

Council of Europe – partner of the EEA and Norway Grants

The Council of Europe contributes its expertise on human rights, democracy and the rule of law to reach the overall goals of the EEA and Norway Grants.

The Council of Europe (CoE) has long been engaged in setting standards on human rights and furthering democracy and the rule of law across Europe. The close partnership between the EEA and Norway Grants and the CoE draws on the Council's wealth of experience and expertise in areas such as justice reform, fighting corruption, trafficking and gender-based violence and promoting equality and social inclusion.

HOW IS THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE INVOLVED?

The CoE is involved in 21 programmes supported by Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway through the EEA and Norway Grants, covering ten beneficiary countries. The CoE advises during the development and implementation of programmes and also takes part in a number of projects.

ROMA

Improving the situation of the Roma is a priority across the Grants and targeted programmes have been established in countries with sizeable Roma minorities such as Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Hungary, Romania and Slovakia. The CoE is involved in several programmes in this area, including on strengthening integration of Roma children and young people in the educational system in Slovakia, training of police on human rights in Bulgaria and improving living conditions for Roma communities in Romania.

WHAT IS THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE?

The Council of Europe (CoE) is an intergovernmental organisation which covers virtually the entire European continent with its 47 member countries. Founded in 1949, the CoE seeks to develop common and democratic principles and the protection of individuals based on the European Convention on Human Rights. www.coe.int

Working in partnership with the Council of Europe, the Grants support efforts to improve the well-being of vulnerable children.



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COMBATING HATE SPEECH ONLINE

The EEA and Norway Grants are a strategic partner to the Council of Europe's NO HATE SPEECH MOVEMENT. The campaign takes action against hate speech online in all its forms, and is based on human rights education, youth participation and media literacy. All NGO programmes in the beneficiary countries are engaged in the campaign, which was launched in March 2013 and runs until the end of 2017.

CHILDREN AND YOUTH

One in four of children in the EU are at risk of poverty or social exclusion. Developed in partnership with the CoE, a programme in Romania is helping improve access to formal and non-formal education for vulnerable children and young people, enhance support services for parents and put in place action plans to combat discrimination. In Bulgaria, four youth centres with the CoE quality label and nursery schools that promote multicultural learning and the integration of Roma children are being established.

GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE

Combating gender-based violence is vital for improving gender equality and empowering women. The CoE advises on how to bring national legislation in line with the Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence (Istanbul Convention). Efforts are also being made to improve inter-agency communication and coordination to tackle gender-based violence.

JUSTICE AND HOME AFFAIRS

The CoE is involved in programmes promoting fairer and more efficient judicial systems. This includes training of legal professionals in judicial ethics and at the European Court of Human Rights as well as modernisation of IT-systems used by judges, prosecutors and legal staff in Bulgaria and Romania. Support also covers provision of legal aid for disadvantaged groups and improved assistance from the courts for victims of crime and witnesses. In Croatia, the CoE contributes to increasing the efficiency of the court management system.

The CoE is also engaged in programmes working with the police in the Czech Republic, Bulgaria, Romania and Poland tackling problems such as corruption, trafficking in human beings and on improving relations between the police and the Roma community. In Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Romania and Latvia, the CoE is involved in programmes on prison reform.

FURTHER COOPERATION

The Grants and the CoE have also teamed up in a strategic partnership, co-organising conferences on issues such as gender-based violence (2011), combating hate speech in social media (2012), trafficking (2013) and anti-corruption and money laundering (2015).

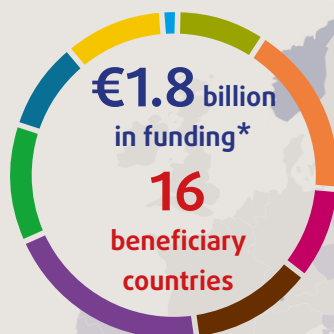
The Grants support CoE activities in beneficiary countries in the areas of human rights, democracy and the rule of law, such as constitutional reform in Romania, a conference on hate speech in Poland and promoting media freedom in Hungary.

Country	Programme	Total amount of programme (€ million)
Bulgaria	Children and youth at risk	8.6
	Domestic and gender-based violence	2.0
	Schengen cooperation and cross-border crime	6.0
	Judicial capacity building	3.1
	Correctional services	8.6
Croatia	Judicial capacity building	3.7
Cyprus	Home for Cooperation: strengthening dialogue on history teaching	0.7
Czech Republic	Capacity building and institutional cooperation (<i>including improved implementation of the GRECO recommendation*</i>)	1.8
	Correctional services	4.9
Hungary	Children and youth at risk	11.2
Latvia	Correctional services	13.1
Malta	Capacity building and institutional cooperation	0.3
Poland	Domestic and gender-based violence	3.6
	Schengen cooperation and cross-border crime	10.0
Romania	Children and youth at risk	27.0
	Domestic and gender-based violence	4.0
	Judicial capacity building	8.0
	Correctional services	8.0
	Schengen cooperation and cross-border crime	5.3
Slovakia	Local and regional initiatives	1.0
	Domestic and gender-based violence	8.4

* GRECO is the Group of States against Corruption established by the Council of Europe to monitor compliance with the organisation's anti-corruption standards

ABOUT THE EEA AND NORWAY GRANTS

Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway provide funding to:



AREAS OF SUPPORT

- Environmental management
- Climate change
- Civil society
- Cultural heritage and diversity
- Human and social development
- Green industry innovation
- Justice and home affairs
- Research and scholarships
- Decent work and social dialogue

* EEA Grants €993.5 million (Norway 95.7%, Iceland 3.2%, Liechtenstein 1.1%) – Norway Grants €804.6 million, financed by Norway alone