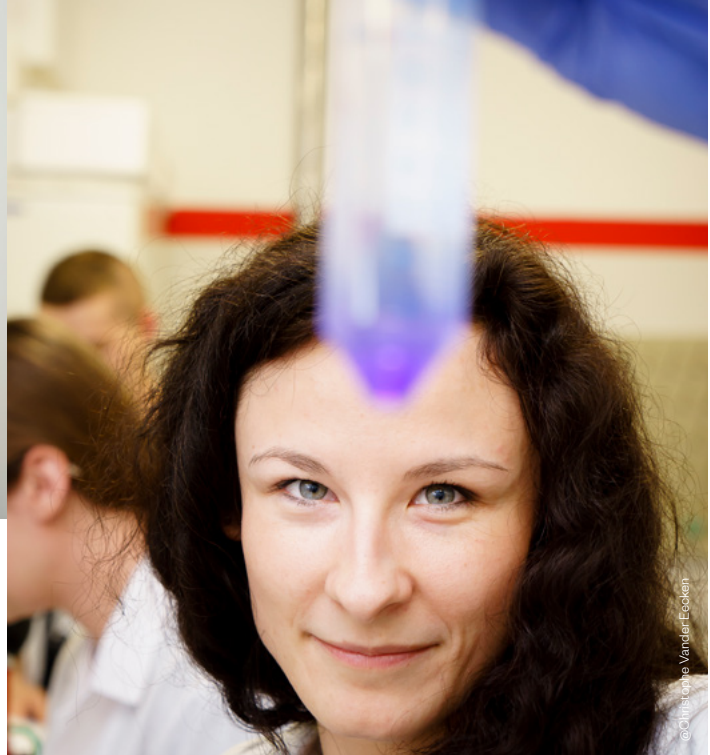
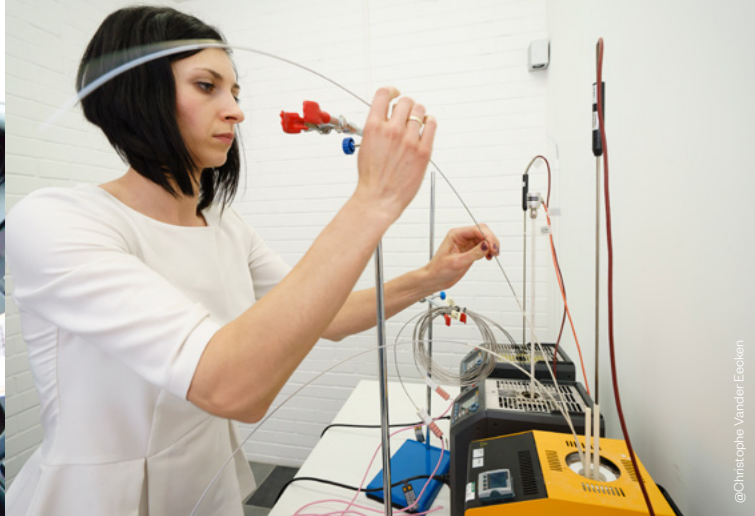


### Investing in innovation, research and education

Investment in research, innovation, and education is the backbone of a competitive economy. Through programmes in these areas, Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway contribute to building the research-based knowledge necessary to address the various challenges faced by our society today.

'Innovation, Research, Education and Competiveness' is one of the five priority sectors under the EEA and Norway Grants 2014-2021. Our funding to this sector supports the further development of the knowledge economy.

**The EEA and Norway Grants offer added-value in increasing innovation, research and education competence and skills and supporting know-how to develop larger funding proposals under European programmes.**



[www.eeagrants.org](http://www.eeagrants.org)  
[www.norwaygrants.org](http://www.norwaygrants.org)  
f t i in EEA Norway Grants

## Building excellence INNOVATION RESEARCH EDUCATION

**The EEA and Norway Grants**  
The European Economic Area (EEA) and Norway Grants represent the contribution of Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway towards a green, competitive and inclusive Europe. The objectives are two-fold: to reduce social and economic disparities, and strengthen bilateral cooperation between the donor countries and the 15 beneficiary countries.  
For the period 2014-2021, the total contribution is €2.8 billion.  
Under the EEA Agreement, Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway are part of the European internal market. The EEA Agreement sets out the common goal of working together to reduce social and economic disparities in Europe.





## Why support innovation, research and education?

Economic growth and job creation is strongly linked to investment in research and innovation. To succeed, countries need an innovation system which combines public and private investment, effective innovation partnerships among companies and with academia, as well as a strong educational basis and excellent research. Despite the EU-wide target on spending 3% of GDP on research and development by 2020, the goal is far from being reached. Further investment is therefore vital.

## What can be supported?

A range of areas are eligible for support under our innovation, research and education programmes, including:

- Innovation: development of innovative technologies, processes and services; sustainable business development; greening of existing businesses and processes.
- Research: research cooperation between donor and beneficiary countries; application of research results; capacity building in research, including supporting the careers of female researchers and early stage researchers.
- Education: cooperation between educational institutions at all levels between donor and beneficiary countries; traineeships, apprenticeships and work placements; professional development of teachers; student and staff mobility between donor and beneficiary countries.

## How does it work?

Funding for projects will be made available through open calls for proposals in each programme. Applications must be submitted by entities in the relevant beneficiary country, often in cooperation with partners from the donor countries.

## When will funding become available?

First calls out are in Romania: the first of multiple call for proposals in the education programme is launched in November 2017, followed by the first research programme call in early 2018. The innovation programme call is expected by mid-2018.

Follow [www.eeagrants.org](http://www.eeagrants.org) for updates.

## Who can benefit from the funding?

SMEs, large companies, research organisations, higher education institutions, schools, etc.

## Where will funding become available?

There are 15 beneficiary countries under the EEA and Norway Grants 2014-2021. The programmes that will be funded in each beneficiary country, as well as the amounts dedicated to each programme, are specified in cooperation agreements (MoUs) with the donor countries.



Iceland

## Working together for a green, competitive and inclusive Europe

| Beneficiary country | Programme area(s)   | Donor Partner(s)<br>See right column for full names | Amount in € million |
|---------------------|---|---|---------------------|
| Bulgaria            | Innovation <sup>1</sup>                                       | IN (Fund Operator)                                  | €28.5               |
| Czech Rep.          | Innovation <sup>1</sup> and Research                          | NFR   | €30.0 <sup>3</sup>  |
|                     | Education <sup>2</sup>  | SIU, AIBA   | €6.5 <sup>3</sup>   |
| Estonia             | Innovation <sup>1</sup>                                       | IN  | €23.0 <sup>3</sup>  |
|                     | Research and Education <sup>2</sup>                           | NFR, SIU, AIBA                                      | €7.1 <sup>3</sup>   |
| Greece              | Innovation <sup>1</sup>                                       | IN (Fund Operator)                                  | €21.5               |
| Portugal            | Innovation <sup>1</sup> , Research and Education <sup>2</sup> | IN, RANNIS, NFR, SIU                                | €38.0 <sup>3</sup>  |
|                     | Innovation <sup>1</sup>                                       | IN (Fund Operator)                                  | €45.0               |
| Romania             | Research  | NFR, RANNIS   | €40.0 <sup>3</sup>  |
|                     | Education <sup>2</sup>  | SIU, AIBA   | €12.0 <sup>3</sup>  |
| Slovakia            | Innovation <sup>1</sup> and Education <sup>2</sup>            | IN, SIU, AIBA                                       | €20.0 <sup>3</sup>  |

<sup>1</sup> Business Development, Innovation and SMEs

<sup>2</sup> Education, Scholarships, Apprenticeships and Youth Entrepreneurships

<sup>3</sup> National co-financing is added to this amount

As of October 2017, cooperation agreements (MoUs) are signed with eight countries.

Follow updates on what is funded in your country on [www.eeagrants.org/Where-we-work](http://www.eeagrants.org/Where-we-work)



**3**  
donor countries

**15**  
beneficiary countries

## Cooperation with donor partners

The EEA and Norway Grants are intended to strengthen political, economic and cultural ties between Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway and the beneficiary countries. Efforts under the scheme are therefore implemented in close cooperation with donor partners. In the research programmes, partnerships with donor country entities are compulsory.

Public entities in the donor countries contribute to the programme planning and implementation, as well as help facilitate project partnerships. Relevant donor programme partners for programmes within innovation, research and education are:

- Innovation Norway (IN)
- Research Council of Norway (NFR)
- Norwegian Centre for International Cooperation in Education (SIU)
- National Agency for International Education Affairs Liechtenstein (AIBA)
- Icelandic Centre for Research (RANNIS)

## Key achievements from the 2009-2014 funding period

### Innovation

**676** new green jobs created as well as commercialisation of new environmental technologies and development or improvement of green services or products

### Research

More than **1500** researchers in **594** institutions worked together resulting in at least **578** internationally refereed scientific publications jointly developed

### Education

Our exchange programmes provided better opportunities for a broader segment of students to take part in exchanges abroad contributing to increasing their employability