and Norway Grants** (worth €3.1 billion for 2004-2014) represent:

- › The **commitment** of the EEA EFTA States towards these solidarity goals
- › The **contribution** of the EEA EFTA States towards the benefits derived from access to the internal market
- › The **engagement** of the EEA EFTA States as active players on the European scene

FOCUSED CONTRIBUTION

The EEA Grants and Norway Grants target funding in areas where there are recognised needs, and where the donor states can make a difference. In the 2004-2009 funding period, supported projects and programmes were required to conform to national strategies, as well as align with wider EU goals.

In the 2009-2014 funding period, a programme approach has been introduced for all funding. This places greater emphasis on focusing the assistance on predetermined and agreed areas of intervention. This will lead to a more strategic, focused and coherent investment.

The donor states are committed and resourceful partners, with knowledge and experience to share. Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway are egalitarian, stable and transparent democracies with strong social welfare policies, active civil societies, high levels of education, gender equality, and work and family-life balance. Rich in natural resources, they have recognised expertise in areas such as research and education, and cutting-edge energy and environmental technologies.

VALUABLE PARTNERSHIPS

Under the bilateral dimension, the EEA Grants and Norway Grants promote partnerships for pooling expertise and resources across borders. Many pressing issues today – demographic trends, greater social inequalities, immigration, environmental concerns, resource sustainability – do not stop at national borders.

Shared challenges require shared solutions: working in cooperation through bilateral programmes and projects provides an arena for learning from good practice elsewhere, e.g. in the delivery of efficient public services, or development of innovative technologies. This strengthens ties which can prompt exchange in other areas, or give impetus to new trading links.

MUTUAL BENEFITS

A wide range of organisations benefited from grants during the 2004-2009 period, from national and local authorities, educational and research institutions and civil society organisations to private and public enterprises, and public-private partnerships.



Five historical buildings in the Polish city of Bydgoszcz were restored and converted into a museum thanks to funding from the EEA Grants.



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Close to 250 people turned out in the old town square in Warsaw in May 2011 to 'Walk the Grants'. The Norwegian Embassy in Warsaw invited representatives from all funded projects to participate in the Nordic walking event, celebrating the achievements of the more than 400 projects and funds implemented in Poland.

The funding has made a difference to people's lives and local communities through, for example, improved environmental conditions, better access to health care, enhanced mobility and cooperation for students and researchers, and support for civil society and minority groups. The funds have been further strengthened in the funding period 2009-2014.

The benefits of the Grants extend both ways. Both the donor and beneficiary states gain from increased cooperation under the partnership dimension. Developing networks through the Grants creates stronger bonds, which will endure beyond the funding at a political, institutional, cultural, and academic level.

The economies of the donor and beneficiary states are strongly intertwined in the internal European market, increasing opportunities for trade and investment.

As members of the Schengen area, strengthened police and judiciary cooperation serves in the fight against organised crime and illegal immigration – this works to the benefit of all.

The key achievements of the 2004-2009 period and current opportunities during 2009-2014 are described in more detail in the next chapters.

TRENDS AND CHALLENGES IN THE BENEFICIARY STATES

There are significant disparities in Europe in terms of economic, social and territorial development. The expansions of the EU¹ in 2004 and 2007 brought a 20% increase in the EU's population, but only a 5% increase in GDP.

I. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT²

ECONOMIC GROWTH AND TRADE

Between 2000 and 2007, the 15 beneficiary states of the EEA and Norway Grants experienced impressive economic growth (Table 1) and made significant progress towards the EU's average GDP.

Trade in goods and services, both between the countries of the EU-12, as well as between the EU-12 and EU-15³ and the rest of the EEA countries, also expanded significantly during this period. However, gaps in levels of overall development between the EU-12 and the rest of the EEA countries remain wide.

IMPACT OF CRISIS

The onset of the global economic and financial crisis in late 2008 also had a severe impact in most of the beneficiary states, wiping out much of the progress achieved and disrupting trade flows. Although economic output in Central and Eastern European coun-

tries had returned to the pre-crisis level by early 2011, the pace of recovery differs across countries, and important vulnerabilities remain⁴.

AT-RISK OF POVERTY

The fight against poverty and social exclusion is a priority of the EEA and Norway Grants and is also one of the five headline targets of the Europe 2020 strategy – the EU's ten-year plan for sustainable economic growth. It aims to reduce the number of people at risk of poverty by 20 million.

Material deprivation is highly concentrated in the less-developed EU member states, where up to a quarter of people are identified as being severely deprived. The share of population with an income level that puts them at risk of poverty (less than 60% of national median disposable income) differs markedly between countries, ranging from one in four in Romania to one in 10 in the Czech Republic. Rates are also higher for women (in particular in the >65 category) and certain minority groups, e.g. the Roma population⁵.

TABLE 1: GROSS DOMESTIC PRODUCT (GDP) GROWTH RATE IN % (Source: Eurostat)

GDP	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Bulgaria	5.4	4.1	4.5	5.0	6.6	6.4	6.5	6.4	6.2	-5.5	0.2
Cyprus	5.0	4.0	2.1	1.9	4.2	3.9	4.1	5.1	3.6	-1.7	1.0
Czech Republic	3.6	2.5	1.9	3.6	4.5	6.3	6.8	6.1	2.5	-4.1	1.6
Estonia	10.0	7.5	7.9	7.6	7.2	9.4	10.6	6.9	-5.1	-13.9	3.1
Greece	4.5	4.2	3.4	5.9	4.4	2.3	5.2	4.3	1.0	-2.0	-4.5
Hungary	4.9	3.8	4.1	4.0	4.5	3.2	3.6	0.8	0.8	-6.7	1.2
Latvia	6.9	8.0	6.5	7.2	8.7	10.6	12.2	10.0	-4.2	-18.0	-0.3
Lithuania	3.3	6.7	6.9	10.2	7.4	7.8	7.8	9.8	2.9	-14.8	1.3
Malta		-1.6	2.6	-0.3	0.7	3.9	3.6	4.6	5.4	-3.3	3.2
Poland	4.3	1.2	1.4	3.9	5.3	3.6	6.2	6.8	5.1	1.6	3.8
Portugal	3.9	2.0	0.7	-0.9	1.6	0.8	1.4	2.4	0.0	-2.5	1.3
Romania	2.4	5.7	5.1	5.2	8.5	4.2	7.9	6.3	7.3	-7.1	0.8
Slovakia	1.4	3.5	4.6	4.8	5.0	6.7	8.5	10.5	5.8	-4.8	4.0
Slovenia	4.4	2.8	4.0	2.8	4.3	4.5	5.8	6.8	3.5	-8.1	1.2
Spain	5.0	3.6	2.7	3.1	3.3	3.6	4.0	3.6	0.9	-3.7	-0.1

¹ Cyprus, Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Slovakia and Slovenia in 2004, followed by Bulgaria and Romania in 2007 – collectively the 'EU-12'

² Refer to Annex I (Table 1.1) for all figures on economic development

³ Fifth Report on Economic, Social and Territorial Cohesion, European Commission, November 2010

⁴ EU10 Regular Economic Report: macroeconomic developments and prospects in the new EU member states, World Bank, April 2011

⁵ Fifth Report on Economic, Social and Territorial Cohesion, European Commission, November 2010



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The Kaunas child development Clinic in Lithuania used grant funding from Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway to expand its day-care centre for pre-school disabled children.

EMPLOYMENT RATES

The economic crisis has also taken a heavy toll on Europe's societies with a steep rise in unemployment. Around 23 million people – or close to 10% of the economically active population in the EU – are now unemployed⁶. This rate is particularly high, more than 12%, in Estonia, Greece, Slovakia, Latvia, Lithuania and Spain. Youth unemployment exceeds 20% in more than half of the EU member states, reaching 42% in Spain⁷.

The EU has set a target to raise the employment rate for women and men aged 20–64 to 75% by 2020 (see 2010 employment rates in Annex I, Table.1). Although the economy is now recovering at a faster pace than previously envisaged, achieving this target may prove challenging.

RESEARCH AND INNOVATION

Strengthening research and innovation is a priority for Europe. The EU has pledged to increase investment in research and development (R&D) to 3% of GDP by 2020⁸. Spending is currently below 2%. The Innovation Union Competitiveness Report 2011 shows that although the EU is slowly advancing towards its 3% target, there is a widening gap between Europe and its global competitors. There are also large disparities between European countries and regions, with all of the EEA and Norway Grants' beneficiary states well below the 3% target. The Innovation Scoreboard 2010 shows that none of the beneficiary states are categorised as 'innovation leaders'⁹. Countries like Slovenia,

Estonia and Cyprus are close to the EU average. However, levels of performance of the Czech Republic, Greece, Hungary, Malta, Poland, Portugal, Slovakia and Spain are below average, with Bulgaria, Latvia, Lithuania and Romania scoring the lowest of all EU countries.

II. HUMAN AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT¹⁰

HUMAN DEVELOPMENT

The Human Development Index (HDI) is a global summary composite index incorporating statistical measures of life expectancy, health, literacy, educational attainment and GDP per capita, calculated by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). All the EEA and Norway Grants' beneficiary states are ranked between 20 and 58 on the 2010 Index. Norway ranked first, with Liechtenstein and Iceland 6 and 17, respectively.

HEALTH AND DEMOGRAPHY

Life expectancy in Europe is increasing and many health indicators are encouraging. However, gaps in health provision remain both between and within European countries. As well as uneven geographical coverage, vulnerable groups often experience unequal access to health care due to social, economic, gender and cultural factors.

Demographic change has become an increasingly important challenge on the European policy agenda. First, the working-age population is set to decline in many parts of Europe and the number of people beyond retirement age to rise. Already today, many regions in the beneficiary states are experiencing absolute population decline. These trends will have an impact on labour markets and the economy, as well as on health and social service providers.

6 European Economic Forecast Spring 2011, European Commission

7 Annual Growth Survey, European Commission, 12.1.2011

8 Europe 2020 - A strategy for smart, sustainable and inclusive growth, COM(2010) 2020

9 The 2010 Scoreboard draws on 25 research and innovation-related indicators and covers the 27 EU member states, as well as Croatia, Serbia, Turkey, Iceland, Norway and Switzerland

¹⁰ Refer to Annex I (Table 1.2) for all figures on human and social development

Secondly, since 2004, migration flows both from countries outside the EEA and between Eastern and Western Europe have given rise to concerns about integration and pressure on infrastructure, as well as the loss of skilled labour in the countries left behind.

EDUCATION

In its growth strategy, the EU spells out a twin headline target for education – less than 10% of the population aged 18-24 should have left school early by 2020, and at least 40% of the EU's young adults should have completed tertiary or equivalent education by 2020.

The performance of the beneficiary states varies considerably in both these areas. While Cyprus, Lithuania and Spain have already reached the latter target, less than 18% of young adults have completed tertiary education in Czech Republic, Romania and Slovakia. Among early school leavers, variations are equally significant. Both the Czech Republic (5.4%) and Poland (5.3%) have already surpassed the target, while Spain and Portugal (both 31.2%) and Malta (36.8%) remain well below it.

Removing obstacles to learning mobility is also a Europe-wide goal. European countries have set a target that at least 20% of those graduating in the European Higher Education Area should have had a study or training period abroad by 2020. All the beneficiary states need to increase mobility in order to progress towards this goal.



The Norway Grants supported the renovation and expansion of the Centre for Scandinavian Studies at the University of Vilnius in Lithuania, helping to increase capacity.

GENDER INEQUALITY

Although countries in Europe have made significant strides over the last decades, many still face considerable challenges when it comes to ensuring equal opportunities and reducing the pay gap between women and men. The EU's 2010 report on equality between women and men reveals how women still face significant barriers to reaching top positions

and earn, on average, 17% less than men¹¹. Figures on the gender pay gap vary between the beneficiary states with the Czech Republic at 25.9% and Slovakia at 21.9%, Malta at 6.0% and Slovenia at 3.2% (2009 figures).

While the employment rate of women in the EU has increased from 52% in 1998 to 62% today, large gaps remain (13% less when compared to the rate for men). Women are still far more likely to work part-time and have jobs which are poorly paid or insecure, despite representing a majority of students and university graduates.

Countries with lower female employment have a greater potential for economic growth. This means that increased participation of women in the labour market has advantages both for individual women and society at large.

Tackling gender-based violence, including human trafficking, is another important challenge. The Council of Europe estimates that 45% of all women in Europe have been subjected to and suffered from gender-based violence, and around 80 000 women and girls are victims of trafficking in the EU every year.

CIVIL SOCIETY

A strong and vibrant civil society – embodied by the active participation of NGOs in many areas of political, environmental and social life – is important for democratic development. NGOs work to advocate policy change, raise public awareness and deliver much-needed services. The NGO Sustainability Index 2009 reports how “NGOs across Central and Eastern Europe have been at the forefront of issues facing their societies, from elections to discrimination to environmental degradation”¹².

Yet, while there have been positive developments, NGOs in many of the beneficiary states are still vulnerable and continue to face many constraints. Increasing social inequalities, low levels of civic activism and scarce funding opportunities – reinforced by the crisis – are just some of the issues which threaten the sustainability of NGOs. Continued support for the development of the sector in the beneficiary states is therefore essential.

JUSTICE AND HOME AFFAIRS

Prison populations are rising in Europe and several countries are faced with prison overcrowding. The highest rate of imprisonment within the EEA

¹¹ 2010 Report from the European Commission on equality between women and men, 2010 COM(2009) 694 final

¹² 2009 NGO Sustainability Index for Central and Eastern Europe and Eurasia, USAID, June 2010

is in Latvia, with 314 prisoners per 100 000 people, followed by Lithuania and Estonia with rates of 276 and 254, respectively. The lowest rates are found in Liechtenstein (19), Iceland (60), Slovenia (64) and Norway (73)¹³.



The Norway Grants have supported many projects focused on strengthening police cooperation to serve in the fight against organised crime.

Prisons in Bulgaria, Cyprus, Spain, Hungary and Greece are the most crowded, with prison populations varying from between 156% to 130% of official capacity. Foreign nationals are over-represented in many European prisons, with rates up to 72% in some countries compared to the average of 26%.

The need to improve correctional services and reduce the number of reoffenders has prompted many European countries to introduce new strategies for rehabilitation and promote alternatives to imprisonment.

ROMA INCLUSION

The Roma constitute the largest minority in Europe¹⁴. An estimated 10-12 million Roma live in the EU, with the most significant populations found in Bulgaria, Hungary, Romania and Slovakia. According to the EU's Fundamental Rights Agency, the Roma are the most discriminated-against ethnic group in Europe, in areas such as political participation, housing, education, health care and employment.¹⁵

Efforts undertaken to improve the Roma situation have so far yielded limited results. However, the expansion of the EU to include countries with significant Roma populations has triggered a renewed debate on how to better target social inclusion and non-discrimination of the Roma in the EU.

¹³ International Centre for Prison Studies, August 2011

¹⁴ The term 'Roma' is used to describe "groups of people who share more or less similar cultural characteristics and a history of persistent marginalisation in European societies, such as the Roma, Sinti, Travellers, Ashkali and Kale, etc..

¹⁵ EU Minorities and Discrimination Survey, EU Agency for Fundamental Rights, 2009

CULTURAL HERITAGE

Although culture and cultural heritage are widely recognised as making significant contributions to growth and employment¹⁶, there is a concern that some areas are being left behind. This is particularly true for many of the rural and poorer regions in some of the beneficiary states, where decades of neglect have left many heritage sites in need of renovation. More recently, public budget constraints as a result of the economic crisis have led to funding cuts – some quite drastic – for cultural activities in many of the beneficiary states.

III. ENVIRONMENT AND ENERGY¹⁷

There have been encouraging trends in the environmental indicators over the past decade. European greenhouse gas emissions have decreased while the share of renewable energy sources has increased and some air and water pollution indicators show significant improvements. However, the scale of the challenges, including climate change, environmental degradation, biodiversity loss and unsustainable use of natural resources, remains substantial.

CLIMATE CHANGE AND ENERGY

According to EU studies, regions most vulnerable to the impacts of climate change are largely located in the South and East of Europe. A number of regions in Spain, Portugal, Greece, Bulgaria, Cyprus and Malta will be seriously affected in terms of reduced precipitation and higher temperatures. Many of these regions are also highly dependent on more vulnerable sectors such as agriculture and tourism. Less pressure is expected in the North and West of Europe except in low-lying coastal regions around the North Sea and in regions exposed to coastal erosion around the Baltic Sea. Regions with low GDP per head are likely to experience more pressure because of their lower capacity to adapt¹⁸.

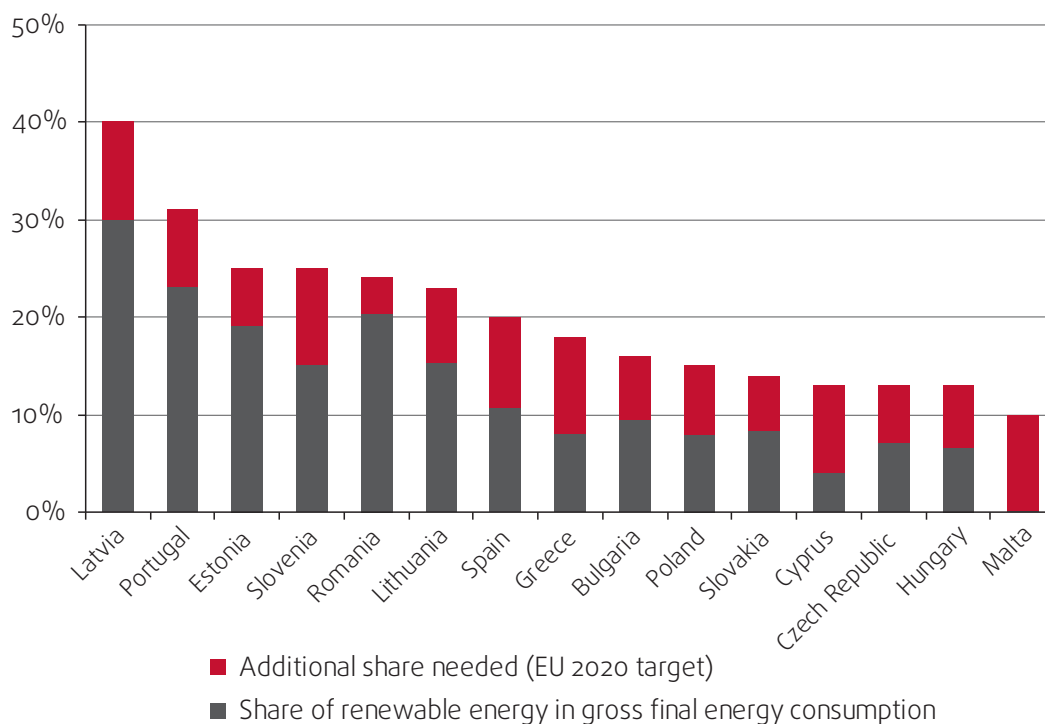
Mitigating climate change and improving resource efficiency are top priorities for the EEA countries and the EU. All EU countries have agreed to targets to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 20% compared to 1990 levels, to increase the share of renewables in energy consumption to 20%, and to move towards a 20% increase in energy efficiency by 2020. The differences between the current national shares of renewable energy and the targets vary between the beneficiary states (Table 2).

¹⁶ Study on the Economy of Culture in Europe – a study prepared by the European Commission, October 2006

¹⁷ Refer to Annex I (Table 1.3) for all figures on environment and energy

¹⁸ Fifth Report on Economic, Social and Territorial Cohesion, European Commission, November 2010

TABLE 2: SHARE OF RENEWABLE ENERGY IN FINAL ENERGY CONSUMPTION, 2008, AND INCREASE NEEDED TO MEET THE 20% TARGET (Source: Eurostat)



NATURA 2000 AND BIODIVERSITY

Natura 2000 is an EU-wide network of nature preservation areas which currently cover 18% of the Union’s land area. The network of protected areas is particularly dense in three of the beneficiary states – Bulgaria, Slovenia and Spain.

A first large-scale nature assessment compiled by the EU in 2009 found that only 17% of protected habitats and species have a good conservation status. A more integrated ecosystem-management approach is needed as well as increased levels of awareness on the value of biodiversity.

WASTE AND RECYCLING

Despite great improvements in levels of waste recycling across European countries in recent decades, many of the EEA and Norway Grants beneficiary states still lag far behind the average. According to Eurostat figures (2009), only a minor percentage of municipal waste was recycled in Latvia, Slovakia (both 8%), Lithuania, Malta, Czech Republic (all 4%) and Romania (1%), while in Bulgaria recycling remained non-existent.

Similarly, while the average rate of waste ending up in landfills was 40%, Bulgaria, Romania, Malta, Lithuania and Latvia emptied between 90-100% of their municipal waste into landfills.

The EEA and Norway Grants are tailored to combat these outlined disparities and vulnerabilities by:

- › targeting specific gaps and needs
- › promoting exchange of skills and knowledge
- › complementing wider EU funding and policy efforts
- › providing capacity-building assistance at local, regional and national levels

LEARNING FROM LESSONS

The EEA and Norway Grants work in a constantly evolving, dynamic environment. Success cannot be taken for granted. There is a continuous need to improve programmes and projects, and further develop effective controls and robust assessment mechanisms.

Input from evaluations, reviews and consultations, as well as past experience, have been taken into consideration in defining the overarching framework and programmes under the EEA and Norway Grants 2009-2014 (see list of evaluations and reviews in Annex II.3). Consultations on the regulatory framework, as well as the proposed programme areas, were held with the beneficiary states in 2010 and 2011.

EFFICIENCY AND IMPLEMENTATION

The mid-term evaluation carried out in 2008 showed that the funding was well received by beneficiaries and in many places filled a gap in funding¹. The implementation rate was high and the Grants had high visibility in the beneficiary states.

Building on this past experience, it is assumed that the high demand and high implementation rate will continue. However, the evaluation also pointed to a number of areas for improvement. These key findings and recommendations were taken on board in the planning of the current funding round 2009-2014.

NEW PROGRAMME APPROACH

To ensure a more strategic and sustainable impact, a programme approach has been introduced. This is in line with the recommendations in the mid-term evaluation.

All funding in the 2009-2014 period is now channelled through multi-annual programmes. Around 135 programmes are expected. All are negotiated with each beneficiary state. Programmes with clear objectives are being established which will contribute to the overall aims of the EEA and Norway Grants of reducing social and economic disparities and strengthening bilateral relations. The programmes will be aligned with national needs and strategies, and wider EU and donor-state priorities. Tailoring the programmes specifically to local needs, and securing alignment with other policies and funds should help lever investment to maximum effect.



Twelve intensive care units are now in place in nine Czech cities to increase the survival rate of newborns.

Accessible funding

The EEA and Norway Grants 2004-2009 were enthusiastically welcomed by the beneficiaries, as clearly demonstrated by the high levels of in-country demand. According to the mid-term evaluation, the grant schemes ensured support to a number of beneficiaries and projects traditionally perceived as too small to obtain financing, and where there were financing gaps. In particular, the funding for civil society through the NGO Funds was successful and well received.

The low grant threshold also made funding available for smaller-scale interventions appropriate for local and often poorer municipalities. The relatively flexible eligibility rules allowed for projects combining infrastructure investments and soft measures. Most other available funding streams cover only one or the other. Grants were distributed to a wide range of organisations, including national and local authorities, educational and research institutions, civil society organisations, private and public enterprises, and public-private partnerships.

¹ Mid-term evaluation of the EEA Grants carried out by PricewaterhouseCoopers (2008)

High implementation rate

- › By the commitment deadline of 30 April 2009, Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway had awarded all the available funding to 1 250 projects, programmes and funds in the beneficiary states..
- › By the implementation deadline for these projects on 30 April 2011, 89% (1 106 projects) were completed; 109 projects were given a one-year extension.
- › By 30 April 2012, an estimated 97% of the projects will have been concluded – a high rate when compared to other international funding schemes.
- › Considerable variations exist between the countries. Whilst Poland is expected to complete 99.5% of its projects, one-quarter of the Greek projects were withdrawn due to the inability to launch in time to complete within existing deadlines.
- › Combined, the beneficiary countries are expected to absorb 90% of the original commitments from Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway. Amounts not absorbed are mainly due to savings and down-scaling in projects, withdrawn and delayed projects, reimbursed funds and the transfer of some of the delayed projects to the 2009-2014 funding period.

CHANGED MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

During the 2004-2009 funding period, country-level implementation was carried out by a designated Focal Point (FP). Most of the FPs sit within relevant ministries or public agencies in the beneficiary states, which also manage other European funding schemes.

Decisions on funding for each project prioritised by the FPs were made by the donor states, based on recommendations from the Financial Mechanism Office (FMO). The FMO, which is affiliated to the European Free Trade Association (EFTA), operates as the day-to-day secretariat for the Grants.

Following open calls for project proposals, the FPs reviewed and shortlisted the best project applications. These were then systematically appraised by the FMO before the donor states made a decision on each application. In some countries, the review process carried out by the FP resembled a full appraisal conducted at donor level. This two-step process proved time consuming and costly in some instances.

In the 2009-2014 funding period, the beneficiary states are tasked with setting up high-quality programmes with clear objectives (read more in Part 3).

MORE STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS

An important aspect of the 2009-2014 funding round concerns the many opportunities afforded under the Grants for strengthening bilateral cooperation. To enhance partnership and exchange, many programmes now involve cooperation between public authorities in the donor and beneficiary states at the programme level. The Council of Europe is also to participate in EEA and Norway Grants programmes related to human rights, democracy and the rule of law (read more in Part 3).

More than 70 programmes will be carried out in partnership between a donor-state entity and a programme operator in the beneficiary state. In these, the national operators of the programmes in the beneficiary state cooperate with one or several public entities from Iceland, Liechtenstein or Norway in programme development and implementation. The programme partner plays an advisory role and helps facilitate bilateral partnership projects (see list of donor programme partners in Annex III.1).

TRANSPARENCY AND CONTROL

The successes that have been achieved by the Grants would not have been so marked were it not for the existence of properly functioning control systems. The EEA and Norway Grants are contributions from public resources in the donor states, with co-financing from the beneficiary states. Mechanisms are in place to ensure that all funding is safeguarded and used in line with rules and regulations set out for the grants. Zero tolerance to corruption, graft and mismanagement has always been a guiding principle of the Grants.

Regular control and monitoring of projects at both national level and by the FMO may unveil potential irregularities. Any complaints and suspected or revealed irregularities may be submitted to the FMO, FPs or to the donor states. While FPs actively followed up on a number of suspected irregularities in the beneficiary states in the previous funding round, others have been reported to and followed up by the FMO. Of the irregularities sanctioned, most are the result of errors which can be corrected.

Fighting corruption

“With this partnership we want to support the efforts of all parties involved in the EEA and Norway Grants to prevent incidences of corruption.”

Anja Osterhaus, Acting Director for TI in Europe and Central Asia.

In July 2011, Transparency International (TI) and the EEA and Norway Grants entered into an agreement to draw on TI's experience and address corruption risks in the implementation of the grant schemes.

TI is a global network that brings together government, civil society and business to promote transparency and fight corruption. While all beneficiary countries have committed to applying the highest degree of transparency and accountability in the implementation of the grants, corruption remains an obstacle to achieving much needed progress in several beneficiary states. TI publishes an annual 'International Corruption Perceptions Index' which ranks countries in terms of perceptions of the level of public-sector corruption. In the 2010 Index, the 15 beneficiary states ranked from 26 (Estonia) to 73 (Bulgaria) in the world (see Table 1.2 in Annex I).

What will TI do?

- › Assess the overall integrity systems in beneficiary states: this will be a key information source for assessing the corruption risks within relevant sectors and institutions in the countries.
- › Develop a methodology for risk assessment affecting the Grants which can be applied to all beneficiary states.
- › Provide information about existing tools and solutions to address corruption risks in management, including procurement, which is a high-risk area for corrupt practices.
- › Conduct pilot projects for Integrity Pacts, a tool aimed at preventing corruption in public contracting.
- › Contribute to annual seminars on transparency and good governance in the EEA and Norway Grants.

In the 2009-2014 funding period, much of the management and control of the Grants has been devolved to authorities in the beneficiary states. FPs will bear the main responsibility for following up on programmes, while Programme Operators will control projects. The FMO will, on behalf of the donor states, also monitor and control the programmes. In addition, the FMO will receive regular reports on any irregularities and how they are being followed up. The donor states have the right to follow up and investigate when and if deemed necessary.

MANAGING FOR RESULTS

Capturing the impact and results of the funding is important for transparency and accountability, and critical to its ongoing success. Better knowledge about results offers the opportunity to find out what works and what does not – and hence improves the effectiveness of the funding.

In the 2009-2014 funding period, both the beneficiary and donor states are committed to managing for results. A 'results framework' – setting out defined performance indicators, baseline data and targets – is being put in place. This will serve as a platform for tracking achievements and results, as well as facilitating:

- › Consistency between strategic planning and operational planning
- › Performance monitoring and assessment at all levels
- › Evaluation
- › Reporting, information and learning
- › Communication

SUPPORT BY COUNTRY



Iceland

3 donor states

15 beneficiary states

Gross allocations for all countries

■ 2004-2009: €1.31 billion

EEA Grants: €672 million

Norway Grants: €635 million

● 2009-2014: €1.79 billion

EEA Grants: €988.5 million

Norway Grants: €800 million

Spain

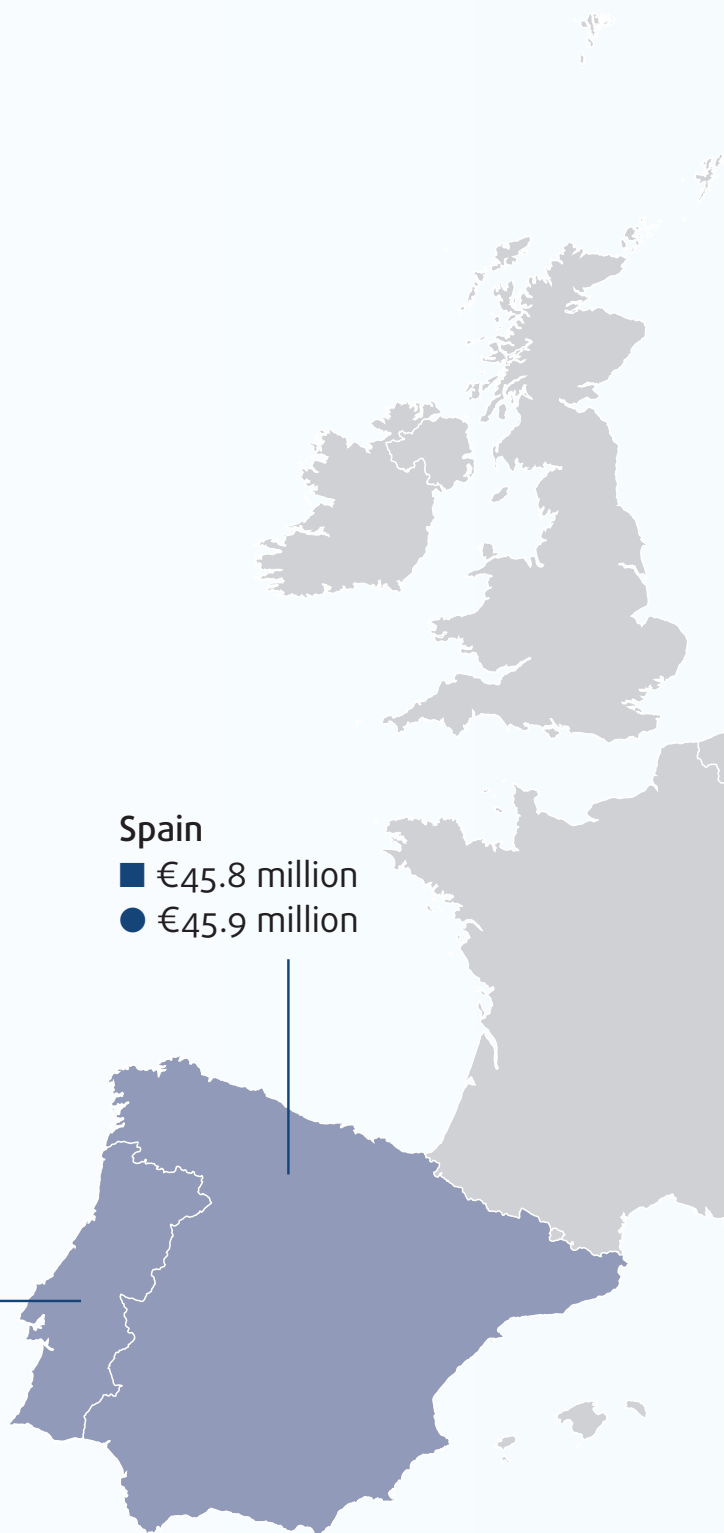
■ €45.8 million

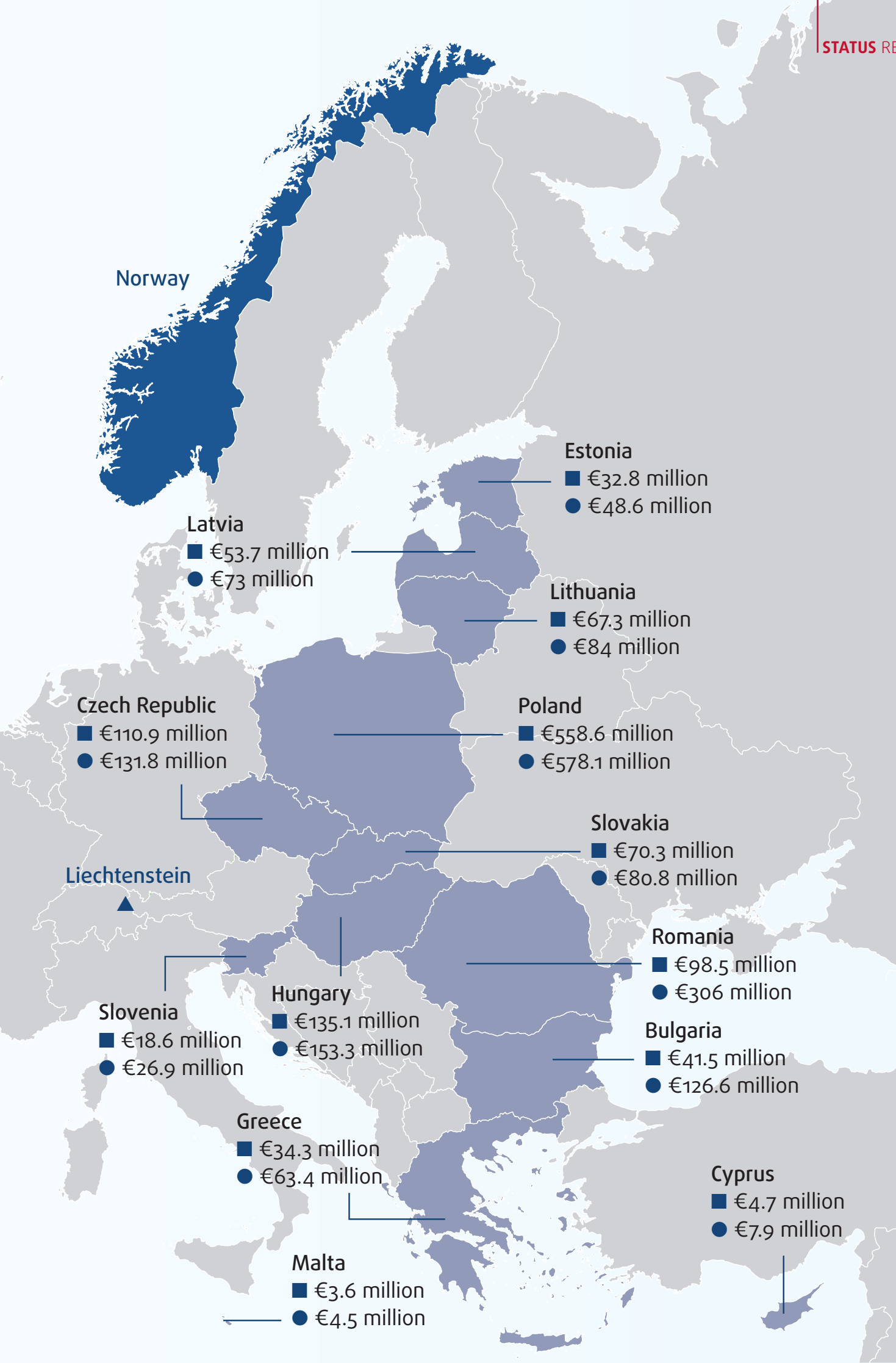
● €45.9 million

Portugal

■ €31.3 million

● €58 million





PART 2: RESULTS 2004-2009

The EEA and Norway Grants awarded €1.3 billion in grant support to the 15 beneficiary states of Central and Southern Europe.

In this chapter, you will read about some of the results and examples of successful projects. This provides an illustration of the wealth of activities that have been supported, and an insight into the widespread cooperation between organisations in the beneficiary and donor states.

As well as making a difference on the ground, you will also see how the support fits into the bigger picture – responding to ongoing challenges in the beneficiary states and contributing to wider European goals and priorities.



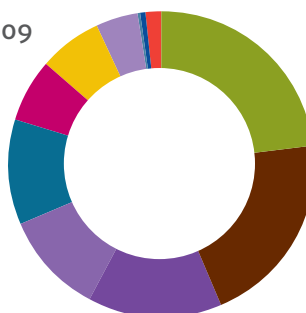
HIGHLIGHTS

All available funding was committed in all countries.

- › The principles of gender equality, good governance and sustainable development underpinned all supported projects.
- › Bilateral partnership projects were encouraged and more than one in five of the projects had partners in the donor states, mainly in Norway.
- › One-quarter of the funding was spent on environmental projects. The largest part of this funding was focused on energy efficiency and renewable energy in public buildings, and cutting emissions of CO₂ and other pollutants.
- › NGO Funds secured vital support to civil society, particularly in areas such as advocacy and social inclusion.
- › Research projects provided valuable insights, especially in the field of environment, and proved a catalyst for bilateral cooperation between donor and beneficiary countries.
- › Refurbishment of hospitals, new technology and training of medical staff made high-quality health services more accessible.
- › A large number of key landmarks, historical buildings and other cultural heritage sites were restored and made accessible for local communities and tourists.
- › Schengen and the judiciary projects strengthened general law enforcement in the beneficiary states and improved prison conditions through rehabilitation programmes for inmates and training for staff.
- › Scholarship Funds enhanced student and teacher mobility between donor and beneficiary countries, and strengthened institutional capacity, improved skills and triggered mutual learning.

NET ALLOCATION

2004-2009



Environment 344
€275.2 million

Cultural heritage 220
€244.1 million

Health and childcare 233
€171 million

Human resource development 163
€127.6 million

Schengen and Judiciary 59
€132.5 million

Civil society 17
€77.4 million

Academic research 93
€80.3 million

Regional policy and cross-border 57
€52.6 million

Acquis communautaire 7
€3.9 million

Seed money funds 9
€5 million

Technical assistance 13
€19.6 million

Total: 1 215 projects - €1 189.4 million

ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Reducing greenhouse gas emissions, curbing pollution and preserving a healthy environment are policy priorities for Europe. Driving green growth and transforming the way we produce and consume will provide not only for a healthier environment, but also boost prosperity and social cohesion. It is within this overall context where the EEA and Norway Grants strive to make a difference.

ACTION ON THE ENVIRONMENT

All EEA countries are committed to fighting climate change. Climate action is also at the heart of the EU's sustainable growth strategy – Europe 2020¹. It includes targets to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 20% as compared to 1990 levels, increase the share of renewables in energy consumption to 20%, and move towards a 20% increase in energy efficiency by 2020. According to a 2010 pan-European report, the EU is making progress towards these goals². However, greater efforts are required for Europe to continue fighting climate change, as well as adapting to ongoing and expected climate change impacts.

All European countries are also committed to halting biodiversity loss, but the steady decline continues. Within the EU, around one in four species is currently threatened with extinction and 88% of fish stocks are overfished. Ecosystems across Europe are being degraded, and efforts must be stepped up if plans for halting biodiversity loss by 2020 are to live up to the rhetoric³. But policy alone cannot halt or reverse environmental trends. Individual citizens all have a role to play. Increasing awareness of climate change and biodiversity loss is an ongoing challenge and crucial to ensuring political will for action.



Improved thermal insulation in the Busko district in Poland has helped increase the energy efficiency of seven educational institutions.

1 'Europe 2020: A European strategy for smart, sustainable and inclusive growth' COM(2010) 2020

2 'The European environment – state and outlook 2010': European Environment Agency

3 'An EU biodiversity strategy to 2020' COM(2011) 244 final

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS 2004-2009

One-quarter of the total contribution between 2004 and 2009 – €275 million – was spent on environmental protection, environmental research and sustainable development projects. Most of the funding was targeted at measures to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Investments were also made to reduce water pollution, improve waste management, strengthen environmental management and protect biodiversity. An additional €40 million was channelled to environmental projects supported under the research funds and NGO funds.

ENERGY EFFICIENCY AND RENEWABLES

One of the most efficient and cost-effective ways of reducing greenhouse gas emissions is by making buildings more energy efficient. In this respect, improvements to 300 public buildings in Poland, including nursery and primary schools, hospitals and other municipal buildings, proved to be one of the most focused investments. Renovation works included insulating walls, ceilings and roofs, replacing windows and doors, as well as upgrading the heating systems, to include renewable energy sources. Estimated energy savings in these buildings are 50%, lowering not only the municipal energy bills but also annual CO₂ emissions by 52 000 tonnes and coal consumption by 20 000 metric tonnes.⁴

Projects targeted towards cutting CO₂ emissions across all countries have reduced annual emissions by 173 000 tonnes overall and increased renewable energy production (heat and electricity) by 40 500 MWh/year⁵. The largest reductions in CO₂ emissions are found in Estonia and Poland, followed by Latvia.

BETTER WATER MANAGEMENT AND FLOOD PROTECTION

Investments in improved treatment of sewage reduced groundwater contamination and improved the quality of drinking water in Bulgaria, Poland, Slovakia and Romania. New or improved municipal sewage-treatment systems increased the capacity of wastewater treatment for an estimated 110 700 people⁶. Grants also financed flood-protection infrastructure in Slovakia, namely in the municipalities of Nižný Slavkov and Lipany and the town of Myjava. The Slovak regions of Košice and Prešov received support to cooperate in creating a detailed hydrological mapping of flood threats. To protect ecosystems and public health, flood prevention was also introduced at

the municipal landfill in the Romanian city of Piatra Neamt.

PROTECTING BIODIVERSITY

Better environmental management is needed to protect biodiversity. Funding covered 112 new nature-protection management plans, 129 new environmental-monitoring systems, expanding the Natura 2000 network (see box below), new national biodiversity databases, and recovery programmes for endangered wildlife. According to the 'Review of biodiversity support'⁷, investments matched both national and international biodiversity objectives and ensured key data that will help protect species and habitats. The review also highlighted the fact that the projects will have long-term positive impacts.

Natura 2000

Natura 2000 is an EU-wide network of nature protection areas established under the 1992 Habitats Directive. The aim of the network is to assure the long-term survival of Europe's most valuable and threatened species and habitats. It comprises Special Areas of Conservation (SAC) and Special Protection Areas (SPAs) designated by EU member states.

BILATERAL COOPERATION

Eighty-six environmental and sustainable development projects and 33 environmental research projects were carried out in cooperation with entities from Iceland or Norway. Most of these partnership projects focused on sustainable development and energy efficiency and renewable energy. Participants included both private and public entities in the field of nature management, pollution control, water management and renewable energy, as well as municipalities, universities and research institutions.

A notable example was the cooperation between the Polish Chief Inspectorate for Environmental Protection and the Norwegian Climate and Pollution Agency that will continue under the EEA Grants 2009-2014. A modern and efficient monitoring system is now in place in Poland, which distinguishes between more and less pollution-intensive industries when companies are selected for inspection.

In addition, considerable cooperation has taken place in projects supported under environmental and research funds.

⁴ 'Review of energy saving and renewable energy projects in Poland' by Scanteam and PROEKO, January 2009

⁵ 'Review of support to greenhouse gas reductions' by COWI A/S, March 2010

⁶ Population equivalent or unit per capita loading, (PE)

⁷ 'Review of biodiversity support' by PITJJA svetovanje d.o.o, May 2010

IN FOCUS: WASTE RECYCLING AND POLLUTION PREVENTION

The EEA and Norway Grants invested in waste-management projects in Bulgaria, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Poland, Romania and Slovakia. The €14.5-million support increased recycling rates, raised standards in existing landfills, and enabled industry to use waste as a resource.

EUROPEAN DIFFERENCES

Recycling benefits the economy and reduces the need for landfills which pose environmental threats due to emissions from decaying organic material and water that may pollute groundwater.

In 2009, one-quarter of all municipal waste in the EU was recycled and close to one-fifth was composted⁸. However, these overall averages hide the fact that many Eastern European countries still lag far behind. In seven EU member states, less than 10% of municipal waste was recycled, while recycling remained non-existent in Bulgaria and only minor percentages were recycled in Romania, the Czech Republic, Lithuania and Slovakia. Similarly, while the rate of waste ending up in landfills was, on average, 40%, Bulgaria, Romania, Malta, Lithuania and Latvia emptied between 90-100% of their municipal waste into landfills.

REDUCE, REUSE AND RECYCLE

Campaigns to encourage awareness of recycling and other actions to improve waste management were carried out in the municipality of Omurtag in Bulgaria, the cities of Krakow, Sanok and Warsaw and the municipality of Zabno in Poland, and in the Slovakian regions of Košice and Prešov.

The link between efficient resource use and economic efficiency was demonstrated most clearly in Estonia and Slovakia. Investments made at an Estonian cement plant and in a municipal energy company enabled these companies to use waste for energy production. In Slovakia, researchers demonstrated how plastic waste from electrical and electronic equipment could be recycled into environmentally friendly building material.

BATTERY RECYCLING

While the use of batteries in itself does not pose a threat to the environment, batteries contain a number of hazardous heavy metals and toxic chemicals which make their disposal potentially harmful to soils and water. In Estonia, Latvia and Poland, funding made battery recycling more efficient and environmentally friendly. Thanks to 44 new battery collection points across the country, Poland is hoping to see recycled battery scrap increase by 120 000 tonnes. Technology upgrades at one of Estonia's battery recycling plants have reduced pollution, including the amount of salts discharged into the Baltic Sea and emissions of sulphur into the air. In neighbouring Latvia, the country's leading recycling facility also installed a sorting and recycling facility for electric and electronic waste.



With support from Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway, the organisation Friends of the Earth taught more than 600 school children in Eastern Slovakia how to recycle.

PROJECT EXAMPLES

WASTE AND BIOFUELS CREATE ENERGY IN ESTONIA

Estonia significantly reduced its carbon dioxide emissions thanks to two highly efficient projects. In Kunda, the local cement plant now burns waste, while the municipal energy company in Lihula uses biofuels. The shift away from oil-shale reduced emissions in both towns.

For a long time, the town of Kunda, on Estonia's northern coast, has been battling high levels of pollution, mainly as the result of dust from the local cement plant. As with most cement production in Estonia, the plant was previously heavily dependent on the combustion of oil-shale, a low-grade fuel known for its polluting properties. However, the plant, owned by AS Kunda Nordic Tsement, has been investing in more environment-friendly technologies for more than a decade. The EEA Grants contributed to the company's most recent investment. The plant now burns waste from Kunda and the town's surrounding region in its cement kilns instead of traditional fuels. As a result, each year 85 000 tonnes less waste ends up in local landfills. The use of waste replaces 134 000 tonnes of oil-shale, which reduces yearly CO₂ emissions by 70 000 tonnes. Combined with a decline in production due to the financial crisis, the cement plant reports having cut its yearly CO₂ emissions by 280 000 tonnes.

In Lihula, in central Estonia, a shift from oil-shale to biofuels reduced annual CO₂ emissions from 1 350 tonnes to an estimated 27 tonnes – just 2% of previous emissions. Although the export of reeds is economically important to the area, it is a significant pollutant, with up to 80% of the original dry grass left unused and having to be burned. EEA funding supported a project by the municipal heating company to convert energy production from oil-shale to straw and wood, using leftover straw as a biofuel.

FACT BOX

Project promoters: AS Kunda
Nordic Tsement
EEA Grants: €475 416
OÜ Lihula Soojus:
EEA Grants: €378 550



Shifting from oil-shale to biofuels cut air pollution in Lihula, Estonia.

COOPERATION: OCEAN MONITORING IN PORTUGAL

During a three-year research project, a Norwegian-Portuguese research team set up a system for real-time monitoring and forecasting of the oceanographic and meteorological conditions affecting offshore Nazaré, a fishing village off the west coast of Portugal. The Nazaré submarine canyon, where the research buoys are deployed, is one of the largest in the world. A network of measuring platforms is now installed both at sea and on the coast to transmit data on waves, water temperature and quality, and wind and atmospheric parameters. In addition, an oil-spill detection sensor now sends an alert in case of offshore pollution.

As well as providing data to evaluate climate change more accurately, the monitoring helps local and national authorities to better define risk-mitigation strategies and handle potential accidents at sea. Both the fisheries and the tourism sectors can use this information to plan their activities and develop their business. The Instituto Hidrográfico, a Portuguese Navy research institute, carried out the project in cooperation with SINTEF, a Norwegian research organisation which was responsible for developing forecasting tools and contributed to the implementation of the system for forecasting oil spills. The research equipment was provided by the Norwegian company OCEANOR.

FACT BOX

Project promoter: Instituto Hidrográfico (Portugal)
Partners: SINTEF Group (Norway) and the Nazaré Town Hall (Portugal)
EEA Grants: €738 921



Research buoys deployed offshore from Nazaré to forecast marine conditions more accurately.

CIVIL SOCIETY

With the EEA and Norway Grants, Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway contribute to creating a more inclusive, fair and prosperous Europe. Nowhere is this support more vital than in the area of civil society – a cornerstone of any fair and transparent democracy.

EMPOWERING NGOS TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE

A vibrant civic sphere – most clearly embodied by the active participation of NGOs in many areas of political, social and economic life – provides an arena to bring about change and broaden social consensus. NGOs in the beneficiary countries have been at the forefront of issues facing their societies – from pushing for strengthened public accountability and greater citizen participation in public life, to tackling discrimination, social exclusion and environmental degradation.

VITAL SUPPORT IN CHALLENGING TIMES

Yet, although great strides have been made, NGOs in Central and Southern Europe continue to face many constraints and need continued support to

firmly anchor their role in society¹. In recent years, the region's NGO community has been hard hit by the global economic downturn. Other trends, such as declining electoral participation, also present a challenge. On average, voter turnout in the newer EU member states has fallen by 4.8% per election since they began to be held after 1990².

Likewise, levels of civic activism and volunteering are comparatively low in some of these countries, where the legacy of state-sponsored 'voluntary' activities has arguably tainted the appeal of organised volunteering.

Yet there are positive developments. From a fragile starting point, where the very legitimacy of the sector was called into question, civic involvement is progressively being encouraged in political processes. Political changes in some countries have opened up new opportunities for NGOs and specific laws on volunteering have been introduced in some places.

It is within this context where the NGO Funds have been working, making the EEA and Norway Grants one of the prime funding schemes for civil society in Central and Southern Europe. The Funds have not only helped to plug a gap as public funding cuts start to bite and contributions from other international donors dry up, but have also supported capacity-building and facilitated exchange.

REFLECTING WIDER COMMITMENTS

The targeted support from the NGO Funds also fits into a wider context, reflecting many European pledges, such as the Lisbon Treaty³ which recognises the importance of an "open, transparent and regular dialogue with civil society", and the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights which upholds the right of citizens "to form associations to pursue a common purpose". Such support also underlines the importance given to active citizenship by the donor states – which boast robust NGO sectors.



The organisation Oživení was awarded funding by the Czech NGO Fund to promote walking and cycling as an alternative mode of transport.

1 2009 NGO Sustainability Index for Central and Eastern Europe and Eurasia, USAID, June 2010

2 The Everyday Democracy Index 31 - Decline in electoral turnout, 1978-2007: "In the 15 'old' European (pre-2004 EU accession) countries, turnout has fallen by an average of 1.2 per cent per election over the last 30 years, while in the central and east European countries that joined the EU after 2004, turnouts have both been lower on average (by almost 12 per cent) and have fallen more quickly, by an average of 4.8 per cent per election since they began to be held after 1990."

3 Treaty on European Union (Article 11)

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS 2004-2009

The NGO Funds are widely recognised as one of the success stories of the EEA and Norway Grants. They have yielded important achievements not only in terms of individual initiatives, but also in tackling pressing issues at a broader collective level in each country. According to a comprehensive external evaluation carried out in 2010, the Funds provided a “well-managed, accessible and visible contribution” to the NGO sector in Central and Southern Europe⁴.

It was not only the financial support which has benefited the sector, but also recognition of its role in supporting social justice and providing key services. In particular, the evaluation points to how the support helped to strengthen capacity in advocacy and watchdog activities where domestic and EU-funding opportunities are often scarce, and in increasing civic engagement and volunteerism.

Between 2004 and 2009, the EEA Grants and Norway Grants channelled €185 million to the NGO sector, of which €85 million through 19 NGO Funds in 12 beneficiary states⁵.

DELIVERING ON PRIORITIES

The NGO Funds targeted issues that are high on political agendas across the board. More than 1 000 of the sub-projects centred on promoting democracy, human rights, anti-discrimination and inclusion of disadvantaged groups, including Europe’s Roma communities. Other supported areas included grass-roots environmental initiatives, health and childcare, and cultural heritage.

ENABLING INNOVATION

The Funds supported a range of innovative services which have helped to strengthen the sector. Sub-projects were funded that break into new areas for some countries, such as gay rights in Portugal and Lithuania, and other issues affecting marginalised groups. Support helped to provide new services, such as a new model for social services in Bulgaria to support patients with oncological diseases.

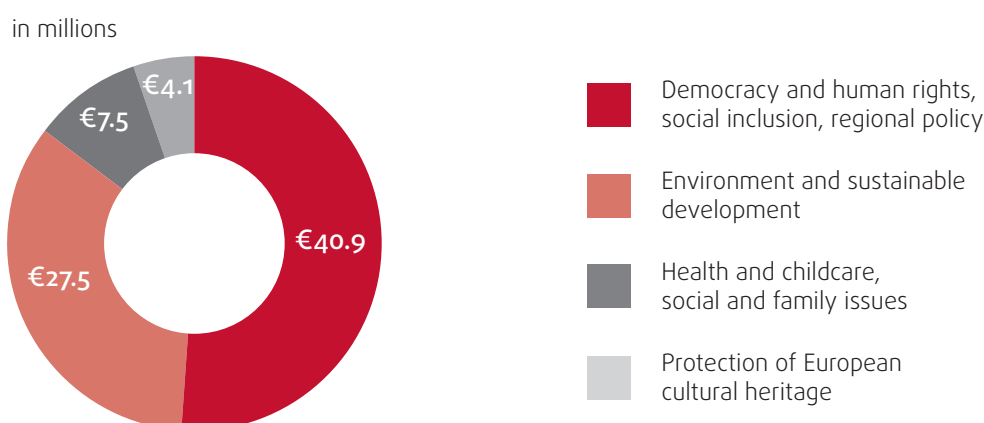
BUILDING CAPACITY

The Funds boosted the capacities of the sector. By enhancing skills in project development, 40% of beneficiaries said they were then better able to obtain funds from other sources. The Funds were considered relatively easy to access and the low grant threshold made funding available for smaller-scale interventions. The system of advance payments also enabled longer-term planning – often one of the biggest challenges facing smaller NGOs.

FACILITATING COOPERATION

The Funds proved effective in establishing cooperation mechanisms, such as coalition building with the public sector, as well as in developing partnerships between donor and beneficiary state entities. With civil society very active in the donor states, NGOs from these countries were able to contribute using their considerable experience. Over 100 sub-projects with bilateral partnerships in the donor states were implemented under the NGO Funds, mostly in Poland, Slovenia and Cyprus.

FIGURE 1: DISTRIBUTION OF NGO FUNDS TO PROJECTS



⁴ ‘Evaluation of EEA and Norway Grants – NGO Funds’ by PITIJA svetovanje d.o.o., November 2010

⁵ Bulgaria, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia and Slovenia



Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway provided support to the H4C in the buffer zone in Cyprus which was inaugurated in May 2011.

IN FOCUS: SUPPORTING CIVIL SOCIETY IN CYPRUS

With a third of the national allocation, the €1.5 million Cypriot NGO Fund was proportionally the largest supported by the EEA and Norway Grants 2004-2009. A key feature of the Fund was the encouragement of bicomunal cooperation. The Fund also backed projects targeting children, youth, health and childcare services.

“Engaging young people from both communities is vital for long-term dialogue, understanding and cooperation on this island.”

Norway’s Ambassador to Cyprus, Sverre Stub

Results from the projects show how this Fund has been very successful in promoting grass-roots cooperation between the two communities, as well as strengthening the capacity of NGOs in Cyprus. Not only were 27% of all projects implemented in cooperation with an NGO from Norway or Iceland, but over 40% of the projects were joint initiatives between Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot NGOs – greatly exceeding the 20% target established at the outset.

Funded activities – such as support for youth sports and cultural centres, campaigns to encourage political participation, and for organisations promoting youth entrepreneurship – engaged young people from both communities. This has been a crucial step in the ongoing process to encourage mutual understanding.

HOME FOR COOPERATION IN THE BUFFER ZONE

Beyond the extensive support to civil society under the NGO Fund, €750 000 of the EEA and Norway Grants was awarded to the Association for Historical Dialogue and Research (AHDR) to establish the Home for Cooperation (H4C) in the UN buffer zone in Nicosia, Cyprus.

The H4C was inaugurated on 6 May 2011 in the presence of the Greek Cypriot leader, Demetris Christofias and the Turkish Cypriot leader, Derviş Eroğlu. It is the first and only bi-communal activity centre in Cyprus, providing facilities for hosting conferences and exhibitions, and also housing a library, an archive, offices for various NGOs and a café.

FACT BOX

Project promoter: The Association for Historical Dialogue and Research

EEA and Norway Grants: €750 000

The AHDR brings together history teachers and researchers from the two communities. It aims to promote peace, stability and democracy through dialogue and critical thinking in research and teaching. Through the H4C, the AHDR wants to encourage Cypriots to demonstrate the benefits of coming together across the existing divide and hopes it will become a symbol of cooperation on the island.

PROJECT EXAMPLES

ADVOCACY AND LEGAL ADVISORY CENTRE IN SLOVAKIA: TACKLING CORRUPTION

For many years, Transparency International Slovakia (TIS) has been informing the public on how to use available legal instruments not only to identify various forms of corruption, but also to address them effectively. Grant funding supported the development of an Advocacy and Legal Advisory Centre set up by TIS to provide online legal assistance to the public. The project also included the establishment of a web-based electronic processing centre for submitting corruption complaints, and an investigation team.

“The corruption complaints submitted over the internet covered not only criminal corruption, but also broader social issues,” said Ivan Mjartan, assistant at the Anti-Corruption Legal Advisory Centre.

FACT BOX

Project promoter: Transparency International Slovakia
Support from NGO Fund: €58 028



Tackling corruption complaints in Slovakia.

ASSESSING ROMA ACCESS TO PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES IN ROMANIA

Improving Roma people’s access to public health services is an important element of both national and European Roma policies. According to the Roma Centre for Health Policies (SASTIPEN), Roma communities continue to face a number of barriers in accessing health-care services.

However, a lack of relevant data has always been a problem. To address the gap, this sub-project carried out an evaluation of the implementation of public policies targeting the improvement of Roma access to health services. It was carried out in 45 local Roma communities from three different regions (North-East, North-West and South-Muntenia). The outcome formed the basis for policy recommendations which are gradually being embedded in local strategic actions and Roma health-care policy provision.

FACT BOX

Project promoter: Roma Centre for Health Policies - SASTIPEN
Partner: Institute for Public Health, Bucharest
Support from NGO Fund: €73 488



NGO Funds provided support to improve Roma access to public health.

A snapshot of projects under the NGO Funds across the countries

- › Increased support for new models of social services and cancer patient care in **Bulgaria**
- › Promotion of clearer and fairer policy on child adoption and custody in the increasingly multicultural society in **Cyprus**
- › Support for an NGO coalition campaign to raise awareness on renewable energy in the **Czech Republic**
- › NGO advocacy skills strengthened in **Estonia**
- › National advocacy network created on mental health in **Hungary**
- › Support for monitoring schemes to protect birdlife in designated Important Bird Areas (IBAs) in **Latvia**
- › Increased awareness and better programmes to support children with diabetes in **Lithuania**
- › Campaigns developed to encourage voters to engage in European elections in **Poland**
- › Public funding support for lesbian/gay/bisexual/transgender associations in **Portugal** and **Lithuania**
- › Volunteering encouraged through creation of national volunteering platforms in **Romania**
- › Contribution to enforcement by judges of anti-discrimination legislation through case collection in **Slovakia**
- › Energy-saving practices introduced in **Slovenia** (census of 300 households rolled out to community-wide initiatives)

ACADEMIC RESEARCH

Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway share ambitions with EU countries for strengthening Europe's research base and increasing mobility for researchers. They have also been active contributors and participants in the European Union's research programmes for many years.

STEPPING UP INVESTMENT

To tackle the many challenges facing our economies and societies today – increasing global competition, climate change, energy and resource scarcity, and health care for an ageing population – Europe needs to step up investment in research and development (R&D) and innovation. Yet, unsatisfactory framework conditions, such as the lack of public and private investment, limited collaboration between researchers, costly patenting, and fragmentation of efforts, are squeezing Europe's innovation capacity.

The EU has pledged to increase investment into R&D to 3% of GDP by 2020¹. Spending currently sits at below 2%, which means that Europe is lagging behind

the US and Japan, as well as more recent competitors like South Korea². There are also significant disparities between European countries and regions, with all of the EEA and Norway Grants' beneficiary states well below the 3% target (Annex I Table 1.1). Plugging this deficit, and creating an environment that encourages high-quality research and technological development, is crucial to keep pace with global competition and drive forward growth in Europe.

Although funding for research under the grant schemes is limited compared to EU funding sources such as the large-scale Seventh Research Framework Programme (worth some €50 billion between 2007 and 2013), it has provided complementary support and helped broker mutually beneficial partnerships.



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Dr Iwona Pilecka – a researcher in molecular biology – was able to return to Poland to develop new research thanks to EEA Grant support from the Homing Programme.

¹ 'Europe 2020: A European strategy for smart, sustainable and inclusive growth' – COM(2010) 2020

² Eurostat: Gross domestic expenditure on R&D (% share of GDP) 2008

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS 2004-2009

Under the research priority, Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway awarded a total of €80 million to support 85 individual projects and eight research funds. Funding went mainly to public research institutes and universities, with some private universities and research institutes also benefiting. Norwegian research institutions were involved in three in five projects. One project had a partner from Iceland. The grants supported new patents, PhDs, and articles in scientific publications. Dedicated research funds were set up in six countries.

FILLED GAPS

Research is a long-term investment. The funding has contributed to preparing the ground for further collaboration in other projects and sectors, including EU research programmes. An evaluation of the research sector carried out in 2011 (which focused on Poland, Hungary and the Czech Republic) found that, given the scarcity of competitive funding for research, the support filled gaps and contributed to improving research quality and systems³.

It also pointed to the flexibility of the funding – seen as easier to access compared to other international sources. The draft findings highlighted that the grants are well known within the research communities, thanks to a broad dissemination of results in publications and, in some instances, through their impact upon policy.

WIDE-RANGING SUPPORT

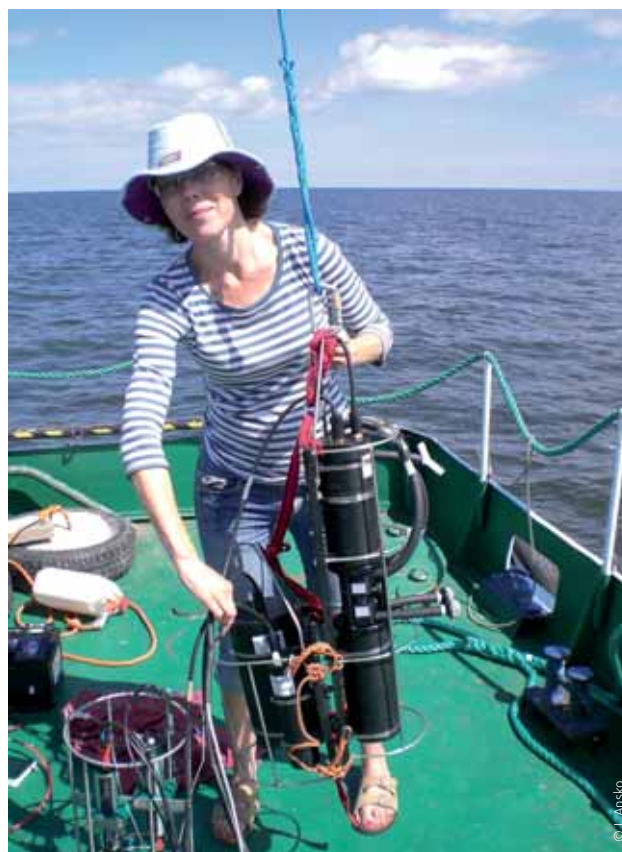
A wide range of activities were funded, mostly in the areas of health and environmental protection. For example, the Slovak University of Technology in Bratislava benefited from grant support to establish a centre to conduct research on alternative energy sources. This not only provided much-needed investment for green energy research, where domestic funding is scarce, but will also help Slovakia keep pace with meeting EU targets.

The Norway Grants backed a three-year medical research project in the Northern Great Plains region of Hungary to develop new therapies to treat patients suffering from advanced peripheral arterial disease. Occurrence of the disease – which may result in the clinical amputation of the leg – is exceptionally high in this area. A team from the University Hospital in Oslo worked on this project with the Medical and Health Science Centre at the University of Debrecen.

³ 'Evaluation of the academic research sector under the EEA/Norway Grants' by COWI (draft report August 2011)

POOLING RESOURCES

The evaluation emphasised the benefits yielded from enhanced cooperation, underlining that “the need to strengthen bilateral relations is particularly relevant to research communities”. Funds for research efforts set up in the Czech Republic, Estonia, Latvia and Poland supported close to 100 research projects with partners mainly from Norway, but also Iceland. Participants included both private and public universities and research institutes.



Improving satellite remote sensing products for large lakes in Estonia.

HARNESSING EXPERTISE

With renowned researchers in fields like energy and the environment, the donor states were able to contribute using their considerable experience, such as in the cooperation between the Czech Geological Survey and the International Research Institute of Stavanger in Norway. These two partners worked together on a major research project charting potential sites for future CO₂ capture and storage in the Czech Republic. Pooling resources has not only increased knowledge exchange and technology transfer, but also helped to internationalise research in the beneficiary states, and pave the way for link-ups in other spheres.

IN FOCUS: RESEARCH FUNDING IN POLAND

With €43 million, Poland was the largest beneficiary of research funding under the EEA and Norway Grants 2004-2009. One of the largest single contributions by the Grants was the €21.4 million allocated to the Polish-Norwegian Research Fund. The Fund supported projects primarily in the fields of environment and health research, and served as a platform for extensive cooperation.

DRAWING ON EXPERTISE

Research and science is an international endeavour, and to be successful scientists need to collaborate. Many world-class researchers and scientific institutes operate in Poland. Norway is a leading player in environmental and energy research. To draw on each other's expertise, the Fund was set up to further the collaboration between Polish and Norwegian researchers.



Polish-Norwegian Research Fund – working to improve energy efficiency.

A total of 47 institutions participated in joint projects – 28 from Poland and 19 from Norway. Several of the participating institutions have since initiated other international research projects with their Norwegian partners.

Numerous initiatives received grants under the Fund, ranging from projects looking at the impact of climate change on ecosystems in the Arctic to innovative solutions for waste-water management and modelling on biomass energy production.

REVERSING THE BRAIN DRAIN

Beyond the substantial support for the Polish-Norwegian Fund, Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway also contributed €700 000 to the 'Homing Programme'. Aiming to counteract the brain drain, the programme supported 47 postdoctoral candidates to return to undertake research in Poland.

MOBILITY AND MIGRATION

A further 39 individual projects were financed under Poland's research allocation. One notable example was a project carried out by the Centre of Migration Research (CMR) at the University of Warsaw. Using grant support of almost €0.5 million, the CMR set about developing a new methodology for migration research, working with partners from Iceland (Centre of Immigration Research) and Norway (Institute of Social Sciences and Labour Market).

Reliable population estimates are central to policy decisions around resource allocation and service delivery. However, with increasing numbers of clandestine immigrants, ascertaining accurate measurements of mobile populations is extremely challenging. The research team tested out innovative techniques to develop more reliable data.

"With more accurate data, policy-makers are now better equipped to develop more effective labour market policies. And given the success of the partnership, we intend to continue our fruitful collaboration beyond this project," said Pawel Kaczmarczyk, project coordinator.

PROJECT EXAMPLES

NORWEGIAN-HUNGARIAN RESEARCHERS JOIN FORCES ON ROBOT TECHNOLOGY

Starting as a Norwegian-Hungarian initiative, the HUNOROB project has received international acclaim for its research into robot technology. Through the project, a state-of-the-art research laboratory – unique in Hungary and among very few throughout Europe – has been established where scientists from all over the world can exchange knowledge and collaborate on developing eco-friendly robot technologies for use in the health-care sector and small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs). Following a successful first phase, the project is continuing on a global scale. Twenty of the most prestigious institutes in Japan, China, India, Korea, USA and several EU countries are now involved in HUNOROB.

“The project not only strengthens our bilateral cooperation, but also contributes to the development of cutting-edge technologies in robot technology which can be transformed into marketable results. Through this project, new horizons for future cooperation have been opened,” according to Norway’s Ambassador to Hungary, Siri Ellen Sletner.

FACT BOX

Project promoter: Computer and Automation Research Institute of Hungarian Academy of Sciences
Partners: Norwegian University of Science and Technology (NTNU) and Narvik University College (Norway)
EEA Grants: €1 434 244



The Norwegian-Hungarian HUNOROB project to develop eco-friendly robot technologies received international attention.

ENVIRONMENTALLY FRIENDLY WASTE-WATER TREATMENT

Funding from the EEA Grants financed research by Gdansk University of Technology into new methods for reducing pollution from waste-water treatment plants. Leakages from landfills and rejected water from processing sewage sludge, a toxic by-product of waste-water treatment, cause pollution that may contaminate groundwater and pose serious health risks.

In cooperation with waste-water treatment plants in northern Poland, the research team investigated opportunities for minimising the environmental impact caused by sewage treatment plants. Two test wetlands were created to determine the minimum areas of wetland required to cleanse the sewage water, which is often heavily polluted with ammonium, nitrogen and heavy metal. The researchers also developed methods for disinfecting treated municipal waste-water discharged into the surface water, and removing nitrogen compounds discharged from waste-water treatment plants. In addition, research was conducted into the possibilities of using sewage sludge as an energy source. The research results have been passed on to the participating waste-water treatment plants.

FACT BOX

Project promoter: Gdansk University of Technology, Faculty of Civil and Environmental Engineering
EEA Grants: €439 249



Reducing pollution from municipal waste water.

HEALTH AND CHILDCARE

European countries share common values on health policy. A healthy population is fundamental for economic productivity and social development, as coined in the adage 'health is wealth'. Support from the EEA and Norway Grants has helped to tackle inequalities and improve public health in the beneficiary states.



© Tomas Cernisevas

Renovation of the foster care home in Beizionys in Lithuania has helped to improve living conditions for children.

GROWING CHALLENGES

Life expectancy in Europe is increasing and many health indicators are encouraging. However, there are several growing challenges to the health of the population which require a new strategic approach. Over the next 50 years, Europe's total population will include a greater proportion of older people, whilst the actual growth in population numbers is falling.

With good health increasingly linked to individual lifestyle choices, supporting healthy ageing means promoting health throughout the lifespan and tackling inequalities regarding access to health care.

Despite a clear consensus between EU countries on core values and principles¹ which underpin Europe's health systems – i.e. a universal right to health, access to good quality care, equity and solidarity – gaps in provision remain between and within European countries. As well as uneven geographical coverage, vulnerable groups often experience unequal access to health care due to social, economic, gender and cultural factors.

These challenges also sit within the context of the financial crisis where cuts in public budgets in many countries in Central and Southern Europe may also negatively impact upon public health expenditure for years to come.

¹ Council Conclusions on Common Values and Principles in European Union Health Systems (2006/C146/01)

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS 2004-2009

Between 2004 and 2009, the EEA and Norway Grants funded health and childcare projects worth €171 million. An additional €15.5 million went to health research. To combat lifestyle diseases and promote good public health, investments were also made in awareness campaigns, screening programmes and new strategies on mental health, lifestyle-related and preventable diseases.

POSITIVE IMPACT

Preliminary findings of a draft evaluation report carried out in 2011 indicate that the Grants have had a positive impact². Almost all supported projects achieved the planned results, with some even performing beyond expectations. In particular, the findings highlight that the funding filled a gap by providing support for projects where domestic and EU funding is often scarce. The Grants are well known, thanks to a wide range of dissemination activities targeting different relevant groups, including academia, local communities and the general public.

REDUCING INEQUALITIES

Hospital renovations, training of health-care professionals and purchase of vital equipment have made high-quality health services more accessible. A considerable number of supported projects targeted marginalised groups in society and deprived geographical areas. The majority of investments were made in already-existing national structures, where the potential for continued funding is greater. Over one-fifth of the total funding for health was spent on improving access, quality and management of national health systems.

The grants funded training and development courses for 8 800 medical staff. Refurbishment of hospitals and the purchase of new technology increased the capacity for diagnosis and treatment.

IMPROVING CHILDCARE

One-third of the health funding directly targeted children. Upgraded childcare facilities, health education campaigns and new sports facilities have contributed to creating a healthier environment for thousands of children. Almost 390 play and sports facilities were either created or improved. Upgrades were made to 270 nursery and primary schools, while several countries used funding to upgrade childcare institutions. Notable examples include the renovation of a day-care centre for disabled children in Kaunas, Lithuania, and investment in three new family homes in Põltsamaa, Estonia, for SOS Children's Villages.

BILATERAL COOPERATION

Thirty-six health projects and 30 health research projects were carried out in partnership with hospitals, research institutions and health-care institutions from Iceland or Norway. Iceland's Landspítali University Hospital cooperated with Latvia's Pauls Stradiņš Clinical University Hospital to set up new computer-based solutions for vascular surgery. The Norwegian Tyrili Foundation and Hungary's Diótörés Foundation worked together to exchange expertise on health care and treatment for young, homeless drug addicts. Most of the scientific research into health was funded through the Polish-Norwegian Research Fund, which awarded funding to 13 joint Polish-Norwegian health research projects.

Health prevention and promotion in Poland

Poland received the largest grant allocation for health (€58.5 million). Support focused on prevention and health promotion, improving the quality of services by health-care institutions and increasing access to primary and specialised health care. Projects were geographically targeted on small towns and rural areas where the availability of medical services and public information is limited.

For example, in the Biala Podlaska region, which has a higher rate of still births compared to the national average, support from Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway has helped the Provincial Specialist Hospital to renovate and equip its gynecological and maternity ward – providing facilities to enable early detection of embryonic malformation and diseases in pregnant women. In addition, 2 000 women were offered hospital examinations to identify and treat those in danger of high-risk pregnancies. A similar programme was financed in the Polish province of Świętokrzyskie, where all pregnant women are now offered ultrasound examinations, and the hospital has initiated cervical cancer and mammography examinations.

² 'Evaluation of the health and childcare sector under the EEA/Norway Grants' by COWI (draft report August 2011)

IN FOCUS: FIGHTING COMMUNICABLE DISEASES IN ESTONIA

HIV infection is one of the main public health threats posed by communicable diseases in Europe. And while many consider tuberculosis an illness of the past, it remains a relatively common and sometimes deadly infectious disease in many European countries.

HIGHEST RATE IN EUROPE

Estonia has by far the highest rate of HIV in Europe. An estimated 11 000 Estonians live with HIV (of whom 4 600 are women) in a country of only 1.3 million people³. However, since Estonia declared an HIV epidemic in 2010, the number of new cases has declined alongside comprehensive national efforts to reverse the trend. Tuberculosis is also a serious public health problem in the country.

ENHANCED CAPACITY

With nearly all new HIV diagnoses occurring in the areas of Tallinn and Ida-Viru County in northern Estonia⁴, the country used the Norway Grants to strengthen its efforts at the central hospitals of West-Tallinn and East-Viru. West-Tallinn Central Hospital is the only one in the area able to treat patients with infectious diseases. With an increasing number of patients suffering from HIV/AIDS and TB, the hospital faced a pressing need to increase its capacity. Only one-quarter of the 100 beds available met the safety requirements for treating contagious diseases. With a grant from Nor-

way, the hospital upgraded its facilities and improved conditions for patients.

IMPROVED TREATMENT

East-Viru Central Hospital is situated in the region with the largest number of people living with HIV in Estonia. The hospital invested the Norway Grants into laboratory diagnostic equipment and completely refurbished its tuberculosis department. The new equipment has reduced the threat of infection for medical personnel and enabled the hospital to diagnose HIV, hepatitis B and C and other infectious diseases more efficiently, while the renovation work has ensured a safer work environment for staff and improved conditions for patients.

FACT BOX

Project promoter: West-Tallinn Central Hospital
(Norway Grants: €1 143 690)
Project promoter: East-Viru Central Hospital
(Norway Grants: €368 197)
Project promoter: University of Tartu
(Norway Grants: €769 312)

TABLE 1: HIV CONFIRMED CASES - NOTIFICATION RATE PER 100 000 POPULATION (2008)

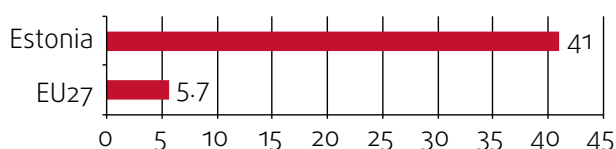
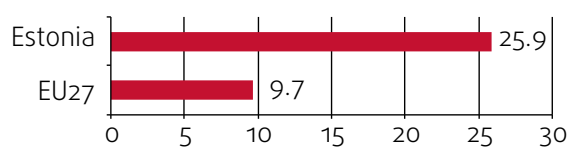


TABLE 2: TUBERCULOSIS CONFIRMED CASES - NOTIFICATION RATE PER 100 000 POPULATION (2008)



A snapshot of projects on communicable diseases across the countries

- › A free cancer and infectious diseases screening programme provided for homeless people and other disadvantaged groups in **Hungary**
- › The Thomayer University Hospital in Prague is the only hospital in the **Czech Republic** treating patients with multi-drug-resistant tuberculosis. With support from the EEA Grants, the hospital now hosts two new TB units, dedicated to the diagnosis and treatment of both multi-drug-resistant and urogenital TB
- › A national reference laboratory and communicable disease reporting system set up in **Lithuania**. Its capacity was also enhanced in the area of infectious disease prevention and epidemiological surveillance
- › In **Poland**, promotion of new prevention and treatment programmes for tuberculosis and lung diseases improved the quality and accessibility of health services in the regions of Podlaskie and Radzyn Podlaski
- › A prevention programme on safe sexual behaviour aimed at reducing HIV transmission was carried out in **Romania**

³ 'Modelling Estonia's concentrated HIV epidemic', World Health Organization (2009)

⁴ 'Evaluation of fighting HIV/AIDS in Estonia', World Health Organization (2008)

PROJECT EXAMPLES

PROMOTING HEALTHY LIFESTYLES IN HUNGARY

In Zala County in Hungary, the death rate is above the national average – largely due to cardiovascular disease. According to experts, smoking, obesity and lack of physical activity have created a situation where most diseases in the region are preventable⁵. To reverse this unhealthy trend, the ‘Multipurpose Association of Local Governments of Zalaegerszeg City and its Region’ carried out a one-year health promotion programme in 2008.

More than 3 300 residents participated in different kinds of health check-ups. Children at the region’s 37 primary schools were taught dental hygiene, spinal and preventive exercises, and participated in sport events. A separate programme specifically targeted overweight children aged 10-14 years old. In addition, 2 370 people (1 040 men, 1 330 women) were screened for malignant tumours, 158 of whom tested positive. The pre-cancerous conditions were however detected at a sufficiently early stage for these people to be offered the chance of a healthy life. Other activities carried out included training on healthy nutrition and specific ‘Health Days’ featuring sports and exercise activities.

FACT BOX

Project promoter: The Multipurpose Association of Local Governments of Zalaegerszeg City and its Region
EEA Grants: €256 091



Nordic walking for a healthier lifestyle in Hungary.

HEALTHIER FUTURE FOR SLOVENE CHILDREN

The Norway Grants provided much-needed financing for a new and radon-free nursery school in the town of Idrija.

The small Slovenian town of Idrija, wedged between mountains and the upper river basin of the Idrija river, is situated on top of one of the world’s largest mercury mines. The risk of lung cancer for the 12 000 inhabitants is estimated to be five times greater than that of the rest of Slovenia. Like many of the buildings in Idrija, the school was built with mining remains from the vast array of tunnels beneath the city, and health concerns rose when high doses of radon radiation were discovered in the building.

“For many years, the nursery staff started the day by opening all the windows to let out the radon gas that had gathered during the night,” said Maja Majnik of the Idrija municipality. Earlier attempts to prevent the gas from seeping up through the floor had been a failure, leading eventually to the municipality condemning the building. In October 2006, the municipality was awarded funding from the Norway Grants to build a brand new kindergarten, free from radon.

FACT BOX

Project promoter: The municipality of Idrija
Norway Grants: €1 343 327



Children in Idrija can now enjoy new school facilities free from cancerous pollution risks.

⁵ Detailed appraisal report of the project by the Swiss Centre for International Health (2008)

CULTURAL HERITAGE

Europeans share a rich cultural heritage resulting from centuries of creativity, migratory flows and exchanges. Support from the EEA and Norway Grants has contributed to the preservation and restoration of cultural heritage treasures across Europe, and to making them accessible for the benefit of both current and future generations.

CATALYST FOR CREATIVITY

Culture is widely acknowledged as a key driver for Europe's economy and competitiveness. Studies show how the cultural sector is a significant contributor to growth and employment¹. This is reflected in wider policy-making. In its 'Cultural Agenda'², the EU focuses on promoting culture as a catalyst for creativity, while the Council of Europe emphasises the value of cultural heritage for sustainable development³.

FILLING A FUNDING GAP

There is a concern, however, that whilst the cultural sector is expanding rapidly in many parts of Europe, other areas are being left behind. This is particularly true for many of the rural and poorer regions in some of the beneficiary states, where decades of neglect have left a legacy with many heritage sites in need of renovation. When the grant schemes were set up in 2004, little EU funding was available for cultural heritage, and domestic funding was insufficient to cover the extensive needs. Support from the EEA and Norway Grants has helped to fill this gap, and reinforce exchange and cultural dialogue.

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS 2004-2009

Protection of European cultural heritage was a priority sector in all beneficiary states, representing around 20% of the grants awarded. In total, 221 projects and three funds – covering a wide cross-section of activities – benefited from €258 million in grant support.

PUBLIC ACCESSIBILITY

Around 75% of the projects centred on the renovation of historical buildings and monuments with close to 150 cultural heritage sites having been restored. Bringing cultural treasures back to life, and making them accessible for local communities and tourists, has helped to inject new life into towns and regions – not only by creating jobs and attracting greater visi-

tor numbers, but also by contributing to strengthening pride in local communities.

Projects also covered training and sustainable tourism initiatives, the preservation of artefacts and digitalisation of historical publications.

BILATERAL COOPERATION

A total of 38 cultural heritage projects and funds were implemented in cooperation with entities in the beneficiary and donor states, including municipalities, museums, cultural and research institutions and, in some cases, private organisations. Contributions varied greatly from direct field involvement to more strategic high-level involvement.

A particularly successful example was the Polish Cultural Exchange Fund worth €9.5 million, which supported over 70 projects. This stimulated extensive cooperation between Poland and the donor states in the fields of music and the performing arts, cultural heritage, visual arts, literature and archiving techniques.

Positive results in the Czech Republic

A 2009 review of the EEA and Norway Grants support to cultural heritage in the Czech Republic confirmed the value of this funding, not least in a context where many heritage sites were in a critical state of disrepair⁴. Over 40% (€43.3 million) of the project funding in the Czech Republic went to cultural heritage, to support in particular the digitisation of historical documents and restoration of cultural heritage sites. The Wallachian Open Air Museum in Rožnov pod Radhoštěm, Rajhrad Abbey, the Basilica of the Visitation of the Virgin Mary, and Mladá Vožice Castle are some of the monuments which, without the support to fund restoration work, may otherwise have suffered irreparable damage.

¹ 'Study on the Economy of Culture in Europe' – a study prepared for the European Commission, October 2006

² 'European Agenda for Culture in a Globalising World', COM(2007) 242 final

³ 'Framework Convention on the Value of Cultural Heritage for Society', Council of Europe, June 2011

⁴ 'Review of cultural heritage support in the Czech Republic', carried out by Cross Czech and Nordic Consulting Group (April 2009)

PROJECT EXAMPLES

TRANSFORMING ESTONIA'S MANOR HOUSES

In the heyday of manor houses, Estonia boasted close to 1 500 of these historical monuments. But, during the last century, most of the buildings fell into decay. Estonia decided to use its entire cultural heritage allocation (€8.2 million – a quarter of the total allocation) on salvaging these buildings. The funding supported nine separate projects to complete renovation work on the manor houses, initiated a decade previously, successfully transforming the buildings into modern educational and cultural centres.

Anton Pärn, under-secretary at the Estonian Ministry for Culture, underlined the importance of this approach: “Combining several functions in one building is very cost-effective,” he said. “We realised early on when planning the new state programme that building new schools would be more expensive than reviving the old manor house schools.”

FACT BOX

9 supported projects
EEA Grants / Norway Grants:
 €8 227 067

SAVING HISTORY IN PARTNERSHIP

In a project involving cooperation with nine Norwegian cultural institutions, the ASTRA museum in Sibiu received support for the restoration of eight buildings and the construction of a new conservation and storage centre for its heritage collection. Until recently, artefacts were stored in constricted and unsatisfactory conditions, and exposed to high levels of harmful humidity.

The new facility has given the museum the capacity to carry out preventive conservation – stopping the decay from occurring in the first place. The project promoters undertook four fact-finding study trips to Norwegian open-air museums, which also benefited the donor partners. “We learnt a huge amount about building networks and how best to use these in our work,” acknowledged Noëlle Poppe of the Norwegian Directorate for Cultural Heritage.

FACT BOX

Project promoter: ASTRA National Museum Complex, Romania
Partner: SINTEF, Norway
EEA Grants: €2 461 888



The renovation of the Koigi Manor School was one of nine projects carried out in Estonia to restore historical manor houses for use as schools and cultural centres.

SCHENGEN AND THE JUDICIARY

Justice and home affairs is one of the most dynamic areas of political cooperation in Europe. Strengthening police collaboration and improving judicial systems in Europe was a priority under the Norway Grants in 2004-2009.

BORDER-FREE ZONE

The Schengen agreement provides a border-free zone between 26 European countries¹. Millions of people can travel between most EU countries, as well as the EFTA countries Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway and Switzerland, without showing their passports when crossing borders. Passport controls are carried out upon entering and leaving the Schengen area, meaning that each participating country also guards its own external borders on behalf of all the other countries.

During the 2004-2009 funding period, most of the new EU member states became fully operational members of Schengen, and consequently responsible for shoring up a huge part of the EU's Eastern border. The Norway Grants work to ensure that the police, customs and border services in these countries have the necessary equipment and are sufficiently well trained. Securing Schengen border crossings and strengthening police and judiciary cooperation serves in the fight against organised crime and illegal immigration, which works to the benefit of all European citizens.

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS 2004-2009

Under the Norway Grants, €132.5 million was set aside to help the new Schengen members implement the Schengen *acquis*, strengthen the judiciary, provide training and improve prison infrastructure, totalling around 11% of all grants awarded. Support was largely concentrated in Poland and Latvia, but funding was also provided for Bulgaria, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Lithuania, Malta, Slovakia and Slovenia. In total, 59 projects aimed at providing national police forces with equipment and training or upgrading correctional services received funding.

The support targeted the fight against organised and transnational crime, illegal immigration and general law enforcement in Poland. By investing in state-of-the-art equipment and technology, 71 border crossings were improved and secured, making Poland better equipped to protect the EU's external border and to fight organised crime.

The support also helped improve prison conditions in Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania through new and improved rehabilitation programmes for inmates and training for staff. In total, 1300 juveniles in prisons and detention centres benefited from training programmes. Lithuania and Latvia also upgraded their prison buildings and thus living conditions for inmates. The Schengen support from Norway delivered results and impacts similar to those achieved by funding within the EU and at a national level in the beneficiary countries².

BILATERAL COOPERATION

Police cooperation is essential to the smooth functioning of the Schengen area. Valuable partnerships were established between project promoters in the beneficiary states and Norwegian police and law-enforcement authorities. The Norwegian Police Directorate cooperated with the Polish Commander in-Chief of Police in five projects, helping to strengthen forensic teams and operational police surveillance units and in preparing police units for electronic registration and the checking of personal identification data. The Directorate was also involved in five other projects in Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, Latvia and Lithuania. Other Norwegian entities were partners in efforts to strengthen re-socialisation programmes in prisons, mediation services and crime prevention. In total, 16 projects carried out in five countries involved Norwegian partners.



Mobile groups of the Polish Customs Service were equipped with new specialist vehicles, helping to ensure security and fight organised crime.

¹ Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Italy, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, the Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland.

² 'Review of the Schengen *acquis* and strengthening the judiciary priority sector', carried out by INTEGRATION (2010)

PROJECT EXAMPLES

PRISON EDUCATION IN LATVIA

A pilot programme of prison education was introduced in the Zemgale region. The new re-socialisation programmes at the Jelgava and Jakabpils prisons focused on language skills and basic education, thereby giving the released convicts a better chance to reintegrate into society. The Office of the County Governor of Hordaland, the institution responsible for prison education in Norway, provided expertise on re-socialisation and organised a study visit for Latvian police to Norwegian correctional facilities.

FACT BOX

Project promoter: Latvian Prison Administration
Norway Grants: €938 777

LITHUANIAN E-MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

The Lithuanian Prison Department introduced a new e-management system to replace handwritten records for probation, health and registration services in the penitentiary system. The project also included psychological and pedagogical training to improve the follow-up of imprisoned juveniles. The Norwegian Prison and Probation Department and the Norwegian Board of Health contributed with know-how and hosted study visits.

FACT BOX

Project promoter: Klaipeda Police School
Norway Grants: €510 770

IMPROVED BORDER CONTROL BETWEEN POLAND-BELARUS

The largest Schengen project was a comprehensive modernisation of the Terespol road border crossing at the Polish-Belarusian border that improved the capacity and efficiency of controls. Nearly 1 million cars and coaches carry 2.3 million passengers across this border each year. Its position on the eastern border of the EU and the Schengen area gives it an important preventive function, especially in the fight against illegal immigration, people trafficking, smuggling and other forms of organised crime.

FACT BOX

Project promoter: Lublin Executive Board for Border Crossings in Chelm
Norway Grants: €11 171 639



The modernisation of the Terespol border crossing at the Polish-Belarusian border at the edge of the Schengen area was one of the largest projects supported by the Norway Grants.

SCHOLARSHIP FUNDS

Boosting cooperation in education and research is an aim shared by all European countries. Studying or training abroad helps develop skills and competences. This is reflected in the EEA and Norway Grants where the Scholarship Funds have facilitated student and staff exchanges between the donor and beneficiary countries.

COOPERATION IN EDUCATION

Students, researchers, teachers and university staff have been able to apply for grants for study or work periods abroad, with funding also available for cooperation projects between educational establishments in the donor and beneficiary states. This support fits with the broader ambitions of the Europe-wide Bologna Process – which aims to make it easier to move from one education system to another. An estimated 10% of European students are currently studying or training abroad as part of their higher education¹. The EU has set out a target that at least 20% of those graduating in the European Higher Education Area should have had a study or training period abroad by 2020.

MUCH NEEDED SUPPORT

However, despite the broad political consensus, many challenges remain. A great number of students – in particular those from less-advantaged backgrounds – are hampered by a lack of available funding². This has been compounded by the ongoing economic downturn which has hit young people particularly hard, as well as other issues such as mutual recognition of qualifications. With demand largely exceeding the availability of other mobility grants, such as the popular Erasmus scheme, the EEA and Norway Grants Scholarship Funds have provided much needed support.



Almost 1 000 Polish students, teachers and staff benefited from support from the Scholarship Fund to study or work in Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway.

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS 2004-2009

Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway awarded a total of €24 million to the Scholarship Funds, benefiting 371 institutions and several thousand individuals. This support not only enhanced student and teacher mobility and exchange between educational establishments, but also helped to strengthen institutional capacity, improve skills and trigger mutual learning.

Most of those benefiting from grants were students – 2 650, of whom over 1 660 were women. The Scholarship Funds also proved effective in encouraging staff mobility, with the take-up largely exceeding plans. A number of different activities were funded, ranging from teaching and research to fact finding for future cooperation initiatives.

Fast facts

- › Scholarship Funds totalling €24 million were established in 11 countries: Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Greece, Hungary, Latvia, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia and Spain
- › Grants allocated to two types of projects: individual mobility periods and institutional (cooperation) projects

Bilateral cooperation – a key value framing the overall Grant schemes – was particularly prominent within the Scholarship Funds. Although some of the beneficiary states used the Funds to promote mobility both to and from the donor states, most covered one-way student and staff stays in Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway. In addition, 570 partnership projects were established in cooperation with entities from Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway.

Success has been well documented through monitoring, conferences and other feedback channels. Projects aimed at developing particular aspects of education systems were also funded, including teacher education and training for special needs teachers.

¹ European Commission Press Release (IP/11/675), 6 June 2011

² Eurobarometer Survey Flash EB No 319b, European Commission, May 2011

PROJECT EXAMPLES

POLISH SCHOLARSHIP AND TRAINING FUND

The €12 million Scholarship and Training Fund in Poland was the largest of such funds under the EEA and Norway Grants. Targeting all levels of education grants supported two-way mobility of students, young researchers and teachers between the donor states and Poland. Almost 1 000 Polish students, teachers and staff have benefited from support for studying and working in Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway. However, a lower number went from the donor states to Poland.

Bilateral cooperation also flourished through partnership projects aimed at developing linkages between educational institutions in Poland and the donor states. Over 117 institutions took part in numerous sub-projects, such as in the development of a new programme for Peace and Development Studies at the Tischner European University in Krakow, rolled out in October 2009. As part of the project, Krakow University collaborated with the Polish Humanitarian Organisation, the Comparative Research Programme on Poverty at the University of Bergen (Norway), the International Academy of Liechtenstein and the University of Iceland.

FACT BOX

Scholarship and Training Fund

Fund intermediary: Foundation for the Development of the Education System

EEA Grants / Norway Grants:

€12 005 195

PORTUGUESE SCHOLARSHIP FUND

Managed by the Science and Technology Foundation (FCT), and with a small grant of just under €300 000, the Portuguese Scholarship and Training Fund chose to focus on mobility grants for Master's and PhD students and researchers in the fields of biological, ocean, environment and health sciences. Following two separate open calls, 14 scholarships were granted averaging €18 200 each. Ten different higher educational establishments in Norway acted as host institutions.

Although the impact was limited, given the small number of people and institutions involved, feedback was very positive. The Fund was well managed by an institution highly experienced in this field and the well-defined targeting made best use of the available funding.

FACT BOX

Research and development training on Biological, Ocean, Environment and Health Sciences

Fund intermediary: Science and Technology Foundation

EEA Grants: €291 276



The €2.8 million Czech scholarship fund awarded grants to Czech students and teachers for study or work periods in Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway.

REGIONAL POLICY AND CROSS-BORDER ACTIVITIES

The EEA and Norway Grants provided complementary support to the large-scale EU regional development and cross-border initiatives in the beneficiary countries. The evidence shows that this contribution, whilst modest in comparison, has added value to EU funding in several areas.

GAPS IN DEVELOPMENT

Of the EU's 271 regions, one in four has a GDP of less than 75% of the EU average. Whilst economic and social disparities between regions are found in all EU member states, the regions with the lowest GDP per capita are located in some of the beneficiary states of the EEA and Norway Grants. There are diverse reasons for this inequality, with many of the poorest regions suffering from long-standing handicaps, such as geographical remoteness or the legacy of centrally planned economies.

The EU allocates one-third of the budget to its regional and cohesion policy, targeted towards boosting growth and jobs. It also aims to promote cooperation between regions and across borders – not least in some of those poorest regions which straddle the EU's external Eastern border. These regions face a number of shared challenges, from transboundary river pollution, to public health issues and organised crime. The regional policy and cross-border projects under the EEA and Norway Grants aimed to contribute to these wider goals, as well as help tackle some of these challenges.

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS 2004-2009

Between 2004 and 2009, funding worth €41.6 million was allocated to 53 projects, programmes and funds targeted at regional policy and cross-border activities in 10 beneficiary states¹.

Support focused on local and regional development, promoting knowledge transfer and capacity-building, and enhancing mutual learning between local and regional entities. A number of initiatives were taken to spur economical development, such as establishing public-private partnerships or improving accessibility to business. Softer measures targeted good governance, gender equality, human rights and social inclusion. A total of 19 regional and cross-border projects were carried out in partnerships between entities in the donor and beneficiary countries. Beyond the support under the specific regional policy strand of the EEA and Norway Grants, almost 40% of all projects were implemented by local and regional authorities.

LOCAL CROSS-BORDER COOPERATION

Cooperation and sharing experience between regions can be a key trigger for stimulating a dynamic regional development process. According to an external review of regional policy and cross-border activities, the added value of EEA and Norway Grants in this sector was most evident in the area of local cross-border cooperation, and in clearly defined capacity-building areas, such as public-private partnerships or management of shared water resources². The sub-projects reviewed generally demonstrated real engagement and active involvement of large numbers of people on both sides of the relevant borders.

ACCESSIBLE FUNDING

Findings also showed that the availability of smaller-scale grants, which are relatively easy to access, enabled smaller organisations – not least local and regional NGOs – to become more actively involved in cross-border cooperation. Although the implementation of smaller projects can entail proportionally higher administration costs, they arguably demonstrated better value for money with a more immediate and visible impact than the larger ones.



The Grants contributed to a short-term expert fund which was set up to encourage exchange of experts and boost professional skills in the Latvian public sector.

¹ Bulgaria, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia and Spain

² Review of EEA and Norway Grants support to Regional Policy and Cross-Border Activities in new EU and EEA member states, carried out by INTEGRATION (March 2011)

PROJECT EXAMPLES:

HUNGARIAN-UKRAINIAN AUTHORITIES POOL EFFORTS ON SHARED WATER RESOURCES

In Hungary, the municipality of Nyíregyháza used cross-border funding to help prepare for a much larger project under the European Neighbourhood and Partnership Instrument (ENPI), demonstrating good complementarity with EU funding aims.

The Upper Tisza Region Environmental and Water Directorate in Nyíregyháza carried out an assessment of the sustainability of water resources shared with Ukraine. The Directorate assessed water-extraction rates on the Ukrainian side of the border, complementing an assessment that had already been undertaken on the Hungarian side. In addition to confirming the sustainability of shared water resources, the assessment provided the municipality with an entry point to address other cross-border issues, such as contaminated flood water.

FACT BOX

Project promoter: Municipality of Nyíregyháza, Hungary
One sub-project (of approx. 30 funded) under Cross-Border Fund Block Grant worth €2 million in total (EEA Grants / Norway Grants)

MONITORING THE BUSINESS ENVIRONMENT IN SLOVAKIA

The Business Alliance of Slovakia (PAS), which brings together both profit and non-profit sectors, works for the improvement of the business environment in Slovakia. Ensuring easier access to funding, making legislation more effective and developing an entrepreneurial culture and support networks are all instrumental for growing business.

Backed by regional policy funding, PAS carried out an extensive survey amongst businesses across a large number of districts in Slovakia to identify obstacles to doing business by conducting interviews and opinion polls with business leaders and managers. As part of the project, statistical data were also collected to feed into the Regional Business Environment Index which monitors and evaluates the business environment in Slovakia.

FACT BOX

Project promoter: Business Alliance of Slovakia
Norway Grants: €269 599



Cooperation and sharing experience has helped to promote knowledge transfer and capacity building between regions and across borders.

BILATERAL COOPERATION

As well as contributing to reducing disparities within the European Economic Area, the EEA and Norway Grants have also helped to strengthen bilateral relations between the three donor states and the 15 beneficiary states.

WIDE COOPERATION

Cooperation takes place at several levels:

- › In political dialogue between Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway and the EU;
- › In bilateral meetings between the donor states and the beneficiary states; and
- › Through cooperation on the ground.

Contributions within areas of common interest and importance, such as European research, environment, public health services and fighting cross-border crime, have provided a foundation for inspiring cooperation of mutual benefit between entities from donor and beneficiary states. Sharing experience, competence and know-how has been mutually enriching. Programme and project-level cooperation and the general visibility of the Grants have resulted in increased awareness in the beneficiary states of the broad cooperation that takes place within various sectors.

As described in the annex, Norwegian embassies in the beneficiary states have been actively involved in promoting the EEA and Norway Grants – in facilitating bilateral cooperation in projects and in assisting both the donor and beneficiary states. Embassy staff have visited hundreds of projects and contributed to events, seminars and conferences.



With technical advice from the Norwegian Climate and Pollution Agency, the Polish Chief Inspectorate for Environmental Protection was able to modernise its practices.

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS 2004-2009

The depth and breadth of involvement and cooperation varied from project to project – ranging from very substantial participation in project development and implementation from the donor-state entity, to more ad hoc study trips and sharing of experience.

Most partnerships were found within academic research and environment. There was important cooperation in areas such as Schengen and justice, health and childcare, cultural heritage and public-sector capacity-building. Typical partners were mostly educational and research institutions or public authorities at various levels, but also cultural institutions and authorities, organisations and enterprises.

Reports and other feedback from partners indicate that whilst there have been challenges related to administrative burdens, bureaucratic procedures or inadequate funding, there has been substantial cooperation where useful relationships have been established – supporting technology transfer and mutual learning, and strengthening competence on both sides. The overwhelming interest in continuing partnerships in the new funding period indicates that the partners value these opportunities for cooperation.

Partnerships

- › Over 900 projects were implemented in cooperation between donor and beneficiary state entities.
- › Almost 300 of these were given direct funding, while the remaining received grants through specific funds and programmes set up under the grant schemes.
- › Most donor country partners were Norwegian, but entities from Iceland and Liechtenstein also participated.

Reviews indicated that most partnerships built on existing relationships, which also strengthened the likelihood of successful cooperation, as well as increasing the quality of such cooperation. For those without such contacts, it proved important to have easily accessible information on potential partners and practical assistance to establish contacts. Under the EEA and Norway Grants 2009-2014, simplified procedures are in place to stimulate and support the development of partnerships.

BILATERAL FUNDS

Funds which aimed to encourage bilateral cooperation were established in several countries under the EEA and Norway Grants 2004-2009. Local and regional authorities and institutions in the Baltic States cooperated with counterparts from the donor states, mostly Norwegian, under regional development funds. In Poland, a cultural exchange fund spurred cooperation with Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway within music, theatre, literature and the arts.

Funds for research efforts set up in the Czech Republic, Estonia, Latvia and Poland supported close to 100 research projects with partners mainly from Norway, but also Iceland. Most research cooperation was conducted within the areas of environment and health. The research funds supported new patents, PhDs and scientific publications. In addition, scholarship funds in 11 countries facilitated exchanges between the beneficiary states and Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway for 2 650 students, teachers and researchers. In the Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland, Slovakia and Slovenia, these funds also supported 570 cooperation projects between educational institutions in these countries and the donor states.



Slovak students in Norway: two secondary schools in Norway and Slovakia worked on a 2-year project teaching students about protecting the environment and preserving traditional heritage.

BILATERAL PROGRAMMES IN BULGARIA AND ROMANIA

When Bulgaria and Romania became members of the EU and the EEA in 2007, the Norway Grants in Bulgaria and Romania were established as 'bilateral cooperation programmes', in which only projects involving partnerships with Norwegian entities were eligible. The EEA Grants were run separately and did not include compulsory partnership with donor-state entities.

The objectives of these programmes were two-fold:

- › to stimulate economic growth and sustainable development; and
- › to promote innovation and technology transfer.

Sectors in which Norway has specific competencies and technologies that would be useful for the two beneficiary states were prioritised. In both countries, the focus was on environment, energy efficiency/renewable energy and sustainable production. In addition, health was targeted in Romania, whereas Schengen-related issues were supported in Bulgaria.

Concrete results on the ground include such economic and social development staples such as wind and solar energy parks, factories, hospitals, refurbished buildings and training. Transfer of knowledge and good practices contributed to improved nuclear safety in both countries, and an energy-security strategy was developed in Romania. In Bulgaria, a digital communication network has been established to enable the country to meet the necessary requirements for membership in the Schengen area.

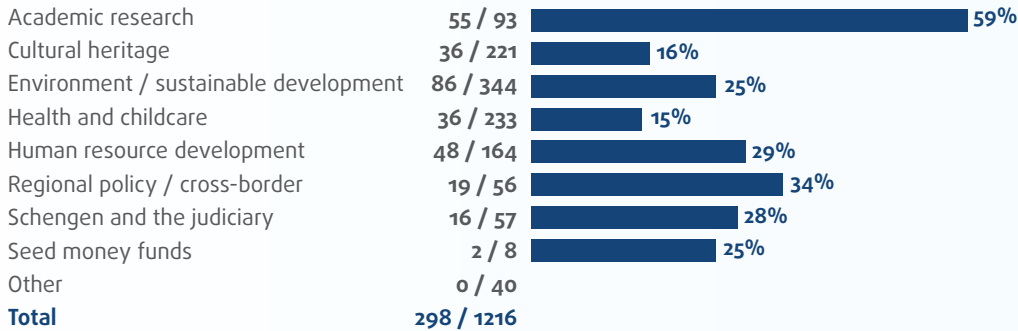
The partnership requirement generally worked well, and contributed substantially to enhanced cooperation between the beneficiary states and Norway. Some partnerships have also produced spin-off results with cooperation planned to continue not only in the new funding period, but also in the framework of other wider EU funding programmes and initiatives. The bilateral programmes (Norway Grants 2007-2009) were managed by Innovation Norway. An external evaluation concluded that the cooperation programmes are professionally and efficiently run¹.

¹ Inception evaluation report by Oxford Research (September 2009)

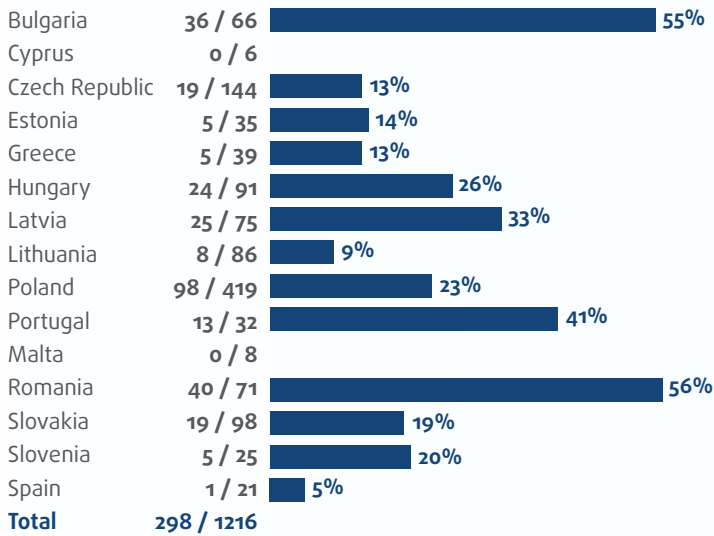
PARTNERSHIPS BY COUNTRY



DISTRIBUTION OF PARTNERSHIP PROJECTS* BY SECTOR



NUMBER AND RATIO OF PARTNERSHIP PROJECTS* BY COUNTRY

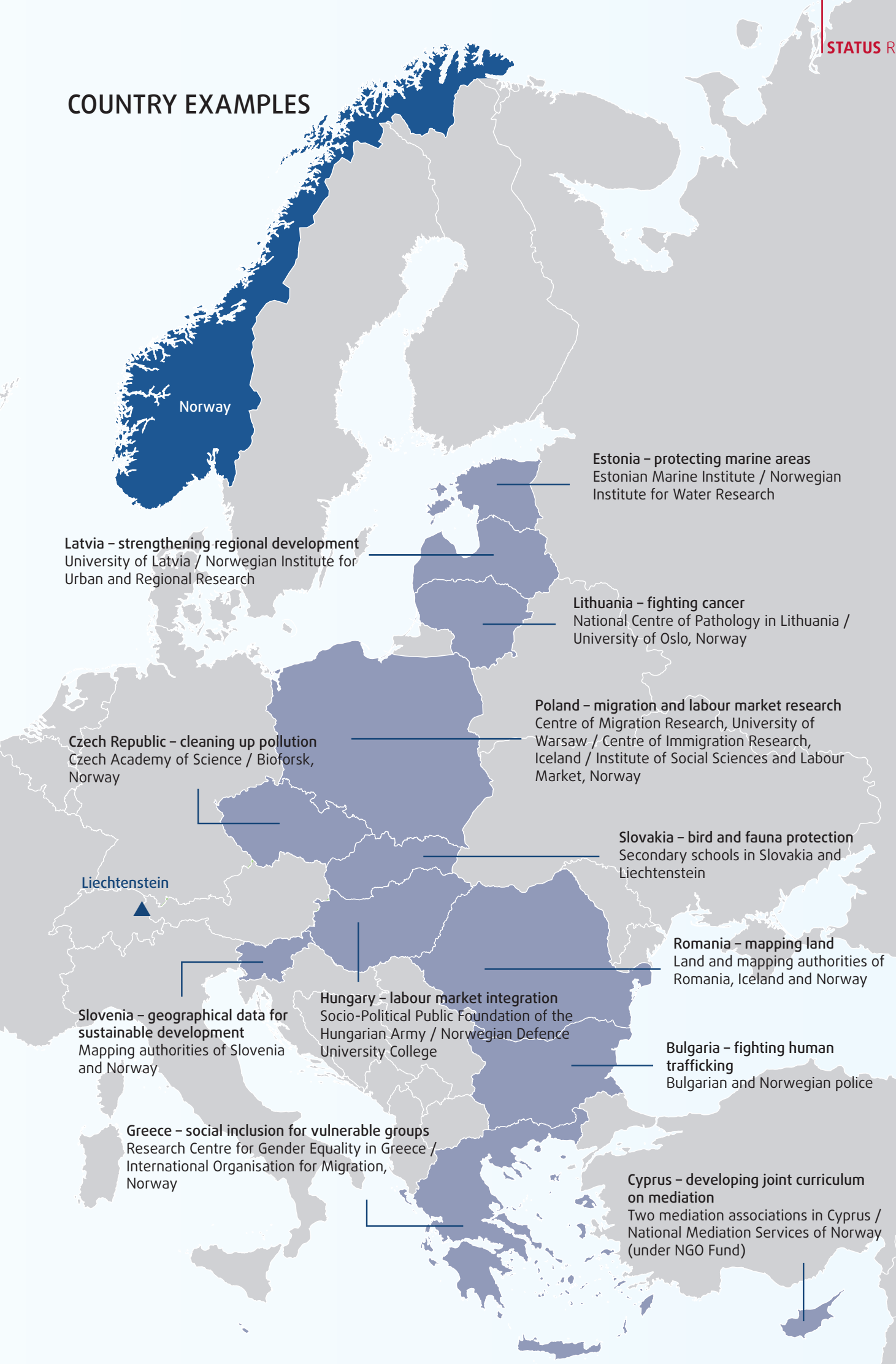


* Individual projects receiving direct funding. Partnership projects under funds and programmes are not included in overview.

Portugal – culture and local development
Fishermen's Mutual, Portugal / University
of Tromsø, Norway

Spain – work/life balance
Spanish Women's Institute /
Norwegian Association of Regional
and Local Authorities

COUNTRY EXAMPLES



PART 3: OPPORTUNITIES 2009-2014

Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway are providing €1 788.5 million in funding in the period 2009-2014.

The EEA Grants (€988.5 million) are available to 15 European countries, while the Norway Grants (€800 million) are earmarked for the 12 newest EU member states. The donor states contribute according to their size and economic wealth, with Norway representing around 97% of the total funding.

OVERVIEW

The EEA and Norway Grants 2009-2014 are even more focused and strategic than in the previous funding period, and cooperation between the beneficiary and donor states has been strengthened.

FOCUSED

The Grants contribute to promoting social and economic cohesion in the European Economic Area (EEA). The funding is targeted at areas where there are demonstrable needs in the beneficiary states, and that are in line with wider European shared interests and goals.

Input from a series of different reviews and evaluations has helped to shape the new framework for the Grants, with support now limited to clearly defined sectors and programme areas. Both the donor states and the beneficiary states have also built on their past experience when establishing priorities and agreeing implementation structures.

Environmental funding continues to be the largest sector, and now includes substantial amounts of funding targeting climate change and green innovation. Support to health, education, civil society, research and justice also continues. A new feature is funding for decent work and tripartite dialogue.

PROGRAMMES

Many of the areas under the Grants 2004-09 are still being supported. The new programme approach is designed to better target support and increase impact. While funding was previously mainly awarded to projects through open calls, programmes with clear objectives are now being established (see list of programme areas in Annex III.2).

Programme operators, mostly public institutions in the beneficiary states, are being given the responsibility to award funding to projects according to agreed criteria and to follow up on their

implementation. The donor countries through the FMO will monitor the implementation process.

This approach should avoid duplication and improve efficiency. It is also in line with recommendations from the mid-term evaluation of the EEA and Norway Grants which found programmes and funds to be most efficient.

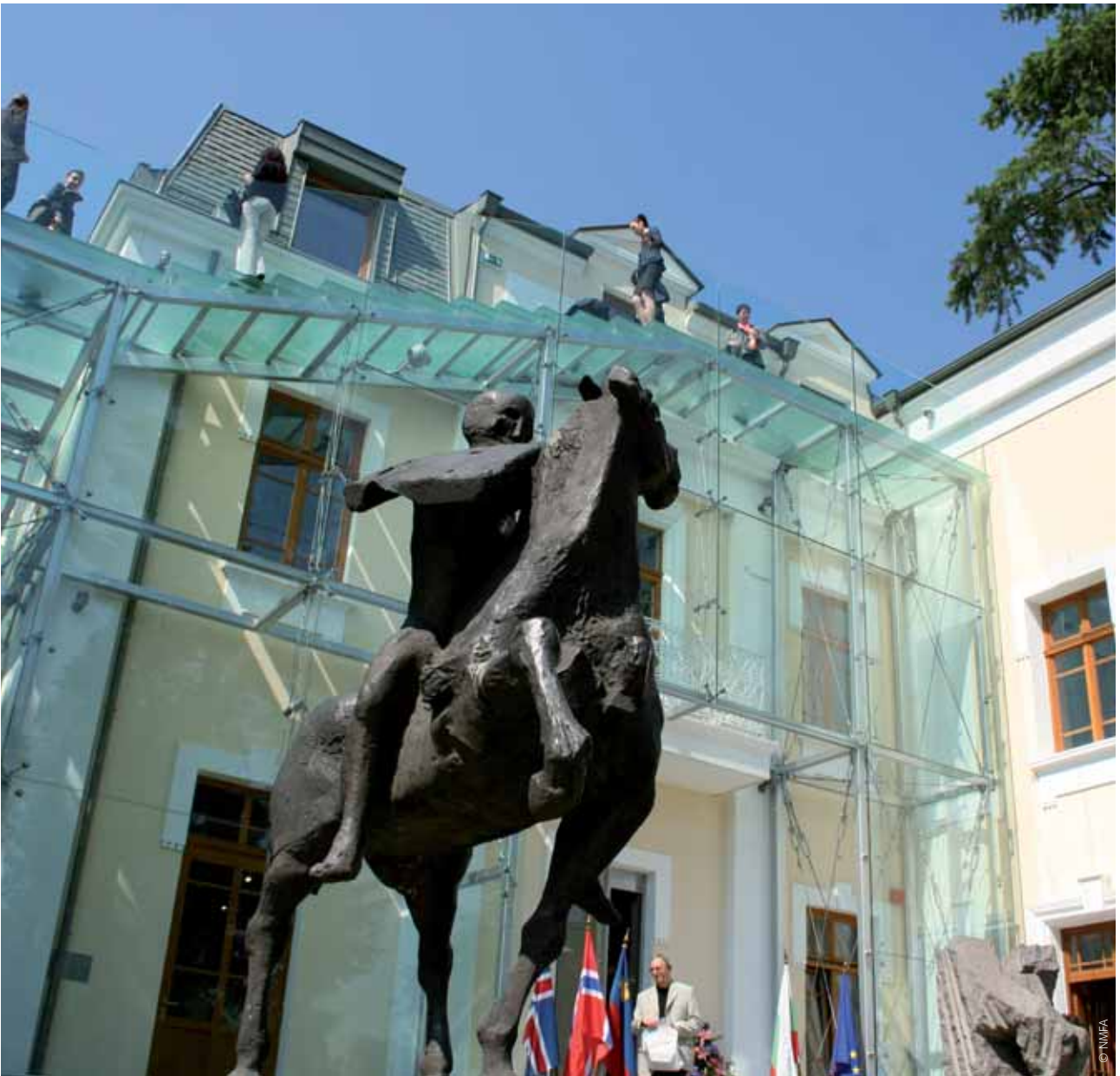
COOPERATION

The agreements between the donor states and the EU on the EEA and Norway Grants 2009-2014 stipulate that the objective of “strengthening bilateral relations” is equal to that of reducing disparities. Bilateral partnerships at programme level will ensure more strategic, in-depth and sustainable cooperation.

Experience so far has been that the quality of partnerships has varied significantly. While some projects have built on close cooperation and have been enriching for both parties, others have only involved limited contact.

Now, public entities from the donor states will be actively involved at the programme level, working closely with their counterparts – the Programme Operators – in the beneficiary states. Donor programme partners will cooperate on the design and implementation of certain, agreed programmes, the selection of projects and how to develop project partnerships. This aims to be mutually beneficial and enriching for both parties.

In addition, funding will be made available both at the national level and in all programmes in order to support networking and stimulate partnerships in projects.



The opening of Sofia Arsenal – Museum of Contemporary Art (SAMCA) – in June 2011 marked the completion of one of the largest EEA Grants-financed projects in Bulgaria.

TIMING

The first programmes are being established during the winter of 2011/2012, with the first calls for project proposals to be launched in 2012.

Delays in negotiations resulted in the late signing (end-July 2010) of the agreements between the donor states and the EU on the EEA and Norway Grants 2009-2014. Since then, the donor and beneficiary states have worked hard to make up for lost time and secure agreements on country-specific priorities (Memoranda of Understanding – MoUs). These are required before programmes can start. By October 2011, priorities have been agreed with most countries. The remaining MoUs are expected to be signed by the end of 2011.

Once the country-specific agreements have been signed, the beneficiary states begin the work of developing programmes. Programme proposals will be appraised by the Financial Mechanism Office and approved by Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway before Programme Operators launch calls for project proposals. This will start in the first countries as of early 2012. Projects may be supported until 2016, which gives ample time to implement both programmes and projects despite the initial delay.

Calls for projects will start in 2012, and projects may be implemented until 2016.

ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE CHANGE

At least a quarter of the funding – around €450 million – is set aside for environment and climate change. Reduction of greenhouse gases is specifically targeted through the priority sectors for climate change and renewable energy, in addition to carbon capture and storage.

According to the agreements, at least 30% of the EEA Grants in each country must be used for environmental protection and management, climate change and renewable energy. Under the Norway Grants, at least 20% of the total will be spent on carbon capture and storage with new funding introduced for green industry innovation.

Support to **energy efficiency** and **renewable energy** is further strengthened in this round, with programmes already agreed in a number of countries. Hungary will spend a quarter of its funding in this area, and the Icelandic National Energy Authority will contribute with expertise on geothermal energy.

Carbon capture and storage (CCS) is the single most promising technology for decarbonising the use of fossil fuels. Thus, the EU and Norway share the aim to develop CCS technologies, establish demonstration plants and make CCS commercially viable. Norway will contribute €137 million to develop CCS in Poland. Pilot surveys and surveys on CCS technology will also be supported in the Czech Republic.

Biodiversity support has been strengthened, including that for awareness-raising activities, in line with recommendations in a review of the biodiversity support in the previous funding round.

Funding will also be used to improve **environmental monitoring**, planning and control, marine and inland **water management**, reduce pollution in the maritime sector, and on environmental and climate change-related **research and technology**.

Donor programme partnerships are prominent within the environment sector with, to name but a few, the Norwegian Climate and Pollution Agency, the Norwegian Directorate for Nature Management, the Norwegian Water Resources and Energy Directorate (NVE), the Directorate for Civil Protection and Emergency Planning (DSB), Innovation Norway (IN) and the Icelandic National Energy Authority.



Climate change prompts the urgency of greening economies by minimising emissions and energy usage. Hence, **green industry innovation** is a new priority, with programmes being set up to improve the environmental credentials of existing industries and encourage green innovation and green entrepreneurship. This funding will be of special relevance for small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs). In Bulgaria, the green innovation programme will be based on partnership projects so as to take advantage of Norwegian experiences, technologies and investments.



In Hungary, the Regional Environmental Centre has been made into a zero-emissions conference centre.

CIVIL SOCIETY

Targeted support to civil society has been one of the major successes of the EEA and Norway Grants. NGO Funds will be set up in all 15 countries, aiming to strengthen the development of civil society and enhance its contribution to social justice, democracy and sustainable development.

Civil society plays an important role in any democracy, but funding is often scarce and inadequate. Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway have therefore prioritised this sector since 2004. The significance of this support has been widely recognised, especially within the areas of **advocacy and social inclusion**. This NGO support has paved the way for longer-term change and social and economic improvements.

The donor states aim to make sure that this success is repeated and built on in the future. In the funding period 2009-2014, a minimum of 10% of the EEA Grants in each country is set aside for dedicated NGO Funds. Input from evaluations and consultations, as well as past experience, have all been taken into consideration in defining the Funds – including the need for further focusing of the funds, and further simplification of the management and reporting systems.

Promoting **democratic values**, including **human rights**, and social inclusion, are central to the Funds. Support is also aimed at enhancing the capacity of NGO networks, partnerships and coalitions, fostering active

citizenship, boosting NGO involvement in issues such as environment and climate change, and in the provision of welfare and basic services.

Agreements signed so far show that funding to civil society has increased in most countries. For the first time, NGOs in Greece, Malta and Spain will benefit from such funding under the EEA Grants.

Sustainable development
Gender equality
Anti-discrimination
Democracy

Social justice
Human rights
Good governance
Advocacy



NGO funds have proven to be important tools for promoting equal opportunities and social inclusion.

HUMAN AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

Human and social development focuses on equality and social inclusion, ensuring the rights of different groups, whether affected by sickness or disabilities, children and youth at risk, minorities, immigrants or asylum seekers. Public sector capacity-building is also central in this sector.

Initiatives aimed at reducing inequalities in health care and improving **public health** remain a prominent area of funding. Preventing lifestyle diseases, improving mental health services and health systems with a focus on marginalised groups are among the priorities in several beneficiary countries. In Estonia, support will continue to fight and treat communicable diseases, including HIV and tuberculosis, based on positive experience gained from 2004-2009.

Separate programmes will address **children and youth at risk** through, for example, child-protection measures at national and local levels, establishing national ombudspersons for children, and improvements in juvenile care. In Hungary, education and school attendance will be one area of focus and the programme will include measures targeting young Roma.

Improving the situation of Europe's largest and most discriminated against minority group, the **Roma**, will be important in a variety of ways. In Slovakia, a specific programme on **social inclusion** will address the needs of the Roma population, and involve the Council of Europe. In Bulgaria, 10% of all Grants should go towards improving the Roma population's situation.

Mainstreaming **gender equality** and promoting **work-life balance** will be important objectives in several countries, such as in the Czech Republic where the programme 'Let's give (wo)men a chance' will strengthen the capacity of gender-equality organisations and networks, raise awareness and promote research into gender issues.

Gender equality

Work-life balance

Public services

Capacity-building

Social inclusion

Equal access

Better health

Children and youth



Specific programmes for children and youth at risk will be set up to safeguard the quality of child welfare systems and improve protection measures.

In Greece, there will be a special focus on **asylum and immigration**. In recent years, the country has become one of the gateways to Europe for hundreds of thousands of people seeking international protection or simply a better way of life. Greece has started to overhaul its asylum system, the aim being to strengthen its capacity to guarantee the rights of refugees by ensuring that their cases are processed efficiently. The needs of unaccompanied asylum-seeking children will be prioritised.

Public sector capacity-building and **improved service delivery** will be targeted in Bulgaria, Hungary, Latvia and Lithuania. Close cooperation and exchange of experience with Norwegian partners will be important in these programmes, as well as in a Slovak programme on **cross-border cooperation** with Ukraine.

Gender equality

“Whilst we can look back on the progress of the last 100 years with pride, there are still huge disparities that must be addressed in the condition of women worldwide today.”

Vaira Vīķe-Freiberga, former Latvian President

In the 2009-2014 funding period, efforts to promote gender equality are being stepped up through the introduction of programmes for mainstreaming gender equality, promoting work-life balance and tackling specific challenges such as gender-based violence and trafficking.

Europe still faces considerable challenges when it comes to ensuring equal opportunities for women and men in political, social and work life¹, and in addressing domestic and gender-based violence. Gender equality is a key factor contributing to social and economic development. It is expected that at least €50 million will be targeted directly at gender-equality measures, and all programmes supported by the EEA and Norway Grants will also be asked to undertake a gender impact assessment to establish whether they will affect women and men differently.

In Slovakia, a major programme will invest in domestic violence prevention and impact mitigation, and the Norwegian Directorate of Health and the Council of Europe will contribute with their expertise. Similar programmes will also be set up in Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Estonia and Poland, several of which will address the needs of victims of human trafficking.

Gender equality in the labour market is another important area of support under the EEA and Norway Grants. In Estonia, substantial support will be provided to promote an improved balance between work, private and family life, including support to NGO schemes in this field. Similar programmes will be established in several countries.

In addition to these specific programmes, gender equality and/or gender-based violence will be actively addressed through programmes in other areas, such as civil society, decent work, social inclusion and research, covering all of the beneficiary states. Donor and beneficiary countries will benefit from cooperation with the Council of Europe, which has long been engaged in setting standards for promoting gender equality and fighting gender-based violence in Europe.

DECENT WORK AND TRIPARTITE DIALOGUE

The Norway Grants finance efforts towards promoting decent work and tripartite dialogue in all the 12 newest EU member states. The programme is operated by Innovation Norway.

A new feature in this round of Norway Grants is that 1% of the allocation is earmarked for a Fund for the promotion of decent work and tripartite dialogue. The Fund, which will be run by Innovation Norway, aims to improve cooperation between employers' organisations, trade unions and public authorities in supporting equitable and sustainable economic development.

Norway and the EU both support the principles of decent work and **equal opportunities** for all. The International Labour Organisation's decent work agenda is strongly supported by the Norwegian Government. This is a strategy to achieve inclusive development, based on employment creation, rights at work, social protection and **social dialogue**. Against the backdrop of the economic and financial crisis and rising unemployment, specific funding aimed at tackling labour-market challenges is even more important to promote employment, increase welfare in the workplace and enhance labour standards.

The EU has also adopted the principle of '**flexicurity**', a combination of flexibility and security in the labour market which is well-known in Norway.

Norway has a strong tradition of tripartite consultations, bringing together workers, employers and governments in formulating and negotiating standards and policies on labour matters. To take advantage of these experiences, partnerships with Norwegian social partners are encouraged under the Fund for decent work and tripartite dialogue.

Access to employment
 Work-life balance
 Flexicurity Decent work
Social dialogue
 Lifelong learning Social protection
 Health and safety



One percent of the allocation to each beneficiary state is earmarked to promote decent work and tripartite dialogue.

RESEARCH AND SCHOLARSHIPS

Social and economic development in Europe depends on creating and transforming knowledge into results and innovation, and in sharing research and knowledge across borders. The EEA and Norway Grants continue to fund research and provide scholarships.



Estonian PhD students took part in research on the environmental impact of ash stemming from oil-shale-fuelled power plants.

Through support to research and scholarships, the EEA and Norway Grants contribute to enhanced human capital and research-based knowledge. Cooperation is encouraged between institutions for research and education in the beneficiary and donor states, and the Norway Grants will in particular emphasise cooperation with Norwegian research institutions.

Cooperation within the fields of research and education is an objective shared by all European countries, and continues to be an important priority for the EEA and Norway Grants. In the previous funding round, research and scholarships were the most successful sectors in establishing **bilateral cooperation**. Two-thirds of all research was conducted with contact and cooperation between institutions in the beneficiary and donor states, hundreds of bilateral educational cooperation projects were implemented, and students and academic staff benefited from scholarships for exchanges with Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway. Such cooperation continues in this period, with research programmes being established in at least six countries and scholarship programmes in most beneficiary states.

The scholarship programmes will finance efforts to strengthen education systems and enhance **mobility** of students and staff. Opportunities for institutional **cooperation** at all levels of the education sector will be presented to increase international mobility, cooperation and development of the education sector. The Norwegian Centre for International Cooperation in Higher Education, the Icelandic Centre for Research, and the Liechtenstein National Agency for International Education Affairs will be partners in the scholarship programmes.

Research programmes aim to strengthen research capacity and increase the application of research results in cooperation between the beneficiary and donor states. In the previous funding round, most of the research projects financed concerned **health** and natural sciences, including the **environment**. While this continues in the current period, funding will also be available for research within the **social sciences** and **humanities**. Research may also be covered under other priority sector areas.

In Poland, the focus will be on environment and climate, health and social sciences, and gender equality and work-life balance. Research programmes are also foreseen in the Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary and Latvia. As a partner in several programmes, the Research Council of Norway will share knowledge and expertise on programme establishment and management, and contribute to increased interest and participation. International peer review of projects will be one of the new features to ensure that high-quality research is supported.

Student mobility

Knowledge base

Staff mobility

Application of research

Research cooperation

Educational cooperation

Improved skills

Partnerships

CULTURAL AND NATURAL HERITAGE

Conservation of cultural and natural heritage is important not only for European identity and history, but also for the development of knowledge, skills and jobs. The Grants continue to support cultural heritage and the promotion of cultural diversity in Europe.



The damaged historical bells of the Matthias Church in Budapest, Hungary were preserved with support from Norway.

The main objectives of this sector are to safeguard cultural and natural heritage of European value for future generations and to increase cultural dialogue and foster European identity.

The preservation and promotion of cultural and natural heritage contributes to social and economic **development** in Europe. Not only are jobs supported and developed during restoration and preservation works, but attracting more local visitors as well as tourists will also spur economic and cultural activity in the long term. Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway have given prominence to making heritage items and sites **available to the public**.

Examples of focus areas are Estonia's support to revitalising old manor houses, and Lithuania's prioritisation of wooden architecture. The Norwegian Directorate for Cultural Heritage is a programme partner in a number of countries.

In this round of funding, support for promoting cultural diversity is being strengthened, building on successful experiences with the Cultural Exchange Fund

in Poland 2004-2009. Funds to promote **diversity** in culture and arts are now also established in several other countries, such as Bulgaria, the Czech Republic and Lithuania. The Arts Council Norway is involved in several programmes.

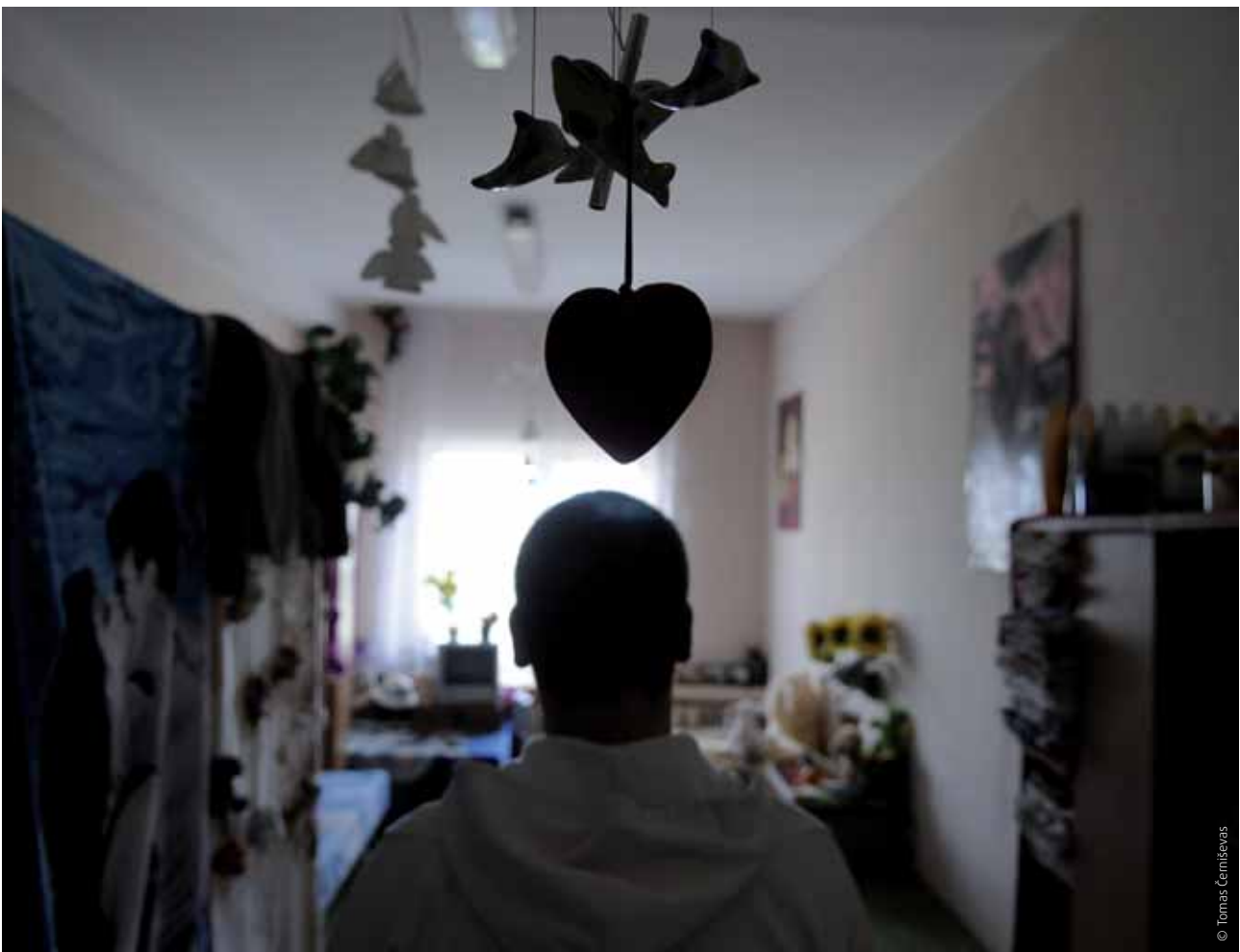
Preservation
Europe Contemporary art
 Cultural diversity Cultural dialogue
Historical heritage
 Local communities
Public access

JUSTICE AND HOME AFFAIRS

The Norway Grants contributes to improving police cooperation, making judicial systems more efficient, and modernising correctional systems. Combating domestic violence is also high on the agenda. The Council of Europe and relevant Norwegian institutions will play an important role as partners.

In the Schengen area, police cooperation is reinforced in order to **fight cross-border and organised crime**. Such cooperation is backed by the Norway Grants, with programmes to be established in Lithuania, Poland and Bulgaria – the latter in partnership with the Norwegian Police Directorate and the Council of Europe. This support will enable police forces to develop infrastructure and capacity, as well as strengthen coordination in this field. Increasing linkages with civil society is also an important dimension.

A **more efficient judicial system** is the objective for the support to the court system. The judiciary must be accountable, independent and attentive to the needs of vulnerable groups. In Bulgaria, attention will be given to the specific needs of Roma people. In Lithuania, focus will be on the improvement of security in courts and victims' rights, while Poland will look at promoting alternative ways of resolving disputes. The Norwegian National Courts Administration will be a partner in the Polish programme. The Council of Europe will work with the Bulgarian authorities.



Kaunas juvenile detention centre in Lithuania was upgraded with Norwegian support.

A growing prison population is a challenge for many countries. Norway will support the **improvement of correctional services**, including promoting alternatives to imprisonment. Focus will be on the rehabilitation of prisoners. The Norwegian Correctional Services will work with counterparts in Latvia, Lithuania and Poland. The Council of Europe will cooperate with the authorities in Bulgaria and the Czech Republic. Malta will also focus on vulnerable groups in prison. In Latvia, a new prison unit will be established, and the standard of detention centres will be improved.

In recent years, there has been increased international attention on problems related to domestic and gender-based violence. The Council of Europe has adopted a new Convention that obliges EU member states to toughen their legislation on such offences. Under the Norway Grants, programmes will be established to prevent and tackle **domestic and gender-based violence**, and to support victims of human trafficking, in a number of countries.

Efficient judiciary

Alternative dispute resolutions

Police cooperation

Access to justice

Better prisons

Fair courts

Competence-building

Fight human trafficking

Council of Europe

“The agreement... will strengthen the profile and expertise of the EEA and Norway Grants on important areas such as justice, human rights and social inclusion.”

Stine Andresen, Director of the Financial Mechanism Office

The Council of Europe (CoE) is to participate in EEA and Norway Grants programmes related to human rights, democracy and the rule of law. In the years to come, the CoE is to become an important adviser within its core areas of expertise – human rights, democracy, and rule of law – both for the donor and beneficiary states. The CoE sets recognised international standards, including over 200 international treaties, and identifies best practice. This makes the Council well-placed to assist in designing programmes to be financially supported by the EEA and Norway Grants.

The agreement with the Council of Europe will strengthen the profile and expertise of the EEA and Norway Grants on important areas such as justice, human rights and social inclusion. The CoE will be directly involved as a partner in a number of programmes and projects in the beneficiary states, most specifically when it comes to addressing the needs of vulnerable groups such as the Roma, assisting victims of human trafficking, fighting domestic and gender-based violence, and in strengthening the accountability and improving the efficiency of the judiciary and correctional systems.

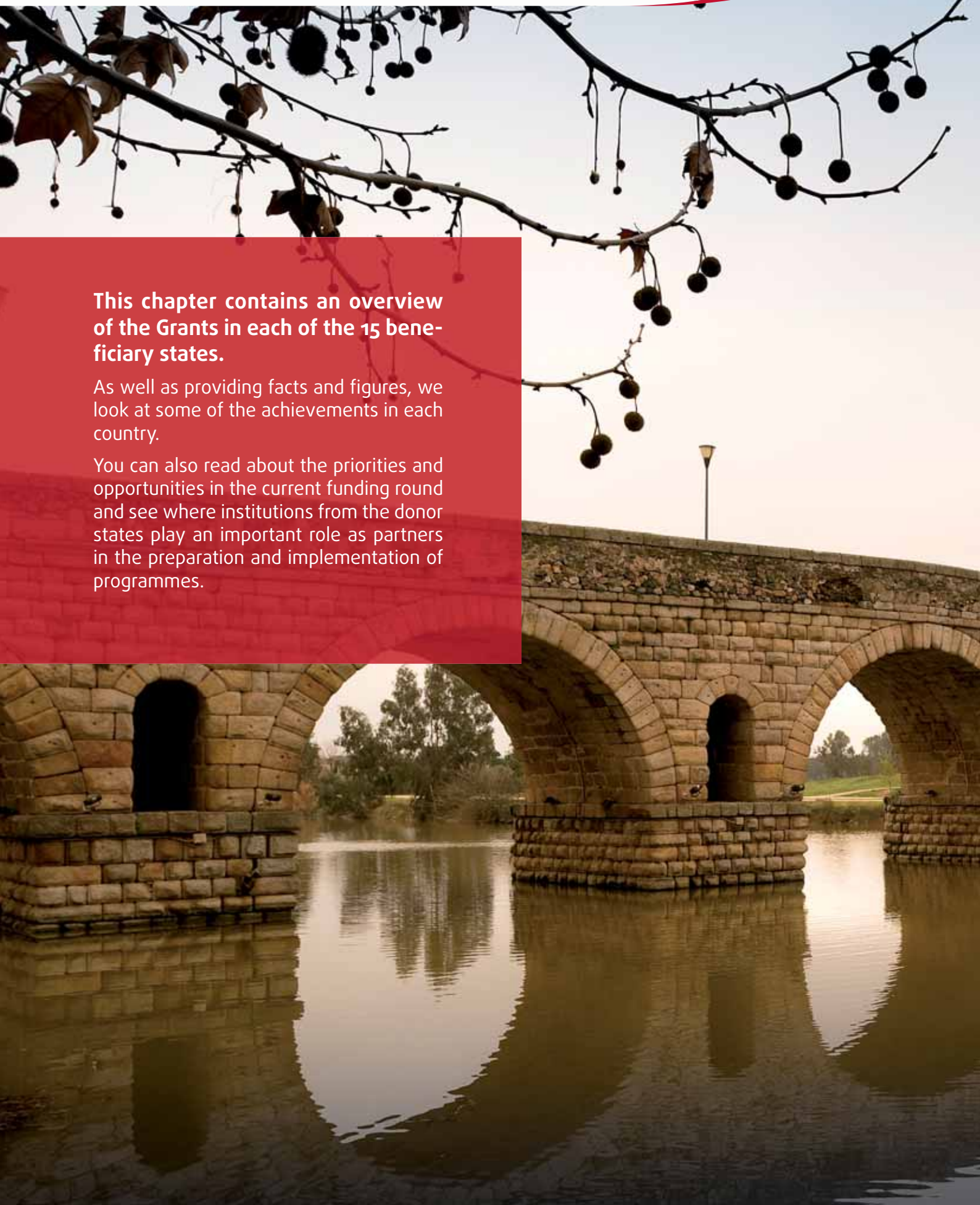
All country-specific agreements on the use of funds (MoUs) include a reference to the CoE's human rights- and governance-related standards.

PART 4: COUNTRY OVERVIEWS

This chapter contains an overview of the Grants in each of the 15 beneficiary states.

As well as providing facts and figures, we look at some of the achievements in each country.

You can also read about the priorities and opportunities in the current funding round and see where institutions from the donor states play an important role as partners in the preparation and implementation of programmes.





BULGARIA

Bulgaria became a beneficiary of the EEA and Norway Grants following its entry into the EU and EEA in 2007. The country ranks lowest in the EEA in terms of both economic and human development. In the period 2009-2014, Bulgaria will receive €126.6 million, ranking it fifth in terms of recipients of EEA and Norway Grants.

The EEA and Norway Grants have focused efforts on the environment, renewable energy and energy efficiency. Bulgaria is highly dependent on energy imports – its main domestic energy source is low-quality lignite. The energy consumption of its industry is twice the EU-25 average, placing Bulgaria first in terms of energy intensity.

ACHIEVEMENTS 2007-2009

Environment and sustainable development was the largest area of investment in Bulgaria. Funded projects include renovations to make public buildings more energy efficient, enhancing nuclear safety in Bulgaria, a new solar park, a new wind park, measures towards more sustainable energy use, and measures to increase efficiency of the energy market. Among the investments that contributed to safeguarding **biodiversity** were the development of a new national biodiversity-monitoring system, a new fire-protection monitoring system in Pirin National Park, and a comprehensive study of the European chestnut tree that will form the basis of a strategy to preserve this species.

Capacity-building projects have taken place in the north-west region, the most disadvantaged region in the EU, where local authorities participated in training schemes to raise the skills of the regional administration, which may help increase foreign investment and improve the local business climate.

Bulgaria's capacity in implementing **Schengen** was supported by financing a new telecommunications infrastructure covering Bulgaria's main Schengen borders – the Black Sea coast, all border points with Turkey, and the main ports and airports in the area – and by improving the country's response to trafficking in human beings.

Through the **scholarship fund**, 53 researchers/academic staff and 12 students from Bulgarian universities participated in exchange programmes with Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway. Thirty-four projects were implemented in **cooperation** between Bulgarian and Norwegian entities.



Population

7.5 million

Gross Domestic Product (GDP)

(difference to EU average)

€10 600 per person (-56%)

Human Development Index (HDI)

58 (world)

30 (EEA)

Gender Inequality Index (GII)

36 (world)

27 (EEA)

EEA Grants (2007-09 / 2009-14)

€21.5 / 78.6 million

Norway Grants (2007-09 / 2009-14)

€20.0 / 48.0 million

OPPORTUNITIES 2009-2014

Green funding continues to be the largest sector. Programmes will be established within energy efficiency and renewable energy, green industry innovation, marine and inland-water management, and biodiversity. There will be several partner institutions from Norway, namely the Climate and Pollution Agency (KLIF), the Norwegian Directorate of Nature and Management (DN), and the Norwegian Water Resources and Energy Directorate (NVE).

Justice and home affairs will also remain a priority, focusing on cross-border and organised crime, judicial capacity-building and cooperation, and correctional services, including non-custodial sanctions to increase the use of alternatives to prison. The Norwegian Ministry of Justice, Norwegian Police and the Council of Europe will be involved as programme partners in this sector.

Protecting **cultural and natural heritage** continues to be a main priority, and there will be a small grant scheme to promote diversity in culture and the arts. A programme for **capacity-building** in the public sector through cooperation and transfer of knowledge with similar institutions and authorities in Norway will be implemented in partnership with the Norwegian Association of Local Municipalities (KS). A project on **cross-border** cooperation will be implemented in cooperation with the Norwegian Barents Secretariat.

Public health programmes will aim at reducing inequalities in health care and improving public health, focusing on reproductive health, childcare, mental health, and better governance. Initiatives to target specific health challenges amongst the Roma population will be supported and a special programme targeting youth and children at risk, including Roma, will be implemented in cooperation with the Council of Europe and will focus in particular on school attendance.

Funding for the **NGO sector** will be strongly increased in this funding period, a new scholarship programme for **students** will be established, and a new feature will be the support to decent work and strengthening of institutional dialogue between employers, employees and authorities.

Note: Bulgaria is financing the completion of seven projects from the EEA and Norway Grants 2007-2009 from reserve funds under the EEA and Norway Grants 2009-2014.

DONOR PROGRAMME PARTNERS

- › Integrated Marine and Inland Water Management: Norwegian Climate and Pollution Agency (KLIF)
- › Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services: Norwegian Directorate of Nature Management (DN)

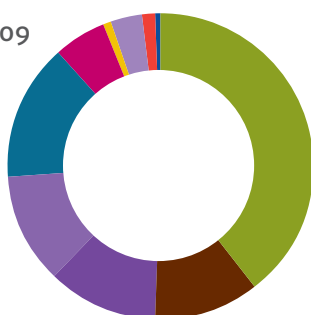
- › Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy: Norwegian Water Resources and Energy Directorate (NVE)
- › Capacity-building and Institutional Cooperation: Norwegian Association of Local Municipalities (KS)
- › Scholarships: Icelandic Centre for Research (Rannis), National Agency for International Educational Affairs (AIBA) of Liechtenstein, Norwegian Centre for International Cooperation in Higher Education (SIU)
- › Children and Youth at Risk: Council of Europe (CoE)
- › Domestic and Gender-based Violence: Council of Europe (CoE)
- › Schengen Cooperation: Norwegian Police Directorate (POD) with support from Council of Europe (CoE)
- › Judicial Capacity-building and Cooperation: Council of Europe (CoE)
- › Correctional Services including Non-custodial Sanctions: Council of Europe (CoE)

DONOR PROGRAMME OPERATORS

- › Green Industry Innovation: Innovation Norway (IN)
- › Global fund for Decent Work and Tripartite Dialogue: Innovation Norway (IN)

NET ALLOCATIONS

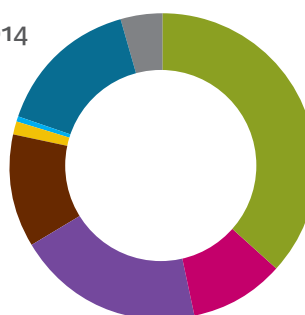
2007-2009



Environment 26 €14.7 million	Civil society 1 €2.1 million
Cultural heritage 8 €4.1 million	Academic research 1 €0.3 million
Health and childcare 12 €4.3 million	Regional policy and cross-border 2 €1.2 million
Human resource development 12 €4.4 million	Technical assistance 1 €0.5 million
Schengen and Judiciary 2 €5.3 million	Seed money fund 1 €0.2 million

Total: 66 projects - €37.1 million

2009-2014



Environment and climate change €43 million	Research and scholarship €1.5 million
Civil society €11.8 million	Decent work/social dialogue €0.5 million
Human and social development €23.3 million	Justice and home affairs €18 million
Cultural heritage €14 million	Other €5.1 million

Total: €117.1 million

CYPRUS

Cyprus is the second smallest beneficiary state in terms of population and size after Malta. With a GDP per person just 2% below the EU average, Cyprus ranks second after Spain among the beneficiary states. The country ranks lower on human development (HDI) due to low scores on education and income, but its population enjoys a high life-expectancy rate (80 yrs) and a relatively high level of gender equality (GII). In the funding period 2009-2014, Cyprus has been allocated €7.9 million, up from €4.7 million in the previous five-year period.

The country has a history of conflict and there is a need to foster contacts and understanding between the Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot communities. Therefore, the development and promotion of civil society and cooperation across the divide have been key priorities.



Traditional dance at the opening of a new centre for environmental education supported by the Norway Grants in Salamiou village in Cyprus.



Population
0.8 million

Gross Domestic Product (GDP)
(difference to EU average)
€24 000 per person (-2%)

Human Development Index (HDI)
35 (world)
23 (EEA)

Gender Inequality Index (GII)
15 (world)
12 (EEA)

EEA Grants (2004-09 / 2009-14)
€1.3 / 3.9 million

Norway Grants (2004-09 / 2009-14)
€3.4 / 4 million

ACHIEVEMENTS 2004-2009

In Cyprus, the funds were allocated in equal shares to protect **cultural heritage**, support **civil society**, and to the **environmental** sector. In the UN-controlled buffer zone in Nicosia, Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway funded the establishment of a new centre aiming to foster closer cooperation and dialogue between civil society from both communities in Cyprus. The establishment of the shared centre was led by the Association for Historical Dialogue and Research, comprising Turkish-Cypriot and Greek-Cypriot educators and historians. The **Home for Cooperation (H4C)** was inaugurated in the presence of the leaders of the island's two communities who expressed their strong support for the Home and their hopes for it to play a role in strengthening cooperation and dialogue between the island's two communities.

Efforts to increase island-wide cooperation between the two communities on Cyprus were also supported under the €1.5 million **NGO Fund**. Representing over a third of the total allocation, in relative terms this was the largest of the NGO Funds in any beneficiary state. Of the 33 projects supported by the Fund, close to 40% were implemented in cooperation between organisations from the Greek and Turkish Cypriot communities. The NGO projects were aimed at improving health and childcare services or empowering young people to take part in civil society.



Greek Cypriot leader, Demetris Christofias, and the Turkish Cypriot leader, Dervis Eroglu strongly support the 'Home for Cooperation' and its vision for strengthening cooperation and dialogue between the two communities on the island.

In the **environmental field**, an old school building in Salamiou village was restored and turned into the Centre for Environmental Education. The centre gives a new boost to the area by attracting students and teachers from all over Cyprus to gather to study sustainability and environmental issues.

OPPORTUNITIES 2009-2014

The priorities of the EEA and Norway Grants 2009-14 for Cyprus have not yet been agreed. However, there will be continued support for **civil society** and for bi-communal dialogue and cooperation. Also, minimum requirements for the EEA Grants make it clear that at least €1.155 million will be dedicated to **environment and climate change** issues. Under the Norway Grants, €40 000 will be invested in decent work and improved dialogue between **social partners and public authorities**, in a programme run by Innovation Norway.

DONOR PROGRAMME PARTNERS

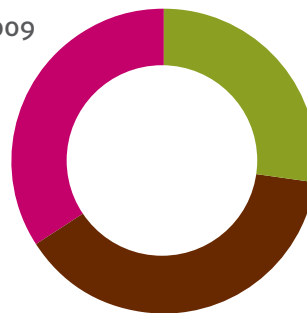
To be decided in the Memoranda of Understanding

DONOR PROGRAMME OPERATOR

- › Global Fund for Decent Work and Tripartite Dialogue: Innovation Norway

NET ALLOCATION

2004-2009



Environment 2
€1.2 million

Cultural heritage 3
€1.7 million

Civil society 1
€1.5 million

Total: 6 projects - €4.4 million

CZECH REPUBLIC

The Czech Republic belongs to the group of beneficiary states with higher socio-economic development. Its GDP per person is very close to the European average and it ranks third among beneficiary states in terms of human development (HDI). In the funding period 2009-2014, the Czech Republic has been allocated €131.8 million, up from €110.9 million in the previous five-year period.

While the Czech Republic has a plethora of cultural monuments and historic residences under heritage protection, a significant part of this rich heritage has been threatened by decay due to a lack of funding. This also has implications for the country's ability to exploit its potential as a tourism destination. Therefore, an important focus area for the EEA and Norway Grants has been to contribute to the preservation of this rich heritage through a range of projects. In the coming period, environment and health will be top priorities.

ACHIEVEMENTS 2004-2009

In the Czech Republic, the EEA and Norway Grants have significantly reinforced cultural heritage preservation and saved many historical monuments, artefacts and documents from irreparable decay. Over 40% of the funding was allocated to **cultural heritage**, more than in any other country. Example projects are the restoration of the Rajhrad Benedictine Abbey in Moravia, renovation of the stucco and fresco decorations of the Basilica of the Visitation of the Virgin Mary in Prague, the erection of ten replicas of old rural buildings in the Wallachian Open Air Museum, and the digitisation of historical manuscripts in the Municipal Library of Prague. The Grants have contributed to the conservation of 350 000 historical items, the digitisation of 3 million items, and to making 26 cultural heritage sites available to the public.

Within **health** and **childcare**, many projects focused on improving facilities in kindergartens, schools and playgrounds, and several nursery and primary schools have been modernised in **human resource development** projects. The General University Hospital in Prague created a complex care centre for newborns and infants at risk, which will contribute to reducing the morbidity and mortality of newborns in the Czech Republic. All in all, it was expected that 60 000 additional patients could be treated annually thanks to projects funded by Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway.

The **NGO Fund** has provided financial support to civil society projects focusing on human rights and multiculturalism, support for disadvantaged children and young people, and environmental protection.



Population

10.5 million

Gross Domestic Product (GDP)

(difference to EU average)

€19 500 per person (-20%)

Human Development Index (HDI)

28 (world)

18 (EEA)

Gender Inequality Index (GII)

27 (world)

20 (EEA)

EEA Grants (2004-09 / 2009-14)

€48.5 / 61.4 million

Norway Grants (2004-09 / 2009-14)

€62.4 / 70.4 million

A number of **environmental** projects were implemented within areas such as water and forest management, air-pollution monitoring and biodiversity. Other projects assisted the Czech Republic in meeting **Schengen** requirements and combating cross-border crime.

Nineteen projects involved **partnerships** between Czech and Norwegian entities, mainly within the fields of academic research and conservation of European cultural heritage. The Czech National Gallery in Prague cooperated with the Norwegian Directorate of Cultural Heritage in a project to install a new security system to safeguard its works of art. All eight National Gallery buildings are now connected to a central security system, ensuring that the valuable collections remain safe.

OPPORTUNITIES 2009-2014

Human and social development funding will largely focus on improved public health and reduced health inequalities, including within mental health. The Norwegian Institute of Public Health will be involved as a programme partner. There will also be a programme to improve the welfare of children and youth at risk, including minority groups. A third programme will specifically address the needs of the Roma population in order to reduce inequalities and promote social inclusion.

Gender equality will be addressed both with regards to promoting work-life balance and to reducing domestic and gender-based violence.

Within **justice and home affairs** there will be funding to fight cross-border and organised crime. This programme will address the importance of good cooperation between the law-enforcement authorities and the general public, in particular cooperation with minority groups. There will also be funding for capacity-building in the judicial system and to improve the correctional services system, with a focus on human rights. The Council of Europe will contribute as a partner.

The largest priority in the **environmental** sector will be to halt biodiversity loss, but there will also be support for environmental monitoring and planning and to address climate change. The Norwegian Directorate of Nature Management will act as programme partner. A separate programme will focus on pilot studies for **carbon capture and storage** (CCS) technology.

Support continues for **cultural heritage**. This includes small grants for cultural exchange, to which the Arts Council Norway will contribute. There will be funding for bilateral research cooperation and scholarships for student exchanges, **civil society** will benefit from a new NGO Fund, and funding to promote decent work and social dialogue will be established.

DONOR PROGRAMME PARTNERS

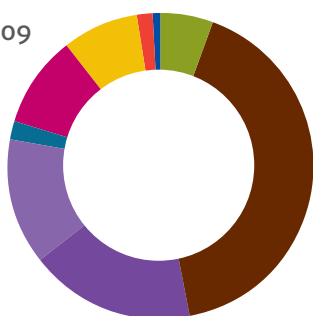
- › Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services & Environmental Monitoring and Integrated Planning Control & Adaptation to Climate Change: Directorate of Nature Management (DN)
- › Promotion of Diversity in Culture and Arts: Arts Council Norway (NKR)
- › Scholarships: Icelandic Centre for Research (Rannis), National Agency for International Education Affairs (AIBA) of Liechtenstein, Norwegian Centre for Internationalisation of Higher Education (SIU)
- › Czech-Norwegian Research Cooperation: Research Council of Norway (NFR)
- › Public Health Initiatives: Norwegian Institute of Public Health (FHI)
- › Correctional Services, including Non-custodial Sanctions: Council of Europe (CoE)

DONOR PROGRAMME OPERATOR

- › Global Fund for Decent Work and Tripartite Dialogue: Innovation Norway (IN)

NET ALLOCATIONS

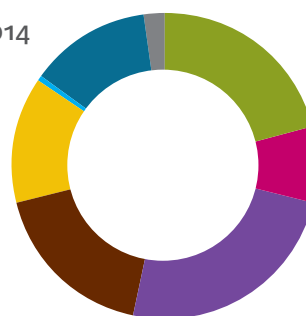
2004-2009



Environment 12 €5.9 million	Civil society 1 €10 million
Cultural heritage 59 €43.3 million	Academic research 9 €8.5 million
Health and childcare 33 €18.3 million	Technical assistance 1 €1.9 million
Human resource development 24 €14 million	Seed money fund 1 €0.6 million
Schengen and Judiciary 4 €2.1 million	

Total: 144 projects - €104.6 million

2009-2014



Environment and climate change €25.5 million	Research and scholarship €16.3 million
Civil society €9.8 million	Decent work/ social dialogue €0.7 million
Human and social development €30 million	Justice and home affairs €15.5 million
Cultural heritage €21.5 million	Other €2.6 million

Total: €121.9 million

ESTONIA

With a population of about 1.3 million, Estonia is one of the smaller beneficiary countries of the EEA and Norway Grants. Among the beneficiary states, Estonia has a medium ranking on human development (HDI), scoring high on education but very low on gender equality (GII). Its GDP per person is 36% below the EU average. In the funding period 2009-2014, Estonia has been allocated €48.6 million, up from €32.8 million in the previous period, giving it the highest allocation per person.

Estonia has a rich tradition of old manor houses, many of which had fallen into disrepair during the last century. The Grants contribute to revitalising these houses and the surrounding communities through restoration and transforming them into modern educational institutions.

Estonia faces some considerable challenges when it comes to public health and a lack of efficiency in the health-care system. The rapid spread of HIV infections and other communicable diseases in some regions of the country could become a major socio-economic burden. The EEA and Norway Grants target efforts to meet these challenges.

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ACHIEVEMENTS 2004-2009

More than a quarter of the funding was allocated to projects to preserve **cultural heritage**. This support enabled nine historical manor houses to be converted into modern educational and cultural centres as part of a national strategy to combine the preservation of historical buildings with the revitalisation of local communities.

In the area of **health and childcare**, many projects focused on communicable diseases such as HIV/AIDS and hepatitis B and C. More than 2 700 additional patients can now be diagnosed or treated each year thanks to upgraded facilities and new equipment. Estonia has the highest rate of HIV cases in Europe. The Communicable Diseases Clinic in West-Tallinn Central Hospital (WTCH), the national reference centre for HIV and AIDS, has been extensively renovated, improving both safety and conditions for patients.

With the funds for **environmental protection and sustainable development**, CO₂ emissions have been reduced by 74 000 tonnes per year while biodegradable waste to landfill has been cut by 85 000 tonnes annually. This is mainly the result of replacing oil-shale with waste for energy purposes at a cement factory in Kunda, although the Estonian municipality of Lihula has also received support to replace oil-shale with renewable bio-fuels as a source for energy production.



Population

1.3 million

Gross Domestic Product (GDP) (difference to EU average)

€15 900 per person (-36%)

Human Development Index (HDI)

34 (world)

22 (EEA)

Gender Inequality Index (GII)

39 (world)

28 (EEA)

EEA Grants (2004-09 / 2009-14)

€10.1 / 23 million

Norway Grants (2004-09 / 2009-14)

€22.7 / 25.6 million

Three funds were supported in Estonia: a **regional development** fund to strengthen the efficiency and quality of public services at local and regional level; an **NGO Fund** to strengthen civil society's work on democracy, human rights, environment and regional policy; and an **academic research fund** which contributed to 11 PhDs.

Within the **justice** sector, Norway supported a project to develop and implement basic skills and vocational skills programmes for inmates aged 14-26, and to train staff in order to improve the reintegration of inmates into society. This was one of four projects in Estonia implemented in **partnership** with Norwegian entities.

OPPORTUNITIES 2009-2014

Human and social development is the main priority in Estonia in this period. Half of this funding goes to public health initiatives in the mental health services, life-style-related diseases, and communicable diseases, including HIV/AIDS and TB. Funding will also target vulnerable children and youth, in particular incarcerated juveniles.

Gender equality measures will be funded both under human and social development and under justice and home affairs. One part will focus on gender equality in work-life and society, and the other on fighting domestic violence and trafficking.

Within the **environment sector** there will be a programme to improve the environmental standard of Estonian marine and inland water, with the support of the Norwegian Climate and Pollution Agency. There will also be a programme to support green industry innovation, in cooperation with Innovation Norway.

Support for the preservation and revitalisation of old manor houses will continue in the **cultural heritage sector**, and the Norwegian Directorate for Cultural Heritage will now be involved as a programme partner. There will be considerable support for **scholarships and research**, including a special facility to enhance research cooperation between Estonia and Norway.

The **NGO Fund** will support capacity-building in civil society, and include assistance for multicultural dialogue, integration of national minorities, and social services development targeting children and youth. A new feature will be funding to promote **decent work and social dialogue**.

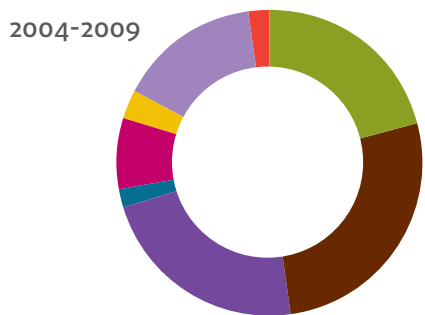
DONOR PROGRAMME PARTNERS

- › Integrated Marine and Inland Water Management: Norwegian Climate and Pollution Agency (KLIF)
- › Green Industry Innovation: Innovation Norway (IN)
- › Public Health Initiatives: Norwegian Institute of Public Health (FHI)
- › Domestic and Gender-based Violence: Norwegian Directorate of Health (Hdir)
- › Children and Youth at Risk: Norwegian Association of Local and Regional Authorities (KS)
- › Estonian-Norwegian Research Cooperation with Norway: Norwegian Research Council
- › Scholarships: Icelandic Centre for Research (Rannis), National Agency for International Education Affairs (AIBA) of Liechtenstein, Norwegian Centre for Internationalisation of Higher Education (SIU)
- › Conservation and Revitalisation of Cultural and Natural Heritage: Norwegian Directorate for Cultural Heritage (RA)

DONOR PROGRAMME OPERATOR

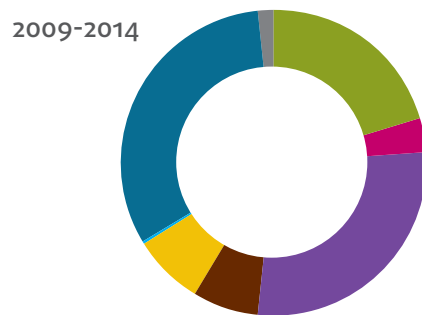
- › Global fund for Decent Work and Tripartite Dialogue: Innovation Norway (IN)

NET ALLOCATIONS



Environment 10 €6.4 million	Academic research 2 €0.9 million
Cultural heritage 9 €8.2 million	Regional policy and cross-border 1 €4.6 million
Health and childcare 10 €6.8 million	Technical assistance 1 €0.6 million
Schengen and Judiciary 1 €0.6 million	
Civil society 1 €2.3 million	

Total: 35 projects - €30.4 million



Environment and climate change €12.9 million	Research and scholarship €4.6 million
Civil society €2.3 million	Decent work/social dialogue €0.3 million
Human and social development €17.4 million	Justice and home affairs €20 million
Cultural heritage €4.5 million	Other €1 million

Total: €45 million

GREECE

Despite the difficulties Greece has encountered in the recent financial and economic crisis, the country has the third highest GDP per person among the beneficiary states and the second best score on human development (HDI), where it rates high on health and life expectancy. In the funding period 2009-2014, Greece has been allocated €63.4 million, up from €34.3 million in the previous five-year period.

The EEA Grants have targeted environment and sustainable development, assisting Greece in areas such as water and forest management. In the future, focus will be on marine and inland-water management, as well as renewable energy. The Greek economy has a higher level of energy intensity than the EU average, while the share of renewable energy sources in its energy supply is below average.

Focus has also been on the cultural heritage sector, given the importance of Greece in European history, philosophy and architecture, and the significance this holds for tourism and the Greek economy. In this period, the EEA Grants will turn to contemporary challenges linked to asylum and immigration.

Population

11.3 million

Gross Domestic Product (GDP)

(difference to EU average)
€21 700 per person (-11%)

Human Development Index (HDI)

22 (world)
13 (EEA)

Gender Inequality Index (GII)

23 (world)
17 (EEA)

EEA Grants (2004-09 / 2009-14)

€34.3 / 63.4 million



Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway support the digitisation of the Agora archives in Athens.



© Craig Maury, American School of Classical Studies

Funding has contributed to the digitisation of cultural heritage items - including in the ancient Agora market place in Athens.

ACHIEVEMENTS 2004-2009

Protection of the **environment** and sustainable development was by far the most significant priority sector in Greece, absorbing half of the project funding. The main focus was the improvement of water supply and distribution in Greek municipalities and the improved management of forest ecosystems. Projects were supported to restore forest areas in the mountain areas of Lakonia and Parnonas, and in the prefectures of Iliia, Messinia and Rodopi. Three out of five partnership projects with Norwegian entities were within the field of the environment.

The Grants also contributed to the conservation of Greece's rich **cultural heritage**, for example through the rehabilitation of the Byzantine Walls of Thessaloniki and the surrounding landscape, and the reconstruction and presentation of the ancient Agora and the medieval fortifications of the town of Kos. An interesting project involved digitisation of the Agora archives. Nowhere is the history of Athens so richly illustrated than in the Agora in Athens, the market place that was the focal point of public life. After 80 years of systematic excavations, hundreds of thousands of documents, photos and archeological artefacts have been found in the archive. In total, it is foreseen that 67 000 cultural heritage items will be digitised through three projects in Greece.

In the sector for **health and childcare**, projects have focused on improving the quality of life of victims of abuse, neglect, trafficking, abduction or exploitation in Greece. Crisis-intervention hostels for abused children under five years were established in Athens, Thessaloniki and Alexandroupolis. In the town of Drama, the services in a centre for victims of abuse and domestic violence were strengthened, including the establishment of a helpline. Several **human resource development** projects focused on the integration of immigrants and vulnerable groups into society and the labour market.

OPPORTUNITIES 2009-2014

Although a formal agreement has not yet been signed, it was agreed earlier with Greece that a major part of the funding would go to strengthen the institutional framework in the **asylum and migration** sector, due to the great challenges the country faces in this area. The Norwegian Directorate of Immigration is expected to be a partner in this programme.

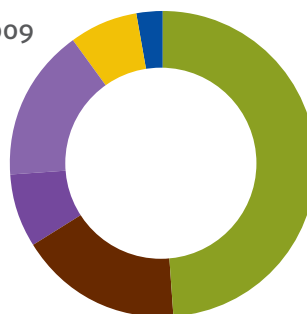
Minimum requirements also make it clear that at least 30% of the EEA Grants (€19 million) will go to **environment**, climate change and renewable energy. In Greece, there will also be an **NGO Fund** for the first time, receiving a minimum of 10% of the EEA Grants (€6.3 million). More details will be specified in the upcoming agreement.

DONOR PROGRAMME PARTNER

Institutional Framework in the Asylum and Migration Sector: Norwegian Directorate of Immigration (UDI) (To be confirmed in the Memorandum of Understanding)

NET ALLOCATION

2004-2009



Environment 13
€11.3 million

Cultural heritage 8
€4 million

Health and childcare 4
€1.8 million

Human resource development 6
€3.7 million

Academic research 6
€1.7 million

Seed money fund 1
€0.6 million

Total: 38 projects - €23.1 million

HUNGARY

Hungary is among the top beneficiaries of EEA and Norway Grants. Its GDP per person is 36% below the EU average, and has only grown at a modest rate. Hungary is ninth among beneficiary states in terms of human development (HDI). It scores higher on health and education, but lower on income and gender equality (GII). In the funding period 2009-2014, Hungary has been allocated €153.3 million, up from €135.1 million in the previous five-year period.

Hungary has a rich architectural heritage, much of which was damaged during and after World War II. In many cases, historical buildings have become burdens for their owners because of their poor condition. Due to a lack of other funding, the EEA and Norway Grants have therefore supported the restoration and revitalisation of heritage sites, enabling these buildings to come back into use.

Another concern in Hungary has been the low level of participation in capacity-building activities, particularly among older generations and people in lower-skilled professions. There has also been a need to modernise and professionalise public administration, to better serve citizens, businesses and society large. This has been another important priority for the Grants.

ACHIEVEMENTS 2004-2009

In Hungary, the EEA and Norway Grants have contributed to the renovation of uniquely valuable historical buildings, such as Siklós Castle, the Basilica in Pécs, and Matthias Church in Budapest. Conservation of **European cultural heritage** received a quarter of the funding, and restoration projects were carried out with the emphasis on ensuring the accessibility and functionality of renovated objects. For example, the Carmelite monastery in Sopronbámfalva has been renovated and made into an educational retreat and meditation centre, contributing to the economic and cultural activity in the area.

Within the **environmental** sector, the establishment of a zero-emissions conference centre, at the renowned Regional Environmental Center for Central and Eastern Europe outside Budapest, was among the achievements. This project involved the installation of solar panels, while a number of other projects also focused on renewable energy sources, including one involving the Norwegian Institute for Water Research (NIVA).

Under human resources development, a €1.2-million **scholarship fund** has provided grants for more than 400 Hungarian students to study in Iceland, Liechtenstein or Norway. A wide variety of partnership projects between educational institutions in Hungary and the donor states have also received support from the fund.



Population

10 million

Gross Domestic Product (GDP)

(difference to EU average)

€15 700 per person (-36%)

Human Development Index (HDI)

36 (world)

24 (EEA)

Gender Inequality Index (GII)

34 (world)

25 (EEA)

EEA Grants (2004-09 / 2009-14)

€60.8 / 70.1 million

Norway Grants (2004-09 / 2009-14)

€74.3 / 83.2 million

Lifelong learning has been prioritised, too, thanks to several cooperation projects between Hungarian and Norwegian institutions. To address the lack of adult education in Hungary, especially in the disadvantaged regions, the Hungarian Association of Lifelong Learning (ALLL) teamed up with the Norwegian Agency for Lifelong Learning (VOX) to establish the Network of Open Learning Centres. The centres are located in areas struggling with high unemployment rates and social deprivation, and reach out to often-excluded groups. Each centre operates tailored programmes focusing on skills which are relevant to the local area. As a result, over 780 participants have been trained.

Training programmes for labour market integration were set up: one in cooperation with the Norwegian Association of Distance Education, targeting the Roma minority; and another in cooperation with the Norwegian Defence University College, targeting ex-soldiers. In addition, a training programme for local governments and mayors was established based on experience from the Norwegian Association of Local and Regional Authorities (KS). Around 70 training programmes have been developed under EEA and Norway Grants projects, and more than 900 officials and civil servants have been trained.

Altogether, 27 out of 91 projects in Hungary were implemented in **cooperation** with Norwegian entities within academic research, health and childcare, human resources development and the environment.

OPPORTUNITIES 2009-2014

Almost a third of the funding for Hungary in this period will be 'green'. Programmes will be set up to contribute to increased **energy efficiency**, more **renewable energy** and to reduce human and ecosystem vulnerability to **climate change**. In the renewable energy programme, the Icelandic National Energy Authority (OS) will contribute with its experience and know-how in the field of geothermal energy development. The Norwegian Directorate for Civil Protection and Emergency Planning (DSB) will participate in the climate change programme.

The second largest area of support will be two programmes on **public health** and on **children and youth at risk**, under the human and social development sector. These will support efforts to improve access to and the quality of services, and to reduce inequalities. Vulnerable groups such as the Roma will be targeted. The focus will be on reproductive and preventive child health care, lifestyle-related diseases, mental health services and school attendance. The Council of Europe will be involved in the programme targeting children and youth at risk.

Two programmes dedicated to **bilateral cooperation** between Hungary and Norway will be established, one within **academic research** and one to build capacity in the **public sector**. Already in the previous round, considerable Hungarian-Norwegian research cooperation was established. In this round, the financial resources are being more than doubled and all projects will build on such partnerships. Eligible projects will be within environment, health, social sciences and humanities, and the Norwegian Research Council will be programme partner.

There will also be a new and bigger **scholarship programme** and support to civil society will be substantially increased.

Support to **cultural heritage** will continue and the Norwegian Directorate for Cultural Heritage (RA) will be involved.

DONOR PROGRAMME PARTNERS

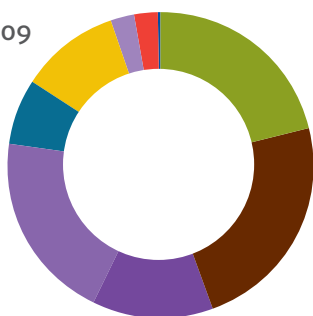
- › Renewable Energy: Icelandic National Energy Authority (OS)
- › Adaptation to climate change: Norwegian Directorate for Civil Protection and Emergency Planning (DSB)
- › Green Industry Innovation: Innovation Norway
- › Public Health Initiatives: Norwegian Institute of Public Health (FHI)
- › Children and Youth at Risk: Council of Europe (CoE)
- › Conservation and Revitalisation of Cultural Heritage and Natural Heritage: Norwegian Directorate for Cultural Heritage (RA)
- › Norwegian-Hungarian Research Cooperation: Research Council of Norway (NFR)
- › Scholarships: Icelandic Centre for Research (Rannis), National Agency for International Education Affairs (AIBA) of Liechtenstein, Norwegian Centre for International Cooperation in Higher Education (SIU)

DONOR PROGRAMME OPERATOR

- › Global Fund for Decent Work and Tripartite Dialogue: Innovation Norway (IN)

NET ALLOCATIONS

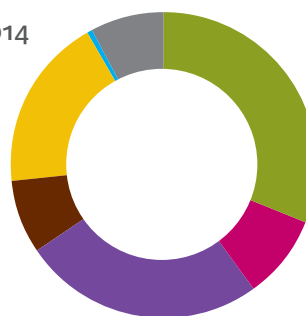
2004-2009



Environment 19 €24 million	Academic research 11 €11.9 million
Cultural heritage 19 €26.7 million	Regional policy and cross-border 3 €2.9 million
Health and childcare 14 €14.3 million	Technical assistance 1 €2.8 million
Human resource development 21 €22.7 million	Seed money fund 1 €0.3 million
NGO Funds 2 €7.9 million	

Total: 91 projects - €113.4 million

2009-2014



Environment and climate change €44.3 million	Cultural heritage €11.2 million
Civil society €12.6 million	Research and scholarship €25.9 million
Human and social development €36.2 million	Decent work/social dialogue €0.8 million
	Other €10.7 million

Total: €141.9 million

LATVIA

The Latvian GDP per person is only half of the EU average, and the country has the third lowest human development ranking (HDI) in the EEA, although scoring higher on gender equality. Latvia's €73 million in EEA and Norway Grants from 2009 to 2014 is the second highest allocation per person, and up from €54 million in the previous period.

Latvia has one of the highest prison populations compared to population in Europe. Thus, the authorities have challenges linked to prison facility standards and the re-socialisation of inmates to avoid their return to crime after being released. Norway and Latvia have cooperated in this field for many years, also through the Norway Grants.

In addition, Latvia has a range of environmental concerns which the EEA and Norway Grants are used to alleviate. In future, focus will be on adaptation to climate change as well as green entrepreneurship.

ACHIEVEMENTS 2004-2009

Within **Schengen and judiciary**, support was provided to a number of projects linked to improving the prison system, including re-socialisation programmes for inmates, improvement of building standards, and improved registration and information sharing on prisoners. It was foreseen that 1 100 juvenile inmates would benefit directly. Funding also helped to facilitate the implementation of the Schengen Agreement which abolishes internal borders between a large number of European countries, and which Latvia joined in 2007.

Environmental protection and sustainable development funding helped to improve management of inland-water fish resources, and to protect ecosystems and biodiversity. Funding also supported projects to set up electronic-waste sorting and recycling facilities, promote renewable energy use and improve environmental monitoring and control standards. CO₂ emissions were set to be reduced by 10 000 tonnes per year through five projects.

Half of the funding to **regional and cross-border development** was channelled through two funds. One promoted development in peripheral areas involving cooperation across the border with Estonia, Lithuania, Belarus and Russia. The other promoted private-public partnership in infrastructure development. A number of human resource development projects also focused on regional development through networking, training and new practices, during which 500 public servants were trained.



Population

2.2 million

Gross Domestic Product (GDP)

(difference to EU average)

€12 600 per person (-48%)

Human Development Index (HDI)

48 (world)

28 (EEA)

Gender Inequality Index (GII)

22 (world)

16 (EEA)

EEA Grants (2004-09 / 2009-14)

€19.7 / 34.6 million

Norway Grants (2004-09 / 2009-14)

€34.0 / 38.4 million

Two funds were set up to support **scholarships** in the form of mobility grants for Latvian students, teachers and education management staff, and grants to **research** projects.

Notable among the **cultural heritage** projects was a comprehensive overhaul of the Kuldiga District museum, including the creation of a restoration centre for wooden architecture. The project was implemented in close cooperation with Norwegian Crafts Development at Maihaugen and Frogn Municipality in Norway, which faces similar challenges in keeping old craft traditions alive and preserving wooden architecture.

Around one-third of all projects in Latvia involved **partnerships** between Latvian and donor-state entities, mainly in the fields of Schengen and the judiciary, and health and childcare.

OPPORTUNITIES 2009-2014

Environment is the largest priority for Latvia in the period 2009-2014. One programme will help Latvia to develop systems for collection, storage, quality assurance and dissemination of environmental data related to climate change. Another will target new business opportunities in the green economy, aiming to establish an incubator for eco-industry innovation to serve as a bridging facility between green entrepreneurs and the market place. The Norwegian Climate

and Pollution Agency and Innovation Norway will be involved in the respective programmes.

A **justice and home affairs** programme will target reform of Latvia's correctional services and police detention centres, such as increasing the use of alternatives to imprisonment and reducing administrative detention. There will be funding for the upgrade of infrastructure, staff training, and the development of systems and procedures. The Norwegian Correctional Services will be a programme partner, and the parties will draw on the experience and expertise of the Council of Europe.

Public sector capacity-building will focus specifically on service delivery in local governments and territorial planning practice at all levels of government. The Norwegian Association of Local and Regional Authorities will be involved, and learning from the best-practice examples of relevant Norwegian public institutions will be a key part of the programme.

Funding for **cultural heritage** is being increased significantly. In addition to a number of pre-defined projects, there will be open funding for the protection of art nouveau and wooden architecture cultural heritage assets. A small grants scheme will also be implemented for cultural exchange.

There will be funding for Latvian-Norwegian **research** within the social sciences and humanities, as well as **scholarships** in cooperation with Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway.

NGO funding is almost double that of the previous period, and half of the support will target provision of

welfare and basic services, social inclusion, children and youth at risk, and gender equality. The programme will address multicultural dialogue and the integration of national minorities. Funding to **decent work** and dialogue between social partners and authorities is a new feature in this funding period.

DONOR PROGRAMME PARTNERS

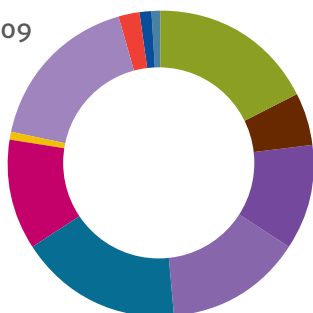
- › Adaptation to Climate Change: Norwegian Climate and Pollution Agency (KLIF)
- › Green Industry Innovation: Innovation Norway (IN)
- › Capacity-Building and Institutional Cooperation between Beneficiary State and Norwegian Public Institutions, Local and Regional Authorities: Norwegian Association of Local and Regional Authorities (KS)
- › Conservation and Revitalisation of Cultural and Natural Heritage: Norwegian Directorate for Cultural Heritage (RA)
- › Small grant scheme for cultural exchange: Arts Council Norway (NKR)
- › Latvian-Norwegian Research Cooperation: Research Council of Norway (NFR)
- › Scholarships: Norwegian Centre for Internationalisation of Higher Education Innovation (SIU)
- › Correctional Services including Non-custodial Sanctions: Norwegian Correctional Services (KSF)

DONOR PROGRAMME OPERATOR

- › Global Fund for Decent Work and Tripartite Dialogue: Innovation Norway (IN)

NET ALLOCATIONS

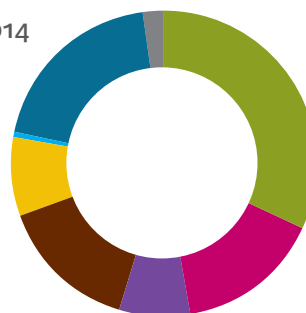
2004-2009



Environment 15 €8.8 million	Academic research 1 €0.5 million
Cultural heritage 6 €2.7 million	Regional policy and cross-border 9 €8.5 million
Health and childcare 11 €5.6 million	Technical assistance 1 €1.2 million
Human resource development 14 €7.2 million	Seed money fund 1 €0.5 million
Schengen and Judiciary 14 €8.6 million	Acquis communautaire 1 €0.5 million
Civil society 2 €5.7 million	

Total: 75 projects - €49.7 million

2009-2014



Environment and climate change €21.7 million	Research and scholarship €5.5 million
Civil society €10.4 million	Decent work/social dialogue €0.4 million
Human and social development €5 million	Justice and home affairs €13.1 million
Cultural heritage €10 million	Other €1.5 million

Total: €67.5 million

LITHUANIA

Lithuania is the largest of the Baltic States. Its GDP per person is 42% below the EU average, and it ranks fourth last of the beneficiary states on human development (HDI), although scores relatively well on education. For the period 2009-2014, Lithuania has been allocated €84 million in support, up from €67.3 million in the previous five-year period.

While health indicators in Lithuania have shown improvement, life expectancy is still below the EU average. The Lithuanian health-care system is in need of reform, and a particular area requiring attention has been the prevention and early diagnosis of illnesses. With one of the highest cancer rates in Europe, improving the diagnosis and treatment of cancer has been a priority under the Grants.

Lithuania also faces considerable challenges within the justice system, as regards internal and cross-border crime and a large prison population. Thus, improving the penitentiary and judicial system is another priority for the Grants.

ACHIEVEMENTS 2004-2009

More than any other country, Lithuania chose to target the funding in this period on **health and child-care projects**. Efforts focused on early diagnostics and prevention of diseases such as cancer. Lithuania is among the countries battling the highest cancer rates in the EU. With support from Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway, key diagnostic and treatment equipment has been purchased for the country's six major medical institutions, bringing them to the forefront of new cancer diagnostic and treatment techniques. Another priority has been to improve the conditions for children in public care, including foster homes and day-care centres. Vilnius University Hospital has partnered with Oslo University Hospital to provide quality health services to children suffering from heart diseases. It was estimated that 1500 medical staff would be trained and the capacity to diagnose and treat patients increased by 53 600 in this sector. Cancer was also targeted through **research** projects.

In a special project, facilities were improved and training put in place for the adolescent inmates at a correctional facility for juveniles in Kaunas, the only facility of its kind in the country.

Close to one-fifth of the funding went to **cultural heritage projects** which helped preserve a number of historical buildings, such as manor houses, churches and forts, wooden architecture and traditional crafts and technologies, making unique parts of the Lithuanian cultural heritage more accessible to tourists and the general public.



Population

3.2 million

Gross Domestic Product (GDP)

(difference to EU average)

€14 200 per person (-42%)

Human Development Index (HDI)

44 (world)

27 (EEA)

Gender Inequality Index (GII)

33 (world)

24 (EEA)

EEA Grants (2004-09 / 2009-14)

€27.0 / 38.4 million

Norway Grants (2004-09 / 2009-14)

€40.3 / 45.6 million

Within **Schengen and the judiciary**, efforts focused on combating cross-border crime and improving the penitentiary system through training. Training also played a central part in human resources development, in order to improve public service provision, assist children in need, and the integration of vulnerable groups.

Two **regional policy funds** were established, one targeting regional development and reduced disparities, and one focusing on the transfer of experience and strengthening of cooperation among local and regional partners in Lithuania and Norway.

The Lithuanian **NGO Fund** provided vital support for the chronically underfunded civil society, supporting over 100 projects in sustainable development, strengthening democracy and capacity-building in civil society in general.

Norwegian entities were involved in eight **partnership projects** within the fields of health and childcare, human resource development and environmental protection.

OPPORTUNITIES 2009-2014

In the period 2009-2014, **environment and climate change** becomes the largest priority in Lithuania, earmarking green industry innovation, marine and inland-water management, and protection of

biodiversity and ecosystems. The Norwegian Directorate for Nature Management and Innovation Norway will be involved as programme partners.

Justice and home affairs funding will be aimed at combating cross-border and organised crime, judicial capacity-building and cooperation, and correctional services, including non-custodial sanctions. The Norwegian Court Administration and the Norwegian Correctional Services will contribute to the programmes.

Under **human and social development**, on the one hand there will be support to public health initiatives and to children and youth at risk. On the other hand, Lithuanian-Norwegian partnerships will be established to build cooperation between municipalities and regional authorities from the two countries, to build capacity and exchange experience in the management of state-owned enterprises, to cooperate on a climate-change inventory, and to combat domestic and gender-based violence.

Cultural heritage funding will focus on wooden architecture, and there will be small grants for cultural exchange. There will be continued support to the civil society sector, new funding to promote **decent work** and dialogue between social partners and with public authorities, and **scholarships** to students.

- › Biodiversity and ecosystem services: Norwegian Directorate for Nature Management (DN)
- › Cooperation on a climate-change inventory: Norwegian Climate and Pollution Agency (KLIF)
- › Conservation and Revitalisation of Cultural and Natural Heritage: Norwegian Directorate for Cultural Heritage (RA)
- › Increased and strengthened cooperation between municipalities and regional authorities in Lithuania and Norway: Norwegian Association of Local and Regional Authorities (KS)
- › Capacity-building and exchange of experience in the management of state-owned enterprises: tbd
- › Cooperation and capacity-building with regard to domestic and gender-based violence: tbd
- › Scholarships: Norwegian Centre for International Cooperation in Higher Education (SIU)
- › Promotion of Diversity in Culture and Arts within European Cultural Heritage: Arts Council Norway (NKR)
- › Green Industry Innovation: Innovation Norway (IN)
- › Judicial Capacity-building and Cooperation: Norwegian Courts Administration (DA)
- › Correctional Services including Non-custodial Sanctions: Norwegian Correctional Services (KSF)

DONOR PROGRAMME PARTNERS

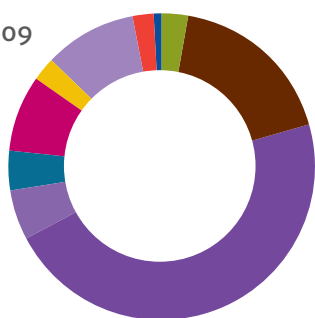
- › Integrated marine and inland-water management: Norwegian Directorate for Nature Management (DN)

DONOR PROGRAMME OPERATOR

- › Global Fund for Decent Work and Tripartite Dialogue: Innovation Norway (IN)

NET ALLOCATIONS

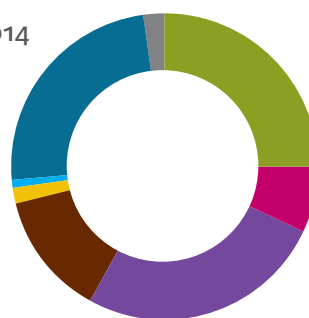
2004-2009



Environment 3 €1.9 million	Civil society 1 €5 million
Cultural heritage 23 €11.2 million	Academic research 4 €1.7 million
Health and childcare 42 €29.3 million	Regional policy and cross-border 2 €6.1 million
Human resource development 6 €3.3 million	Technical assistance 1 €1.3 million
Schengen and Judiciary 3 €2.6 million	Seed money fund 1 €0.5 million

Total: 86 projects - €63 million

2009-2014



Environment and climate change €19.5 million	Research and scholarship €1.4 million
Civil society €5.5 million	Decent work/social dialogue €0.5 million
Human and social development €20.3 million	Justice and home affairs €18.8 million
Cultural heritage €10 million	Other €1.7 million

Total: €77.7 million

MALTA

Malta is the smallest beneficiary state of the EEA and Norway Grants in terms of population, size and funding. It has the fifth highest GDP per person among the beneficiary states. On human development (HDI), the country scores high on health with the second highest life expectancy rate (80 yrs), but low on education and income. Gender inequality (GII) is still considerable, with only Bulgaria, Estonia and Romania ranking lower. Malta receives €4.5 million in the funding period 2009-2014, up from €3.6 million in the previous five-year period.

Malta is essentially composed of two small islands in the Mediterranean, making it vulnerable in many ways to hazards created by both human activity and the impact of nature. On the one hand, Malta's economy depends very much on tourism, while on the other hand the country faces a significant challenge as a small island country in guarding the external Schengen border. Investments into environmental and sustainable development projects, cultural heritage projects and fulfilling Schengen requirements have therefore been prioritised under the EEA and Norway Grants.

Population

0.4 million

Gross Domestic Product (GDP) (difference to EU average)

€20 400 per person (-17%)

Human Development Index (HDI)

33 (world)
21 (EEA)

Gender Inequality Index (GII)

35 (world)
26 (EEA)

EEA Grants (2004-09 / 2009-14)

€ 1.9 / 2.9 million

Norway Grants (2004-09 / 2009-14)

€1.7 / 1.6 million



ACHIEVEMENTS 2004-2009

Protection of the **environment** received the largest share of support, namely one project on water pollution reduction and water management, and one on agriculture and forestry. The first project supported Malta in establishing a national containment and clean-up system for major oil spills. With one-quarter of the world's oil tankers plying its waters, Malta's Mediterranean coastline runs a daily risk of oil contamination. Following a thorough risk assessment, an action plan was developed listing the steps that should be taken before, during and after a large oil spill. The Grant was also used to buy the equipment needed to contain an open-sea oil spill off Malta's shoreline until foreign assistance is available. The second project was directed at supporting the Xrobb l-Għaġin national park in reforestation efforts and in the establishment of an education centre focusing on sustainable environmental solutions, including renewable energy, water use and local biodiversity. Over 15 500 trees have been planted and restoration work carried out on the educational centre.

Within **cultural heritage**, three significant projects were funded. One project supported physical renovation work to stabilise the ramparts of Mdina's bastions. Another one targeted the underground World Heritage Site of Hypogeum on Malta. It is a complex of subterranean stairs and chambers not far from

Malta's capital Valetta, a unique monument that outdates the Egyptian pyramids and has survived for over 5 000 years. This complex is unique, but the flood of tourists throughout most of the 20th century contributed to the pressure and damage the complex suffered. Thirdly, the Grants supported the development of a large-scale plan to renovate the Cittadella on the island of Gozo. This is a small fortified town which, until the 17th century, provided a safe dwelling place for the island's inhabitants. It is the main historical site on the island and very important for both tourism and economic activity.

The Grants also supported two projects to ensure that Malta met requirements for **Schengen** membership.

OPPORTUNITIES 2009-2014

Environment continues to be the largest priority for the Grants in Malta. With the aim of increasing renewable energy production, there will be investments to develop a production plant for algae-derived bio-fuel which will reduce CO₂ emissions from waste management. There will also be a project to develop a national oil-spill contingency system, in cooperation with relevant Norwegian stakeholders.

Support will continue for **cultural heritage** with a project to develop a new environmental management system for the Hal-Saflieni Hypogeum World Heritage

Site. This is the only prehistoric underground temple in the world, dating from 2500-3000 B.C.

Within the justice sector, there will be a project to improve **correctional services** through the reorganisation of the Young Offenders' Unit of Rehabilitation Services (YOURS), including staff training

There will also be project on **capacity-building** in the public sector, possibly in cooperation with Norwegian stakeholders.

Funding for the **NGO sector** in Malta will be a new programme which will address the specific needs of migrants, as well as gender and domestic violence. There will also be new funding to **social partners**.

DONOR PROGRAMME OPERATOR

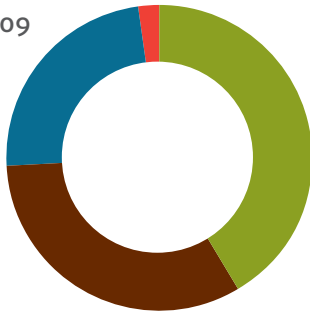
- › Global Fund for Decent Work and Tripartite Dialogue: Innovation Norway (IN)



On the small Mediterranean island of Gozo, the EEA Grants have supported the development of a large-scale plan to renovate the Cittadella, the island's main historical site.

NET ALLOCATIONS

2004-2009



Environment 2
€1.4 million

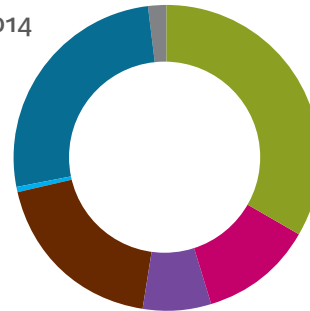
Cultural heritage 3
€1.1 million

Schengen and Judiciary 2
€0.8 million

Technical assistance 1
€0.07 million

Total: 8 projects - €3.4 million

2009-2014



Environment and climate change
€1.4 million

Civil society
€0.5 million

Human and social development
€0.3 million

Cultural heritage
€0.8 million

Decent work/ social dialogue
€0.02 million

Justice and home affairs
€1.1 million

Other
€0.07 million

Total: €4.2 million

POLAND

Poland is by far the largest beneficiary of EEA and Norway Grants. Its GDP level is still far behind the EU average but it has a strong and stable economy. Poland ranks low on human development (HDI), but scores well on health and is seventh among the beneficiary states when it comes to gender equality (GII). It is the largest recipient of EEA and Norway Grants. In the funding period 2009-2014, Poland has been allocated €578.1 million, up from €558.6 million in the previous five-year period.

Compared with other European countries, Poland's economy is highly energy intense, renewable energy is limited and there is a great need to increase the energy efficiency in public buildings. This has therefore been a key focus in the EEA and Norway Grants support to environment and sustainable development. In the new period, Norway will also work with Poland to develop carbon capture and storage.

It has the longest external border of any Schengen state, making international police cooperation and the fight against cross-border crime important. Poland and Norway have worked closely together on several projects in this field and will continue to do so.

ACHIEVEMENTS 2004-2009

Environment and sustainable development funding in Poland has aimed in particular to improve energy efficiency and energy savings in public buildings. Thermal insulation work, replacement of windows and doors, installation of thermostatic valves and replacement of inefficient oil-boilers have all contributed to annual savings of over 150 000 MWh and 70 000 tonnes of CO₂ emissions. Not only does this contribute to a better environment, but it also better facilities tens of thousands of people spending their days in schools and hospitals that have been renovated. One project involved a €750 000-upgrade of the Olsztynek regional children's hospital, improving patient comfort and working conditions for staff. More than 300 Polish school and hospital buildings have been upgraded.

In the **Schengen and justice sector**, Poland has benefited from considerable funding for strengthening the police and judiciary to combat organised and cross-border crime, and the Norwegian police have been partners in several projects. Security at 70 border crossings had to be improved to fulfill Schengen requirements, the largest of these being Terespol on the Belarus border.

Cultural heritage support has ensured renovation of several architectural landmarks in Krakow's UNESCO-listed old town, including the 16th-century Sukiennice or Cloth Hall, the International Cultural Centre, and



Population
38.2 million

Gross Domestic Product (GDP)
(difference to EU average)
€15 200 per person (-38%)

Human Development Index (HDI)
41 (world)
26 (EEA)

Gender Inequality Index (GII)
26 (world)
19 (EEA)

EEA Grants (2004-09 / 2009-14)
€280.8 / 266.9 million

Norway Grants (2004-09 / 2009-14)
€277.8 / 311.2 million

Jesuit churches. Renovation of the original basements in the UNESCO-listed old town of Warsaw was also undertaken. Here, as elsewhere, the aim was not only to renovate, but to open these spaces to the public, bringing in new life and stimulating cultural and economical activity. In total, 35 cultural heritage sites and 43 000 items were to be made available to the public, and 600 000 items digitised.

Within **health and childcare**, 5 000 medical staff received training, and capacity increased by over 110 000 patients per year. Around 150 playgrounds and sports facilities were established to promote a healthy lifestyle for children and adolescents, often combined with health monitoring and follow-ups.

Considerable health and environmental **research** was conducted in Poland, often in cooperation with Norwegian research institutions. Approximately 16 patent applications, 61 PhDs and 760 publications were achieved. Also, around 1 000 Polish students, teachers and staff received support from the **scholarship fund** to study or work in Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway.

Support to **civil society** in Poland has been substantial through three funds focusing on democracy and civil society, environmental protection and sustainable development, as well as equal opportunities and social integration.

The Grant schemes have boosted **cooperation** between entities in Poland and the donor states.

A total of 98 projects include a donor-state partner, mainly Norwegian. In addition, there has been extensive cooperation under the funds.

OPPORTUNITIES 2009-2014

Focus will largely be on **environment and climate change** in this funding period. Since Poland is one of the countries with the highest levels of CO₂ emissions in Europe, over half of the green funding is set aside to support the development and use of **carbon capture and storage** (CSS) technology at Belchatów, the largest coal-fuelled thermal power plant in Europe. Gassnova, the Norwegian state enterprise for CCS, will be a partner. Energy efficiency and renewable energy will continue to be important priorities, and there will be funding to improve environmental monitoring and inspections and to protect biodiversity.

Under human and social development there will be support to improve access to and quality of health services and to reduce social inequalities. Special focus is given to reproductive and preventive child health care, health care related to the ageing society, and preventing lifestyle-related diseases. The Norwegian Directorate of Health will be a partner in the programme.

Within the area of **justice and home affairs**, the support will aim to strengthen the Polish judiciary, increase the use of alternatives to prison, and improve training for both inmates and prison staff. There will also be funding to combat domestic and gender-based violence.

Support will continue in the **cultural heritage** sector, including cultural activities to promote diversity. New

NGO funding will be established to ensure the continued strengthening of civil society within social justice, democracy and sustainable development. There will also be new funding to facilitate **student exchange** between Poland and the donor states and **research cooperation** between Poland and Norway.

DONOR PROGRAMME PARTNERS

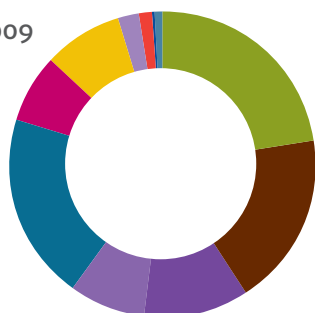
- › Environmental Monitoring and Integrated Planning and Control: Norwegian Climate and Pollution Agency (KLIF)
- › Carbon Capture and Storage: Gassnova (Norway)
- › Public Health Initiatives: Norwegian Directorate of Health (Hdir)
- › Promotion of Diversity in Culture and Arts within European Cultural Heritage: Arts Council Norway (NKR) with support from Norwegian Directorate for Cultural Heritage (RA)
- › Polish-Norwegian Research Cooperation: Research Council of Norway (NFR)
- › Scholarships: Icelandic Centre for Research (Rannis), National Agency for International Education Affairs (AIBA) of Liechtenstein, Norwegian Centre for International Cooperation in Higher Education (SIU)
- › Judicial Capacity-building and Cooperation: Norwegian National Courts Administration (DA)
- › Correctional Services including Non-custodial Sanctions: Norwegian Correctional Services

DONOR PROGRAMME OPERATOR

- › Global Fund for Decent Work and Tripartite Dialogue: Innovation Norway (IN)

NET ALLOCATIONS

2004-2009



Environment 163
€118.6 million

Cultural heritage 36
€95.6 million

Health and childcare 73
€58.5 million

Human resource development 42
€41.1 million

Schengen and Judiciary 29
€10.4 million

Civil society 3
€37.4 million

Academic research 41
€42.8 million

Regional policy and cross-border 24
€12.1 million

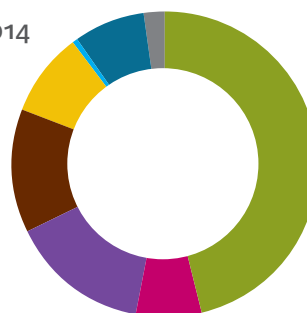
Technical assistance 1
€7.2 million

Seed money fund 1
€1.8 million

Acquis communautaire 6
€3.4 million

Total: 419 projects - €522.5 million

2009-2014



Environment and climate change
€247 million

Civil society
€37 million

Human and social development
€79.5 million

Cultural heritage
€70 million

Research and scholarship
€46.8 million

Decent work/social dialogue
€3.1 million

Justice and home affairs
€40 million

Other
€11.3 million

Total: €534.7 million

PORTUGAL

Portugal is sixth in terms of GDP per person among the beneficiary states. It ranks low in terms of human development (HDI). Although scoring high on health, life expectancy and, to certain degree, on gender equality (GII), low scores on education and income pull the overall result down. In the funding period 2009-2014, Portugal has been allocated €58 million, up from €31.3 million in the previous five-year period.

This Atlantic country has a great diversity of natural, urban and cultural heritage, but lacks management capacity in these areas. EEA Grants have been used to improve the management of protected species, to restore cultural heritage, and to revitalise deprived urban areas.

ACHIEVEMENTS 2004-2009

Around a quarter of the funding in Portugal went to sustainable development projects to improve the social, economic and infrastructural situation in degenerated urban areas in Lisbon and Oporto. The projects were part of a larger **urban rehabilitation**

Population

10.6 million

Gross Domestic Product (GDP)

(difference to EU average)

€19 800 per person (-19%)

Human Development Index (HDI)

40 (world)

25 (EEA)

Gender Inequality Index (GII)

21 (world)

15 (EEA)

EEA Grants (2004-09 / 2009-14)

€31.3 / 58 million



Boats from Ílhavo called Moliceiros. Portuguese and Norwegian researchers and coastal communities shared experiences on promoting coastal culture for local development.



The EEA Grants funded the restoration and preservation of landscape art and ancient hydraulic systems in 12 Portuguese parks and gardens.

programme in Portugal which aimed to empower the residents of these neighbourhoods and improve their living conditions. This was achieved by providing educational training and sports facilities to implement social and educational intervention programmes, by providing assistance to innovation and entrepreneurship via a team of technical experts, and by construction and remodelling of basic infrastructure such as electricity, gas, telephone lines and roads.

Other **sustainable development** and **environmental** projects focused on issues such as agriculture and forestry, biodiversity, water pollution reduction and water management. Through one project in the Castro Verde Special Protection Area, for example, sustainable farming systems were developed through work to mitigate desertification, the certification of sustainably managed farms, and the financing of a feasibility study complemented by various capacity-building and awareness-raising activities.

The second largest sector targeted the conservation of **cultural heritage** in Portugal, contributing to opening up 11 new sites to the public. Various conservation work was carried out, such as on the Monserrate Palace and the Chalet of the Countess of Edla, the aim being to open parts of these monuments to the public. Ancient hydraulic systems in 12 gardens and parks across Portugal were restored, contributing to the preservation of landscape art. In an effort to revitalise the historical and cultural heritage of the Torres Vedras defence lines, numerous rehabilitation operations were carried out, and infrastructure enabling the use of these monuments for tourism was deployed.

Of the 32 projects, 13 were implemented in **cooperation** with Norwegian entities in areas such as improving drinking water, management of water resources and waste water, and coastal-zone management plans, but also within the cultural heritage and research sectors. Researchers at the University of Porto collaborated with colleagues from Rikshospitalet University Hospital, Norway to strengthen the early detection and treatment of gastric and cervical cancer. Around 100 medical staff were trained and the yearly capacity for patients increased by 1 200.

OPPORTUNITIES 2009-2014

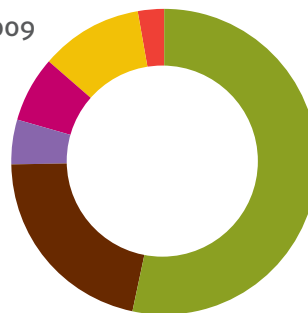
Under the EEA Grants 2009-2014, at least 30% will target challenges linked to **environment** and **climate change**, while a new **NGO Fund** aiming to further strengthen civil society in the areas of social justice, democracy and sustainable development will absorb a minimum of 10%. Further details are still subject to negotiations between Portugal and the donor states.

DONOR PROGRAMME PARTNERS

To be decided in the Memorandum of Understanding

NET ALLOCATION

2004-2009



Environment 14
€15.8 million

Cultural heritage 8
€6.3 million

Human resource development 3
€1.4 million

Civil society 2
€2 million

Academic research 4
€3.2 million

Technical assistance 1
€0.8 million

Total: 32 projects - €29.4 million

ROMANIA

Romania is among the least-developed beneficiary states, with a GDP per person at 45% of the EU average, and scoring low on human development (HDI) and gender equality (GII). In the period 2009-2014, it is the second biggest beneficiary of EEA and Norway Grants with €306 million in funding.

Romania has received EEA and Norway Grants funding since joining the EU and EEA in 2007. In the period up to 2009, environment and health were the two main areas supported. In these areas, there is a great need to build infrastructure and strengthen service provision in order to meet European standards.

ACHIEVEMENTS 2007-2009

Environment and sustainable development was the largest sector, financing projects within areas such as developing eco-tourism, sustainable farming and ecological markets, but also waste-water treatment, renewable energy development, enhancement of nuclear safety, and development of an energy-security strategy for Romania.

Within the **health** sector, many projects have targeted the needs of children and families, including health-care services for children and adolescents, community-based support for children and parents, support to families with disabled children to allow them to care for their children at home, and educational campaigns to promote healthy food and lifestyle. All in all, around 7 200 children benefited from such projects.

In a **human resource development** project, the Romanian police received new equipment and training to fight child pornography on the internet; they cooper-



The restored medieval monument of the Butcher's Fortress in Maramures will contribute to a sustainable livelihood for the local community.

Population

21.4 million

Gross Domestic Product (GDP)

(difference to EU average)

€11 000 per person (-55%)

Human Development Index (HDI)

50 (world)

29 (EEA)

Gender Inequality Index (GII)

50 (world)

29 (EEA)

EEA Grants (2007-09 / 2009-14)

€50.5 / 190.8 million

Norway Grants (2007-09 / 2009-14)

€48.0 / 115.2 million

ated with their Norwegian colleagues. Other activities included efforts to improve social dialogue and working conditions in Romanian industry, measures and training to improve public service delivery, and territorial planning. Around 3 200 people were trained.

In the **cultural heritage** sector, items and buildings of historical importance were restored and made available to the public, museums were improved and training carried out on local cultural heritage preservation and rural development. **Regional development** projects were focused on sustainable development and business development.

The Romanian **NGO Fund** supported 115 projects in the fields of human rights, social inclusion, children and youth, social services, protection of the environment, and conservation of cultural heritage. NGOs play a vital role in democratic development, accountability and transparency in Romania, but funding has been scarce and the support from EEA and Norway Grants has proved vital.

Forty projects were implemented in **cooperation** between Romanian and Norwegian institutions, one of which also included a partner from Iceland. In this latter project, mapping authorities from the three countries cooperated to improve land registration in Romania, which is vital to infrastructure and territorial planning, and economic and sustainable development.



Save the Children now manages Romania's first centre for children's mental health and parent education centres across the country.

OPPORTUNITIES 2009-2014

Of the €306 million set aside for Romania in this period, at least €57.2 million in EEA Grants will be spent on programmes on **environment and climate change**. The support to **civil society** will be substantially increased, with a new NGO Fund which will receive at least €19.1 million. Under the Norway Grants, there will be a new fund to promote **decent work tripartite dialogue** between representatives of employers' organisations, trade unions and public authorities, which will amount to €1.2 million and be implemented by Innovation Norway. Further details are still subject to negotiations between Romania and the donor states.

DONOR PROGRAMME PARTNERS

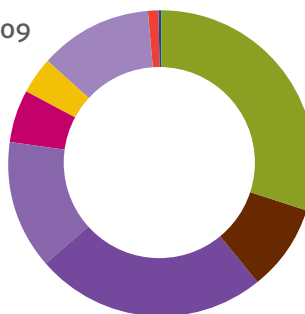
- › To be decided in the Memoranda of Understanding

DONOR PROGRAMME OPERATOR

- › Global Fund for Decent Work and Tripartite Dialogue: Innovation Norway (IN)

NET ALLOCATION

2007-2009



Environment 24 €26.6 million	Civil society 1 €5.1 million
Cultural heritage 6 €8.1 million	Academic research 2 €3.4 million
Health and childcare 17 €21.7 million	Regional policy and cross-border 4 €10.5 million
Human resource development 16 €11.9 million	Technical assistance 1 €0.9 million
	Seed money fund 1 €0.2 million

Total: 72 projects - €88.3 million

SLOVAKIA

Slovakia is in the upper tier of beneficiary states on human development (HDI), scoring above average on health and education but lower on income. Its GDP per person is 26% below the European average, putting it in eighth place among the beneficiary states. In the funding period 2009-2014, Slovakia has been allocated €80.8 million, up from €70.3 million in the previous five-year period.

Slovakia's main environmental challenges are in the field of water and waste management, as well as in flood protection and management. Slovakia lags behind the rest of Europe in terms of drinking water, waste water and waste-management infrastructure. Only 55% of households are connected to public sewage systems, and the waste recycling rate is at just 8%. Slovakia is also at a high risk of flooding, which can have an adverse impact on local communities and economies. With this in mind, the environmental sector, specifically targeting water and waste management, have been prioritised funding areas.

A second key priority for the EEA and Norway Grants in Slovakia has been cultural heritage. Heritage buildings are important for historical preservation purposes, tourism and the economy but the area has been neglected and around a fifth of nationally preserved buildings are damaged and in dire need of repair.

ACHIEVEMENTS 2004-2009

In the **environmental sector**, the Grants made considerable investments in waste and water management, including flood protection in a number of villages and areas. Funding was also channelled towards renewable energy and energy-efficiency measures, such as the installation of biomass boilers and modern thermoinsulation in numerous public buildings, among them five secondary schools in the region of Košice, the central heating plant in Rohožník and the Imprisonment Institution Zelizovce. Renewable energy production increased by 12 700 MWh/year, and CO₂ emissions fell by 5 100 tonnes in Slovakia. The Grants also contributed to safeguarding biodiversity.

In the **cultural heritage** sector, support was concentrated on the renovation of historical buildings such as the Reduta, one of Bratislava's most important cultural buildings. Since the early 1900s it has hosted numerous important cultural events and has housed the Slovak Philharmonic since the early 1950s. The Grants have also financed the establishment of a worksite for the digitisation of manuscripts and prints to ensure long-term preservation and broad accessibility of movable cultural heritage objects in Slovakia.



Population

5.4 million

Gross Domestic Product (GDP)

(difference to EU average)

€18 100 per person (-26%)

Human Development Index (HDI)

31 (world)

20 (EEA)

Gender Inequality Index (GII)

31 (world)

22 (EEA)

EEA Grants (2004-09 / 2009-14)

€32.3 / 38.4 million

Norway Grants (2004-09 / 2009-14)

€38 / 42.4 million

The Grants have contributed to making several cultural heritage sites and around 10 000 items available to the public, 30 new exhibition spaces have been created and more than 35 000 items digitised.

In the **human resource development** sector, projects focused on the inclusion of disadvantaged groups and education activities. A talent training programme was funded to support the artistic development and education for Roma children and youth from poor, deprived families. The programme normally relies on individual donations towards a specific child. But thanks to this grant, the organisation PRO DONUM was able to initiate a large-scale pilot programme for 100 children in the Roma settlement in Jarovnice. Close to 7 000 children and adolescents and around 2 650 people from disadvantaged groups benefited from the projects in Slovakia.

Nineteen projects were implemented in **cooperation** between Slovak project promoters and partners from Iceland or Norway, including the establishment of the Crisis Centre for Protection and Support of Victims of Domestic Violence in Považská Bystrica, with support from the Secretariat of the Shelter Movement, Norway. A number of **regional and cross-border projects** were also conducted as partnerships, such as the involvement of the Norwegian Institute of International Affairs (NUPI) in the establishment of a centre for cooperation between Norwegian, Slovak and Ukrainian researchers. The Icelandic Centre for Life-

long Education and the Norwegian Association for Distance Education contributed to a project to improve the quality of **public-service provision** of regional and local bodies as well as NGOs.

OPPORTUNITIES 2009-2014

Investments to protect the **environment** and tackle **climate change** are strengthened in the new period. The largest single programme will target green industry innovation, spurring 'green' jobs and entrepreneurship. Innovation Norway will contribute to the programme. Efforts to deal with flooding due to climate change will also be reinforced through a programme involving the Norwegian Water Resources and Energy Directorate (NVE) and the Directorate for Civil Protection and Emergency Planning (DSB).

Strengthened support to non-governmental organisations will also address the specific needs of minority groups, including the Roma. **Students** and educators will benefit from a scholarship fund, and a new feature is a programme for the promotion of **decent work** and tripartite dialogue.

The agreements also include substantial support to **cross-border cooperation**, with a view to strengthening contact and cooperation with Ukraine. The programme will be supported by the Norwegian Barents Secretariat.

A programme of investments in **domestic violence** prevention will be implemented in cooperation with the Norwegian Directorate of Health and the Council

of Europe, the latter also being involved in a programme to promote **social inclusion**, including the Roma population.

Support continues in the field of **cultural and natural heritage**, including a small grant scheme for promoting diversity in culture and arts.

DONOR PROGRAMME PARTNERS

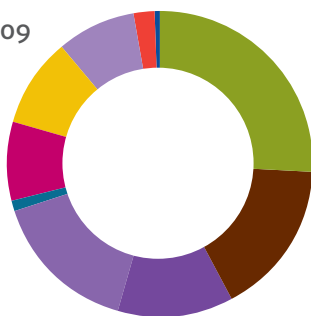
- › Adaptation to Climate Change: Norwegian Water Resources and Energy Directorate (NVE), Norwegian Directorate for Civil Protection and Emergency Planning (DSB)
- › Green Industry Innovation: Innovation Norway (IN)
- › Domestic and Gender-based Violence: Norwegian Directorate for Health (HDIR) and Council of Europe (CoE)
- › Local and Regional Initiatives to Reduce National Inequalities and to Promote Social Inclusion: Council of Europe (CoE)
- › Cross-border Cooperation: Norwegian Barents Secretariat (BAR)
- › Scholarships: Icelandic Centre for Research (Rannis), National Agency for International Education Affairs (AIBA) of Liechtenstein, Norwegian Centre for International Cooperation in Higher Education (SIU)

DONOR PROGRAMME OPERATOR

- › Global Fund for Decent Work and Tripartite Dialogue: Innovation Norway (IN)

NET ALLOCATIONS

2004-2009



Environment 26
€15.6 million

Cultural heritage 16
€9.8 million

Health and childcare 12
€7.4 million

Human resource development 15
€9.3 million

Schengen and Judiciary 2
€0.6 million

Civil society 3
€5 million

Academic research 12
€5.7 million

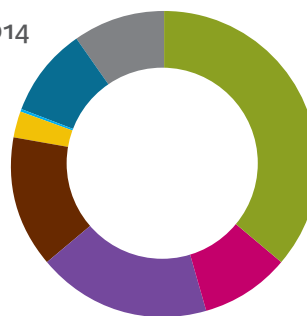
Regional policy and cross-border 10
€5 million

Technical assistance 1
€1.3 million

Seed money fund 1
€0.3 million

Total: 98 projects - €59.8 million

2009-2014



Environment and climate change
€27.1 million

Civil society
€6.9 million

Human and social development
€13.7 million

Cultural heritage
€10.5 million

Research and scholarship
€1.9 million

Decent work/social dialogue
€0.4 million

Justice and home affairs
€7 million

Other
€7.1 million

Total: €74.7 million

SLOVENIA

With a population of 2 million people, Slovenia is one of the smallest beneficiary states. It is also one of the more developed countries. Among the beneficiary states, it ranks fourth on GDP per person and human development (HDI), and third on gender equality (GII). In the funding period 2009-2014, Slovenia has been allocated €26.9 million, up from €18.6 million in the previous five-year period.

Small but strategically located in the heart of Europe, Slovenia enjoys a rich and diverse cultural heritage from its different historical impulses. However, with social and economic decline, old town centres have been falling into a state of disrepair. The EEA and Norway Grants have contributed to revitalising and renewing such centres, while also contributing to regenerating investments and incomes from tourism, and lessening regional inequalities. Other key priorities are environment, health and social issues.

ACHIEVEMENTS 2004-2009

Cultural heritage was the largest sector, with projects to restore historical buildings, create new facilities for cultural events and revitalise old town centres, such as the €1.2-million 'Lively Old Town' project which saw the renovation of key heritage sites in five cities in the Gorenjska region.

In the **health and childcare** sector, notable examples include the construction of a new nursery school in Idrija, where radioactive radon gas from local mining activities had threatened the health of schoolchildren, and the modernisation of the Slovenian Institute for Blind and Partially Sighted Children. The capacity to diagnose and treat patients increased by almost 600 people thanks to two different projects.

Better-quality drinking water, a new environmental educational resource centre, and a nationwide campaign to promote environmental awareness were just some of the achievements in the **environmental** sector.

A **NGO Fund** supported the development of civil society and institutional capacity-building. A **scholarship fund** facilitated a great variety of cooperation between educational institutions from the donor states and beneficiary states.

In the period 2004-2009, **five partnership projects** between Slovenian and Norwegian entities were implemented, in addition to cooperation under the funds.



Population

2.1 million

Gross Domestic Product (GDP) (difference to EU average)

€21 200 per person (-14%)

Human Development Index (HDI)

29 (world)

19 (EEA)

Gender Inequality Index (GII)

17 (world)

13 (EEA)

EEA Grants (2004-09 / 2009-14)

€6.1 / 12.5 million

Norway Grants (2004-09 / 2009-14)

€12.5 / 14.4 million

OPPORTUNITIES 2009-2014

Human and social development represents almost half the funding in this period, and will mainly fund public health initiatives to reduce health inequalities, prevent lifestyle-related diseases and improve mental health services. The Norwegian Institute of Public Health will be involved, and particular target groups include children and youth at risk and disadvantaged communities such as the Roma. In addition, gender equality and work-life balance initiatives will receive funding.

A programme on **cultural and natural heritage** will take into account the principles of local and regional development, and actively stimulate bilateral cooperation with the donor states.

Environmental funding will go to the protection of biodiversity and to improve compliance with environmental legislation. An environmental monitoring project will be implemented in cooperation between the mapping authorities of Iceland, Norway and Slovenia.

A new **NGO Fund** to strengthen civil society will include funding for the development of cross-sectoral partnerships to address the needs of children and youth, and vulnerable groups such as the Roma.

There will also be another **scholarship fund**, plus new funding to promote **decent work and social dialogue**.



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Renovated historical buildings in the old town centres of five cities in the Gorenjska region have provided local inhabitants with new public and cultural venues.

DONOR PROGRAMME PARTNERS

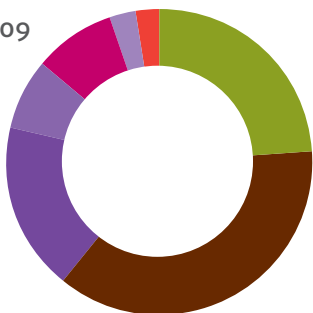
- › Public Health Initiatives: Norwegian Institute of Public Health (FHI)
- › Scholarships: Icelandic Centre for Research (Rannis), National Agency for International Education Affairs (AIBA) of Liechtenstein, Norwegian Centre for International Cooperation in Higher Education (SIU)

DONOR PROGRAMME OPERATOR

- › Global Fund for Decent Work and Tripartite Dialogue: Innovation Norway (IN)

NET ALLOCATIONS

2004-2009



Environment 7
€4.2 million

Cultural heritage 9
€6.4 million

Health and childcare 5
€3.1 million

Human resource development 1
€1.3 million

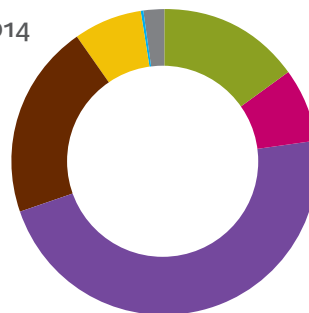
Civil society 1
€1.5 million

Regional policy and cross-border 1
€0.5 million

Technical assistance 1
€0.4 million

Total: 25 projects - €17.4 million

2009-2014



Environment and climate change
€3.8 million

Civil society
€1.9 million

Human and social development
€11.7 million

Cultural heritage
€5.1 million

Research and scholarship
€1.8 million

Decent work/social dialogue
€0.1 million

Other
€0.5 million

Total: €24.9 million

SPAIN

Despite the challenges Spain has encountered as a result of the economic and financial crisis, the country has the highest GDP per person and the best human development (HDI) rating among the beneficiary states. It enjoys the highest life expectancy (81.3 yrs) and ranks highest on gender equality (GII). Hence, even though Spain is by far the most populous beneficiary state, it is not among the biggest beneficiaries. In the funding period 2009-2014, Spain has been allocated €45.9 million which almost equals its allocation in the previous five-year period.

Spain has made significant strides in recent years to improve environmental conditions and reduce the risk of natural hazards. The EEA Grants have contributed to these efforts, in particular in preventing devastating forest fires. In the coming years, the EEA Grants will contribute to the development of renewable energy in Spain.

Cultural heritage is an important facet of Spain's economic and tourism potential. Many scenic roads, buildings and urban landscapes have suffered from various degrees of decay, so a key aspect of the EEA Grants' focus on cultural heritage has been urban renewal and development of the tourism potential of several Spanish towns and villages.



Population
46.2 million

Gross Domestic Product (GDP)
(difference to EU average)
€24 700 per person (1%)

Human Development Index (HDI)
20 (world)
12 (EEA)

Gender Inequality Index (GII)
14 (world)
11 (EEA)

EEA Grants (2004-09 / 2009-14)
€45.8 / 45.9 million



The vision of a Norwegian princess living in Spain in the Middle Ages became a reality when St. Olav's chapel – part-financed by the EEA Grants – opened in Covarrubias in September 2011.



Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway have funded part of the fire-prevention project carried out by the Ebro water authorities, protecting extensive areas of land against forest fires.

ACHIEVEMENTS 2004-2009

The largest share of support went to protection of the **environment** in Spain, most specifically to address the problem of forest fires. For instance, the areas affected by forest fires in Minas de Riotinto Y Charco Frío were restored to prevent new wildfires, and the Ebro water authorities were able to carry out a comprehensive project to prevent forest fires, to protect the soil against erosion, and secure the water quality in the reservoirs. Measures also included the repair of roads for quick access by firefighters, the establishment of water reservoirs to secure water supply in case of a forest fire, and the establishment of new firebreaks and forest tracks.

The conservation of European **cultural heritage** was the second largest area, supporting namely the conservation of immovable cultural heritage and improving accessibility. In Segovia, cultural heritage monuments and facilities have been adapted and restored. Specific work has included restoration of the aqueduct, restoration work on the Gates of San Cebrián, San Andrés, and Santiago, work in the Jewish cemetery, including the development of a route to link the Jewish cemetery area with the main tourism areas as well as a route around Segovia's Jewish quarter, and the establishment of tourist routes and information centres.

In the human resources area, the Grants supported education and gender mainstreaming. A **scholarship fund** was set up, run by the Universidad Complutense de Madrid. This increased the mobility of students and researchers between UCM and selected universities in the donor countries and improved the quantity and quality of research activities in mathematics and the fine arts. The fund supported over 200 exchanges. A **gender mainstreaming** project by the Spanish Institute for Women in cooperation with the Norwegian Association of Regional and Local Authorities (KS) to create better work and family-life balance was very successful and received much attention in Spain.

OPPORTUNITIES 2009-2014

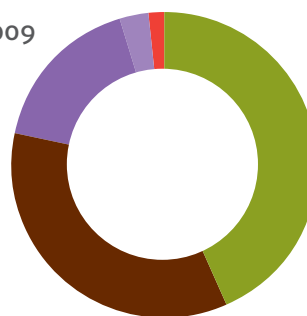
Negotiations on the distribution of EEA Grants funding are ongoing. However, it has already been decided from minimum requirements that at least 30% (€13.8 million) of the support will go to environment, climate change and renewable energy. Also, for the first time in Spain, the EEA Grants will establish an NGO Fund to support the development of civil society, which will represent at least 10% (€4.6 million) of the allocation.

DONOR PROGRAMME PARTNERS

To be decided in the Memorandum of Understanding

NET ALLOCATION

2004-2009



Environment 8
€18.7 million

Cultural heritage 8
€15 million

Human resource development 3
€7.3 million

Regional policy and cross-border 1
€1.3 million

Technical assistance 1
€0.7 million

Total: 21 projects - €42.9 million

ANNEX



Lilla

MADÁR *freskó* TOLLA

a nem
újászületése

I. DEVELOPMENT TRENDS IN THE BENEFICIARY STATES

1.1 ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (Source: Eurostat)

	GDP per capita in Purchasing Power Standards (PPS) (EU-27 = 100) ¹	Growth rate of GDP volume - % change on previous year ²		At-risk-of-poverty rate after social transfers ³	Employment rate by gender, age group 20-64 ⁴		Gross domestic expenditure on R&D (GERD) ⁵	
		2010	2005		2010	2010		
						Men		Women
Bulgaria	44	6.4	0.2	21.8	69.1	61.7	0.53	
Cyprus	98	3.9	1.0	16.2	82.5	68.5	0.46	
Czech Republic	80	6.3	2.3	8.6	79.6	60.9	1.53	
Estonia	64	8.9	2.3	19.7	67.7	65.7	1.42	
Greece	89	2.3	-4.5	19.7	76.2	51.7	-	
Hungary	64	3.2	1.2	12.4	66.0	55.0	1.15	
Latvia	52	10.1	-0.3	25.7	65.1	64.9	0.46	
Lithuania	58	7.8	1.3	20.6	63.6	65.1	0.84	
Malta	83	3.7	2.7	15.1	77.7	41.4	0.54	
Poland	62	3.6	3.8	17.1	71.6	57.7	0.68	
Portugal	81	0.8	1.3	17.9	75.4	65.6	1.66	
Romania	45	4.2	-1.3	22.4	70.8	55.9	0.47	
Slovakia	74	6.7	4.0	11.0	71.9	57.4	0.48	
Slovenia	86	4.0	1.4	11.3	74	66.5	1.86	
Spain	101	3.6	-0.1	19.5	69.1	55.8	1.38	
EU-27	100	1.9	1.8	16.3	75.1	62.1	2.01	
EU-15	110	1.8	1.8	-	-	-	-	
Iceland	110	7.8	-4.0	10.2	83.1	77.6	3.1	
Liechtenstein	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Norway	179	2.7	0.4	11.7	82.1	76.9	1.8	

1 The volume index of GDP per capita in Purchasing Power Standards (PPS) is expressed in relation to the European Union (EU-27) average set to equal 100. If the index of a country is higher than 100 the country's level of GDP per head is higher than the EU average and vice versa. Basic figures are expressed in PPS, i.e. a common currency that eliminates the difference in price levels between countries allowing meaningful volume comparisons of GDP between countries.

2 The calculation of the annual growth rate of GDP volume is intended to allow comparisons of the dynamics of economic development both over time and between economies of different sizes. For measuring the growth rate of GDP in terms of volumes, the GDP at current prices is valued at the price of the previous year and thus computed volume changes are imposed on the level of a reference year, this is called the chain-linked series. Accordingly, price movements will not inflate the growth rate.

3 The share of persons with an equivalised disposable income below the poverty rate, which is set at 60% of the national median equivalised disposable income (after social transfers) expressed in %.

4 The employment rate is calculated by dividing the number of persons aged 20-64 in employment by the total population of the same age group. The indicator is based on the EU Labour Force Survey. The survey covers the entire population living in private households and excludes those in collective households such as boarding houses, halls of residence and hospitals. Employed population consists of those persons who during the reference week did any work for pay or profit for at least one hour, or were not working but had jobs from which they were temporarily absent.

5 The indicator provided is GERD (Gross domestic expenditure on R&D) as a % of GDP. "Research and experimental development (R&D) comprises creative work undertaken on a systematic basis in order to increase the stock of knowledge, including knowledge of man, culture and society and the use of this knowledge to devise new applications." (Frascati Manual 2002)

1.2 HUMAN AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

	Human Development Index (HDI) ¹		Gini coefficient ²	Inequality of income distribution (income quintile share ratio) ³	Gender Inequality Index (Gii) ⁴	TI Corruption Perceptions Index (CPI) ⁵		Early leavers from education and training by gender ⁶		Gender Pay Gap (GPG) in unadjusted form ⁷
	2010		2009	2009	2008	2010		2010		2009
	Rank	Score				Rank	Score	Men	Women	
Bulgaria	58	0.74	33.4	5.9	0.4	73	3.6	13.2	14.5	15.3
Cyprus	35	0.81	28.4	4.2	0.28	28	6.3	16.2	9.8	21.0
Czech Republic	28	0.84	25.1	3.5	0.33	53	4.6	4.9	4.8	25.9
Estonia	34	0.81	31.4	5.0	0.41	26	6.5	15.2	-	-
Greece	22	0.85	33.1	5.8	0.32	78	3.5	16.5	10.8	-
Hungary	36	0.8	24.7	3.5	0.38	50	4.7	11.5	9.5	17.1
Latvia	48	0.77	37.4	7.3	0.32	59	4.3	17.2	9.4	14.9
Lithuania	44	0.78	35.5	6.3	0.36	46	5.0	9.9	6.2	15.3
Malta	33	0.81	27.8	4.1	0.39	37	5.6	41.0	32.4	6.9
Poland	41	0.79	31.4	5.0	0.33	41	5.3	7.2	3.5	9.8
Portugal	40	0.79	35.4	6.0	0.31	32	5.0	32.7	24.6	10.0
Romania	50	0.77	34.9	6.7	0.48	69	3.7	18.6	18.2	8.1
Slovakia	31	0.82	24.8	3.6	0.35	59	4.3	4.6	4.9	21.9
Slovenia	29	0.83	22.7	3.2	0.29	27	6.4	6.4	3.3	3.2
Spain	20	0.86	32.3	6.0	0.28	30	6.1	33.5	23.1	16.1
EU-27	-	-	30.4	4.9	-	-	-	16.0	12.2	17.1
EU-15	-	-	30.3	4.9	-	-	-	17.7	13.2	-
Iceland	17	0.87	29.6	4.2	0.28	11	8.5	26.0	19.0	-
Liechtenstein	6	0.89	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Norway	1	0.94	24.1	3.5	0.23	10	8.6	21.4	13.2	16.7

1 The Human Development Index (HDI) is a comparative measure compiled from four indicators: life expectancy, literacy, education and standard of living. Higher numbers indicate higher levels of human development. (Source: UNDP)

2 The Gini coefficient is a measure of the inequality of a distribution, a value of 0 expressing total equality and a value of 100 maximal inequality. It is commonly used as a measure of inequality of income or wealth. In 2009, the Gini coefficient within the EU ranged from 22.7 (Slovenia, highest equality) to 37.4 (Latvia, highest inequality). (Source: UNDP)

3 Ratio of total income received by 20% of the population with the highest income to that received by 20% of the population with the lowest income (equalised disposable income). Higher numbers indicate more inequality. (Source: SILC)

4 The Gender Inequality Index (GII) measures inequality in achievements between women and men in three dimensions: reproductive health, employment and the labour market. The GII ranks countries by taking account of five indicators: 1) maternal mortality ratio, 2) adolescent fertility rate, 3) the share of parliamentary seats held by each sex, 4) secondary and higher education attainment levels and 5) by women's participation in the work force. Higher values indicate less equality. (Source: UNDP)

5 The Corruption Perceptions Index (CPI) measures the perceived levels of public-sector corruption in 178 countries worldwide and scores on a scale from 10 (highly clean) to 0 (highly corrupt). This is based on 13 different polls and surveys from 10 independent institutions. A lower rank (globally) indicates lower levels of corruption. (Source: Transparency International)

6 The % of the population 18-24 with at most lower secondary education and not in further education or training. (Source: Eurostat)

7 The unadjusted Gender Pay Gap (GPG) represents the difference between average gross hourly earnings of male paid employees and of female paid employees as a % of average earnings of male paid employees. The population consists of all paid employees in enterprises with 10 employees or more. (Source: Eurostat)

1.3 ENVIRONMENT AND ENERGY (Source: Eurostat)

	Electricity generated from renewable sources ¹	Greenhouse gas emissions, base year 1990 ²	Sufficiency of sites designated under the EU Habitats Directive ³		Share of renewable energy in gross final energy consumption in % ⁴
	2008	2009	2006	2010	2008
Bulgaria	7.4	53	-	94	9.4
Cyprus	0.3	178	46	40	4.1
Czech Republic	5.2	68	59	60	7.2
Estonia	2	41	84	98	19.1
Greece	8.3	117	99	100	8
Hungary	5.6	69	86	86	6.6
Latvia	41.2	40	89	95	29.9
Lithuania	4.6	44	61	66	15.3
Malta	0	139	93	98	0.2
Poland	4.2	83	17	78	7.9
Portugal	26.9	126	88	89	23.2
Romania	28.4	52	-	82	20.4
Slovakia	15.5	59	72	74	8.4
Slovenia	29.1	105	73	74	15.1
Spain	20.6	130	95	99	10.7
EU-27	16.7	83	-	89	10.3
EU-15	17.7	87	93	98	-
Iceland	-	143 (2008)	-	-	-
Liechtenstein	-	115 (2008)	-	-	-
Norway	109.4	108 (2008)	-	-	61.9

¹ This indicator is the ratio between the electricity produced from renewable energy sources and the gross national electricity consumption for a given calendar year. It measures the contribution of electricity produced from renewable sources to the national electricity consumption. Electricity produced from renewable energy sources comprises the electricity generation from hydro plants (excluding pumping), wind, solar, geothermal and electricity from biomass/wastes. Gross national electricity consumption comprises the total gross national electricity generation from all fuels (including autoproduction) plus electricity imports minus exports.

² This indicator shows trends in total man-made emissions of the 'Kyoto basket' of greenhouse gases. It presents annual total emissions in relation to 1990 emissions, including carbon dioxide (CO₂), methane (CH₄), nitrous oxide (N₂O) and the so-called F-gases. These gases are aggregated into a single unit using gas-specific global warming potential (GWP) factors. The aggregated greenhouse gas emissions are expressed in units of CO₂ equivalents. The indicator does not include emissions from international aviation and international maritime transport. The EU as a whole is committed to achieving at least a 20% reduction of its greenhouse gas emissions by 2020 compared to 1990. To achieve this overall target each Member State has agreed country-specific greenhouse gas emission limits for 2020 compared to 2005.

³ The index of sufficiency of Member States' proposals for sites designated under the habitats directive measures the extent to which Sites of Community Importance proposed by the Member States adequately cover the species and habitats listed in Annexes I and II to the Habitats Directive. A score of 100% indicates sufficiency of proposals for all Annex I terrestrial habitat types and Annex II terrestrial species of Community interest occurring in EU Member States' territories.

⁴ This indicator is calculated on the basis of energy statistics covered by the Energy Statistics Regulation.

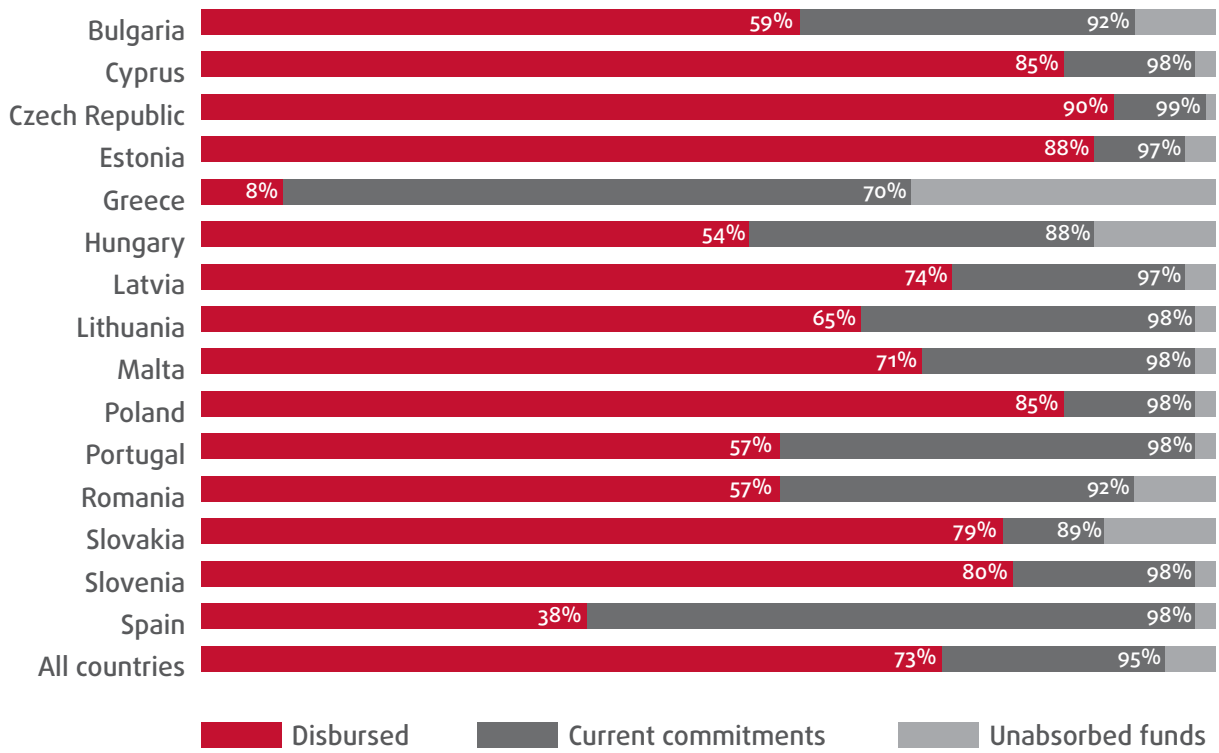
II. EEA AND NORWAY GRANTS 2004-2009

II.1 PORTFOLIO MANAGEMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION

(I) DISBURSEMENTS AS A PERCENTAGE OF ALLOCATION PER BENEFICIARY STATE (September 2011)

		Original commitments to projects, funds and programmes in M €	Current commitments after withdrawals, savings, etc. in M €	Disbursed per September 2011 in M €	Disbursed in % of original commitments
Bulgaria	EEA Grants	20.64	19.42	10.53	51%
	Norway Grants	18.00	16.30	12.30	68%
	Total	38.64	35.72	22.83	59%
Cyprus	EEA Grants	1.21	1.18	1.04	86%
	Norway Grants	3.23	3.17	2.73	85%
	Total	4.44	4.35	3.78	85%
Czech Republic	EEA Grants	46.60	46.04	42.47	91%
	Norway Grants	59.25	58.54	52.75	89%
	Total	105.85	104.58	95.22	90%
Estonia	EEA Grants	9.68	9.17	8.15	84%
	Norway Grants	21.55	21.22	19.18	89%
	Total	31.22	30.39	27.34	88%
Greece	EEA Grants	32.89	23.08	2.76	8%
	Total	32.89	23.08	2.76	8%
Hungary	EEA Grants	58.35	48.50	29.87	51%
	Norway Grants	70.56	64.94	39.66	56%
	Total	128.91	113.45	69.53	54%
Latvia	EEA Grants	18.95	18.65	15.21	80%
	Norway Grants	32.32	31.06	22.58	70%
	Total	51.27	49.71	37.80	74%
Lithuania	EEA Grants	25.92	25.29	16.59	64%
	Norway Grants	38.24	37.67	25.27	66%
	Total	64.16	62.96	41.86	65%
Malta	EEA Grants	1.84	1.81	1.51	82%
	Norway Grants	1.62	1.58	0.94	58%
	Total	3.46	3.39	2.45	71%
Poland	EEA Grants	269.57	264.36	239.69	89%
	Norway Grants	263.94	257.58	214.44	81%
	Total	533.51	521.94	454.12	85%
Portugal	EEA Grants	30.07	29.38	17.20	57%
	Total	30.07	29.38	17.20	57%
Romania	EEA Grants	48.48	46.30	22.78	47%
	Norway Grants	43.20	38.00	29.90	69%
	Total	91.68	84.30	52.68	57%
Slovakia	EEA Grants	31.05	27.83	24.61	79%
	Norway Grants	36.09	31.99	28.29	78%
	Total	67.14	59.83	52.91	79%
Slovenia	EEA Grants	5.88	5.76	4.50	77%
	Norway Grants	11.85	11.61	9.76	82%
	Total	17.73	17.37	14.26	80%
Spain	EEA Grants	44.01	42.91	16.52	38%
	Total	44.01	42.91	16.52	38%
All countries	EEA Grants	645.12	609.68	453.44	70%
	Norway Grants	599.85	573.67	457.80	76%
	Total	1244.97	1183.35	911.24	73%

(II) ABSORPTION RATE AS A PERCENTAGE OF ALLOCATION PER BENEFICIARY STATE



II.2 MONITORING

Monitoring and control mechanisms were based upon cooperation between donor and beneficiary states, which both shared and divided responsibilities for project control checks.

MONITORING AND FINANCIAL CONTROL VIA PAYMENT CLAIMS

During the lifespan of each project, grant reimbursements were made on the basis of incurred costs, with the project promoters submitting regular progress reports to their National Focal Points. The control of the grant reimbursements was split between the Focal Points and the Financial Mechanism Office (FMO).

The beneficiary states certified project progress and the details of how the funds had been spent, including matching invoices and receipts to payment claims. The FMO carried out a second, shorter check of the payment claims and grant management before disbursing funds to cover the payment claims.

EXTERNAL MONITORING SYSTEM

The beneficiary states were responsible for project monitoring. External agencies were also contracted to carry out monitoring of selected projects through on-site visits to ensure that the Grant funds were spent as intended.

Around one-third of all projects are monitored. These include:

- › All grants larger than €2.5 million (which were monitored at least once)
- › Projects perceived to be at risk (e.g. due to cash-flow problems, delayed procurement processes, management problems, unforeseen delays)
- › Projects that changed significantly after approval
- › 5% random selection of all supported projects

In addition, projects of special interest for innovative technologies, or where Grant funds were used for important pilot programmes, were visited. An added benefit of the external monitoring was to provide recommendations to the project promoters to help improve project implementation.

ZERO-TOLERANCE ON CORRUPTION

Under the Grants, there is a zero-tolerance policy towards fraud, corruption or mismanagement of funds. In the portfolio of projects under the EEA and Norway Grants 2004-2009, there have been very few cases of fraud or mismanagement of funds. These have been effectively followed up and corrected.

PROJECT MONITORING BY THE DONOR STATES VIA EXTERNAL MONITORING

2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	Total
13	28	110	173	120	444

REASONS FOR MONITORING

5% random selection	Grants larger than €2.5 million	Projects perceived to be at risk	Projects that changed significantly after approval	Projects of interest
88	72	188	45	51

II.3 EVALUATIONS AND REVIEWS

Twelve external reviews and evaluations of the projects, funds and programmes supported under the EEA and Norway Grants 2004-2009 have been conducted by external consultants. The beneficiary states have also conducted their own reviews and evaluations.

The purpose of the reviews and evaluations is to clarify the relevance of the support and the extent to which planned results have been achieved, as well as to look at the cost-effectiveness and sustainability of the support. Learning from existing practices helps to improve future programmes and informs policy development.

2008

Review of Norwegian Partnership Projects (*Scanteam*)

Mid-term evaluation of the EEA and Norway Grants (*PricewaterhouseCoopers*)

2009

- › Review of cultural heritage projects in the Czech Republic (*Cross Czech and Nordic Consulting Group*)
- › Review of energy saving and renewable energy production in Poland (*Scanteam / PROEKO*)

2010

- › Review of the Schengen *acquis* and strengthening the judiciary (*INTEGRATION*)
- › Review of support to greenhouse gas reductions (*COWI*)
- › Review of support to biodiversity projects (*PITIJA*)
- › Evaluation of NGO Funds (*PITIJA*)
- › Review of regional development and cross-border cooperation (*INTEGRATION*)

2011

- › Ongoing: Evaluation of academic research (*COWI*)
- › Ongoing: Evaluation of health and childcare (*COWI*)
- › Ongoing: Evaluation of cultural heritage (*PITIJA*)

II.4 ADMINISTRATIVE BUDGET

2004-2009	EEA Grants	Norway Grants	Norwegian Cooperation Programmes	Total
Total contribution	€672 000 000	€567 000 000	€68 000 000	€1 307 000 000
Donor states' management budget	€26 880 000	€28 350 000	€5 780 000	€61 010 000
Net allocation to the beneficiary states	€645 120 000	€538 650 000	€62 220 000	€1 245 990 000
Beneficiary states' management budget	€20 586 134	€14 982 849	€1 020 000	€36 588 983
Funding available for projects	€624 533 866	€523 667 151	€61 200 000	€1 209 401 017

DONOR STATES

- › The upper limit for the management costs of the donor states is 5% of the Norway Grants and 4% of the EEA Grants 2004-2009 over the period from May 2004 until the grant schemes are formally closed. For the Norwegian Cooperation Programmes with Romania and Bulgaria the upper limit is 8.5%.
- › The management budget includes:
 - EEA Grants: Costs of running the FMO, costs linked to functions of the FMC and the costs of audits performed by the EFTA Board of Auditors.
 - Norway Grants: Costs of running the FMO and costs directly linked to the Section for Central

Europe and the EEA Financial Mechanisms in the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

- Norwegian Cooperation Programmes with Bulgaria and Romania: Costs incurred by Innovation Norway and the Financial Mechanism Unit in the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

BENEFICIARY STATES

- › Part of the administrative costs incurred by the beneficiary states is also covered in the form of technical assistance grants. Additionally, costs related to the appraisal, monitoring and *ex-post* evaluation by the donor states are covered by the beneficiary states from the net allocation.

III. EEA AND NORWAY GRANTS 2009-2014

III.1 DONOR PROGRAMME PARTNERS

Overview of confirmed donor programme partners by October 2011. Additional institutions are expected to participate and this will be confirmed when all framework agreements (MoUs) are finalised.

AIBA	National Agency for International Education Affairs, Liechtenstein
BAR	Norwegian Barents Secretariat
CoE	Council of Europe
DA	Norwegian National Courts Administration
DN	Norwegian Directorate for Nature Management
DSB	Norwegian Directorate for Civil Protection and Emergency Planning
FHI	Norwegian Institute of Public Health
GN	Gassnova
HDIR	Norwegian Directorate for Health
IN	Innovation Norway
KLIF	Norwegian Climate and Pollution Agency
KS	Norwegian Association of Local and Regional Authorities
KSF	Norwegian Correctional Services
NFR	Research Council of Norway
NKR	Arts Council Norway
NVE	Norwegian Water Resources and Energy Directorate
OS	Icelandic National Energy Authority
POD	Norwegian Police Directorate
RA	Norwegian Directorate for Cultural Heritage
RANNIS	Icelandic Centre for Research
SIU	Norwegian Centre for International Cooperation in Higher Education
UDI	Norwegian Directorate of Immigration

III.2A EEA GRANTS – PROGRAMME AREAS BY BENEFICIARY STATE

EEA Grants	Objective
Environmental Protection and Management	
Integrated Marine and Inland Water Management	Good environmental status in European marine and inland waters
Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services	Halt loss of biodiversity
Environmental Monitoring and Integrated Planning and Control	Improved compliance with environmental legislation
Reduction of Hazardous Substances	Prevent injury and adverse environmental effects caused by chemicals and hazardous waste
Climate Change and Renewable Energy	
Energy Efficiency	Reduced emissions of greenhouse gases and air pollutants
Renewable Energy	Increased share of renewable energy in energy use
Adaption to Climate Change	Reduced human and ecosystem vulnerability to climate change
Maritime Sector	Reduced emissions of greenhouse gases and air pollutants from the maritime sector
Environmental and Climate-Change-related Research and Technology	Strengthened knowledge base on the environment and climate change and increased application of environmental technology
Civil Society	
Funds for Non-Governmental Organisations	Strengthened civil society development and enhanced contribution to social justice, democracy and sustainable development
Human and Social Development	
Children and Youth at Risk	Improved well-being of children and young people at risk
Local and Regional Initiatives to Reduce National Inequalities and to Promote Social Inclusion	Strengthened social and economic cohesion at national, regional and local levels
Public Health Initiatives	Improved public health and reduced health inequalities
Mainstreaming Gender Equality and Promoting Work-Life Balance	Gender equality and work-life balance promoted
Institutional Framework in the Asylum and Migration Sector	Ensure the existence of a functioning national migration management system that safeguards the right to seek asylum and gives special attention to the situation for unaccompanied asylum-seeking children (USAC)
Protecting cultural Heritage	
Conservation and Revitalisation of Cultural and National Heritage	Cultural and natural heritage for future generations safe-guarded and conserved and made publicly accessible
Promotion of Diversity in Culture and National Heritage	Cultural dialogue increased and European identity fostered through understanding of cultural diversity
Research and Scholarships	
Research within Priority Sectors	Enhanced research-based knowledge development in the beneficiary states
Scholarships	Enhanced human capital and knowledge base in the beneficiary states

* Environment and Climate Change will be supported. Programme areas are not yet defined

** The MoU with Greece is not yet signed but the parties agreed earlier that the agreement would include funding for the Institutional Framework in the Asylum and Migration Sector

BG	CY	CZ	EE	EL	HU	LV	LT	MT	PL	PT	RO	SK	SI	ES
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III.2B NORWAY GRANTS – PROGRAMME AREAS BY BENEFICIARY STATE

Norway Grants	Objective
Carbon Capture and Storage	
Carbon Capture and Storage	Mitigate climate change
Green Industry Innovation	
Green Industry Innovation	Increased competitiveness of green enterprises, including greening of existing industries, green innovation and green entrepreneurship
Decent work and tripartite Dialogue	
Global Fund for Decent Work and Tripartite Dialogue	Decent work promoted and tripartite cooperation improved between employers' organisations, trade unions and public authorities in supporting equitable and sustainable economic and social development
Research and Scholarships	
Bilateral Research Cooperation	Enhanced research-based knowledge development in the beneficiary states through enhanced research cooperation between Norway and the beneficiary states
Bilateral Scholarship Programme	Enhanced human capital and knowledge base in the beneficiary states
Human and Social Development	
Capacity-building and Institutional Cooperation between Beneficiary State and Norwegian Public Institutions, Local and Regional Authorities	Strengthened institutional capacity and human resource development in public institutions, local and regional authorities in the beneficiary states within the agreed priority sectors through cooperation and transfer of knowledge with similar institutions and authorities in Norway
Cross-border Cooperation	Strengthened cross-border cooperation between regions on both sides of the EU external border
Public-Health Initiatives	Improved public health and reduced health inequalities
Mainstreaming Gender-Equality and Promoting Work-Life Balance	Gender equality and work-life balance promoted
Justice and Home Affairs	
Domestic and Gender-based Violence	Gender-based violence prevented and tackled
Schengen Cooperation and Combating Cross-border and Organised Crime, including Trafficking and Itinerant Criminal Groups	Increase citizens' security through improvement of the efficiency of cooperation between law-enforcement authorities in the Schengen member states in fighting organised crime, including trafficking in human beings
Judicial Capacity-building and Cooperation	A fairer and more efficient judicial system
Correctional Services, including Non-custodial Sanctions	Improved correctional services system in compliance with relevant international human rights instruments

BG	CY	CZ	EE	HU	LV	LT	MT	PL	RO	SK	SI

III.3 ADMINISTRATIVE BUDGET

2009-2014	EEA Grants	Norway Grants	Total
Total contribution	€988 500 000	€800 000 000	€1 788 500 000
Donor states' management budget and donor programme partners' participation	€74 137 500	€60 000 000	€134 137 500
Net allocation to beneficiary states	€914 362 500	€740 000 000	€1 654 362 500
Beneficiary states' management budget	€13 715 438	€11 100 000	€24 815 438
National fund for bilateral relations	€4 571 813	€3 700 000	€8 271 813
Funding available for programmes	€896 075 250	€725 200 000	€1 621 275 250

DONOR STATES

- › The upper limit for the management costs of the donor states is 7.5% of the EEA Grants and of the Norway Grants 2009-2014 over the period from May 2009 until the grant schemes are formally closed.
- › The management budget includes:
 - EEA Grants: Costs of running the FMO, costs linked to functions of the FMC, including costs related to appraisal, monitoring, evaluation, reporting, and audits, and costs related to the participation of donor programme partners.
 - Norway Grants: Costs of running the FMO, costs linked to the functions of the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs related to the Norway Grants, including appraisal, monitoring, evaluation, reporting, and audits, and costs related to the participation of donor programme partners. The costs of Innovation Norway as a programme operator for the fund for decent work and tripartite dialogue are also covered.

BENEFICIARY STATES

- › Part of the administrative costs incurred by the beneficiary states is covered in the form of technical assistance grants.
- › All beneficiary states are required to set aside funding for a fund for bilateral relations at national level.
- › From the funding available to the individual programmes, each programme operator may use up to 10% for management costs.

IV. NATIONAL FOCAL POINTS

BULGARIA:	Council of Ministers of the Republic of Bulgaria, Monitoring of EU Funds Directorate
CYPRUS:	Planning Bureau, Directorate for Economic Relations with the EU
CZECH REPUBLIC:	Ministry of Finance, International Relations Department
ESTONIA:	Ministry of Finance, Structural and Foreign Assistance Department
GREECE:	Ministry of Development, Competitiveness & Shipping, Special Service for the Management and Monitoring of other development programmes
HUNGARY:	Ministry for National Development, National Development Agency
LATVIA:	Ministry of Finance, EU Funds Strategy Department
LITHUANIA:	Ministry of Finance, International Financial Assistance Coordination Division
MALTA:	Office of the Prime Minister, Funds and Programmes Division
POLAND:	Ministry of Regional Development, Department for Aid Programmes and Technical Assistance
PORTUGAL:	Ministry for Agriculture, Sea, Environment and Spatial Planning
ROMANIA:	To be decided
SLOVAKIA:	Office of the Government, Department of Management and Implementation of the EEA and Norwegian Financial Mechanisms
SLOVENIA:	Government Office for Local Self-Government and Regional Policy, Sector for International Financial Mechanisms, within the European Territorial Cooperation Department
SPAIN:	Ministry of Economy and Finance, General Directorate of European Funds

All contact details on www.eeagrants.org

V. VIEWS FROM THE NORWEGIAN EMBASSIES

Strengthening bilateral relations with the 15 beneficiary states in Central and Southern Europe is a core objective of the EEA Grants and Norway Grants.

In this section you will find information provided by each of the Norwegian embassies in the beneficiary states on the impact of the Grants on bilateral relations. Their input gives insight into some of the events, state visits, and impressive projects which have made the headlines.

BULGARIA

The EEA and Norway Grants in Bulgaria (2007–09) have helped to strengthen bilateral relations between Norway and Bulgaria in several areas. They have also increased awareness of – and interest in – Norway, including at political level, and in our role as a political actor and partner to the EU in many areas. The requirement for project partnerships under the bilateral cooperation programme (the Norway Grants) has helped to expand cooperation between Norwegian and Bulgarian institutions, companies and NGOs. Several of these partnerships can be sustained beyond the project period. Visible results, especially in the regional parts of the country, have further enhanced Norway's profile in Bulgaria and increased awareness of the EEA Agreement. The building and opening of a museum of modern art in Sofia has increased interest in Norwegian architecture and design.

The Embassy has presented general information about Norway in connection with events linked to projects and seminars and conferences relating to the EEA and Norway Grants. The Embassy makes systematic use of the EEA and Norway Grants in its general public diplomacy work. For example, it has actively sought opportunities in connection with the Grants to gain media coverage, and to use the Grants and our activities in Bulgaria as a springboard for promoting Norwegian values in a broader context. The EEA and Norway Grants have fostered greater interest in our activities among the general public and the media. Examples of these activities are: project visits and opening speeches, visits to mayors and regional/local authorities, presentations of various aspects of Norway by the Ambassador, the opening of Norwegian cultural events and a photo exhibition showing results achieved, together with organised press coverage. Many of these activities have been carried out in cooperation with Innovation Norway, which is responsible for the management of the Norway Grants 2007–09.

CYPRUS

Although the size of the EEA and Norway Grants in Cyprus has not been large, they have been well profiled, and individual projects, NGO projects, and particularly the high-profile Home for Cooperation in the buffer zone in Nicosia, have been noticed. Cooperation with the Cypriot authorities has been very good. The Greek Cypriot leader and his wife have been actively involved. The NGO programme, which involved a number of Norwegian partners helped to strengthen bilateral relations. The conclusion of the programme was marked by a major event at the Presidential Palace, where one of the speakers was the President's First Lady. The opening of the environment centre in the village Salamou, with attendance at ministerial level and the presence of important national and local actors, also received a good deal of national and local media attention. Norway's role and contribution was in focus.

The Home for Cooperation project in particular has strengthened bilateral relations. The fact that both Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot leaders spoke at the opening in May 2011 says a great deal. The Embassy has also enjoyed close contact with the local authorities (the mayors from North and South Nicosia). There has been close, ongoing contact with the bi-municipal NGO Association for Historical Dialogue and Research, which operates the Home for Cooperation. Norway's role as by far the largest contributor to the project has been highlighted on a number of occasions. Media coverage has been broad and positive. The visibility of the Peace Research Institute Oslo (PRIO) in Cyprus has also increased in connection with the project.

Both the Ministry and the Embassy were represented at all these events. A book about the EEA and Norway Grants projects in Cyprus has also been produced.

CZECH REPUBLIC

The EEA and Norway Grants have helped to strengthen bilateral relations between Norway and the Czech Republic. Several project owners found Norwegian partners, both in connection with the research and education grants and in connection with individual projects. The exchanges facilitated by the research and education grants have been very successful. Most of the projects funded by the research fund focused on health and the environment.

With regard to the individual projects, the closest bilateral cooperation was in the fields of environmental protection and sustainable development, including participation in field work, the development of feasibility studies, measurements, external consultations, reciprocal visits and participation in seminars and conferences.

It has been more difficult to find relevant partners and opportunities for cooperation in projects in the cultural heritage, health and civil society sectors. However, we will focus on opportunities for partnerships and cooperation in these sectors in the coming period.

The Embassy has worked actively to strengthen Norway's profile in the Czech Republic. For example, the Ambassador took part in more than 30 project events all over the country in the first half of the year. Most of these were covered by national or local media. The Embassy has also produced a film about Norway's contribution to the Grants, which was shown on national TV, and has promoted Norway in connection with popular cultural events such as the Norwegian Night at the Bohemia Jazz Festival.

ESTONIA

The first period of the EEA and Norway Grants (2004–09) paved the way for a strengthening of bilateral relations between Norway and Estonia. When the grant schemes were launched, Estonian authorities and potential recipients showed great interest not only for the grants, but also in the possibilities for cooperation with Norway. There was good coverage in the media, and information about the grants reached the general public. Due to their larger size, funds from the EU received more attention than the EEA and Norway Grants. On the other hand, no individual countries come to the fore in connection with the EU's support schemes.

Great willingness was shown in forging new contacts – at both ministerial and project level. However, due to capacity problems on the part of Norway, the number of partnership projects was not as high as it could have been.

Project completion and opening events created a new wave of attention for the EEA and Norway Grants. Several Estonian ministers were present at various opening ceremonies and seminars in connection with these. These activities received a good deal of positive attention in the media.

Closer cooperation between the parties was most clearly seen in the Transfer of Knowledge Fund, where partnership with a donor country is required. Norway took part in nine out of ten projects.

GREECE

Greece has benefited considerably from the EEA Grants (right from the start of the mechanism in 1994), although not all projects have been implemented in the best possible way. The general public has been well informed about the projects, but has not always been aware that they were funded with the help of the Grants. This is due to the fact that the EEA are not generally well known. Some seminars have been held that have been well attended by project operators, Norwegian partners, and representatives of the local authorities, educational institutions, etc.

The EEA Grants have without doubt helped to strengthen bilateral relations, primarily between the authorities in the two countries and between the project partners. There has been less effect in relation to the general public.

HUNGARY

Almost one-third of the EEA and Norway Grants projects in Hungary have involved Norwegian partners. This has helped to strengthen bilateral relations. In some cases, this cooperation has provided a starting point for further cooperation after the completion of the project. The framework surrounding project visits is important. These visits are often arranged in connection with meetings with the local business community, NGOs, cultural institutions and the press. The Embassy also seeks to create links between its cultural activities, such as performances by Norwegian artists and events promoting Norwegian food, and EEA and Norway Grants projects.

The Embassy gives priority to project visits. This helps to increase visibility, not only during the visit, but also through press coverage and articles on the Embassy's website. This has increased awareness and knowledge of Norway, both among local and national authorities and among the general public. The EEA and Norway Grants thus strengthen Norway's profile in Hungary. The Grants have also provided good opportunities to promote Norwegian priorities, and have opened doors to key figures and institutions.

They provide a good starting point for contact-building activities, and our annual EEA and Norway Grants reception is attended by around 100 people.

The EEA and Norway Grants also provide arenas that can be used in other contexts, for example as a backdrop to political visits. Certain projects have also increased the Embassy's credibility in relation to particular political issues, and have thus made the Embassy an interesting partner in other forums. The interest in funding via the Grants is still great, and several of those involved say that the Grants fill important gaps where other sources of funding have dried up.

LATVIA

Bilateral relations between Norway and Latvia have traditionally been strong, but they have been further strengthened by the EEA and Norway Grants. One-third of the projects funded by the Grants entailed partnerships with the donor countries, particularly Norway. More than half of these projects went on to establish new partnerships. The projects that have been based on existing cooperation with Norway have mainly been in the higher education, municipal and justice and home affairs sectors. The EEA and Norway Grants have made it possible to deepen and strengthen contacts between individuals and institutions that already existed.

By means of reciprocal visits and joint seminars, project promoters in Latvia have exchanged a good deal of experience with Norwegian colleagues in a number of areas. Most of the cooperation projects have been in the health (e-health and telemedicine), regional policy and justice and home affairs sectors. Latvian experts have worked with Norwegian experts on cultural heritage (conservation of wooden buildings), the environment (use of renewable energy in municipal buildings), and education (e-learning). Norwegian experts have helped to develop new methods for training young entrepreneurs from university level downwards through the school system.

The EEA and Norway Grants in Latvia have been an investment in people. Projects under the scheme together with scholarships have been successful in strengthening bilateral relations between Norway and Latvia.

LITHUANIA

The EEA and Norway Grants have given Norway greater visibility in a very positive way. Prime Minister Kubilius has said, "Everywhere I go in the country, I see Norwegian projects, and we are very grateful."

The largest projects in terms of euros have helped to improve Lithuania's infrastructure. These have had a limited number of Norwegian partners. However, a large number of Norwegian partners have been involved in several smaller projects, particularly projects on cooperation between municipal and regional bodies, and the Grants have helped to strengthen cross-border cooperation. There has been a good deal of positive press coverage of Norway's contribution. A photo exhibition of the results of individual projects has been seen by thousands of Lithuanians. Norway's contribution via the Grants is clearly further strengthening Norway's profile in the country.

More Norwegian partners will be involved during the 2009–14 period. Innovation Norway, the Norwegian prison and probation services, and the Climate and Pollution Agency are among the Norwegian partners that are taking part in the development of programmes.

MALTA

Previously, little was known about Norway in Malta, and there was not a great deal of bilateral contact. Although Malta receives limited funding through the EEA and Norway Grants, these funds have provided a good basis for further developing bilateral relations and have strengthened Norway's profile in the country. However, it has proved difficult to find Norwegian partners for projects in Malta.

The projects have had good coverage in the Maltese press. There has been good attendance of Maltese politicians, senior officials and NGOs at events held by the Embassy in cooperation with local authorities. These events have also received media attention. In 2007, we arranged a bilateral seminar in Valetta on oil spill responses. A bilateral seminar on renewable resources and energy efficiency was also held in 2009. This is the sector that seems to offer the best opportunities for cooperation and partnerships between Norway and Malta. In 2011, the Embassy and the Maltese National Focal Point produced a brochure on the seven projects that were implemented in the 2004–09 period. In May this year, the Embassy took part in an event to mark the conclusion of an information and PR campaign on the EEA and Norway Grants. This campaign was particularly targeted at schools.

Malta is a small country. The market and expertise in various sectors is therefore limited. Closer cooperation could be sought in areas where Norway has particular expertise that meets local needs. Environmental technology and the energy sector are areas where such cooperation could be of interest. The cultural heritage projects have been successful, and there is interest in developing closer contact in this area.

POLAND

Norway has begun to make a considerable mark in Poland. Poland is the largest recipient of EEA and Norway Grants. During the 2004–09 period, the Grants funded 420 projects involving many activities and different themes all over the country. As a result, many Polish people have got to know Norway and Norwegians better. This cooperation will continue over the next five-year period and will entail an even higher level of funding.

Through the EEA and Norway Grants, Norway has become an important partner in the efforts to strengthen democracy in Poland, reduce disparities, and help the country to meet its climate change and environmental obligations.

Poland is gaining importance in Europe in both political and economic terms, and is also an important trade partner for Norway. The EEA and Norway Grants have been developed and managed in a way that takes into account Norway's foreign policy interests and strengthens our bilateral relations. Partnerships were encouraged in various ways. Many Norwegian entities cooperated in sub-projects under funds for research and cultural exchange, in which partnerships were mandatory. In addition, one third of the individual projects - for which there was no requirement for partnerships - chose to involve project partners from Norway. The Grants will further strengthen this bilateral dimension in the years to come.

The EEA and Norway Grants have without a doubt had a positive effect on Norway's image in Poland.

The Norway Grants and EEA Grants logos can be seen in many places throughout the country: on recently refurbished museums, arts centres, schools and hospitals, in playgrounds, and on equipment used for border controls and environmental inspections. The logos are also seen in connection with exhibitions, concerts and theatre performances - for example Norwegian plays involving Norwegian partners - and on various printed materials and posters.

The Embassy has visited a number of different projects and EEA-related events all over Poland. In many of these cases, key political and other figures have been present. These visits have made it possible to build up a large network of contacts all over the coun-

try. Several Polish municipalities and institutions have developed ties at international level through the EEA and Norway Grants scheme. They have got to know Norwegians and Norway through this cooperation.

Media coverage in Poland has been extensive and positive. According to the Embassy's continuous monitoring of the Polish media, Norway is mentioned in several articles and reports on projects under the scheme every day.

A large number of people in both Norway and Poland have received support from the EEA and Norway Grants to travel between the countries to broaden their horizons and develop professional and friendly ties. More than 1000 students and researchers have been awarded grants to stay in Norway and Poland for various lengths of time. In addition there has been extensive research cooperation between institutions and researchers in both countries in the fields of environment, climate change, energy and health.

Through the EEA and Norway Grants, Norway has become one of the largest financial contributors to Polish civil society through the NGO Funds. Several Norwegian partners are taking part in projects financed by the Funds. This cooperation will be continued over the next five-year period.

More than 660 municipalities and 2600 individuals in Poland alone have been involved in cooperation between Norwegian and Polish municipalities on improving governance and public services through exchange of experience and competence-building.

One of the areas where the EEA and Norway Grants is most visible is the extensive Norwegian-Polish cooperation on culture and cultural heritage. This is by far the largest bilateral cooperation programme in the field of culture between the two countries.

Relations between Norway and Poland have historically been good, and after the first round of the EEA and Norway Grants scheme, the two countries have grown even closer.

PORTUGAL

The EEA Grants have strengthened bilateral relations with Portugal in several ways. At political level, useful ties have been developed with the Government and various ministries. At project level, results have been achieved, and in many cases there has been a valuable exchange of experience between Norwegian and Portuguese partners. Portugal stands out as having a very high level of cooperation with Norwegian partners: 13 out of 25 projects involve Norwegian partners. A number of seminars and reciprocal study trips have strengthened ties between Norwegian and Portuguese institutions and promoted Norway and

Norwegian expertise. Various projects and the contacts developed have proved useful for promoting business interests.

The Embassy has made active use of the EEA Grants to promote Norway. For example, it has held several major seminars on the scheme, and it has produced various publications in connection with these, including brochures, DVDs and calendars. It has also taken part in and spoken at a large number of events linked to individual projects. These have received good media coverage, with positive reports and a high degree of visibility.

The promotional effect has, however, depended on the project management and the type of project. The restoration of well-known cultural heritage sites has received extensive media coverage, while lower profile projects have been more difficult to bring to the attention of a wider audience. We will discuss the methods we will use to promote Norway even better in connection with the Grants for the 2009–14 period.

ROMANIA

The EEA and Norway Grants have created a platform for cooperation and contact between Norwegian and Romanian actors. They have stimulated project cooperation in both the private and the public sector, which can again lead to new partnerships. The nature of this cooperation has varied, from building new premises and launching new IT equipment, to the exchange of knowledge and experience, and awareness-raising. Examples include the first centre for rare diseases in Romania, the first public day centre for mentally handicapped children, an environmental campaign run by the Romanian and Norwegian ministries of the environment, and a grant scheme that has enabled 200 Romanian students and university employees to take part in exchanges through 16 partnerships between Norwegian and Romanian higher education institutions.

The Grants have given the Norwegian authorities a broader network of contacts in Romania. The same applies to the Embassy. The Grants have also helped to strengthen Norway's reputation through the concrete results achieved. Various activities have attracted media attention, and thus increased knowledge about Norway and the EEA and Norway Grants in Romania. Examples include the concluding conference for the first round of the scheme, conferences in connection with the completion of various projects, photo exhibitions (both indoor and outdoor) about various projects, and press conferences. Through the NGO Funds, Norway has become the largest external source of funding to civil society in Romania, and this fact has also attracted attention outside the sector.

SLOVAKIA

The EEA and Norway Grants in Slovakia have acted as a door opener at national, regional and local level, and have most certainly strengthened bilateral relations.

Projects funded by the EEA and Norway Grants draw attention to Norway, help us to make a mark and give us access to key actors in Bratislava and elsewhere in the country that many other countries would like to have. The Embassy's network of representatives of the authorities, civil society, cultural institutions and the media is to a large extent based on contacts made through projects and seminars, etc. relating to the Grants. Several representatives of the authorities today have experience of projects carried out in the 2004–09 period, and they show appreciation of Norway's support for democracy and civil society in their new positions. The Embassy works actively to grasp the opportunities this offers, and has generally found that the EEA and Norway Grants open many doors.

Over time, the projects, and the Embassy's activities in connection with these, have attracted considerable media attention at both regional and local level. Through active, targeted efforts, attention at national level has also increased substantially. The Slovakian Prime Minister took part in a conference to mark the conclusion of the 2004–09 period. This received broad media coverage, including a 10-minute interview about the Grants and Norway's relations with the EU and Slovakia on Slovakia's main news channel. Projects under the scheme were an important focus area for the Norwegian King and Queen's visit to Slovakia in 2010. This visit received substantial media coverage and attracted the attention of the general public.

The political profile and visibility the Grants give us have fostered interest in several aspects of Norwegian society and Norwegian values in general. The opportunities this entails are used actively. Representatives of the Embassy are invited to panel debates, conferences and interviews on topics such as gender equality, the situation of sexual minorities and corporate social responsibility. In addition there are various opportunities offered by activities directly related to the Grants, which are also used to promote Norway and Norwegian values and priorities.

SLOVENIA

The EEA and Norway Grants have played an important part in raising Norway's profile in Slovenia. Twenty-two projects have been implemented, four of which with Norwegian partners. Some of the projects have created new jobs and have fostered further cooperation after the project ended. The same applies to projects under the NGO Funds, where 15 of 40 subsidiary projects had Norwegian partners. The grant scheme

facilitated exchanges of students, teachers and other resource persons in areas of mutual interest. A total of 330 people took part in these exchanges.

The Embassy has taken an active part in events relating to the EEA and Norway Grants, for example in connection with the signing of contracts, seminars for possible applicants, events in connection with the launch and completion of projects, and project visits, in close cooperation with the Slovenian National Focal Point. At most of these events, representatives of the Embassy have been interviewed on national and local TV and radio, and have answered questions about Norway's support. The Embassy has also promoted the Grants by arranging seminars on relevant themes and visits to selected projects for ambassadors of EU countries in Ljubljana, the press and other interested parties. The visit of The Norwegian King and Queen to Slovenia in May was also used to highlight the EEA and Norway Grants. The royal couple visited a project together with local dignitaries and the press, and were met by a large and enthusiastic crowd of people of all ages carrying Norwegian and Slovenian flags.

The Slovenian national focal point and the fund managers for the NGO Funds have carried out extensive information and PR activities on the EEA and Norway Grants. This has also helped to increase the visibility and awareness of the Grants among the Slovenian public.

SPAIN

Three projects under the EEA and Norway Grants for the 2004–09 period had a clear bilateral dimension. A gender equality project between the Spanish institute for women's rights and the Norwegian Association of Local and Regional Authorities (KS) is the only project with a Norwegian partner. This project has led to extensive contact at different levels of the administration in Spain and Norway. It has also had a very positive effect in terms of public diplomacy regarding the position of women in working life in Norway and the Nordic model. Media coverage has been greater than expected. Among the reasons for this are the particular interest in these topics due to the high level of unemployment in the country and the economic crisis, together with the success of the project.

The student exchange scheme with the University of Complutense and the building of St. Olav's chapel in Covarrubias have clear elements of cross-border cooperation that will be made systematic use of. In September 2011, there was a major event in connection with the opening of St. Olav's chapel, which was attended by the Norwegian Minister of Culture, Anniken Huitfeldt, together with various musicians, Norwegian and Spanish politicians and the general public. The story behind this project is the wish of the Nor-

wegian Princess Kristina of Tunsberg (1234–62), who was married to Spanish Prince Don Felipe, to build a chapel dedicated to Norway's patron saint (St. Olav). Now, 750 years later, her dream has come true in Covarrubias with the help of the EEA Grants.

Other projects under the EEA Grants are highlighted through project visits in connection with political talks in key regions of the country. Experience shows that project visits are an excellent opportunity for media coverage that would otherwise not be so easy to achieve. For example, in the last six months, the Embassy has taken part in the opening of an entrepreneurship and business centre in Cordoba and has visited urban renewal projects in Barcelona and Buñol (Valencia). The aim is to make even more systematic use of opportunities for bilateral cooperation under the EEA and Norway Grants for the 2009–14 period. It is also important to ensure that there are clear links and synergies between the projects supported by the Grants and the political and business-related priorities that form the basis for Norway's activities in Spain.

GLOSSARY

Acquis communautaire – the accumulated legislation, legal acts, and court decisions which constitute the body of European Union (EU) law

Beneficiary states – Bulgaria, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Estonia, Greece, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia and Spain

Donor states – Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway

Europe 2020 – the EU's ten-year growth strategy

Eurostat – the Statistical Office of the European Communities which publishes official harmonised statistics of European Union, the euro-area and the EFTA countries

EU-10 – the ten countries which joined the EU in 2004 (Cyprus, Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Slovakia and Slovenia)

EU-12 – the EU-10 plus Bulgaria and Romania which joined the EU in 2007

EU-15¹ – the 15 EU member states before central and eastern European enlargements of 2004 and 2007

EU-25 – the EU-10 plus the EU-15

EU-27 – all EU member states

Individual projects – projects receiving direct funding from the EEA and Norway Grants

Sub-projects – projects receiving funding through funds and programmes set up and financed in part or full by the EEA and Norway Grants

Schengen Agreement – abolishes internal borders, enabling passport-free movement between a large number of European countries. The Schengen area includes 22 EU member states and Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway and Switzerland.²

¹ Austria, Belgium, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Portugal, Spain, Sweden and the United Kingdom

² Austria, Belgium, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, the Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden

ABBREVIATIONS

CoE	Council of Europe
DPP	Donor Programme Partner
EC	European Commission
EEA	European Economic Area
EFTA	European Free Trade Association (Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway and Switzerland)
EEA EFTA States	Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway
EU	European Union
FMC	Financial Mechanism Committee
FMO	Financial Mechanism Office
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
ILO	International Labour Organisation
IOM	International Organisation for Migration
MoU	Memorandum of Understanding
NFM	Norwegian Financial Mechanism
NFP	National Focal Point
NGO	Non-Governmental Organisation
NMFA	Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs
OECD	Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development
PO	Programme Operator
PPS	Purchasing Power Standard
TI	Transparency International
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNHCR	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UN Refugee Agency)
WB	World Bank

Additional photo information

FRONT AND INSIDE COVER

© *Tomas Černiševas*

Support from the EEA Grants helped upgrade school sports facilities in the Alytus district in Lithuania.

Part 1: Overview - pages 4/5

© *Poznań City Hall*

The city of Poznań in western Poland redeveloped five sports zones with support from the EEA Grants. Getting the local community more involved in sports and outdoor activities is helping to improve social integration.

Part 2: Results 2004-2009 - pages 18/19

© *Mateusz Pieczko*

Close to 250 people turned out in the old town square in Warsaw in May 2011 to 'Walk the Grants'. The Norwegian Embassy in Warsaw invited representatives from all funded projects to participate in the Nordic walking event, celebrating the achievements of more than 400 projects and funds implemented in Poland.

Part 3: Opportunities 2009-2014 - pages 48/49

© *The Regional Environment Centre for Central and Eastern Europe*

In Hungary, the EEA Grants supported the renovation of the Regional Environmental Centre. It now hosts a zero-emissions conference centre built with a pioneering eco-design and harnessing the power generated from the solar panels installed as part of the project.

Part 4: Country overviews - pages 60/61

© *FMO*

The EEA and Norway Grants contributed €1.9 million to a cultural heritage project to recuperate the historic roadway 'Via de la Plata' in Estremadura. The road connects Spain to the rest of Europe through a network of ancient routes. A number of bridges along the route have been repaired and archaeological sites excavated.

Annex - pages 92/93

© *Guri M. Smenes, Royal Norwegian Embassy, Budapest*

A team of painters and prison inmates came together to painstakingly restore a 170-year-old chapel that had been hidden for over 50 years in the Balassagyarmat prison in Hungary. The Norway Grants project (under the Hungarian NGO Fund) was presented in a book published in 2011 "Fresco Feather of the Goldenbird".

