A large, diverse crowd of young people is gathered for a festival or event. The scene is filled with numerous colorful balloons in shades of blue, yellow, pink, green, and red. Many people have their arms raised, some holding balloons, and they appear to be in a celebratory mood. The background shows a building with windows, suggesting an urban setting. The overall atmosphere is vibrant and festive.

ANNUAL REPORT 2013-14

ICELAND
LIECHTENSTEIN
NORWAY
eea
grants

norway
grants

Foreword

1 January this year marked the 20th anniversary of the entry into force of the EEA Agreement. Since 1994, Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway have provided considerable support to cohesion and reducing social and economic disparities within the European Economic Area.

Despite positive development trends over the last 20 years, we acknowledge that several EEA countries still face challenges. Through the EEA and Norway Grants, we work closely with the governments and partners in the 16 beneficiary countries to help to respond to these challenges, and achieve our goals of reducing disparities and strengthening bilateral relations.

It is not just a one-way street: our approach is not just that of a donor, but also of a partner. About half of the programmes have programme partners from Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway. We will continue to be a constructive partner, working to tackle shared challenges and find joint solutions together. International partnerships with organisations like the Council of Europe and the EU Agency for Fundamental Rights bring expertise and added value to our work.

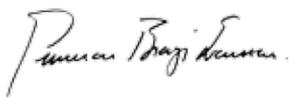
2013-14 has been about implementation, delivery and tracking results. All 150 programmes are now up and running. More than 1 600 projects have been approved so far, and we are starting to see results.

Our support is in line with wider EU cohesion goals and targeted towards areas vital for sustainable and inclusive growth including climate change, renewable energy, green innovation, research, social inclusion and education. This is why in this year's report we highlight some of the results achieved in the areas of climate change and decent work and social dialogue.

We take an in-depth look at how €275 million in funding is being used to address climate change-related issues and meet energy targets in the beneficiary countries. One story tells of how the National Energy Authority of Iceland is lending its vast experience to help Portugal develop its geothermal potential in the Azores. We hear from Norwegian representatives of employers' and workers' organisations about how sharing experience on social dialogue has helped improve the working environment on the ground.

We also 'tell the story' of some of the successes in each country. Take the inspirational example of the 'White Crow' award. Supported by all three donor countries through the NGO Programme in Slovakia, this award rewards citizens who stand up to corruption - just one example of how a small grant can have a big impact. In Poland, we see the benefits of strong bilateral cooperation where the Norwegian Institute for Air Research is working hand in hand with its Polish counterpart in a large environmental project on improving air quality.

We are pleased with developments over the past year and we're continually committed to learning from and improving our work and impact. A clear focus on results and accountability drives everything that we do. We hope that you enjoy reading about some of the results of our work and engagement in this year's report.



Gunnar Bragi Sveinsson
Minister of Foreign Affairs,
Iceland



Dr. Aurelia Frick
Minister of Foreign Affairs,
Liechtenstein



Vidar Helgesen
Minister of EEA and EU Affairs,
Norway



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ABOUT THIS REPORT

The EEA and Norway Grants annual report provides an overview of the aims and achievements of the funding provided by Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway in the beneficiary countries in 2013-14.

The report does not provide a comprehensive account of all results but it does go beneath the surface to 'tell the story' and highlight achievements in a few key areas.

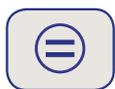
Overview

Through the EEA (European Economic Area) and Norway Grants, Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway help to reduce economic and social disparities and strengthen cooperation with 16 countries¹ in Central and Southern Europe.

For the period 2009-2014, €1.8 billion has been set aside under the Grants. Projects may be implemented until 2016 and funding is channelled through 150 programmes. Of the €993.5 million set aside under the EEA Grants, Norway provides 95.8%, Iceland 3.0% and Liechtenstein 1.2%. The Norway Grants are financed by Norway alone and amount to €804.6 million

The EEA and Norway Grants are linked to the Agreement on the European Economic Area through which Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway participate in the internal market with the EU.

Reducing disparities



Despite much progress in Europe, gaps in economic development and living standards persist. The funding is targeted towards areas where there are clear needs in the beneficiary countries in line with broader European policies. Priority areas include climate change, research and innovation, civil society and investing in people through human and social development.

Strengthening cooperation



Promoting cooperation is a central aim of the Grants, with partnerships between organisations in the donor and beneficiary countries widely encouraged. Strengthening ties between organisations and institutions brings benefits for the beneficiary and donor countries alike.

1. Croatia became a member of the EEA, and consequently the 16th beneficiary country of the EEA and Norway Grants, in 2014. As programmes were only launched at the end of April 2014, Croatia is not covered in this year's report.

AREAS OF SUPPORT

(€ million)

Please refer to annex 1 (pg 76) for a breakdown of figures by priority sector, split between EEA Grants and Norway Grants.



267.9

Climate change and renewable energy



152.5

Environmental protection and management



128.4

Green industry innovation



158.3

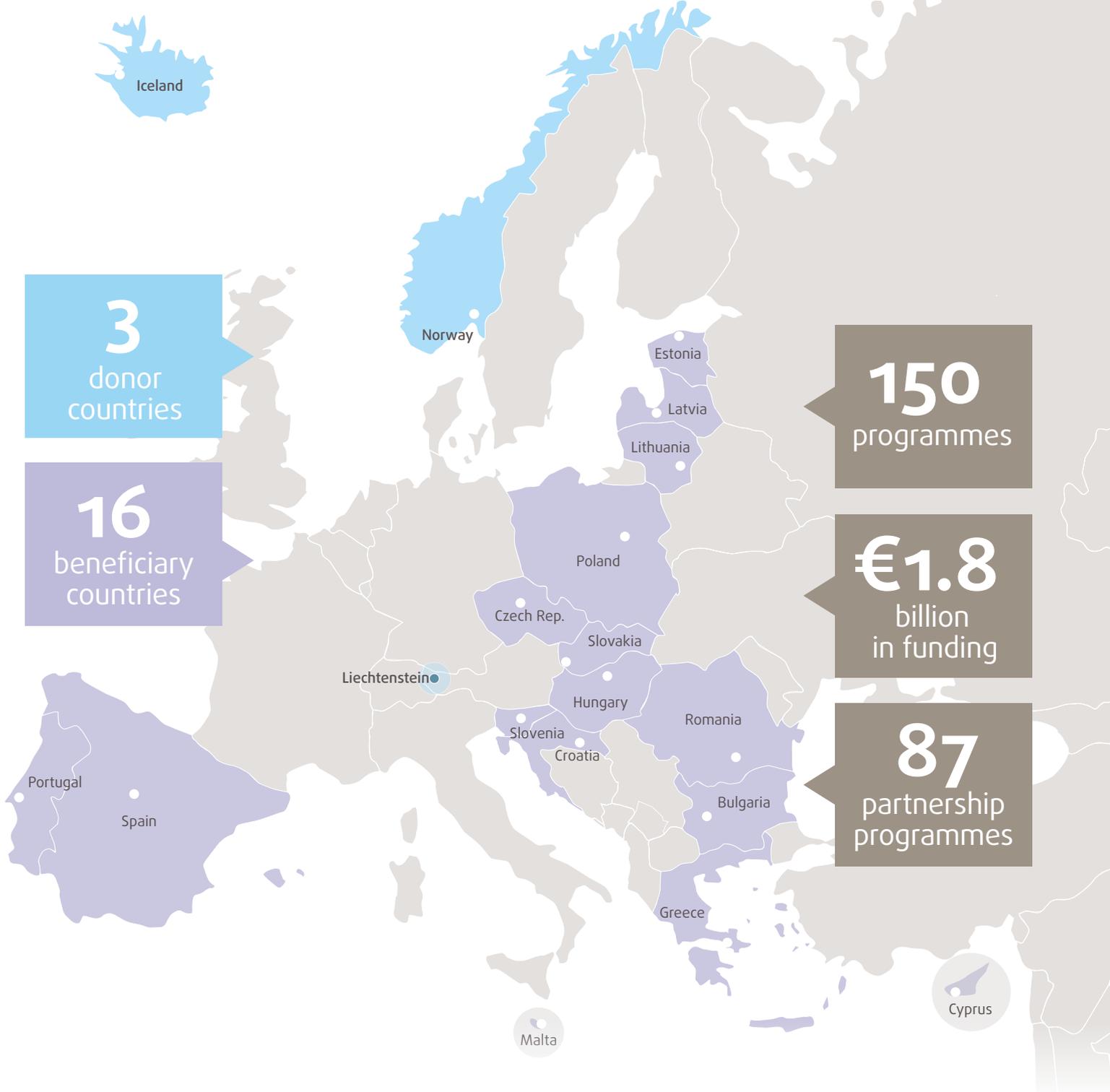
Civil society



375.9

Human and social development





201.4
Cultural heritage
and diversity



169.0
Research and
scholarships



145.2
Justice and
home affairs



8.0
Decent work and
tripartite dialogue



7.0
Carbon capture and
storage



Our year in review

Our highlights



The Rainbow Bus Tour around Vilnius on the International Day Against Homophobia and Transphobia on 17 May 2014 was organised by Lithuanian LGBT rights NGO, LGL, which received support under the NGO programme.



eea grants.org unique visitors per month

Our cooperation

Ensuring the bilateral dimension in all programmes has been a continued focus in 2013. A large number of organisations and people are involved in partnerships aimed at strengthening political, professional, cultural, social and economic ties.

Donor partnerships

In more than half of the programmes, public bodies – donor programme partners (DPPs) – from Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway are involved as advisers in programme planning and implementation. The DPPs took part in and organised a large number of launch events, matchmaking and information meetings in 2013.



In the €63 million Polish-Norwegian Research Programme, the Research Council of Norway plays an advisory role as DPP to the programme operator – the National Centre for Research and Development in Warsaw. It also facilitates contact with the Norwegian research community, helping to expand their international networks.

Bilateral funds

Funds are set aside at national and programme levels in all beneficiary countries to develop cooperation and activities with the donor countries and facilitate partnerships. A large number of information and matchmaking events were held during 2013 to bring together potential project promoters and partners from Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway.



Figures at time of going to print (July 2014).

Some examples are highlighted below:

- Matchmaking seminar for the Polish ‘Cultural Diversity’ programme (Warsaw, May 2013)
- Matchmaking seminar for the Polish NGO programme (Warsaw, Sept 2013)
- Matchmaking seminar for the Slovak-Ukrainian ‘Cross-Border Cooperation’ programme (Michalovce, Sept 2013)
- Matchmaking seminar for the Latvian ‘Green Industry Innovation’ programme (Oslo, Oct 2013)
- Matchmaking seminar for the Romanian Research’ programme (Bucharest, Dec 2013)

Partnerships with international organisations

Strategic partnerships with several international organisations - the Council of Europe, Open Society Foundations, EU Agency for Fundamental Rights and Transparency International - have been established in this funding period, bringing added expertise, results and value to the grant schemes.

The cooperation has been further strengthened throughout 2013 -14 with the joint organisation of a number of events and collaborative working on programmes.

“The expertise of the Council of Europe in the core areas of human rights, rule of law and democracy combined with the funding of the Grants means we can expand our reach and improve the lives of millions of Europeans.”

Thorbjørn Jagland, Secretary General of the Council of Europe, Nov 2013

“We welcome this opportunity to strengthen our ties with the EEA and Norway Grants as we continue to work together to address the fundamental rights challenges that persist across Europe.”

Morten Kjaerum, Director of FRA, speaking upon formalisation of the partnership in Feb 2014



Thorbjørn Jagland, Secretary General of the Council of Europe (right) with Michal Boni, Minister of Administration and Digitization of Poland at ‘The Hate Factor in Political Speech’ conference in Warsaw in 2013.

► **Read more about how and why we work with partners in Part 4: Managing the Grants.**

Our events

Many events were held throughout 2013 to launch programmes and present opportunities for funding and partnerships. Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway also organised, or were involved as partners, in several high profile events profiling the work of the EEA and Norway Grants in related fields.



HATE FACTOR IN POLITICAL SPEECH

Warsaw, Poland

Organised by the Council of Europe and the Polish Ministry of Administration and Digitisation

TOO MUCH, TOO LITTLE – THE ROLE OF WATER IN ADAPTATION TO CLIMATE CHANGE

Lisbon, Portugal

Organised in cooperation with the Portuguese Ministry of Environment, Spatial Planning and Energy, the Portuguese Environment Agency and the Norwegian Directorate for Civil Protection



May 2013

September 2013

October 2013



RIGHT-WING EXTREMISM AND HATE CRIME

Oslo, Norway

Organised by the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and sponsored by the EEA and Norway Grants



MANAGING RISK FOR RESULTS AND FIGHTING CORRUPTION

Oslo, Norway

Organised by the Financial Mechanism Office (secretariat for the EEA and Norway Grants) and Transparency International





The NGO programme-funded 'I love Panda' campaign in Lithuania is based on the aims and ideas of the No Hate Speech movement.



STANDING UP AGAINST HATE SPEECH

The EEA and Norway Grants are a strategic partner to the Council of Europe's 'No Hate Speech' campaign. Launched in 2013 and running until 2015, the campaign is based on human rights education, youth participation and media literacy.

The NGO programmes are making a strong contribution to the campaign, organising workshops for youth bloggers, compiling good practice databases and sharing campaign toolkits for schools.

COMBATING HATE CRIME IN THE EU

Vilnius, Lithuania

The EEA and Norway Grants were a key partner to this event organised by the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA) and hosted by the Lithuanian Presidency of the Council of the EU



VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN IN EUROPE – OUR RESPONSE

Brussels, Belgium

Organised by the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the EEA and Norway Grants



November 2013

March 2014

April 2014



PUTTING VICTIMS FIRST: PROTECTING AND PROMOTING THE RIGHTS OF VICTIMS OF TRAFFICKING

Warsaw, Poland

Organised by the Poland's Ministry of the Interior, the Governments of Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway, the Council of Europe and the International Organisation for Migration



HOW CAN EU MEMBER STATES COMBAT HATE CRIME EFFECTIVELY?

Thessaloniki, Greece

The EEA and Norway Grants were a key partner to this event organised by the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA) and hosted by the Greek Presidency of the Council of the EU



Development trends and challenges

Reducing disparities in Europe is one of the objectives for the EEA and Norway Grants. Despite much progress, gaps in economic development and living standards persist. EU forecasts confirm signs of a turning point in the crisis, but recovery remains fragile. The social impact of the crisis is still being heavily felt, especially by the most vulnerable.

This section reviews the economic and social situations in the beneficiary countries in 2013.



Young people in an EEA Grants-funded youth centre in the Bulgarian municipality of Stara Zagora.

Economic growth

Limited or negative economic growth over recent years has led to increased disparities throughout Europe. All of the beneficiary countries have a GDP per capita less than the EU average. While Romania and Bulgaria have seen their per capita income increase by around 20% since joining the EU, the average per-capita income in these countries remains at 50% or below the EU average.

In 2012, half of the beneficiary countries had fallen back into recession, most contracting by more than the 0.4% EU average. Of the economies that grew, only the three Baltic countries exceeded a growth rate of 2%. However, more positively, by the end of 2013, most beneficiary countries had seen a return to growth.¹

Significant funding from the Grants targets research, innovation and education – key areas to help stimulate economic growth and

job creation. Eligibility for the EEA and Norway Grants mirrors the criteria set for the EU Cohesion Fund aimed at member states whose Gross National Income (GNI) per inhabitant is less than 90% of the EU average.

Unemployment

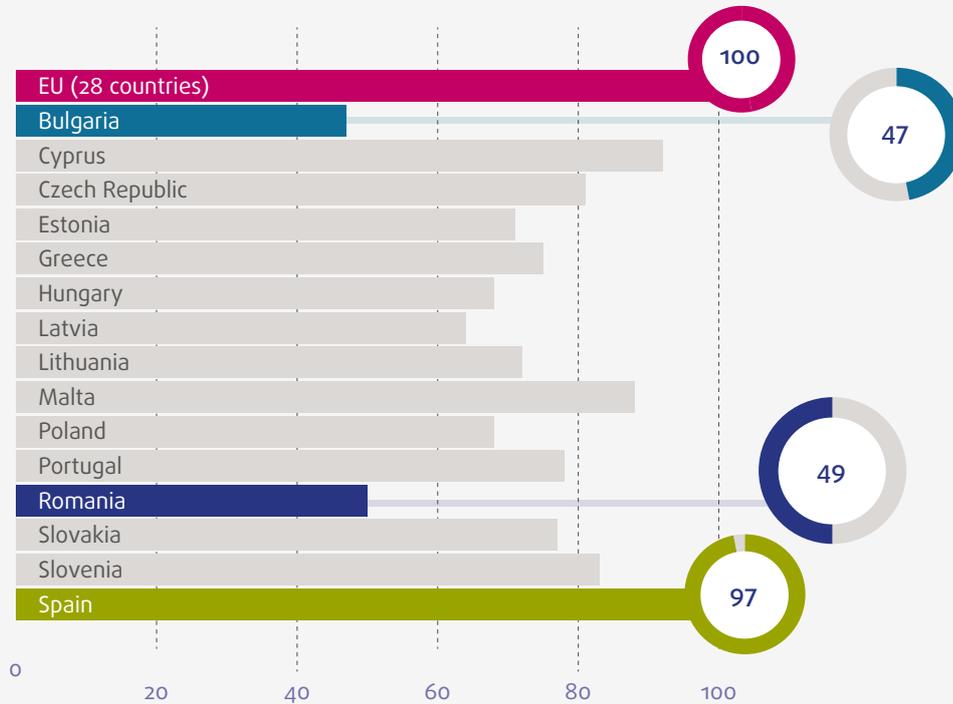
Slow growth has had a well-documented impact on employment. Improvements in the labour market will take time to materialise, with unemployment expected to remain unacceptably high in many parts of Europe for some time to come.² The Europe 2020 – the EU's ten-year growth and jobs strategy – goal of 75% employment is still some way off. Finding a job has been more difficult for people in the beneficiary countries: only four have employment rates above the EU average of 68.8%.

Joblessness figures for young people continue to present a bleak picture. Under-25s in the beneficiary countries are

2.2 million
unemployed
young people in
the beneficiary
countries



GDP per capita in PPS (purchasing power standards) (EU28=100)



Source: Eurostat (2012)

facing significantly higher rates of unemployment than any other age group, with the less-educated finding it particularly difficult to get work. In the EU, three in ten young people with low educational achievement were out of work.

The total number of unemployed young people across the beneficiary countries surged to 2.2 million in 2013 (out of a total of 5.6 million young people out of work across the EU-28 as a whole). This was close to — and in some instances more than — half of young jobseekers in Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Greece, Hungary, Latvia, Slovakia and Spain. The number of young Spaniards belonging to what has become known as the ‘lost generation’ reached 983 000 by the end of 2013.

Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway provide much needed support to research, innovation and education programmes in the beneficiary countries, laying foundations for future job creation.

Social exclusion

With low or negative growth and low employment rates the

number of people at risk of poverty or social exclusion has increased. Over 50 million people in the beneficiary countries were at risk in 2012 — almost 3 million more compared to 2009.³ Only Latvia, Poland and Romania have seen an improvement during this time, although figures for people at risk in Romania remain high at 41.7% of the population. In Bulgaria, 49.3% of the population were at risk of poverty or social exclusion in 2012.

One study shows that deprivation has increased for young people of all social backgrounds since 2007 in nearly all EU countries.⁴ The result is diminishing esteem, motivation, civic engagement and trust, with young people less likely to trust institutions now than they did in 2007.

Reducing disparities between the countries within the EEA area is therefore a priority for Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway and a cornerstone of the EU’s cohesion policy.

In Bulgaria
49.3%
at risk of poverty
or social exclusion

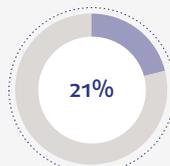
1 European Commission (2013) Annual Growth Survey 2014
2 European Commission (2013) Draft Joint Employment Report
3 Eurostat (2012) People at risk of poverty or social exclusion
4 Eurofound (2014) Social situation of young people in Europe



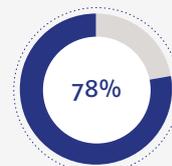
A quarter of all respondents to a survey of LGBT (lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender) people said they have been attacked or threatened in the last **5 years**



Half of Roma surveyed said that they have experienced **discrimination** in the past year



21% of respondents to a survey on **discrimination against Jews** had experienced at least one incident of insult or harassment and/or a physical attack in the past year



78% of respondents to a Council of Europe survey have encountered **hate speech online**

SOURCE: European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights and Council of Europe

Gender inequalities

The gender pay gap has decreased slightly at EU level in recent years; nevertheless, on average men still earn more than women in all EU countries.⁵ In the beneficiary countries, the difference between unadjusted wages for men and women tends to be smaller. In Slovenia women earn 2.5% less than men on average – in Malta (6.1%) and Poland (6.4%) the difference is also above the EU average.

The record of some of the other beneficiary countries is less impressive, with Estonia showing the greatest difference of all

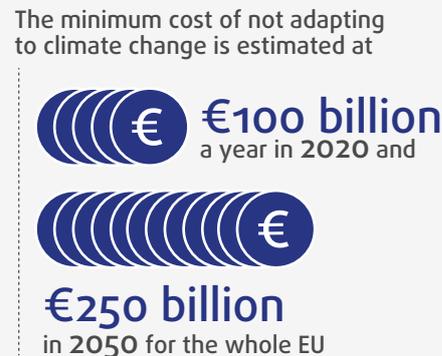
EU countries with women's gross hourly earnings 30% below those of men in 2012. Over €50 million of the EEA and Norway Grants is earmarked for promoting gender equality and tackling gender-based violence in the beneficiary countries.

In Estonia women's hourly earnings are **30%** below those of men



The Rainbow Bus Tour around Vilnius on the International Day Against Homophobia and Transphobia on 17 May 2014 was organised by Lithuanian LGBT rights NGO, LGL, which received support under the NGO programme.

5 Eurostat (2012) Gender pay gap



SOURCE: European Commission (2013)
The EU Strategy on adaptation to climate change

Intolerance and discrimination

A number of surveys and reports from organisations like the Council of Europe and the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights have documented worrying levels of harassment and violence directed towards vulnerable groups - immigrants, Roma communities and other minorities.

The ongoing crisis has also fuelled extremism and intolerance, with a clear link in some countries between the recession and the growth of hate speech and hate crimes. The donor countries support numerous initiatives through the Grants to raise awareness of hate crime and hate speech, as well as promote tolerance and multicultural awareness.

Sustainable growth

Climate change is one of the most pressing environmental challenges of our times. Collective action is required to protect people and the environment from the impacts of a changing climate and adapt to some changes that will inevitably occur.

The European Environment Agency warns that Europe is warming faster than many other parts of the world. The European land temperature over the past decade has been on average 1.3°C higher than in the pre-industrial era, compared with a global average rise of 0.8°C.

Although vulnerability to climate change varies widely, all beneficiary countries are exposed in some way. The Mediterranean basin, mountain areas, densely populated floodplains and coastal zones are particularly vulnerable. Some extreme weather events have increased, with southern and central Europe seeing more frequent heat waves, forest fires and droughts.

An increase in such events is likely to enlarge the magnitude of disasters, leading to significant economic losses, public health problems and deaths. Urban areas, where three quarters of Europe's population live, are often ill-equipped to adapt to climate change. It is often the most vulnerable - the very young, the elderly, the disabled and low-income households - who are most at risk. Around a third of the funding from Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway is allocated to environmental and energy-related programmes.

THEMATIC SECTION



This part presents an overview of the aims and highlights some key achievements under the two main themes for this year - climate change and decent work.

Climate change

Addressing and limiting the impacts of climate change is a challenge shared by all European countries. Through diverse programmes, Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway are helping the beneficiary countries deal with climate change-related issues and meet EU targets on reducing energy consumption and CO₂ emissions.



What is the issue?

The world's climate and weather patterns are changing with increasingly far-reaching human, environmental and economic consequences. Climate change (increases in temperature, changes in precipitation and decreases in ice and snow) is occurring globally and in Europe; some of the observed changes have established records in recent years. Climate change can also increase existing vulnerabilities and deepen social and economic imbalances in Europe.

Findings from the UN's Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) suggest that the situation is likely to grow substantially worse unless greenhouse gas emissions are brought under control. The IPCC warns that against a background of fast-rising CO₂ emissions, the world must move rapidly away from carbon-intensive energy. Its most recent report reveals that greenhouse gas emissions were higher between 2000 and 2010 than they have ever been in human history.¹

Key observed and projected climate change impacts for the beneficiary country regions²

Mountain areas

- Temperature rise larger than European average
- Decrease in glacier extent and volume
- Decrease in mountain permafrost areas
- Upward shift of plant and animal species

Central and eastern Europe

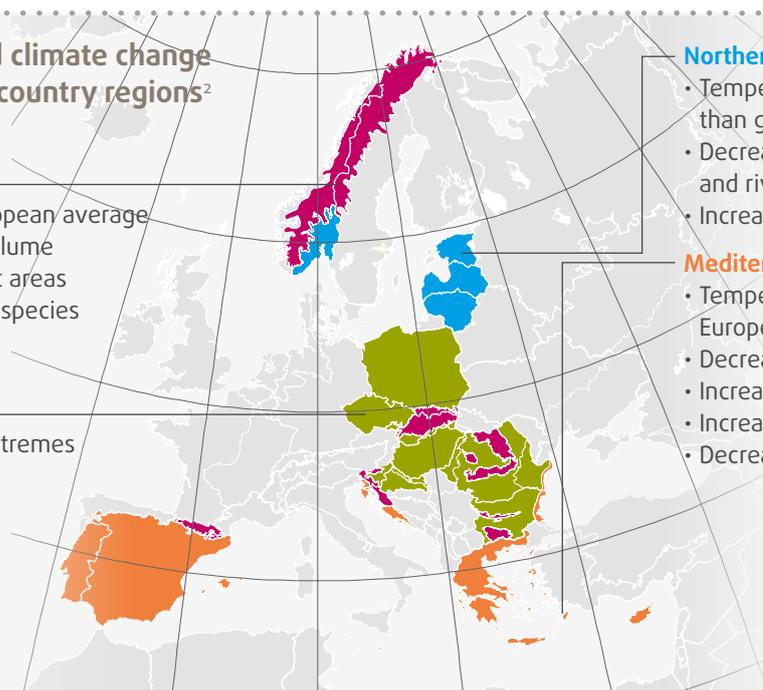
- Increase in warm temperature extremes
- Decrease in summer rainfall
- Increase in water temperature
- Increasing risk of forest fire

Northern Europe

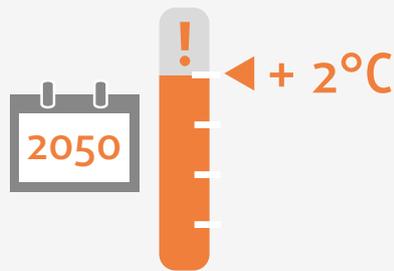
- Temperature rise much larger than global average
- Decrease in snow, lake and river ice cover
- Increase in river flows

Mediterranean region

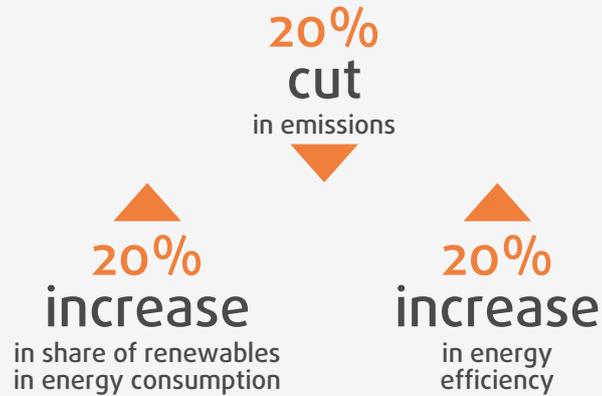
- Temperature rise larger than European average
- Decrease in annual rainfall
- Increasing risk of biodiversity loss
- Increasing risk of desertification
- Decreasing water flow in rivers



Two degree level temperature rise is regarded by the IPCC as the point beyond which dangerous impacts of climate change will be felt.



EU 2020 targets



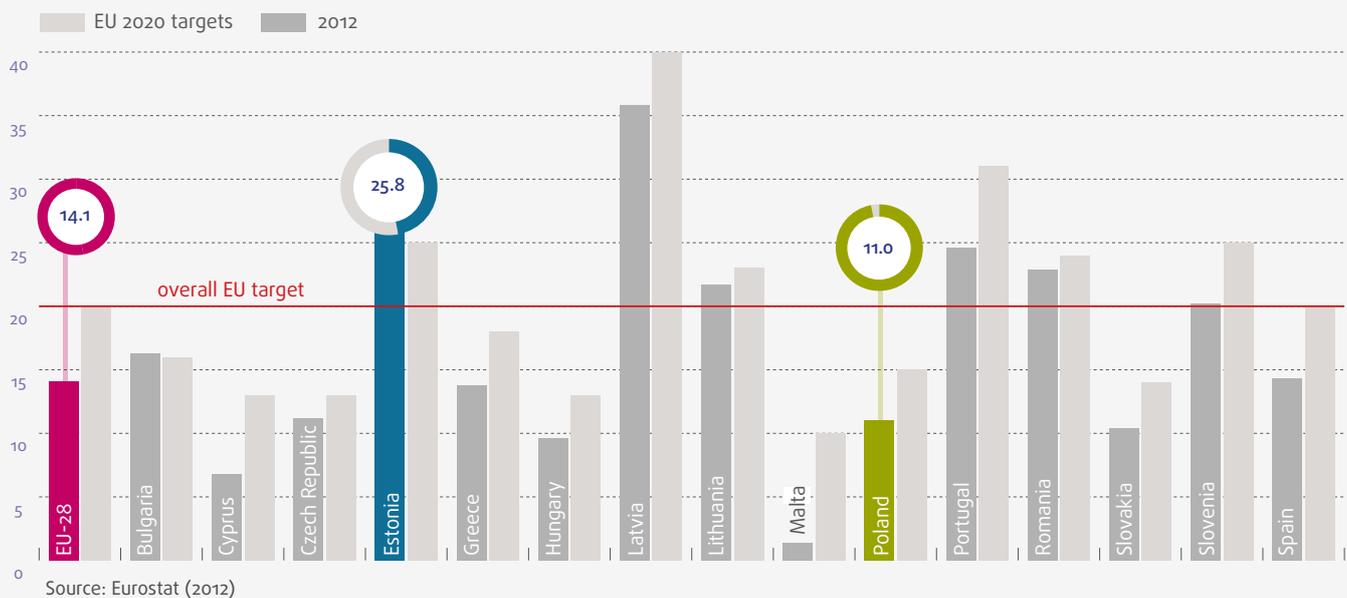
According to the IPCC, action to reduce emissions can limit the amount and pace of climate change. Without such mitigation action, the global average temperature would likely pass the internationally agreed limit of 2°C above pre-industrial levels at some point this century, possibly before 2050.

EU commitments

The EU has set ambitious targets for increased energy efficiency, greater use of renewable energy and curbs in greenhouse gas emissions – the so-called 20-20-20 targets.

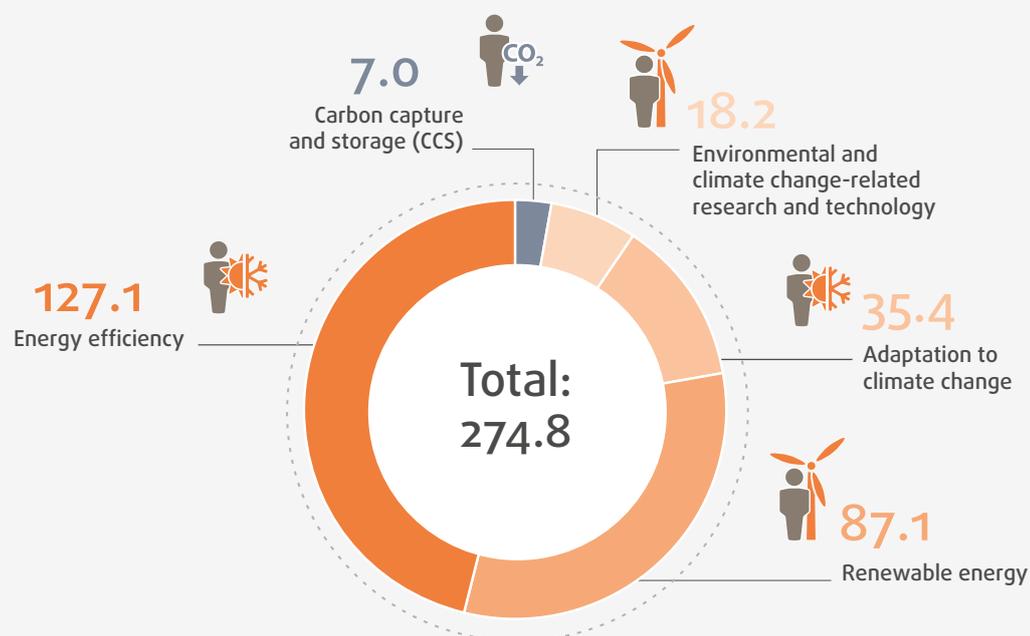
According to the European Environment Agency, the EU as a whole is currently on track to meet the 2020 commitments on emissions reductions. But reaching the 20% energy efficiency and renewable energy targets will be far more challenging. Progress has been uneven – the share of renewable energy consumption in the EU as a whole currently sits at 14%.³

Share of renewable energy in energy consumption (%)



1 Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change: Third Working Group Report (April 2014) Mitigation of Climate Change <http://www.ipcc-wg3.de/assessment-reports/fifth-assessment-report>
 2 European Environmental Agency (2012) Climate change, impacts and vulnerability in Europe
 3 European Commission (2013) Renewable energy progress report

Funding to climate change and renewable energy programmes (€ million)



What are we doing?

Through the Grants, Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway combine support for mitigation and adaptation, allocating €275 million (€198 million – EEA Grants and €77 million – Norway Grants) to diverse programmes addressing climate change and energy issues.

This is in line with EU's two-fold approach which maintains that even if the greenhouse gas emissions that are causing climate change dramatically decrease, adaptation is still needed to deal with the impacts and costs.



- Mitigation addresses the root causes of climate change by reducing greenhouse gas emissions



- Adaptation seeks to lower the risks posed by the consequences of climatic changes

The climate and energy programmes contribute to:

- Developing systems and strategies for adapting to climate change
- Improving energy efficiency in industry and public buildings
- Reducing emissions of greenhouse gases and air pollutants
- Increasing the share of renewable energy in energy use
- Strengthening the knowledge base for better decision-making
- Increasing the use and development of environmental technologies
- Increasing knowledge and research on carbon capture and storage (CCS) technology

In addition, Norway also contributes €128.4 million to **green industry innovation programmes** in eight countries. To achieve sustainable economic growth and meet targets on CO₂, investment in new green technologies and green innovation is crucial. The green innovation programmes are mainly business-focused with projects generally involving a Norwegian partner. Project examples include passive building construction in Bulgaria, development of solar park technologies in Hungary and energy production using renewable resources in Slovakia.

Energy and climate -related projects are also supported under **research programmes** (e.g. research on renewables in the Romania and on CCS in Poland) and **NGO programmes**.

KUBIK is a ground-breaking building in sustainable construction by TECNALIA - project partner in the Spanish climate programme.

In Bulgaria,
heating systems
in **10** public buildings
over will be modernised

Energy saving
measures
in **25**
Polish industries
with an estimated
reduction of

800 000
tonnes of CO₂.

In Poland
100
municipal buildings
will be **modernised**
to improve energy
efficiency

Stepping up energy efficiency

Increasing energy efficiency – achieving the same result with less energy – is a cost-effective way of reducing greenhouse gas emissions and a central plank of a proactive climate mitigation policy. Energy efficiency programmes have been set up in four countries: Bulgaria, Hungary, Poland and Romania.

- In Bulgaria, heating systems in over ten public buildings will be modernised to improve energy efficiency.
- A variety of energy saving measures will be put in place in 20-25 private industries in Poland, which will result in an estimated reduction of around 800 000 tonnes of CO₂/year. Around 100 municipal buildings will be modernised to improve energy efficiency.



Greater use of renewables

Raising the share of energy consumption produced from renewable resources is a priority for the climate change programmes. Renewable energy programmes have been set up in seven countries: Bulgaria, Greece, Hungary, Malta, Poland, Portugal and Romania. The programmes contribute to increasing the use of renewable energy solutions such as geothermal, wind, water and solar power. This will contribute to making the energy supply 'greener' and sources more diverse.

Significant funding is being used to develop and exploit proven geothermal potential in Hungary, Portugal and Romania.

- In Hungary, two geothermal-based district heating systems are to be established.
- A geothermal heating plant is to be built in Romania and several small-scale hydro-electric power plants built or refurbished.



Reducing vulnerability

Adaptation is needed to protect people, infrastructure, businesses and the environment. Programmes addressing climate change adaptation have been established in seven countries: Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Portugal, Romania and Slovakia.

Due to the varying severity of impacts between regions in Europe, most adaptation initiatives will be taken at national, regional or local level. Likewise, the ability to cope and adapt also differs across Europe which is why many of the programmes focus on capacity building where it is needed.

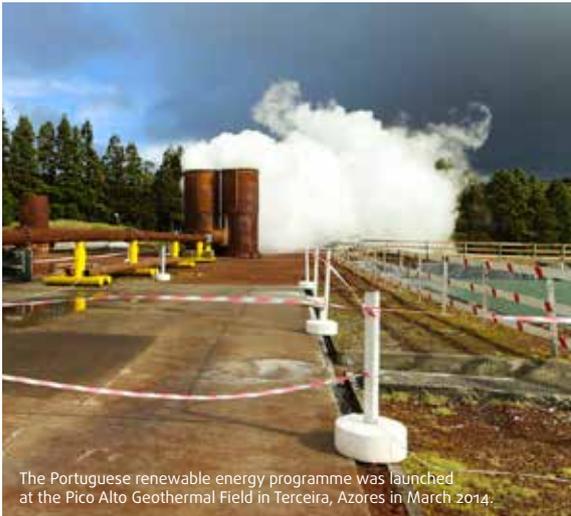
- In Hungary, a national adaptation information system is to be put in place and around 30 local climate change adaptation strategies developed to better inform decision-making.
- In Portugal, local adaptation strategies are being put in place and training programmes developed for staff in local authorities. A new website will pull together data sources to give a more accessible and complete overview of climate trends to improve assessment of risk.
- In Slovakia, strategies to enhance protection against flooding are being developed in four different regions. Practical measures like rainwater harvesting, water collection and anti-erosion structures are to be put in place.

Event highlight

Around 300 participants from over 20 countries attended the EEA Grants Conference **“Too much, too little: the role of water in adaptation to climate change”** in October 2013. The focus was on climate change and its potential consequences on water availability, distribution and cycles as well as weather patterns across Europe.

The event served as a meeting point for national and international specialists, researchers, policymakers, practitioners and environmental NGOs. Representatives from the climate adaptation programmes in Hungary and Slovakia also took part.

High levels speakers included Jorge Moreira da Silva, Portuguese Minister of Environment, Audun Garberg, former Political Adviser to the Norwegian Environment Minister, Rosário Bento Pais from DG Climate Change in the European Commission and Demetrio Innocenti of the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction.



The Portuguese renewable energy programme was launched at the Pico Alto Geothermal Field in Terceira, Azores in March 2014.



Portugal draws on Icelandic experience to tap geothermal potential

Iceland – a world leader in the use of geothermal energy – has put geothermal energy at the forefront of its cooperation with the beneficiary countries.

The Portuguese island of Terceira in the Azores is dependent on the importation of diesel for almost 90% of its energy production. Replacing 10% of the energy generated by diesel with geothermal energy would cut carbon emissions and create new jobs. Over the next four years, the Portuguese government plans to invest over €85 million to exploit the 'green' geothermal energy sources found on the islands, with €4 million of that coming from Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway.

The National Energy Authority of Iceland is a donor programme partner in the 'GALA' renewable energy programme, collaborating extensively during the planning and implementation of the programme led by Electricidade dos Açores (Azores Electricity).

"We welcome this cooperation with the Icelandic Energy Authority. Geothermal energy is the most important potential source of renewable energy in the Azores. We hope to go further in exploring technological capabilities to make the Azores a greener region and to show our ambition in terms of climate and energy policies," said Artur Trindade, Secretary of State for Energy Affairs of Portugal.

Working in cooperation

Environmental challenges do not stop at national borders. To enhance information sharing, capacity building and mutual learning, partnerships between organisations in the donor and beneficiary countries are widely encouraged.

Public bodies including the Norwegian Directorate for Civil Protection, the Norwegian Water Resources and Energy Administration, the Norwegian Environment Agency and the National Energy Authority of Iceland are involved as programme partners in many of the climate change programmes. They play a strategic role in programme planning and implementation and also help donor organisations who wish to get involved as project partners.

A pilot power plant is to be established at the Pico Alto Geothermal field to test the viability and sustainability of geothermal power generation. Specialists from the Geothermal Training Programme at Iceland's United Nations University will provide courses in the Azores on exploration and exploitation of geothermal energy. Professionals from the Azores will also have the opportunity to take part in training programmes in Iceland.

Carlos Bicudo, Member of the Board of Directors, Electricidade dos Açores commented: "The partnership that has been established through the EEA Grants is very important – both for the valuable exchange of knowledge with Iceland as well as the importance of renewable energy as a driving force for the economy, society and the development of our region."

Teaming up for success — €18 million boost for green technology in Spain

Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway are providing €18 million to the environmental and climate change-related research and technology programme in Spain — 40% of the country's total funding from the Grants. This is set to be a win-win for the donor countries, Spain and the environment.

Spain is a recognised global leader in renewable energy production. This has stimulated the growth of a thriving industry based on innovation, research and development (R&D). Remarkable figures from the Spanish grid operator show that greenhouse gas emissions are likely to have fallen by 23% in 2013 as power generation from wind turbines and hydroelectric plants soared.

Business-led

In funding company-driven, innovative projects, the programme is looking to build on this success. Increasing knowledge transfer from universities and research bodies to innovative businesses operating in the environmental sector is an important aspect.

Ninety-seven projects have been approved so far out of an initial 185 proposals. Of these, 42 include partner organisations from the donor countries. One hundred and eight companies are taking part and 85 involve universities and research centres. Similar levels of interest are expected under the second call.

“Minimise the risk, maximise the outcome”

The projects selected so far are wide-ranging, from biofuel development to research on marine power generation, energy storage systems and less-polluting engines. But what makes this programme really distinctive is the mix of grants and loans. The Centre for Technological Industrial Development (CDTI) — the Spanish public body that runs the programme — is providing ‘soft’ loans (i.e. offering flexible or below-market repayment rates) from 75% to 85% of the eligible costs.



Project leaders Juan José Valera and Teresa Ribas, R&D Engineers in Ingeteam.

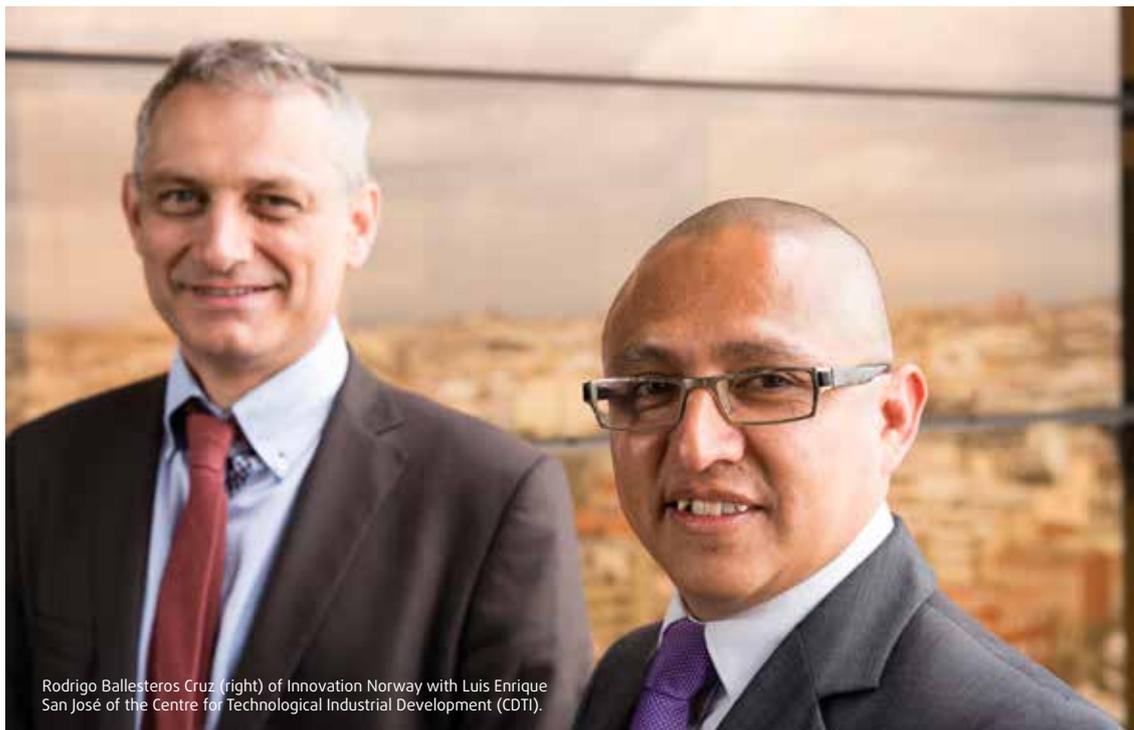
“By harnessing soft loans and grants, you minimise the risk for the company and maximise the outcome,” said Luis Enrique San José, CDTI’s Head of Analysis and Investment.

“The programme is opportune. It comes at a time when investing in the development of new technologies is more important than ever to overcome the economic crisis, especially for small and medium-sized enterprises. This investment can help companies achieve a commercial result in a difficult economic climate,” he added.

Bilateral ties

Spain’s competitive and hi-tech environmental sector presents opportunities for exporters of renewable energy technology from the donor countries. The potential to form partnerships with Spanish companies has been well exploited. Nearly half of the projects have donor partners.

“In Norway we have vast wind energy resources and expertise in renewable energy technologies such as hydroelectric and maritime. Ninety-nine percent of our energy consumption comes from renewable energy sources. I’m delighted with the response from Norwegian companies. This offers an excellent opportunity to gain market segment, develop joint capabilities and scope out future investment opportunities,” said Norwegian Ambassador to Spain, Johan Christopher Vibe.



Rodrigo Ballesteros Cruz (right) of Innovation Norway with Luis Enrique San José of the Centre for Technological Industrial Development (CDTI).

Marine power

Emissions from shipping are a big source of pollution. Spanish company Ingeteam, a market leader in electrical equipment and power plants, has teamed up with Norwegian company Ulstein to develop new technology for clean power generation in marine vessels. Ulstein has valuable experience in marine electronics and developing system solutions for ships worldwide. Reduced fuel consumption will bring significant cuts in emissions and improved performance. Savings of 25-30% are expected in terms of energy efficiency.

“When we heard about the EEA Grants programme we immediately saw a perfect fit,” said Juan Jose Valera, project leader from Ingeteam. “We’ve been working with Ulstein since 2007. This was a chance to build on that and harness our respective expertise in an ambitious project.”

Energy storage

Another project run by Iberdrola – Spain’s number one energy group – is looking at the integration of power generated by solar plants to the energy grid. Solar panel electricity systems, also known as solar photovoltaics (PV), capture the sun’s energy using photovoltaic cells. The cells convert the sunlight into electricity.

But finding ways of storing energy to have power on demand from intermittent sources like the sun, can be difficult. Research into storage systems will be carried out as part of this project as well as designs for new large-scale PV farms. Leading research organisations Tecnalia (Spain) and SINTEF (Norway) are bringing their expertise in energy storage technology as sub-contractors in the project.

Luis Malumbres Martinez, Head of Innovation and Technological Development at Iberdrola, acknowledges the value of the linkages being developed: “We will benefit enormously from working with our research partners. We also see this project as a springboard for future collaboration – not only opening new channels of communication but also new markets.”

High interest

The high level of interest generated by the programme and large number of partners involved has been facilitated by the active programme partner, Innovation Norway, working in tandem with CDTI. CDTI organised numerous seminars around the country to promote the programme. Groups of Spanish companies and research organisations took part in study visits to Norway to explore potential bilateral projects and strengthen contacts with their counterparts.

Rodrigo Ballesteros Cruz, Senior Adviser in Innovation Norway’s office in Madrid underlined: “Success doesn’t just happen overnight. We’ve been working hard over the past three years to build up contacts and sow the seeds for the partnerships and projects that we now see getting off the ground.”

The linkages developed under this programme will also serve as a springboard for future cooperation in larger EU-wide research programmes like Horizon 2020. Innovation Norway and CDTI are already scoping out possibilities for further synergies and collaboration.

Decent work and tripartite dialogue

Norway and the EU both support the principles of decent work and equal opportunities for all. Through the Norway Grants, Norway is helping to stimulate social dialogue and cooperation between labour market partners in Europe with the aim of promoting decent work.



A member of the Estonian Seamen's Independent Union.

What is the issue?

The Nordic model is characterised by a high level of social dialogue built on strong cooperation between employers, employees and government. This cooperative approach brings many benefits, in particular, in helping to establish trust and thereby reducing conflict. A labour market characterised by cooperation is much more effective and supports economic growth and welfare for all.

A recent EU report reveals that industrial relations in many of the beneficiary countries of Central and Eastern Europe remain generally weak and fragmented.¹ Findings show that the idea of tripartite dialogue is relatively new and under-resourced in many of the beneficiary countries. This is reflected in a collective-bargaining coverage rate of 44%, which is well below the EU-27 average of 66%.

Norway strongly endorses the view of the International Labour Organisation (ILO) that 'decent work' is a key element to achieving fair globalisation, reducing poverty and achieving equitable, inclusive and sustainable development.

What is decent work?

Decent work is about equal access to employment without discrimination, receiving a living wage, security in the workplace, social protection, when, for example, ill or pregnant, and the freedom to assemble and organise.

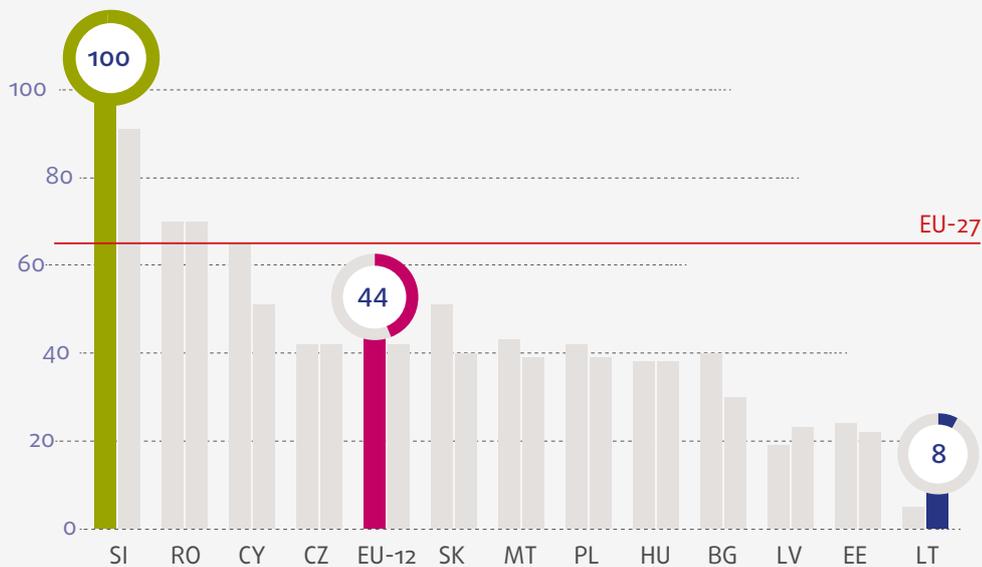
Decent work is achieved through the implementation of four strategic objectives: Creating jobs; guaranteeing rights at work; extending social protection; and, promoting social dialogue with gender equality as a crosscutting objective.

What is tripartite dialogue?

Tripartite dialogue is the interaction of government, employers and workers (through their representatives) as equal and independent partners to seek solutions to issues of common concern.

Definitions: International Labour Organisation

Bargaining coverage rates, 1997/99 and 2007/09



Source : J. Visser, ICTWSS database 3.0, 2011.

The coverage remains the same as in the 2010 report because of lack of new data

What are we doing?

The Global Fund for Decent Work and Tripartite Dialogue funded by Norway supports strengthened dialogue and ensures that beneficiary countries are better placed to address decent work objectives, such as non-discrimination and receiving a living wage.

Norway has a strong tradition of tripartite consultation, bringing together workers, employers and governments in formulating and negotiating labour standards and policies. Bilateral cooperation plays a very strong role in the Fund with the close involvement of Norwegian social partners sharing expertise and experience.

The Global Fund, worth €8 million, covers 12 beneficiary countries (Bulgaria, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Romania, Slovakia and Slovenia) and the programme is operated by Innovation Norway.

As the programme operator, Innovation Norway has ensured that bilateral relations are strong with 28 out of 52 projects implemented with the involvement of a Norwegian partner. The cooperation has emphasised the importance of the Norwegian/Nordic model and looked at the applicability of this model to beneficiary countries.

Snapshot of results

- Improved social dialogue and tripartite dialogue structures and practices, resulting in more collective agreements.
- Enhanced understanding of the benefits of decent work following over 300 seminars, workshops and training sessions which were held directly benefitting 13 000 people and indirectly reaching over 2 million people in the 12 beneficiary states.
- Representatives of more than 1 000 municipalities were involved in 52 projects.
- Study visits, research and analysis, and training materials have been supported to contribute to improved social dialogue.

More than **1 000** municipalities

28 partnership projects

Involved in **52** projects

Benefitting **13 000** people

300 seminars, workshops and training sessions

Success stories

Poland

A Polish project concerning social dialogue in local government services and enterprises resulted in more cooperation and fruitful discussions on such issues as staff motivation.

Promoter: Association of Polish Cities

Partner: Norwegian Association of Local and Regional Authorities

“Norway and Poland are two very different countries, but we have common challenges for example recruiting and keeping competent and motivated employees. Polish research shows that the size of salary in itself is insufficient as a motivational factor – personal development and challenges are also important.”

Andrej Porawski, Executive Director, Association of Polish Cities

“Having regular meetings with the Norwegian Transport Workers Federation opens a window on what social dialogue looks like in practice. We’ve received practical advice on how to get recognition and how to put a union structure in place that includes collective agreements.”

Jüri Lember,

President of the Estonian Seamen’s Independent Union

Czech Republic

The project focused on the need to reach a collective agreement following a decision to increase the retirement age of those working in the textile and clothing industry. The trade union and employers agreed on improved conditions for older employees. The provisions have been incorporated into the Czech Codex of Law.

Promoter: Association of the Textile, Clothing and Leather Industry

Partner: Federation of Norwegian Industries

Hungary

The Hungarian Labour Code underwent major changes in 2012. ‘The World of Labour in Bilateral Agreements’ project prepared the social partners for the new content of the law and their role in collective bargaining.

Promoter: Hungarian Confederation of Employers and Industrialists

Partner: Norwegian Federation of Enterprise

“We will introduce the system of Norwegian social dialogue as best practice. Up to 200 representatives from social partners will be directly involved.”

Adrienne Bálint, Project Manager of
‘The world of labour in bilateral agreements’

Slovenia

The ‘Decent Retirement’ project looked at supplementary pension insurance and made proposals on how it could be improved. It also looked at how working conditions could be improved for older workers.

Promoter: Slovenian Association of Trade Unions

Partner: Norwegian Engine Driver Association

Malta

Dialogue structures in Malta were developed during a period of more stable employment. Maltese authorities wished to address the impact of more flexible employment contracts on the labour market by looking at the potential risks and benefits these arrangements bring. The project was centred on assessing the current state of social dialogue, conducting research and drafting recommendations.

Promoter: Department of Industrial and Employment Relations

Estonia

A sector-based project, focused on Estonian ports, aimed at supporting greater tolerance and the building of trust. The main objective was to reach collective agreements to support decent work.

Promoter: Estonian Seamen's Independent Union
Partner: Norwegian Transport Workers Federation

Latvia

In a project focused on improving social dialogue in the construction sector, a collective agreement with the Building Materials Producers Association was agreed, as well as cooperation agreements on vocational training. Suggestions were also made on how to improve a new building law that is currently being agreed at national level.

Promoter: Latvian Builders Trade Union
Partner: The Norwegian United Federation of Trade Unions

Lithuania

The DESWOOD project has been instrumental in improving dialogue with the state and in improving working conditions. It has resulted in the signing of six improved collective agreements and Lithuania's first ever collective agreement for an industry sector branch.

Promoter: Federation of Lithuania Forest and Wood Worker Trade Unions
Partner: Industri Energi, Norway

Slovakia

A national level project has improved the quality of dialogue and resulted in recommendations on how social partners can voice their concerns and inform government on the impact of new laws on different sectors and on industry and employees as a whole.

Promoter: Entrepreneurs Association of Slovakia

Romania

In Romania, a project to develop dialogue in the education sector will contribute to better conditions in Romanian schools. Twenty four trainers from across Romania were trained in health and safety issues. The trainers have trained over 200 teachers and the network continues to develop.

Promoter: Democratic Trade Union Confederation of Romania
Partner: Norwegian Confederation of Trade Unions and Norwegian Union of School Employees

Bulgaria

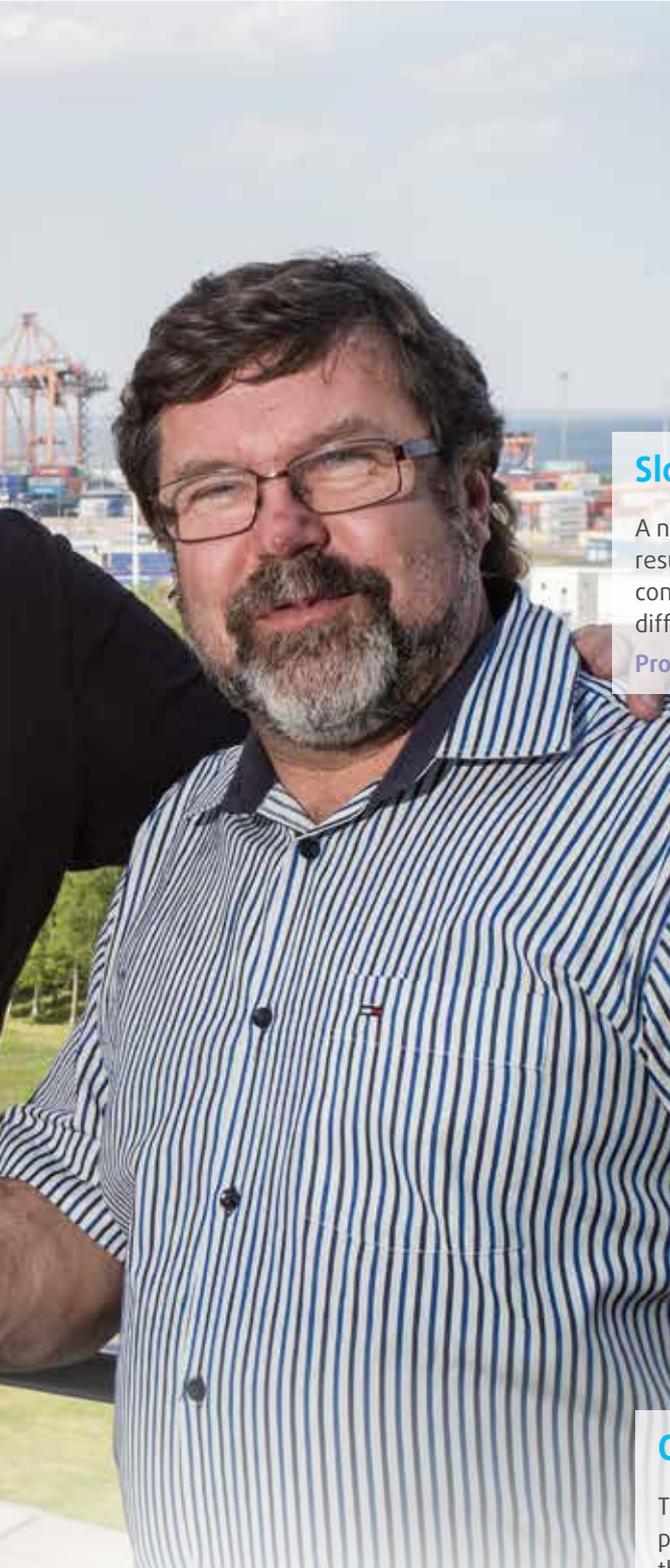
The TRUST project investigated the status of tripartite cooperation at a national, local and sectorial level. All findings and conclusions from the project activities were summarised and resulted in recommendations being made to the Bulgarian Ministry of Labour and Social Policy.

Promoter: Bulgarian Chamber of Commerce and Industry
Partner: Norwegian Federation of Enterprise

Cyprus

The main objective has been to establish and support a proactive dialogue between social partners to enhance the integration of EU migrant workers. The project has improved integration services and facilities for migrants.

Promoter: Democratic Labour Federation of Cyprus



Terje Samuelsen, Vice-President of the Norwegian Transport Workers Federation (left) and Jüri Lember, President of the Estonian Seamen's Independent Union.

Meet the partners



NHO, the Confederation of Norwegian Enterprise, is the main representative organisation for Norwegian employers with companies ranging from small family-owned businesses to multi-national companies. NHO is an active donor partner. Henrik Munthe, a lawyer with the NHO, told us about NHO's involvement in the Fund.

What do you think is the main benefit of the Norwegian model?

The 'Norwegian model' is by no means strictly defined. It has many characteristics, among the most important is the building of trust among the social partners. We have large organisations which are truly representative. The provisions in the legislation and collective agreements on industrial action are of great value. The rights to strike and lock out are collective rights and it is predictable when industrial action might occur.

In your experience, how easy is it to transfer the Norwegian model to beneficiary countries?

The Norwegian model has evolved over more than one hundred years, and today the model works well for our country. It cannot however be exported to other countries and be implemented overnight – the right conditions have to be in place. This means that it is impossible to make a quick transfer of the model to other countries but hopefully they can find elements in the model which they can use in their system.

What are the specific challenges that the beneficiary countries face?

I have only worked in three of the Norway Grants beneficiary countries so it's difficult to generalise. My impression is however that it is quite common that both workers' and employers' organisations are often smaller and weaker than in Norway. In some countries, the government ignores the social partners.

Have you learnt anything from the experience that you've found useful in Norway?

In my view it is always important to learn from other ways of dealing with work challenges. In many countries the agreements are reached at enterprise level and in some cases it can be useful that issues are resolved among local partners who are most affected by the agreement. In Norway we have built up a large apparatus to handle collective bargaining and to get some ideas on how to make a system more efficient is always useful.



The Norwegian Confederation of Trade Unions (LO) is the largest and most influential workers' organisation in Norway. LO has a strong position in Norwegian society and has played an influential role in securing workers' rights for more than 100 years. We asked Hans Oyvind Nilsen, Adviser, International Department at LO about his experience of working with social partners in the beneficiary countries.

In Norway the involvement of social partners is well-established. How have you found social partner involvement in the beneficiary countries?

There are a whole host of recipients, all unique, with their own culture and history. If I were to generalise, it would be to say that the parties in all countries want to participate in social dialogue. Involvement varies a lot between beneficiary countries.

What are the main challenges faced by the beneficiary countries in improving social dialogue?

There are many factors. I would say that one of the main issues is trust. Without trust and respect you cannot have dialogue and cooperation, and without cooperation you won't find good solutions. Dialogue should help overcome conflicts and entrenched positions. Trust and respect must be earned and it takes a long time to build. Unfortunately, it can be torn down very quickly. Role clarification is also important and organisations must speak on behalf of their members. Recruitment and organisation are of vital importance to both sides.

The tripartite model includes government involvement. Has the Fund been successful in persuading governments in beneficiary countries to engage in social dialogue?

Government involvement is essential. Governments need to see the added value dialogue brings and how it can facilitate cooperation between the different social partners. The Fund for Decent Work is – in my opinion – not there to convince governments about their role in tripartite cooperation, they know this already. However, its value isn't always fully understood. The Fund allows social partners in the beneficiary countries to invite the government into their respective projects and lets them learn why this is an important system that benefits all partners.

Do you think the Fund will make a lasting difference to workers' rights and help promote decent work?

I am convinced that the project results and the awareness they create will lead to changes in the long run. I would also emphasise that these are long and often complex processes that are involved and that it takes time to achieve lasting and sustainable changes. It is about changes in culture, identities and traditions and everyone must find their own path based on their own background. LO Norway does not have all the answers, but we have experience of what has worked well for us.

Is there a particular project where LO's involvement made a real difference?

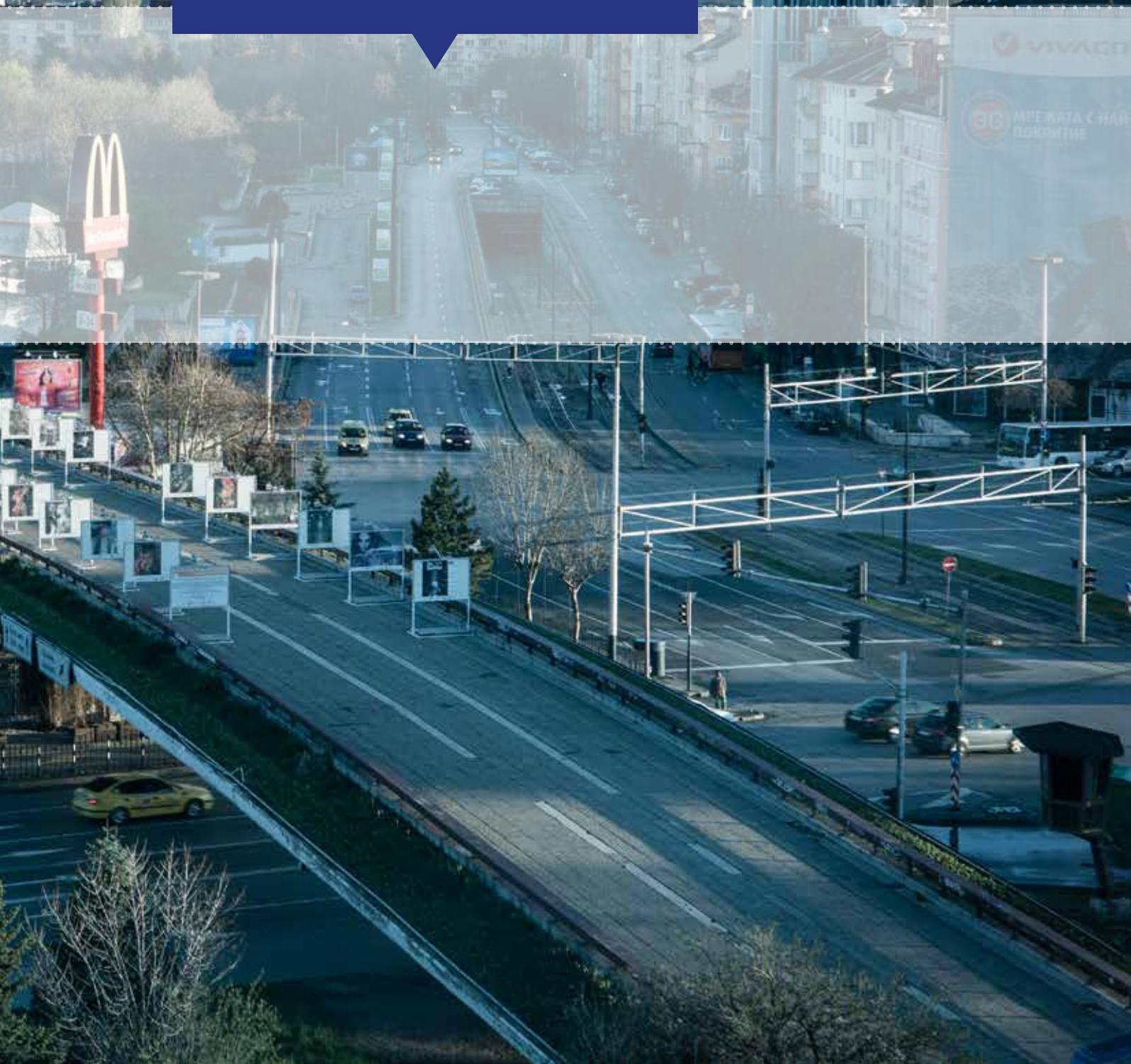
I wouldn't single out a particular project. Everyone has their own approaches and the Norwegian experience differs depending on the topic. Sometimes we find out that the systems are very different during implementation – and new and unforeseen angles can emerge that contribute positively. For example, a Bulgarian-Norwegian cooperation project involved a study visit where we decided to make a presentation on how our labour courts system works. This had a very positive spin-off as the partners saw something that they could benefit from in a very real way. We are now working together to see where the best of Norwegian and Bulgarian practice may be developed.



COUNTRY SECTION

Early evening in Bulgaria's capital Sofia. Read about some of the projects funded by the Grants in Bulgaria on pages 32-35.

This part provides an overview of the main priorities of the EEA and Norway Grants in each of the beneficiary countries and 'tells the story' of some of the successful projects.



Bulgaria

Total Funding EEA Grants Norway Grants

€126.6M

€78.6M

€48.0M

Country facts

	Bulgaria	EU-28
GDP per capita (2012, in PPS, €)	12 000	25 500
Economic growth (2013, % change on previous year)	0.9	0.1
Unemployment rate (2013, %)	13.0	10.8
Youth unemployment rate (2013, %)	28.4	23.4
Public debt (2013, % GDP)	18.9	87.1
Gender pay gap (2012, %)	14.7	16.4 (prov)
At-risk-of-poverty rate (2012, %)	21.2	17.0 (est)
Human development index (2012)	28	(EU-28 ranking)
Corruption perception index (2013)	27	(EU-28 ranking)

Sources: Eurostat/UN/Transparency International
See notes to tables in Annex 2

prov=provisional
est=estimate

Priority areas of support

- Strengthening the justice sector through reforms
- Combating organised crime, including trafficking
- Tackling violence against women
- Improving the situation for vulnerable groups, including Roma

Implementation status



Figures at time of going to print (July 2014).

Working in partnership for decent work

WHY Norway and the EU both support the principles of decent work and equal opportunities for all. The Nordic model is characterised by a high level of social dialogue built on strong cooperation between employers, employees and government. This cooperative approach brings many benefits, in particular in helping to establish trust and thereby reducing conflict. A labour market characterised by cooperation is much more effective and supports economic growth and welfare for all.

WHAT Funds from Norway are helping improve the situation for decent work and tripartite dialogue in Bulgaria. One of the four projects underway in this area is investigating the status of tripartite cooperation at a national, local and sectorial level. The project includes studies on the situation of tripartite cooperation in the country as well as a study trip to Norway organised in cooperation with the Norwegian Federation of Enterprise (NHO). Activities aimed at educating people about their rights in the workplace have also been organised.

“Thanks to support from the Norway Grants, we now have a solid overview of what the situation for decent work and tripartite dialogue is like on the ground in Bulgaria. This will help us greatly in our future work.”

Nataliya Dicheva, Bulgarian Chamber of Commerce and Industry

“For us, it has been very useful to discuss the social dialogue in our respective countries with our Bulgarian counterpart.”

Henrik Munthe, Norwegian Federation of Enterprise

WHO The project is implemented by the Bulgarian Chamber of Commerce and Industry (BCCI) in partnership with its Norwegian counterpart, the Norwegian Federation of Enterprise (NHO).

HOW MUCH Norway is providing €86 700 for the project.

RESULTS Six studies on the situation for decent work and tripartite dialogue in Bulgaria have been carried out and issues related to decent work and tripartite dialogue have been put on the agenda through seminars and roundtable discussions. All findings and conclusions from the project activities were summarised and resulted in recommendations being made to the Bulgarian Ministry of Labour and Social Policy.



From left: Henrik Munthe and Camilla Therese Lannem (both NHO), Hasan Ademov, Bulgarian Minister of Labour and Social Policy, Tsvetan Simeonov and Mariana Tancheva (both BCCI).

Programme overview

Programme	Partners	Grant (€ million)	
Green industry innovation	Innovation Norway	13.7	■ ■
Energy efficiency and renewable energy	Norwegian Water Resources and Energy Administration	13.3	■
Integrated marine and inland water management	Norwegian Environment Agency	8.0	■
Schengen cooperation and combatting cross-border and organised crime	Norwegian Police Directorate, Council of Europe	6.0	■
Biodiversity and ecosystem services	Norwegian Environment Agency	8.0	■
Judicial capacity building	Council of Europe	3.0	■
Domestic and gender-based violence	Council of Europe	2.0	■
Correctional services	Council of Europe	7.0	■

Programme	Partners	Grant (€ million)	
Public health initiatives		13.4	■ ■
Children and youth at risk	Council of Europe	8.4	■
Capacity building and Institutional Co-operation	Norwegian Association of Local and Regional Authorities, Norwegian Barents Secretariat	2.0	■
Cultural heritage and contemporary arts		14.0	■
NGO Fund		11.8	■
Scholarships	Icelandic Centre for Research, Agency for International Education Affairs (Liechtenstein), Norwegian Centre for International Cooperation in Higher Education	1.5	■
Decent work and tripartite dialogue	Innovation Norway*	0.5	■

■ Norway Grants ■ EEA Grants

*Programme operator

“Bringing human rights home”

WHY The European Court of Human Rights (ECHR) has ruled against Bulgaria on a number of occasions for breaches of justice and rights of defendants. Many of the critical judgements relate to chronic delays in bringing cases to trial. Other breaches concern individuals’ rights to a fair trial, with those detained often not given sufficient access to lawyers. Bulgaria has also fallen foul of the ECHR for conditions of detention that fail to meet European standards.

Ensuring implementation of the European Convention of Human Rights is one of the obligations stemming from Council of Europe membership. This means that those responsible nationally are not only familiar with European human rights standards but also able to apply them in concrete situations.

WHAT Norway is funding a placement scheme for Bulgarian judges at the ECHR. Nine judges are to be seconded to the Court for a maximum of one year. After the placement, the Judges will take part in a network of Bulgarian judges where they can share knowledge gained from their experience.

“This secondment is a great opportunity for me to look at the everyday working routine from a different angle, comparing the practice of the European Court of Human Rights with Bulgarian legislation. Our society still needs some support in transmitting best European practices in certain areas of the judicial reform and this project is a part of this process.”

Judge Tsveta Jeliazkova, one of the secondees to the European Court of Human Rights

WHO The Supreme Judicial Council of Bulgaria is running this project in partnership with the Council of Europe. Specialists from the Council of Europe play an important role in sharing their practical expertise on human rights issues.

HOW MUCH Norway is providing €785 000 for this project – one of five projects under the €3 million programme on judicial capacity building.

RESULTS The project will contribute to raising the standards of justice and help improve compliance with the European Convention of Human Rights.



Irina Ganeva, Iliyana Baltova and Tsveta Jeliazkova were the first three judges selected and began their placements in July 2013.



Roma children attending class in Elementary School 75 in Sofia. Getting children enrolled in school early increases their chances of finishing their education.

A good start for Roma children

WHY The Roma is Europe's largest minority with an estimated population of 10-12 million. They are also one of Europe's most disadvantaged groups. The foundation for social and economic inequalities is laid from early childhood.

EU studies show that Roma access to pre-school is often limited. This contributes to high dropout rates and very low enrolment in secondary and university education. In Bulgaria, as in several other European countries, segregation of Roma children in schools is also common.

WHAT In the Fakulteta district in Sofia, the Bulgarian capital's biggest Roma neighbourhood, capacity of Elementary School 75's preschool programme is being expanded. More than 90 percent of the pupils are Roma.

Four new classrooms equipped especially for pre-schoolers and a canteen are being constructed. School dinners, after-school clubs and other outreach activities in particular for Roma families, will be provided. Getting children to start school at an early age is an important aspect of this project, as this increases their chances of completing their secondary education and potentially continuing on to university.

WHO The district administration of Krasna Polyana in Sofia is running the project.

HOW MUCH Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway are providing €359 000 for the project.

RESULTS Expanding the capacity of the pre-school programme will help to 'close the gap' and improve the quality of education received by Roma children, especially in the crucial first years of school. This will also contribute to greater social inclusion and a much higher likelihood of Roma children continuing on into secondary education.

"For the Roma as a group, education is of crucial importance in order to become integrated into society and escape poverty. For the current school year, the interest in our preschool programme exceeded the number of spaces available and the school had to turn away students. Therefore, we are very happy that the support from the EEA Grants will let the school expand its capacity."

Boika Shopov, Administrator from Krasna Polyana District Administration in Sofia



School children during their lunch break at Elementary School 75 in Sofia.

Cyprus

Read more about programmes and projects in Cyprus:
www.eeagrants.org/cyprus

Total Funding EEA Grants Norway Grants

€7.85 M

€3.85M

€4.0M

Country facts

	Cyprus	EU-28
GDP per capita (2012, in PPS, €)	23 400	25 500
Economic growth (2013, % change on previous year)	-5.4	0.1
Unemployment rate (2013, %)	15.9	10.8
Youth unemployment rate (2013, %)	38.9	23.4
Public debt (2013, % GDP)	111.7	87.1
Gender pay gap (2012, %)	16.2	16.4 (prov)
At-risk-of-poverty rate (2012, %)	14.7	17.0 (est)
Human development index (2012)	17	(EU-28 ranking)
Corruption perception index (2013)	13	(EU-28 ranking)

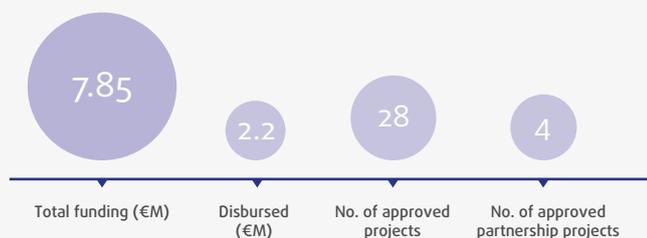
Sources: Eurostat/UN/Transparency International
 See notes to tables in Annex 2

prov=provisional
 est=estimate

Priority areas of support

- Strengthening civil society
- Facilitating dialogue and bi-communal cooperation
- Improving services for and protection of victims of domestic violence
- Improving health diagnosis and capacity

Implementation status



Figures at time of going to print (July 2014).

Programme overview

Programme	Partner(s)	Grant (€ million)
Justice and home affairs		0.95
Biodiversity and ecosystem services		1.2
Public health initiatives		1.2
Domestic and gender-based violence	Norwegian Secretariat of the Shelter Movement	0.7
NGO Fund		1.3
Civil society support	Council of Europe	0.6
Cultural and natural heritage		0.6
Children and youth at risk		0.4
Decent work and tripartite dialogue	Innovation Norway*	0.04

■ Norway Grants ■ EEA Grants *Programme operator

Combating money laundering

WHY In recent years there has been an increased international focus on combating money laundering. Several countries are cooperating on following the money trail with the aim of confiscating the money gained through criminal activities. Money laundering seriously harms the economy and society as a whole, undermining social justice and the rule of law. Combating it is an important way of showing that crime doesn't pay.

WHAT Funding from Norway has made it possible for Cyprus' Unit for Combating Money Laundering (MOKAS) to purchase new software developed by the UN to help financial investigative units manage and investigate cases. Whereas their current IT system requires a lot of information to be entered manually, the new system will make a lot of these processes automated. In addition, the new computer system will make it possible for the investigators to cast a wider net when they are investigating suspicious transactions. The project also includes purchasing new hardware as well as training staff on how to use the new software.

"Our current computer system is a lot less efficient than it could be. For instance, when we receive information from a bank regarding a suspicious transaction, this information has to be manually entered into our case handling system. Getting the new system up and running will be a huge change for the unit. It will change the way we operate, making us faster and more effective."

Theodoros Stavrou, Investigator with the Unit for Combating Money Laundering (MOKAS) in Cyprus

WHO The project is being implemented by MOKAS. MOKAS will undertake study visits to its counterpart in Norway – Økokrim, the Norwegian National Authority for Investigation and Prosecution of Economic and Environmental Crime – to exchange knowledge and best practice on issues related to anti-money laundering and counter-terrorism financing.

HOW MUCH Norway is contributing €950 000 to the project.

RESULTS With the new IT system up and running, MOKAS will be more efficient and will be able to investigate more cases than before.

Support from the Norway Grants enabled the Karaiskakio Foundation to expand the services of the Cyprus Bone Marrow Donor Registry. Part of the donor recruitment drive involved the coffee cup campaign "Give the baton to life - become a donor in the battle against leukaemia" which proved to be a major hit. The total number of registered donors is now close to 140 000, making it the largest per capita bone marrow registry in the world.

**Γίνε εθελοντής
δότης μυελού των οστών...
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CAUTION
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Czech Republic

Total Funding EEA Grants Norway Grants

€131.8 M

€61.4M

€70.4M

Country facts

	Czech Republic	EU-28
GDP per capita (2012, in PPS, €)	20 700	25 500
Economic growth (2013, % change on previous year)	-0.9	0.1
Unemployment rate (2013, %)	7.0	10.8
Youth unemployment rate (2013, %)	18.9	23.4
Public debt (2013, % GDP)	46.0	87.1
Gender pay gap (2012, %)	22.0	16.4 (prov)
At-risk-of-poverty rate (2012, %)	9.6	17.0 (est)
Human development index (2012)	15	(EU-28 ranking)
Corruption perception index (2013)	23	(EU-28 ranking)

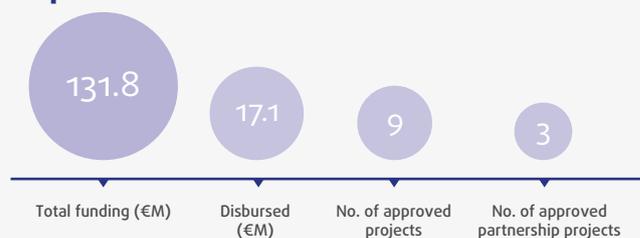
Sources: Eurostat/UN/Transparency International
See notes to tables in Annex 2

prov=provisional
est=estimate

Priority areas of support

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

Implementation status



Figures at time of going to print (July 2014).

Re-thinking mental illness

WHY One in four Europeans will experience mental health problems at some point in their lives – which in turn affects their friends, families, work colleagues and society in general. People with mental health problems say that the social stigma attached to mental illness and the discrimination they experience can make their difficulties worse and make it harder to recover. In many European countries, mental health services have been underfunded for many years. The Czech Republic is no exception.

WHAT The project aims to develop a new community-based care model for treating people suffering from mental ill health. The patient-centred approach involves cooperation between the patient, doctors, healthcare professionals and families. The project is being run by the mental hospital in the city of Bohnice and is intended to serve as a pilot that can be adopted in other hospitals.

An important part of the project is helping the mentally ill return to living in the community by equipping patients with the knowledge and skills to manage on their own. Gradually preparing patients for return to normal life helps reduce the chance of relapse. The project will also address the prejudices experienced by people suffering from mental illness.

Training of healthcare professionals is central: 20 psychiatrists, 20 nurses, 20 psychologists and 20 social workers will receive training. The project will also establish a common electronic platform for sharing and assessing the results of rehabilitation of mental illness in the Czech Republic.



WHO The Mental Hospital Bohnice is running the project in cooperation with the Josefinegaten DPS, a Norwegian healthcare institution that specialises in treating mental illness and helping people to survive, recover from and prevent mental health problems.

Read more about programmes and projects in Czech Republic:
www.eeagrants.org/czech-republic

Programme overview

Programme	Partners	Grant (€ million)	
Environment and climate change	Norwegian Environment Agency	18.4	■
Carbon capture and storage		7.0	■
Children and youth at risk		4.3	■
Local and regional initiatives to reduce inter-group inequalities and promote social inclusion		1.2	■
NGO Fund		9.8	■
Capacity building and institutional cooperation		1.8	■
Public health initiatives	Norwegian Institute of Public Health	19.2	■
Gender equality and work-life balance		3.5	■ ■

Programme	Partners	Grant (€ million)	
Cultural heritage and cultural diversity	Arts Council Norway	21.5	■
Scholarships	Icelandic Centre for Research, Agency for International Education Affairs (Liechtenstein), Norwegian Centre for International Cooperation in Education	3.8	■ ■
Research cooperation	Research Council of Norway	12.5	■ ■
Decent work and tripartite dialogue	Innovation Norway*	0.7	■
Domestic and gender-based violence		3.5	■
Schengen and cross-border crime		7.0	■
Judicial capacity building and correctional services	Council of Europe	5.0	■

■ Norway Grants ■ EEA Grants

*Programme operator



“As a well-recognised institution for treating mental illness in Norway, we are happy to lend our expertise to this project and are looking forward to working with our Czech counterpart.”

Wenche Andreassen, Director of the Psychiatry Department, Josefinegate District Psychiatric Centre, Oslo

HOW MUCH Norway is contributing €573 952 to this project.

RESULTS The support will improve access to healthcare for mental health patients – improving their quality of life and chances of re-integration into society.

Estonia

Total Funding EEA Grants Norway Grants

€48.6M

€23M

€25.6M

Country facts

	Estonia	EU-28
GDP per capita (2012, in PPS, €)	18 200	25 500
Economic growth (2013, % change on previous year)	0.8	0.1
Unemployment rate (2013, %)	8.6	10.8
Youth unemployment rate (2013, %)	18.7	23.4
Public debt (2013, % GDP)	10.0	87.1
Gender pay gap (2012, %)	30.0	16.4 (prov)
At-risk-of-poverty rate (2012, %)	17.5	17.0 (est)
Human development index (2012)	19	(EU-28 ranking)
Corruption perception index (2013)	12	(EU-28 ranking)

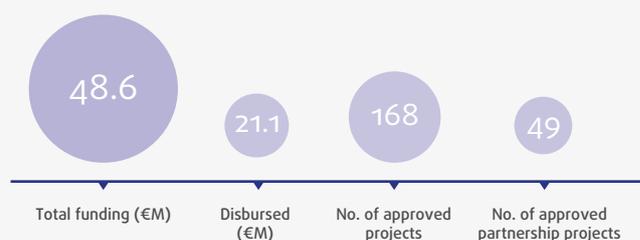
Sources: Eurostat/UN/Transparency International
See notes to tables in Annex 2

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est=estimate

Priority areas of support

- Enhancing research-based knowledge through research cooperation
- Combating violence against women
- Assisting vulnerable children and youth at risk
- Improving healthcare services and reducing health inequalities
- Promoting green industry innovation and entrepreneurship

Implementation status



Figures at time of going to print (July 2014).

Joint research on consumer credit

WHY The credit market in the Baltic region is characterised by easy access to consumer credit. These credit products, often sold via mobile phones and the internet, may include extremely high interest rates and costs for the consumer. In Estonia over 30 000 people have problems managing their debt; research is needed to inform government on how to regulate consumer credit.

“There are many sad stories of people with little or no income that still get credit. This is a huge social problem and it needs to be addressed. The current Estonian legislation on consumer credit is insufficient, but there is hope it will get better. Consumer credit reforms are expected to be initiated by the government before the end of 2015. So far, the government seems to be interested in our research and we hope to have a real impact on the upcoming legislation.”

Karin Sein, Associate Professor of the Faculty of Law at the University of Tartu

WHAT There is limited research on this issue. Through the research project ‘Topical issues of consumer credit in Estonia and Norway’, Estonian and Norwegian researchers will make recommendations on how legislation can be improved. The findings will be presented in a special edition of the Estonian scientific journal ‘Juridica International’. They will also be presented at a conference at the University of Oslo in 2015.

WHO The Faculty of Law at the University of Tartu and the University of Oslo are cooperating in this research project.

HOW MUCH Norway is providing €127 673 to this project through the Estonian research cooperation programme.

RESULTS The identification of legal measures that strike the right balance between access to credit and consumer protection.



Karin Sein (left) and Piia Kalamees from the University of Tartu are working on a joint research project on improving legislation on consumer credit.

“Our cooperation with the Faculty of Law at University of Tartu has been very good over many years. Norway and Estonia are both relatively small countries well suited for comparative research. There is a combination of academic energy and determination from our Estonian research partners that we really appreciate.”

Kåre Lilleholt, Professor at the Faculty of Law at the University of Oslo

Programme overview

Programme	Partners	Grant (€ million)
Integrated marine and inland water management	Norwegian Environment Agency	6.9
Green industry innovation	Innovation Norway	6.0
NGO Fund		2.3
Children and youth at risk	Norwegian Association of Local and Regional Authorities	6.5
Public health initiatives	Norwegian Institute of Public Health	8.9
Gender equality and work-life balance	Norwegian Directorate for Children, Youth and Family Affairs	2.0

■ Norway Grants ■ EEA Grants

Programme	Partners	Grant (€ million)
Cultural and natural heritage	Norwegian Directorate for Cultural Heritage	4.5
Scholarships	Icelandic Centre for Research, Agency for International Education Affairs (Liechtenstein), Norwegian Centre for International Cooperation in Education	1.6
Norwegian-Estonian research cooperation	Research Council of Norway	3.0
Decent work and tripartite dialogue	Innovation Norway*	0.3
Domestic and gender-based violence	Norwegian Directorate for Health	2.0

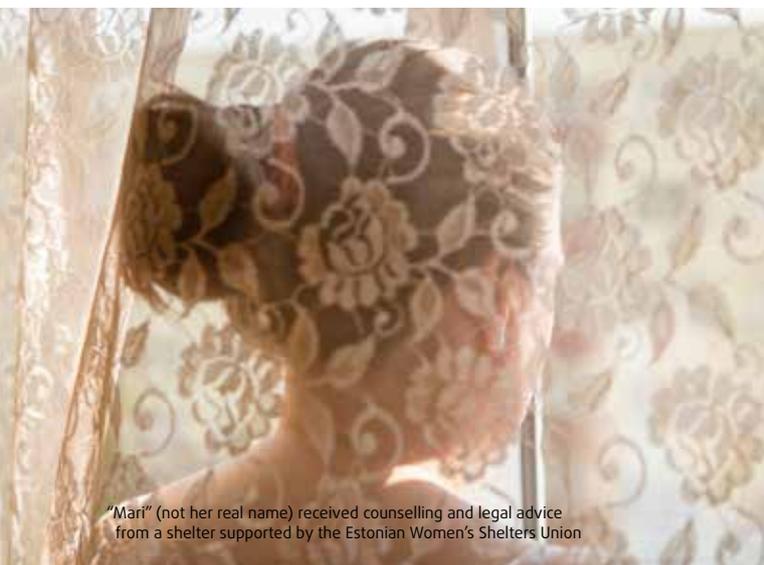
*Programme operator

Helping victims of gender-based violence

WHY A survey conducted by the EU Agency for Fundamental Rights in 2014 revealed that around one third of Estonian women had experienced physical and/or sexual violence in the course of the last year. Many are unable to escape their violent abusers because of economic dependency and therefore need shelter, psychological and legal support. Despite the government's commitment and concern, domestic violence remains a challenge.

"It started with psychological abuse four years ago. Then the last six months the violence became physical. He beat and raped me. If I had not received help, I would be dead. He wanted to kill me. Now, I receive legal help and therapy. I want to get my life back and to study at university."

"Mari" (43), an Estonian victim of domestic violence



"Mari" (not her real name) received counselling and legal advice from a shelter supported by the Estonian Women's Shelters Union

"This kind of cooperation gives us a lot. Even though we have a different starting point financially, we are still faced with the same challenges in our work."

Solveig Bergmann, Senior Researcher, Norwegian Centre for Violence and Traumatic Stress Studies

WHAT A free countrywide telephone helpline now operates around-the-clock to support victims and provide them with easy-to-understand information on how to access psychological and legal support and social services. In 2013, around 1 500 women contacted Estonian women's shelters for help.

The project allows the Estonian Women's Shelter Union to hire seven lawyers and 11 therapists instead of relying mostly on volunteers. The victims are offered psychological help and practical legal advice in 13 existing shelters across Estonia. Four regional training courses in Estonia for professionals working in the field of gender-based violence and a best practice study trip to Norway will also be organised.

WHO The Estonian Women's Shelters Union implements this project in cooperation with the Norwegian Centre for Violence and Traumatic Stress Studies.

HOW MUCH Norway is providing €908 510 to this project through the Estonian domestic and gender-based violence programme.

RESULTS This project will contribute to improving services and support for victims of domestic and gender-based violence, raise awareness of the issue and enhance cooperation between professionals within the field.

"The funding from the Norway Grants is essential for us. It allows us to plan long-term and to have a systematic approach to improve the quality of our services."

Eha Reitelmann, Director, Estonian Women's Shelters Union

Greece

Read more about programmes and projects in Greece:
www.eeaqrants.org/greece

EEA Grants

€63.4M

Country facts

	Greece	EU-28
GDP per capita (2012, in PPS, €)	19 200	25 500
Economic growth (2013, % change on previous year)	-3.9 (prov)	0.1
Unemployment rate (2013, %)	27.3	10.8
Youth unemployment rate (2013, %)	58.6	23.4
Public debt (2013, % GDP)	175.1	87.1
Gender pay gap (2012, %)	n/a	16.4 (prov)
At-risk-of-poverty rate (2012, %)	23.1	17.0 (est)
Human development index (2012)	16	(EU-28 ranking)
Corruption perception index (2013)	28	(EU-28 ranking)

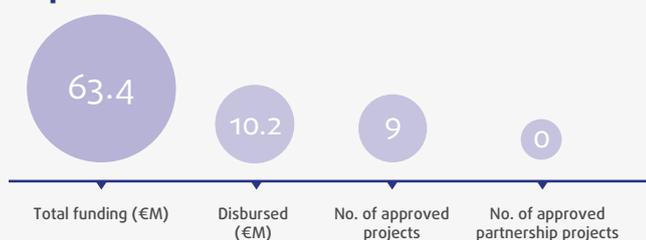
Sources: Eurostat/UN/Transparency International
 See notes to tables in Annex 2

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Priority areas of support

- Safeguarding the right to seek asylum
- Improving asylum reception conditions, particularly for unaccompanied children
- Capacity building for NGOs in policy and decision-making processes

Implementation status



Figures at time of going to print (July 2014).

Programme overview

Programme	Partner(s)	Grant (€ million)
Integrated marine and inland water management		9.5
Renewable energy		9.5
NGO Fund		7.3
Asylum and migration	Norwegian Directorate of Immigration	20.9
Research		2.9
Solidarity and social inclusion		4.3

■ EEA Grants

Improving conditions for asylum seekers

WHY Greece has for many years been a gateway to Europe for thousands of migrants from third countries, including refugees and asylum seekers. Many use the country as a springboard to enter the borderless Schengen area. According to official statistics, there were some 12 500 arrests in border areas with Turkey in 2013. In the same year, over 8 200 new asylum applications were registered.

The large number of arrivals poses a challenge for Greece where conditions for asylum seekers are notoriously difficult. Demand for places in reception centres way outstrips capacity. All of this is made much worse by the crisis that continues to hit the country hard.

WHAT A project to assist migrants wishing to return voluntarily to their home countries ensured the safe return of 874 people and 23 victims of human trafficking. The majority were irregular migrants, mostly from Afghanistan, Bangladesh and Pakistan. All received a ticket and were given assistance in transit countries, a small reinstallation allowance and in some cases helped with re-integration.

“The project was a success not only because more migrants than anticipated were returned home, but also because it ensured a dignified and safe return back to their respective countries.”

Daniel Esdras, Head of Office of IOM in Greece

This is only one of a number of projects designed to help the Greek authorities develop a well-functioning asylum system. Support has been provided to several NGOs running reception centres and for the first screening centre for asylum seekers in Evros at the border with Turkey.

WHO The project was implemented by the International Organisation for Migration which has longstanding experience in this field.

HOW MUCH Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway contributed €832 290 to this project. Overall, the donors are providing over €20 million to the asylum and migration programme in Greece with the Norwegian Directorate of Immigration playing a key role as a partner.

RESULTS The project helped improve the situation for irregular migrants in line with the national asylum and migration reform programme which underlines the importance of return.



With funding from the Grants, the International Organization for Migration (IOM) in Greece has facilitated a dignified and safe return of more than 870 persons back to their home country.

Hungary

Total Funding EEA Grants Norway Grants

€153.3M

€70.1M

€83.2M

Country facts

	Hungary	EU-28
GDP per capita (2012, in PPS, €)	17 000	25 500
Economic growth (2013, % change on previous year)	1.1	0.1
Unemployment rate (2013, %)	10.2	10.8
Youth unemployment rate (2013, %)	27.2	23.4
Public debt (2013, % GDP)	79.2	87.1
Gender pay gap (2012, %)	20.1	16.4 (prov)
At-risk-of-poverty rate (2012, %)	14.0	17.0 (est)
Human development index (2012)	21	(EU-28 ranking)
Corruption perception index (2013)	20	(EU-28 ranking)

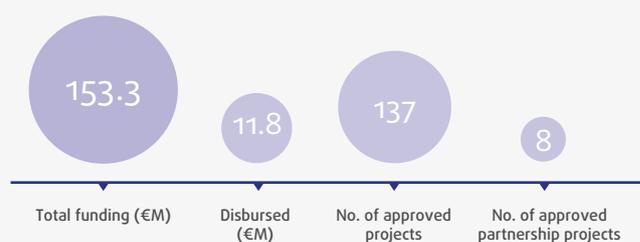
Sources: Eurostat/UN/Transparency International
See notes to tables in Annex 2

prov=provisional
est=estimate

Priority areas of support

- Strengthening civil society
- Increasing competitiveness of green enterprises
- Adapting to climate change
- Enhancing research-based knowledge through research cooperation

Implementation status



Figures at time of going to print (July 2014).

Giving Hungarian women a voice

WHY Mass media has an important impact on gender roles, both in reflecting and shaping their development. Hungary has made progress in improving gender equality in recent years; nevertheless, inequalities persist. EU figures show that Hungarian women have a lower level of participation in the labour market and in politics than the EU average.

“From monitoring the Hungarian news media from a gender perspective, we see stereotypical portrayals, under-representation of women and limited influence from women journalists in the newsrooms. Inequalities between men and women in the public and private sphere remain significant. The Hungarian media do not only reflect gender inequalities, they also help to maintain them.”

Borbála Juhász, Chairperson of the Hungarian Women's Lobby

WHAT As part of the project, a Gender Media Network is being established which will provide media and communication training for NGOs and professional women's organisations. Other activities include the organisation of summer schools, public debates, training and studies as well as the translation of a media textbook on gender sensitive reporting for journalists.

WHO The project is being implemented by the Hungarian Women's Lobby – a nationwide umbrella organisation – in cooperation with three partners: the Centre for Independent Journalism (CIJ) in Budapest, the Norwegian Union of Journalists (NJ) and the Icelandic Women of Multicultural Ethnicity Network (W.O.M.E.N.)



An event in Budapest organised by the Hungarian Women's Lobby.

The CIJ is providing the translation of the media textbook and will organise a conference in cooperation with NJ. At the conference, NJ will present how it has addressed gender issues in the Norwegian media.

W.O.M.E.N. will participate at the Hungarian Women's Lobby's summer university sharing their experiences on recruitment and networking. W.O.M.E.N.'s mission is to bring about equality for women from different ethnic backgrounds.

“Our main goal is to influence the development in areas such as employment, education, equality and domestic violence, and we have great experience in doing so.”

Nurashima Abdul Rashid, volunteer for W.O.M.E.N.

HOW MUCH Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway are providing €108 437 to this project through the NGO funds.

RESULTS The goal of the project is to see an increase in gender-awareness throughout the media, through training, new teaching materials and awareness raising activities.

Read more about programmes and projects in Hungary:
www.eaagrants.org/hungary

Programme overview

Programme	Partners	Grant (€ million)
Green innovation	Innovation Norway*	22.9
Energy efficiency		8.4
Renewable energy	National Energy Authority of Iceland	7.7
Adaptation climate change	Norwegian Directorate for Civil Protection	7.0
Bilateral research cooperation	Research Council of Norway	24.1
NGO Fund		13.5
Children and youth at risk	Council of Europe	11.2

■ Norway Grants ■ EEA Grants

Programme	Partners	Grant (€ million)
Cultural and natural heritage	Norwegian Directorate for Cultural Heritage	12.6
Capacity building and institutional cooperation	Norwegian Association of Local and Regional Authorities, Norwegian Agency for Lifelong Learning	10.8
Public health initiatives	Norwegian Institute of Public Health	16.6
Scholarships	Icelandic Centre for Research, Agency for International Education Affairs (Liechtenstein), Norwegian Centre for International Cooperation in Higher Education	3.0
Decent work and tripartite dialogue	Innovation Norway*	0.8

*Programme operator

Maximising Hungary's geothermal potential

WHY Hungary needs to make substantial investments to increase the share of energy from renewable sources to 14.65% of total national consumption, the target set in the National Renewable Energy Action Plan and the EU 2020 strategy.

Geothermal is a cost effective, reliable, sustainable and environmentally friendly form of energy accessible from the Earth's surface. It can contribute to reducing Hungary's CO₂ emissions and reliance on fossil fuels. The geological conditions for extracting geothermal resources are promising in Hungary, especially in the Pannonian Basin which has a significant potential for direct heat utilisation.

"Hungary's geothermal potential significantly exceeds the global average and represents one of the natural treasures of the country. So far the direct heat utilisation of these geothermal resources is far below its potential. By 2020, we aim to increase geothermal heat production by 3-3.5 times compared to the 2010 level."

Mária Tóthné Tókey, Head of Division for International Projects, Hungarian National Environment Protection and Energy Center

WHAT To assist Hungary in increasing its share of geothermal energy, Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway are providing scholarships for eight Hungarian professionals to graduate from the geothermal training programme of the United Nations University in Iceland. This six month training programme covers tuition fees, travel and subsistence.

WHO The project is being implemented by the Hungarian National Environment Protection and Energy Centre in cooperation with the Icelandic National Energy Authority.

Iceland is a world leader in geothermal energy: about 9 out of 10 households use this eco-friendly energy source as their source of heating. With more than 40 years of experience in utilising, extracting and developing geothermal energy and with several high profile companies experienced in this field, many lessons can be drawn from the Icelandic experience.

HOW MUCH Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway are providing €250 000 to this project.

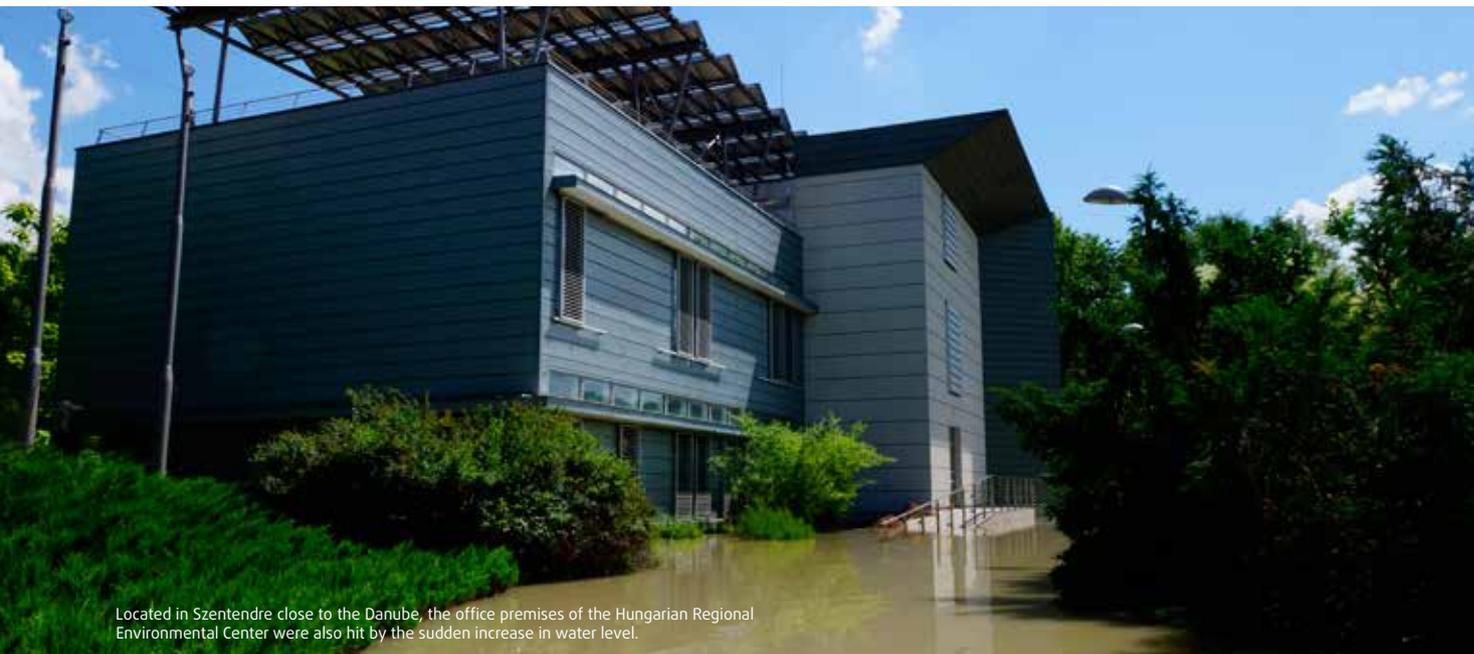
RESULTS Sharing expertise and knowledge through the project will contribute to increased awareness, education and the share of renewable energy in energy use.

"The geothermal training programme will increase our knowledge and extend cooperation at both an institutional and personal level."

Mária Tóthné Tókey, Head of Division for International Projects, Hungarian National Environment Protection and Energy Center



Hungary has a substantial potential when it comes to renewable energy, including geothermal energy.



Located in Szentendre close to the Danube, the office premises of the Hungarian Regional Environmental Center were also hit by the sudden increase in water level.

ACT NOW on climate change

WHY Climate change is already having an impact on Hungarian agricultural production, ecosystems and biodiversity. Water levels are often too low, or as last year's flooding of the Danube illustrated, too high. The negative economic and human impact was severe for those families who were forced to leave their homes and belongings behind.

State and local government joined forces with local people and volunteers making a heroic effort to save what could be saved from the floods. Despite these efforts, local communities remained deeply affected. Many buildings needed serious restoration and for some families and businesses the insurance did not cover flood damage. The dramatic images clearly exposed Hungary's vulnerability to climate change.

WHAT Under the climate adaptation programme, a wide range of projects are being supported. The programme has four main components: the creation of a national adaptation data system to improve the information available; local climate change adaptation capacity building; 28 local climate change adaptation strategies; and two pilot climate change adaptation measures at local and regional level.

The need for capacity building and information sharing at a local level is also an important component of the programme. Training sessions will be held for local authorities to enable them to assess vulnerability and draft climate adaptation strategies.

WHO The programme is being implemented by the Hungarian Regional Environmental Centre with the Norwegian Directorate for Civil Protection (DSB) – responsible for carrying out national, regional and local preparedness and emergency planning – involved as a programme partner. DSB are providing strategic advice and support in the programme planning and implementation.

HOW MUCH Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway are providing €7 million to various projects under this programme.

RESULTS Through raising awareness and improving knowledge and information sharing, the projects will help Hungary adapt and reduce its vulnerability to climate change.

“There is little data gathered on climate change impacts and vulnerability in Hungary, so the geoinformatic system will address the shortage of reliable scientific data on future climate parameters. In addition, ways of adapting to climate change are not well known at a local level. The need for capacity building and information sharing is urgent.”

Judit Bálint, Project Manager, Hungarian Regional Environmental Center

Latvia

Read more about programmes and projects in Latvia:
www.eaagrants.org/latvia

Total Funding EEA Grants Norway Grants

€73.0M

€34.6M

€38.4M

Country facts

	Latvia	EU-28
GDP per capita (2012, in PPS, €)	16 400	25 500
Economic growth (2013, % change on previous year)	4.1	0.1
Unemployment rate (2013, %)	11.9	10.8
Youth unemployment rate (2013, %)	23.2	23.4
Public debt (2013, % GDP)	38.1	87.1
Gender pay gap (2012, %)	13.8	16.4 (prov)
At-risk-of-poverty rate (2012, %)	19.4	17.0 (est)
Human development index (2012)	25	(EU-28 ranking)
Corruption perception index (2013)	21	(EU-28 ranking)

Sources: Eurostat/UN/Transparency International
 See notes to tables in Annex 2

prov=provisional
 est=estimate

Priority areas of support

- Supporting reform of correctional services, including improving the rehabilitation of inmates
- Strengthening cooperation between local and regional authorities in Latvia and Norway
- Strengthening civil society
- Increasing intercultural awareness and dialogue with the Russian-speaking minority

Implementation status



Figures at time of going to print (July 2014).

Programme overview

Programme	Partner(s)	Grant (€ million)
Adaptation to climate change	Norwegian Environment Agency, Norwegian Directorate for Civil Protection	10.4
Green industry innovation	Innovation Norway	11.3
NGO Fund		10.4
Capacity building and institutional cooperation	Norwegian Association of Local and Regional Authorities	5.0
Cultural and natural heritage	Directorate for Cultural Heritage in Norway, Arts Council Norway	10.0
Research and scholarships	Norwegian Research Council, Norwegian Centre for International Cooperation in Education	5.5
Decent work and tripartite dialogue	Innovation Norway*	0.4
Correctional services	The Directorate of the Norwegian Correctional Service	13.1

■ Norway Grants ■ EEA Grants

*Programme operator

Performance improvement for local authorities

WHY Latvian municipalities deliver many services to the public but like local authorities across Europe they must act within tight budgetary constraints. At the same time the public want better quality services and less bureaucracy. In its sustainable development strategy, 'Latvija 2030', Latvia has committed itself to the creation of a public administration that is not only efficient and responsive to change, but which also encourages public involvement and listens to the concerns of local businesses. Norway has already developed a 'smart' governance approach that can be used as a model.

"This project will stimulate local government to take more initiative and achieve more efficient use of resources. It is very important for us to meet politicians and staff from Norwegian municipalities. The Norway Grants are providing the possibility to exchange and learn from Norwegian experiences."

Andris Jaunsleinis, Chairman, Latvian Association of Local and Regional Governments

WHAT Smart governance is characterised by a transparent and open approach towards the public and local businesses. A sustainable improvement system that measures the performance of local government in terms of cost and quality of services will be supported through the establishment of a database. Services covered will include education, social assistance and housing. The database will have two aspects: one to compare local authority performance; the other to share innovative ideas and methods. The information will allow a local authority to objectively assess if it is improving. The goal is to increase resident satisfaction with services by 40% and local business and visitor satisfaction by 30%.

WHO The project is being implemented by the Latvian Association of Local and Regional Governments in cooperation with the Latvian State Regional Development Agency and the Norwegian Association of Local and Regional Authorities.

HOW MUCH Norway is providing €1 867 277 for this project through the Latvian 'Capacity Building and Institutional Cooperation' programme.

RESULTS Sharing of expertise through this project will help to strengthen the ability and capacity of local governments to provide and improve key public services.

Lithuania

Total Funding EEA Grants Norway Grants

€84.0 M

€38.4M

€45.6M

Country facts

	Lithuania	EU-28
GDP per capita (2012, in PPS, €)	18 300	25 500
Economic growth (2013, % change on previous year)	3.3	0.1
Unemployment rate (2013, %)	11.8	10.8
Youth unemployment rate (2013, %)	21.9	23.4
Public debt (2013, % GDP)	39.4	87.1
Gender pay gap (2012, %)	12.6	16.4 (prov)
At-risk-of-poverty rate (2012, %)	18.6	17.0 (est)
Human development index (2012)	23	(EU-28 ranking)
Corruption perception index (2013)	17	(EU-28 ranking)

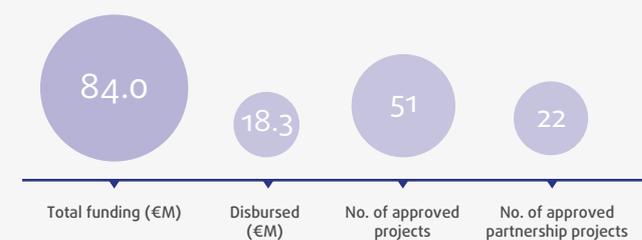
Sources: Eurostat/UN/Transparency International
See notes to tables in Annex 2

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est=estimate

Priority areas of support

- Judicial reform, including wider use of alternatives to prison
- Fighting cross-border and organised crime
- Promoting green industry innovation and entrepreneurship
- Strengthening cooperation between local authorities and public bodies in Lithuania and Norway

Implementation status



Figures at time of going to print (July 2014).

Improving conditions in prisons

WHY More than 9 700 persons are serving time in Lithuanian prisons. This makes the Lithuanian prison population per capita the highest in the EU. Many of the prisons were built decades ago, are overcrowded and lack appropriate healthcare facilities. The risk of violence between inmates, the establishment of criminal subcultures and the security of prison staff are serious concerns.

WHAT As part of the project, accommodation in the prison of Pravieniškės is to be converted from a dormitory model (with up to 15 inmates in one room) into individual cells to improve conditions for inmates. In addition to more modern facilities and better security systems, 30 staff members are to receive training to help them better handle social problems in prisons and improve their interaction with inmates. Additional social workers to work directly with inmates will also be recruited.

WHO The Lithuanian Ministry of Justice is leading the project with the Norwegian Correctional Service on board as the programme partner. This partnership builds on well-established cooperation from earlier projects.

HOW MUCH Norway is providing €2 964 660 for this project under the programme on correctional services.

RESULTS Improving conditions in prisons for both inmates and staff will help bring Lithuanian correctional services into compliance with international and European norms.

“Lithuanian prisons lack resources and expertise to ensure proper accommodation and services to help re-integration. Improved conditions will allow for better social re-integration of inmates.”

Marius Rakštelis, Head of the Administrative and Criminal Justice Department, Lithuanian Ministry of Justice



Young offenders in a Lithuanian detention centre.

Programme overview

Programme	Partners	Grant (€ million)
Integrated marine and inland water management	Norwegian Environment Agency	5.0
Biodiversity and ecosystem services	Norwegian Environment Agency	6.5
Green industry innovation	Innovation Norway	8.0
NGO Fund		5.5
Children and youth at risk		6.3
Local and regional initiatives	Norwegian Association of Local and Regional Authorities, Norwegian Environment Agency, Norwegian Police Directorate	8.0
Public health initiatives		6.0

■ Norway Grants ■ EEA Grants

Programme	Partners	Grant (€ million)
Cultural and natural heritage	Norwegian Directorate for Cultural Heritage	9.0
Diversity in culture and arts	Arts Council Norway	1.0
Scholarships	Norwegian Centre for International Cooperation in Education	1.4
Decent work and tripartite dialogue	Innovation Norway*	0.5
Schengen and cross-border crime		3.4
Judicial capacity building	Norwegian Court Administration	7.7
Correctional services	The Directorate of the Norwegian Correctional Service	7.7

*Programme operator

Preserving water for future generations

WHY The Baltic Sea is one of the busiest waterways in the world. Pollution caused by shipping emissions, as well as hazardous substances stemming from agricultural and industry, are a threat to Lithuanian drinking water.

Approximately 60% of Lithuania's rivers and 30% of its lakes and ponds do not meet minimum European environmental standards. The knowledge gap on water quality and hazardous substances is significant. This includes a lack of appropriate tools for the monitoring and assessing water quality.

"The protection of water and the sustainable management of marine and inland waterways is one of our main environmental challenges as most Lithuanian water bodies don't meet European standards. There is no quick-fix to our pollution problems and we are very much dependent on coordinated international efforts and cooperation to achieve significant results."

Mindaugas Gudas, Lithuanian Environmental Protection Agency

WHAT A monitoring programme for hazardous substances and improvement of the data collection for the assessment of water quality is being put in place. This will be an important tool for water management and to assess ecological and chemical status of lakes, rivers and coastal waters.

WHO The Lithuanian Environmental Protection Agency and the Norwegian Environment Agency, which plays a key role in preserving nature, reducing pollution and shaping Norwegian environmental policy.



HOW MUCH Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway are providing €5 million to various projects under this programme.

RESULTS Improving compliance with environmental standards will enable Lithuania to fulfil its European commitments and develop a more sustainable ecosystem.



Keisha Laraine Ingram is one of the women featured in the "Ethnic Kitchen" documentary. She came to Lithuania to get a Master's degree in management and intends to stay and start her own business so that she can help those who are less fortunate than herself.

"Ethnic Kitchen" – a human rights campaign to combat racism

WHY Migrants make up only 1% of the Lithuanian population, so many Lithuanians will never have met a migrant or understand the issues they face day-to-day. With nationalistic and racist tensions on the rise, challenging prejudice and encouraging tolerance is increasingly important.

WHAT The "Ethnic Kitchen" project supports both a human rights advocacy campaign against xenophobia and racism and the production of a documentary feature of the same name. Lithuanian filmmaker, Aiste Ptakauske, produced the documentary which recounts the stories and experiences of five women who moved to Lithuania from different countries, at different times and for different reasons.

Free screenings of the documentary are to be held in towns across the country starting in autumn 2014. Each screening will be followed by open discussions on human rights and migrants' rights in Lithuania. The heroines of the film, those involved in producing the documentary, representatives of non-governmental organisations (NGOs) and human rights experts will take part in the discussions. The discussions will be open to all and will aim to shed some light on the experiences and circumstance of ethnic minorities.

WHO The project is being managed by the US-LT Alumni Association in cooperation with the Icelandic Women of Multicultural Ethnicity Network – W.O.M.E.N.

HOW MUCH Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway are providing €135 673 for this project.

RESULTS Through helping to break down stereotypes and encourage Lithuanians to be more tolerant of people with different cultural backgrounds, the project aims to contribute to the promotion of human rights, tolerance and democratic values.

"The kitchen in this piece is much more than just a physical space where meals are prepared. In the context of the drama, the kitchen is an emotional space of intimacy where a true face of humanity emerges out of the scarce crumbs of honesty and compassion."

Aiste Ptakauske, producer and driving force behind the documentary project

Malta

Read more about programmes and projects in Malta:
www.eaagrants.org/malta

Total Funding EEA Grants Norway Grants

€4.5 M

€2.9M

€1.6M

Country facts

	Malta	EU-28
GDP per capita (2012, in PPS, €)	21 900	25 500
Economic growth (2013, % change on previous year)	2.4	0.1
Unemployment rate (2013, %)	6.5	10.8
Youth unemployment rate (2013, %)	13.5	23.4
Public debt (2013, % GDP)	73.0	87.1
Gender pay gap (2012, %)	6.1	16.4 (prov)
At-risk-of-poverty rate (2012, %)	15.1	17.0 (est)
Human development index (2012)	18	(EU-28 ranking)
Corruption perception index (2013)	19	(EU-28 ranking)

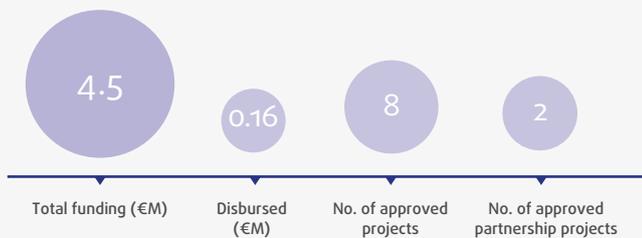
Sources: Eurostat/UN/Transparency International
 See notes to tables in Annex 2

prov=provisional
 est=estimate

Priority areas of support

- Strengthening oil spill prevention and response
- Strengthening civil society
- Protecting cultural heritage for future generations

Implementation status



Figures at time of going to print (July 2014).

Programme overview

Programme	Partner(s)	Grant (€ million)
Correctional services		1.1
Renewable energy		0.9
Adaptation to climate change	Norwegian Coastal Administration	0.5
NGO Fund		0.5
Capacity building and institutional cooperation		0.3
Decent work and tripartite dialogue	Innovation Norway*	0.02
Cultural and natural heritage		0.8

■ Norway Grants ■ EEA Grants *Programme operator

Protecting Maltese shores

WHY With a quarter of the world's oil tankers plying its waters, Malta's coastline runs a daily risk of oil spills and pollution. Malta has also recently allowed off-shore exploratory drilling. Without a strong oil spill response capacity, the island and its population's way of life could be under threat.

"A large scale oil spill would cause severe damage to the Maltese economy and environment. It could affect our drinking water and close down our ports, which is our lifeline for imports and exports."

Captain Richard Gabriele, Head of Pollution and Incident Response Unit, Transport Malta

WHAT The project underway addresses two key issues: one is to look at the training requirements to create a strong pool of trained personnel; the other is to conduct a study on potential pollution from offshore oil drilling operations.

Coordination and response in the event of an oil spill is complex and involves a large number of stakeholders. All operations are directed from Transport Malta's Emergency Control Centre, in cooperation with the armed forces, police and other public authorities. Civil society also has a role to play. The goal is that around 22 people will receive training which they can then pass on to NGOs and local communities.

"The NCA has longstanding expertise from Norwegian offshore oil activities and shipping. Our experience of working with Transport Malta is positive and the implementation of the project is going well."

Johan Marius Ly, Director for Emergency Response, Norwegian Coastal Administration

WHO The project is being implemented by Transport Malta in cooperation with the Norwegian Coastal Administration (NCA). The NCA is also providing valuable advice on assessing risk for offshore drilling.

HOW MUCH Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway have provided €442 202 for this project.

RESULTS Sharing expertise through this project will help to strengthen Malta's marine spill response capacity and readiness in the event of an emergency.



Poland

Total Funding EEA Grants Norway Grants

€578.1M

€266.9M

€311.2M

Country facts

	Poland	EU-28
GDP per capita (2012, in PPS, €)	17 100	25 500
Economic growth (2013, % change on previous year)	1.6	0.1
Unemployment rate (2013, %)	10.3	10.8
Youth unemployment rate (2013, %)	27.3	23.4
Public debt (2013, % GDP)	57.0	87.1
Gender pay gap (2012, %)	6.4	16.4 (prov)
At-risk-of-poverty rate (2012, %)	17.1	17.0 (est)
Human development index (2012)	22	(EU-28 ranking)
Corruption perception index (2013)	15	(EU-28 ranking)

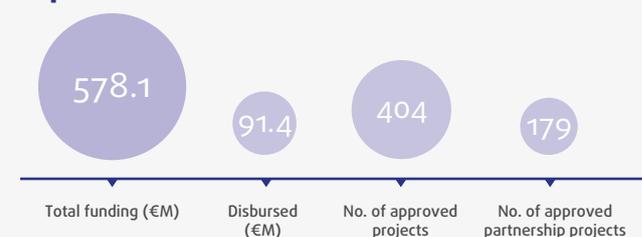
Sources: Eurostat/UN/Transparency International
See notes to tables in Annex 2

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est=estimate

Priority areas of support

- Increasing energy efficiency
- Promoting green innovation with Norwegian enterprises
- Improving environmental monitoring and protecting biodiversity
- Improving access to public health services
- Increasing research cooperation between Norway and Poland
- Contributing to a more efficient judicial system

Implementation status



Figures at time of going to print (July 2014).

Closing the health gap

WHY Tackling health inequalities is a challenge which is gaining increasing prominence in Poland, just as in other countries. According to the World Health Organisation, despite some positive trends, inequalities in health across various groups, resulting from differences in social and economic living and working conditions, are rising. Effective policy responses are complex and demand the development of cross-sectoral strategies informed by robust evidence.

WHAT Funding from Norway is helping with the development of a strategy for reducing health inequalities, which in turn, will contribute to the work on the National Health Programme 2016+. This includes mapping out the current situation to establish the causes of inequalities, as well as examining how Polish healthcare is organised.

Another important aspect of the project is training for healthcare professionals. Training materials and programmes will be developed for educational institutions and local health care providers.

WHO The project is led by the Polish Ministry of Health in close cooperation with the Norwegian Directorate of Health – a Norwegian public agency tasked with monitoring public health and implementing health policy.

HOW MUCH Norway is contributing €2 481 065 to this project.

RESULTS The data and information gathered will provide valuable insight and a useful evidence base for policymakers and practitioners. Better training and upskilling of Polish health care workers, as well as other professionals working in the field of public health, will contribute to reducing health inequalities and improving public health in the country.

“Public health is fundamental to 21st century healthcare and plays a vital role when it comes to reducing premature death and minimising the effects of disease, disability, and injury. We have built a lot of expertise over many years in monitoring and developing health strategies which we hope will be useful as we exchange knowledge with our Polish counterparts.”
Jens J Guslund, Norwegian Directorate of Health



Young patient at Warsaw's International Centre of Hearing and Speech where funding from the Grants was used to purchase state-of-the-art equipment.

Read more about programmes and projects in Poland:
www.eaagrants.org/poland

Programme overview

Programme	Partners	Grant (€ million)
Biodiversity and ecosystem services		20.0
Environmental monitoring and integrated planning and control	Norwegian Environment Agency	15.0
Energy efficiency and renewable energy		145.0
Green industry innovation	Innovation Norway*	20.0
NGO Fund		37.0
Local and regional initiatives		9.5
Public health initiatives	Norwegian Directorate of Health	76.0
Cultural and natural heritage		70.0

■ Norway Grants ■ EEA Grants *Programme operator

Programme	Partners	Grant (€ million)
Diversity in culture and arts	Arts Council Norway	10.0
Scholarships	Icelandic Centre for Research, Agency for International Education Affairs (Liechtenstein), Norwegian Centre for International Cooperation in Education	15.0
Research cooperation	Research Council of Norway	62.8
Decent work and tripartite dialogue	Innovation Norway*	3.1
Domestic and gender-based violence		3.0
Schengen and cross-border crime		10.0
Judicial capacity building	Norwegian National Courts Administration	14.0
Correctional services	The Directorate of Norwegian Correctional Service	13.0

Tackling the 'invisible killer'

WHY Poland, like all other EU countries has to meet tough EU air pollution targets. Dirty air is not just an environmental problem. It is a serious health problem. More than 400 000 people died prematurely from air pollution – the 'invisible killer' – across the EU in 2010, according to the European Commission. As well as deaths, 100 million work days are lost every year through illnesses like asthma. Accurate information is crucial in order to monitor pollution levels and respond effectively.

WHAT The project has assessed current infrastructure used for measuring air quality. Based on this analysis, new equipment has been purchased in order to bring the system up-to-date with European norms.

A number of joint activities are planned with the Norwegian project partner – the Institute for Air Research. One of these will involve a joint monitoring exercise to check the accuracy of pollution measurements.

Another component is the development of an online air quality database. This will be a user-friendly air quality information point where people can look up local air quality data in real time.

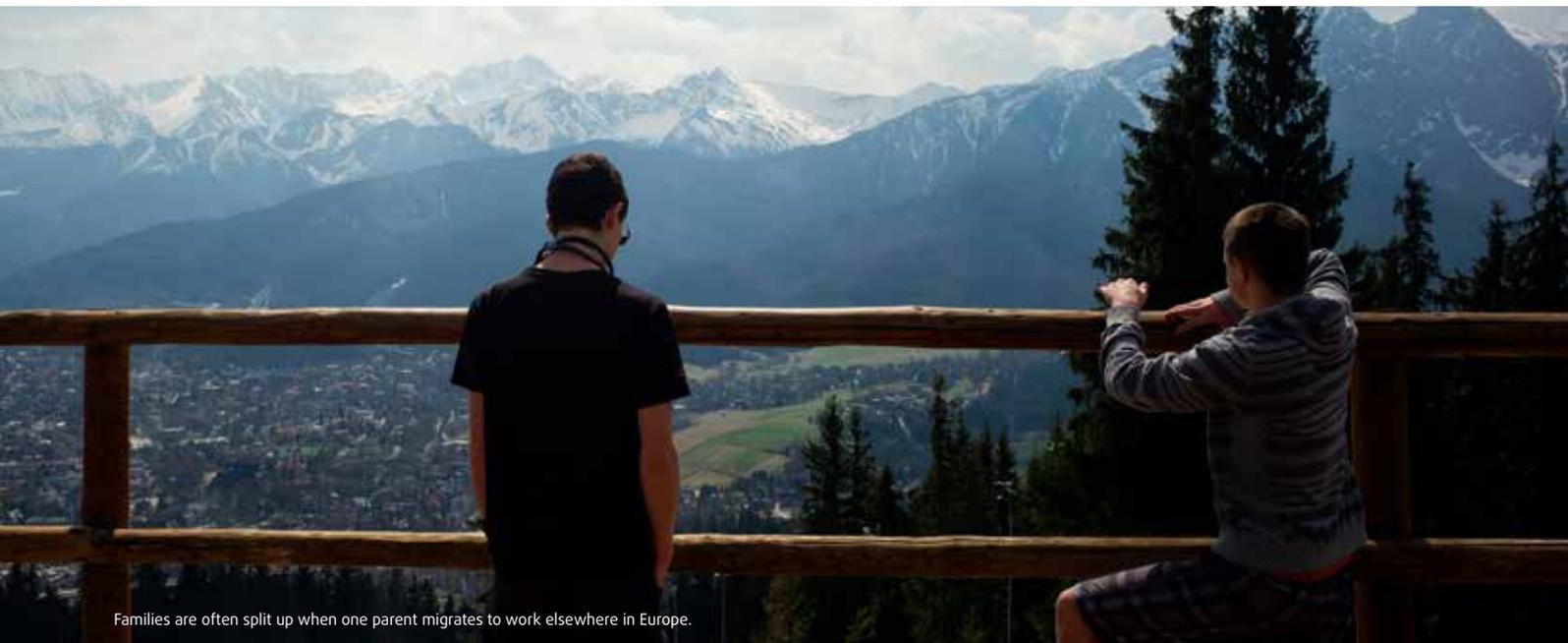
WHO The project is being carried out by the Polish Chief Inspectorate of Environmental Protection and Voivodship Inspectorates of Environmental Protection in cooperation with the Norwegian Institute for Air Research. The institute is internationally recognised and is home to many of Norway's leading experts on air pollution.



Air pollution is a problem in Warsaw and many other urban centres in Poland.

HOW MUCH Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway are contributing €1 613 533 to this project

RESULTS This project will strengthen Poland's capacity to accurately measure and assess air quality. Improved quality and accessibility of data online will help the country meet EU requirements on air quality. It will also provide important information for decision-makers responsible for air quality management.



Families are often split up when one parent migrates to work elsewhere in Europe.

Researching migration impacts

WHY Since Poland's accession to the EU, close to 100 000 Poles have emigrated to Norway. A lot of these immigrants are women who have come to Norway alone leaving their families behind. This can be a challenging situation for families and there is a need to find out what impact migration is having on them and what can be done to help families in this situation.

WHAT Researchers at the Maria Curie-Skłodowska University in the Polish city of Lublin are carrying out a research project on how families cope when the mother emigrates. The question is particularly relevant in Poland where taking care of children and domestic work are still usually done by the woman in the family.

This means that when women leave, many families face new and unfamiliar challenges, as many men are either unwilling or unable to take over the woman's tasks. The study also examines the impact of migration on institutions, such as schools and churches. The project will train social workers on how to work with families where the woman has migrated. The researchers will make recommendations and these will be distributed to local and central government bodies in Poland.

WHO The project is carried out by the Maria Curie-Skłodowska University in cooperation with the University of Bergen in Norway, one of Norway's leading universities.

HOW MUCH Norway is contributing €352 146 for this project.

RESULTS The project will contribute to greater know-how on how migration of Polish women is affecting families as well as the society around them. As a result, social workers and others working with such families will be better equipped to help them.

"It has been very valuable for us to work with the University of Bergen on this project. We have learned a lot from each other and we hope to continue working with them also after this particular project is over."

Dr Joanna Bielecka-Prus, Maria Curie-Skłodowska University



Dr Johanna Lisek, lecturer at the Jewish Studies Department of Wrocław University, holds weekly classes on the Yiddish language and culture. These include meetings with international Yiddishists and native speakers (pictured).

Preserving the rich heritage of Yiddish

WHY Yiddish was spoken by more than 10 million people in Europe before the Second World War. The Holocaust, emigration and assimilation led to a sharp decline in Yiddish as a spoken language, making it today one of the most endangered minority languages and cultures in Europe. With numbers of Yiddish speakers further dwindling as the population ages, there is a need to look for ways to ensure its survival.

WHAT Under the project “Yiddish for all”, a wide range of cultural activities are being supported. A two year-long Yiddish language course has been established and has proven popular, attracting both academics, adult learners and students. Workshops on Yiddish ‘Klezmer’ music, art and sculpture have been organised – leading to a concert performed in Poland and Norway and an exhibition on the place of women within Yiddish culture.

The work of the Polish songwriter Mordechai Gebirtig, a central figure in Yiddish culture, has been translated from Yiddish into Polish. Gebirtig’s songs will be performed in Polish for the first time on 9 November 2014 to commemorate Kristallnacht.

WHO The project is led by the Bente Kahan Foundation, an organisation established by the Jewish- Norwegian artist Bente Kahan (currently living in Wrocław, Poland), in cooperation with the Oslo Jewish Museum, Frazisca Aarflot Productions, the Centre for Studies of the Holocaust and Religious Minorities and the Jewish Culture Festival in Trondheim, Norway.

Bilateral cooperation is a valuable part of the project, enabling professionals from both Norway and Poland to come together with artists from all over the world to rediscover and reinterpret Yiddish culture through theatre, art, literature and music.

“As the Yiddish language and culture is a part of the history of both Polish and Norwegian Jews, it is a very natural topic for our two countries to cooperate on.”

Bente Kahan, founder of the Bente Kahan Foundation

HOW MUCH Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway are providing €277 932 to this project.

RESULTS Raising awareness and interest in the Yiddish language in Europe will help to halt the steep decline in the use of the Yiddish language and preserve it for future generations. Audiences in Norway and Poland will have a chance to learn more about the rich Yiddish heritage – ultimately contributing to a better understanding of centuries of Jewish culture rooted in Eastern Europe.

Portugal

Read more about programmes and projects in Portugal:
www.eeagrants.org/portugal

EEA Grants

€58.0M

Country facts

	Portugal	EU-28
GDP per capita (2012, in PPS, €)	19 400	25 500
Economic growth (2013, % change on previous year)	-1.4	0.1
Unemployment rate (2013, %)	16.5	10.8
Youth unemployment rate (2013, %)	37.7	23.4
Public debt (2013, % GDP)	129.0	87.1
Gender pay gap (2012, %)	15.7	16.4 (prov)
At-risk-of-poverty rate (2012, %)	17.9	17.0 (est)
Human development index (2012)	24	(EU-28 ranking)
Corruption perception index (2013)	14	(EU-28 ranking)

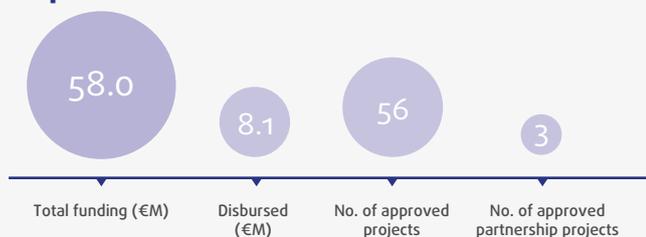
Sources: Eurostat/UN/Transparency International
 See notes to tables in Annex 2

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Priority areas of support

- Improving public health services and reducing inequalities in access to healthcare
- Strengthening civil society
- Improving management and protection of marine natural resources
- Reducing vulnerability to climate change

Implementation status



Figures at time of going to print (July 2014).

Programme overview

Programme	Partner(s)	Grant (€ million)
Integrated marine and inland water management		19.2
Renewable energy	National Energy Authority of Iceland	4.0
Adaptation to climate change	Norwegian Directorate for Civil Protection	3.0
Public health initiatives	Norwegian Institute of Public Health	10.0
NGO Fund		8.7
Gender equality and work-life balance		2.5
Cultural and natural heritage		4.0
Diversity in culture and arts	Arts Council Norway	1.0

■ EEA Grants

Keeping the seas healthy

WHY Portugal's extensive coastline is a rich resource. But activities like fishing, shipping, tourism and the threats posed by climate change are putting pressure on its seas. Protecting the coast requires integrated coastal management and planning based on good quality data.

WHAT The programme has many elements including: improving research facilities, training and awareness raising activities. Key to this is the acquisition of a research vessel to be fitted out with equipment for surveying fish and sampling the health of the sea and the seabed. This vessel will explore, monitor and assist with modelling and planning.

Awareness raising activities for the public at large will be organised to ensure that young people, in particular, appreciate the importance of protecting the marine environment.

WHO The programme is being implemented by the Portuguese Directorate-General of Maritime Policy. Donor project partners include the Norwegian and Icelandic Mapping Authorities and the Norwegian Institute for Marine Research – which brings particular expertise on the vessel's equipment needs.

“Collaboration between Portugal and Norway on marine research is longstanding. We both have very large and deep marine areas, so have similar issues when it comes to marine research and finding the right vessel and equipment. High quality research is vital for the North East Atlantic; to put it simply, good policy decisions require good research.”

Lidvard Grønnevet, Senior Advisor, Norwegian Institute for Marine Research

HOW MUCH Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway are providing €19 247 250 for the various projects under this programme – one third of the total funding for Portugal.

RESULTS The support will improve the management of marine resources and the Portuguese coast.





Lisboa

della Tolleranza

Lisboa, Cidade da Tolerância

London, City of Tolerance

ליסבון : सहनशीलता का शहर

Liessabon, Salliv Linn

Лисабон – Град на Толеранција

lisaboņa, Oraşul Toleranței

Lisboa

مدينة التسامح

ליסבון, עיר סובלנות

Lisboim, Cathair an tSáibh

里

CAMARA MIL

There are still significant remnants of Portugal's relatively unknown Jewish cultural heritage. One of the aims of the €4 million cultural heritage programme is to promote tolerance and inter-cultural understanding. Funding from the programme will help the Portuguese Network of Jewish Quarters restore and connect important Jewish Sephardic cultural heritage across Portugal in a route which will also be a boost for tourism.

Romania

Total Funding EEA Grants Norway Grants

€306.0M

€190.8M

€115.2M

Country facts

	Romania	EU-28
GDP per capita (2012, in PPS, €)	12 800	25 500
Economic growth (2013, % change on previous year)	3.5	0.1
Unemployment rate (2013, %)	7.3	10.8
Youth unemployment rate (2013, %)	23.6	23.4
Public debt (2013, % GDP)	38.4	87.1
Gender pay gap (2012, %)	9.7 (test)	16.4 (prov)
At-risk-of-poverty rate (2012, %)	22.6	17.0 (est)
Human development index (2012)	27	(EU-28 ranking)
Corruption perception index (2013)	26	(EU-28 ranking)

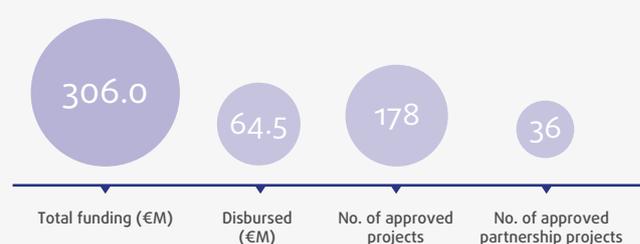
Sources: Eurostat/UN/Transparency International
See notes to tables in Annex 2

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Priority areas of support

- Supporting judicial reform and tackling cross-border and organised crime
- Promoting empowerment and social inclusion of the Roma
- Improving public health services and reducing inequalities in access to health care
- Strengthening civil society to promote social justice, democracy and sustainable development

Implementation status



Figures at time of going to print (July 2014).

Eradicating tuberculosis in Romania

WHY Romania has the highest number of people suffering from tuberculosis in the EU. Around 12 000 people are diagnosed with tuberculosis every year, of these approximately 500 are diagnosed with multi-drug resistant tuberculosis (MRD-TB). MRD-TB is potentially deadly and cannot be treated with common antibiotics. Patients need at least three months in hospital and two years of medication. The treatment is often painful, long and also expensive.

WHAT As part of the project, 10 000 people will be tested for tuberculosis and 1 000 patients with drug-resistant TB will receive non-interrupted treatment. The national tuberculosis database is to be upgraded and the capacity of the National Tuberculosis Programme Network and the National Tuberculosis Central Coordination Unit improved through better IT systems. Additionally, the project supports the purchase of new laboratory equipment making it easier to diagnose MRD-TB cases and measures to prevent TB spread in poorer communities.

WHO The project is being implemented by the Marius Nasta Institute of Pneumology and the Romanian Angel Appeal Foundation, a non-governmental organisation that provides help to people with TB and HIV/AIDS.

HOW MUCH Norway is providing €9.6 million to this project through the public health programme.

“The project could be considered an important step towards eradication of tuberculosis in Romania, as well as in the European Union.”

Silvia Asandi, Doctor and Director of the Romanian Angel Appeal Foundation

RESULTS This will make an important contribution to strengthening the control of tuberculosis and the eradication of tuberculosis in Romania.

“This is about saving lives. Tuberculosis is a lethal illness if not treated. Many Romanians cannot afford the expensive treatment, but patients supported by the project get the treatment for free.”

Christina Popa, Doctor at the Marius Nasta Institute

Read more about programmes and projects in Romania:
www.eeaqrants.org/romania

Programme overview

Programme	Partners	Grant (€ million)		Programme	Partners	Grant (€ million)	
Biodiversity and ecosystem services	Norwegian Environment Agency	15.0	■	Research cooperation	Research Council of Norway; Icelandic Centre for Research	20.0	■
Environmental monitoring and planning		8.2	■	Scholarships	Icelandic Centre for Research, Agency for International Education Affairs (Liechtenstein), Norwegian Centre for International Cooperation in Higher Education	4.0	■
Reduction of hazardous substances	Norwegian Environment Agency	10.0	■	Decent work and tripartite dialogue	Innovation Norway*	1.2	■
Energy efficiency		8.0	■	Capacity building and institutional cooperation	Norwegian Radiation Protection Authority	7.0	■
Renewable energy	National Energy Authority of Iceland, Norwegian Water Resources and Energy Administration	12.3	■	Public health initiatives		21.1	■
Adaptation to climate change		5.0	■	Domestic and gender-based violence	Council of Europe, Norwegian Police Directorate	4.0	■
Green industry innovation	Innovation Norway*	29.7	■	Schengen and cross-border crime	Norwegian Police Directorate	5.3	■
NGO Fund		36.3	■	Judicial capacity building	Council of Europe, Norwegian Courts Administration	8.0	■
Children and youth at risk	Council of Europe	27.0	■	Correctional services	Directorate of Norwegian Correctional Service	8.0	■
Gender equality and work-life balance		4.5	■	Poverty alleviation		20.0	■
Cultural and natural heritage	Norwegian Directorate for Cultural Heritage	14.0	■				
Diversity in culture and arts	Arts Council Norway	6.8	■				

■ Norway Grants ■ EEA Grants

*Programme operator

“First I thought it was just the flu. But it wasn’t. I was diagnosed with multi-drug resistant tuberculosis five weeks ago. I am given 15 pills and one injection every day. The worst thing is that I have to follow this

treatment for two years (...). But after the treatment I will paint more, get to know more people and do positive things. I want to live my life exactly as I should.”
Irina, patient at the Marius Nasta Institute in Bucharest



Irina (pictured) is a tuberculosis patient at the Marius Nasta Institute in Bucharest. Despite the two years of gruelling treatment, she has remained upbeat and is looking forward to life once she's finally cured.



Catalin, Bogdan and Cosmin are all inmates serving time in the Bacău young offenders prison. Overcrowding often leads to disputes and conflicts.

Rebuilding the lives of young Romanian offenders

WHY Bacău young offender institution does not conform with European standards, it is overcrowded – with as many as 20 inmates in the average cell – has poor standards of hygiene and sanitation and no recreational facilities. There is also little in the way of education and rehabilitation to prepare the young men for a healthy and productive way of life on their release.

WHAT Bacău young offender institution is being converted into a juvenile detention facility reserved for 18 – 21 year olds. Overcrowding will be addressed with the creation of a new wing with larger cells and spaces for educational and social activities will be included in the design. Minors, aged 14-18, will no longer be put in prison cells, but moved to educational centres instead. Staff will be trained in the design of ‘special assistance programmes’ to assess a prisoner’s psycho-social and educational needs, with an emphasis on helping the most vulnerable prisoners.

WHO The project is managed by the National Administration for Penitentiaries in cooperation with the Correctional Service of Norway Staff Academy and Bjørgvin Prison.

HOW MUCH Norway is providing €2.7 million to this project.

RESULTS This project will help to bring Romanian correctional services into conformity with European standards by introducing more robust rehabilitation schemes in prisons.

“Refurbishing the prison is the right thing to do. It won’t necessarily benefit me, because I don’t have that much more time left in prison, but it will make it better for future prisoners. The punishment will be easier to endure and the time will pass more quickly.”

Bogdan (19), inmate at Bacău young offender institution

“The inmates start bullying each other and that eventually causes fights and violence between them. This is a threat to security. All our efforts are useless, if the inmates do not have proper conditions for living and studying.”

Iuliu Maximilian Oana, Project promoter,
National Administration for Penitentiaries

“I need more education to be rehabilitated, get a job and move on with my life.”

Tiberiu (19), inmate at Bacău young offender institution



There are 850 prisoners and on average 20 people to a cell at the Bacău young offenders prison. There is only one small room for educational purposes.

Slovakia

Total Funding EEA Grants Norway Grants

€80.8M

€38.4M

€42.4M

Country facts

	Slovakia	EU-28
GDP per capita (2012, in PPS, €)	19 400	25 500
Economic growth (2013, % change on previous year)	0.9	0.1
Unemployment rate (2013, %)	14.2	10.8
Youth unemployment rate (2013, %)	33.7	23.4
Public debt (2013, % GDP)	55.4	87.1
Gender pay gap (2012, %)	21.5	16.4 (prov)
At-risk-of-poverty rate (2012, %)	13.2	17.0 (est)
Human development index (2012)	20	(EU-28 ranking)
Corruption perception index (2013)	24	(EU-28 ranking)

Sources: Eurostat/UN/Transparency International
See notes to tables in Annex 2

prov=provisional
est=estimate

Priority areas of support

- Increasing competitiveness of green enterprises and green job creation
- Improving flood resilience and raising public awareness of flood prevention
- Strengthening cross-border cooperation with Ukraine
- Promoting social inclusion of Roma

Implementation status



Figures at time of going to print (July 2014).

White Crow Award

WHY Dynamic civil societies are a cornerstone of stable democracies. Support for non-governmental organisations (NGOs) is an important priority for the EEA and Norway Grants in the cooperating countries. NGOs play a key role in promoting active citizenship and also have an important watchdog role. In Slovakia, as in many other countries, there is a need to create an ethos where people speak out against corruption and receive support for this work.

WHAT Through the White Crow Award, the NGO Fair Play Alliance recognises, supports and celebrates individuals or organisations that bring corruption to the public's attention. The prize is awarded to whistleblowers and anti-corruption activists. In addition to the award ceremony which occurs every two years, legal support is offered to the prize nominees, winners and other anti-corruption activists. The project also involves a series of public debates in schools and at public events on corruption. The events highlight the acts of bravery of the White Crow Award winners.

WHO The project promoter is the Fair Play Alliance, an NGO based in Slovakia that pushes for ethical, transparent and effective public administration and political representation.

HOW MUCH Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway are contributing €27 977 to the project.

RESULTS The project aims to encourage people to report corruption. The Awards continue to reach a wide audience and aim to achieve a change in public perception of reporting and standing up to corruption. The new Slovak President Andrej Kiska invited winners of the White Crow Award to his inauguration on 15 June 2014 and paid tribute to their courage: "The list of invited guests represents the reason why I went into politics. Among the invited are brave citizens who came forward when it was necessary."



White Crow Award winners from 2008 – 2013.

1 Transparency International (2013) Corruption Perceptions Index 2013

Read more about programmes and projects in Slovakia:
www.eeaqrants.org/slovakia

Programme overview

Programme	Partners	Grant (€ million)	
Adaption to climate change	Norwegian Directorate for Civil Protection, Norwegian Water Resources and Energy Administration	12.5	■
Green industry innovation	Innovation Norway	14.6	■
NGO Fund		7.4	■
Local and regional initiatives	Council of Europe	1.0	■
Cross-border cooperation	Norwegian Barents Secretariat	12.7	■

Programme	Partners	Grant (€ million)	
Cultural and natural heritage		11.9	■
Scholarships	Icelandic Centre for Research, Agency for International Education Affairs (Liechtenstein), Norwegian Centre for International Cooperation in Education	1.9	■
Decent work and tripartite dialogue	Innovation Norway*	0.4	■
Domestic and gender-based violence	Norwegian Directorate for Health, Council of Europe	7.0	■

■ Norway Grants ■ EEA Grants

*Programme operator

“The ‘White Crow Award’ honours outstanding individuals who have suppressed personal interests, often taking risks and experiencing condemnation by taking action on issues of principle and public interest. With EEA support we are able to find these individuals, publicise their efforts and support them if they need it. Through the awards we are also creating a self-supporting network of courageous people. White Crow is reducing the stigma experienced by people who stand up for the public good against those who abuse their position.”

Zuzana Wienk, Executive Director, Fair Play Alliance, ‘White Crow Award’



Slovenia

Read more about programmes and projects in Slovenia:
www.eaagrants.org/slovenia

Total Funding EEA Grants Norway Grants

€26.9M

€12.5M

€14.4M

Country facts

	Slovenia	EU-28
GDP per capita (2012, in PPS, €)	21 400	25 500
Economic growth (2013, % change on previous year)	-1.1	0.1
Unemployment rate (2013, %)	10.1	10.8
Youth unemployment rate (2013, %)	21.6	23.4
Public debt (2013, % GDP)	71.7	87.1
Gender pay gap (2012, %)	2.5	16.4 (prov)
At-risk-of-poverty rate (2012, %)	13.5	17.0 (est)
Human development index (2012)	10	(EU-28 ranking)
Corruption perception index (2013)	18	(EU-28 ranking)

Sources: Eurostat/UN/Transparency International
 See notes to tables in Annex 2

prov=provisional
 est=estimate

Priority areas of support

- Reducing health inequalities and lifestyle-related diseases
- Improving mental health services
- Promoting gender equality and work-life balance
- Protecting biodiversity and improving environmental monitoring and control

Implementation status



Figures at time of going to print (July 2014).

Programme overview

Programme	Partner(s)	Grant (€ million)
Biodiversity and ecosystem services		1.9
Environmental monitoring and integrated planning and control		2.0
Culture and natural heritage		5.0
Public health initiatives	Norwegian Institute of Public Health	10.2
Gender equality and work-life balance		1.4
NGO Fund		1.9
Scholarships	Icelandic Centre for Research, Agency for International Education Affairs (Liechtenstein), Norwegian Centre for International Cooperation in Higher Education	1.8
Decent work and tripartite dialogue	Innovation Norway*	0.1

■ Norway Grants ■ EEA Grants *Programme operator

Cooperation on flood mitigation

WHY Natural disasters in Slovenia are increasing in intensity and frequency. In 2010, heavy rain resulted in one of the worst river floods in the country's history, with floods and landslides causing damage to buildings and infrastructure. In order to prevent flooding, public bodies need accurate information about land and land use, in particular the water systems.

WHAT The project is focused on the modernisation of land and land use information to reduce the risk and impact of floods. The EC INSPIRE Directive 'infrastructure for spatial information in Europe' established a framework to ensure that information about the environment is collected to the same standard and scale across Europe.

The project will look at how existing topographical data can be modified to meet the requirements of the directive. At the same time, additional data on the water system will be measured, leading to the updating of flood protection plans. The resulting database will also be promoted to the public at large and to groups like public authorities and surveyors.

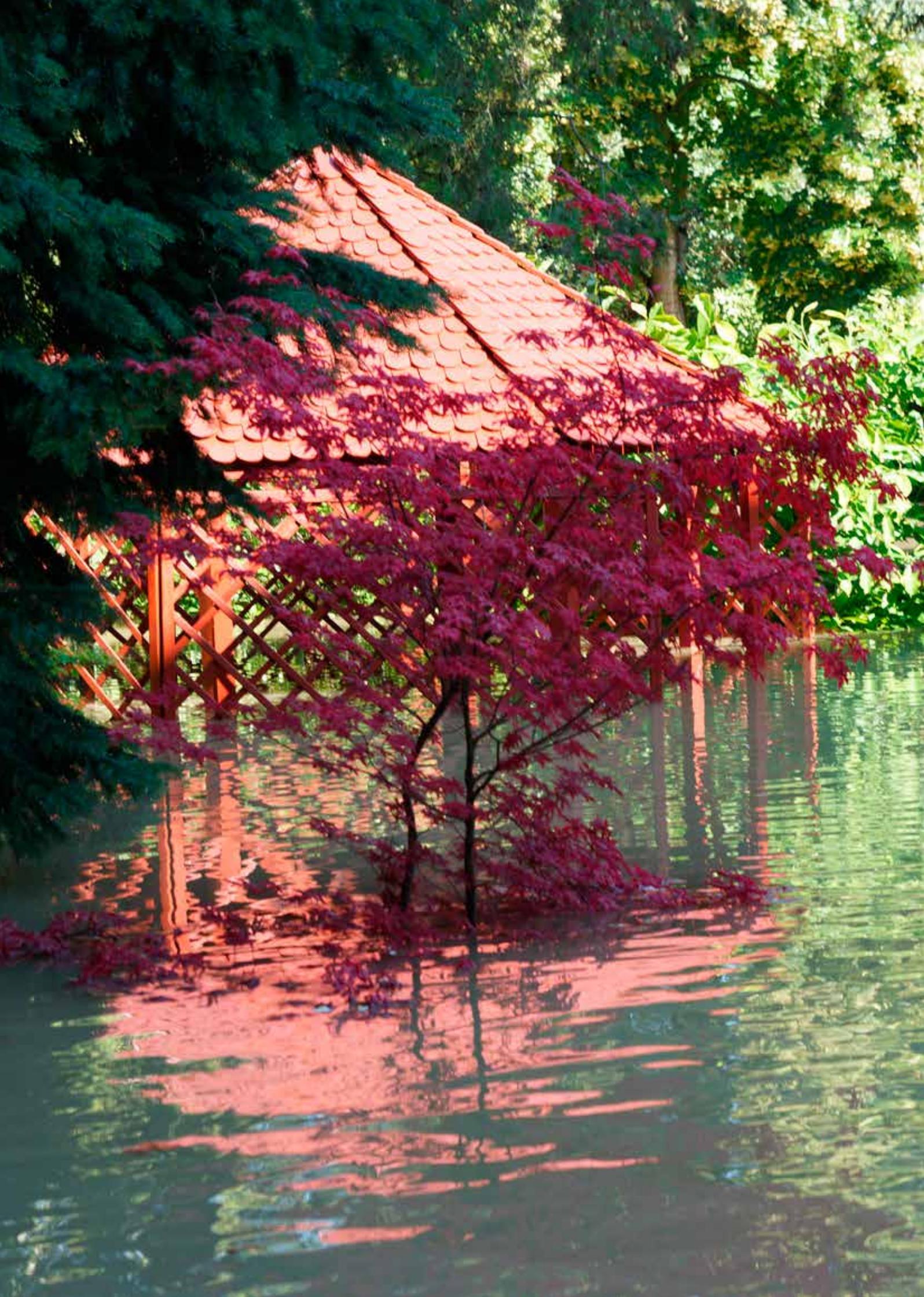
"This project is extremely important, not only will it save lives, but it will also save money with less damage done to buildings and infrastructure. The benefits are enormous. Our contribution has been in two areas: our experienced geoscience engineers; and experts in building spatial data infrastructure."

Gunnar H Kristinsson, Head of Department for Geodesy and Geographic Information, Landmælingar Islands

WHO The project will be carried out by the Surveying and Mapping Authority of the Republic of Slovenia and the Ministry of Agriculture and the Environment. Additional expertise will be brought by a partnership with the Norwegian Mapping Authority and the National Land Survey of Iceland.

HOW MUCH Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway are providing €1 773 000 for this project.

RESULTS The project will improve water management. The new data will play a vital role in identifying areas at risk of flooding and help public authorities take appropriate action.



Spain

Read more about programmes and projects in Spain:
www.eeagrants.org/spain

EEA Grants

€45.9M

Country facts

	Spain	EU-28
GDP per capita (2012, in PPS, €)	24 400	25 500
Economic growth (2013, % change on previous year)	-1.2	0.1
Unemployment rate (2013, %)	26.4	10.8
Youth unemployment rate (2013, %)	55.7	23.4
Public debt (2013, % GDP)	93.9	87.1
Gender pay gap (2012, %)	17.8 (prov)	16.4 (prov)
At-risk-of-poverty rate (2012, %)	22.2	17.0 (est)
Human development index (2012)	11	(EU-28 ranking)
Corruption perception index (2013)	16	(EU-28 ranking)

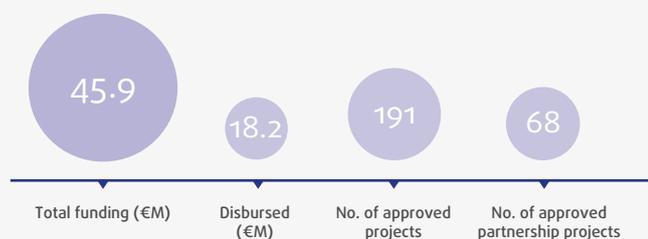
Sources: Eurostat/UN/Transparency International
 See notes to tables in Annex 2

prov=provisional
 est=estimate

Priority areas of support

- Increasing environmental research, development and technology
- Promoting gender equality and work-life balance
- Increasing educational cooperation and exchange

Implementation status



Figures at time of going to print (July 2014).

Programme overview

Programme	Partner(s)	Grant (€ million)
Environmental and climate change-related research and technology	Innovation Norway	18.2
NGO Fund		4.6
Gender equality and work-life balance	Norwegian Equality and Anti-Discrimination Ombudsman	10.2
Cultural and natural heritage		4.1
Diversity in culture and arts	Norwegian Embassy*	0.5
Scholarships	Icelandic Centre for Research, Agency for International Education Affairs (Liechtenstein), Norwegian Centre for International Cooperation in Education	3.9

■ EEA Grants

*Programme operator

Advancing female talent

WHY Spain is recognised as one of Europe's leading countries in promoting gender equality. The country has introduced pioneering legislation to strengthen gender equality. In the past decades, Spanish women have made headway in government and the public sector. But challenges and inequities persist. Women continue to lag behind in entrepreneurship, creating less than 20% of new businesses. Women are also under-represented on the boards of major companies, over-represented in lower income jobs and the gender pay gap remains high.

WHAT Female entrepreneurs and businesswomen are to receive tailor-made coaching on how to develop a good business plan. Participants have free access to the services offered by the Chamber of Commerce and personalised business mentoring. The first round of this project was carried out in nine Spanish towns with 215 women taking part. In the first six months after following the training programme, more than 30 participants had already started their own business.



One of the female entrepreneurs taking part in the project is Doctor Patricia Rodríguez Fortúnez (pictured above). Dr Rodríguez Fortúnez holds a BA in Pharmacy and has wide experience in biomedical research. She always had the ambition of setting up her own biomedical consulting company but was unsure about how to take the first step. Through the project she not only received one-on-one training but also practical guidance and advice. She is now making steps to start her own company.

"My experience in this project has been extremely positive. What really surprised me was the good guidance received even though biomedicine is a very specific field."

Dr Patricia Rodríguez Fortúnez, project beneficiary

WHO The project 'Women Entrepreneurship in Emerging Sectors' is run by the Fundación INCYDE.

HOW MUCH Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway have contributed €680 000 to this project.

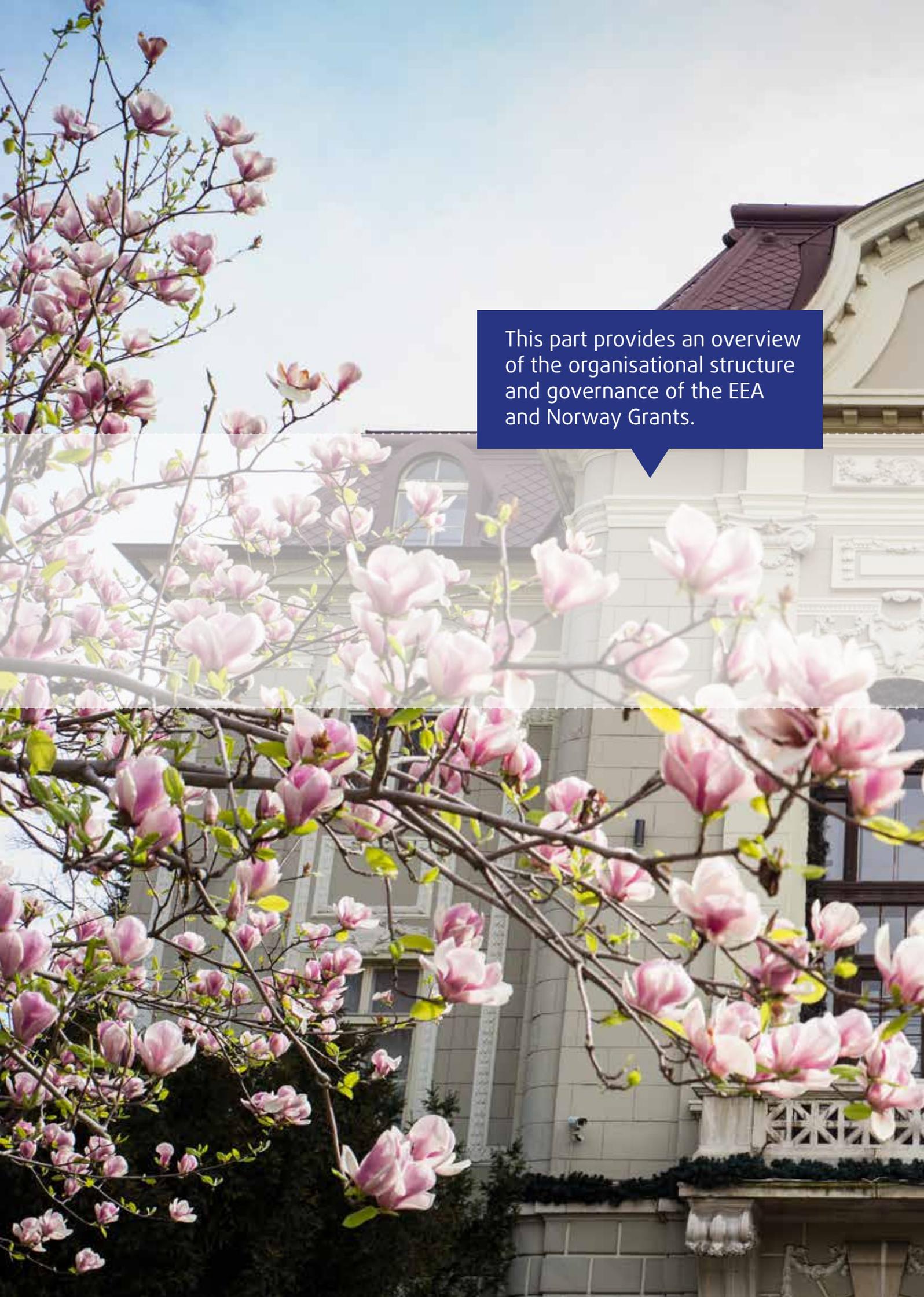
RESULTS The projects contribute to encouraging female entrepreneurship in key sectors where women are underrepresented, and boost new growth opportunities through fostering a female entrepreneurial spirit.

Naval

Energía



Ingeteam R&D Engineer Teresa Ribas is leading a renewable energy project in the Basque Country. Funded under the €18 million environmental technology programme, the aim is to improve the efficiency of offshore wind turbines. Ingeteam is a Spanish company and market leader specialising in electrical engineering in the energy sector (read more on pg. 22-23).



This part provides an overview of the organisational structure and governance of the EEA and Norway Grants.



MANAGING THE GRANTS

Managing the grants

Organisational structure

Public institutions in the donor and beneficiary countries share responsibilities for managing the Grants.

The **Financial Mechanism Committee (FMC)** is the decision-making body for the EEA Grants. The committee consists of representatives of the Ministries of Foreign Affairs of Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway. The FMC draws up policy and guidelines, approves each programme allocation and ensures monitoring, control and evaluation of the Grants. The Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs is the decision-making body for the Norway Grants.

The **Financial Mechanism Office (FMO)** is the Brussels-based secretariat for the Grants. The FMO is affiliated with the European Free Trade Association (EFTA) and reports to the Foreign Ministries of Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway. The FMO also serves as a contact point for the beneficiary countries. As of 31 December 2013, the FMO had 53 fixed-term staff positions, encompassing 15 different nationalities.

53
fixed-term
staff positions

Each beneficiary country has a **National Focal Point (NFP)**, responsible for achieving the objectives of the Grants, as well as overall management and control of their programmes. Most of the NFPs are located within relevant ministries, or public agencies that also have responsibility for managing EU funds. The NFP also represents the beneficiary country in its relations with the FMC and the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs regarding the Grants.

Each beneficiary country has a **National Focal Point (NFP)**, responsible for achieving the objectives of the Grants, as well as overall management and control of their programmes. Most of the NFPs are located



'The Grants through a lens' - photos from projects in ten regions across Latvia were exhibited in Riga in 2014.

Each **Programme Operator** is responsible for awarding funding to projects according to agreed criteria and monitoring project implementation. In most cases the programme operator is a public institution.

Programme Operators often work in close cooperation with a **Donor Programme Partner (DPP)**. DPPs are public bodies with national mandates in their respective fields. They work with their counterparts in beneficiary countries to:

- provide expertise and strategic advice on programme planning and implementation
- facilitate networking and help project promoters find project partners in donor countries

Cooperation through bilateral programmes and projects provides an arena for learning from best practice and developing joint policies.

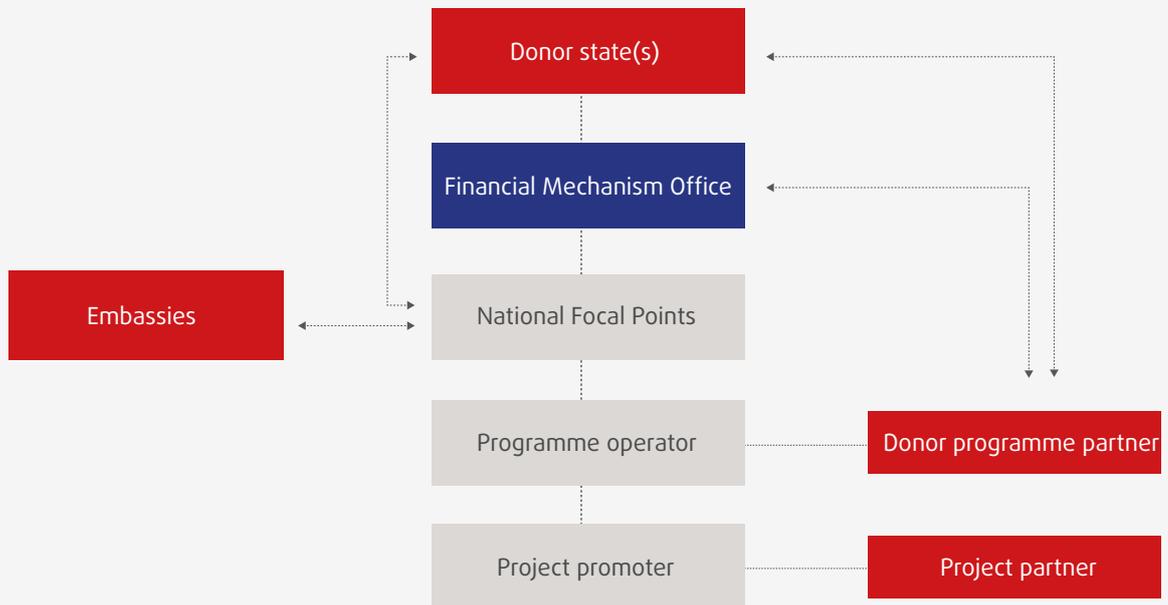
The **Embassies** of the donor countries, in particular Norway, in the beneficiary countries take part in the dialogue between the donor and beneficiary countries and play an important role in communicating the results of the Grants.

Bilateral cooperation

Bilateral cooperation is an overall objective of the EEA and Norway Grants. As well as contributing to reducing economic and social disparities in Europe, the EEA and Norway Grants further strengthen political, professional, social and economic ties through programmes and projects of common interest.



Organisations involved in the management of the EEA and Norway Grants



Cooperation takes place at several levels:

- **In programmes:** Organisations from donor countries are involved in more than half of the programmes with partners from the beneficiary countries.
- **In projects:** Most programmes support individual projects where organisations from donor countries collaborate with partners in beneficiary countries.
- **With bilateral funds:** Funds are set aside at national level and in each programme to develop cooperation and activities. This includes study visits and seminars to facilitate partnerships. It also includes cooperation within fields identified by the donors and the beneficiary countries not covered by the individual programmes.

In total, there are 24 Donor Programme Partners from Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway involved in the current funding period. More than half of all programmes have a DPP. In addition to partners from the donor countries, the Council of Europe is also a DPP in a number of programmes.

24

DPPs from Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway

International cooperation

International partnerships are a key feature of the EEA and Norway Grants for 2009 – 2014 adding expertise, results and value.

- ▶ See Annex 3 for a list of donor programme partners involved in each beneficiary country.

Council of Europe

The Council of Europe provides strategic advice as well as technical input and know-how in its areas of expertise - human rights, democracy and the rule of law. It is involved in 21 programmes in 10 beneficiary countries in areas ranging from gender-based violence and trafficking to Roma issues and justice reform.

European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights

The European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA) and the EEA and Norway Grants have recently formalised and further strengthened their cooperation through a 'Letter of Intent'. The EEA and Norway Grants and FRA engage on issues of mutual interest such as Roma inclusion and hate crime.

Transparency International

Collaboration with Transparency International (TI) – a global civil society organisation that promotes transparency and fights corruption – draws on its expertise in assessing corruption risks. Together with the Berlin Risk Institute, TI is helping to identify those programmes particularly prone to corruption risk.

Open Society Foundation

The Open Society Foundation supports a more open, transparent and tolerant society. The Foundation gives strategic advice on Roma issues within NGO programmes. Cooperation has also continued in wider platforms such as the Roma Decade or the Coalition of International Organisations on Roma Inclusion.



"I am very grateful that the EEA and Norway Grants gave me the opportunity to study in Norway," says Liva Rudzīte-Mičule. Liva, from Latvia, received scholarship to go on an exchange to the University of Agder in Norway.

Managing for Results

Results-based management helps to ensure that programmes are more focused on what they will achieve and take an evidence-based approach to what works well and what could be improved.

In 2013 the focus has been on implementation. By the end of 2013, 150 programmes had been received and 143 approved by the donor countries – all programmes were approved by 30 April 2014. By July 2014, 1 648 projects had been registered, of which 448 (27%) had a donor project partner. Many more are being prepared.

The Office of the Auditor General of Norway published an investigation into the contribution of the Norway Grants to achieving its objectives of reducing social and economic disparities.¹ The report found that the 2009 – 2014 programme approach with defined objectives and expected outcomes should improve the achievement of goals.

In line with the Auditor's recommendations, the number of performance indicators has been reduced and their quality improved. The FMO has also undertaken extensive training in beneficiary countries to improve the quality of information on projects and ensure that results are consistently and reliably reported.

Good Governance

Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway are committed to the principles of good governance, including transparency, accountability, effectiveness and efficiency.

Monitoring and control systems

Each beneficiary country is obliged to establish a certifying authority and a separate auditing authority. These organisations are independent of the National Focal Point and must be established at the outset, before any funds are committed.

The management and control systems established in the beneficiary countries ensure reliable accounting, monitoring and financial reporting systems. By the end of 2013, audited descriptions of management and control systems were received from all beneficiary countries.

The auditing responsibility lies firstly with the beneficiary countries. The designated audit authority submits an audit strategy for each programme and reports annually on audits carried out. In addition, the FMO arranges audits and on-the-spot inspections of programmes and projects to verify the effective functioning of the management and control systems.

¹ http://www.riksrevisjonen.no/en/Reports/Documents/Documentbase_3_15_2012_2013.pdf

Irregularities

The EEA and Norway Grants take a zero-tolerance policy to corruption and mismanagement. In line with the public access and transparency policy, a quarterly irregularities report is made accessible to the public. If any resources are unduly paid or lost due to corruption, fraud or mismanagement, the beneficiary country is responsible for refunding the donor countries either by reclaiming it from the project promoter or from their own national funds.

Risk management

Risk management is an integral part of the management framework of the EEA and Norway Grants and a tool to help achieve goals and expected results. Transparency International (TI) is a strategic partner of the Grants and focuses on corruption prevention.

Transparency International offers advice to the FMO and the National Focal Points and is helping to assess the potential exposure to corruption risk in the Grants. TI also participates in the annual risk seminar. In 2013 the theme was 'Managing Risk for Results', which underlined the importance of risk management to a results-based management system.

Training and capacity building

In order to ensure a full understanding of roles, responsibilities and the regulation for the 2009-2014 funding period, a large number of seminars and workshops have been organised for those involved in the management of programmes including: focal points, programme operators, donor programme partners, donor country embassies, potential beneficiaries and partners.

Donor management costs

The ceiling for donor management costs is 7.5% for the EEA and Norway Grants 2009 – 2014. In addition to management costs for running the FMO, this includes participation costs of donor programme partners – including preparatory work to facilitate donor partnership programmes, appraisal, monitoring, evaluation, audit and costs linked to the functions of the Financial Mechanism Committee.

The 2004 – 2009 Grants

In 2013, 139 projects from the 2004-2009 financial period were formally closed, bringing the total number of closed projects to 1 171 (of a total 1 206). Total disbursements at the end of 2013 were €1.05 billion. This is equivalent to an overall disbursement rate of 88.4% (compared to net allocations).

Table: Project status and disbursements per country by end-December 2013
(€ million)

Beneficiary State	Projects	Current commitment*	Disbursement*	Disbursed % of net allocation**	Expected disbursement*	Expected disbursed % of net allocation**
Bulgaria**	65	37.6	16.9	81.86%	16.9	81.88%
Cyprus	6	4.4	4.3	97.65%	4.3	97.65%
Czech Republic	144	104.6	101.9	96.25%	102.5	96.80%
Estonia	35	30.4	29.2	93.48%	29.2	93.48%
Greece	37	22.7	14.0	42.57%	14.5	44.06%
Hungary	90	112.5	107.0	83.03%	107.0	83.03%
Latvia	75	49.7	45.9	89.51%	45.9	89.51%
Lithuania	84	62.4	58.4	91.06%	58.4	91.06%
Malta	8	3.4	3.4	98.70%	3.4	98.70%
Poland	418	518.0	496.3	93.03%	496.4	93.04%
Portugal	32	28.8	26.3	87.47%	26.4	87.68%
Romania**	71	90.3	36.9	76.11%	38.1	78.63%
Slovakia	95	59.3	56.0	83.47%	56.0	83.47%
Slovenia	25	17.4	16.5	93.07%	16.5	93.30%
Spain	21	41.5	33.1	75.15%	34.4	78.26%
Total	1,206	1,118.3	0.46	88.38%	1,050.0	88.70%

* Includes appraisal, monitoring and evaluation.

** Disbursements are calculated as a % of the net allocation to countries i.e. excluding donor country management costs.

*** This includes Norway Grants-funded projects administered by Innovation Norway for Bulgaria and Romania 2007-2009.





ANNEXES

Annex 1

Allocations by priority sector and country (€ million)*

Priority Sector	BG	CY	CZ	EE	GR	HU	LV	LT	MT	PL	PT	RO	SK	SI	ES	Total
Environmental protection and management	16.00	1.16	15.35	5.93	9.51		2.07	11.17		35.00	19.25	33.18		3.86		152.49
Climate change	13.26		3.07	0.97	9.51	23.13	8.29	0.35	1.34	75.00	7.00	25.27	12.46		18.22	197.87
Civil society	11.79	1.32	9.81	2.30	7.34	13.50	10.37	5.50	0.50	37.00	8.70	36.33	7.40	1.88	4.59	158.31
Human and social development	14.08	0.39	5.54	6.51	25.14	11.22		6.31		19.54	12.50	31.52	1.00		10.19	143.63
Protecting cultural heritage	14.00	0.62	21.49	4.51		12.62	10.02	10.00	0.80	70.00	5.00	20.82	11.92	4.95	4.59	191.34
Research and scholarships	1.50		0.31	0.60	3.00	2.98	0.52	1.42		5.00		24.00	1.92	0.63	3.92	45.78
Technical assistance	1.18	0.06	0.92	0.35	0.75	1.05	0.52	0.58	0.03	4.00	0.87	2.86	0.58	0.19	0.69	14.62
Funds for bilateral relations / beneficiary country admin	0.39	0.02	0.31	0.12	0.32	0.35	0.17	0.19	0.01	1.33	0.29	0.95	0.19	0.06	0.23	4.94
Reserve for projects under 2004-09 period	0.50	-	-	-	3.08	-	-	-	-	-	-	1.51	-	-	-	5.40
Net allocation: EEA Grants	72.71	3.56	56.80	21.28	58.65	64.84	31.96	35.52	2.68	246.88	53.60	176.44	35.47	11.56	42.41	914.36
Carbon capture and storage			7.04													7.04
Green industry innovation	13.70			6.00		22.88	11.33	8.00		90.00*		29.70	16.79			198.40
Decent work and tripartite dialogue	0.48	0.04	0.70	0.26		0.83	0.38	0.46	0.02	3.11		1.15	0.42	0.14		8.00
Research and scholarships			16.02	4.00		24.13	4.99			72.83				1.22		123.19
Human and social development	9.78	1.88	24.38	10.91		27.46	4.99	14.00	0.29	66.00		48.10	12.72	11.67		232.18
Justice and home affairs	19.40	1.70	15.34	2.00			13.06	18.81	1.15	40.00		25.30	8.44			145.20
Protecting cultural heritage										10.00						10.00
Technical assistance	0.72	0.06	1.06	0.38	-	1.25	0.58	0.68	0.02	4.36	-	1.73	0.64	0.22	-	11.69
Funds for bilateral relations / beneficiary country admin	0.24	0.02	0.58	0.13	-	0.42	0.19	0.23	0.01	1.56	-	0.58	0.21	0.07	-	4.23
Reserve for projects under 2004-09 period	0.08	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.08
Net allocation: Norway Grants	44.40	3.70	65.12	23.68	-	76.96	35.52	42.18	1.48	287.86	-	106.56	39.22	13.32	-	740.00
Donor administration	9.50	0.59	9.89	3.65	4.76	11.50	5.47	6.30	0.34	43.36	4.35	22.95	6.06	2.02	3.44	134.14
TOTAL	126.60	7.85	131.80	48.60	63.40	153.30	72.95	84.00	4.50	578.10	57.95	305.95	80.75	26.90	45.85	1 788.5

* Includes €70 000 for the Polish energy efficiency programme which contributes towards the objectives of the climate change priority.

Annex 2

Explanatory notes on the indicators in the country overviews

Indicator	Description ¹
GDP per capita (in PPS)	GDP (gross domestic product) reflects a country's economic situation: the total value of all goods and services produced less the value of goods and services used for intermediate consumption in their production. Expressing GDP in purchasing power standards (PPS) eliminates differences in price levels between countries while calculations on a per head basis allow for the comparison of economies significantly different in absolute size.
Economic growth (% change on previous year)	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.
Unemployment rate (%)	Unemployment rates represent unemployed persons as a percentage of the labour force. The labour force is the total number of people employed and unemployed.
Youth unemployment rate (%)	Unemployment rates represent unemployed persons aged 15-24 as a percentage of the labour force of the same age.
Public debt (% GDP)	Consolidated general government gross debt at nominal value, outstanding at the end of the year in the following categories of government liabilities: currency and deposits; securities other than shares excluding financial derivatives; and loans. General government sector comprises the subsectors: central government; state government; local government; and social security funds.
Gender pay gap (%)	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 percentage of average gross hourly earnings of male paid employees.
At-risk-of-poverty rate (%)	At risk of poverty or social exclusion is the percentage of the population who are at risk of poverty or who are severely materially deprived or living in households with very low work intensity.
Human development index (global ranking)	A composite index measuring average achievement in three basic dimensions of human development—a long and healthy life, knowledge and a decent standard of living.
Corruption perception index (global ranking)	The Corruption Perceptions Index (CPI) is an aggregate indicator that brings together data from a number of different sources that capture perceptions of corruption within the past two years.

¹ Sources: Eurostat for all indicators except Human Development Index (UNDP) and Corruption Perception Index (Transparency International)

Annex 3

Donor programme partners by beneficiary country

Donor Programme Partner	Country	Bulgaria	Cyprus	Czech Republic	Estonia	Greece
Arts Council Norway	Norway			■		
Agency for International Education Affairs	Liechtenstein	■		■	■	
Norwegian Barents Secretariat	Norway	■				
Norwegian Directorate for Children, Youth and Family Affairs	Norway				■	
Council of Europe		■	■	■		
Norwegian Courts Administration	Norway					
Norwegian Directorate for Civil Protection	Norway					
Norwegian Institute of Public Health	Norway			■	■	
Norwegian Directorate of Health	Norway				■	
Innovation Norway	Norway				■	
Directorate of Norwegian Correctional Service	Norway					
Norwegian Association of Local and Regional Authorities	Norway	■			■	
Secretariat of the Shelter Movement	Norway		■			
Equality and Anti-discrimination Ombud	Norway					
Norwegian Environment Agency	Norway	■		■	■	
Research Council of Norway	Norway			■	■	
Norwegian Water Resources and Energy Administration	Norway	■				
National Energy Authority	Iceland					
National Police Directorate	Norway	■				
Directorate of Cultural Heritage	Norway				■	
Icelandic Centre for Research	Iceland	■		■	■	
Norwegian Centre for International Cooperation in Education	Norway	■		■	■	
Norwegian Radiation Protection Authority	Norway					
Norwegian Directorate of Immigration	Norway					■
Norwegian Agency for Lifelong Learning	Norway					

Total number of DPPs: 24

	Hungary	Latvia	Lithuania	Poland	Portugal	Romania	Slovakia	Slovenia	Spain
		■	■	■	■	■			
	■			■		■	■	■	■
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	■	■	■			■			
	■			■		■	■	■	■
	■	■	■	■		■	■	■	■
						■			
	■								



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