

Countering hatred Protecting open societies Empowering minorities



All European states are committed to counter discrimination and intolerance, including manifestations of hate speech and hate crime. During the last few years we have registered continued and renewed violations of fundamental rights, including physical and verbal attacks on minority groups, immigrants, and on organisations defending human dignity. To address these concerns, the EEA and Norway Grants are mobilising to reduce the levels of intolerance through different measures and programmes.

HOW ARE THE EEA AND NORWAY GRANTS CONTRIBUTING?

The aim of the EEA and Norway Grants is to contribute to reducing social and economic disparities in Europe. Democracy, protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms are key European values and essential safeguards of tolerance and non-discrimination.

The EEA and Norway Grants support numerous initiatives and activities at national, regional and local levels to promote tolerance and non-discrimination, with a focus on reducing hate speech and hate crime in the Baltic states and Central and Southern Europe.

STRENGTHENING CIVIL SOCIETY

NGO Programmes in 15 countries promote democracy, human rights and tolerance. They hold considerable potential for strengthening civil society actions on the ground to promote civil society and local government initiatives.

All programmes will actively engage NGOs to work with youth to counter hate speech on the internet, racism, homophobia and anti-Semitism.

Example: The NGO Programme in Estonia promotes multicultural dialogue and addresses the needs of minority groups.

CULTURAL HERITAGE, HISTORICAL NARRATIVES AND REMEMBRANCE

Programmes are established in 14 countries to support the preservation and revitalisation of cultural heritage. Being aware of history and remembering how historical developments affected minorities in Europe, such as

Jewish communities, can help strengthen social cohesion by increasing mutual understanding between people and communities.

Example: Cultural history, also covering ethnic and national minorities is highlighted as a special concern in a number of cultural programmes.

INTERCULTURAL UNDERSTANDING AND DIALOGUE

Specific programmes are set up in 10 countries to strengthen intercultural dialogue and the understanding of cultural diversity in Europe. One important goal of these programmes is to reach broader audiences and promote tolerance through an increased awareness of cultural diversity.

Example: The cultural diversity fund in Poland supports projects that build on the principles of intercultural dialogue, multicultural history, anti-discrimination and tolerance.

SOCIAL INCLUSION AND CHILDREN AT RISK

In the Czech Republic, Poland, Romania and Slovakia, programmes specifically support local and regional initiatives to promote social inclusion. This includes strengthening anti-discriminatory measures for groups vulnerable to social and economic exclusion.

Example: In the Czech Republic, we support efforts to promote tolerance and anti-discrimination in society, with a particular focus on the situation of the Roma minority.

ROMA INCLUSION

The Roma are Europe's largest minority. Socially and economically, they are one of Europe's most vulnerable and disadvantaged groups and frequently face intolerance, discrimination and exclusion. Improving the situation of Roma is a priority across the grant schemes.

Example: In Bulgaria and Romania, 10% of the allocation to relevant programmes will focus on the situation of the Roma.

RESEARCH AND EDUCATION

Through research programmes in seven countries and scholarship programmes in 11 countries, we are contributing to developing a stronger knowledge base in Europe. The research programmes build on principles of freedom of expression, anti-discrimination and gender balance.

Example: The research programme in Greece intends to focus on developments of xenophobia, on the value of immigrant communities, on multiple identities and integration, and on the development of relevant policy recommendations.

FAIRER AND MORE EFFICIENT JUSTICE SYSTEMS

The Norway Grants support programmes to ensure fairer and more efficient judicial systems, with a focus on the rights of vulnerable groups within the justice system and in correctional institutions.

Example: In Bulgaria, the Norway Grants supports efforts to strengthen respect for the European Convention on Human Rights within the judicial system and the police and to ensure legal aid to vulnerable groups.

WORKING WITH THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE

The EEA and Norway Grants work closely with the Council of Europe to strengthen fundamental rights in the programmes.

EEA AND NORWAY GRANTS AT A GLANCE

Through the EEA and Norway Grants, Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway contribute to reducing disparities in Europe and to strengthening bilateral relations with 15 countries in Central and Southern Europe. For the period 2009 to 2014, €1.79 billion has been set aside under the Grants. Norway contributes 97% of the funding.

OVERVIEW OF RELEVANT PROGRAMMES

	Civil society	Cultural heritage and diversity	Social inclusion	Roma inclusion*	Research	Scholarships	Justice
Bulgaria	•	•		•		•	•
Cyprus	•	•					•
Czech Rep.	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Estonia	•	•			•	•	•
Greece	•			•	•		
Hungary	•	•		•		•	
Lithuania	•	•				•	•
Latvia	•	•			•	•	•
Malta	•	•					•
Poland	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Portugal	•	•		•			
Romania	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Slovakia	•	•	•	•			•
Slovenia	•	•		•		•	
Spain	•	•		•		•	

*Programmes within various areas that focus on Roma inclusion