

# BULGARIA

Bulgaria has received funding since entering the EU and EEA in 2007. For the period of 2009-2014, Bulgaria has been allocated €126.6 million; up from €41.5 million in the period 2007-2009. Projects may be implemented until 2016.

## KEY AREAS OF SUPPORT

- › Strengthening the justice sector through reforms
- › Combating organised crime, including trafficking
- › Improving the situation for vulnerable groups, including children, youth and Roma
- › Protecting biodiversity and improving the monitoring of marine and inland waters
- › Promoting green industry innovation

## BILATERAL COOPERATION

Seven Norwegian public institutions are involved in programmes on climate change, environment, green industry innovation, justice, social dialogue, scholarships, capacity building at a local and regional level and cross-border cooperation. Public entities from Iceland and Liechtenstein are participating as programme partners on scholarships.

Among the institutions involved, the Norwegian National Police Directorate is on board as a partner in the programme focused on combating organised crime. The Norwegian Environment Agency is providing expertise in the management of inland and marine waters. The Norwegian Barents Secretariat is a project partner in dealing with cross-border cooperation. Innovation Norway is operating the green industry innovation programme that contributes to increased competitiveness of green enterprises in Bulgaria. The Council of Europe is involved in helping Bulgaria carry out reforms in a number of important areas.

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

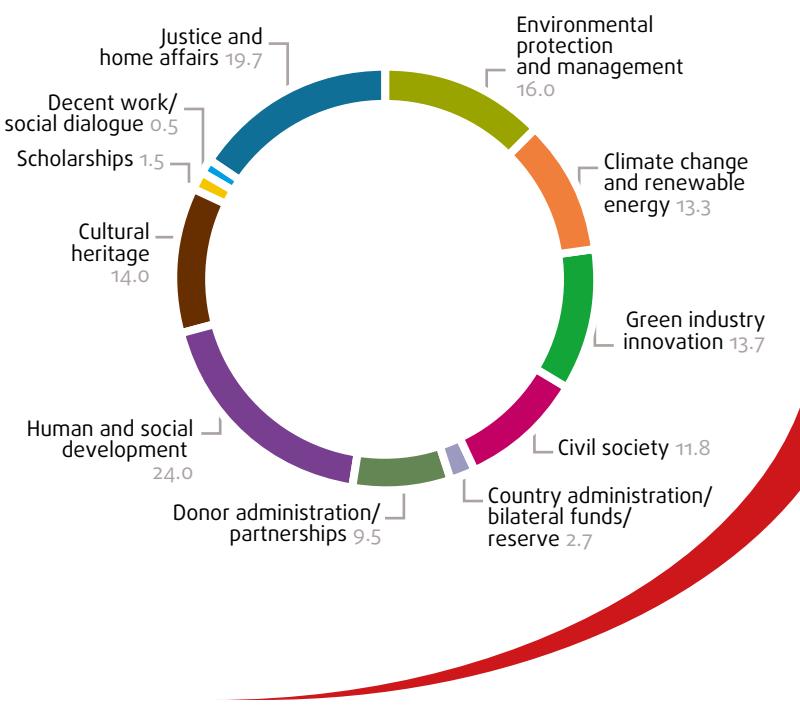
The EEA and Norway Grants provide €1.8 billion in funding to 150 programmes in 16 beneficiary countries. EEA Grants €993.5 million (Norway 95.8%, Iceland 3.0%, Liechtenstein 1.2%). Norway Grants €804.6 million, financed by Norway alone.



EEA GRANTS	€78.6 M	TOTAL FUNDING	€126.6 M
NORWAY GRANTS	€48.0 M	Bulgaria	EU-28
GDP per capita in PPS (EU=100)	45	100	
Economic growth (% change on previous year)	0.9	0.1	
Unemployment rate (%)*	11.6	10.2	
Youth unemployment rate (%)*	23.6	22.2	
Public debt (% of GDP)	18.3	85.4	
Gender pay gap (%)	13.5	16.4	
At-risk-of-poverty rate (%)	48	24.5	
Human development index	28 (EU-28 ranking)		
Corruption perception index*	25 (EU-28 ranking)		

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

## DISTRIBUTION OF FUNDING (€ MILLION)



## IN FOCUS

### STRENGTHENING CAPACITY AND EFFECTIVENESS OF THE JUDICIAL SECTOR

The European Court of Human Rights states that Bulgaria must undertake structural reforms in order to respect the European Convention on Human Rights, the cornerstone for the protection of human rights in Europe. The Bulgarian government has shown determination to deliver judicial reform and tackle corruption, but further action is needed.

The Norway Grants are enabling the Council of Europe to assist Bulgaria with these reforms. Bulgaria is using the Grants to improve access to the justice system, make the courts more efficient and increase competence within the judiciary. At the same time, the Council of Europe is helping Bulgarian authorities improve upon their track record in combating domestic violence and organised crime and to improve both the legal system and prison facilities. Experts from the Council of Europe are working with Bulgarian institutions to increase their knowledge of the European Convention of Human Rights.

### IMPROVING THE SITUATION OF VULNERABLE GROUPS

Ensuring better conditions for vulnerable groups, including Bulgaria's Roma population, is a priority. At least ten percent of the allocation to Bulgaria is going towards improving the situation of the Roma. Measures to this end are supported in areas such as children and youth at risk, justice, scholarships, public health, culture and through the NGO programme.

Focusing on the main risk factors facing young people in Bulgaria today, such as early drop-out of school and high unemployment, the Grants support the establishment of four youth centres where young people will have an opportunity to learn new skills and take part in local decision making processes.

EU studies show that Roma access to pre-school is often limited. This contributes to high drop-out rates and very low enrolment in secondary and university education. Through the support from the Grants, at least 1100 additional children from underprivileged and Roma families will get a place in a pre-school.

The Council of Europe is involved in training and capacity building for staff in the pre-schools and youth centres as well as for Roma mediators.

### IMPROVED MONITORING OF MARINE AND INLAND WATERS

The Danube River defines Bulgaria's border with Romania and the country has a long coastline on the Black Sea. The European Water Framework Directive requires that all EU countries achieve 'good status' in all waters by 2015.

To achieve this ambitious goal, Bulgaria needs to put an integrated water management system in place. The EEA Grants are contributing to establishing this system. The support will strengthen Bulgaria's capability to monitor and manage its vast marine and inland waters.

Read more about all the programmes:  
[www.eeagrants.org/bulgaria](http://www.eeagrants.org/bulgaria)

Programme	Partner(s)	Grant (€ million)
Green industry innovation	Innovation Norway*	13.7
Energy efficiency and renewable energy	Norwegian Water Resources and Energy Directorate	13.3
Integrated marine and inland water management	Norwegian Environment Agency	8.0
Biodiversity and ecosystem services	Norwegian Environment Agency	8.0
Correctional services	Council of Europe	8.6
Schengen cooperation and combating cross-border and organised crime	National Police Directorate (Norway) / Council of Europe	6.0
Judicial capacity building	Council of Europe	3.1
Domestic and gender-based violence	Council of Europe	2.0
Public health initiatives		13.4
Children and youth at risk	Council of Europe	8.6
Capacity building and Institutional Co-operation	Norwegian Association of Local and Regional Authorities / Norwegian Barents Secretariat	2.0
Cultural heritage and contemporary arts		14.0
NGO Fund		11.8
Scholarships	Icelandic Centre for Research / National Agency for International Education Affairs (Liechtenstein) / Norwegian Centre for International Cooperation in Education	1.5
Decent work and tripartite dialogue	Innovation Norway*	0.5



\*Programme Operator