

# About the **EEA** and **Norway Grants**

The EEA and Norway Grants represent the contribution of Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway to reducing economic and social disparities and strengthening bilateral relations with 16 EU countries in Central and Southern Europe. Norway provides 97% of the funding.

€1.8 billion in funding

16 beneficiary countries

87 partnership programmes



## WHY THE GRANTS

Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway are partners with the EU through the Agreement on the European Economic Area (EEA). This enables the free movement of goods, services, people and capital in the internal market. The Agreement also covers cooperation in many other areas such as research, social policy and the environment.

Despite much progress in Europe, gaps in economic and social development persist. Through the Grants, the donor countries are helping to reduce these disparities and address the economic, political and social challenges in Europe. The funding is targeted where there are clear needs in the beneficiary countries and is aligned with national priorities and wider European goals.

## WHAT WE SUPPORT

For the period 2009-2014, €1.798 billion has been set aside under the Grants. Projects may be implemented until 2016. Funding is channelled through 146 programmes in the 16 beneficiary countries. Key areas of support include environmental protection and climate change, civil society, children and health, cultural heritage, research and scholarships, decent work and justice and home affairs.

All programmes must adhere to standards relating to human rights, good governance, sustainable development and gender equality, and respect the diversity of cultures and traditions. Special concerns such as inclusion of minorities and improving the situation of vulnerable groups, including the Roma, are highlighted in certain programmes.

## WHICH COUNTRIES BENEFIT

Bulgaria	€126.6M	Lithuania	€84.0M
Croatia	€9.6M*	Malta	€4.5M
Cyprus	€7.9M	Poland	€578.1M
Czech Republic	€131.8M	Portugal	€58.0M
Estonia	€48.6M	Romania	€306.0M
Greece	€63.4M	Slovakia	€80.8M
Hungary	€153.3M	Slovenia	€26.9M
Latvia	€73.0M	Spain	€45.9M

\* For Croatia, the funding allocation corresponds to the period 1 July 2013 to 30 April 2014. Croatia only became eligible for funding following its accession to the EU/EEA in 2013.

## PROMOTING COOPERATION

Strengthening bilateral relations is a primary objective of the EEA and Norway Grants. To enhance cooperation, partnerships between organisations in the donor and beneficiary countries are widely encouraged.

- > More than half of the programmes involve cooperation with partners from the donor countries. Partnerships in projects are also encouraged.
- > Funds are set aside in all beneficiary countries to support networking and foster project partnerships.
- > The Grants also cooperate with the Council of Europe and Transparency International on issues of mutual concern.

## AREAS OF SUPPORT

### €151.6M to environmental protection and management to

- Improve management of marine resources
- Increase protection of ecosystems and biodiversity
- Improve environmental monitoring and strengthen capacity to comply with legislation
- Reduce hazardous waste

### €279.4M to climate change and renewable energy to

- Improve energy efficiency in buildings, transport and industry
- Increase renewable energy production and use
- Develop systems and strategies for adapting to climate change and reducing emissions

### €190.5M to green industry innovation to

- Realise green business opportunities
- Increase use of environmental technologies
- Increase green job creation

### €147.0M to civil society to

- Promote democratic values
- Tackle discrimination and social exclusion
- Strengthen capacity of NGOs
- Develop advocacy and watchdog role of NGOs
- Empower vulnerable groups

### €143.5M to justice and home affairs to

- Enhance police and justice cooperation
- Improve access to justice
- Modernise correctional services
- Combat domestic and gender-based violence

### €169.0M to research and scholarships to

- Enhance research capacity and cooperation (including on carbon capture and storage – CCS – technologies)
- Increase higher education student and staff mobility
- Promote institutional cooperation at all levels

### €332.5M to human and social development to

- Improve quality of child welfare and protection systems
- Improve access to and quality of health and social care services
- Promote gender equality
- Strengthen public sector capacity
- Strengthen asylum and migration systems (Greece)

### €200.0M to cultural heritage and diversity to

- Restore cultural and natural heritage
- Improve public accessibility
- Promote intercultural dialogue and diversity

### €8.0M to decent work and tripartite dialogue to

- Improve social dialogue structures
- Enhance access to employment
- Improve work-life balance

(Allocation of funding by sector August 2013.  
Some funding allocations are still to be defined)

## HOW IT WORKS

- > Each beneficiary country agrees on a set of programmes with the donor countries, based on national needs and priorities and the scope for cooperation with the donor countries.
- > A National Focal Point is responsible for the overall management of programmes in each beneficiary country.
- > Programme Operators develop and manage the programmes, often in cooperation with a donor programme partner, and award funding to projects.
- > Projects are selected following calls for proposals organised by the Programme Operator.

## GETTING INVOLVED

A wide range of institutions and organisations can benefit from the funding

- > National and local authorities.
- > NGOs and civil society organisations.
- > Private and public enterprises, and public-private partnerships.
- > Educational and research institutions.
- > Students and educational staff.

Similar entities from the donor countries can become partners in projects. In several programmes, partnerships are mandatory.

Calls for project proposals are published on [www.eeagrants.org](http://www.eeagrants.org).