

# Scholarships and educational cooperation

Strengthening cooperation and removing obstacles to mobility in education is an aim shared by all European countries. Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway have set aside almost €40 million to fund scholarships and educational cooperation at all educational levels.

## WHY FUND SCHOLARSHIPS AND EDUCATIONAL COOPERATION?

There is a broad political understanding in Europe that education and training are essential to the development of today's knowledge society and economic growth. Education systems need to modernise and adapt to new way or teaching and learning. However, a number of challenges remain:

- > The proportion of young people with a higher education qualification varies widely across different EU countries, with the share in a number of the beneficiary countries remaining well below the EU 2020 target of 40%
- > Despite some improvements, wide disparities also still exist between EU countries in relation to early school leaving.<sup>1</sup>

With governments across Europe struggling to respond to high unemployment, there is a renewed urgency to better match people's skills with the needs of the labour market. Boosting transnational mobility helps students acquire new skills and strengthen future employability.

Through the EEA and Norway Grants, Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway facilitate such cooperation and provide much needed support, especially for students from lower income households.

## WHAT WILL WE ACHIEVE?

The three donor countries have allocated almost €40 million to fund scholarships and educational cooperation programmes in Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia and Spain.

The funding helps young people, students and adults to gain experience and skills by studying or training abroad. The programmes also support knowledge exchange between educational institutions and organisations in Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway with peers in the beneficiary countries.



© Christophe Vanda, Ecken

## HOW WILL WE ACHIEVE IT?

Support is focused on:

- > Establishing exchange opportunities for students between the donor and beneficiary countries
- > Increasing and strengthening cooperation at all educational levels
- > Increasing mobility of educational and teaching staff between the donor and beneficiary countries

Types of activities supported by the programmes include:

- > Scholarships for students and higher education staff – an estimated 1 500 students and 2 400 teachers, administrative and academic staff members have the chance to gain experience and skills through study periods or work placements abroad
- > Development of joint teaching programmes, summer schools and common curricula in higher education etc. through exchange and working with peers in other countries
- > School cooperation projects, with opportunities for staff cooperation and pupil exchanges

## HOW DOES IT WORK?

Projects on scholarships and educational cooperation are supported under dedicated programmes in 11 EU countries. Eligible applicants are educational institutions in these countries. Scholarships for mobility are also open to individuals (students and staff) who can apply through their institution.

To apply for funding from the scholarship programmes, your institution must apply to the programme operator in your country. Projects are selected following calls for proposals by the programme operator in each country. Calls are published on the websites of the programme operators and on [www.eeagrants.org](http://www.eeagrants.org).

1. Eurostat (2012) European Union Labour Force Survey

## BILATERAL COOPERATION

Several public bodies from the donor countries are involved as donor programme partners (DPPs). They play a strategic role in programme planning and implementation.

Entities from the donor countries can also participate in individual projects as project partners. In order to be eligible for funding, institutions in the beneficiary countries should have a partner in one of the donor countries. To encourage cooperation, funding is available to support networking and foster project partnerships.

More information on how to apply and finding a partner is also available on the websites of the donor programme partners:

- > The Icelandic Centre for Research – <http://rannis.is/rannisenglish/>
- > Agency for International Education Affairs (Liechtenstein) – <http://www.eeagrants-li.com/>
- > Norwegian Centre for International Cooperation in Education – <http://www.siu.no/eng>

## COUNTRY OVERVIEW: SCHOLARSHIPS AND EDUCATIONAL COOPERATION

Country	Primary, secondary and /or vocational education	Adult education and training	Higher education	Partners	Grant amount (€ million)
Bulgaria			●	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Icelandic Centre for Research</li> <li>• National Agency for International Education Affairs (Liechtenstein)</li> <li>• Norwegian Centre for International Cooperation in Education</li> </ul>	1.5
Czech Republic	●		●	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Icelandic Centre for Research</li> <li>• National Agency for International Education Affairs (Liechtenstein)</li> <li>• Norwegian Centre for International Cooperation in Education</li> </ul>	3.8
Estonia	●		●	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Icelandic Centre for Research</li> <li>• National Agency for International Education Affairs (Liechtenstein)</li> <li>• Norwegian Centre for International Cooperation in Education</li> </ul>	1.6
Hungary*	●	●	●	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Icelandic Centre for Research</li> <li>• National Agency for International Education Affairs (Liechtenstein)</li> <li>• Norwegian Centre for International Cooperation in Education</li> </ul>	3.0
Latvia			●	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Norwegian Centre for International Cooperation in Education</li> </ul>	1.0
Lithuania	●	●	●	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Norwegian Centre for International Cooperation in Education</li> </ul>	1.4
Poland	●	●	●	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Norwegian Centre for International Cooperation in Education</li> </ul>	15.0
Romania			●	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Icelandic Centre for Research</li> <li>• National Agency for International Education Affairs (Liechtenstein)</li> <li>• Norwegian Centre for International Cooperation in Education</li> </ul>	4.5
Slovakia	●		●	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Icelandic Centre for Research</li> <li>• National Agency for International Education Affairs (Liechtenstein)</li> <li>• Norwegian Centre of International Cooperation in Education</li> </ul>	1.9
Slovenia	●	●	●	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Icelandic Centre for Research</li> <li>• National Agency for International Education Affairs (Liechtenstein)</li> <li>• Norwegian Centre for International Cooperation in Education</li> </ul>	1.8
Spain			●	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Icelandic Centre for Research</li> <li>• National Agency for International Education Affairs (Liechtenstein)</li> <li>• Norwegian Centre for International Cooperation in Education</li> </ul>	3.9
<b>Total:</b>					<b>39.5</b>

■ EEA Grants

■ Norway Grants

\*Payments currently suspended in Hungary: [bit.ly/1K41YbI](http://bit.ly/1K41YbI)

### ABOUT THE EEA AND NORWAY GRANTS

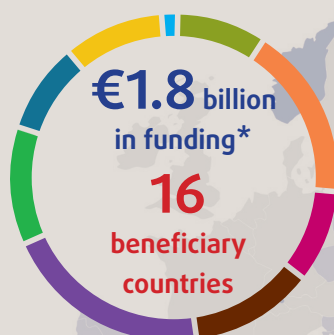
Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway provide funding to:



reduce disparities in Europe



strengthen bilateral relations



#### AREAS OF SUPPORT

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

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