

CROATIA

Croatia has been allocated €9.6M in support from Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway after joining the European Union and European Economic Area (EEA). The allocation has been agreed for the remainder of the 2009 – 2014 funding period of the EEA and Norway Grants. Projects may be implemented until April 2017.

KEY AREAS OF SUPPORT

- › Promote education, research and business within green industry innovation in cooperation with Norwegian partners
- › Improve infrastructure and efficiency of court systems
- › Promote increased understanding between ethnic groups in post-conflict communities
- › Enhance the contribution of civil society to justice, democracy and sustainable development
- › Strengthen conditions for decent work through tripartite dialogue

BILATERAL COOPERATION

Strengthening bilateral relations between the three donor countries and Croatia is a central component of the Grants. The aim is to stimulate long-term cooperation, including partnerships in projects and programmes.

This also includes funding to support networking and foster project partnerships. €100 000 has already been allocated to promote cooperation in geothermal energy between Iceland and Croatia.

The Council of Europe is involved as a partner under the justice project, sharing its considerable expertise on issues of human rights and the rule of law.

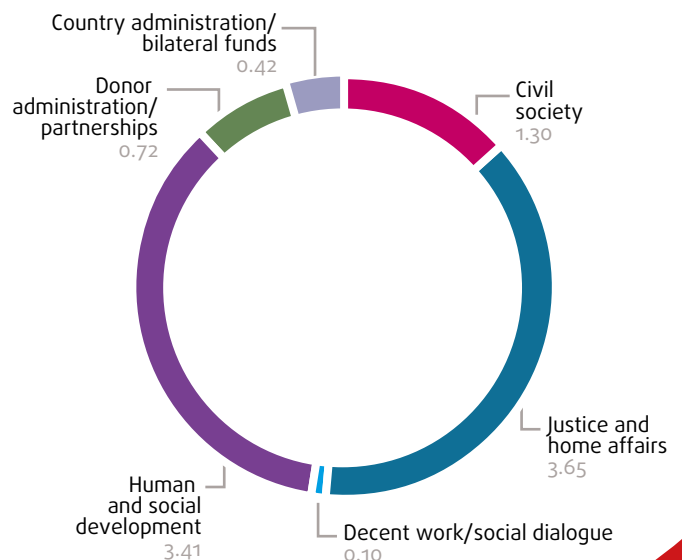
The EEA and Norway Grants provide €1.8 billion in funding to 150 programmes in 16 beneficiary countries. EEA Grants €993.5 million (Norway 95.8%, Iceland 3.0%, Liechtenstein 1.2%). Norway Grants €804.6 million, financed by Norway alone.



	EEA GRANTS	NORWAY GRANTS	TOTAL FUNDING
	€5.0 M	€4.6 M	€9.6 M
	Croatia	EU-28	
GDP per capita in PPS* (EU=100)	61	100	
Economic growth (% change on previous year)	-0.9	0.1	
Unemployment rate (%)*	17	10.2	
Youth unemployment rate (%)*	45	22.2	
Public debt* (% of GDP)	67.1	85.4	
Gender pay gap (%)	7.4	16.4	
At-risk-of-poverty rate (%)	29.9	24.5	
Human Development Index	25 (EU-28 ranking)		
Corruption perception index*	24 (EU-28 ranking)		

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

DISTRIBUTION OF FUNDING (€ MILLION)



IN FOCUS

SUPPORTING JUDICIAL REFORMS

Reform of the judicial system has formed an important component of the preparations for Croatia's accession to the EU. There has been a rationalisation of the court network, hand-in-hand with a commitment to improve judicial processes.

Norway is supporting these reforms through the renovation and reconstruction of Karlovac Courthouse. The projects will improve working conditions and help to reduce the backlog of cases and protect the right of citizens to a trial within a reasonable time. In addition, Norwegian support will also improve the way cases are handled by the judicial system, applying the tried-and-tested methodologies developed by the European Commission for the Efficiency of Justice (CEPEJ), which is an expert group within the Council of Europe.

PROMOTING INNOVATION: iNavis

The municipality of Šibenik wants to establish itself as the green innovation and industry centre of the Adriatic. Improving the quality of higher education and the level of innovation and business development is critical to achieving this goal.

Building on existing cooperation, a national resource centre – iNavis – is being established to further develop cooperation between Croatia and Norway in education, research and business innovation.

New university programmes and joint research programmes will be developed in cooperation between, amongst others, Zagreb University and the Institute Ruđer Bošković in Šibenik and Norwegian universities. iNavis will also act as a technology transfer office and host start-up companies working in aquaculture, environmental protection and sustainable energy.

Read more about all programmes:
www.eegrants.org/croatia

Programmes/projects	Partners	Grant allocation (€ million)	
NGO Programme		■ ■	1.3
iNavis – Green Innovation Centre		■	1.7
Integrated Schools – Vukovar and Knin		■	1.3
Judicial capacity building <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Strengthening efficiency of judicial system</i> • <i>Renovation Karlovac Courthouse</i> 	Council of Europe	■	3.65
Decent work and tripartite dialogue	Innovation Norway*	■	0.1

■ EEA Grants ■ Norway Grants *Programme Operator



Norwegian support is helping to renovate Karlovac courthouse where 25% of the cases take more than three years to proceed.