

LATVIA

Latvia has received funding since entering the EU and EEA in 2004. For the period 2009-2014, Latvia has been allocated €73 million; up from €53.7 million over the previous five-year period. Projects may be implemented until 2016.

KEY AREAS OF SUPPORT

- › Supporting reform of correctional services, including improving rehabilitation
- › Strengthening cooperation between local and regional authorities in Latvia and Norway
- › Realising green innovation business opportunities
- › Strengthening civil society
- › Improving environmental monitoring systems
- › Increasing intercultural awareness and dialogue with the national minorities

BILATERAL COOPERATION

Eight Norwegian public institutions are involved in the implementation of programmes in partnership with Latvian counterparts. In the previous funding period, one third of the Latvian projects involved partnerships with entities in Iceland, Liechtenstein or Norway.

Grants are available for Latvian-Norwegian research as well as scholarships in cooperation with Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway. Latvia and Norway have a long-standing cooperation at local government level. Cooperation on public sector capacity building between Latvian and Norwegian public institutions is expected to be significant.

The Directorate of Norwegian Correctional Service is an established partner in the reform of Latvia's prison system. The Council of Europe is also participating in this programme. A considerable number of bilateral partnerships are expected within the fields of green innovation and cultural exchange.

At a national level, funding is available through the bilateral funds to support networking and foster project partnerships.

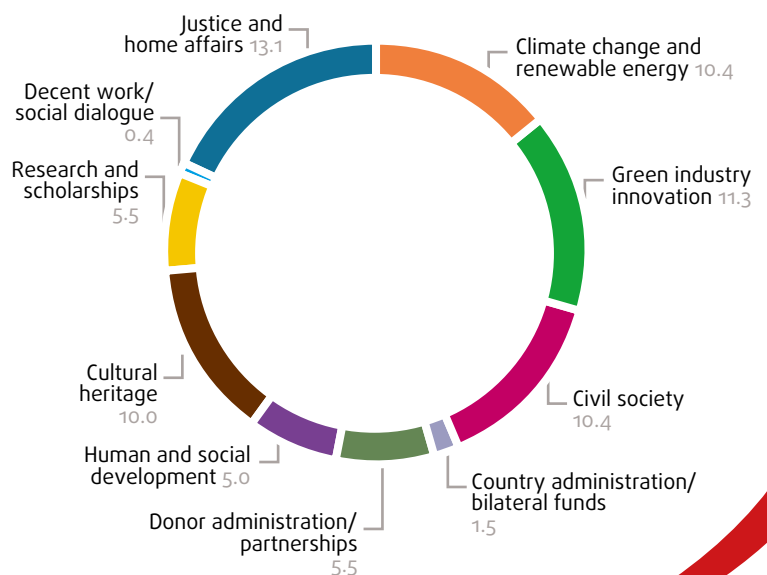
The EEA and Norway Grants provide €1.8 billion in funding to 150 programmes in 16 beneficiary countries. EEA Grants €993.5 million (Norway 95.8%, Iceland 3.0%, Liechtenstein 1.2%). Norway Grants €804.6 million, financed by Norway alone.



	EEA GRANTS	NORWAY GRANTS	TOTAL FUNDING
	€34.6 M	€38.4 M	€73.0 M
			Latvia EU-28
GDP per capita in PPS (EU=100)			64 100
Economic growth (% change on previous year)			4.1 0.1
Unemployment rate (%)*			10.8 10.2
Youth unemployment rate (%)*			19.6 22.2
Public debt (% of GDP)			38.2 85.4
Gender pay gap			14.4 16.4
At-risk-of-poverty rate (%)			35.1 24.5
Human development index			26 (EU-28 ranking)
Corruption perception index*			19 (EU-28 ranking)

Sources: Eurostat, UNDP, Transparency International
All data is from 2013 except where * indicates 2014

DISTRIBUTION OF FUNDING (€ MILLION)



IN FOCUS

STRENGTHENING COOPERATION ON JUSTICE

Latvia is one of the European countries with the highest rates of imprisonment; 50% of released inmates return to prison. Reoffending criminals pose a considerable burden on public budgets. Consequently, one of the goals of Latvia's ongoing penal reform is to prepare inmates for release and life after prison.

In the previous funding round, the Grants supported a successful pilot re-socialisation programme in two prisons in the Zemgale region. The Norway Grants continue to build on this and other established areas of cooperation within this field. Priorities include expanding the use of alternatives to prison, financing urgently needed upgrades and improving facilities for administrative detentions.

DEVELOPING THE CAPACITY OF CIVIL SOCIETY

The Grants continue to support the development of civil society in Latvia. This enables national and local NGOs to better contribute to social justice, democracy and sustainable development.

During the previous funding round, the NGO Fund proved a valuable resource for Latvian NGOs, offering not only project support but also funding to cover capacity building and start-up costs. This support continues. The Fund will support projects providing welfare services and contributing to social inclusion. This includes projects supporting children and youth at risk, multicultural dialogue and the integration of national minorities such as the Russian-speaking population. The Fund also supports NGOs that promote democracy and good governance, human rights and gender equality.

Read more about all the programmes:
www.eagrants.org/latvia

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
Public capacity and building and institutional cooperation	Norwegian Association of Local and Regional Authorities	■ 5.0
Cultural and natural heritage	Directorate for Cultural Heritage (Norway), Arts Council Norway	■ 10.0
Research and scholarships	Research Council of Norway, Norwegian Centre for International Cooperation in Education	■ ■ 5.5
Decent work and tripartite dialogue	Innovation Norway*	■ 0.4
Correctional services	Directorate of Norwegian Correctional Service	■ 13.1

■ EEA Grants ■ Norway Grants *Programme Operator



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Cēsu Correctional Institution for Juveniles has improved its re-socialisation programme for inmates.