

Justice and home affairs

Norway is contributing around €150 million to promote police cooperation to fight cross-border crime, strengthen judicial systems and improve conditions in prisons, and combat violence against women in 11 beneficiary countries.

WHY FOCUS ON JUSTICE AND HOME AFFAIRS?

A well-functioning justice system is fundamental in a democratic society based on the rule of law. The police, the judiciary and the correctional services must guarantee basic human rights and basic freedoms, as well as protection from violence and discrimination. A predictable and transparent legal environment also stimulates investment, trade and economic growth.

WHAT WILL WE ACHIEVE?

Through the Norway Grants, €150 million has been set aside to programmes addressing justice and home affairs in: Bulgaria, Cyprus, Croatia, Czech Republic, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Romania and Slovakia. The programmes contribute to:

- > Increasing citizen security and strengthening cooperation between police and judicial authorities to counter organised crime
- > Developing fairer and more efficient legal systems
- > Improving prison systems
- > Preventing and combating violence against women, and protecting and supporting victims

HOW WILL WE ACHIEVE IT?

Support from Norway Grants is focused on the following four areas:

Schengen cooperation and cross-border crime

Millions of people can travel between the Schengen countries without border checks. However, open borders also leave countries more vulnerable to cross-border crime such as human trafficking, illegal immigration and smuggling. The Grants contribute to strengthening cooperation between the police and other law enforcement agencies which is vital in the fight against cross-border organised crime.

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Judicial reforms

It is often said that 'justice delayed is justice denied'. The Grants support efforts to make courts more efficient and more accessible. Types of activities supported include improving court registries, training for legal professionals, assistance to victims and witnesses during court procedures and systems for resolving disputes out of court.

Correctional services

Overcrowding in prisons is a problem for many of the beneficiary countries. Poor facilities and sanitation can often lead to ill health. The Grants provide support to improve conditions through renovating prisons, training for staff as well as offering drug rehabilitation and psychiatric support to prisoners. Increasing the use of alternative forms of sentencing such as probation, electronic monitoring and community service is also promoted.

Domestic and gender-based violence

The Council of Europe estimates that one-fifth to one-quarter of all women in Europe have experienced violence at least once during their adult lives. Programmes focus on awareness-raising and advocacy campaigns, as well as protection of victims through the establishment of shelters, crisis centres and helplines.

HOW DOES IT WORK?

Most projects are being implemented by the police, the judiciary or correctional services in the beneficiary countries. For the programmes on gender-based violence, some countries select projects following calls for proposals organised by the programme operator in each country. Calls are published on the websites of the programme operators and on www.eeagrants.org / www.norwaygrants.org.

BILATERAL COOPERATION

Pooling expertise helps tackle shared challenges. To strengthen cooperation and knowledge exchange, partnerships between entities in the donor and beneficiary countries are encouraged. Funding is available to support networking and foster project partnerships.

The Norwegian Courts Administration, the Directorate of Norwegian Correctional Service, the Norwegian Police Directorate and the Council of Europe are involved as partners in several programmes.

COUNTRY OVERVIEW: JUSTICE AND HOME AFFAIRS

Country	Domestic and gender-based violence	Schengen and cross-border crime	Judicial capacity building and cooperation	Correctional services, including non-custodial sanctions	Partners	Grant amount (€ million)
Bulgaria	●	●	●	●	• Council of Europe • Norwegian National Police Directorate	19.7
Croatia			●		• Council of Europe	3.6
Cyprus	●	●			• Council of Europe • Secretariat of the Shelter Movement	1.7
Czech Republic	●	●	●	●	• Council of Europe	15.5
Estonia	●				• Norwegian Directorate of Health	2.0
Latvia				●	• Directorate of Norwegian Correctional Service	13.1
Lithuania	●	●	●	●	• Norwegian National Police Directorate • Norwegian Courts Administration • Directorate of Norwegian Correctional Service	18.8
Malta				●		1.1
Poland	●	●	●	●	• Council of Europe • Norwegian Courts Administration • Directorate of Norwegian Correctional Service	40.6
Romania	●	●	●	●	• Council of Europe • Norwegian National Police Directorate • Norwegian Courts Administration • Directorate of Norwegian Correctional Service	25.3
Slovakia	●				• Council of Europe • Norwegian Directorate of Health	8.4
Total						149.8

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