

Sustainable blue growth

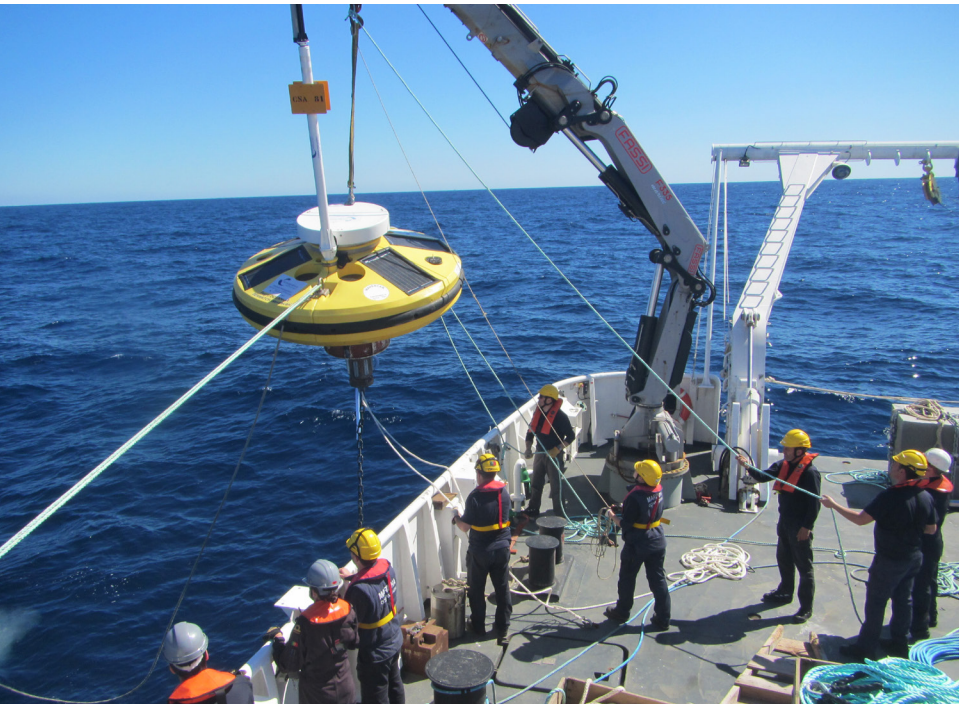


Photo credit: Instituto Hidrográfico

The EEA and Norway Grants 2014-2021



Support for the marine and maritime sectors is an important part of the EEA and Norway Grants. The Business Development, Innovation and Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (SMEs) programmes support sustainable blue growth while the Environment, Climate Change and Research programmes fund management and sustainable use of marine resources.

The support will be implemented through

10

Beneficiary States



EEA and Norway Grants



Open calls for proposals

5

Programme areas

Why support sustainable blue growth and marine resources?

Clean and healthy oceans and inland waters are crucial to a vital planet. Common challenges are pollution from e.g. plastic waste and transport; unsustainable management of waters and aquatic resources including overfishing; and lack of investments in new technology. The economic exploitation of marine and inland water resources (blue growth) must be sustainable.

The programmes are in line with the EU's overall goal to ensure that our oceans are safe, secure, clean and sustainably managed. They also supplement the European Commission's plans to tackle plastic pollution, make the blue economy more sustainable and improve research and marine surveillance.

What is supported?

The EEA and Norway Grants are developing programmes that will support blue growth, mainly within the innovation and business development area, but also through the energy, environment, climate change and research programmes. Most of the funding will be awarded through competitive open calls for proposals.

Project example



Photo credit: Norwegian Embassy in Lisbon - Pedro Mora

The research vessel Mar Portugal

As a coastal nation, Portugal needs to secure high environmental standards in its marine and coastal waters. The acquisition of the Mar Portugal research vessel and marine surveying equipment increased the knowledge and improved the management of Portuguese marine and coastal waters.

The Portuguese Sea and Atmosphere Institute carried out the €11 million project. The Norwegian Institute of Marine Research was a partner. Mar Portugal may receive support through the innovation programme under the EEA Grants 2014-2021.

Sharing knowledge and experiences is crucial to the management and sustainable use of marine and freshwater resources. Partnerships with entities from the donor states are strongly encouraged. To support bilateral cooperation, the main donor programme partners in this area are the Research Council of Norway and Innovation Norway.

| Beneficiary country | Programme area | Donor Programme Partners and Fund Operators |
|---------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Bulgaria | Environment | Norwegian Environment Agency |
| Croatia | Business development, innovation and SMEs | Norwegian Environment Agency |
| Czech Republic | Research | Research Council of Norway |
| Estonia | Research Climate change | Research Council of Norway |
| Greece | Business development, innovation and SMEs Climate change | Innovation Norway (Fund Operator) |
| Latvia | Climate change | Research Council of Norway |
| Lithuania | Climate change | |
| Poland | Business development, innovation and SMEs Research | Innovation Norway Research Council of Norway |
| Portugal | Business development, innovation and SMEs Research Education Climate change Energy | Innovation Norway, Research Council of Norway, DIKU ¹ , Rannis ² |
| Romania | Business development, innovation and SMEs Research | Innovation Norway (Fund Operator) Research Council of Norway |

¹Norwegian Agency for International Cooperation and Quality Enhancement in Higher Education
²Ioelandski Center for Research

Project example

Capturing CO² through coastal restoration and macroalgae aquaculture in Estonia

In Estonia, vegetated coastal habitats have deteriorated rapidly in recent decades due to land use and coastal transformation. Fortunately, these habitats can be recovered, restoring lost CO² sink capacity. Growing, harvesting and utilizing macroalgae can also help reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

The climate change programme in Estonia will support one restoration project and one macroalgae aquaculture project piloting techniques best suited for the specific local conditions.



Key achievements from the 2009-2014 funding period

Five specific integrated marine and inland water management programmes were funded by the EEA and Norway Grants with an overall amount of **€45.3 million**. The topic was also covered in other programmes such as research and innovation.

6 environmental and marine **monitoring plans** were developed and/or implemented

958 **persons** were trained in integrated marine and inland water management

18 marine and inland water **management training** and **awareness initiatives** were implemented

About the EEA and Norway Grants

Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway provide funding to:

- Reduce disparities in Europe
- Strengthen bilateral relations

Areas of support

- Innovation, research, education and competitiveness
- Social inclusion, youth employment and poverty reduction
- Environment, energy, climate change and low carbon economy
- Culture, civil society, good governance and fundamental rights and freedoms
- Justice and home affairs

* EEA Grants are jointly financed by Iceland (3%), Liechtenstein (1%) and Norway (96%) **Norway Grants are solely financed by Norway

