

20 YEARS OF COOPERATION AND SOLIDARITY

SPAIN 1994-2014



**20 YEARS
OF COOPERATION
AND SOLIDARITY**

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José María Piñero Campos

GENERAL DIRECTOR OF
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European cooperation has proved itself to be the most effective tool for cultivating continental development. Grants from the European Economic Area form part of the effort to create a stronger and more inclusive Europe.

Spain has been a beneficiary of the European Economic Area Financial Mechanism for twenty years (1994–2014). Figures show that our country has received 375 million euros, which has enabled the creation of almost 500 projects in areas key to the economy. This publication will show, however, that lying beyond the numbers are hundreds of stories of how these grants have left a profound mark on Spain that will stand the test of time.

The lasting benefit of these grants is present in our cities’ heritage in the form of contributions to the renewal of the historic legacy, but also in vigorous research by Spanish businesses or in efforts to make society more equal and inclusive.

In Spain, the objectives of these grants, the reduction of inequality and the construction of a lasting and bilateral cooperation based on mutual understanding and trust, have been met. EEA grants have contributed to the profound economic and social changes that have taken place in Spain over the last twenty years, helped in large measure by European cooperation. What is more, they have also served to strengthen the bonds between Spain and Norway, evolving beyond the traditional relationship of donor and receiver, bringing us together as partners with a vision of the future.

Spain will now no longer receive EEA Grants but important lessons can be taken from the last twenty years: that together we are stronger and that support mechanisms must follow a course that ensures that in an inclusive Europe no one is left behind.

The EEA Grants have left a profound mark on Spain that will stand the test of time”

Norwegian society is based on the idea of equality and consensus, and is firmly committed to the promotion of inclusive growth, the fostering of tolerance and respect for human rights. These objectives have been key to the creation and development of the European Union (EU).

We are not an EU member state, but along with Iceland and Liechtenstein, we are part of the Agreement on the European Economic Area (EEA), which ensures our almost complete integration into the EU internal market. Since 1994 when this agreement entered into force, we have contributed to European development by means of funding through the EEA Grants. The support aims at reducing social and economic disparities and strengthening bilateral relations between the donor and beneficiary states.

This publication will tell the story of what these 20 years of EEA Grants have meant for Spain. Together with the legacy of the projects undertaken, one of the aspects that has been of especial value for Norway has been the exchange of best practices and the establishment of a close relationship between the two nations.

Thanks to the collaboration between Spanish and Norwegian partners, ties between our countries have been strengthened even further. EEA Grants have also enabled us to achieve an even greater depth of understanding for Spanish society and to get a more intimate look at the profound transformations that the country has gone through – changes in which we can hope to have played our own small part.

Spain has proven to be a crucial partner with whom we have been able to build ever broader fields of cooperation. This is why we can be confident that in the future we will continue to work together to generate new opportunities for economic development and to reduce gaps in social equality. We will continue to strive together in a Europe that is economically prosperous, politically robust and socially cohesive.

The exchange of best practices and the establishment of a close relationship with Spain have been aspects of especial value for Norway”



Johan Vibe

AMBASSADOR OF NORWAY
TO SPAIN

OUTSIDE THE EUROPEAN UNION BUT TOGETHER IN THE INTERNAL MARKET

European Economic Area Agreement

The Agreement on the European Economic Area (EEA), which entered into force on 1 January 1994, brings together the European Union (EU) Member States and the three EEA EFTA States — Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway — in a single market, referred to as the “Internal Market”. The EEA Agreement provides for the inclusion of EU legislation covering the four freedoms — the free movement of goods, services, persons and capital — throughout the EEA States. In addition, the Agreement covers cooperation in other important areas such as research and development, education, social policy, the environment, consumer protection, tourism and culture, collectively known as “flanking and horizontal” policies. The Agreement guarantees equal rights and obligations within the Internal Market for citizens and economic operators in the EEA.

What are the EEA and Norway Grants?

Since the EEA Agreement entered into force in 1994, Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway have contributed to social and economic development in the European Economic Area. The support has been channelled through different mechanisms, of which the EEA and Norway Grants are the current ones. The support aims at reducing

social and economic disparities and strengthening bilateral relations between the donor and beneficiary states.

It is made available for EU member states with a Gross National Income below 90% of the EU average.

Norway provides 97% of the funding. Public institutions in the beneficiary states are responsible for managing the funds and delivering results often in cooperation with partners institutions from Norway.

Why is Norway contributing to social and economic cohesion?

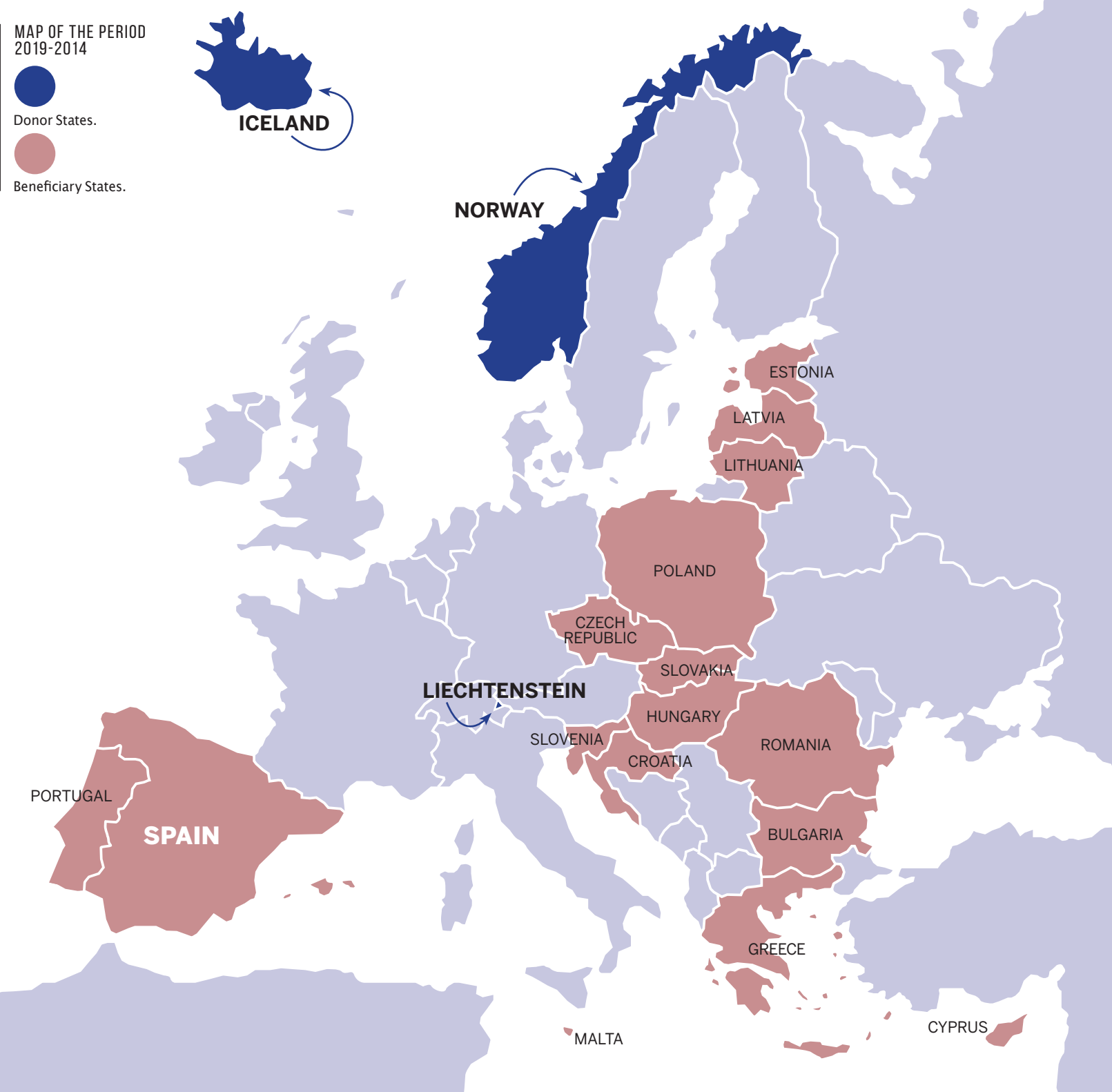
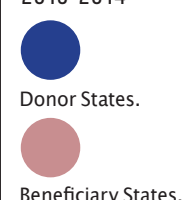
Although the people of Norway has decided to stay outside the EU, Norway is still a strong supporter of European integration and cooperation.

Reducing disparities between the countries in the EEA is not only improving the functioning of the internal market, but is building a stronger Europe based on equality and social security. This is in the interest of all European countries.

Funding periods

The contributions have been channelled through different funding schemes since 1994. From 2014 a seven-year funding scheme has been adopted.

MAP OF THE PERIOD 2019-2014



The Financial Mechanism 1994–1998

The Financial Mechanism was established under the EEA Agreement and covered Greece, Ireland, Northern Ireland, Portugal and Spain. Grants for a total amount of €500 million and European Investment Bank (EIB) beneficial loan conditions* relating to a total of €1.5 billion was allocated to projects within the fields of environmental protection, education and training, and transport.

**Interest rebates of two percentage points per annum were calculated on the basis of notional loans of 10 years including a two year grace period.*

The EEA Financial Instrument 1999–2003

Greece, Ireland, Northern Ireland, Portugal and Spain received €119.6 million in support. Projects were supported within the field of environmental protection, urban renewal, pollution in urban areas,

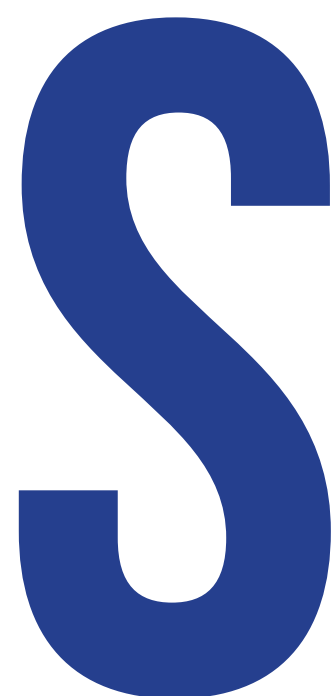
protection of cultural heritage, transport, education, and academic research. About 93% of the funding was spent on projects related to environmental protection.

The EEA Financial Mechanism & Norwegian Financial Mechanism 2004–2009

The Financial Mechanisms (EEA and Norway Grants) were established in connection with the enlargement of the European Union in 2004. Ten new member states joined not only the EU, but also the European Economic Area (EEA) and became eligible for funding from the EEA and Norway Grants. With an increase in GNI above the EU average in the same time period, Ireland and Northern Ireland no longer qualified. The accession of Bulgaria and Romania to the European Union led to a further enlargement of the EEA and subsequently of the EEA and Norway Grants in 2007. The enlargements required a substantial increase in the contributions towards European cohesion. Most of the new member states were considerably below the EU average level of social and economic development. The allocation for this five-year period increased to €1.3 billion.

The EEA Financial Mechanism & Norwegian Financial Mechanism 2009–14

The funding covers 16 EU member states and amounts to €1.798 billion. To ensure a more strategic and sustainable impact, a programme approach has been introduced. All funding is now channelled through multi-annual programmes. Programmes and projects within this period will often include partners from Norway, Iceland or Liechtenstein.



20 YEARS OF GRANTS AND AN ENDURING LEGACY

Spain became a beneficiary of European Economic Area grants on 1st January 1994. The objectives of the grants were two-fold: reduction of inequalities and strengthening of ties with Norway, Iceland and Liechtenstein. From 1994 until 2014, Spain received 375 million euros, the mark of which is present throughout the entire country in almost 500 projects that continue to benefit hundreds of thousands of people.

The priority areas of the European Economic Area Financial Mechanism (EEA Grants) have changed over time just as Europe itself has evolved. In the first two periods (1994–2003), the grants were dedicated to projects related to the renewal of historical heritage or infrastructure. In the third period (2004–2009) emerged the first glimpse of change that would become more apparent in the fourth period (2009–2014): smaller contributions to a greater number of projects in areas key to the sustainable development of the Spanish economy, such as

research, education and equality. Furthermore, over the last twenty years the structure of the funds has evolved from support to individual projects, towards a strategic focus on programmes in sectors considered a priority to the economy. In addition, the bilateral element has become even more significant.

Although EEA Grants have had a moderate impact at the level of large macroeconomic figures – given the relatively small quantity of funds when compared to the size of the Spanish economy and

to other sources of cohesion policy financing – they have left a profound mark on certain sectors and especially at a regional and local level.

1994/98

During the first period, Spain received 227 million euros in EEA Grants, which went into 15 projects. The majority of these were for the regeneration of urban centres and disadvantaged neighbourhoods, as well as the regeneration and valuation of historic heritage. The projects were implemented in regions that fell below the average of Spanish GDP, contributing to the objective of reducing inequality.

1999/2003

Between 1999 and 2003, 16 projects were launched within the mark of the 56.4 million euros Spain received during these years. Particularly environmental projects were initiated, and as with the previous period, the projects emphasised the regeneration of cities with a high level of historically important heritage. This provided support to tourism, one of the principal sources of income for the Spanish economy.

2004/09

In the period 2004–2009, initiatives within the field of human resources were financed, in order to support new businesses, gender equality and education: an advance to a new focus that would constitute the fourth and final period. In addition, projects related to heritage regeneration, infrastructure improvement and environmental renewal continued. In total, 46 million euros were distributed among 19 projects throughout this period.

2009/14

Spain's last period of finance (2009–2014) brought about a profound change regarding the grants conception. The approximately 46 million euros received were channelled through six programmes: R & D into the environment and renewable energies, civil society lead by NGOs, gender equality, cultural heritage, contemporary culture and education. By encouraging projects and programmes involving participants from the donor countries, in particular Norwegians, bilateral relations were strengthened and long-lasting sustainable links were established.

The contribution of the EEA Grants to reduce inequality in Spain cannot be measured in numbers. The importance of the chosen areas during these 20 years and the more than 400 projects financed and successfully concluded are proof of how

the grants have boosted the economic and social development of the country. In brief, we have carried out 162 research projects into the environment and sustainable energy involving 176 Spanish companies; 38 projects to strengthen the Third Sector of Social Action's capacity in Spain; 71 projects to improve equality between men and women in the labour market, achieving special emphasis in the most disadvantaged groups (victims of domestic violence, rural woman, immigrants, the Roma community); 28 cultural projects to further understanding while at the same time generating wealth; more than 100 research projects bringing together some of the top universities in Spain, Norway and Iceland, and around 200 scholarship students continuing

their studies in donor countries.

Twenty years of EEA Grants have contributed to a profound change in the lives of many people, strengthening key sectors of the economy and supporting a sustainable development in Spain. It has been twenty years that have brought Spain and Norway closer together, taking their bilateral relationship to another level and demonstrated that the distance between north and south can be reduced through collaborative work. Twenty years with many lessons learned, such as that being together makes us stronger, and that the ambitions for a better world are there; all that remains is to believe in them. However, one challenge remains: ensuring that the legacy of the grants will stand the test of time.



2009/2014 period with more than 400 projects funded in key areas is proof of how the grants have boosted the economic and social development of Spain

THE YEARS THAT CHANGED SPAIN

The Spanish economy underwent a dramatic transformation between 1994 and 2014, in two distinct phases: the period of expansion between 1994 and 2007, and the grave crisis that took hold in 2008 and was still in effect in 2014.

In 1994, Spain came out of one of its most serious recessions achieving a solid growth figure of 2.4% and initiating a reduction in unemployment rate from the record of 24.1%. That year a phase of expansion began that would last until 2007, during which Spain would overtake the European mean average.

This cyclical change was owed not only to an improvement in international integration but also to a change in the economic model. A privatisation plan of public companies was put into place with its stake in an area that would be hit hard by the arrival in Spain of the 2008 crisis: the construction sector. It was this sector that helped the economy to grow to a rate above 4% and unemployment to shrink from its historical high of 24% in 1999 to 8.3% in 2006, but that also generated a bubble of private debt and real estate speculation that ended in collapse in 2008. That year, the Spanish economy went into freefall.

With the change in climate, cuts and austerity became the reality for Spaniards, and although in 2014 macroeconomic figures

spoke of recovery, the rise in unemployment, particularly amongst the young (more than 50%), remained the dominant problem for the Spanish economy.

In the EU and with the euro
On 1 January 2002, the euro entered circulation into a Spain very distinct from the nation that joined the European Union in 1985.

Between 1986 and 2013, Spain received more than 150 billion euros through the European social cohesion policy, according to figures from the European Commission General Directorate of Regional Policy, which without doubt contributed to the modernization of Spain, above all in reference to its infrastructure.

The last twenty years have also witnessed the roll out of Spanish multinationals, investments abroad and exportations. That adds to the continuing increase of tourist numbers – in 2014, 65 million tourist visits were made, representing a historic record and putting Spain as the third global tourist destination, behind France and the United States. Spain is one of the principal tourist destinations for Norwegian citizens. Between 2013 and 2014, over 1.5 million visits from Norway were registered, making

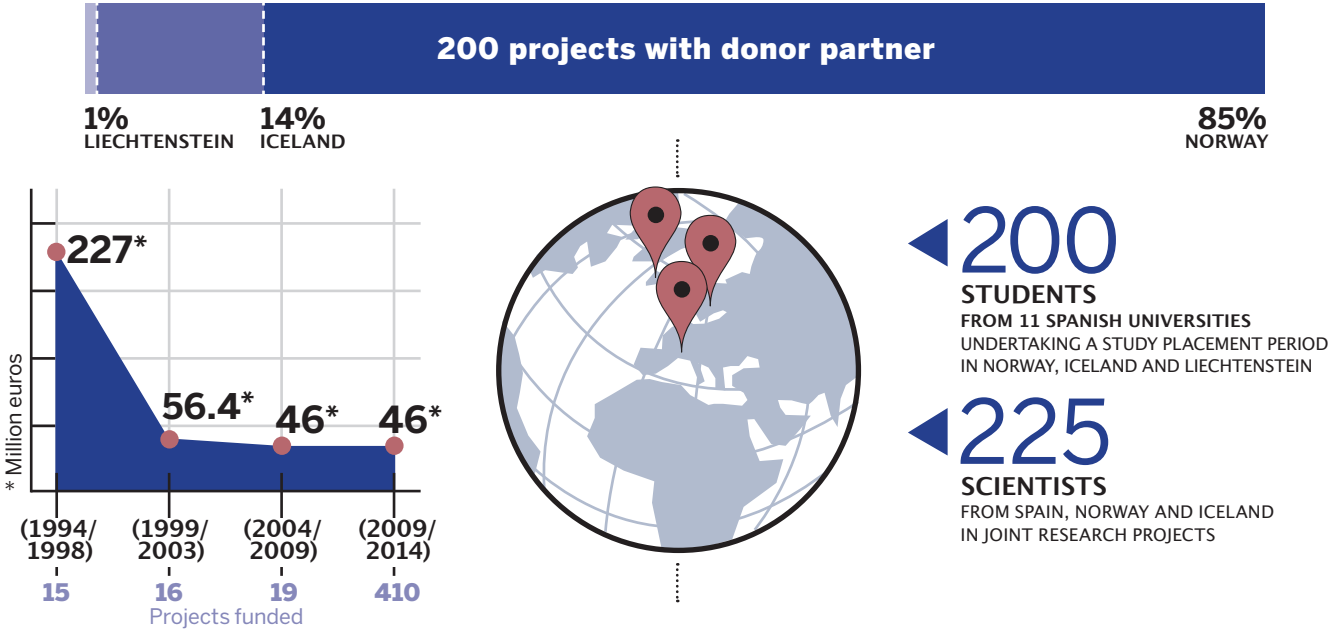
Spain the most visited country by Norwegians after Sweden.

The advances in the economy also brought with them a process of social change that transformed the face of Spain. The most significant is the arrival of immigrants. Spain is the European country where immigration grew the most during the years of economic expansion, becoming the base for population growth. Spain has not escaped the European trend of ageing societies, brought about by declining birth rates and higher life expectancy.

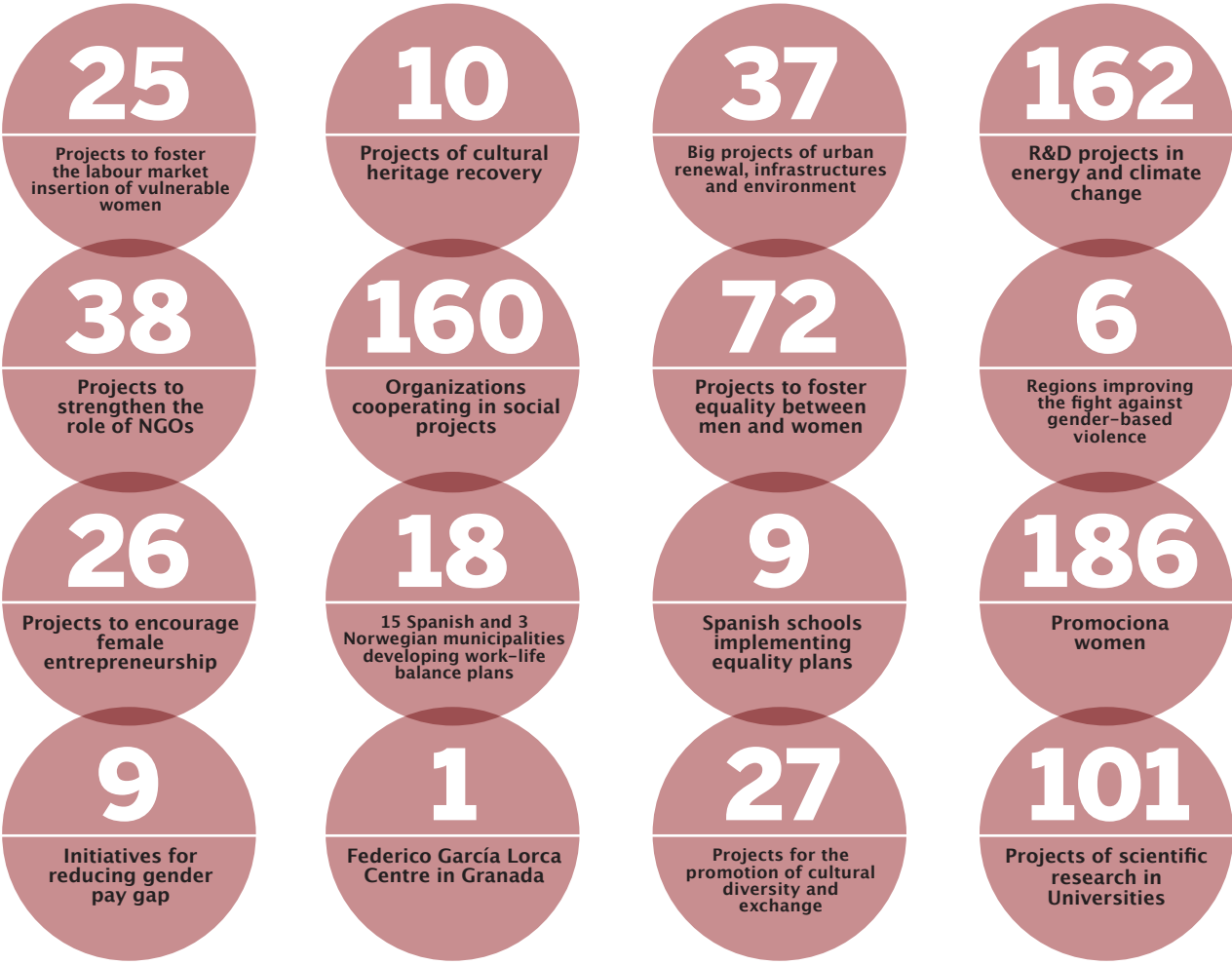
Equality and education
The positive evolution of Spain in terms of standard of living and equality advance was seriously affected by the crisis. In 2006, Spain ranked among the 11 countries in the world with smaller gender gap, according to the World Economic Forum Gender Equality Index, but since 2010 it has been steadily dropping to reach 29th place in 2014. In education, Spain stands out in children's education and the percentage of college-educated young people. However, the education system faces a very high drop-out rate and inefficient transition from education to the labour market.

The advances in economy also brought a deep process of social change

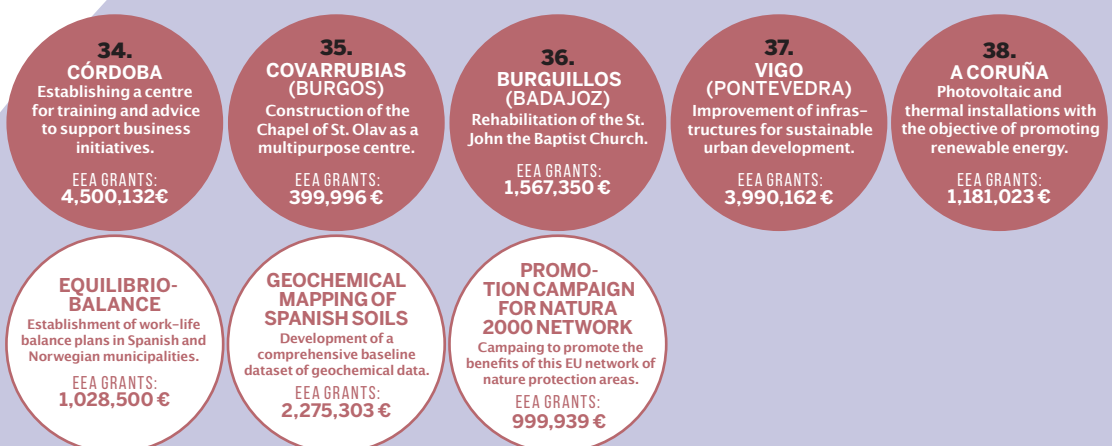
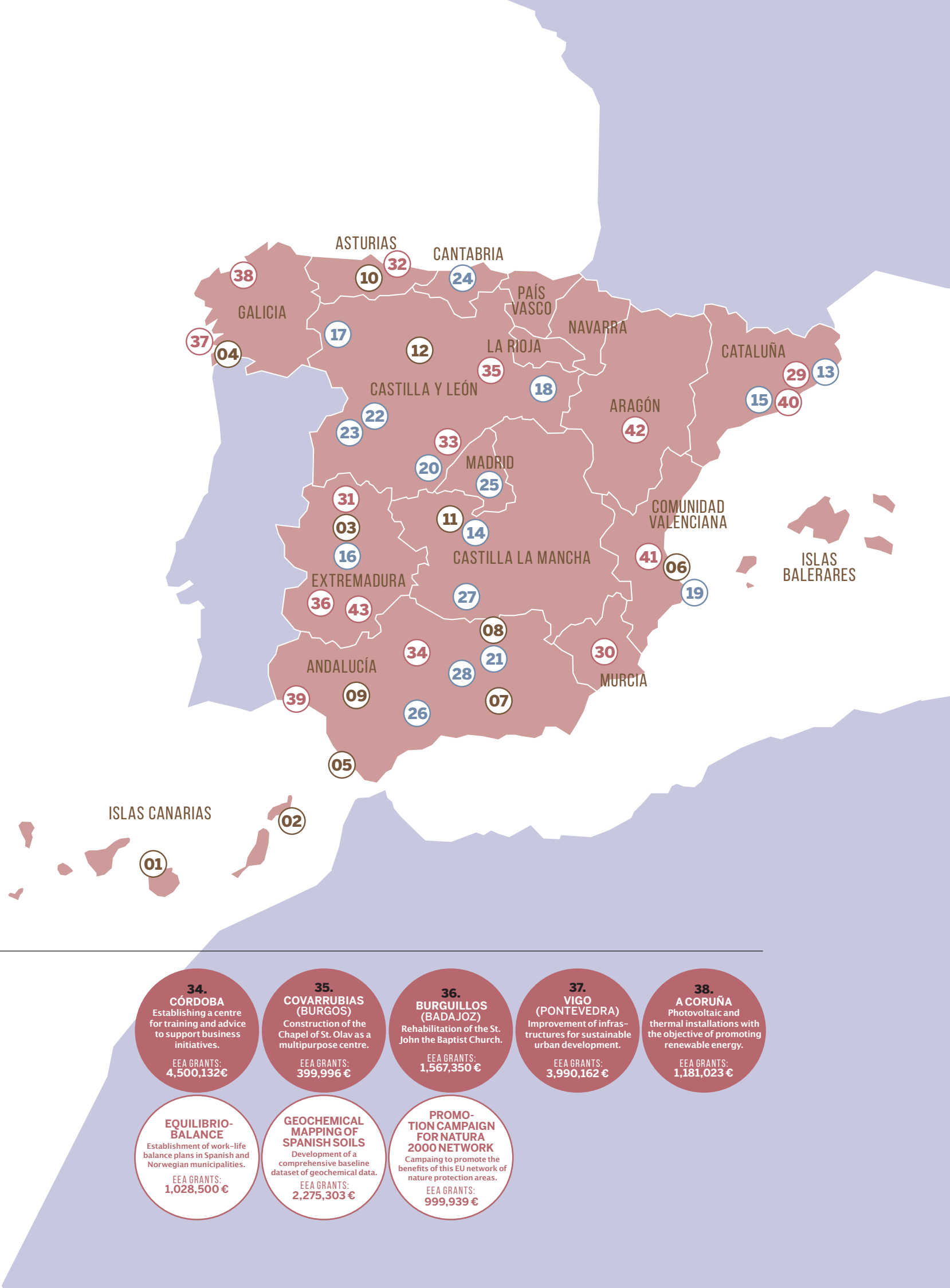
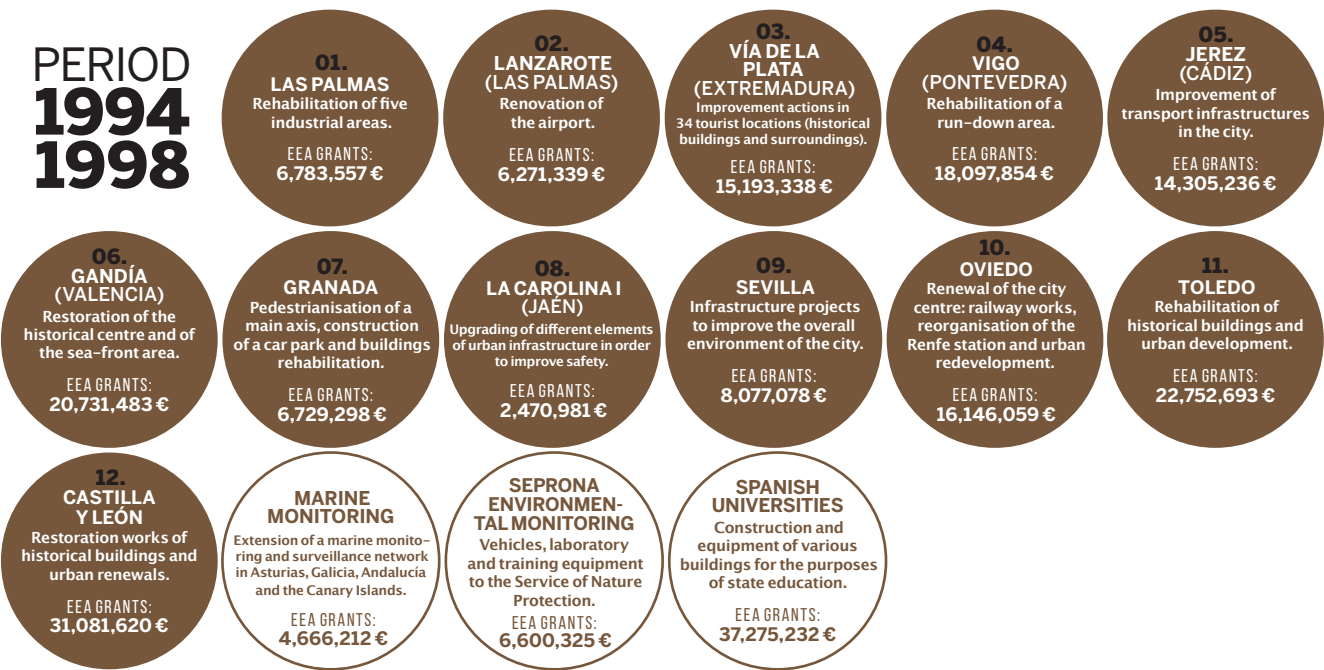
MILLION EUROS **375** | **460** PROJECTS FUNDED



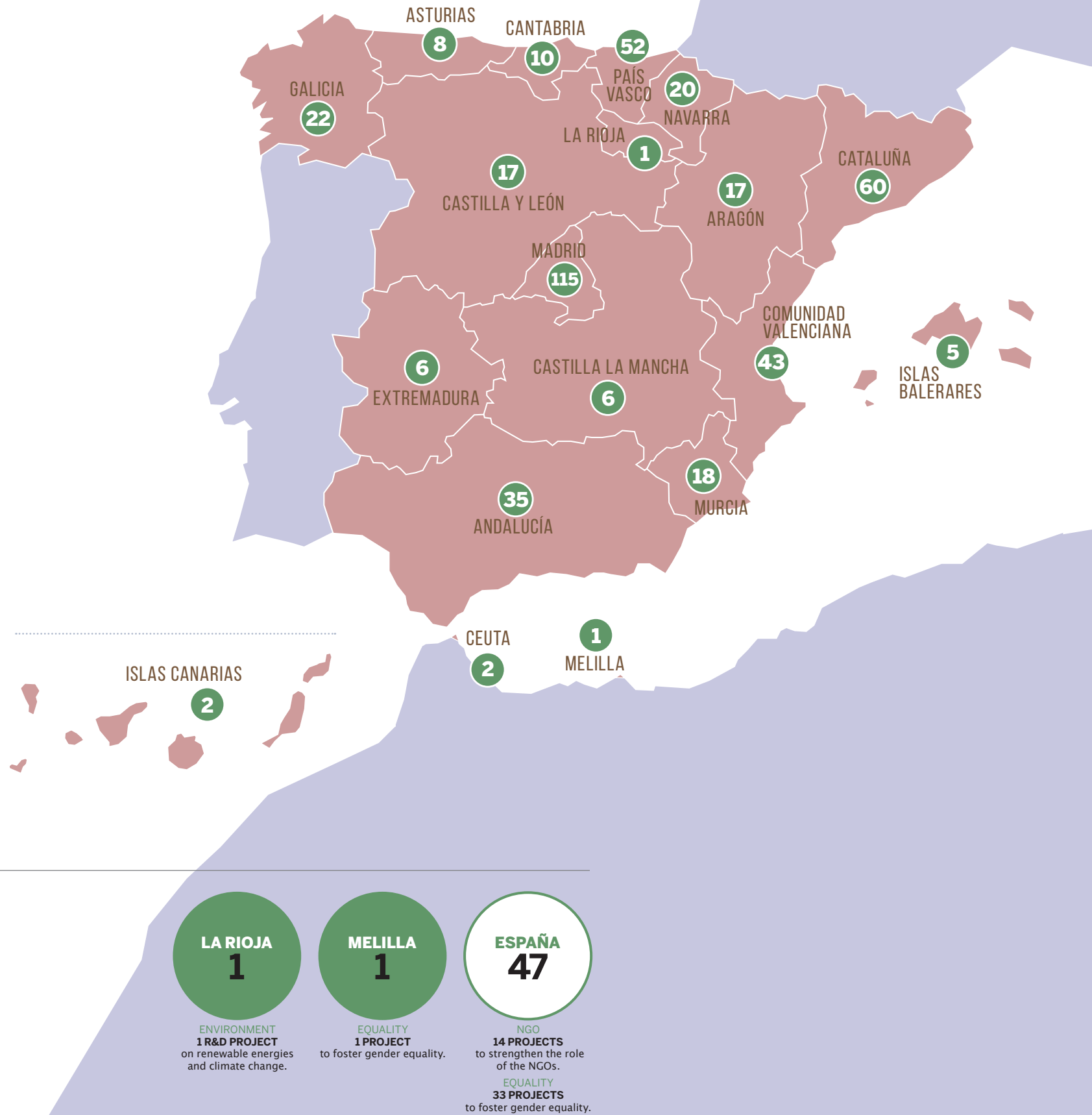
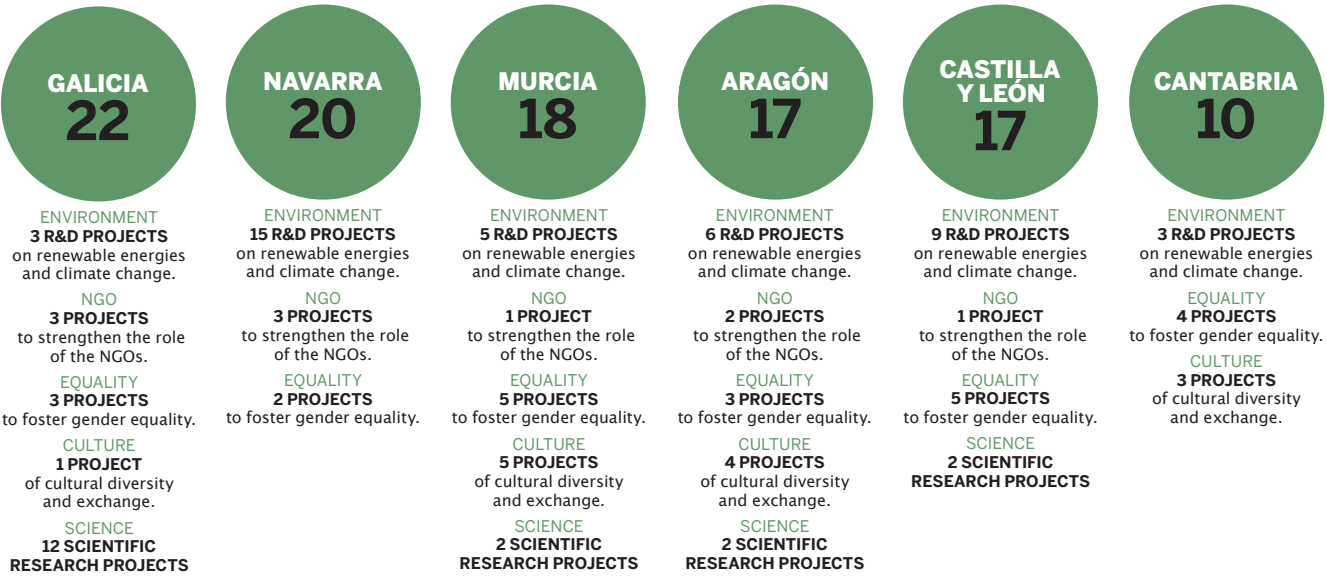
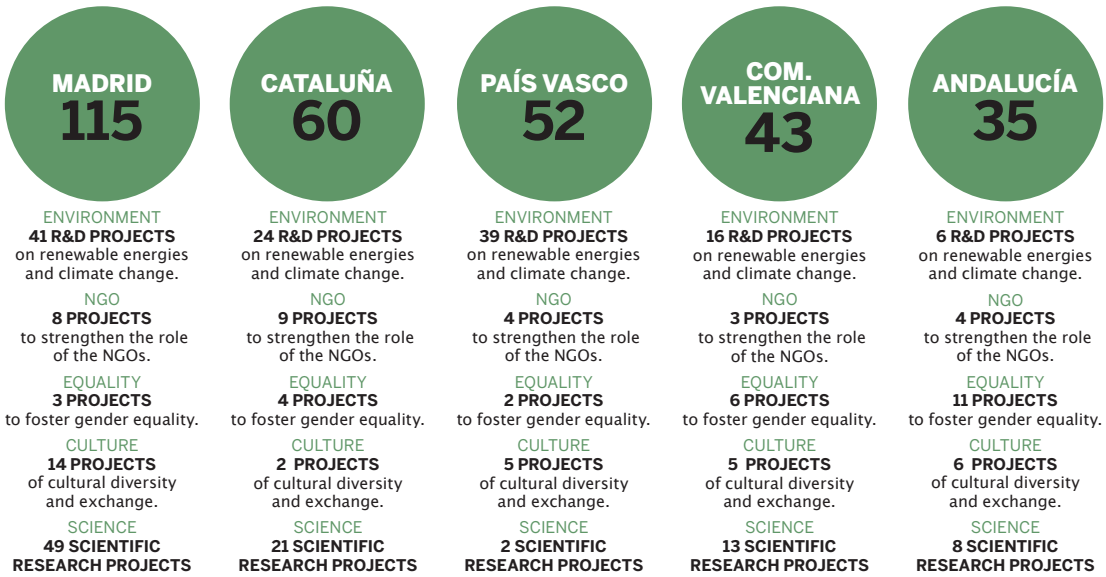
Solidarity and cooperation:



EEA GRANTS IN SPAIN |



PERIOD
2009
2014





WORKING TOGETHER FOR BETTER RESULTS

to strengthen relations and, what is more important, to build long-lasting bonds”, in the words of Luis Enrique San José, from CDTI.

“The mutual interest in collaborating in programmes such as Horizon 2020, other European initiatives and on other areas such as investment forums, SMEs and start-ups confirms that this is a cooperation that will continue beyond the EEA Grants”, explains Rodrigo Ballesteros Cruz, from Innovation Norway.

Gender equality

Not only Spain but also the EEA partners have benefitted from the cooperation because the exchange of knowledge, best practices and experiences has been a two-way process. This can clearly be seen in the Gender Equality Programme. “We knew from the beginning that we wanted to learn from Spain about policies related to gender-based violence and the integration of minorities, and we have developed some very good bilateral projects on these two topics”, points out Rachel Eapen Paul, from the Norwegian Equality and Anti-Discrimination Ombusman (LDO) and donor partner in this programme.

LDO and the Spanish Secretary of State for Social Services and Equality agree that the bilateral impact has been very “enriching, motivating and inspiring”, in particular because the cooperation has increased not only between both institutions, but also between many other stakeholders involved in the projects, such as Ministry Departments, municipalities, companies, NGO and individuals from Norway and Spain.

In this respect, it is worth mentioning Equilibrio-Balance project, in which the Spanish Women’s Institute and for Equal Opportunities, the Spanish Federation of Municipalities and Provinces and the Norwegian Association of Local and Regional

strengthening bilateral relations is one of the overall objectives of the EEA Grants. Through the different programmes, companies, institutions and artists from Norway and Spain have been allowed to discover how they can complement each other and has contributed to establish contacts and networks that are expected to continue beyond the funds. This has been achieved through targeted programmes and partnerships.

Research and development

As an example, 68% of the Spanish companies that have developed a R&D project in the field of environment and climate change with a donor partner foresee the cooperation will continue, according to a monitoring questionnaire answered by the companies.

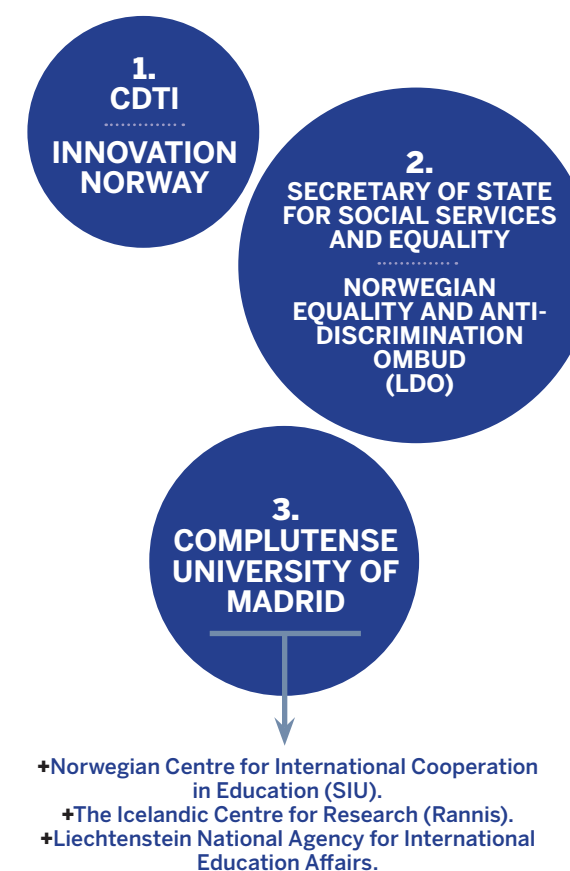
The joint work between the Spanish Centre for the Development of Industrial Technology (CDTI) and Innovation Norway, without a doubt, has contributed to this excellent result. Dissemination of the Open Calls, study visits, B2B meetings or big events such as a matchmaking seminar for entities from donor countries and Spain interested in submit joint proposals to EU programs “are the best possible way

Authorities (KS) have worked together to foster actions to facilitate work-life balance and promote shared responsibility between men and women. These actions took place in 15 Spanish and 3 Norwegian municipalities and included study visits, work sessions and best practices exchange meetings.

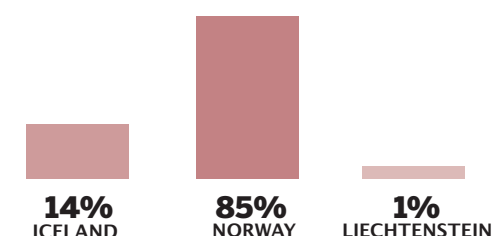
This Programme has also created interest from other countries. This includes the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women where the results and best practices stemming from the cooperation between Spain and Norway were presented in a Spanish side event.

2009/14 PERIOD

3 programmes with donor partner:



200 projects out of 410 with donor partner



Educational cooperation

Students and researchers mobility programme is another good example of bilateral relations strengthening. Indeed, all the projects developed, more than 100, had at last one donor partner which “have contributed to a better mutual understanding and the potential of future cooperation”, explains Marta Arregui, Programme director at the University Complutense of Madrid.

“There is no doubt in my mind that the EEA Grants have paved the way for future education and research cooperation between Norway and Spain. On the background of positive experiences from cooperation between our academic milieus, we hope that there will be joint ventures in the future through other complementary EU and international programmes”, adds Veena Gill, Senior Adviser in the Norwegian Centre for International Cooperation in Higher Education (SIU), donor partner of this programme.

A good example is a research project to develop new sustainable materials for energy applications, in which, following the positive results achieved, the Spanish team from the Complutense University and its partner, the Norwegian Institute for Energy Technology, have joined forces to seek European funding in order to continue their research.

EEA Grants have also contributed to open new horizons for the Spanish Universities participants in the students mobility programme. University of Valencia is going to train Norwegian teaching staff thanks to the ties developed with Oslo University.

Culture

In the cultural field, extensive bilateral relations have been established between entities and individual artists in Spain and the donor states. A good example of sustainability is that, as a result of the activities and the bilateral relations created during the implementation of the project Contemporary Theatre Speaking –in which Norwegian and Spanish theatre plays were translated into the other language and performed in both countries–, the project promoters were invited to join the Ibsen Festival 2014 in Oslo.

Besides, the project texts were also presented in the Women Playwright International Conference in Cape Town, because the president of the conference was a Norwegian director who attended the presentations in Oslo and invited them to join the Conference in South Africa.



1994 1998

Spain received 227 million euros

15 projects related to the renovation
of urban spaces and deprived areas,
and the recovery and valorization
of historic heritage

ledo's historical quarter, a subway station in Lisbon and the approximately twenty orthodox monasteries in the mythical Mount Athos of Greece. Despite the distance between them, they all have one thing in common: the support of a new and evolving Europe.

The European Economic Area Agreement (EEA) unites the EU member states with Norway, Iceland and Liechtenstein in a single market. Immediately following the EEA coming into force, funds from the Financial Mechanism 1994–1998 were employed to reduce the economic and social disparities in member states. In this period, 500 million euros were allocated in the form of direct contributions to projects in Greece, Ireland, Northern Ireland, Portugal and Spain. This figure increased thanks to interest allowances on loans from the European Investment Bank, to a further 1,500 million euros.

The regions concerned saw benefits not only as a direct result of the investments themselves, but

also as the accumulative effect of complementary grants from both private and public sources. Much had been delivered beforehand for the upkeep of initiatives principally focused on three priority areas: the environment, which included urban development, (receiving 61% of the grants released); education and training (22%); and transport (17%).

More than Greece and Portugal

At the foundation of these initiatives were the following objectives: the creation of local employment, the preservation of traditional trades, improved mobility, preservation of the environment and the promotion of socially sustainable economic growth.

Up to 8 Spanish regions benefitted from 45.4% of these subsidies (more than Greece and Portugal combined). The grant was composed of 227 million euros in funds from the EEA Grants, and 681 million euros in loan concessions.

This period saw the roll out of 15 projects in Spain. Three of these were at the national level, while the remaining twelve served eight autonomous regions. Of particular note among these initiatives was an EEA Grants investment of 15.2 million euros in the Extremadura section of the Vía de Plata. This project would go on to win the prestigious Europa Nostra Prize 2005, in the Cultural Landscapes Conservation category. It consisted of the restoration of 34 cultural treasures, including archaeological remains;

the renovation of roads, and the preservation of landscapes.

Within the field of cultural heritage, 31 million euros was given to the protection of Castilla y Leon's historic legacy. The resulting projects involved a series of improvement works in the cities of Leon, Salamanca and Burgos.

In the field of the environment, one project of particular note was that of the Civil Guard's Nature Protection Service (Seprona), which saw an investment of 6.6 million euros. This initiative enabled the organisation to procure a fleet of vehicles, as well as a laboratory for the monitoring of environmental parameters. It also provided the necessary training to officers working in this area. In addition, a further 8 million euros were granted to the Environment Seville project, dedicated to the improvement of the general environment at the local level.

Enhancement of the urban environment

In this first period of the EEA Grants, many projects were dedicated to the enhancement of the urban environment. Subsidies of 20.7 million euros supported renovations in the historic quarter of Gandía. As a popular tourist destination, the Valencian city also saw the restoration of its seafront as a second benefit of this investment. A further 18 million euros in grants went towards the promotion of commercial, recreational and cultural activities in the coastal area of Vigo (Galicia). 2.5 million were invested in the area of La Carolina (Jaén), and the city of Granada received a further 6.7 million euros, whose benefits included the renovation of ruined buildings in the neighbourhood of Albaicín. The Castilian city

1994
1998

Spain received 227 million euros for 15 projects in areas that contributed to boost local employment, mobility and, in general, a sustainable growth

of Toledo received 22.7 million euros, which was principally invested in the town's historic quarter.

Significant improvements to the transport systems of two other Spanish cities were also financed by the funds. In Oviedo, an investment of 16 million euros was granted to remove the surface railroad in the interests of creating an improved urban environment for the locals. In Jerez de la Frontera (Cádiz), the expenditure of 14.3 million euros allowed for improvements to the railway station, the construction of a new bus terminal and for measures to be taken with the road and rail networks. In another area, a further 6.8 million euros were invested in the redevelopment of five industrial zones in Las Palmas.

Also in the Canary Islands, in Lanzarote, 6.3 million euros was given to an AENA (Aeropuertos Españoles y Navegación Aérea) project for the extension of the island's airport.

Finally, the Financial Mechanism provided 4.7 million euros to an initiative for marine monitoring along the coasts in Asturias, Galicia, Andalusia and the Canary Islands, and a Ministry of Education project of 37 million euros for the construction of several buildings in eight Spanish universities. These last two initiatives complete the list of projects supported by the Financial Mechanism 1994–1998.



The city of Cáparra was known since XVI century for the Arc, the only one with these features preserved in the Iberian Peninsula.

PROJECT:
34 regional and local sub-projects of rehabilitation, protection and signaling of resources in Vía de la Plata (Extremadura).
PROMOTER:
Junta de Extremadura.
EEA GRANTS:
15,193,338 €

A ROMAN ROAD, A CULTURAL BACKBONE

Alba Plata project has brought back to life this communication path linking past and present and creating further opportunities for economic development.

The Itinerary of Antonio Augusto Caracalla, a Roman document created in the third century, is a road map that collates the principle roads of the Roman Empire. It also marks out the population centres and villas that feature along the way. In his Itinerary, Augusto Caracalla records the name of one of the most important routes of the Spanish provinces. It is called Iter ab Emerita Asturicam and it runs through the Iberian Peninsula from south to north, from Augusta Emerita (Merida) to Asturica Augusta (Astorga).

Vía de la Plata is an axis of communication that for two millennia has been connecting many important cities. From those seated in fertile valleys to others nestled among oak meadows and olive groves. In the present day, modern lines of communication to the west of Spain mark this ancient route.

In the beginning, the route followed the natural tracks used by animals in their migrations, later on to be used by the Iberian people before the arrival of the Romans. However, it was the latter who turned it into an important communication route after building a real Roman road. The road was used for many centuries and by the middle ages it had earned the name Via de la Plata (Silver Road), perhaps less for its relationship with the precious metal and more for the bastardization of the Arabic term al-balat (paving, cobbled).

Two millennia after their construction, the roads that launched Roman civilization have become a cultural artery that serves as the backbone to the region thanks to the Vía de la Plata–Extremadura Project. This is an initiative that benefitted from the investment of around 20 million euros, 15 of these provided by Norway, Iceland and Liechtenstein through the EEA Grants funding period 1994–1998.

“The Via de la Plata renewal project on its stretch through Extremadura – known as the Alba Plata Project –has breathed new life into historic and cultural heritage in Extremadura. This initiative launched a journey of transformation as this arterial road of Roman times became a window to the myriad of different cultures through the centuries,” explains Francisco Pérez Urbán, General Director of Libraries, Museums and Cultural Heritage of Extremadura.

Tourism and economy

The initiative consisted of 34 sub-projects that marked out the Iter (path) on its journey through the region. “These measures were dedicated to the restoration and adaption of properties of varying types. There were archaeological sites; we constructed information centres; shelters...” says Francisco Javier Serrano Rodriguez, support worker for tourism at the Junta de Extremadura. He adds that the road was conditioned at numerous stretches. A study concerning the restoration of road bridges was carried out and a new signage system was established along the route’s 325km.

Thirteen information centres were created, which in 2014 provided service to 130,000 visitors. The

FRANCISCO PÉREZ URBÁN
GENERAL DIRECTOR OF LIBRARIES, MUSEUMS AND
CULTURAL HERITAGE OF EXTREMADURA

“Alba Plata project initiated a new way of dealing with heritage renewal that have generated an example for others”



FRANCISCO JAVIER SERRANO RODRÍGUEZ
TOURISM ADVISER IN JUNTA DE EXTREMADURA

“The official figures of Extremadura Government reveal that Vía de la Plata is the fourth road among the ones that goes to Santiago”



MANUEL DE ALVARADO GONZÁLEZ
ARCHAEOLOGIST OF THE JUNTA DE EXTREMADURA

“The EEA Grants enabled the construction of the information centre at Cáparra’s archaeological site that receives 30,000 visitors annually”



boosting of cultural tourism was one objective of the project, while stimulation of the rural economy was another. “In the case of the nine shelters we constructed, we have seen these spurring on private initiatives in small villages to offer accommodation to pilgrims or walkers,” explains Serrano Rodriguez.

Among the interventions were the restorations of numerous items of heritage, such as a hermitage, an aqueduct and several castles and fortifications. There was also involvement in archaeological sites of different eras and cultures, but particularly of Roman remains, with a special incident in the important city of Cáparra.

Milestone 110

It was in Cáparra where the EEA Grants put into action one of its most ambitious interventions. According to Manuel de Alvarado, archaeologist of the Junta de Extremadura, the archaeological site at milestone 110 of the Iter ab Emerita has conserved the famous quadrifons arch in excellent condition. “In the 1990s Cáparra became one of the most important objectives of Roman archaeology in Extremadura. Its advantage was that it had been abandoned around the fifth century AD, and as such had been left practically untouched since then.”

Cáparra is one of the best places to appreciate the famous road. The Iter enters the city, where it joins the traditional paving (roadway found in city centres that consisted solely of stone). There it becomes the Decumanu Maximus or main road – running east–west. Under the Cáparra arch it meets Cardo Maximus, the principal north–south artery. It is around these



One of the most important actions within the project was the new signage system established along the route’s 325km in Extremadura. This has generated a considerable increase in the number of pilgrims who travel the Road.



focal points that the excavations have been concentrated.

“The thermal baths of Cáparra are the best known of all those which have been found in Extremadura,” says De Alvarado, who also underlines the importance of these interventions for the investigation of “the characteristics of Roman urban planning within the city. How the blocks were distributed, the smaller streets, even the interior planning of the houses themselves”. As well as enabling the construction of the information centre at Cáparra’s archaeological site, funding from the EEA Grants has also allowed for the region’s amphitheatre to be excavated.

“With the Alba Plata Project,” says Pérez Urbán, “Extremadura has initiated a new way of dealing with heritage renewal through comprehensive projects that unite distinct specialities, related to conservation, regeneration and exploitation of resources for tourism”. It is a model that has stood the test of time: “We have generated an example for others that has been visited, consulted and quoted on many occasions”. It should not be forgotten that the project received recognition on an international level, receiving the Europa Nostra Prize in 2005 in the heritage conservation as cultural landscape category. Two millennia after it was laid down, the Via de la Plata continues to serve as a backbone to civilization in Europe.



PROJECT:
Transformation of a part
of the city with the following
measures: refurbishment of the
Renfe station in the centre of Oviedo,
covering of the railway routes and
redesigning the zone.

PROMOTER:
Cinturón Verde de Oviedo S.A.

EEA GRANTS:
16,146,059 €

This urban and environmental intervention has removed the surface stretch of railway line that cut the city in half and has freed 80,000 square metres of pedestrian space, revolutionizing the model for urban development.

La Losa, or Flagstone station, is in reference to the elevated pedestrian area of more than 38,000 square metres, which has become one of the leisure hubs of the city.

OVIEDO COMES TO TERMS WITH THE TRAIN

Throughout the twentieth century, the residents of the Asturian city of Oviedo endured a daily struggle with its railway lines. The train was a mean of transport vital to this region due to its powerful industrial and mineral economy, and its spectacular, yet inhospitable, mountainous terrain. But the urban character of tracks, locomotives and wagons was overwhelming. Troubles were rife – interrupted traffic flow,

isolated neighbourhoods and residents with limited mobility just to mention a few – and became very much part of an industrial city poorly suited to the needs of its citizens. The line run by the erstwhile Sociedad General de Ferrocarriles Vasco Asturiana, in the beginning devoted to the transportation of coal, penetrated south into the city and divided it. It had its own station, del Vasco or de Jovellanos. Another line, of the Compañía

de los Ferrocarriles Económicos de Asturias, better known as the Económica was originally dedicated to the transportation of passengers around the counties of Asturias, and entered the region from the northeast, ending at Económicos station. Both stations, integrated into the FEVE network (Ferrocarriles Españoles de Vía Estrecha) now belong to ADIF. A road that also cut through the centre of the locality connected them.

PROJECTS 1994/98 | OVIEDO (ASTURIAS)

Finally, the line run by Spain's principal rail operator, RENFE, crossed the city from the west to the northeast. It cut into the city, dividing it into two: to the north, on the slope of Mount Naranco, was the neighbourhood of Ciudad Naranco; and to the south – so close and yet so distant – the centre of the city.

Altogether, four lines dividing Oviedo, four unsightly railway gateways to the city and three

stations with enormous banks of lines, together with their labyrinth of rails, crossings and ballast, the stones that carried the whole structure.

The future

However, this state of things is now part of the past. In the 21st century, Oviedo unveiled a reordering of the transport system, which has transformed it beyond recognition. Oviedo's Urban Renovation Project received an investment of 80 million euros; 16 million of this supplied between 1994 and 1998 by Norway, Iceland and Liechtenstein through the EEA Grants. Other urban operations projects running concurrently raised the total invested to 123 million euros.

The operation was carried out by Cinturón Verde de Oviedo SA and brought together three levels of public administrations: central, regional and local.

The intervention consisted of streamlining the city's railway system into one single route, which journeyed through the city from west to northeast, in order to integrate the four lines into one. Additionally, the Central Station was remodelled, and the banks of tracks were concealed with a giant covering that allowed for pedestrian movement above the level of the trains, which now remains hidden.

"The provision of Norwegian funds to this city and the rail project has resulted in an unprecedented quality of life throughout the area," explains María Paz Carrasco, Director of the Cinturón Verde de Oviedo. "It has created more pleasant environments, green zones, a pedestrian footway of seven kilometres, parks, gardens..." New environments which can be enjoyed by both the municipality's 220,000 inhabitants and its visitors (more than 750,000

overnight stays every year) in a locality that boasts of being awarded the prestigious Princesa de Asturias prize every year.

The citizens of Oviedo now call the terminal La Losa (flagstone) Station, in reference to the elevated pedestrian area, which has become one of the main leisure hubs of the city. "It is undoubtable that for walking, recreation and every kind of leisure activity, La Losa is a new space which is greatly appreciated by local residents," says Carrasco.

Access to La Losa is easy from both the train station and the adjacent streets, thanks to escalators and walkways. What is more, the viaduct for vehicular traffic that once connected the neighbourhood of Ciudad Naranco has been built into La Losa, and in such a way that it has reenergized a traditional neighbourhood that until recently was totally cut off from the city.

Naturally, in order to simplify the entire rail system within the city, it was necessary to undertake numerous works beyond its limits. These works were dedicated to the reorganization of lines through new corridors, the electrification of the lines, the replacement of metal bridges with cement ones, as well as the construction of a new 440 metre viaduct over the Nalón river.

Parks and leisure zones

Through this reorganisation, the city freed up thousands of square metres of degraded land that could be converted into parks, new avenues and leisure areas, among these a cycle path of 7.5 kilometers that connects the Parque de Invierno with the locality of Fuso. Next to the old rail terminal of Económica, a modern bus station has been constructed and brought order to coach traffic that in the past had departed from and arrived at different points in the city depending on the bus company.

"We have been able to create 80,000 square meters of free pedestrian space that has served as a revolution in Oviedo's urban development model," says Ignacio Ruiz Latierro, municipal engineer. "At the same time that these spaces were being created, a pioneering pedestrianisation campaign was launched in Spain which saw Oviedo become a city with one of the highest numbers of journeys undertaken by foot. Oviedo is now one of the most sustainable cities in existence."



MARÍA PAZ CARRASCO
DIRECTOR OF CINTURÓN
VERDE DE OVIEDO, S.A.

"The EEA Grants have brought about an unprecedented quality of life throughout the area, integrating outlying neighbourhoods and creating more pleasant environments"



Both the municipality's 220,000 inhabitants and its estimated 750,000 annual visitors enjoy the new environments.



IGNACIO RUIZ LATIERRO
CITY ENGINEER

"At the same time that these spaces were being created, a pioneering pedestrianisation campaign was launched in Oviedo, becoming one of the most sustainable cities in Spain"



1999 2003

Spain received 56.4 million euros

16 projects funded in the fields
of environment, urban renewal and
cultural heritage recovery

The charitable support of Norway, Liechtenstein and Iceland in some of the most disadvantaged countries of the European Union did not come to an end in 1998. In the wake of the success of the first rollout of the Financial Mechanism grants in the period 1994–1998, a second period was launched during 1999–2003 with the benefit of increased experience. In this second five-year period, the countries benefitting from grants of 95.5 million euros were Portugal, Greece, the Irish Republic, Northern Ireland and Spain, the latter being the nation that received most, to the tune of almost 60% of all total investments.

Environment

23 projects were launched in beneficiary countries during this period. 16 of these were undertaken in eight of the autonomous regions of Spain. The total investment figure from the Financial Mechanism Funds in Spain rose to 56.4 million euros.

At the same time, Ireland, for example, was converting an old industrial building into “The Lifetime Lab”, a theme park and museum dedicated to water. Greece saw the installation of Poseidon II, a complex monitoring and forecasting system in the Mediterranean Sea. In Spain, projects of every nature

were undertaken, committed to such objectives as environmental improvement, urban regeneration, pollution reduction and the restoration of historic heritage.

Of these, two in particular warrant particular attention: Zamora I and Zamora II. These represented the provision of a total of 9.5 million euros for the replacement of the city’s drinking water supply and residual water treatment system. In the same autonomous region, in the city of Ávila, a further project of interest was developed. 4.15 million euros went towards the regeneration and

environmental integration of a local stretch of the River Adaja’s right bank.

Continuing in the vein of environmental renewal, another project was set up to restore the Garraf rubbish dump, in the province of Barcelona. Funded to the tune of 5.2 million euros, it facilitated the environmental integration of the dump with the nearby Garraf Nature Reserve. Thanks to a further investment of 3 million euros, another plan was developed to restore polluted ground in the District of Madrid. Further to this, 2.8 million euros went towards the improvement of the rainwater regulation and treatment system in Puertollano (Ciudad Real). To the west, the region of Extremadura saw an environmental initiative to regenerate a number of areas that had been degraded due to the mining activity of earlier eras. This project received an investment of 3.85 million euros.

More pleasant cities

Projects were also established for the regeneration of several urban municipalities. These initiatives took place with the wider objective of creating a more positive city environment for the citizen. In La Carolina (Jaén), a 2.4 million euros project was set up to install public lighting in disadvantaged neighbourhoods. In addition to this, sidewalks were replaced in outlying areas and streets and town squares were renovated. Toledo saw the renovation of two of its streets, the Ronda de Buenavista and the Ronda Sur, with a cost of 2.9 million euros. In Cantabria, with a further funding of 3.4 million euros, work was done to the run down neighbourhood of

1999
2003

Spain received 56 million euros that funded 16 projects aiming at making cities more sustainable and boosting tourism

Entrehuertas in Santander, specifically in the areas of Río de la Pila and Prado de San Roque.

With regard to the preservation of cultural and historic heritage, a number of projects were launched. These included the regeneration of the historic quarter of Xàbia (Alicante), which received funding to the tune of 3.4 million euros. A further 2.35 million euros was dedicated to the restoration of the palace of Don Luis de la Cueva and a 980,000 euros project saw to the renewal of ancient streets of Hostalric (Girona). In Castilla y Leon another ambitious project was set into motion in Soria. With a budget of 2.5 million euros, this initiative carried out restoration to the city’s ancient centre, most notably to the Calle Mayor and several historic buildings.

A spectacular heritage

Finally, two further spectacular projects were undertaken during the period 1999–2003, both shining examples of the effective use of the Financial Mechanism funds in the field of historic heritage. One in Ponferrada, with a budget of 8.26 million euros, was concerned with the restoration of the Leonese city’s Templar Castle. The second, named La Ruta de las Dos Andalucías (The Route of the Two Andalusias), involved a cost of 7.2 million euros. Its benefits were seen in the Andalusian municipalities of Estepa, Antequera, Herrera, Lora de Estepa, Úbeda, Baeza and Villacarrillo y Sabiote, as well as the provinces of Malaga, Sevilla and Jaen. The result of this latter project was to enhance the value of historic buildings, archaeological sites, monuments and artistic works.

A TEMPLAR CASTLE FOR THE 21st CENTURY

Since its restoration, around 100,000 people annually enjoy cultural and educational activities within the fortification.

Majestic towers, imposing walls, powerful battlements: the Leonese city of Ponferrada in the region of Bierzo, shows off its magnificent Templar castle with pride. A fortification declared a national monument in 1924, which has suffered five centuries of slow pillage and decline. Indeed 100 years ago it narrowly escaped being converted into a football pitch, but now the castle shines completely restored, thanks to a complex series of measures made possible with an investment of 8.15 million euros from the EEA Grants.

The image we now see is comparable to the one that inspired awe in the 15th century, in its era of supreme splendour,

In 1178, Ponferrada fell under the authority of the Order of the Temple. The Order extended and improved the fortification of the city to defend the Camino de Santiago.

when Pedro Álvarez Osorio, First Count of Lemos, bequeathed to the aging fort the status of castle, and even constructed a renaissance palace within its confines. Thus was a fortification modernized that has within its construction traces of wooden stockades that date back to the Iron Age, and which as a stonewalled enclosure has been described in written sources from 1187. A mere few years later, Fernando II de León would establish there the Order of the Knights Templar.

Templars and Pilgrims

The Knights Templar was the mythical military order founded at the beginning of the 12th century, after the First Crusade. Back then, it was known as the Order of the Poor Knights of Christ and the Temple of Solomon. It was charged with the protection of the Christian devotees who travelled to Jerusalem, and it was this mission that was adopted in the Iberian Peninsula through the protection of pilgrims on the Camino de Santiago. This route had already been running through Ponferrada on its way to Galicia since the beginning of the 9th century.

For centuries, citizens from all over Europe – and nowadays from all over the world, (not all of them Christians as in the past) – have followed this route. Millions of pilgrims, admirers of the figure of St. James, have walked this route on their journey towards the city where the remains of the fisherman and patron saint of Spain are said to reside. Ponferrada, with a population of 67,000 inhabitants, is one of the most important stops on the

PROJECT:
Restoration and improved economic output of the Templar castle as well as the creation of a new environment through an integrated project.

PROMOTER:
Ponferrada City Council.

EEA GRANTS:
8,157,190 €

BEFORE
The castle as we know it today is the result of a series of extensions that date back to the beginning of the 12th century and until the present day.

main route, which is known as the Camino Francés (the French Path). It is this branch of the path that 70% of the almost 250,000 pilgrims walk, according to la Oficina del Peregrino de Santiago (the Pilgrims Office of Santiago).

“The EEA Grants have transformed and breathed life into what is both one of the most emblematic fortifications on the Iberian Peninsula, and one of the most important Templar sites in Europe”, explains Javier García Bueso, Director of Ponferrada Museums. He is proud of the

the interior of the fortification with new builds, and the exterior with new towers and barricades. Its deterioration was stark, elements had eroded away, many of its stones had been used for the construction of buildings in the city, and the land of the interior had been levelled for the creation of a football pitch following the creation in 1922 of the Ponferrada Sports Society. A large proportion of the big palace rooms had even been filled up with rubble, in such a way that trees were growing to the ceiling in some of the outbuildings.

created that wasn’t a part of the original castle,” explains José Luis Velasco, architect responsible for the coordination of the project through Ponferrada’s local council. He speaks of an “exemplary intervention” that at no point attempted to falsify historic reality. It remains clear to the viewer which elements of the construction are new and which belong to each one of the original construction phases of the monument.

The fortification even features la Coracha or mine, a steep passageway in the form of a semi-

For everyone

“At the moment, and now that the restoration is complete, the castle has at its disposal 4,000 square metres of rooms for a range of different uses: conventions, conferences, concerts...” explains Velasco. “This achieves the final objective of this investment. It was not just about restoring a building but also about optimizing its value, so that both local residents and tourists would be able to enjoy different events within its walls.” As well as staging concerts and conferences, educational activities related to the medieval world take place. Already famous are the Knights Templar Evenings. There are temporary exhibitions and the castle itself, which receives almost 100,000 visitors a year, is the centrepiece of a permanent exhibition named Templum Libri. “It is considered one of the most important collections of copied books of graphic work in Europe,” explains García Bueso. “It is an exceptional collection in which local residents and tourists will find some of the most important books in the history of humanity and within the fields of humanities and science.”

The Mayor of Ponferrada, Gloria Fernández Merayo, expresses her special gratitude to the citizens of Norway, Iceland and Liechtenstein: “They have helped us reclaim our history. They have enabled us to promote such impressive a monument as the castle is, but they have also helped us to see the value of our history, to repay the debt we owed to our predecessors, and to conserve this monument for those who come after us”. The mayor declares confidently that “these days, the castle forms the bedrock of the tourist industry in Ponferrada.”

JAVIER GARCÍA BUESO
DIRECTOR OF MUSEUMS,
EVENTS MANAGER AT THE CASTLE

“This fortification occupies more than 8,000 square metres and forms the backbone, along with the Camino de Santiago, of all the cultural activity in the city”



GLORIA FERNÁNDEZ MERAYO
MAYOR OF PONFERRADA

“The castle forms the bedrock of the tourist industry in Ponferrada, and tourism is one of the pillars upon which we are building the economic regeneration of Ponferrada and Bierzo”



JOSE LUIS VELASCO GONZÁLEZ
COORDINATOR AT THE OFFICE OF DEVELOPMENT,
PONFERRADA TOWN COUNCIL

“The work remains totally faithful to what the castle was at its origin. Every level of battlements, walls and cornices are a true image of what the castle was in its heyday”



wealth of history present here, in what was also important to the Romans due to the presence of the mythical Médulas, the most important goldmines of the whole empire.

Splendour in ruins

The integrated restoration plan for the castle and its environs, developed under the direction of the architect Fernando Cobos, had to take into account the complexity of a construction that had undergone successive amplifications that equipped

The castle remained almost completely hidden from locals and passers-by, given that in the last century, dozens of dwellings, terraced along its east wall, had encroached into the moat and blurred the lines of the imposing construction. Now, after a restoration, which has also affected the adjacent streets and lit up the entire setting, the castle boasts the same splendour as it did in the era of the Count of Lemos. “Not a single square meter has been invented or generated, nor has a single new space been



1.
Templum Libris exhibits the majesty of the most beautiful books in history in a permanent exhibition of facsimiles. They feature a diverse range of authors and genres. The graphic work of Dalí, Picasso and Chillida can be found within the collection.

2.
The castle has at its disposal more than 4,000 square metres of rooms for a range of different uses: conventions, conferences, concerts...

subterranean and domed staircase that descends out of sight as far as the River Sil for purposes of water supply in case of siege. In addition, archaeological excavations are currently underway in the central esplanade that have uncovered the ancient circular structures of “la pallozas”, the rudimentary circular dwellings that were erected within the fortification in its earliest days.

FROM A MAJOR WASTE PLANT TO A NATURAL PARK

The Valle d'en Joan was one of the principal waste processing plants in Europe for nearly three decades. Today, sealed and without a single trace of waste, fifteen completely reforested areas have been created with the objective of their complete integration into Garraf's natural park.

The process of planting vegetation was done through the use of very resilient native species; those with low hydration needs which were well adapted to the environment.

Garraf's natural park, an extraordinary 12,376 hectares enclave in Catalunya, protected by its environment value, the beauty of vegetation and wildlife, is one of the big green spaces in Barcelona. It is a magnificent Mediterranean landscape of oaks and pine trees. And one of its corners, Valle d'en Joan (D'en Joan Valley) opens to the South offering a great horizon with Mediterranean Sea at the back. It is a quiet spot home to wild boars and birds.

Although it is difficult to imagine for those enjoying the views, under their feet is a build-up of layers and layers of solid urban waste to a depth of a hundred metres. It is an immense mass of rubbish, which runs through the valley like a glacier. It is large enough to completely engulf Gaudi's Sagrada Familia, Barcelona's best-known monument. Although these days it does no longer appear to be so, the Valle d'En Joan was one of Europe's principal waste dumps for almost three decades.

Opened as an emergency measure in 1974 during a waste management

PROJECT:
Closure of the waste process plant and restoration of the area through the decontamination of the site and the construction of a public park.

PROMOTER:
Metropolitan Area of Barcelona.

EEA GRANTS:
5,122,458 €



THE PROCESS

Converting the waste plant into a natural park has been achieved through the complete sealing of rubbish, irrigation, the installation of a capture and collection system for the biogas produced by the waste's fermentation, and finally: reforestation.

crisis in Barcelona's metropolitan zone, and closed to waste processing in 2006, the Garraf plant received 26.5 million tonnes of waste during these decades. Only a few years before, in 2001, the work towards the closure of the plant began. It would be a task divided into four phases. The first two, which would affect 20 hectares (around a quarter of the valley) and which had a budget of 12.8 million euros, benefitted from a subsidy of 5 million euros from the EEA Grants during the period 1999–2003.

The largest urban agglomerate of the Western Mediterranean is centred around Barcelona. A total of 36 municipalities that occupy barely 636 kilometres, 1.98% of Catalonia's territory, but in which 3 million people reside. This accounts for as much as 43% of the population. An urban region of immense activity and impact, as it accounts for 63% of the region's GDP.

Over decades, immense quantities of waste were generated– more

than a kilogram per person per day. Now, most of the 1.35 million tonnes of waste generated annually are collected and disposed of selectively. However, in the seventies and the years before, 1.5 million tonnes of rubbish were sent to the Garraf dump, raw and untreated.

"The difference between a closed dump and a sealed dump is that

a closed dump no longer receives waste, and a sealed dump is one that has undergone all the waterproofing, gas extraction and leaching measures that regulations demand," explains Sofía Bajo de la Fuente, Head of Waste Treatment and Selection for the Metropolitan Area of Barcelona. This was an institution created to serve municipalities with services such as city planning, public transport,

water purification and local waste processing. The sealing works, she explains, seek to integrate the waste dump into the environment.

Nevertheless, the sealing was not an easy task. Despite the landscape renewal, many years would pass before the area opens to the public. The work has now been completed, through the creation of 15 reforested areas, which accounts for

around a third of the total surface area. Around 15 people now work at the facility in Valle d'En Joan.

"The restoration consists of the total sealing of waste, and in the organisation of degasification and reforestation zones," explains Jordi Izard I Granados, Company Director of Tratamiento Industrial de Residuos Sólidos SA (Industrial Treatment of Solid Waste). He is

responsible for the management of the facility. The methane gas produced by the dump, with a greenhouse effect 20 times more harmful than CO₂, is extracted and used for the production of energy, which is then channelled into the electric grid, according to Izard. Leachates are collected through channels at the base of the dump. These are polluting liquids excreted by the waste (more than 100 cubic metres daily) that must be appropriately treated before they can be absorbed into the public waste treatment system.

The final aim of these measures is that this enclave, after suffering a terrible impact over decades, may be enjoyed again by future generations. "This belongs to the Garraf Natural Park and we want it to be totally integrated with both the flora and the fauna," says Sofía Bajo. "The sign of success will be when it becomes impossible to distinguish between the surrounding vegetation and the one planted in the restored zone."

SOFÍA BAJO DE LA FUENTE
HEAD OF WASTE TREATMENT AND
SELECTION FOR THE METROPOLITAN
AREA OF BARCELONA

"The closed waste dump belongs to the Garraf Natural Park and we intend to integrate it completely both with the flora and the fauna"



JORDI IZARD I GRANADOS
DIRECTOR, INDUSTRIAL TREATMENT
OF SOLID WASTE, S.A. (TIRSSA)

"The methane gas produced by the dump, with a greenhouse effect 20 times more harmful than that of CO₂, is extracted and used for the production of energy, which is then channelled into the electric grid"



2004 2009

Spain received 46 million euros

19 projects funded related to
climate change, renewable energy,
historic heritage recovery,
education, scientific research and
human development.

In this period, 600 million euros were distributed among 13 countries. The beneficiaries, in addition to Greece, Portugal and Spain, were the ten new EU-members (Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, the Czech Republic, Hungary, Slovakia, Slovenia, Malta and Cyprus) that were accepted into the union on the 1st of May 2004. Spain benefitted from almost 46 million euros financing 19 projects which dealt with topics such as climate change and renewable energies, cultural heritage restoration, scientific research and education and human and social development. Of these nineteen projects, four were developed at the national level and the rest within nine autonomous regions. The wide scope of these projects both in terms of territory and population and the importance of the topics, serve to underline the essential contribution that the EEA Grants have made both locally and nationally.

Fire protection

In the front line against climate change, and benefitting from an investment from the EEA Grants in Andalusia of 4.5 million euros, is the restoration of a publicly owned forested area, which suffered a fire at Minas de Río Tinto and Charco Frío. Another 3 million euros were used to construct appropriate infrastructure to protect against fire in forested areas, managed by the Hydrographic Confederation of Ebro. In Murcia, with another 3 million euros, and in Extremadura with a further contribution of 2 million euros, projects were focused on the regeneration of forests affected by fire.

In Buñol (Valencia) an 800,000 euros project was put into action for the conversion of a degraded area of the River Buñol to a recreational area. The objective of this project was to improve quality of life for the inhabitants and to make the area more attractive for tourists. With a further investment of 1 million euros, in collaboration with the Spanish Ornithology Society (SEO), projects were launched in four autonomous regions to boost awareness and recognition of Natura 2000, a network of protected areas supported by the European Union through the Habitats Directive.

At the same time, in the province of La Coruña, another project of 1.2 million euros was developed to reduce fossil fuel consumption and the emission of harmful gases through the advancement of renewable energies. This was achieved through the use of photovoltaic panels and thermic installations in municipal buildings.

Cultural heritage as a resource

Regarding cultural heritage, projects included the restoration of several locations along the Roman road of la Vía de la Plata on its route through Extremadura. A project for 1.5 million euros provided new tourist services along the almost 2000 year old route. In Segovia, 2.3 million euros enabled the launch of four restoration projects: The city wall, the part of the Roman aqueduct that lay outside the city, the Jewish cemetery and the historic hydraulic structures along the River Eresma.

Similarly, in Hostalric (Girona) 930,000 euros were granted to the restoration of the city's medieval wall. In Burguillos del Cerro (Badajoz), the EEA Grants provided a further 1.6 million euros for the complete restoration of the San Juan Bautista church. And in Covarrubias (Burgos), in the wake of the growing interest in the story of Princess Kristina of Norway, another 400,000 euros were invested in the construction of the Saint Olav Chapel, which in turn has had a very positive impact on the tourist economy in the region.

Knowledge, Science and the City

On another area, the EEA Grants gave 1.75 million euros to advance the exchange of students and

The support from Norway, Iceland and Liechtenstein has provided an essential boost for dozens of projects in countries with the greatest inequalities in Europe

researchers between the University of Complutense in Madrid and educational centres in Norway, Iceland and Liechtenstein. 2.3 million euros was given to the Spanish Institute of Geology and Mining for the development of a complete geochemical atlas of Spain, which provides a database of mineral resources present in the soil and sediments of the Iberian Peninsula.

In Cordoba, at a cost of 4.5 million euros, an education and assessment centre was established to support business initiatives dedicated to the reduction of unemployment and the invigoration of the province's economy. Another 500,000 euros invested in the Science and Technology Park in Gijón assisted innovative companies in the region. And with a budget of 1 million euros, another project was rolled out at the Women's Institute for the establishment of best practices at the municipal level concerning the reconciliation of family and work life (Work-Life Balance).

Finally, two ambitious projects were put in place for the creation of a more positive urban environment to the benefit of residents. One, in Barcelona, at a cost of 3 million euros, was dedicated to the limiting of architectural barriers and improved access to the Tres Turons and Guëll parks. The second, with an investment of 4 million euros, saw to the improvement of the urban environment in the city of Vigo (Galicia).

2004
2009

SEGOVIA INCREASES ITS ALLURE

This city, declared World Heritage site, is much more than the Cathedral or the Alcázar, and thanks to the EEA Grants project, other local treasures have been highlighted expanding the tourist offer.

With eighty towers and measuring three kilometres, Segovia's city wall is a marvel. It circumvents the enormous rock upon which the city sits, but few visitors ever walk its length. At the same time, in the outskirts of the region there is a beautiful and tranquil pine forest, haven to a Jewish cemetery that for too long has been abandoned to its fate. Segovia's aqueduct – a National Heritage monument – is not simply that colossal structure of one hundred and sixty six arches which has traversed the city for nearly two thousand years. It extends far beyond the reaches of the city to source water from the River Frío, over thirteen kilometres of ingenious hydraulics that have continued to function for two millennia.

This is a story of national treasures, unknown to most, which Segovia has now decided to bring to light. It now recognises their true value and will showcase them to visitors as alternatives or compliments to the city's better known and more established charms. Making this project a reality has been an investment of 4,571,539 euros, of which half has been provided by EEA Grants.

Segovia, with few more than 50,000 inhabitants and at only ninety kilometres from Madrid, boasts eighty monuments and sites declared places



Segovia conserve the majority of its city walls and the Aqueduct is over two thousand years old.



PROJECT:
Restoration and adaptation of cultural heritage monuments such as the Aqueduct, the City Walls and the Jewish cemetery in order to boost tourism and cultural sector.

PROMOTER:
Segovia City Hall.

EEA GRANTS:
2,268,063 €



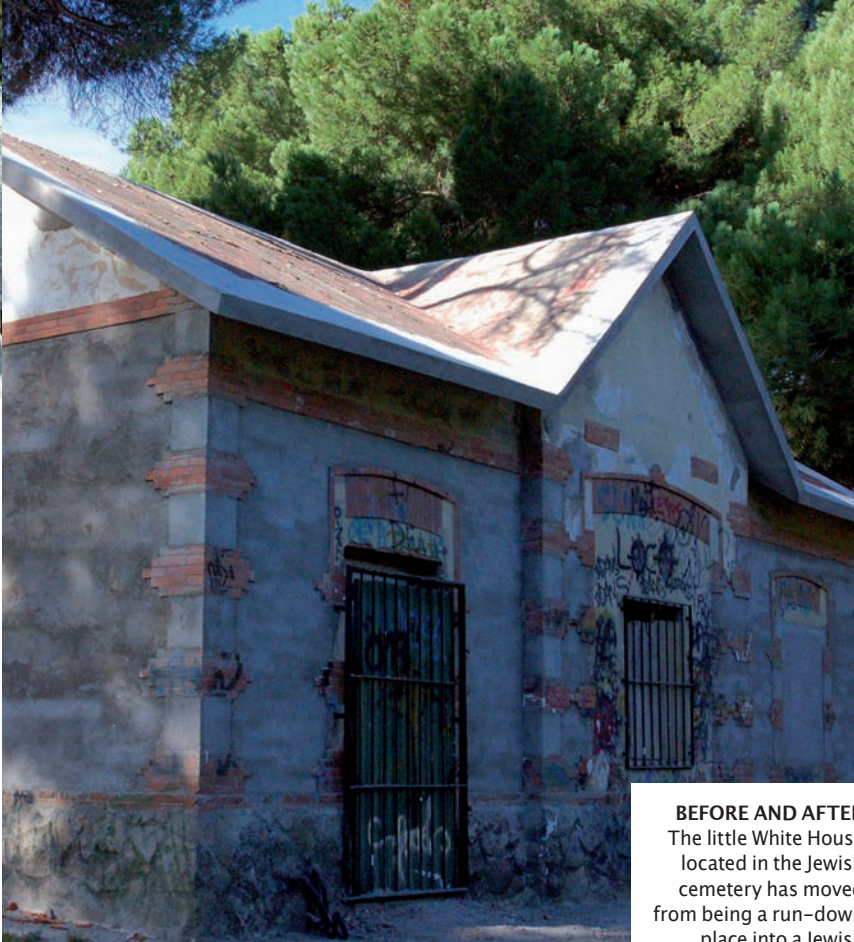


CLAUDIA DE SANTOS
ADVISOR IN HERITAGE AND TOURISM FOR
THE SEGOVIA REGIONAL GOVERNMENT

“Access to this EEA Grants funding has been an absolute privilege for Segovia”

“The recovery of the Jewish cemetery has respected our traditions and by knowing our past we come to know our present a little better”

CAROLINA AISEN
DIRECTOR OF THE FEDERATION OF
JEWISH COMMUNITIES OF SPAIN



BEFORE AND AFTER
The little White House located in the Jewish cemetery has moved from being a run-down place into a Jewish cultural centre.



of cultural interest. Claudia de Santos, advisor in Heritage and Tourism for the Segovia Regional Government explains further: “It all represents a magnificent but heavy patrimonial responsibility for a city that must dedicate the largest part of its budget to the essential needs of its citizens.” This is why funds dedicated by Norway, Liechtenstein and Iceland have pioneered projects that helped to develop the tourism sector beyond recognition. “Access to this EEA Grants funding has been an absolute privilege”, she declares. “These projects are now a reality”.

The city reclaims its walls

“Segovia is one of only three cities in Spain to conserve the majority of its city walls,” De Santos points out, in reference to the fortifications at Lugo and Ávila. However, despite being quite well-preserved, the abundance of vegetation present at some parts, and the lack of tourist flow at its surroundings have meant that it was largely ignored even by the Segovians themselves. Now, a walking route has been installed, lighting put in and a tourist information office built. Several towers have been strengthened, some of the more neglected stretches repaired, access steps improved and the San Andrés Gate refurbished. Finally, an inspection process has been organised that will facilitate maintenance in the years to come. The culmination of these efforts means that the city can now add its walls to the eternal picture of Segovia, held for so long in the collective imagination of its visitors.

The Aqueduct: Beyond its arches

Similar intentions existed for the aqueduct project. A million visitors a year enjoy its environs, but few of these have ventured further than the 638 metres of arches situated in the heart of the city.

To call the rest of this structure to public attention, several continuing investments have been committed to the restoration of components such as the catchment dam and the conduction pipes. Desander tanks, dedicated to removing particles from the water, have also been renovated. Finance has also gone towards the installation of a hiking path, several visitor trails and the signing of routes – all of this turning a simple visit into a harmonious voyage through nature. In addition to this, an Aqueduct Discovery Centre has been created, housed within the Casa de la Moneda.



THE LITTLE WHITE HOUSE is a place to discover the Jewish burial rituals where items donated by different Spanish communities are exhibited.

Another of the projects undertaken in Segovia with EEA Grants funding has been the regeneration of the rich industrial and historic heritage linked to the River Eresma. Canals have been repaired, mills restored, banks cleaned, paths and roads mended, and tourist information points established throughout the valley.

An ancient cemetery barely touched by time

Segovia has at last been able to reclaim one of its most emotionally charged elements. It is one that recalls one of the most tragic episodes in its history, that of the

expulsion of the Jews from Spain as decreed by the Catholic King and Queen (Los Reyes Católicos) in 1492. “The Jewish cemetery is a miracle,” declares De Santos, in reference to its almost flawless condition despite its many years. “There was a very significant Jewish community in Segovia before the expulsion of the Jews. This cemetery is one way to celebrate this and to tell their story,” explains Carolina Aisen, Director of the Federation of Jewish Communities of Spain. “And by knowing our past we come to know our present a little better.” Aisen exudes gratitude for the work undertaken, particularly in light of its respect for traditions. “The tenets of the Jewish religion indicate, above all, that rest is eternal. Once a person dies he is buried, not cremated. Only burial is permitted. Rest is eternal”. What is more, thanks to EEA funding “a place has been created as much for tourists as for Segovians themselves: a marvellous idyll in which to stroll”.

Now, through a network of walking routes, the area can be toured at leisure, and also features a centre wherein more can be discovered regarding the funeral rituals of this community. From here one may stand and enjoy a breathtaking view of Segovia, a city whose treasures can now be enjoyed to even greater effect thanks to the projects financed by EEA Grants. And although it is always difficult to evaluate with precision the benefits of open air spaces where visitor numbers go unrecorded, the improved standing of Segovia in the eyes of visitors from around the world stands out clearly among figures collated elsewhere. Visits to the famous Alcázar, for example, increased by 9.16% between 2010 and 2014, and those at local museums soared by 138%.

CONSTRUCTION OF THE ST OLAV CHAPEL



THE DREAM OF THE VIKING PRINCESS

A Spanish infante promised to his wife, a Norwegian princess, to build a chapel in honor of her saint Olav 750 years ago. In 2011, the promise was fulfilled with a chapel that represents the union between Norway and Spain.

Saint Olav chapel and Princess Kristina sepulchre are two of the biggest tourist attractions of Covarrubias.

PROJECT:
Construction of the St. Olav Chapel as a center for cultural activities and events following the legend of Princess Kristina of Norway.

PROMOTER:
Princess Kristina of Norway Foundation.

EEA GRANTS:
399,996 €

W

ood and steel: materials that conjure dreams of Nordic realms. A stark construction rendered in these elements has stood since 2011 barely two kilometres from Covarrubias (Burgos) in the heart of the valley of Los Lobos. It is a building surrounded by oaks, junipers and sabine trees and seated within the natural habitat of the roe, the eagle and the wild boar. Within this place there has emerged a hermitage of the 21st century, as secluded and austere as its medieval equivalents. A sacred stronghold, it recalls the armour donned by one known as St Olav at his final combat, the battle of Stiklestad. It is he, Olav the warrior saint, who stands as patron to this remarkable building.

The Saint Olav chapel, as it has come to be known, is fruit of a promise made seven hundred and fifty years earlier. According to legend, it was a pledge made by an infante of Castille on the day of his wedding to a beautiful Norwegian princess. She was to die only a few years later, her eventual fate lost to history for centuries.



The princess was called Kristina Håkonsdatter. She was the daughter of King Håkon Håkonsson “The Elder” (1204–1263), while the Castillian infante Felipe was the brother of Alfonso X “The Wise”. The King of Castille, pretender to the throne of the Holy Roman Empire, formed an alliance with the Viking monarch known as Håkon IV. This accord sought to strengthen ties between the two kingdoms through a marriage. It was decreed that Kristina would choose a husband from among the brothers of Alfonso X.

In 1257, the year of her departure, the princess was barely twenty-three years of age. She set off from the port of Tønsberg in the fearsome Viking longboat Drakar. She was bound for Normandy, with a stopover in England en route. From Normandy she would proceed on horseback through France, Aragón and Castille, according to Venancio Díaz Guardamino, president of the Princess Kristina of Norway Foundation. “King Jaime I of Aragón was left dazed by the princess’s beauty” he tells us.

Bear Hunter

In the end, Kristina chose the infante Felipe, “for motives that would these days seem a nonsense” says Díaz Guardamino. “He was a skilled hunter of bears and wild boar. He was gallant, and he was a fine courtesan.” The wedding took place in Valladolid in March 1258. Afterwards they settled in Seville at a palace with verdant gardens, where they established a palatial life of privilege and riches. However, Kristina died a mere four years later in 1262. There are those who embellish this melancholy legend but the truth of her story would be lost to history.

However, almost seven centuries later in the 1950s, Rufino Vargas, parish priest of Covarrubias Collegiate Church, discovered a document. It claimed that same monastery as the final resting place of Princess Kristina, given that the infante Felipe, as well as being archbishop of Seville, was also the lay abbot of the congregation there.

The Tomb at the Church

A sepulchre in gothic style was found in the tomb. The remains were disinterred before a notary and a panel of experts, and the mummified body of a tall woman (1.74 metres) was found. It had long blonde hair and perfect teeth. Kristina’s likeness since then has been represented in a beautiful sculpture in front of the monastery. Her story now revived, it exploded into the present day, exciting imaginations and inspiring several historical novels.

The chapel project was sponsored by the Princess Kristina of Norway Foundation. This organisation was established in 1994 by a group



In 1978, the city of Tønsberg donated this statue of Princess Kristina to the town of Covarrubias.

of people involved in economic interrelations between Spain and Norway and is committed to fostering cultural relations between the two countries. At long last, thanks to funding from EEA Grants, both the chapel and its bell-tower have been built to a budget of 399,996 euros.

Modern Pilgrimage

“The regional council of the time released the land for the construction of the chapel and funds from Norway enabled its completion”, explains the mayor of Covarrubias, Óscar Izcara. He adds: “Its benefits have been extremely positive”. Citing evidence of this, he says: “Numbers of Norwegian visitors have risen starkly over the last few years. From an average one hundred visitors annually, we are now seeing a mean average of almost a thousand”. What is more, the Norwegian embassy, in collaboration with the Princess Kristina of Norway Foundation and the regional council, has launched a series of concerts and exhibitions known as ‘Notes from Norway’. Featured as part of these events is a market dedicated to the sale of Norwegian products. All of these initiatives have gone further to raise the status of the region as an attractive tourist destination.

Covarrubias has now become place of pilgrimage for tourists fascinated by the Viking princess who ended her days in Spain.

The modern chapel of wood and steel has become an important focus for tourism deep in the heart of the province of Burgos. All of this is owed to a mysterious Viking princess, her dedication to a Norwegian saint and an unfulfilled promise made seven hundred and fifty years ago.

“The numbers of Norwegian visitors have risen starkly over the last few years, from one hundred visitors annually, we are now seeing almost a thousand”

ÓSCAR IZCARA
MAYOR OF COVARRUBIAS



The chapel is completely hardened steel on the outside to simulate the traditional way St. Olav is depicted, embedded in his steel armor.



The chapel seeks to highlight the figure of St. Olav in three facets of his life: Viking, King and Saint.



VENANCIO DÍAZ GUARDAMINO
PRESIDENT OF THE PRINCESS KRISTINA
OF NORWAY FOUNDATION

“Princess Kristina Foundation began working on this project because we considered it important for cultural and touristic exchanges”

THE FORESTS AT THE BANKS OF THE EBRO RIVER: NOW PROTECTED FROM FIRE

Every year, thousands of hectares of forest are destroyed by fire. 26 mountains in Cataluña and Aragón are now better prepared for fire fighting and, thanks to the improvements funded by the EEA Grants, more and more people can enjoy the beauty of this landscape.

Several water points have been established in areas within easy reach of fire fighting helicopters, enabling them to load water without the need for long journeys.

PROJECT:
Restoration works in 26 forests to safeguard the areas from high fire risk through firebreaks and water points.

PROMOTOR:
Confederación Hidrográfica del Ebro (CHE).

EEA GRANTS:
3,000,077 €

A

t the southern slope of Peña Oroel, 1,769 metres above sea level, the autumnal airs are brisk and the landscapes breathtaking. Extending before it is the territory of Ordolés, home to a broad valley, the del Moro ravine, source of the Gállego river. An untouched wilderness, it features native pines, oaks, beeches and quivering poplars. As one ascends the trail of the Virgen de la Cueva hermitage, the pines tilt under the force of the wind, amidst maples, fir trees and some scattered yews.

Fire constitutes an ever-present threat to the flora and fauna in this beautiful realm, registered as part of the protected natural park of San Juan de la Peña y Monte Oroel, by the Government of Aragón. Fundamental to the prevention of this latent peril has been investment from EEA Grants in several projects, which were carried out in the years 2004–2009, in collaboration with the Confederación Hidrográfica del Ebro (CHE).

The danger of erosion

The autonomous organisation that runs the catchment area of Spain's fastest flowing river is responsible for almost 26,000 hectares of forest. Most of this is land bought and planted during the twentieth century to preserve the slopes of the Ebro's tributary ravines from erosion. And to preserve from fire the forest mass that covers these lands, six million euros has been invested in twenty–

six mountains in several provinces around Catalonia and Aragón. Project manager and mountain engineer at the CHE, Daniel Graña explains that half of this has been provided by Norway, Iceland and Liechtenstein. “Where access cannot be achieved for reasons of safety, means of fire extinction cannot exist. Providing the mountains with infrastructure provides them with greater protection in the event of fire,” explains Graña. This is why one of the principal undertakings has been to improve forest tracks and the lines of fire breaks. In addition to this, auxiliary boundaries have been created where the biomass has been reduced so that any forest fire would lose intensity. “Fundamentally, what was lacking was an emergency plan. These grants have answered the need we had for planning and investment and have put the mountains at a more acceptable level of defence.”

Firebreaks and forest protection

“The most crucial point of all is identifying the location at which firebreaks will be most effective: fundamentally where the divide between two slopes is interrupted,” says Antonio Pérez in his explanation of the terrain. Perez is a CHE forest guardian responsible for the enclave of Órdoles. He continues: “As the slope rises and changes, the fire loses intensity and it is here that it is best to attack them, at these higher altitudes”. Accompanying these measures, further protections have been put in place, which as well as improving the health and vitality of the forest, also serve to reduce the level of flammable material present. This was once a job undertaken by locals in areas that have since become depopulated.

Finally, in the terrible event that a fire should occur, several water points have been established. Some have been constructed in places where natural sources have never existed and in areas within easy reach of fire fighting helicopters, enabling them to load water without the need for long journeys. Thus can a fire be tackled with higher efficiency. These points also permit the recharging of fire engines if land borne measures should be called for.

Visitors: More numerous, more positive

These investments, in addition to their protective role against fire, have served a clear benefit

unnoticed by visitors, and they are taking real advantage of the new access points and sites that until now were very difficult to reach.” He continues “You appreciate it most in the summer, when tourists come who often walk the mountain on the *Transpirenaica Route* or when hikers come here to undertake the great GR-15 walk. But the winter trapping season also sees hunters passing through and autumn will often attract mushroom collectors”.

Apilluelo points out yet another benefit of the EEA investments: “We’ve even served as a point of reference for other organisations charged with the care of mountain regions. The Government of

Aragón, for example, has been watching these developments with interest and has been deeply impressed by the results of these EEA Grants in the confederation mountains. They will no doubt take note with a mind to applying some of these measures in their own territories to very positive effect.”

“Firebreaks have been constructed and further protections have been put in place”

ANTONIO PÉREZ
CHE FOREST GUARDIAN

In the wake of these emergency plans in CHE mountains, all of this infrastructure, correctly maintained, will enable more and more visitors to enjoy the beauty of this region in renewed safety. But above all, it will ensure that these verdant lands will remain a home for the roe and the wild boar; provide shelter to the badger and the squirrel, and sustain the skies for the blackbird and the tawny eagle. Furthermore, it is thanks to the legacy of these initiatives that the majestic bearded vulture will forever soar above the magnificent forests of Asqués y Bolás, or the breathtaking peaks of Órdoles, just as it has done for time immemorial.



JUAN CARLOS APILLUELO
CHE FOREST GUARDIAN

“This project is a point of reference for other organizations charged with the care of mountain regions”

to visitors to the mountain. Juan Carlos Apilluelo, a CHE forest guardian, describes how these initiatives have been received by those from further afield. “The changes have not in any way gone



1. Órdoles landscape.
2. Firebreaks interrupts the vegetation continuity, preventing the spread of forest fire
3. Improvement of forest paths.



DANIEL GRAÑA
PROJECT RESPONSIBLE

“The EEA Grants have answered the need we had for planning and investment and have put the mountains at a more acceptable level of defence”





2009 2014

Spain received 46 million euros

More than 400 projects funded in six areas:
Research and development, gender equality,
active citizenship, cultural heritage,
cultural diversity and cultural exchange and
students and researchers mobility.

The last period of the EEA Grants has brought about a drastic change in strategy and in the way funds are disbursed. For the period 2009–2014, the total allocation was 1,788 billion euros (97% of the funds coming from Norway), out of which 45.9 million was allocated to Spain, an amount similar to the previous period.

In the preceding periods, the EEA Grants were distributed among a relative small number of large projects, between 15 and 20 in the case of Spain. In the period 2009–2014, the funds were allocated to a vastly higher number of projects, more than 400, on six distinct programme areas.

The background for this change was a shift in focus from the community to the individual citizen. Previously, the EEA Grants were committed to the development of beneficiary states through measures that were intended to improve the surrounding environment and thus raise the quality of life. These measures were dedicated to improving the natural, urban or industrial environment or to renovate historic and artistic heritage. Over time, the concept changed. In the last period, projects largely address individual development and the basic rights of the citizens directly.



Pilar Soler,
Director of the
EEA Grants
Spanish Focal
Point.

Pilar Soler Oroz is the Director of the EEA Grants' National Focal Point in Spain, situated in the Spanish Ministry of Treasury and Public Administration. The Focal Point is responsible for the management of the EEA programmes in Spain. Oroz explains: "This period of the EEA Grants has set out what will probably be the future course of European funds. We are now seeing a policy of cooperation that has a much more human aspect to it and which is dedicated to the citizen. In the past, funds were much more focused on issues that had to do with large public works as these would benefit the citizen. "Citizen" was used in the broadest sense, faceless and lacking a specific identity and individual needs. Now the trend is providing support on a smaller scale, with very clearly defined targets and projects. In the future, projects will be highly dispersed and the results will be more visible and effective for the people who benefit from them." Thus, the goal is much more limited and specific. "We solve very specific issues – so specific that they virtually possess names and surnames – and to a lesser degree address the general public good".

Six areas

What is more, within the EEA Grants framework, the problems to be solved are designated by the receiving country through a preliminary list of objectives established by the donor states. Hence, the priority for Romania was justice reform and the fight against organised crime, and in Greece emphasis has been put on accommodation conditions for immigrants and asylum seekers, with a particular focus on children.

In Spain, priorities had to do with, for example, innovation and development or equality for women. Six large programmes were selected, managed by an operator who worked closely with the donor states. Amongst these, and with a budget of 18.2 million euros, was the programme on research and technological application in the field of the environment and climate change. Another large area, financed with 10.2 million euros, was the programme for gender equality, dedicated to providing equal opportunities for men and women and the conciliation of work and family life.

Spanish NGOs have benefitted from 4.6 million euros, dedicated to the strengthening of civil society and the promotion of the active citizen, which is to say, the creation of more efficient institutions in the advancement of justice and social development.

The conservation of cultural and natural heritage has benefitted from 4.1 million euros, which in this case was allocated entirely to the Federico García Lorca Centre in Granada. A building of 4,700 square meters, it was built with the objective of conserving and spreading the work of the Andalusian poet. Additionally, it hosts a large variety of cultural activities and has become a point of reference in contemporary creative arts.

Another 3.9 million euros have been used to facilitate exchanges between university students and researchers, as well as cooperation between scientific groups and institutions in Spain and the three donor countries.

Finally, a donation of 500,000 euros was dedicated to the promotion of diversity in culture and the arts and

2009
2014

The success of the programmes is not just quantitative but also qualitative with more than 400 projects and thousands of people benefitting

the advancement of creative dialogue between Spain and the donor states. In an unprecedented move, this programme has as its operator the Norwegian Embassy in Madrid. "It is the only Norwegian embassy that has provided direct support to Spanish citizens through the EEA Grants," explains Soler.

Seeds for the future

The success of the programmes can be clearly seen from many different angles, whether they be temporary, qualitative or even quantitative: "We have managed to implement the programmes in a very short period of time. We have fulfilled the objective indicators in all the programmes and have funded more than 400 different projects that benefit thousands of people," says Soler. The philosophy behind this funding has contributed greatly to these results, one of clearly identifying the issue and carrying out a thorough risk analysis. "The EEA Grants method is closely in line with that of the European Union. Risk assessment is an integral part of every programme, which in turn enables swift solution to problems that may arise," says Soler.

The benefits of the EEA Grants will continue into the future, drawing upon the personal and institutional relationships that have been built between Spain and the three donor states Norway, Iceland and Liechtenstein. Many possibilities are now open. And indeed, many institutions and individuals are already taking advantage of their experiences and personal contacts and are pursuing new projects and bilateral cooperation beyond the scope of the EEA Grants. Countless seeds have been planted; seeds that will bear fruit in the future. For Pilar Soler, in the case of Norway "both countries have seen benefits. Spaniards have learned much from Norwegians and Norwegians have learned much from Spaniards".

PROJECTS 2009/14 | FEDERICO GARCÍA LORCA CENTRE

CONSERVATION AND REGENERATION
OF CULTURAL AND NATURAL HERITAGE



Federico García Lorca
centre is located in
the downtown square
of la Romanilla in
Granada, beside the
cathedral.

PROJECT:
Equipment and activity
plan of the Federico García
Lorca Centre in Granada.

PROMOTER:
Consortium Federico
García Lorca.

EEA GRANTS:
3,482,007 €

Finally, Granada can now boast a centre dedicated to its universal poet, Federico García Lorca. The EEA Grants have contributed with both equipment and an itinerary of cultural activities.

Federico fell dead / —blood at his forehead and lead in his guts— / ... The crime was in Granada / know — poor Granada!—, in his Granada”.

In his poem “The Crime was in Granada” Antonio Machado scarcely a year later related the tragedy of the murder of Federico García Lorca (1898), the genius of the written word, born in Fuente Vaqueros. His murder will forever be inextricably linked to the history of Granada.

It was in the early hours of the 18th of August 1936. A writer from Granada, a musician and a painter, guardian of the popular spirit and the spearhead of the avant-garde, was shot dead in a ravine in the vicinity of Viznar, barely 10 kilometres from Granada. For many decades, the rest of the world came to recognise the literary importance of the ‘Generation of 27’ dramatists and poets. Yet in Granada, shame remained buried for many years under a wall of silence.

Under the rule of democracy, silence gave way to recognition. Today, Granada is openly proud of its writer. However, it owed a great debt to the author of poetry such as “Romancero Gitano” or “Poeta en Nueva York”, and landmark works of theatre such as “The House of Bernarda Alba” and “Yerma”.

GRANADA REPAYS ITS DEBT TO THE POET

PROJECTS 2009/14 | FEDERICO GARCÍA LORCA CENTRE

What was missing was a cultural emblem, a memorial. As Machado demanded, it should be a memorial of stone but also of dreams. In 2015, 79 years after his murder, Granada opened the Federico García Lorca Centre, a space of 4,700 square metres dedicated to the conservation, distribution and study of the poet's work.

After a decade of construction, a modern structure took shape in the Romanilla Square, a mere 50 metres from Granada Cathedral. Its objective is to house the legacy of the poet, which is stored in the care of Federico García Lorca Foundation. The total cost of the construction superseded 23 million euros. Of this total, the EEA grants provided 3.5 million euros for equipment and an activity plan for the centre.

"The consortium of the administration at the Federico García Lorca Centre: the local council, the Granada Regional Council, the government of Andalucía and the Ministry

of Culture, applied for – and fortunately were able to achieve – the financial support of EEA Grants. This provided the centre with cultural resources and equipment needed for the centre to open and remain in operation," explains Rafael Carazo, Subdirector General of Promotion and Cultural Industries and Sponsorship at the Ministry of Culture. He serves as the operator of this project which forms part of the programme for Conservation and Regeneration of Cultural and Natural Heritage.

The centre, as explained by Antonio Navarro, works director of the building designed by MX_SL Architectural Studio, is formed by two enormous blocks separated by a corridor-foyer. Its design serves to camouflage the building in its surroundings and imitates the layout of the traditional Andalusian urban centres with their intricate lanes and lack of large public open spaces. "The philosophy of the building is in line with that of Lorca. It is the will to connect directly with the people," explains Navarro.



RAFAEL CARAZO RUBIO
SUBDIRECTOR OF CULTURAL INDUSTRIES
PROMOTION AND SPONSORSHIP

"The support of Norway, Iceland and Liechtenstein has been essential to the functioning of the centre"



ANTONIO NAVARRO
WORKS DIRECTOR OF THE FEDERICO
GARCÍA LORCA CENTRE

"The philosophy of the building is in line with that of Lorca, the will to connect directly with the people"



In barely five months, from its opening on the 29th of July 2015 to the end of that year, the centre welcomed more than 20,000 visitors, who came to attend exhibitions or simply to get to know the building itself. This is not taking into account the number of people attending concerts, theatre plays and conferences, as Miguel Canales Pineda, site technician for Culture at the Town Council of Granada, explains. Two large exhibitions heralded the first steps of the centre's journey: "El Público (the audience)", where artists of the avant-garde adapted their work as a tribute to the great poet, and 'Duende's Theory', which saw the running of a celebrated conference on the author 'Game and Theory of the Duende'. This event was centred

on artistic creation and Lorca's original drawings, side by side with works from Dalí, Picasso, Miró, Juan Gris, André Masson, Roberto Matta and José Guerrero.

"We shouldn't forget that there were two sides to Lorca. He looked very much to tradition but he was also very interested in the avant-garde," explains Canales. On that premise, a programme with all types of activities has been organized, from theatre and artistic workshops for children to exhibitions and the screening of films he saw with Dalí and Buñuel in the Students' Residence.

The objective is that the centre becomes the cultural motor of the city, according to the City Council, and to dignify his figure "so that

Lorca is never forgotten, that the manner in which he died also endures in the collective memory and that such a thing will never happen again in Spain."

Federico García Lorca's body remains buried in a communal grave somewhere near the road that connects Viznar and Alfacar, but whose exact location is still unknown. Nevertheless, the city of Granada has now erected a beacon of culture in his honour; the tribute yearned for by Machado in 1937.

"Farm, friends, / of stone and dreams in the Alhambra / a shrine to the poet / over a fountain where the water weeps, / and say for evermore / the crime was in Granada, jin his Granada!



The exhibition "Duende's Theory" brought together works of Lorca, but also of Picasso, Miró and Juan Gris.

NORTHERN GENIUSES, SOUTHERN ELVES

Over the last few years, an unusual cultural exchange has emerged between Spain and countries of apparently very different sensibilities such as Norway, Iceland and Liechtenstein. Spanish writers, musicians and creators of every nature have become involved in the Nordic ambience through an artistic flow. At the same time, authors from the latter have gained inspiration from Mediterranean muses. Thus, the cultural dialogue has been strengthened and the European identity has been promoted through the understanding of the creative diversity of the continent.

The Royal Norwegian Embassy in Madrid has been responsible for the running of the Promotion of Diversity in Culture and Arts in the European Cultural Heritage programme. It's an initiative that, between 2013 and 2014, has awarded half a million euros to almost 30 different activities. The activities fall into two categories: one that seeks the support of institutions in projects for cultural cooperation, and another that is supporting the artistic mobility of creators. The Spanish elf was in this way able to travel to the Norwegian fjords while many Viking geniuses invaded Spanish lands with their own art.

"Culture is a tool for economic development and social cohesion," says Eva Puig Syversen, programme coordinator at the Embassy. "Through these projects we have provided training and

professional advancement, and we have contributed to the development of international networks of artists and thereby improving the ability to work and to grow beyond national borders." The call for applications was a great success. The Embassy received 141 applications and of these 29 were chosen in disciplines such as music, cinema, theatre, literature and the visual arts.

Hence, the Contemporary Theatre Speaking project, developed by Oslo's House of Dramatists (Dramatikkens Hus) together with the Spanish institute Draft. Inn, promoted the exchange of works and dramaturgical formulae unknown to audiences in both countries. So, in Norway, works by the authors Jon Fosse and Marit Tusvik were translated into Spanish: 'I Am the Wind', and 'The Ice House' respectively. In Spain,

the texts 'My Soul Elsewhere', by the playwright José Manuel Mora, and 'Monarch Mery', by Ana Fernández Valbuena, were translated into Norwegian and shown at the House of Dramatists. In another initiative, and with the objective of promoting tolerance and eliminating prejudices based on sexual orientation or sexual identity, the LGBT Oslo Skeive Filmer Festival and the Spanish charity Fundación Triángulo worked together on a project which supported directors and films focused on lesbians, gays, bisexuals and transsexuals and their struggle for equality.

In the field of music was the First Season of Contemporary Norwegian Jazz, promoted by Music Norway and the exhibition centre Off de La Latina, Madrid. The project involved the cultural exchange between contemporary

Spanish music, more faithful to the origins of the genre, and Norwegian contemporary music recognized for being highly experimental. Five concerts of Norwegian jazz and Flamenco jazz were held and accompanied by a workshop on cultural exchange between Spanish and Norwegian musicians.

Visual Arts

In the field of visual arts, of note is the foray of Catalanian photographer Cristina Núñez into Norwegian prisons, where she gave self-portrait workshops to female prisoners, and the exhibition dedicated to the sculptor Arnold Haukeland at the Tenerife Espacio de las Artes. The Norwegian artist, known for his monumental sculptures, lived and worked in the Canary Islands municipality of Icod de los Vinos between 1968 and 1975, where he created some of his most important works that would later be installed in public spaces in both Norway and throughout the world.

In addition, a marvellous show has been financed with artists both disabled and able-bodied, who came together to study the work of the Spanish poet Federico García Lorca and the Icelandic Audur Jonsdottir. Proposals for stage were also devised using dance, music and theatre and run by the support associations for persons with mental disabilities Afanías and Solheimar in Iceland. Elsewhere, a performance programme which was based on language, objects and body politics, received support. It was promoted by the Pensart Cultural Association, CA2M Centro de Arte Dos de Mayo and the Liechtenstein Museum of Art.

Finally, a show based on the journey of the Norwegian Princess Kristina, was financed. This project was managed by Arje formation and its partner in Iceland, Kristin R. Olafsson.

At the same time, 19 artists received personal funding in order to participate on study trips and artistic exchange programmes both in Spain and in Norway, Iceland and Liechtenstein. This funding allowed the artists to undertake activities in these countries that were as varied as photographic exhibitions, performances, concerts or even the creation of a comic book based

on the novel "Gran Manila" by the Norwegian writer Kjartan Flogstad. "These activities have clearly strengthened bilateral relations", concludes Eva Puig Syversen. "They have also contributed to increase knowledge of the Norwegian cultural sector in Spain. And from the point of view of the Embassy, they have provided a wide network of artists and performers which may well prove to be useful beyond the scope of the EEA Grants programmes in Spain." In fact, the Embassy is set to continue with its work in cultural promotion, aware as it is that creativity has no limits when Nordic geniuses and southern elves join forces artistically.

Eva Puig Syversen,
EEA Grants and
Communication Officer
at the Royal Norwegian
Embassy in Madrid.



"Culture is a tool for economic development and social cohesion and these projects have provided artists with training, professional advancement and contacts so that they may grow beyond national borders"

THE SELF-PORTRAIT, A POWERFUL MEDICINE

In her images, the people, human beings without a label of their class or situation, including her own self-portraits, look torn. They suffer, they cry, they unveil their madness, their panic, their pain. They are so well contained, with their feelings seeping through the skin, while exploding in convulsive reactions. Anxiety overcomes modesty. The portraits are beautiful, very beautiful, but they are not the type of photos that people would normally upload to their Facebook page or their Instagram account. They are sincere because they do not seek beauty, they are selling nothing, they do not seek to attract. They are only portraits, but, according to the artist, they also serve as therapy.

These are not 'selfies', they are images of the soul, and the artist Cristina Núñez uses them in order to look into "what exists within, accepting that there is a bit of everything". Her work in Spanish and Norwegian prisons is both art and therapy.

Cristina Núñez Salmerón (b. Figueras, Catalonia, 1962) has in recent years taken on some of the most striking artistic endeavours commissioned by the EEA Grants through the Norwegian embassy in Spain, with the objective of improving cultural links between the countries and promoting the European identity. The project took form through a dialogue with the Norwegian artist Lotte Konow Lund as well as through the collaboration

with a dozen students from the Oslo Fotokunstskele, a school of photography in the Scandinavian capital; and even through her work in Norwegian prisons. Out of these activities emerged three interrelated and complementary exhibitions in Barcelona, Oslo and Madrid.

The Spanish artist always seeks to show, using her camera, things that people do not normally reveal. Núñez did her first self-

Self-portraits taken in Norwegian prisons using the Cristina Núñez method.

PROJECT:
Artistic dialogue about the female body and self-portrait workshops in prisons.

PROMOTER:
Cristina Núñez.

DONOR PARTNER:
Lotte Konow Lund Y Oslo FotoKunstSkole.

EEA GRANTS:
32,000 €

portrait in Los Angeles in 1988 after borrowing a camera from her photographer boyfriend. It was an attempt to defeat her lack of self-esteem after an adolescence plagued with drug addiction and subsequent descent into a nightmarish existence. She had always had the feeling that the way she was, “too emotional”, caused her to be rejected. Now, after three decades of portraying feelings both hidden within and visible, she knows that this extreme exposure “is a resource to get people to relate with one another in a deeper way, a truer way, a more human way...”

Out of her work with Lotte Konow Lund (b. Oslo, 1967), a very intense dialogue captured on film emerged. Two videos, one from each artist, reflect the tensions between two women of radically different creative points of view. “She said that what I was doing wasn’t art and it was from there the

conflict arose. We never reached an agreement but it was extremely interesting,” explains Núñez. “I filmed a very, very emotional video, you might even say heavy, depicting deep desperation, and then the commissioners told me ‘this isn’t art, you have to resolve your problems before showing them to the public’, and I didn’t like that at all. However, I repeat, I think it is very interesting. We faced on a small scale what we face on a large scale: conflict”.

The Silent Scream

After this first contact in Norway, Núñez began to teach her method to photography students. This consists of feeding an emotion, at first feigned, and to make it grow until it becomes real, finally bursting into “the silent scream”. It is from there that the ability to select the best image comes (although perhaps not the most obvious), and this allows the exploration of various states of

the soul. “This is a self-portrait, it is not a selfie”, explains Núñez. “The selfie is saying ‘I am, I exist and I want to shout at the world’. I put it online so that it travels. The self-portrait is an internal image. We use photography to look into what exists within, accepting that there is a bit of everything”. Finally, as another way of getting into contact with Scandinavian society, Núñez worked inside Bredtveit prison (Oslo), an undertaking that reflected work carried out at Brians 1 (Barcelona). Why is it that in prisons there is such potential within every person? Núñez reveals: “It’s down to my own past: the drugs, the heroin addiction that took me to rock bottom, inherent to which was a life of crime, as well as prostitution ... from the age of 15 to the age of 20 I led a life entirely on the margins,” she explains “but I never went to prison. I was lucky, I have a family that helped me a lot. I go to the prisons to repay

that luck. I could have been one of them. But I also go there because we work in order to get beyond labels and to discover the best in every human being.”

The prison projects will continue because it is expected that the students from Oslo Fotokunstscole, after experimenting with their emotions, will undertake their own work under the supervision of Núñez in three Norwegian prisons, one women’s prison and two maximum-security men’s prisons. “We turn shit into diamonds,” says the Catalan artist. “From your pain, from that which you find unpleasant, we create sublime images.” By bringing herself closer to the portrayed, she exposes herself. “I’m telling my life story... everything that in theory is something that causes shame, quickly becomes a way of entering into contact with a person. And this is why I want to publish images of their vulnerability.”

Cristina Núñez is a sincere artist, and perhaps also ambitious: “I do have the desire for global fame but there’s no doubt that it’s out of my reach. I can laugh about it but it doesn’t mean I don’t suffer from time to time.”

And while she comes to terms with this admission, she continues to work on feelings because she has a purpose. “The objective of my method is pure social activism. The true strength lies in showing and sharing one’s vulnerability”. She firmly believes that through sharing it, one arrives at a more human dimension in which war and violence cease to be necessary because conflict deals with listening to each other’s needs.

Her purpose demands a battalion of “facilitators”, accomplices in her personal hunt for feelings through photography. “The self-portrait is a powerful medicine for the body and the soul,” she concludes.



CRISTINA NÚÑEZ SALMERÓN
PHOTOGRAPHER

“I work in prisons in order to get beyond labels and to discover the best in every human being”



The project theme was “Emotions and the feminine body”, transforming interiors through photographic art.



DEVELOPING NGOs IN SPAIN FOR THE 21st CENTURY

The Active Citizen Programme established in Spain through the EEA Grants has successfully contributed to the strengthening of non-governmental organisations to respond to the new challenges of justice and sustainable development.

Through a shift in focus, improvement of working methods, a strengthening of the social base, and dealing with new partners, the investment of 4.6 million euros provided by Norway, Iceland and Liechtenstein has set projects in motion that are highly effective and have had a significant social impact.

The Third Social Action Sector in Spain is defining a new working model in which the citizens,

NGOs, companies and public administrations are expected to commit to social rights. "In the long term, the social base of these projects is more important than the economic," explains Marisa Gómez Crespo, Director of the NGO Platform for Social Action. "And the impact of NGOs in Spain must be measured not only in cost per user but in the dramatic transformation of its social base. This is how we know that there are projects that with only a small

economic contribution will go ahead and prove to be a great social investment."

The NGO Platform for Social Action was the programme operator for the Active Citizen Programme financed by the EEA Grants. As such, it was charged with the management and financing of a plethora of initiatives and projects.

The first premise was clear. The funding would go to collective

projects, not to individual organisations. The intention was to award NGOs that collaborated with other parties such as companies, universities, public administrations or other associations.

"The programme would encourage the collective efforts of a long range of different groups, seeing as in the year 2010, there were 29,000 NGOs in Spain. Many of these worked mostly on a local level and with issues very similar to other neighbouring organizations. Until now, there were no calls to enact collaboration among NGOs or even the obligation to do so. The EEA Grants brought about the need to work with other parties with whom similar objectives were shared in order to take things further," says Gómez Crespo.

38 projects, 160 organisations

The number of projects and organisations involved speaks for the success of the programme, as Vanesa Cenjor del Rey, coordinator for the Active Citizen Programme attests. 38 projects were selected from a total of 236 applications and 160 organisations were involved. Those who set up these initiatives were required to work closely with their partners in both similar and very different fields. The intention is that the projects will create enduring and stable networks for the future.

Specifically, the programme had four clear objectives: the advancement of the active citizen, increased involvement of NGOs in political decision making, the creation of intersectoral partnerships and the development of NGO networks and coalitions.

Very innovative measures have emerged from the programme, such as the establishment of procurement centres to optimise NGO resources, tools for evaluating political action of elected representatives and joint efforts with the police and the justice system to fight hate crimes. Other measures include the analysis of hate speech in the media, the study in several autonomous regions on the effectiveness of resources

dedicated to minors at risk of social exclusion, the creation of an observatory for hate crime against the homeless and the prevention of violence against women and discrimination because of sexual orientation. Furthermore should be mentioned the creation of a label for good practices and social responsibility, and the creation of maps marking locations of responsible consumption in cities, among others.

Opportunity to progress

The Active Citizen Programme has given Spanish NGOs an opportunity to progress in a period of economic crisis. It began as an NGO-fund and finished as one in which all collaborating institutions have felt part of the construction of a more just society.



NGO procurement centres, prevention of domestic violence and tools for the evaluation of political action in matters of social justice. These are just some of the 38 projects financed by the EEA Grants

BECAUSE HOMOPHOBIA IS NO JOKE

40% of gays, lesbians, bisexuals or transsexuals have suffered physical attacks, but only 17% of these hate crimes ever go reported. In order to change these numbers, Networks Against Hate Project has contributed to better coordination between the various agents on the area and enhancing the attention given to the victims.

Hate crimes against lesbians, gays, bisexuals and transgender individuals continue to be part of our daily reality and tolerated by too many people. Sometimes this means that victims suffer in silence. Although some may believe that hate crimes against LGBTs are about to disappear in Spain – one of the countries that have raised the rainbow flag the highest in the world through its legislation – many citizens suffer the scourge of homophobia daily, even in the 21st century.

In 2014, the State Federation of Lesbians, Gays, Transsexuals and Bisexuals (FELGTB) launched the Networks Against Hate project, an initiative with a budget of 153,000 euros, financed mostly by a contribution of 138,000 euros from the EEA Grants. In the survey of individuals who have been brave enough to approach the organisation for help or to report incidents, 40% had suffered physical attacks, 36% knew their attacker and 78% of the incidents took place in a city. Of equal note is that only 17% had reported the latest incident to the police.

“We saw in the same report that victims very often were not aware



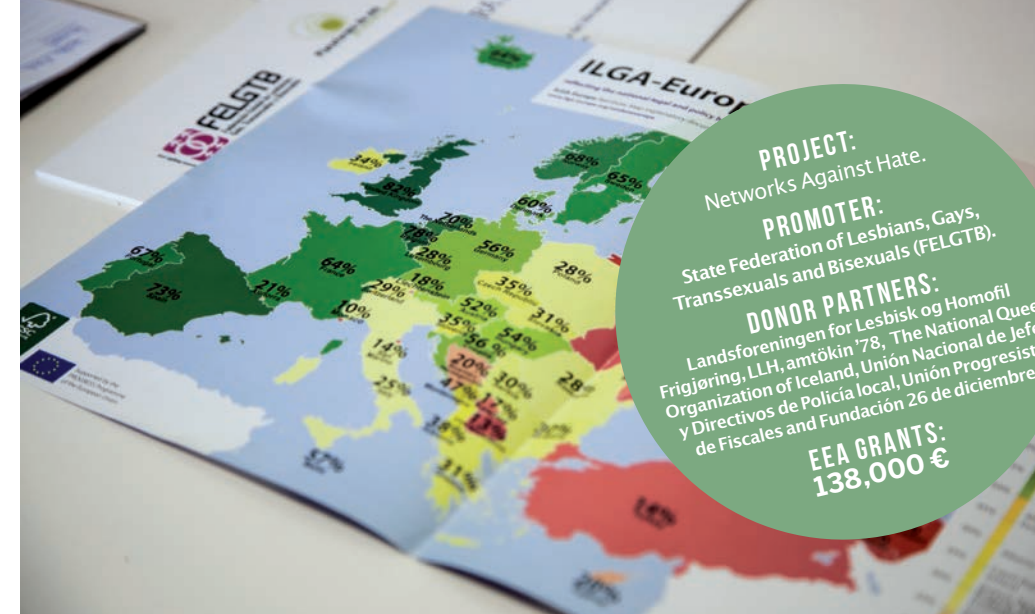
ALBERTO MARTÍN-PÉREZ
COORDINATOR, NETWORKS AGAINST HATE

“Thanks to the Norwegian funding we have been able to improve awareness of hate crimes in public administration as well as in the general public and amongst the victims themselves”



JENNIFER REBOLLO
COORDINATOR, NETWORKS AGAINST HATE

“Victims were not aware of having suffered a hate crime and they had grown so used to attacks, insults and threats that this had become part of everyday life for them”



of having suffered a hate crime and that they had grown so used to attacks, insults and threats that this had become part of everyday life for them,” says Jennifer Rebollo, coordinator of Networks Against Hate.

A different vision

“Thanks to the Norwegian funding we have been able to improve awareness of hate crimes in public administration as well as in the general public and amongst the victims themselves,” explains Alberto Martín-Pérez, coordinator along with Rebollo at Networks Against Hate. “There is now better and more robust coordination among the agents involved and we have essentially been able to improve victim care and to ensure sustained support for a victim from the moment we are contacted until the end of a process. The database of reports has also been improved on.”

The project was carried out in collaboration with two LGBT-organisations from the donor states: Norway’s Landsforeningen for lesbisk og homofil frigjøring (LLH) and the Islandic Samtökin '78 –The National Queer Organization of Iceland– who provided a new approach to the problem. “It has allowed us to learn from their experiences in the field of both hate crime and public policy, and how they work with the administration, with the police

and other bodies. It has been very useful for this project,” says Martín-Pérez.

The support from the EEA Grants allowed them to pursue their ambitious work and to raise the issue to the forefront of the media’s attention. To this effect was the making of a video entitled Voice Raised High, which portrayed spontaneous reactions of citizens, caught with a hidden camera, to an act of discrimination towards some foreign tourists. The idea that “discrimination is no laughing matter” was reinforced. It urged viewers that: “If you are a victim of insults, threats or attacks... put a stop to it. Speak out, act on it, and report it.” The video was broadcasted in September 2015 and quickly picked up by most of the Spanish media. Within the first month of its release it was seen by 900,000 people on YouTube alone, a figure that surpasses 2 million when other media is taken into account.



Image from the video “Together against hate crime and hate speech”.

TOGETHER AGAINST HATE

A human rights violation that transcends borders calls for a coordinated and international response. Hate speech and hate crime is exactly that. Action is necessary not only to stop the violence but also to stop all forms of expression of hate – to which the internet has given such long reach – which incite discrimination or violence against any person for reasons of sexual identity, religion, race or disability. This is one of the main conclusions of the International Conference “Together Against Hate Crimes and Hate Speech”, which took place in Madrid on 29 November 2014 and to which more than 200 people attended. The participants – among them judges, prosecutors and representatives from international organisations – concluded that it has become necessary to review the working methods of governments, civil society and international agencies in the fight against these forms of crimes. A new approach would include an integrated legal framework, as well as giving priority to victim protection and special attention to education policy.

COMBATING HATE TOWARDS THOSE WHO HAVE NOTHING

47% of homeless people have been victims of insults, humiliations or attacks motivated by intolerance. However, the majority of cases go unpunished with only 13% of the victims reporting their experience. Project Hatento has given visibility to the problem as the first step towards combating it.

Antonio, a middle-aged man who has not been treated kindly by life, knows very well what it is to be attacked by someone who knows nothing about you, nothing of your past, to whom you have committed no previous wrong. He has first-hand experience of suffering the hatred that exists towards people who find themselves in a situation of extreme social exclusion, although perhaps he did not now that the cause of his suffering has a name: aporophobia.

Firstly, to sound him out, they asked for a cigarette, before spending a while at a nightclub. Later that night they returned. They asked for another cigarette, and when he was distracted, in a manner of the utmost cowardice and against one of society's most helpless individuals: "They kicked me in the mouth. They were young lads and people to whom you've done nothing, who hit you, just because they feel like it."

Rising awareness

Dioni had spent several days sleeping in the same ATM lobby. It was two in the morning, and it was raining. "They opened the door and as my sleeping bag had no zip, there was nothing I could do. I took the beating. They went off as happy as Larry."

Their testimonies are outlined in anti-aporophobia videos made by Hatento, the Observatory of Crimes Against the Homeless, which is a project financed by EEA Grants in order to raise visibility and awareness about the problem. The RAIS Foundation in collaboration with other NGOs such as The Pro Human Rights Association of Spain, The Assís Welcome Centre, The Bokatas Association, Rais Euskadi, Unijepol and the Zubietxe Association has undertaken the project. The objective was to bring together the strengths, the knowledge and the resources of various homelessness and human rights organisations in

order to build a sound knowledge of this issue and to be able to act against hate crimes. These goals have been achieved through situation reports, the design of detection and intervention tools and awareness campaigns.

The message is clear: When a person is attacked, insulted or humiliated, simply for living on

the street, a hate crime is being committed. "If we were able to achieve that, at a European level, aporophobia would be considered a form of discrimination which calls for special action – in the same way as homophobia now is, or the one based on gender, religion or nationality. We would have taken a giant step in the fight against hate crime against the homeless," says José Manuel Caballol, Director General of the RAIS Foundation.

Aporophobia in numbers

Exact figures do not exist regarding the number of homeless persons in Spain. The National Institute of Statistics (INE) has assessed the figure to be 30,000 although the RAIS Foundation estimates the number to be significantly higher. However, even if the number turned out to be the double or the half, the fact is that through interviews, Hatento has revealed devastating statistics: 47% of all homeless have been victims of insults, humiliation or attacks motivated by intolerance. One in five has suffered a physical attack.

However, the majority of cases go unpunished, seeing that only

13% of victims go to the police, perhaps due to fear of reprisals, perhaps due to lack of faith in the system. "An attack on a poor person, a beggar, isn't important," complains Joaquín, another victim of assault for whom reporting the incident is "just more form-filling".

Hatento has analysed the problem and quantified the incidents that are a daily reality but that many refuse to accept. The interviews ran by the observatory have provided a sample of individuals that has served to provide a clear idea of the most common profile of those who find themselves living on the street. According to Caballol: "There is one figure above all that is repeated again and again and over many years in all the countries of Europe, and it is that between 15% and 20% are women and between 80% to 85% are men."

"Another figure that particularly stands out is that 27% of these crimes are committed by the younger generations," says Caballol.

The Director of RAIS has no doubt that a large part of the problem could be solved through providing



JOSE MANUEL CABALLOL
DIRECTOR GENERAL OF THE RAIS FOUNDATION

"Hatento is a unique project in Europe. We have found no other organisation and no other country in which there is a specific focus on hate crimes against the homeless"

a home to these people. Living in the street clearly increases the vulnerability of these people to violence. "On the streets, you live in fear for your life. Living on the streets is the worst possible option," says Dioni.

"Thanks to the chance given to us with funding from the EEA Grants, we have been able to develop a project that is unique in Europe. We have been pioneers and innovators in this field," says Caballol. "We believe that the Hatento experience could be repeated in other European Union countries because we understand that the problem of hate crime against the homeless exists in every country."



Images from the video for the international conference "Together against hate crime and hate speech".

PROJECT:
Hatento. Observatory of Crimes Against the Homeless.

PROMOTER:
Fundación Red de Apoyo a la Integración Sociolaboral (RAIS).

DONOR PARTNERS:
Asociación Zubietxe, Asociación Bokatas, Asociación RAIS Euskadi, UNIJEPOL and Centro de Acogida ASSIS.

EEA GRANTS:
132,159 €

EQUAL RIGHTS FOR WOMEN TOWARDS A BETTER WORLD

Despite significant legal advances, the effort invested and the important victories achieved so far, clear inequalities between men and women persist. This imbalance exists in the world of work, of family, of education and in cultural and social environments. Equality policies remain necessary throughout Europe, and Spain is no exception.

The figures speak for themselves: the mass integration of women into the labour market has been one of the most profound changes of recent years. However, a significant gap remains between men and women regarding rates of employment and rates of activity, with that of women being very low by comparison. In the same way, women continue to be underrepresented in decision making, especially at high level. The inequalities also manifest in the persistent wage gap between the sexes. These inequalities endure, despite the fact that women constitute almost half of the workforce and represent around 60% of university graduates.

On the other hand, gender based violence is one of the clearest indicators of inequality. Statistics paint a picture of a society in which deeply entrenched sexual stereotypes persist. In a survey

carried out in 2014 by the Spanish Centre for Sociological Research (CIS), a third of Spanish men between the ages of 15 and 29 – believed it acceptable for a partner to control their daily schedule, to forbid visits to family or to prohibit study or work.

This is why Norway, Iceland and Liechtenstein assigned 10.2 million of donated funds – one of their largest ever sums – to the “Programme on gender equality and work-life balance”. The operator and co-financer of the programme was the Secretary of State for Social Services and Equality through the Women’s Institute and for Equal Opportunities, who worked in close collaboration with the donor partner, the Office of the Norwegian Equality and Anti-Discrimination Ombud (LDO).

“From Spain’s point of view, the results of this programme

have been very positive,” says Rosa Urbón, Director of the Women’s Institute and for Equal Opportunities. “We have strengthened our equality policies in fundamental spheres, such as the promotion of women in business to positions of responsibility and decision making. We have worked to educate our young people and children in the subject of equality. We have also worked to promote female entrepreneurs so that they may play a part in emerging sectors. Also important has been the effort to raise the employability of vulnerable women or those at risk of social exclusion as well as efforts to reduce the wage gap. We have also focused on two fields that we consider fundamental: the fight against gender based violence and the balancing and reconciliation of personal, family and working life”.

In total, 71 projects have been financed, 16 of these with active support from donor partners.

Especially notable among the activities developed is an initiative launched by the INCYDE Foundation to promote and enable entrepreneurship and consolidation of female-run companies in high value sectors where women are often underrepresented. The project was launched in 31 localities and involved almost 750 women. In the 12 months during which these educational programmes were running, almost 45% of the women participating founded their own business project.

In collaboration with the FEMP and their Norwegian counterpart (The Norwegian Association of Regional and Local Authorities – KS), the project “Equilibrio-Balance” was launched. This was

a project dedicated to the raising of awareness in regards the balancing of the personal, family and work life. Carried out at local level, it involved 15 Spanish council authorities and 3 from Norway. In the field of education, a pilot project “Education in Equality” was developed in nine education centres for the implementation of Equality Plans in schools.

Two lines of subsidy were also put into action. The first of these was allocated to universities, NGOs and social workers in order to eradicate the wage gap, encourage female entrepreneurship and to integrate into the labour market women at risk of social exclusion. “The second enabled us to work with six regional governments in the fight

against gender based violence. These funds enabled authorities to improve, integrate and coordinate their systems of prevention, of protection, of support and of victim assistance,” explains Urbón.

With Norway

Of special interest within the Equality Programme are the bilateral relations with Norway. Through a continued contact and exchange, a range of projects of mutual benefit have emerged. Norway has focused particularly on the Spanish model of social, work and educational integration regarding the gipsy community, particularly in terms of the integration of gipsy women.

“We wanted to learn from Spain about their policies related to domestic violence and in general about their policies with regard to the integration of minorities, particularly the gipsies, to evaluate their possible adaption in the context of Norway” explains Rachel Eapen Paul, from the LDO. “The results are very good,” she adds. “We have a couple of very fruitful and interesting bilateral projects in these subjects.”

Urbón also praises the excellent relationship with their Scandinavian partner: “It has been a privilege to work with Norway. It is a nation of reference and at the cutting edge in the field of equality between men and women.”



Spanish Women's Institute Director, Rosa Urbón, and Begoña Suárez, Deputy General Director for Entrepreneurship and Professional Promotion of Women.

10 million euros were allocated to the Gender Equality programme which have funded 71 projects, 16 of them with a Norwegian or Icelandic partner



In 2015, gender-based violence took the lives of 60 women in Spain.

Six autonomous regions in Spain have improved their support of victims of gender-based violence. Spain and Norway have shared best practices. A study has identified areas for improvement. These are projects set into motion by the EEA Grants to combat the most tragic manifestation of inequality between men and women.

The fight against gender-based violence was one of the main priorities for the EEA Grants during the period 2009–2014. Such incidences serve as the most dramatic manifestation of inequality between men and women, a social scourge that can affect every type of woman regardless of her socioeconomic status, her level of education or her family situation. The eradication of gender-based violence demands

the collective action of all the different organisations involved in the area and the coordination and cooperation of all relevant public bodies.

Among the projects that have been financed, of particular note is the one dedicated to improvements in how public services provide care to women who have suffered gender-based violence. This has been achieved through the streamlining

of services and the coordination of public powers involved in this sphere and the advancement of personal support for victims, and where necessary, their children. This project was launched in six autonomous regions.

In addition, the successful initiative “Companies for a Society Free from Gender Based Violence”, developed for years in Spain, was the basis of a best practices exchange with

Norway. Within this initiative, private and public companies in cooperation with the Fundación Integra and the Spanish Red Cross have committed themselves to work for increased social awareness and to facilitate the integration into both work and wider society of women who have been victims of gender-based violence. As a result, a Norwegian municipality has implemented a pilot project for the reintroduction of these women

into the labour market.

In another area, a study has been set up to analyse the legal tools, the measures and the public policies implemented in Norway and Spain in the struggle against gender-based violence in six different areas: education, prevention, health, social support, justice and security, and employment. In the case of Iceland, the study focused on issues of justice.

DULCINEA

"Dulcinea" is the title of an application developed within the project "Integrated Network of Resources for the Care of Female Victims of Gender-Based Violence in Castilla-La Mancha". The project consisted of an analysis on how to improve the use of existing resources, and the establishment of a database on available services that is accessible 24 hours for all

had an outdated system which would not allow for certain modifications. What is more, we were not able to make proper use of data regarding the cases that we served through our care services and women's centres". Martínez says that Dulcinea is compatible with the data collection systems of other administrations involved in combating gender-based violence: "The ability to access comprehensive information which

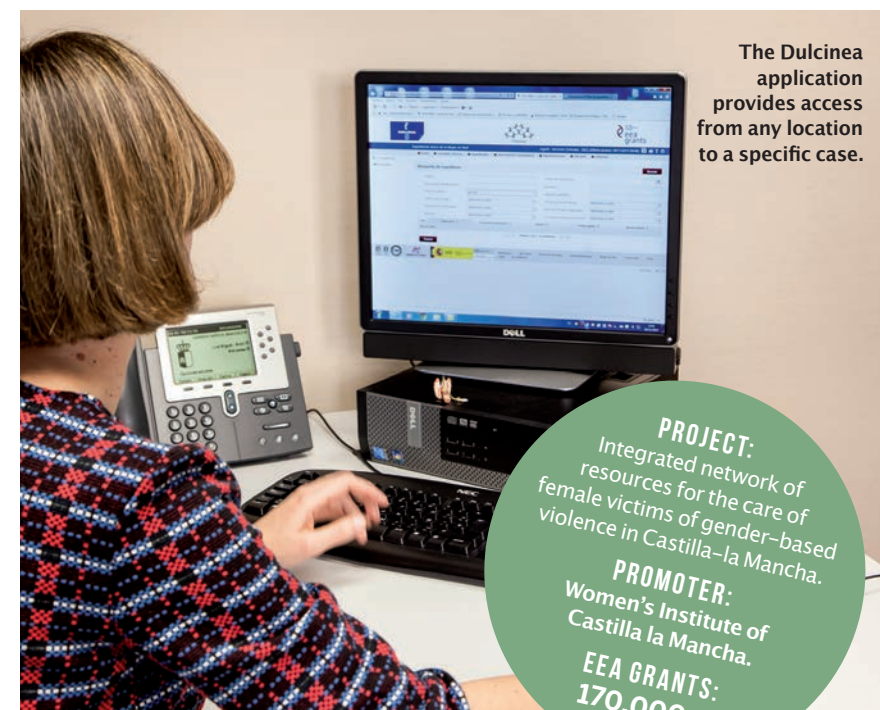
is generated by various public bodies is essential in order to deal with the problem efficiently, and in the moment it arises."

The EEA Grants funding also meant that an analysis to identify the strengths and weaknesses of existing resources could be carried out. The analysis included an assessment of all systems presently in place and interviews with 350 professionals in the field. Castilla-La Mancha's network of resources consists of 84 Women's Centres and 14 shelters. In 2014, these shelters provided care to 200 women and 250 minors. "It is important that the victims feel safe," says Martínez, "and that they have the necessary support to escape the nightmare they have endured for so many years. They need to rebuild themselves but also to be able to provide a stable future for their children."

The Women's Centres received 27,000 calls for help. "Of these, 4,000 had to do with gender-based violence," explains Martínez. "Taking into account that gender-based violence is the most tragic and deplorable manifestation of inequality, we believe that this is a figure significant enough to ensure that we will continue to work towards the prevention of gender-based violence."

"Thanks to the EEA Grants we have created a single access database to improve victim support"

ARACELI MARTÍNEZ
DIRECTOR OF THE WOMEN'S INSTITUTE
OF CASTILLA LA MANCHA



registered agents operating to eradicate and prevent gender-based violence. This will have positive effects on decision-making and will make it easier to publish and exchange data.

"Thanks to the support from the Norwegian funding," explains Araceli Martínez, Director of the Women's Institute of Castilla-La Mancha, "we have been able to develop an IT-tool that will enable us to improve the help that we can give to every victim. In the past, we were facing problems with the collection of data. We



COMPANIES AGAINST VIOLENCE

The EEA Grants have also brought the Spanish experience to Norway. "Employment is the best equality policy that we could have, and particularly so for victims of gender-based violence," says Rosa Urbón, director of The Institute of Women and Equal Opportunities at the Ministry of Health, Social Services and Equality. "For women who have been subjected to gender-based violence, a job can be a means of salvation. Economic independence gives them the chance to start a normal life and leave the abuse behind."

Presently, 45 companies in Spain have committed to incorporate victims of gender-based violence in their workforce. The Ministry of Health, Social Services and Equality has signed cooperative agreements with national companies from all sectors, which will allow for the geographical relocation of the victim if need be. The Red Cross and the Fundación Integra work as intermediaries between companies and the women themselves. Companies also undertake measures to raise

awareness of both the initiative and the institutional campaigns that are running. Moreover, they label their products with the slogan: "Companies for a society free from gender-based violence".

The initiative has awoken interest in Norway and a similar programme has been set up in the municipality of Sør-Odal, with the involvement of three companies: Maarud, one of the biggest snack producers; Sanngrund, a catering firm, and Norosol, an aerosol producer.

"We are very lucky to have had the opportunity to learn from this method of integrating the victims into the labour market from Spain", says Anne-Mette Øvrur, mayor of Sør-Odal (2011-2015). "We firmly believe that work is a very important issue as it allows for economic independence and the ability to begin a new life." "In Norway, we have a good health system, a good social security system, a good system for the protection of children, and employment services - but they do

ANNE-METTE ØVRUR
FORMER MAYOR OF SØR-ODAL (NORWAY)

"We have had the opportunity to learn from Spain's experience in integrating victims of gender-based violence in the labour market"

not communicate." The problem is the lack of an integrated support system for victims of gender-based violence, explains Øvrur, "so we had the opportunity to build a model which offers an acceptable level of service to the victim and her family in our municipality." Now, the objective is to expand this model to other municipalities in the region and even to export it throughout Norway.

The project fosters networking through activities such as breakfasts or visits to the participants' companies.

PROJECT:
Promotion of women to decision-making positions (Promociona).
PROMOTER:
Spanish Confederation of Employer's Organizations (CEOE).
EEA GRANTS:
800,000 €



WOMEN ADVANCE IN BUSINESS

The Promociona project, with the support of the EEA Grants, aims to identify and develop the talent of women in business, to increase the number of women in senior management positions. Of the 186 participants that had participated in the program by December 2015, 25% have already been promoted.

0% of graduates from Spanish universities are women, and there is no doubt that a growing share of the country's intelligentsia possesses a female brain. Between 40% and 43% of the total number of graduates that join the labour market are now women. However, as professionals ascend towards the higher echelons of their companies,

these percentages fall drastically. Nevertheless, the situation is changing, paving the way for a more balanced representation in senior management. Just as an example, between 2011 and 2015, the presence of women in boards of directors in Ibex 35 companies (the trading index of reference in Spain) has risen from 12% to 18%.

Clearly contributing to this trend is the Promociona project, developed by the Spanish Confederation of Business Organisations (CEOE) and funded by the EEA Grants. By identifying talent and developing it within a tailor-made program, it is a project dedicated to the promotion of women to decision-making positions in companies.

“At the CEOE we believe firmly in equality of opportunity. We believe that talent is divided equally between men and women and that such talent should be employed effectively at all professional levels,” explains Ana Plaza, Secretary General of the CEOE. “There are many studies from a range of sources, including international institutions, which show that greater diversity within governing bodies – be they boards of directors or management teams – delivers better results for business.”

Demands and Excellence

The women selected to participate in the Promociona project went through a comprehensive academic programme in management skills. They were also given individual support of a mentor who worked at the senior management level – often the president or the CEO – in one of Spain’s leading companies. Executive coaching and specific training in how to make the best use of contacts established during one’s professional career (“networking”) have been part of the program.

In the autumn of 2015, Promociona launched its third edition and in all, 186 women have now gone through the programme (40 in the first edition, 70 in the second and 76 in the third).

The selection criteria have been demanding: at least 15 years of professional experience, being presently in a position of responsibility, formal qualification (academic degree) and excellent command of English, explains Silvia García-Castaño, director of Investments and Discretionary Measure Management at BNP Paribas, who took part in the second edition. Since then, she



ANA PLAZA
SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE CEOE

“Many studies show that greater diversity within governing bodies delivers better results for business”



BEATRIZ GARCÍA-QUISMONDO
DIRECTOR OF SALES AT WOMENALIA

“I was working as a Sales Manager and was promoted to Director of Sales. Now I am more involved in company decisions”



SILVIA GARCÍA-CASTAÑO
DIRECTOR OF INVESTMENTS AND DISCRETIONARY
MEASURE MANAGEMENT AT BNP PARIBAS

“Promociona places the emphasis on the personal brand and when you internalize this your company sees you in a different light and it is from here that change comes”

has been promoted in the French bank. She stresses the quality of the programme: “I strongly believe that my promotion is due to my own dedication, in training, and my many years of experience, but also in the approach of this programme.” García-Castaño underlines the importance of reflecting upon your goals and working out a strategy for the future. “It is important to define your personal brand and this programme pays close attention to this. You have to find your specific role to play and to build your values upon that. I believe that when you internalize this – and in this sense this programme has helped me a lot – your company sees you in a different light and it is from here that change comes.”

Respect and recognition

Beatriz García-Quismondo, Director of Sales at Womenalia, is also grateful for the boost her career received after her participation in the programme: “On a personal level, I have earned the respect and recognition of my company. I worked as Sales Manager and was promoted to Director of Sales. Now I am more involved in company decisions and strategies for sales growth.”

Just like these two executives, 28 of the 110 women who participated in the first two editions (25%) achieved advancement in their companies by December 2015 and have secured the promise of further advancement when an opportunity presents itself. García-Quismondo confirms it to be “a very thorough programme that covers all angles” but she also highlights the contacts made during so many hours of hard training. “There is a marvellous networking structure, we are all in contact, we keep

growing, we keep meeting up, we run meetings continuously. The Promociona spirit remains alive in absolutely all of us who went through this programme”. The participants have even set up the Spanish Association of Female Executives and Directors, with the objective of continuing to promote the objectives of diversity. “It’s

own companies who finance the training through 50% scholarships, as Plaza explains. She hopes that these contributions will increase to ensure that Promociona lasts long into the future, following the footsteps of a similar programme, Female Future, which has been running in Norway for fifteen years with very positive results.



Frode Norseth, CEO at
Schibsted Spain, one of
the speakers at the
Promociona Breakfasts.

a long road,” explains García-Castaño, “and we think that the best way of addressing the issue is through training and talent. A balanced parity is not necessary but a growing management based on talent and equality of opportunity is”.

For the CEOE, it is very important that companies become more involved. So, since the second edition, it is the participants’

Furthermore, the CEOE is launching the initiative in other countries too. For example, after a presentation at Business Europe, the organisation that brings together all the business organisations of Europe, Italy and France have shown interest. Similarly, Promociona has gone to the Latin American Business Council and are talking to Morocco and Chile with the aim of setting up the project there.

A SIGNIFICANT BOOST TO THE MOST CUTTING EDGE TECHNOLOGIES

One of the principal concerns for the EEA Grants funding over the course of its journey has been environmental sustainability. Researching into new formulae to procure and take advantage of renewable energies, achieving less polluting industrial methods and the encouragement of more healthy cities.

With these objectives in mind, the Environmental and Climate Change related Research and Technology Programme was developed. This programme was operated by the Centre for the Development of Industrial Technology (CDTI) and with Innovation Norway as the donor partner. The greater part of the programme was financed (more than 98%) by the EEA Grants, which supplied 18,215,000 euros.

Luis Enrique San José is head of the Analysis and Investments department at the CDTI. This is an institution with wide experience in these initiatives. Two points stand out in the programme: the approach employed and the system of finance. "We concentrated on the financing of technological development, rather than the implementation of the technology itself". In the same way, it also decided not to choose projects in traditional research centres but those developed by private companies, with or without the collaboration of the former. Although not obligatory, most of these initiatives (150) often worked in collaboration with research centres and Spanish universities.

"Regarding the financial instruments employed, what we call partially refundable help – which in itself has many advantages – was at first what caused most problems among

the donor countries," admits San José. "CDTI issues a loan and, if stated conditions are met, the non-refundable part doesn't need to be repaid". The projects were financed through this system and up to 85% of the total investment was applied this way. Through ten years of soft credit and a low rate of interest (the Euribor + 0.1%), the company was able to cover 15% of the budget with its own resources. Two calls for proposals received 339 applications. Of these, 174 were selected involving 189 companies. As the chosen funding mechanism involved financial assistance through soft credit, funds from the EEA Grants – who had provided the non-returnable finance – had a far greater effect. In this way, projects were set up with a total budget of 114 million euros. Of the projects selected, 50 depended on collaboration with companies or organisations from a donor state (46 Norwegian and 4 Icelandic).

Susana Rodríguez Crespillo, from the Analysis and Investments department of the CDTI, highlights the wide diversity of themes that the research dealt with. Every theme always lay, however, within four clearly defined fields: research into environmental technologies, climate change, energy efficiency and renewable energies.

Innovative projects

In this way, and thanks to the support available, a Catalan firm researched a range of new fabrics whose production sought to eliminate the use of formaldehyde. Formaldehyde is a chemical product and possible carcinogenic, and is used in the production of cotton based materials to avoid creasing. Following the same line of employing processes that are kinder to the environment, another producer focused on new methods of tanning. This method seeks to substitute the water used in different processes and instead use CO₂ in a supercritical state – this meaning the conditions of pressure and temperature that are found during the process where liquid becomes gas.

Another company developed a platform for the placing of large wind turbines offshore. Following another, yet similar, line, another firm has launched a low consumption wind turbine system. It will work by being set up very close to the point of power consumption, thus taking advantage of the local resources available and consequently eliminating losses due to transport and distribution.

Yet another project financed was the development of a new fluid battery of zinc and air, which

will be used for mass storage of renewable energy such as wind or solar power, which is dependent on weather conditions.

Other projects were concerned with agriculture, such as two within the cultivation of grapes. Another project is developing a form of fertilizing glass screen that releases controlled doses of nutrients into tomato plantations.

The Programme Operator is confident that the journey does not end here. Seminars have been organised between Spanish and Norwegian firms so that they may continue their collaboration as they look to other European grants, such as Horizon 2020 or Eureka. Investment forums have also been set up, so that research

companies can be confident of finance through Spanish and Norwegian investment funds.

"The results have been very interesting," says San José. "A significant number of projects have been financed and the CDTI has served to invigorate entrepreneurial research and development in the field of Energy and the Environment in these difficult times of economic crisis. There are many people working on projects in these companies, and they may well serve to improve their competitiveness".

"If we had not managed to secure these funds, there is no way we would have been able to run the number of projects that we did", explains San José.



50 project out of 174 selected were developed in cooperation with companies or entities from the donor countries (46 Norwegian and 4 Icelandic)

MORE EFFICIENT AND SUSTAINABLE TUNNELS

Electricity bill savings may reach 50% with the employment of appropriate measures. To achieve this, the Spanish company Geocontrol, in collaboration with the Norwegian Public Roads Administration, has developed a project to improve energy efficiency with excellent results.

The State Highway Network in Spain comprises around 330 tunnels. In Norway there are more than 1000. If it were not for these passageways through the imposing mountains – beneath the freezing bays or between the beautiful islands – transport would be extremely difficult in the Scandinavian country, whose 2,650 kilometres of coastline increases vastly when bays, coves and fjords are taken into account, reaching a total of 25,000 kilometres. “Norway is a country replete with tunnels. In a European context it is the country with most tunnels, whereas Spain is the number one country in

Europe in terms of the growth in the number of tunnels over the last few years”, says Rafael Sánchez. He is a mining engineer at Geocontrol, a consultancy firm specialized in underground works that between 2014 and 2015 has developed, in collaboration with Statens Vegvesen, Norway’s Public Roads Administration, the research project Enertun, which was dedicated to the study of energy efficiency in tunnels with funding from the EEA Grants.

“The support from the EEA Grants has given us a golden opportunity to begin the innovative project that we have always had



Geocontrol has developed new tools for more efficient collection of data.

in mind,” explains Agustín Muñoz, Innovation Manager at Geocontrol, “and it has enabled us to collaborate with a world leader in the field of tunnels, our partner Statens Vegvesen. We are, of course, learning a great deal from them.”

Geocontrol, a company of 75 employees which was founded in Madrid in 1982 and now has offices in Bogota, Lima, Santiago de Chile and São Paulo, has participated in the project and the overseeing of the construction of more than 340 tunnels with a total length exceeding 1,000 kilometres. Additionally, it has been able to invest 10% of its revenue into research and development – a figure of 6 million euros. It therefore serves as a pioneer in both the implementation of modern technologies in the construction of new infrastructures and the upgrading of existing technologies in older constructions.

Analysis and Development
The Enertun initiative had a budget of 454,000 euros, of which 67,196 euros was provided by EEA Grants. The initiative was dedicated to the field of energy efficiency in tunnels, and thus had as its objective saving costs in this type of infrastructure. This would be achieved through the reduction of unnecessary energy consumption, the rationalization of working protocols, the use of alternative energy sources and the installation of tools which would allow for the monitoring and prediction of energy consumption.

“The Enertun project basically consists of the study of energy efficiency in tunnels,” says

PROJECT:
Development of solutions to improve energy efficiency in tunnels.
PROMOTER:
Geocontrol S.A.
DONOR PARTNER:
Norway's Public Roads Administration.
EEA GRANTS:
67,196 €

Sánchez. “In order for this project to get off the ground, we first carried out an analysis of every type of tunnel in which energy was consumed to determine the most important factors for improved energy efficiency.” The study has been carried out at both Spanish and Norwegian sites.

Naturally, it was not limited solely to the study of electricity bills. New tools were developed based on existing technologies in other industries, which could be applied to the field of tunnels. These included wind gauges, precision luxmeters, processors, computer programmes, and even a modern 3D printer that enabled a more efficient reading of data. While

previously it had been necessary for an operator to take thousands of light measurements at tunnel entrances and along its interior, and to later put all of this into a computer, now the task can be carried out by a small automated device which registers data directly into a computer system. “We have also developed kits that will allow for the independent measuring of electricity consumption and the storage of the registered data for a long period in order to analyse consumption over time,” explains Sánchez.

Once this part of the study was completed, appropriate technologies in both ventilation and lighting were analyzed.

Mathematical models were built in order to study how the consumption was affected by each parameter, and a study also looked into the feasibility of alternative ventilation and lighting.

Lighting constitutes up to 80% of the energy costs in a traditional tunnel. The number of spotlights at the tunnel entrance has been increased so that the change in lightning from natural to interior – or vice versa – is not so abrupt so that the human eye can get used to it more easily. However, through the employment of sunshades or light screens that gradually reduce natural light, an electricity bill savings of around 15% has been achieved. Systems

that adjust the intensity of the tunnel mouth spotlights are also available. These are dependent on the geographical location and even the surrounding terrain and not on basic clocks which turn the lights on and off according to the time and day of the year.

Other technologies that can be employed are control algorithms for ventilation. The need for air flow differs depending on the levels of traffic passing through the tunnel. The optimization of ventilator usage and their use as an emergency measure, significantly reduces energy consumption.

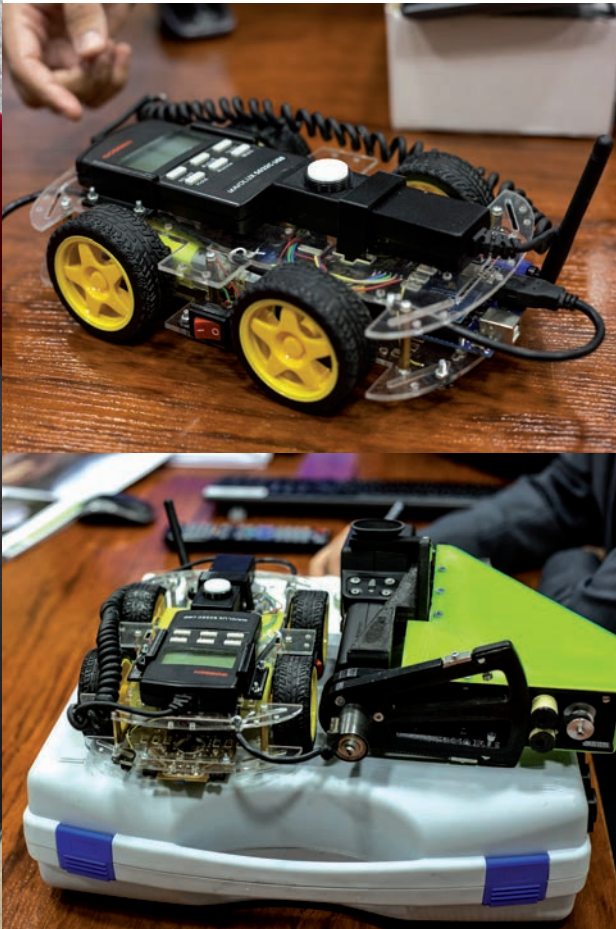
Clearly, the most ideal system would be to replace sodium vapour lamps in all tunnels with modern LEDs (light emitting diodes), or to redesign ventilation systems in older tunnels. However,

the owning companies of tunnels are reluctant to make these costly investments. Hence, there is a need for alternatives. “Thanks to this project we have been able to see that there is still significant room for improvement in energy efficiency,” concludes Sánchez. “In existing tunnels, replacement

is fairly costly, but through a series of adjustments energy savings between 5% and 10% can be achieved.” In addition and perhaps the best news of all, in infrastructures currently under construction, new systems can be employed that “allow for a savings of up to 50%”.



Kit for energy consumption analysis, luxmeters with automatic positioner and luxmeter with an autonomous replacement mechanism; these are just some of the tools used by Geocontrol.



RAFAEL SÁNCHEZ
PROJECT MANAGER TUNNEL INSTALLATION.
GEOCONTROL

AGUSTÍN MUÑOZ
CONTROL MANAGER FOR WORKS AND INNOVATION.
GEOCONTROL

“With a series of adjustments in lighting and ventilation at existing sites, energy savings between 5% and 10% can be achieved”

“EEA Grants funding has given us a golden opportunity to begin the innovative project that we have always had in mind and it has enabled us to collaborate with a world leader in the field of tunnels: Norway’s Public Roads Administration ”

A MORE SUSTAINABLE FISHING INDUSTRY

The Spanish company Satlink and the Norwegian Simrad have developed a buoy with the technology needed to differentiate between species and even size before casting the nets, contributing to a sustainable exploitation of marine world.

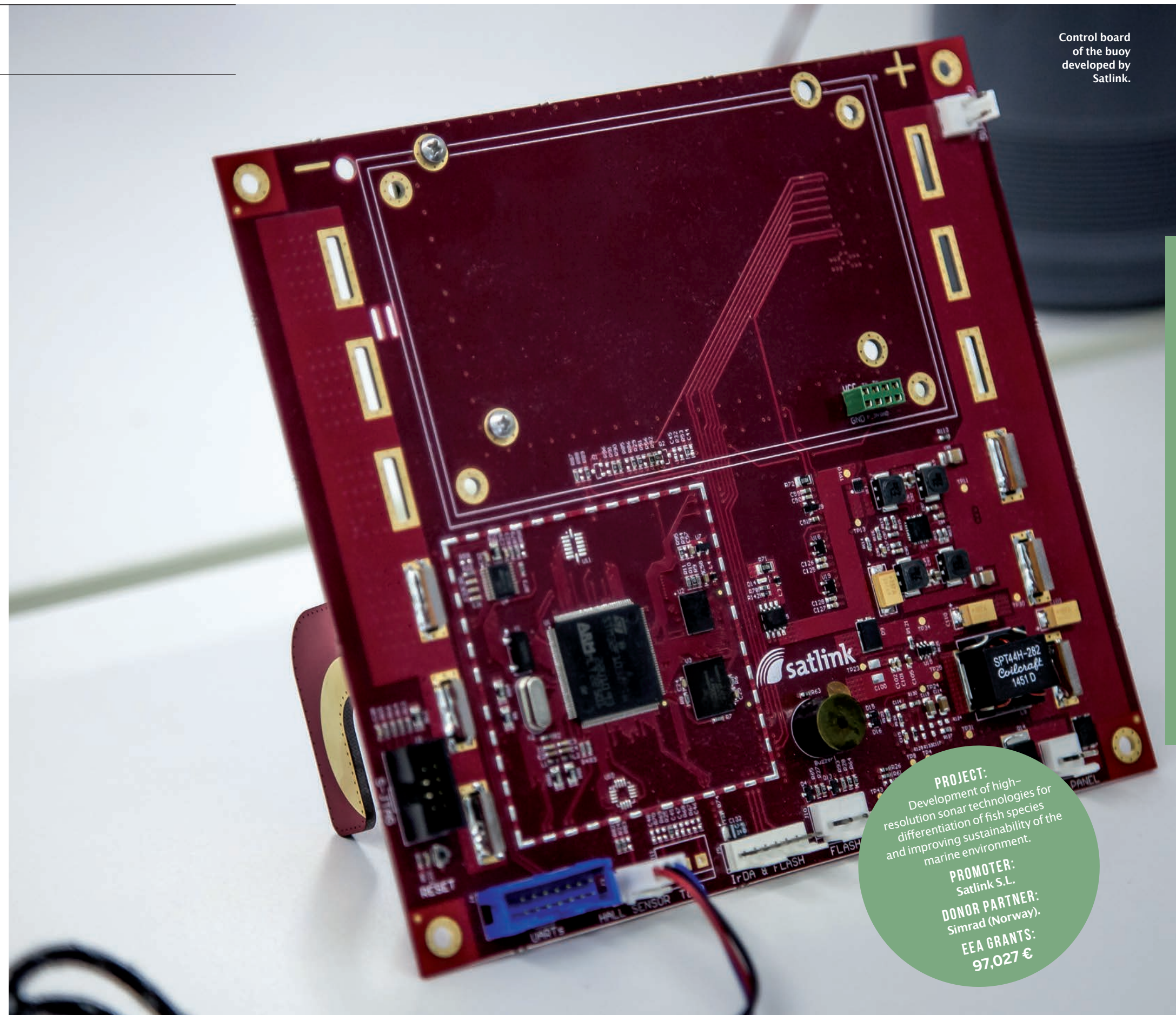
The ambitious Eco-Fishing project consists of the following aims: 1. Optimizing fisheries by placing emphasis on the sustainable management of tuna stocks. 2. Differentiation of species and sizes. 3. Reducing to the point of elimination “by-catch” (the capture of unauthorized species) 4. Minimizing the catchment area (with the implicit savings in fuel, fishing time and carbon footprint). The project was feasible thanks to the EEA Grants and the Spanish firm Satlink in collaboration with Norway’s Simrad.

Satlink and Simrad are two cutting edge companies in fishing. They have created technology such as buoys that supply shipmasters with information regarding the most abundant species of tropical tuna via satellite. Thanks to the support provided by Norway, Iceland and Liechtenstein through the Environmental and Climate Change related Research and

Technology Programme, the two companies have developed a satellite beacon equipped with a high-resolution sonar device, making more selective fishing possible, thus improving the sustainability of the fishing industry.

There are three main species of tuna. The best known is the yellow fin, *Thunnus albacares*, which can grow up to 240 centimetres in length and weigh up to 200 kilos. Of similar size is the Big Eye, *Thunnus obesus*, known as such due to the size of its eyes. The Katsuwonus pelamis, or Skipjack, is the smallest of the three and can grow up to 110 centimetres in length and weigh up to 35 kilograms.

According to the FAO, global catches of tuna are around 5 million tonnes annually. Most of this is destined for the canned food industry, and becomes the



Control board
of the buoy
developed by
Satlink.

PROJECT:
Development of high-resolution sonar technologies for differentiation of fish species and improving sustainability of the marine environment.

PROMOTER:
Satlink S.L.

DONOR PARTNER:
Simrad (Norway).

EEA GRANTS:
97,027 €

canned tuna that is eaten in salads for example.

Since time immemorial, fishermen in tropical seas have employed certain traditional methods to know where to cast their nets. If they saw birds circling and swooping over the sea, they would know that beneath there would likely be a shoal of fish. With some probability, these could be the greatest predators of the ocean, the tuna, as they attacked shoals of their prey at speeds of up to 70 km per hour. In addition, if there were

dolphins swimming on the surface they would be given to believe that the tuna were competing with these mammals for food. But there was yet another, even more subtle indicator. A tree or any other object floating in the water, such as abandoned containers, would always become a favourite habitat for the small fish that attracted tuna.

Sustainable fishing

Inspired by this, the use of artificial objects to attract fish became the next step. So called

“seeding”, is now one of the most widely employed methods among seiners. Objects are placed afloat on bamboo – these being referred to as Fish Attraction Devices (FAD) – and around these their boats launch their nets in a circle which steadily decreases, trapping the fish and hauling them on board. In addition to this, for several decades buoys using sonar technology have transmitted information via satellite to the boats regarding the quantity of biomass that lies beneath the sea and at what depths. It is to these



VÍCTOR DELGADO
GENERAL DIRECTOR OF SATLINK

“We are firmly convinced that this field of development will enable us to improve fishing in terms of stock management”



JENS HEINSDORF
TECHNICAL DIRECTOR OF SATLINK

“A greater respect for the environment has been a top consideration in the design of the buoy and with greater autonomy through solar energy”

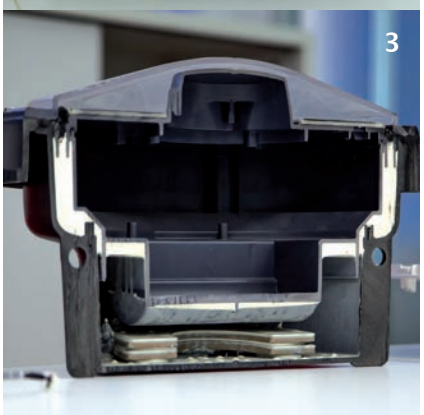
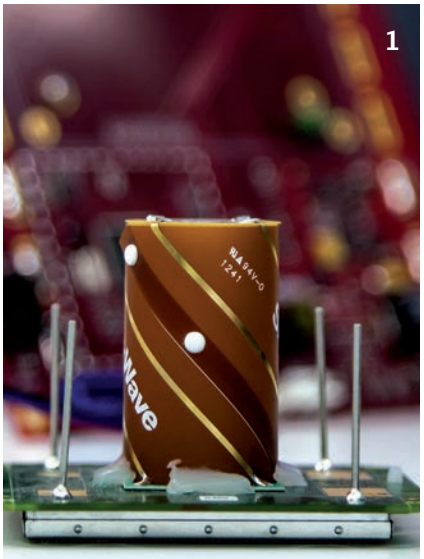


technologies that both Satlink and Simrad are dedicated.

Nevertheless, these companies are now taking a step forward. “The project consists of developing a buoy that enables differentiation between species, which via satellite enables us to discern which species and size of tuna are in the area we plan to cast our nets”, explains Victor Delgado, Director General of the Spanish firm. “Large companies that fish for tropical tuna are certainly now subjected to the strictest regulation and control, by both national and international organisations and environmental NGOs, in respect to their fishing activity, environmental impact and generation of employment. Our objective is not confined simply to helping companies optimize the efficiency of their fishing. We are firmly convinced that this field of development will enable us to improve fishing in terms of stock management”. He concludes: “Both Satlink and Simrad share the initial ‘S’ for sustainability. We like to think that this is not a simple coincidence.”

High technology

In collaboration with Simrad, Satlink has developed a buoy, which uses two distinct frequencies to obtain much more information. “The difference in the feedback from the two frequencies enables us to distinguish between the different species of tuna,” explains Jens Heinsdorf, Danish engineer at the Spanish firm and head of the Eco-Fishing project. He says that all species possess different muscular densities and bladders of different shapes and sizes. Heinsdorf explains that a greater respect for the environment has been a top consideration in the



- 1. IDP Antenna.
- 2. Detail of the transceiver and solar panel.
- 3. Buoy section.

design of the buoy. Also important is the self-sufficiency of the device, which has been achieved through a groundbreaking system of solar panels, eliminating the pollutant batteries.

Logically, it is necessary to test the equipment in the field, with technicians working alongside fishermen, enabling the study of how real catches correlate to the data obtained via satellite. High definition cameras are also installed on the boats. Satlink is an innovative company in electronic monitoring technology (with SeaTube as its flagship product) and these cameras help monitoring and supervising catches in real time. Later, algorithms are developed which will help to assess, according to Delgado “not merely the biomass and the quantity of tuna that is out there, but also the various species and sizes”. Where possible, Satlink is also collecting information on what is known as ‘by-catch’, which is fish of a species or a size that is of no value to the fishing industry, such as sharks, dolphins or turtles. Ultimately, the objective is a fishing industry that is both more efficient and less harmful to the marine environment.

Both companies have been equally dedicated to the joint project, and have the benefit of an enduring and productive cooperation lasting more than a decade. However, support from EEA Grants has been essential. According to Delgado: “We have seen our technology garner a lot of interest from many other organisations. They want to get to know our technology; they want to get to know us. This support has not only been financial; it has also been moral to the same degree.”

SCIENTISTS IN COLLABORATION

uring 2014 and 2015, hundreds of scientists and university students travelled to other universities and research centres thanks to funding from the EEA Grants. NILS is the acronym of Norway, Iceland, Liechtenstein and Spain, and it is to these countries that the NILS Science and Sustainability project title refers. The initiative facilitates the exchange of Erasmus students and researchers between the four countries.

The objective is to build relations among educational institutions and researchers in these nations, while at the same time contributing to projects that improve people's wellbeing and the sustainability of the planet.

"The programme has a budget of four million euros. The main objective to which it seeks to contribute is to extend and deepen academic relations between the countries involved," explains Marta Arregui, director of the programme at Madrid's Complutense University, the institution running the programme.

Of the total budget, one million euros were assigned to finance additional scholarships to those benefitting from the support of Erasmus Plus, enabling them to

travel to donor countries. In this way, 200 degree and Masters students from 11 Spanish academic institutions enjoyed an increased study allowance, spending an average of five months in countries that have a higher standard of living than Spain. "It serves as additional support. Erasmus grants are very small. You could find examples of students with a grant of little more than 200 euros a month to live on in Norway. Basically, they didn't have enough money to feed themselves," says Arregui. The final amount from which students benefitted – between 600 and 1,200 euros a month – depended on their sending institution: whether they preferred to send more students with less money or less students with more money.

Mobility in numbers

The success of this part of the

programme was rather visible. If, according to available statistics, around 600 students travelled to donor states every year and 219 course applications were accepted for the 2014–2015 course, the programme would succeed in financing 34% of those young people who had decided to finish their studies in those institutions. In the end, 90% of beneficiaries travelled to Norway, and 10% to Iceland. Just one went to Liechtenstein – a country of barely 37,000 inhabitants and therefore with limited university places on offer.

The other important part of the programme is the one concerned

with the mobility of researchers. With another 2.3 million euros assigned, the varied range of projects in this area is immense. However, the themes were limited to a generic topic that dealt with environmental sustainability and human wellbeing. In general, they were projects in experimental sciences, but some projects in social sciences were also approved.

Finally, around 200 researchers have had the opportunity to attend

Marta Arregui, Isabel Sánchez and Alberto Casal, Complutense University team responsible for the programme.

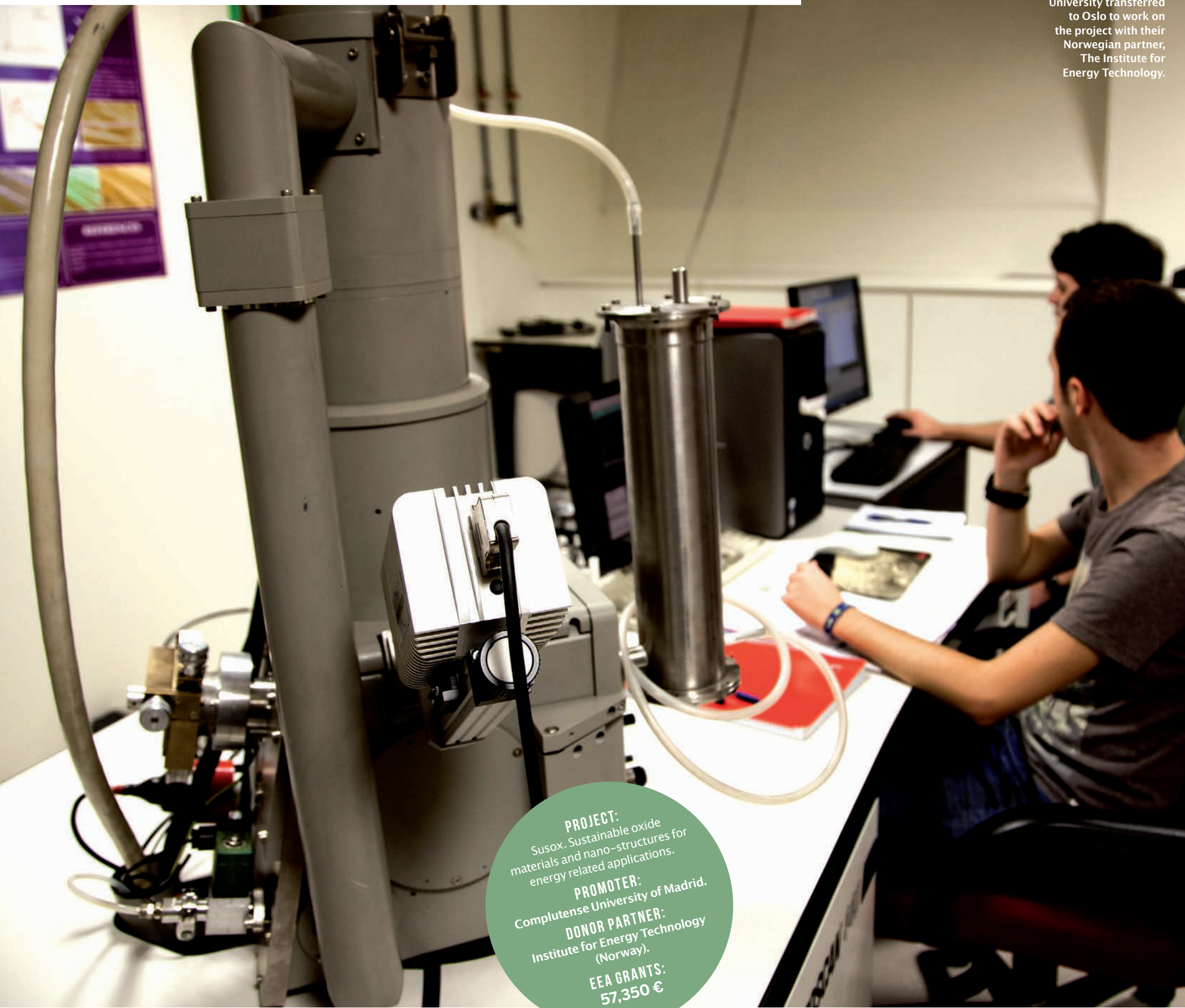


Researchers mobility programme between Spain, Norway, Iceland and Liechtenstein sowed the seeds for future cooperation

other universities or research centres to complete, improve or enrich their work. One advantage of these exchanges was that they often had an equally profound effect on the Spanish institutions as they had on those abroad. In total, 101 projects were developed through 2013 and 2014, involving 29 institutions in Spain, 7 in Iceland and 28 in Norway.

"The important point here is that it had to be their own research groups that began the collaborative work, therefore ensuring a more institutional character," explains Arregui, who stresses that these initiatives sowed the seeds for future cooperation. "There are many researchers that will continue their collaboration. Many are submitting applications to European sources of funding, such as Horizon 2020 – which is for groups of a certain size and experience – as well as to national sources in the donor states and in Spain." It is still too early to evaluate the results of this research. Indeed, the publication of this work could take years. Nevertheless, the technical reports presented once researchers have completed their projects – if they have fulfilled their work plan and if the results have been as expected – have been very positive, according to Marta Arregui.

As a curiosity, the programme coordinator points out the difficulty of finding independent experts to assess the suitability of the projects. "In scientific research, there are microcosms of researchers focused on highly specialized subjects". EEA Grants NILS programme has sought out excellence, fostering cutting-edge research in leading-edge fields of knowledge.



A team of students at Madrid's Complutense University transferred to Oslo to work on the project with their Norwegian partner, The Institute for Energy Technology.

PROJECT:
Susox. Sustainable oxide materials and nano-structures for energy related applications.

PROMOTER:
Complutense University of Madrid.

DONOR PARTNER:
Institute for Energy Technology (Norway).

EEA GRANTS:
57,350 €

THE HUNT FOR MATERIALS OF THE FUTURE

Spanish and Norwegian physicists have come together to investigate new elements that could revolutionize the energy sector. The results of this collaboration are so positive that it is expected to continue far beyond the realm of EEA Grants.

Indium is a pliable metal of a whitish silver colour, with an atomic number of 49. It was discovered by Ferdinand Reich and Theodor Richter in 1863, and is a very scarce chemical element. Indium oxide is frequently used in alloy with tin oxide, forming indium tin oxide (ITO), a material known for its optical transparency and high conductivity simultaneously. ITO is very sought after for application in some of the most cutting edge technology industries around the world. It is used in the production of plasma screens, in photoconductors or in transparent electrodes for touch screens as well as in solar cells. It is believed that on earth there is as much indium as there is silver and on that basis experts calculate that supplies will have been exhausted by the

middle of this century. That is the reason why the European Union has recommended research into new materials that might alleviate dependence on indium, whose production and distribution is undertaken almost entirely in China to the point of monopoly.

A team of researchers at the Department of Materials Physics at Madrid's Complutense University has been doing groundbreaking work research on alternative materials to indium tin oxide (ITO) – materials of the same, almost magical properties suitable for the inventions of the future. They have set up the SUSOX project (sustainable oxides and nanostructured materials for energy-related applications). The project is financed through



In Madrid, scientists synthesize nanostructures, which they later will analyse with powerful microscopes.

the EEA Grants' NILS Science and Sustainability Programme with 57,350 euros contributed by Norway, Iceland and Liechtenstein.

"Our project consists of the development of nanostructures based on semiconductor oxides, such as titanium oxide, tin oxide or gallium oxide, for application in solar cells, in batteries or even in sensors," explains Ana Cremades, one of the project's coordinators. "It is based on the properties that these oxides possess and also on the fact that they are sustainable. They are already used in familiar applications but using nanotechnology their properties may be improved on and in this way we can free ourselves from the need to use indium, a material which is dwindling."

Pooling experiences

The research team is part of the Physics of Electronic Nanomaterials Group which has experience in a variety of techniques of both nanostructure growth and nano-profiling as well as using microscopes for the study of

structural, optical and electronic properties.

The project is part of the NILS program, which provides the researchers the opportunity to meet and share knowledge and experience with other institutions. In this case, the project has benefitted from teaming up with the Institute for Energy Technology (IFE) in Norway. IFE's researchers in its Department of Solar Energy have extensive experience in theoretical calculation and simulation tests of materials and devices as well as in the production of silicon and solar cells. Their activities often focus on industrial projects and cooperation with companies, which is why they to a lesser degree undertake the type of basic research which is carried out in Madrid.

"We are at the cutting edge of knowledge. There are not many groups that make the type of nanomaterials that we make," explains Cremades. "We already had occasional contact through specialized conferences with those who today are our partners."

In Madrid, scientists make experimental batteries to synthesize nanostructures. They start with small tablets that contain gallium, titanium or tin, as well as other "dopants" (impurities of other material that may change the end properties of the resulting nanomaterial) in tubular ovens. There, at different temperatures and in controlled atmospheres that can change their composition, they are able to sublime part of the material and when the vapour is saturated, the oxides precipitate into very fine threads. The fine crystal threads appear in spectacular sequences and are analyzed through electronic microscopes and optics in order to profile their properties. In other words, they seek out the qualities that will see them become the materials in our displays, batteries and solar panels in a not too distant future.

Practical Applications

At IFE, the coordinator of the project, Smagul Karazhanov, is a specialist in materials physics and undertakes calculations and

simulations of the materials used in the project. This enables the design of nanomaterials. He is also responsible for the direction of students from the Complutense University during their stay at IFE. The students have taken part in the calculations and have above all been involved in the practical application of the nanomaterials that are developed in Madrid. Both teams possess competences that complement each other very effectively, and their experience as a whole has produced synergy effects necessary to achieve very promising end-results. The

results may soon come to form the basis of a collective patent application.

This phase of the NILS programme has been an opportunity to firmly establish this area of cooperation. It has allowed researchers and doctorate students to take materials created in Madrid to Oslo in order to explore their practical application. "This project has been a very enriching experience, both for our own team and for them," explains Bianchi Méndez, the other coordinator of the SUSOX project. "This collaboration

has allowed the two groups to get to know each other and has given us the chance to see how we work together. We will certainly set up further projects and carry out more work together in the field of nanomaterial development for energy applications."

The collaboration will continue with an analysis of the latest results and the preparation of patent applications and articles. Proposals are also being tabled for the next series of collaborative projects under the EU programme Horizon 2020.

ANA CREMADES
PROJECT COORDINATOR AND TEACHER
HEAD OF MATERIALS AND METALLURGIC
ENGINEERING SCIENCE

"We are at the cutting edge of knowledge. There are not many groups that make the type of nanomaterials that we make"



BIANCHI MÉNDEZ
PROJECT COORDINATOR AND PROFESSOR
OF MATERIALS AND METALLURGIC
ENGINEERING SCIENCE

"The cooperation with our Norwegian partner on developing new nanomaterials will continue beyond the scope of the EEA Grants"



NILS SCIENCE AND SUSTAINABILITY

The motto “Education For All” serves as the pillar of Norway’s education system, irrespective of cultural background, social status or special needs.

PROJECT:
Bachelor and Master students in Spain to Norway, Iceland and Liechtenstein.

PROMOTER:
Universities: Ramon Llull, Valladolid, A Coruña, Autónoma de Barcelona, Valencia, Barcelona, Complutense de Madrid, Vigo, Rovira i Virgili, Rey Juan Carlos and Autónoma de Madrid

EEA GRANTS:
954,578 €

THE OPPORTUNITY THAT CAME IN FROM THE COLD



2

00 hundred students from 11 Spanish universities have something in common: they have all spent part of their 2014–2015 academic year in principal education centres in Norway, Iceland or Liechtenstein thanks to the NILS grant drives.

The experience could not have been more positive or enriching, according to the participants. The opportunity to discover the Nordic teaching model – one of the most prestigious in the world – has been provided through the additional funding made available by the EEA

Grants to meet the higher cost of living in those countries.

“Education in Norway really opened my eyes. They place a great deal of emphasize on individual responsibility,” says Esther, a diploma student at Valencia University who sojourned at the University of Oslo. “The organisation at the university is excellent and there is a great willingness to help foreign students to settle in,” adds her colleague Ana Isabel. They all agree that the expectations they had when they changed the south

of Europe for the north have been met: broadened horizons, new discoveries and languages learned. Ultimately, it is an experience they would happily repeat. 28 Norwegian universities, six in Iceland and one in Liechtenstein have welcomed Spanish students during a five-month stay. Of the approximately four million euros dedicated to the NILS Science and Sustainability Programme, one million has been devoted to these grants, serving to complement the funds made available through the Erasmus programme.



Photos sent by students who received NILS grants from their time in Norway and Iceland.

THE NEAR FUTURE

The year 2016 marks the end of more than 20 years of financial support from Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway to Spain. Have the Grants made a difference? The answer is yes.

This booklet demonstrates the positive changes that have been achieved within a wide range of sectors and regions. Maybe small in size, but important for each and everyone that have benefitted from them. The legacy of the EEA Grants is also the networks of personal contacts and institutional bonds that have been created.

So what now? Due to the relative strength of its economy, Spain falls outside the criteria for being a beneficiary state under the EEA and Norway Grants 2014–2021. However, the Grants have helped creating enduring links between Spain, Norway, Iceland and Liechtenstein, and bilateral cooperation will continue under other mechanisms and in other forms.

The EU has established a wide range of programmes such as Horizon 2020, Erasmus +, Galileo and Creative Europe to strengthen cooperation in areas not covered by the internal market. Through the

EEA Agreement, Norway, Iceland and Liechtenstein participate in many of these programmes and activities on an equal footing with EU member states, including Spain. This participation creates a wealth of opportunities for future cooperation in the areas of innovation, research, cultural exchanges and education, to the benefit of all EEA states.

Moreover, under the EEA and Norway Grants 2014–2021 a regional fund of approximately €100 million will be established. A large part of this fund will be supporting regional cooperation projects to increase youth employment. Projects may also include countries that are not recipients of the EEA and Norway Grants such as Spain.

So this is not the end of cooperation to build a better future in Europe. The possibilities are plentiful that will provide a basis for new, innovative and successful cooperation also in the years to come.