Researchers from the University of Wroclaw in Poland and Oslo University Hospital in Norway are working together to develop a new cancer therapy with funding from the Norway Grants. Read more about this project on page 59.
Foreword

Through the European Economic Area (EEA) and Norway Grants, Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway make an important contribution to strengthening economic and social cohesion and strengthening bilateral relations in the EEA. The past year has been one of delivery. From the early results coming through, we can start to see how the programmes are generating positive change.

All 150 programmes are now up and running. Over 4 000 projects have been contracted so far. In 2014, we also welcomed Croatia as the 16th partner country. This annual report provides an overview of the work underway and sets out examples of achievements in each of these 16 countries.

We also highlight results achieved in three key sectors: innovation and skills, civil society, and justice and home affairs. Our support in these areas is clearly complementary to wider EU priorities on sustainable and inclusive growth and responds to challenges which impede the full implementation of the internal market.

Innovation and skills
Many countries in Europe have struggled to adjust to the rapidly changing global economy. We need to create new growth and employment through investment in innovation, research and education. That’s why significant funding is targeted at these areas. A total of 232 research institutions and 1 500 researchers have been involved in joint projects with counterparts in Iceland and Norway. Nearly 900 students, educational staff and researchers have taken part in exchanges between Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway and a number of the partner countries.

Civil society
Over €160 million goes towards strengthening civil society in all 16 partner countries. An independent evaluation of the NGO programmes earlier this year found that, “the programmes have increased the capacity of civil society in Central and Southern Europe and helped to mobilise citizens to voice their concerns and actively engage with governments”. More than 2 300 projects have received funding so far, 718 in the area of democracy and human rights. This support is needed today more than ever to help counter negative trends across Europe, such as the rise of extremism and growing mistrust in democratic institutions.

Justice and home affairs
We also seek to strengthen judicial systems to help create more predictable environments for business investment, as well as improve human rights and the rule of law. Norway contributes over €140 million to improving access to and quality of justice systems, fighting cross-border crime and improving correctional services. Results so far are impressive: almost 4 400 legal professionals have received training, 4 800 people have benefitted from free legal advice and nearly 8 000 staff trained to provide better correctional services.

Effective cooperation
Achieving our goal of a stronger and more inclusive Europe requires that we meet shared challenges through efficient and effective cooperation. That’s why building enduring partnerships is at the centre of our efforts. We are pleased to see the effects of bilateral cooperation in all countries. Eighty seven of our 150 programmes are carried out in cooperation with partners from the donor countries; a quarter of all projects have a donor partner, enabling mutual exchange and sharing of best practice.

Drawing on the strengths and expertise of our partners, be they individuals, government agencies or companies in the donor countries, we have been able to introduce fresh thinking and innovative solutions. Strategic partnerships with pan-European bodies like the Council of Europe and the EU Agency for Fundamental Rights have also continued to flourish.

Taking a look back, we take pride in what has been achieved in our partner countries so far. This is however just the start; many more results are still to come as implementation progresses in all countries. We hope you enjoy reading about the results of our work and cooperation.

Gunnar Bragi Sveinsson
Minister of Foreign Affairs, Iceland

Dr. Aurelia Frick
Minister of Foreign Affairs, Liechtenstein

Vidar Helgesen
Minister of EEA and EU Affairs, Norway
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All data extracted at cut-off point of 30 April 2015.
The EEA and Norway Grants annual report provides an overview of the aims and achievements of the funding provided by Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway in the beneficiary countries in 2014-15.

This report highlights key results in several areas. More information on further achievements in the beneficiary countries and across sectors can be found on www.eeagrants.org • www.norwaygrants.org
Overview

Through the European Economic Area (EEA) and Norway Grants, Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway help to reduce economic and social disparities and strengthen cooperation with 16 countries in Central and Southern Europe and the Baltics.

For the period 2009-2014, €1.8 billion has been set aside under the Grants. Funding is channelled through 150 programmes that may be implemented until 2016/17.

The EEA and Norway Grants are linked to the Agreement on the European Economic Area through which Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway are partners with the EU. The Agreement lays down common rules required to ensure stable cooperation within the EEA. A stronger, more inclusive and more prosperous Europe requires that we meet shared challenges through efficient and effective cooperation. To secure a well-functioning internal market, the donor countries have established the EEA and Norway Grants.

Eligibility for the Grants mirrors criteria set for the EU Cohesion Fund aimed at member countries where the Gross National Income per inhabitant is less than 90% of the EU average. The EEA Grants (€993.5 million) are available in 16 European countries and financed by the three donor countries. Of this, Norway currently contributes 95.7%, Iceland 3.2% and Liechtenstein 1.1%. The Norway Grants (€804.6 million) are financed by Norway alone and earmarked for 13 countries that joined the EU after 2004.

Solidarity

The funding is targeted towards areas where there are clear needs in the beneficiary countries in line with broader European policies. Priority areas include climate change, research and innovation, civil society and investing in people through human and social development.

Cooperation

Cooperation across borders is vital to overcome the social and economic challenges Europe is facing. Partnerships between organisations in the donor and beneficiary countries are widely encouraged. Strengthening ties between organisations and institutions brings benefits for the beneficiary and donor countries alike.

AREAS OF SUPPORT

(€ million)

See annex 1 for a breakdown of figures by priority sector, split between EEA Grants and Norway Grants.

- Climate change and renewable energy: €265.3
- Environmental protection and management: €154.6
- Green industry innovation: €127.7
- Civil society: €160.8
- Human and social development: €379.9
Norway
Iceland
Liechtenstein
Poland
Lithuania
Latvia
Estonia
Czech Rep.
Slovakia
Slovenia
Croatia
Romania
Hungary
Bulgaria
Spain
Portugal
Greece
Malta
Cyprus

Decent work and tripartite dialogue
8.1

Cultural heritage and diversity
204.2

Research and scholarships
171.8

Justice and home affairs
149.8

Decent work and tripartite dialogue
8.1

Carbon capture and storage
5.0

* Spain receives only transitional funding in this period.
Our year in review

Highlights

Cooperation

Ensuring the bilateral dimension has been a continued focus over the past year. A large number of organisations and people are involved in partnerships aimed at strengthening political, professional, cultural, social and economic ties.

The benefits of cooperation extend both ways. Cooperation through the bilateral programmes and projects provides an arena for mutual exchange and sharing of best practice. Partnerships developed through the Grants can serve as a springboard for further collaboration or open new avenues for participation in bigger EU funding schemes.

Donor partnerships

To strengthen cooperation, more than half of the programmes involve cooperation with public bodies – known as donor programme partners (DPPs) - from Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway.

Throughout the course of 2014, the DPPs have assisted the Programme Operators (POs) in organising launch events and facilitated partnerships through different outreach, matchmaking and information events. This has helped to bring together potential project promoters and partners from Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway, and contributed to the development of 1,056 donor partnership projects (25%) to date.

The DPPs provide professional advice on policy issues within programmes, taking part, for example, in technical meetings or training events to support the programme strategy development, design and implementation. The close professional cooperation between the POs and DPPs has proven highly valuable for sharing views, best practice and experience on a variety of challenging issues.

Bilateral funds

To develop cooperation activities and facilitate partnerships, funds are set aside in all beneficiary countries at national level and in each programme.

In 2014, the bilateral funds financed numerous activities including study visits, matchmaking seminars and cooperation events, and provided funding for potential partners looking to establish a partnership. This could also include cooperation in areas identified by the donor and beneficiary countries that are not covered by the individual programmes.

Partnerships with international organisations

Strategic partnerships with several international organisations are a key feature of this funding period, bringing added expertise, results and value to the grant schemes.

Our year in review

Projects contracted: 4,909
Programmes approved: 150
Projects with a donor project partner: 1,056
Programmes with a donor programme partner: 87
Number of Roma-relevant programmes taking place: 47
Disbursement rate: 46%
Public bodies from the donor countries involved as partners: 24
Number of programmes with Council of Europe involvement: 21

Highlights

http://eeagrants.org/norwaygrants.org

unique visitors per month
The Council of Europe provides strategic advice as well as technical input and know-how in its areas of expertise – human rights, democracy and the rule of law. In 2014, substantial progress was made on the implementation of the 21 programmes in which it is involved, spanning ten beneficiary countries, on issues as diverse as gender-based violence and trafficking, to Roma issues and justice reform. The cooperation has also included the Council of Europe youth campaign No Hate Speech Movement, to which the EEA and Norway Grants contributed as a strategic partner.

The European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA) provides expert advice on the protection of fundamental rights and engages with the EEA and Norway Grants on issues of mutual interest. In 2014, cooperation with the EU Agency for Fundamental Rights centred on the themes of hate crime and hate speech, violence against women and Roma inclusion. This cooperation was useful and provided added value for both parties.

Collaboration with Transparency International (TI) – a global civil society organisation that promotes transparency and fights corruption – draws on its expertise in assessing corruption risks. Special attention is given to corruption risk associated with the grant management processes. In 2014, TI prepared country reports which point to potential risks of corruption and supported the development of an overview of risk mitigation measures to provide advice on how to tackle corruption.

Open Society Foundations support a more open, transparent and tolerant society. In the grant schemes, they provide strategic advice on how to strengthen civil society in Europe, promote tolerance and improve the situation of the Roma. In 2014, cooperation also continued in wider platforms, such as the Roma Decade and the Coalition of International Organisations on Roma Inclusion.

SNAPSHOT OF ACTIVITIES
In a project run by the Supreme Judicial Council of Bulgaria in partnership with the Council of Europe, nine Bulgarian judges have received training in the European Court of Human Rights in Strasbourg. Specialists from the Council of Europe have played an important role in sharing their practical expertise on human rights issues. The project received €785,000 in funding from the Norway Grants.

“This project is very important for Bulgaria. Apart from being more confident in my future work when applying the European Convention on Human Rights, it is also a great opportunity to share the knowledge obtained during this year with my colleagues when I return to Bulgaria.”

Judge Irina Ganeva, one of the judges seconded to the European Court of Human Rights
Violence against women in Europe – our response

BRUSSELS, BELGIUM, MARCH 2014

The seminar was organised to mark the launch of the EU Fundamental Rights Agency’s (FRA) survey on violence against women in Europe. Some 70 representatives from the beneficiary and donor countries took part, along with stakeholders from the other European organisations. Discussions focused on challenges presented in light of the survey findings.

“I am pleased to see that our Grants are responding to several of the recommendations put forward in the FRA report. Our efforts are relevant, timely and above all very necessary as these findings demonstrate,” said Ambassador Ingrid Schulerud of the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs at the event.

How can EU member states combat hate crime effectively?

THESSALONIKI, GREECE, APRIL 2014

The EEA and Norway Grants were a key partner at this event organised by the EU Agency for Fundamental Rights and hosted by the Greek Presidency of the Council of the EU. Bringing together representatives from the EU, national and local authorities, law enforcement agencies, human rights institutions and civil society organisations, participants discussed best practices that could lead to improvements in recording rates of hate crime and to better reporting of such crimes across the EU.

Launch event for EEA and Norway Grants in Croatia

ZAGREB, CROATIA, APRIL 2014

In 2014, Croatia became the 16th beneficiary country of the EEA and Norway Grants. Agreements were signed by Norwegian State Secretary, Ingvild Næss Stub, and Croatian Deputy Minister for Regional Development and EU Funds, Jaksa Puljiz (both pictured).

Photo exhibition: Empowering young people in Europe

BRUSSELS, BELGIUM, JUNE 2014

Presented jointly by the European Commission (DG Education) and the governments of Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway, the photo exhibition documented day-to-day life of young people in Europe today. The photos showcased how supported projects are contributing to empowering young people, in particular those most vulnerable.
**Risk and good governance**

TALLINN, ESTONIA, SEPTEMBER 2014

Organised jointly with Transparency International, the annual risk seminar focused on results and risk management in the EEA and Norway Grants. Participants also discussed key findings and main mitigating actions resulting from the corruption risk filtering exercise.

“Results-based management and effective identification and handling of risk are valuable tools for ensuring optimal results and efficient use of resources,” said Norwegian State Secretary Ingvild Næss Stub, at the seminar.

**Closing conference of the decent work and tripartite dialogue programme**

OSLO, NORWAY, NOVEMBER 2014

This event provided an opportunity to summarise results of the Global Fund for Decent Work and Social Dialogue programme, exchange best practice, and look to the future. Fifty-two projects have been funded in 13 beneficiary countries, reaching 13 000 people directly and an estimated 2 million people indirectly. More than half of the projects involved cooperation of Norwegian partners.

“We have a strong tradition of cooperation between the authorities and the social partners here in Norway. Binding dialogue has contributed to securing jobs and labour standards. Norwegian partners have brought their experience to the projects,” said Norwegian State Secretary, Ingvild Næss Stub, at the event.

**Together against hate speech and hate crime**

MADRID, SPAIN, NOVEMBER 2014

Organised by the NGO Platform for Social Action with the Royal Norwegian Embassy to Spain and the Spanish Ministry of Health, Social Services and Equality, this event brought together 200 representatives from governments, civil society, Council of Europe and the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights. The conference served as a forum for sharing ideas and experience and for discussing practical initiatives to help prevent, raise awareness and take action on this issue.

“We must not take democracy for granted. Spreading hatred challenges our democracies. We must speak up against hate speech. If we don’t, those expressing hate will win,” said Ambassador Ingrid Schulerud of the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs at the event.
Development trends and challenges

Reducing disparities in Europe is one of the objectives of the EEA and Norway Grants. The consequences of the economic crisis are still holding back growth and job creation and continue to affect the economies in many of the beneficiary countries and the day-to-day life of their inhabitants, especially the most vulnerable.

Economic growth

All of the beneficiary countries have a GDP per capita less than the EU average. While Romania and Bulgaria have seen their per capita income increase by around 20% since joining the EU, the average income in these countries remains substantially below the EU average.

Limited or negative economic growth over recent years has led to increased disparities throughout Europe. Having come through one of the most severe economic and financial crisis in generations, recovery is still weaker than EU forecasts projected a year ago. More positively, the EU as a whole saw a return to growth by the end of 2014, with GDP rising by 1.3% compared to 0.0% in 2013.

Nearly all of the beneficiary countries recorded higher growth than the EU-28 average as compared to the previous year, with Hungary (up 3.6% on previous year), Malta (+3.5%) and Poland (+3.4%) performing particularly well. Croatia and Cyprus registered decreases.2

Unemployment

Unemployment levels across the EU are slowly decreasing but still remain unacceptably high. The crisis triggered an ongoing social crisis and the slow recovery is hampering efforts to reduce the high levels of unemployment.3 The Europe 2020 – the EU’s ten-year growth and jobs strategy – goal of 75% employment is still some way off.

The highest unemployment rates in the EU in 2014 were recorded in Greece (26.5%) and Spain (24.5%). Seven of the beneficiary countries registered lower unemployment rates than the EU average of 10.2%, with Malta (5.9%) and the Czech Republic (6.1%) scoring well.4

Long-term unemployment is still rising with developments particularly negative again in Greece and Spain and to a somewhat lesser extent in Cyprus, while significant improvements have been recorded in the three Baltic States.

1. Eurostat (2013) GDP per capita in PPP (EU28=100)
2. Eurostat (2014) Real GDP growth rate (% change on previous year)
4. Eurostat (2014) Unemployment rate
While youth unemployment remains at very high levels, there are some signs of improvement. The total number of unemployed young people across the beneficiary countries slightly decreased in 2014 – down to 1.9 million by the end of 2014 from 2.2 million in the previous year (out of a total of 4.8 million young people out of work across the EU-28 as a whole). The proportion of young people under 25 not in employment, education or training (NEETs) has also remained high.

Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway provide much needed support to research, innovation and education programmes in the beneficiary countries, to help stimulate economic growth laying foundations for future job creation. ➔ Read more about these efforts in Part 2.

The employment rate for women remains well below that of men in the EU

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>WOMEN</th>
<th>MEN</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><img src="image1" alt="Employment Rate for Women" /></td>
<td><img src="image2" alt="Employment Rate for Men" /></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>63.5%</td>
<td>75%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30%</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

in part time employment

Source: Eurostat (2013 except where * indicates 2012)
Social exclusion

With low or negative growth and low employment rates the number of people at risk of poverty or social exclusion remains a concern. Over 50 million people in the beneficiary countries were at risk in 2013.¹

Some countries have seen an improvement though. The share of people at risk in 2013 compared to 2008 is lower in the Czech Republic, Poland, Romania and Slovakia. Whilst the proportion of people at risk in Romania has decreased in the past five years, the overall figures remain high at over 40% of the population. In Bulgaria, almost half of the population in 2013 was at risk (48%).

Inequalities and discrimination

While progress has been made, wide gender gaps still prevail. The employment rate for women remains well below that of men in the EU (63.5% versus 75% in 2014)².

Sources: Eurostat, European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights and Council of Europe

¹ Eurostat (2013) People at risk of poverty or social exclusion – this indicator corresponds to the sum of persons who are at risk of poverty (percentage of people whose income is below 60% of the national average) or severely materially deprived or living in households with very low work intensity
² Eurostat (2014) Employment rate by gender
with women overrepresented in part-time work. Almost a third of women were in part-time employment, while for men, this figure was less than 10%.

The largest disparities in the employment rate between men and women were recorded in Malta – 80.3% for men and 51.9% for women, or a difference of 29.6 percentage points (pp) and Greece (19.4 pp), with the smallest in Lithuania (2.5 pp) and Latvia (4.6 pp). It should be noted that those countries with the highest female employment rates are generally also those with a high share of employed women working part-time. One noticeable exception here is Estonia, which combines a high female employment rate and a low share of part-time employment for women.

The gender pay gap has decreased slightly at EU level in recent years; nevertheless, on average women still earn less than men in all EU countries (16% on average less per hour of work).3

When it comes to female representation in politics and business, the share of women on company boards in many of the beneficiary countries has increased with the largest percentage point rises occurring in Slovakia (+5.8 pp to 19.6%) and Hungary (+4.7 pp to 12.0%). Less positively, the proportion of women on boards has declined since 2012 in Romania (-2.8 pp to 9.1%) and Poland (-1.4 pp to 10.3%).

In 2013, women accounted for 27% of senior ministers in national governments across the EU. The gender balanced governments (at least 40% of each gender) of Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway are in sharp contrast to many of the beneficiary countries; women account for less than one in ten members of the cabinet in Greece, Slovakia, Estonia, Cyprus and Hungary.4

One of the most serious violations of gender equality is violence against women. According to the findings in a survey published in 2014 by the EU Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA), an estimated 13 million women in the EU experienced physical violence in the course of the 12 months prior to the survey, while some 3.7 million women had experienced sexual violence.

A number of other reports from FRA and other international organisations like the Council of Europe have also documented worrying levels of harassment and violence directed towards vulnerable groups - immigrants, Roma communities and other minorities. The donor countries support numerous initiatives through the EEA and Norway Grants to strengthen fundamental rights, counter discrimination and tackle gender-based violence, hate crime and hate speech.

3. Eurostat (2013) Gender pay gap
This part presents an overview of the aims and highlights some key achievements under the three main themes for this year – innovation and skills, civil society and justice.
Innovation and skills

Investment in education, research and innovation is a key driver of growth and job creation and is crucial to improve Europe’s global competitiveness. Significant funding from Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway is targeted at these areas.

The programmes contribute to increasing research capacity and cooperation, promoting educational cooperation, greening of industry and development of green technologies. The cultural programmes offer potential for local job creation and skills development.

What’s the issue?

Investing in science, research and technology is crucial to help European companies innovate and stay competitive, create jobs and secure economic and social welfare. Moreover, education and training are essential to the development of today’s knowledge society and economic growth. Investment however, is lagging behind and several beneficiary countries have made cuts in public education and research budgets due to the economic crisis. To achieve sustainable economic growth, investment in new green technologies and green innovation is important, but there is still a general lack of available funding to support eco-innovation.

With unemployment rates in Europe remaining high, especially among young people, it is crucial to better match people’s skills with the needs of the labour market. Boosting possibilities for international exchange help students acquire new skills and strengthen their employment opportunities.

What are we doing?

Almost one fifth of the funding under the EEA and Norway Grants is going to growth enhancing programmes.

In addition, Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway support other areas that contribute to skills development, including:

- Revitalisation of cultural heritage and stimulation of cultural cooperation
- Capacity building and training under the NGO programmes
- Early childhood education and preventing youth from dropping out of school

Bilateral cooperation

- **Research**: 100% of the projects implemented with Icelandic or Norwegian partners
- **Scholarship and educational cooperation**: 70-80% of the projects implemented in partnership with donor institutions
- **Green industry innovation**: 43% of the projects implemented in partnership with Norwegian enterprises
- **Environmental and climate-change research and technology**: 27% of projects implemented in partnership with organisations from the donor countries
- **Cultural heritage and diversity**: 60% of the projects implemented in partnership with donor institutions
Meet a partner

What are the main challenges for small and medium sized enterprises in the beneficiary countries?

We see a lack of new technology and modern resource efficient equipment, resulting in low productivity. Furthermore, there is little financing and knowledge for innovative green projects. The shortage of access to long term financing for investment projects is also a challenge.

What is the added value for Norwegian enterprises getting involved?

The participation gives direct access to business opportunities and business culture in the beneficiary countries. The trigger is to gain access to new market knowledge and to build networks. It however, has to be based on a defined need for the Norwegian enterprises’ own business development. We are searching for a long term win-win situation for both parties.

When a Norwegian company wants to explore new market opportunities, they usually need to find a partner in the respective market. This is time-consuming and represents a risk. The green industry innovation programme can therefore be seen as a strategic tool for risk reduction.

Innovation Norway is the Government’s most important instrument for innovation and development of Norwegian enterprise and industry. Innovation Norway is involved in all eight green innovation programmes as well as in the environmental and climate change research and development programme in Spain. We asked programme manager Anne Lise Rognlidalen about her experience.

Overview of programmes

Research (€ million)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Amount (€ million)</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Poland</td>
<td>12.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Romania</td>
<td>10.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Czech Republic</td>
<td>9.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Estonia</td>
<td>8.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Greece</td>
<td>7.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hungary*</td>
<td>28.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Latvia</td>
<td>4.5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total: 132.3

Scholarship and educational cooperation (€ million)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Amount (€ million)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bulgaria</td>
<td>1.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spain</td>
<td>1.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Greece</td>
<td>1.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Estonia</td>
<td>1.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Latvia</td>
<td>1.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Poland</td>
<td>1.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lithuania</td>
<td>1.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Estonia</td>
<td>1.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Latvia</td>
<td>1.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hungary*</td>
<td>3.0</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Poland</td>
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<td>1.3</td>
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<tr>
<td>Greece</td>
<td>1.3</td>
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<tr>
<td>Spain</td>
<td>1.9</td>
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<tr>
<td>Slovakia</td>
<td>1.9</td>
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<tr>
<td>Slovenia</td>
<td>1.9</td>
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<td>39.5</td>
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</table>

Green industry innovation and environmental research and technology (€ million)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Amount (€ million)</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
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<td>13.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spain</td>
<td>18.2</td>
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<td>Romania</td>
<td>15.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Greece</td>
<td>4.0</td>
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<td>Latvia</td>
<td>4.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Poland</td>
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<td>Slovakia</td>
<td>16.1</td>
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<td>Hungary*</td>
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<td>Latvia</td>
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<td>Poland</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lithuania</td>
<td>15.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Romania</td>
<td>19.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spain</td>
<td>18.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>145.9</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Norway Grants: Yellow
EEA Grants: Orange
*Payments suspended
**KEY RESULTS 2014-15**

**#1 ACHIEVEMENT:**
Increasing research capacity through cooperation

- More than 1,500 researchers involved in joint projects
- 328 PhD and postdoctoral students supported
- 29 female professors, post-doctorals and PhD-students in technical sciences in Poland funded to strengthen their career development

---

**#3 ACHIEVEMENT:**
Developing green business

- 158 green innovation projects to date. 69 of them with a partner from Norway
- 169 company-driven, innovative research and development projects boosting green technology in Spain. 27% of them in partnership with companies from Norway and Iceland
- Transfer of knowledge from universities and research centres to companies through 147 contracts with research institutions

---

*Classification of research institutions may vary from country to country*
#2 ACHIEVEMENT:
Increasing educational cooperation and exchange

- To Liechtenstein: 71
- To Iceland: 74
- To Norway: 164

- From Liechtenstein: 3
- From Iceland: 24
- From Norway: 57

... from Estonia, Poland, Romania, Slovenia and Spain

- 333 educational staff and researchers on exchange

... in Estonia, Poland, Romania, Slovenia and Spain

- To Liechtenstein: 8
- To Iceland: 88
- To Norway: 443

- From Liechtenstein: 2
- From Iceland: 5
- From Norway: 19

... from Estonia, Poland, Romania, Slovenia and Spain

- 565 students on exchange

... in Estonia, Poland, Romania and Slovenia
Working in cooperation: snapshots

Poland
Climate change is having a dramatic impact on potato crops. A Polish-Norwegian research partnership is seeking to assess the effects of global warming. Bioforsk Plantehelse from Norway, the Plant Breeding and Acclimatization Institute in Młochów and the Intercollegiate Faculty of Biotechnology of the University of Gdańsk and the Medical University in Poland have teamed up to look at the most common potato diseases.

Project promoter: Plant Breeding and Acclimatization Institute - National Research Institute
Grant amount: €790 500
Project link: bit.ly/1IlqnaR

Slovakia
Current district heating systems in Slovakia consist of old, environmentally unfriendly technologies and heat production depends on externally supplied natural gas. The energy production does not promote the local economy and use of local renewable resources. Through cooperation with three Norwegian partners (International Development Norway AS, Norskog and the Norwegian Forest and Landscape Institute) central heating plants based on biomass have been established in three towns. This will contribute to local job creation and a stable energy supply.

Project promoter: Intech Slovakia
Grant amount: €4.2 million
Project link: bit.ly/1ETs7gp

Portugal
Through the ‘Cultural Rucksack’ all pupils in Norwegian schools get to enjoy all kinds of professional art and cultural experiences. This concept is now adopted in Portugal and has been adapted to local needs. Portuguese children have access to high quality cultural education to promote social inclusion.

Link to projects: bit.ly/1lk6bH3

Spain
Spain’s number one energy group, Iberdrola, is cooperating with the leading research organisations SINTEF (Norway) and Tecnalia (Spain) looking at the connection of power generated by solar plants to the energy grid. For Iberdrola the cooperation project represents a springboard for future collaboration – opening both new channels of communication and new markets.

Project promoter: Iberdrola
Grant amount: €182 834
Project link: bit.ly/1KhYfYy
Estonia
A Norwegian-Estonian cooperation project has developed technology to detect oil spills at sea. The laser remote sensing technology can even detect oil in icy water and in darkness. This creates new possibilities to detect and monitor oil spills, for example, in the High North. The objective of the project is to commercialise the technology first and foremost to environmental monitoring authorities and oil companies. The laser technology is already in use along the coast in Norway. ICD Software in Ålesund is the Norwegian project partner.

Project promoter: ICD Industries Estonia OÜ
Grant amount: €566,598
Project link: bit.ly/1QqLTwY

Latvia
The Green Synagogue in Rezekne, Latvia – the oldest surviving wooden synagogue in the Baltics – is being restored by Latvian and Norwegian construction students from both Rezekne and the Sam Eyde upper secondary school in Norway. The students exchange experience on restoration and craft techniques and get valuable on the job training. When the restoration is complete, the Green Synagogue will serve as a centre for the conservation of wooden buildings and as a tourist information centre.

Project promoter: Rezekne City Council
Grant amount: €545,760
Project link: bit.ly/1RhjACp

Romania
In one of the twenty-three research projects in Romania researchers from Romania, Iceland and Norway are cooperating to improve solar cells to be able to collect both sunlight and light coming from artificial sources. Three Romanian research institutions (National Institute of Materials Physics, University of Bucharest and Optoelectronica 2001 S.A.) are involved in the project together with the University of Reykjavik, the University of Iceland and the University of Oslo.

Project promoter: National Institute of Materials Physics, Romania
Grant amount: €1.1 million
Project link: bit.ly/1bB5n29
Voices and faces

Studying the brain from different perspectives
An Estonian-Norwegian research project examines the different molecules which play an important role in the functioning of the brain. Ultimately, the research can help to find more effective treatments of different psychological disorders.

Project promoter: Tallinn University of Technology
Grant amount: €269,999
Project link: bit.ly/1JwDuaR

“We have a very useful cooperation with the University of Bergen. They are really good at in vivo experiments (in the living body of a plant or animal), while this is something we don’t have knowledge about here. We draw on each other’s different areas of expertise to the benefit of the research project and both parties.”

Hanna Vihma, PhD student at Tallinn University of Technology

Collecting waste for recycling
Romania has the lowest recycling rates in the EU. Constantin Cristea with his company Total Waste Management SRL, is creating a network of 25 collection points for different types of waste across the country.

Green Business Norway – an organisation with much experience in organising public awareness campaigns on environmental issues – is a partner in the project. The new collection points integrate Norwegian technology into the concept supplied by Tomra Systems AS and Orwak Norway AS.

Project promoter: Total Waste Management SRL
Grant amount: €1.4 million
Project link: bit.ly/1H39xez

“Each collection point generates 2-5 jobs. So far we have created at least 50 new green jobs under this project. By the end of November 2015, this project will generate 120 new jobs. This might not have a huge impact on employment, but it is still important as we employ mostly from those cities in Romania where people often have problems finding a job.”

Constantin Cristea, Total Waste Management
“Cooperation in the research programmes contributes to building research networks enabling further cooperation between researchers from Norway and the beneficiary countries.”

Aleksandra Witczak Haugstad, Research Council of Norway, Donor Programme Partner in six countries

“The Icelandic students who came to Warsaw for the workshop on working with wheelchair users had previous experience and knowledge in adapted physical activity which we did not yet have. The workshop opened my eyes to this field focusing on improving the quality of life for persons with special needs.”

Łukasz Kozlowski, student of physiotherapy at Józef Piłsudski University of Physical Education in Warsaw, Poland

“It is very important to give youth a chance to study abroad for a while to learn about other cultures, people and school systems. Participants in the scholarship programmes from Liechtenstein are enthusiastic about working with partners from other countries.”

Marion Kindle-Kühnis, the Agency for International Education Affairs (Liechtenstein), Donor Programme Partner in scholarship programmes in nine beneficiary countries

“Learning through the scholarship programmes goes both ways. Through cooperation, the Icelandic participants are confronted with challenges, ideas and solutions in the school systems in other countries which they can then bring home.”

Vidar Helgason, the Icelandic Centre for Research, Donor Programme Partner in scholarship programmes in nine countries and in the research programme in Romania
Civil society

Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway contribute more than €160 million to strengthen civil society through NGO programmes established in the 16 beneficiary countries. The programmes increase the capacity of civil society in Central and Southern Europe and the Baltics and help mobilise citizens to voice their concerns and actively engage in social development.

What’s the issue?
Civil society is a fundamental building block of democratic governance and social cohesion. Non-governmental organisations (NGOs) play a vital role in promoting democratic values, human rights and fostering civic participation. They help to raise awareness about social and environmental issues, bring citizens’ concerns to governments and tackle key concerns in society, both as advocates and service providers.

The aim of the NGO programmes is to achieve a stronger and more developed civil society able to empower marginalised groups in society and contribute to democratic development.

The support from the donor countries plays a critical role in building the capacity of the sector itself through organisational support, peer exchanges, training and mentoring, as well as underpinning advocacy work on anti-corruption and transparency, anti-discrimination and human rights.

What are we doing?

83% of funding supports:
- democracy and human rights
- social inclusion and vulnerable groups
- anti-discrimination and equality

17% of funding supports:
- welfare services for marginalised groups like Roma

Demand has been high
- 8 times more applications than available funds. Oversubscription particularly high in Greece and Slovenia
- Over 21,000 applications received
- Almost 2,300 projects funded so far

Evaluation of NGO programmes
The NGO programmes have increased the capacity of civil society in Central and Southern Europe and helped to mobilise citizens to voice their concerns and actively engage with governments. This was the key finding in the independent evaluation of the NGO programmes presented in February 2015. The report also confirmed that the programmes are generally well-managed and effectively and efficiently run, demonstrating “an innovative and effective approach to management of public funds, outsourced to organisations independent of governments”.

The report contains many more findings, lessons learned and recommendations that will be both followed up and used to inform future programmes. Read more in the full report here: bit.ly/1KzuQO
Bilateral cooperation

The NGO programmes have generated a high number of partnerships between civil society organisations in the beneficiary and donor country organisations. So far **268 projects involve a partner from one of the donor countries**. These partnerships facilitate innovative types of exchange and peer-to-peer learning, sharing of data, methodologies and best practice around topics of relevance to the programmes. Romania, Poland, Bulgaria and Latvia have the highest number of bilateral partnerships to date.

SNAPSHOT: PROMOTING PEER-TO-PEER LEARNING

In Hungary, the programme supported 11 internships for NGO professionals to spend 3-6 months at a host organisation in Norway or Iceland to learn about best practices on issues as diverse as homelessness, volunteering, human rights, and social entrepreneurship.

The same programme also organised the ‘On the Spot’ scheme which enabled a number of young people to visit one of the three donor countries and report online on best practice in addressing social problems which could benefit Hungarian society. Those selected each received a grant to help with travel and subsistence costs.

Overview of NGO programmes (€ million)

![Bar chart showing funding by country](image)

Tackling hate speech, hate crime and discrimination is a priority for the NGO programmes. More than 500 projects focus on these areas.

The EEA and Norway Grants are a strategic partner to the Council of Europe’s No Hate Speech campaign. By raising awareness of hate speech online and mobilising action against online extremism, the campaign aims to promote internet literacy and support young people in standing up for human rights. All of the NGO programmes have made a strong contribution to the campaign which was launched in March 2013 and runs until the end of 2015.

Activities have included developing training toolkits for schools, mobilising youth activists against cyber-bullying and training for bloggers. In total, 352 youth bloggers have received training in how to identify, report on and address hate speech online.
KEY RESULTS 2014-15

#1 ACHIEVEMENT: Working on human rights

718 projects to date

Support for 178 NGOs working on human rights and anti-discrimination

#2 ACHIEVEMENT: Building NGO sustainability and capacity

Almost 300 NGOs reporting strengthened capacity

Over 40 NGOs have achieved new sources of funding helping ensure future sustainability

125 projects to date
#3 ACHIEVEMENT:
Strengthening advocacy and watchdog activities

- 163 projects to date
- 142 NGO coalitions or networks developed
- Support for 24 NGOs involved in policy and decision-making processes
- 47 laws or policies changed or improved because of NGO action

#4 ACHIEVEMENT:
Empowering vulnerable groups and improving social protection

- 265 projects to date
- 44,000 women, children, Roma and victims of trafficking report better welfare protection
- 137 NGOs working with vulnerable groups supported
Promoting transparency in governance  
A law aimed at protecting whistleblowers in Lithuania was proposed in 2010, but has been stalled in Parliament ever since. Transparency International (TI) Lithuania teamed up with its sister organisation in Norway to promote accountability and openness in public institutions. Drawing on an anti-corruption handbook and training for municipalities developed by TI Norway, the Lithuanian branch is now actively contributing to the preparation of legislative proposals and working groups on institutional openness.

Project promoter: Transparency International Lithuania
Grant amount: €118 978
Project link: bit.ly/1Fnxyym

Giving Roma women a voice  
Roma women in Slovakia have benefitted from training on local politics to help them play a more effective role in their communities. Working with 12 women from six localities and two regions in western and eastern Slovakia, the project used a tried-and-tested method promoting civic participation through local action groups. The project has given the women the confidence to meet and influence decision-makers, both at home and beyond, with five travelling to Brussels to meet Slovak MEPs.

Project promoter: In Minorita (In Minority)
Grant amount: €56 489
Project link: bit.ly/1L6Ye4W

Protecting victims of hate crime  
Despite a rise in violent racially motivated attacks, major weaknesses persist in the Greek system for protecting victims of hate crime. The Hellenic League for Human Rights is strengthening its capacity to address the legal and procedural gaps, improve reporting of hate crimes and increase provision of welfare and legal services for victims.

Project promoter: Hellenic League for Human Rights
Grant amount: €198 000
Project link: bit.ly/1LxwXus

My home without violence  
Polish NGO, Monar, has strengthened its capacity and improved its own staff training to better support victims of domestic violence. Monar works with victims, in particular single mothers with children living in their shelters, with day-to-day tasks like applying for social housing and ensure that their children are taken care of. It also provides therapy and counselling to help the women integrate back into society.

Project promoter: MONAR Association
Grant amount: €48 888
Project link: bit.ly/j9jVXk8

“There needs to be someone to advocate for those who are socially disadvantaged. They need a voice. I have always been visible in the community but now I have the confidence to speak out and speak up.”

Dana Bandryová, volunteer, In Minorita

“Our project is carried out in the three Polish cities of Gdansk, Turow and Zgorzelec. In each of these cities we run hostels for women who are victims of domestic violence. Many of these women have become homeless as a result of their abusive relationships.”

Iwona Pasichnyk, project manager, MONAR
Advocating for LGBT rights
More than half of the Lithuanian LGBT (lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender) community feel discriminated against. The Lithuanian Gay League is working to mainstream LGBT equality in the decision-making process through awareness-raising activities amongst the general public and policymakers.

Project promoter: Lithuanian Gay League
Grant amount: €111,940
Project link: bit.ly/1zKAXPt

“All of these girls are severely traumatised. They are extremely vulnerable, and often have little trust in the system. We take care of everything in the interim period while they’re getting back on their feet.”

Jade Holtham, facility manager,
Cyprus Stop Trafficking

Help for the homeless
From sleeping rough, Milan (pictured) now has a job in DOMEC homeless centre’s coffee shop in Bratislava, run by the NGO, Vagus. Vagus has been able to finish construction of the centre and increase service provision. The achievements are impressive: 3,100 people have received specialist consultations; 280 are involved in leisure activities; 100 in regular work activities; and 12 have successfully completed the full integration process.

The Salvation Army Norway were actively involved as a partner.

Project promoter: OZ Vagus
Grant amount: €79,853
Project link: bit.ly/1FVUcOg

Supporting Cyprus to stop trafficking
Cyprus is a destination country where prostitution and human trafficking is thriving. Cyprus Stop Trafficking (CST) cooperates and works alongside other NGOs, the police, social services and other government agencies to provide support to trafficking victims. Through the project, CST has expanded its activities and increased its welfare provision for victims.

Project promoter: Cyprus Stop Trafficking
Grant amount: €101,339
Project link: bit.ly/1KtS7cb

Empowering citizens through technology
Public consultations on draft laws have been available in Greece since 2010. Yet, participation is low and the numbers keep dropping. With the DemocracIT project, the NGO, SciFY has developed a more user-friendly online system to facilitate citizen participation in public consultations. The state-of-the-art web-based solution will present results in an accessible and structured format, enabling decision-makers to take account of a broader range of opinion. The system can be adapted to work with any language and any political system.

Project promoter: SciFY
Grant amount: €55,505
Project link: bit.ly/1Dm2cHL
Justice and home affairs

Norway contributes more than €140 million to strengthening judicial systems, fighting cross-border crime and to improving correctional services in 11 beneficiary countries. An independent, transparent and efficient justice system is a crucial condition for the proper functioning of the internal market. Businesses want to invest in countries where the judiciary can enforce their rights and do so in a timely way.

What’s the issue?

Judicial capacity building
A fair and effective justice system is important for reducing disparities. Businesses are more confident about investing in a country if its judicial decisions are made in a predictable, timely and enforceable way. Justice reforms that increase efficiency have been shown to have a positive impact on entrepreneurial activity and foreign direct investment.

The World Bank Group carries out an annual assessment on the ease of doing business. The rankings place particular importance on the ability of companies to enforce contracts.

Cross-border crime
Norway is a part of the Schengen agreement that facilitates the free movement of people across Europe. Open borders bring many advantages, but they also require extra vigilance in fighting cross-border crime, such as human trafficking and money laundering.

Correctional services
Norway works with some of the countries with the highest prison populations in the EU. The Council of Europe has highlighted ‘chronic prison overcrowding’ and the resulting poor conditions as a major issue of concern. Norway is also putting a strong focus on the rehabilitation of prisoners to help ensure that, once out of prison, they no longer become involved in criminal activity.

Ease of Doing Business (global rank)

Norway: 6
Lithuania: 24
Poland: 32
Bulgaria: 36
Czech Republic: 44
Romania: 48
Croatia: 65

Prison population rates per 100 000 inhabitants

Norway: 75
EU-28: 129
Malta: 135
Bulgaria: 138
Romania: 156
Czech Republic: 186
Poland: 203
Latvia: 214
Lithuania: 315

1 DG Economic and Financial Affairs, European Commission
2 World Bank Group (2014)
3 International Centre for Prison Studies (2014)
What are we doing?

The projects funded in this area are mostly pre-defined; this means that the projects address shortcomings already identified, usually by independent international organisations or national governments. They are also in fields that are usually restricted to state organisations, such as correctional services, the police service, and the court system.

SNAPSHOT: IMPROVING PRISON CONDITIONS

In Poland, the Directorate of Norwegian Correctional Services is working in partnership with the Polish Central Board of Correctional Services to improve the competencies of prisoners and prison staff. This ensures that staff are better qualified to carry out their duties and that prisoners obtain skills for life after prison. Prisons have been adapted to make them more child friendly, helping prisoners maintain family bonds during their sentence. Prisoners are also given skills to help them deal with negative emotions that were often the root cause of the original offence.

Project promoter: Polish Central Board of Correctional Services
Grant amount: €2.1 million
Project link: bit.ly/1FiUeLS

Overview of justice programmes

Judicial capacity building and cooperation (€ million)

- Bulgaria: €1.1
- Croatia: €2.6
- Czech Republic: €2.5
- Lithuania: €2.7
- Poland: €14
- Romania: €8
- Total: €39

Correctional services, including alternatives to prison (€ million)

- Bulgaria: €8.6
- Czech Republic: €2.5
- Latvia: €13.1
- Lithuania: €6.7
- Malta: €1.1
- Poland: €13
- Romania: €8
- Total: €54

Schengen and combatting cross-border crime (€ million)

- Bulgaria: €6
- Cyprus: €1
- Czech Republic: €6.3
- Lithuania: €4.4
- Poland: €10
- Romania: €5.3
- Total: €32
KEY RESULTS 2014-15

#1 ACHIEVEMENT:
Strengthening judicial capacity building and cooperation

- 572 judges and other legal professionals trained on the provisions of the European Convention of Human Rights and its case law
- 4,368 legal professionals trained to ensure a faster and more efficient judicial system
- 4,781 people have received free legal advice

#2 ACHIEVEMENT:
Improving correctional services

- Nearly 8,000 prison staff trained to provide improved correctional services
- 326 people are following alternatives to prison
- 260 women receiving health care while in prison

#3 ACHIEVEMENT:
Fighting cross-border crime

- Bulgarian authorities have worked with Norwegian counterparts in a project to learn about Norwegian best practice in the use of Schengen information and sharing tools
- Cyprus authorities established a new IT system and received training from Norwegian experts on how to combat money laundering
Voices and faces: meet the partners

Norwegian organisations and the Council of Europe play a vital role as donor programme partners, they advise and assist beneficiaries on how to meet international standards, bring expertise and provide exchange programmes.

The Directorate of Norwegian Correctional Service (KDI) is a donor programme partner in Romania, Lithuania, Latvia and Poland. In addition, the Directorate cooperates with the Czech Republic and Bulgaria, where the Council of Europe acts as the lead programme partner. We asked the Director of KDI, Kim Ekhaugen, about the exchange of best practice.

In your experience, how easy is it to transfer the Norwegian practice to beneficiary countries?
The transfer of best practice from Norway has been welcomed in the beneficiary countries and 14 partnership projects are being implemented. I would like to emphasise that I see a lot of enthusiasm for change. People are really interested in creating a better future for inmates and staff.

What are the specific challenges that the beneficiary countries face?
Many face serious problems in particular with regard to overcrowding.

Is there a particular project where your involvement has made a real difference?
In Latvia, they are building their first prison unit for addicted inmates. As in most countries, a high percentage of inmates in Latvia are addicted to drugs or alcohol and this is a big problem in prisons. In Lithuania, they are in the process of opening four halfway houses, which will give some of the inmates a completely new way of serving their sentence. By living in a halfway house, they will have to learn basic life-skills and hopefully leave prison for crime-free futures.

The Council of Europe (CoE) is a donor programme partner in five programmes in the fields of judicial capacity building and correctional services. We spoke to Head of the Council’s Justice Capacity Building Unit, Natalia Voutova, about their cooperation.

How does the Council of Europe’s involvement contribute to this area?
The CoE brings over 25 years of experience in managing joint projects; we know how to make sure projects are viable, efficient and results-oriented. Norway Grants are vitally important in helping countries meet international standards and tackle weaknesses in their judicial systems.

What are the specific challenges that the beneficiary countries face?
This depends on the country as there is an ongoing process of reform in many of the countries. The challenge is to capture and understand what the issues are. Through working with these countries over the last 20 years, we know how to tailor projects to the countries’ needs.

Do you think the funding will make a lasting difference?
From the very outset, we have thought about the sustainability of our work, this is one of the ‘golden rules’ for us, we don’t want a short term win, we want to make a long term difference. Norway’s funding in this area is starting to make a real difference. Our most advanced projects, in terms of implementation, are in Bulgaria. We have definitely achieved results; the Roma minority has much better access to justice.
The Norwegian National Police Directorate (POD) is involved as a donor programme partner in four programmes in Bulgaria, Lithuania and Romania. We asked Assistant Chief of Police in the International Section, Eva Lynghjem, about her involvement.

How has POD benefitted from its involvement in this programme area?
It is of great value to be able to learn from each other’s experience in order to fight organised and cross-border crime. The programmes allow us to focus on the wider picture and not just those that emerge on a case-by-case basis through regular criminal investigations, or through organisations such as Interpol and Europol. Bilateral cooperation is necessary to fight cross-border and organised crime.

Have you learned anything from the experience that you’ve found useful in Norway?
Different units in our Police Service have had the chance to cooperate with similar units in the beneficiary countries in order to learn more about their police system. This gives us a better understanding of crime that is committed in Norway.

Is there a particular project where your involvement has made a real difference?
Norwegian and Bulgarian police have a joint project, sharing best practice in the use of different Schengen information cooperation tools, such as SIRENE. Norway has been using these tools since 2001 and has a great deal of experience in their use. We are sharing this expertise with our Bulgarian counterparts.

In your experience, how easy is it to transfer the Norwegian practice to beneficiary countries?
We have to be cautious when assessing which solutions or practices to propose. Factors like societal and judicial culture must be considered when selecting best practice.

What are the specific challenges that the beneficiary countries face?
Most countries are struggling to combat backlogs and excessive case-processing times, especially with reduced budgets. This is a challenging environment for reforms.

What do you think is the main strength of Norwegian practice?
The Norwegian judicial system is one of the best-functioning in Europe. This relates, among other things, to the timeliness of our decisions. We are also one of the ‘cheapest’ judiciaries in terms of costs.

Do you think the funding will make a lasting difference to improving the judicial system?
It is hard to predict the long term effects but I am confident that the funding and exchange of experience will improve the judicial systems of beneficiary countries.

By way of example, in Romania we have been involved in a project concerning access to justice. A study was carried out to identify barriers faced by the Roma and other vulnerable groups. Romania will now create a number of centres to help the Roma population and other vulnerable groups in seeking legal advice. These could make a real difference.
This part provides an overview of the main priorities and key achievements of the EEA and Norway Grants in each of the beneficiary countries over the past year.
### Programme overview

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Programme</th>
<th>Partners</th>
<th>Grant (€ million)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Green industry innovation</td>
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<tr>
<td>Integrated marine and inland water management</td>
<td>Norwegian Environment Agency</td>
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<tr>
<td>Biodiversity and ecosystem services</td>
<td>Norwegian Environment Agency</td>
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<tr>
<td>Energy efficiency and renewable energy</td>
<td>Norwegian Water Resource and Energy Directorate</td>
<td>13.3</td>
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<td>NGO Fund</td>
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<tr>
<td>Public health initiatives</td>
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<td>13.4</td>
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<tr>
<td>Children and youth at risk</td>
<td>Council of Europe</td>
<td>8.6</td>
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<td>Capacity building and institutional co-operation</td>
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<td>Cultural heritage and contemporary arts</td>
<td>Icelandic Centre for Research, Agency for International Education Affairs (Liechtenstein), Norwegian Centre for International Cooperation in Education</td>
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<td>Decent work and tripartite dialogue</td>
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<td>Schengen cooperation and combating cross-border and organised crime</td>
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<tr>
<td>Domestic and gender-based violence</td>
<td>Council of Europe</td>
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### Priority 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

### Implementation status

- Total funding (€M): 126.6
- Disbursed (€M): 49.4
- No. of approved projects: 295
- No. of approved partnership projects: 55

All data extracted end April 2015

### Country facts

<table>
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<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Bulgaria</th>
<th>EU-28</th>
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<td>GDP per capita in PPS (EU=100)</td>
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<td>Economic growth (% change on previous year)</td>
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<td>Unemployment rate (%)*</td>
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<td>Youth unemployment rate (%)*</td>
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<td>Gender pay gap (%)</td>
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<td>At-risk-of-poverty rate (%)</td>
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<td>Human development index</td>
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<td>(EU-28 ranking)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Corruption perception index*</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>(EU-28 ranking)</td>
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Sources: Eurostat/UNDP/Transparency International  
All data is from 2013 except where * indicates 2014  
See notes to tables in Annex 2
Key results 2014-15

#1 ACHIEVEMENT
Strengthening the justice system

- 4,781 individuals from vulnerable groups, including Roma, received free legal assistance
- 572 judges and other legal professionals trained on human rights
- 260 women in prison receiving better medical services
- 326 persons given alternatives to passing sentence in prison, including electronic monitoring
- 532 professionals trained on use of alternatives to prison

#2 ACHIEVEMENT
Supporting social inclusion and education

- 53 Roma school mediators and youth leaders trained
- 179 pre-school staff trained in teaching Roma children and children from deprived families
- 4 youth centres established in areas with a high Roma population
- 4,781 individuals from vulnerable groups, including Roma, received free legal assistance

#3 ACHIEVEMENT
Strengthening civil society

- 114 NGOs promoting democratic values and human rights
- 26 NGO coalitions or networks developed
- 24% of the funding so far to projects focusing on Roma inclusion
- 18 of the projects to date have partners from Norway and Iceland

Cooperation with the Council of Europe

The Council of Europe is involved as a strategic programme partner in five programmes and as a project partner in eleven projects.

“Through this innovative work with children aged 3-6 years from underprivileged families – including Roma – in Bulgaria, the Council of Europe and its partners are achieving tangible results in building a more inclusive society. Our hope is to scale up and replicate this promising and successful programme.”

Jean-Christophe Bas, Director of Democratic Citizenship and Participation at the Council of Europe.
Empowering Roma youth

A youth centre for young people aged between 15 and 29 years is being established in the southern Bulgarian city of Plovdiv which has a large Roma population. The centre serves as a drop-in meeting place and offers both recreational activities as well as vocational skills training opportunities.

The Norwegian research institute Agderforskning is cooperating with Plovdiv municipality in developing and establishing the youth centre.

Project promoter: Municipality of Plovdiv
Grant amount: €828 714
Project link: bit.ly/1D7Xc44

“For us as Roma it can be difficult to meet people from outside our own community. So I hope that the youth centre can be a place where young people from Plovdiv can meet regardless of ethnic background.”
Svetoslav Aleksiev (pictured centre)

Improving milk quality and the environment

By introducing renewable energy sources such as solar collectors to provide hot water, three pilot dairy farms in Bulgaria will reduce their energy consumption. In addition, access to less expensive hot water will enable the farmers to use more hot water for proper washing and cleaning of the milking machines and other equipment. This will contribute to better milk quality and enable the farmers to sell their milk at higher prices.

The project is implemented in partnership with Norges Vel from Norway and Trakia University in Stara Zagora and funded through the green industry innovation programme in Bulgaria operated by Innovation Norway.

Project promoter: Foundation for Organic Agriculture Bioselena
Grant amount: €199 391
Project link: bit.ly/1Ku4He7
Read more about programmes and projects in Croatia:
www.eeagrants.org/croatia

Key results 2014-15

With programmes launching in Croatia at the end of April 2014 following the country’s accession to the EEA, implementation is only getting underway. While it is difficult to define results so far, work is moving ahead at pace.

► Preparations have started in Šibenik for the establishment of iNavis – a new national resource centre for energy and marine research and innovation

► Work is underway in the multi-ethnic areas of Vukovar and Knin to support increased understanding between ethnic groups. This includes preparations for the establishment of a new integrated school in Vukovar

► Together with the Council of Europe, the efficiency of the judiciary will be supported through the rehabilitation of the court house in Karlovac

► Thirty projects focused on solidarity and social capital in local communities have been selected under the NGO Fund so far

► Social dialogue is being strengthened in partnership with the Norwegian Confederation of Trade Unions and the Confederation of Norwegian Enterprise. Activities taking place this year include a study visit to Norway, a training workshop and a national tripartite conference.

Programme overview

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Programme</th>
<th>Partners</th>
<th>Grant (€ million)</th>
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<tr>
<td>Judicial capacity building</td>
<td>Council of Europe</td>
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Priority areas of support

- Promote green business, education and research education in cooperation with Norwegian partners
- Improve the 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

Implementation status

All data extracted end April 2015

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Total funding (€M)</th>
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<th>No. of approved projects</th>
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Sources: Eurostat/UNDP/Transparency International
All data is from 2013 except where * indicates 2014
See notes to tables in Annex 2

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Country section

Cyprus

Total Funding €7.85M EEA Grants €3.85M Norway Grants €4.0M

Programme overview

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<thead>
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<th>Programme</th>
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</table>

Priority areas of support

- Strengthening civil society
- Facilitating dialogue and bi-communal cooperation
- Improving services for and protection of victims of domestic violence
- Improving health diagnostics and capacity

Implementation status

- Total funding (€M): 7.85
- Disbursed (€M): 4.41
- No. of approved projects: 28
- No. of approved partnership projects: 4

All data extracted end April 2015

Country facts

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<td>(EU-28 ranking)</td>
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Sources: Eurostat/UNDP/Transparency International
All data is from 2013 except where * indicates 2014
See notes to tables in Annex 2

“…The Home for Cooperation is something to be really proud of. It constitutes a substantial contribution to the revitalisation of Nicosia’s United Nations Dead Zone as well as to the wider peace process.”

Jury of the 2014 EU Prize for Cultural Heritage/Europa Nostra Awards

Pictured below is Special Adviser of the UN Secretary-General on Cyprus, Espen Barth Eide, visiting the H4C.
Key results 2014-15

#1 ACHIEVEMENT
Increasing interaction between the Greek-Cypriot and Turkish-Cypriot communities

- 3 international conferences on advancing historical understanding and conflict resolution in divided societies have taken place at the Home for Cooperation (H4C), dialogue and activity centre in the UN buffer zone of Nicosia
- 33 joint ventures initiated between the H4C and organisations from both sides of the island

#2 ACHIEVEMENT
Improving public health services

- +17,400 new donors recruited to the bone marrow registry from both the Cypriot communities
- A new gene mapping facility for Cypriot communities established to support the diagnosis of cancer and neurological disorders

Project snapshot

Helping victims of domestic violence

The first purpose-built shelter (pictured) for victims of domestic violence and their children in Cyprus is under construction. The Norwegian Secretariat of the Shelter Movement is advising and sharing experience with the Cypriot project manager in establishing and running the shelter. They have significant experience in dealing with issues related to violence against women and in providing support for children housed in the shelters with their mothers.

Project promoter: The Association for the Prevention and Handling of Violence in the Family
Grant amount: €742,920
Project link: bit.ly/ryOxUwb
**Czech Republic**

**Total Funding** €131.8M

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Programme</th>
<th>Partners</th>
<th>Grant (€ million)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
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<td>inequalities and promote social inclusion</td>
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<td>Judicial capacity-building and correctional</td>
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</table>

**Priority areas of support**

- Improving mental health services and reducing health inequalities
- Protecting biodiversity and reducing vulnerability to climate change
- Enhancing cooperation on research with Norway
- Strengthening cooperation and educational exchange with the donor countries
- Strengthening civil society
- Revitalising important European cultural heritage

**Implementation status**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total funding (€M)</th>
<th>Disbursed (€M)</th>
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All data extracted end April 2015

**Country facts**

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<td>Human development index</td>
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<tr>
<td>Corruption perception index*</td>
<td>22 (EU-28 ranking)</td>
<td></td>
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</table>

Sources: Eurostat/UNDP/Transparency International  
All data is from 2013 except where * indicates 2014  
See notes to tables in Annex 2
Key results 2014-15

#1 ACHIEVEMENT
Enhancing research cooperation with Norway

- 18 cooperation projects to date supporting joint Norwegian and Czech research
- +100 female researchers involved in projects

#2 ACHIEVEMENT
Building capacity through cooperation

- 100 state officials, police officers, judges and state prosecutors received training in combating corruption
- Major conference organised with Council of Europe on anti-corruption to be held in Prague in October 2015 with active involvement of the donor countries

Project snapshot

Rural community entrepreneurship

Working with the Norwegian University College for Agriculture and Rural Development, the Environment Centre of Charles University (CUEC) is developing a training course supported by the scholarship programme designed to help people in rural communities develop their entrepreneurial skills. Open to local government officers, masters students and rural entrepreneurs, the course will be delivered by specialists from both institutions in Cesky Krumlov Castle in rural South Bohemia. The castle’s museum (pictured) was itself restored with programme support in 2008.

“It’s about innovation through bottom-up development.”

Jiří Dlouhý, project manager at CUEC

Project promoter: Environment Centre, Charles University
Grant amount: €33 140
Project link: bit.ly/1EZuHJH
Estonia

Read more about programmes and projects in Estonia: www.eeagrants.org/estonia

Total Funding €48.6M  EEA Grants €23.0M  Norway Grants €25.6M

Priority areas of support

- Developing and increasing the use of eco-friendly technologies
- Improving healthcare services and reducing health inequalities
- Assisting vulnerable children and youth at risk
- Improving the environmental standard of marine and inland waters
- Increasing intercultural awareness and dialogue and supporting integration of the Russian-speaking minority

Programme overview

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Programme</th>
<th>Partners</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Integrated marine and inland water management</td>
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Priority areas of support

- Developing and increasing the use of eco-friendly technologies
- Improving healthcare services and reducing health inequalities
- Assisting vulnerable children and youth at risk
- Improving the environmental standard of marine and inland waters
- Increasing intercultural awareness and dialogue and supporting integration of the Russian-speaking minority

Implementation status

Total funding (€M): 48.6  Disbursed (€M): 32.6  No. of approved projects: 260  No. of approved partnership projects: 82

All data extracted end April 2015

Country facts

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Sources: Eurostat/UNDP/Transparency International
All data is from 2013 except where * indicates 2014
See notes to tables in Annex 2
Key results 2014-15

#1 ACHIEVEMENT
Enhancing research cooperation with Norway

- 90 researchers involved in joint projects
- Support for 30 PhD students

#2 ACHIEVEMENT
Improving public health and reducing health inequalities

- 5,741 people have benefited from improved health services
- 78% of those were young people with mental health issues
- 354 health professionals and students have received training in health care skills

#3 ACHIEVEMENT
Preventing domestic and gender-based violence

- 104 professionals have been trained on reducing gender-based violence
- 13 services have been created or upgraded to support victims
- 6 awareness-raising campaigns to reduce gender-based violence

Project snapshot

Advancing energy storage

NXTech AS, is working with Skeleton Technologies OÜ in Estonia, to combine technological solutions with advanced energy storage ‘ultracapacitor’ batteries. The project will improve the efficiency and reliability of ultracapacitors and lower energy use.

Project promoter: Skeleton Technologies OÜ
Grant: €594,513
Project link: bit.ly/1dBPgrs
EEA Grants €63.4M

“...is difficult. The Solidarity Centre shows how the public sector and civil society can work together to make a difference. Our goal is that this cooperation can be a model for similar projects.” Vidar Helgesen, Norwegian Minister of EEA and EU Affairs

Priority areas of support

- Safeguarding the right to seek asylum and improving the reception conditions, in particular of unaccompanied asylum-seeking children
- Capacity building of Greek NGOs in policy and decision-making processes
- Improving the environmental standard of marine and inland waters and promoting renewable energy and research
- Alleviating the adverse social effects of the economic crisis

Implementation status

- Total funding (€M): 63.4
- Disbursed (€M): 24.2
- No. of approved projects: 50
- No. of approved partnership projects: 3

Country facts

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Sources: Eurostat/UNDP/Transparency International
All data is from 2013 except where * indicates 2014 and ** 2010
See notes to tables in Annex 2
Key results 2014-15

#1 ACHIEVEMENT
Improving support for migrants and asylum seekers

- 870 people, including 640 unaccompanied children given temporary accommodation and medical care in 4 reception centres (3 in Athens and 1 in Patras)

- 2,700 migrants and asylum seekers given shelter and basic welfare support at the first reception centre in Evros on the Turkish border

#2 ACHIEVEMENT
Strengthening civil society

- 18,000 receiving better access to basic and welfare services

- 4,000 people accessing social welfare services every day (including medical, mental health and addiction treatment services)

#3 ACHIEVEMENT
Alleviating poverty

- 4,700 people using the advisory helpline

- 1,263 children benefiting from day care services

- 5,000 food vouchers distributed

- 3,864 visits to health care specialists

Project snapshot

Solidarity Now!

The Solidarity Centre in Athens is providing assistance to around 37,000 people worst hit by the economic crisis. According to EU figures, every third person in the country of 10.7 million is at risk of poverty or social exclusion. Free health care and medication, food vouchers, assistance when applying for jobs, legal aid and day care for children are some of the services that are offered free of charge at the centre.

Project promoter: Solidarity Now EPE
Grant amount: €1,869,792
Project link: bit.ly/1H41pKQ
Payments to Hungary under the EEA and Norway Grants were suspended on 9 May 2014. This followed a breach of the agreements governing the funding. Read more: bit.ly/1K41Ybl.
Funding to directly contracted programmes (marked with ** in programme overview) is not suspended.

Priority areas of support
- Strengthening civil society
- Increasing competitiveness of green enterprises
- Adapting to climate change
- Enhancing research-based knowledge through research cooperation

Programme overview

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Programme</th>
<th>Partners</th>
<th>Grant (€ million)</th>
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Sources: Eurostat/UNDP/Transparency International
All data is from 2013 except where * indicates 2014
See notes to tables in Annex 2
Key results 2014-15

#1 ACHIEVEMENT
Strengthening the capacity of civil society

- 143 NGOs reporting strengthened capacity
- 50 NGOs promoting democratic values and human rights
- 24,500 people received improved access to basic services (this includes one-time services such as HIV-tests)

#2 ACHIEVEMENT
Improving decent work and social dialogue

- 17 social dialogue bodies established
- All 5 projects carried out in cooperation with Norwegian partners

Project snapshot

Working to prevent hate crime

There has been an increasing number of hate incidents often targeted at local Roma people.

The Oslo Police District in Norway – which has a special group working with hate crimes – has shared its operational experience and employee training methods. The Equality and Anti-discrimination Ombud in Norway has also been involved.

“We train police officers to recognise hate incidents and to engage the communities to prevent further escalation.”

György Makula, Chairman, Fraternal Association of European Roma Law Enforcement Officers

Project promoter: Fraternal Association of European Roma Law Enforcement Officers
Grant amount: €57,671
Project link: bit.ly/rcNk83i
Priority areas of support

- Supporting reform of correctional services, including improving rehabilitation
- Strengthening cooperation between local and regional authorities in Latvia and Norway
- Realising green innovation business opportunities
- Strengthening civil society
- Improving environmental monitoring systems
- Increasing intercultural awareness and dialogue with the Russian-speaking minority

Implementation status

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Sources: Eurostat/UNDP/Transparency International
All data is from 2013 except where * indicates 2014
See notes to tables in Annex 2
Key results 2014-15

#1 ACHIEVEMENT
Improving correctional services

- **+500** staff in prisons and short-term detention centres trained
- Development of a new approach for prisoners with drug and substance abuse problems, as a result of cooperation with Norwegian Correctional Services

#2 ACHIEVEMENT
Strengthening civil society

- **+300** representatives from civil society participated in NGO Forum organised by NGO Fund Operator under Latvian EU Presidency
- Almost **30** NGO projects have partners from the donor countries
- **82** NGO coalitions or networks developed

#3 ACHIEVEMENT
Local development and capacity building

- **4** strategic partnerships
- **13** experience and knowledge sharing events
- **7** seminars to promote local innovation and entrepreneurship
- **4** planning regions produced sustainable development strategies, in consultation with the public

Project snapshot

Support for eco start-ups

The green technology incubator is helping start-up companies develop their technologies to bridge the gap between innovation and commercialisation. The incubator was established by the University of Latvia and Riga Technical University in cooperation with Industrial Development Corporation of Norway (“SIVA”).

Project promoter: Green Industry Innovation Center Ltd.
Grant amount: €1 784 050
Project link: bit.ly/1crCq9g

“[The Incubator will not only help green innovation ideas to enter the market, but it will also promote co-operation between the private and academic sectors as well as the exchange of experience and knowledge in the area of green technology between Latvia and Norway.”](bit.ly/1crCq9g)

Steinar Egil Hagen, Norwegian Ambassador to Latvia
## Lithuania

### Priority areas of support
- Promoting cooperation between local authorities and public institutions in Lithuania and Norway
- Strengthening judicial reform including the wider use of alternatives to prison
- Fighting cross-border and organised crime
- Promoting green industry innovation and entrepreneurship
- Halting the loss of biodiversity and protection of ecosystems

### Implementation status

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All data extracted end April 2015

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Sources: Eurostat/UNDP/Transparency International
All data is from 2013 except where * indicates 2014
See notes to tables in Annex 2

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### Programme overview

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<th>Partners</th>
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*Programme Operator

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Read more about programmes and projects in Lithuania:
[www.eeagrants.org/lithuania](http://www.eeagrants.org/lithuania)
Key results 2014-15

#1 ACHIEVEMENT
Promoting a fairer and more efficient judicial system

- 56 court staff and legal professionals trained
- 2 courts have started witness support schemes based on Norwegian model

#2 ACHIEVEMENT
Strengthening civil society

- 76 young journalists and online activists have been trained in human rights and combating hate speech
- 1/3 have bilateral partners
- 3 NGO coalitions have been established

#3 ACHIEVEMENT
Supporting cultural heritage

- 23 buildings restored or rehabilitated
- 19 project partnership agreements
- 19 NGOs have secured additional funding through strengthened capacity

Project snapshot

Discovering Jewish heritage through language

The ‘Bagel Shop’ is a place to celebrate Lithuanian Jewish language, culture and history. Supported under the NGO programme, the project promotes tolerance and raises awareness of anti-Semitism. The Jewish Community of Oslo is a project partner.

Yehuda Vagner from Haifa (pictured), has been a volunteer Hebrew teacher at the Bagel Shop for over two years. Students learn about Jewish traditions and culture, and in Yehuda’s words, “Language is a direct way to get to know each other”.

Project promoter: Lithuanian Jewish Community
Grant amount: €81 000
Project link: bit.ly/reDBxoa
Priority areas of support

- Strengthening oil spill prevention and response
- Improving correctional services for young offenders
- Strengthening civil society

Country facts

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Sources: Eurostat/UNDP/Transparency International
All data is from 2013 except where * indicates 2014
See notes to tables in Annex 2

Malta is improving its oil spill response capacity thanks to a project run by Transport Malta in cooperation with the Norwegian Coastal Administration.
Key results 2014-15

#1 ACHIEVEMENT
Strengthening civil society

- 4 NGO coalitions established
- 12 NGOs promoting democratic values and human rights
- 6 NGOs working with vulnerable groups

#2 ACHIEVEMENT
Strengthening the capacity of local government

- A study on the training needs of the current local government system was conducted
- Development of a National Training Strategy for local government staff

Project snapshot

Promoting human rights through fairy tales

Educating children about human rights at an early stage is of great importance for an inclusive society. As part of a project under the NGO programme, new Maltese-language cartoons have been produced with the aim of reinterpreting such fairy tales on a more positive note. Having been screened at local cinemas and distributed in all Maltese schools, the new cartoons are reaching children across the country.

Present at the launch of the cartoons, the President of Malta, Marie Louise Coleiro Preca, (pictured), welcomed the initiative, highlighting the importance of spreading messages of equality and non-discrimination, particularly among children.

Project promoter: Write Deal Association
Grant amount: €25,375
Project link: bit.ly/1P6gW3P
Read more about programmes and projects in Poland: www.eeagratings.org/poland

Priority areas of support

- Increasing energy efficiency
- Promoting green innovation in cooperation with Norwegian enterprises
- Improving environmental monitoring and protecting biodiversity
- Improving access to public health services
- Increasing research cooperation between Norway and Poland
- Contributing to a more efficient judicial system

Implementation status

Total funding (€M): 578.1
Disbursed (€M): 284.5
No. of approved projects: 997
No. of approved partnership projects: 252

All data extracted end April 2015

Country facts

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Sources: Eurostat/UNDP/Transparency International
All data is from 2013 except where * indicates 2014
See notes to tables in Annex 2
Key results 2014-15

#1 ACHIEVEMENT
Enhancing research cooperation with Norway

- +700 Polish and Norwegian researchers involved in joint projects
- 39% female project managers
- Funding of 29 female professors, post-doctorals and PhD-students from technical sciences to strengthen their career development

#2 ACHIEVEMENT
Increasing educational cooperation

- 262 Polish students on exchange in Iceland (32), Liechtenstein (2) and Norway (226)
- 94 staff from higher education institutions in Poland on exchange in Iceland (34), Liechtenstein (2) and Norway (58)
- 5 Icelandic and 12 Norwegian students on exchange in Poland
- 52 staff from higher education institutions in Iceland (17), Liechtenstein (1) and Norway (34) on exchange in Poland

Project snapshot

Developing new cancer therapy

Together with researchers from Oslo University Hospital in Norway, a team of researchers at University of Wroclaw are working to develop a new cancer therapy. The cooperation project is based on a long-term collaboration between the Polish and Norwegian researchers in the field of cancer research, which will prove mutually beneficial.

“Today’s mainstream approach to cure cancer is the use of chemotherapy that harms both cancer and healthy cells. Our aim is to kill only the cancer cells and do that more effectively. This will reduce the side effects for the cancer patients. The Norwegian researchers are interested in the same protein as us, but we are looking at it from different angles and have different and complementary expertise. We will continue our cooperation after this project.”

Professor Jacek Otlewski, University of Wroclaw

Project promoter: University of Wroclaw
Grant amount: €812 679
Project link: bit.ly/1L6DHOL
Key results 2014-15

#3 ACHIEVEMENT
Improving the efficiency and quality of the justice system

- Combating organised crime through cooperation between custom officers in Poland and Norway
- 6 project partnerships with Norwegian institutions
- 531 police officers trained in Schengen laws and IT-systems
- 13,147 training certificates on the use of alternatives to prison issued to judges, prosecutors and prison staff
- 4,305 certificates issued to prisoners for training received to increase their knowledge and social skills

#4 ACHIEVEMENT
Strengthening environmental cooperation with Norway

- 4 out of 5 projects realised in partnership with Norwegian environmental entities
- The Norwegian Institute for Air Research, the Norwegian Mapping Authority and the Norwegian Environment Agency shared their experience on improving air quality, geographical data systems and environmental inspections

#5 ACHIEVEMENT
Promoting joint cultural projects and performances

- 1,200 cultural events held reaching +600,000 people
- 88% of projects completed with partners from Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway

#6 ACHIEVEMENT
Improving decent work and social dialogue

- 5 out of 11 projects carried out in partnership with Norwegian entities
- 14 social dialogue bodies established
- +9,000 people trained
Kogeneracja S.A., the heat and power plant located in the centre of Wrocław (pictured), produces electricity and provides heating for 60 per cent of the city’s 600,000 inhabitants. EU legislation requires the coal and biomass-powered plant to reduce its emissions.

By installing a new filter system, the sulphur dioxide (SO2) and dust emissions will be reduced significantly. The reduction of SO2 from this plant per year is equivalent to almost 20 per cent of the total Norwegian SO2 emissions for 2013. The result will be reduced acid rain locally and regionally, as well as improved air quality – benefitting both the environment and the inhabitants of Wrocław and in the wider region.

Norway provides funding for similar improvements to reduce the SO2 emissions in Poland, contributing to a reduction of more than the annual Norwegian SO2 emissions for 2013. Norway also supports projects to reduce CO2 and other hazardous emissions in Poland.

Project promoter: CHP team Wrocław Kogeneracja S.A.
Grant amount: €4.76 million
Project link: bit.ly/1Ktbbdj
Portugal

EEA Grants €58.0M

Programme overview

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Priority areas of support

- Reducing vulnerability to climate change
- Improving the management and protection of natural resources
- Increasing the use and development of renewable energy
- Improving public health and reducing health inequalities
- Strengthening civil society

Implementation status

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All data extracted end April 2015

Country facts

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- Economic growth (% change on previous year)
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  - EU-28: 0.1
- Unemployment rate (%)*
  - Portugal: 14.1
  - EU-28: 10.2
- Youth unemployment rate (%)*
  - Portugal: 34.8
  - EU-28: 22.2
- Public debt (% of GDP)
  - Portugal: 128
  - EU-28: 85.4
- Gender pay gap (%)
  - Portugal: 13
  - EU-28: 16.4
- At-risk-of-poverty rate (%)
  - Portugal: 27.4
  - EU-28: 24.5
- Human development index
  - Portugal: 23 (EU-28 ranking)
- Corruption perception index*
  - Portugal: 14 (EU-28 ranking)

Sources: Eurostat/UNDP/Transparency International
All data is from 2013 except where * indicates 2014
See notes to tables in Annex 2

“Cooperation with Norwegian partners is very important because Norway has extensive experience in areas where Portugal needs to upgrade its capacity and expertise.”

Carlos Dias from the National Health Institute which runs a project to develop a new National Health Survey

Read more about programmes and projects in Portugal: www.eeagrants.org/portugal
Key results 2014-15

#1 ACHIEVEMENT
Strengthening social entrepreneurship through support to civil society

27 projects on youth employment which are expected to help over 5,000 young people improve their skills and support more than 2,000 budding entrepreneurs

The NGO Fund Operator organised a large-scale international conference in Lisbon in November 2014 on “Youth Employment and Social Entrepreneurship: New Ways Forward”

#2 ACHIEVEMENT
Exchanging knowledge on geothermal energy exploitation

12 students and professionals from the Azores participated in courses on exploration and exploitation of geothermal energy given by Iceland’s United Nations University

Courses have taken place both in Iceland and the Azores

#3 ACHIEVEMENT
Cultural footprint: arts and education

5 cultural education projects developed with 8 Norwegian partners exporting the celebrated Norwegian ‘cultural rucksack’ concept

23 cultural events developed
30 artists and cultural professionals trained
300 schoolchildren attended art events

Project snapshot

Drawing on Icelandic geothermal experience

The National Energy Authority of Iceland is a partner in the €4 million GAla renewable energy programme, lending its expertise to build capacity as well as collaborating extensively in the planning and implementation. Led by Electricidade dos Açores (Azores Electricity), a pilot power plant is to be established at the Pico Alto Geothermal field to test the viability and sustainability of geothermal power generation.

Programme link: bit.ly/1ImIoTe
Country section

Romania

Read more about programmes and projects in Romania: www.eeagants.org/romania

Total Funding €306.0M  EEA Grants €190.8M  Norway Grants €115.2M

Programme overview

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<th>Programme</th>
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<tr>
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<td>Capacity building and institutional cooperation</td>
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<td>Public health initiatives</td>
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<td>22.6</td>
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<td>Domestic and gender-based violence</td>
<td>Council of Europe, National Police Directorate (Norway)</td>
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<td>National Police Directorate (Norway)</td>
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<td>Judicial capacity building</td>
<td>Council of Europe, National Courts Administration</td>
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<td>Correctional services</td>
<td>Directorate of Norwegian Correctional services</td>
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<tr>
<td>Poverty alleviation</td>
<td></td>
<td>20.0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Priority areas of support

- Supporting judicial reform, tackling cross-border and organised crime
- Improving the situation of vulnerable groups, including the Roma population
- Boosting green innovation and entrepreneurship
- Strengthening civil society to promote social justice, democracy and sustainable development

Implementation status

- Total funding (€M): 306.0
- Disbursed (€M): 129.9
- No. of approved projects: 515
- No. of approved partnership projects: 111

Country facts

- GDP per capita in PPS (EU=100): Romania 55, EU-28 100
- Economic growth (% change on previous year): Romania 3.5, EU-28 0.1
- Unemployment rate (%): Romania 6.8, EU-28 10.2
- Youth unemployment rate (%): Romania 24, EU-28 22.2
- Public debt (% of GDP): Romania 38, EU-28 85.4
- Gender pay gap (%): Romania 9.1, EU-28 16.4
- At-risk-of-poverty rate (%): Romania 40.4, EU-28 24.5
- Human development index: Romania 27 (EU-28 ranking), EU-28 102
- Corruption perception index*: Romania 25 (EU-28 ranking), EU-28 12

Sources: Eurostat/UNDP/Transparency International
All data is from 2013 except where * indicates 2014
See notes to tables in Annex 2

*Programme Operator
Key results 2014-15

#1 ACHIEVEMENT
Increasing the efficiency of justice

2,696
legal professionals and court staff trained in the new criminal codes, human rights and court management

#2 ACHIEVEMENT
Supporting research

444
researchers and
87
research institutions are involved in joint research projects involving donor countries

26%
of the funding targets
improvements for the Roma population

204
doctoral and post-doctoral researchers funded

#3 ACHIEVEMENT
Strengthening civil society

30
NGOs participated in partnerships including with local government

12
NGOs established strategies to defend rights of vulnerable groups

7
NGO coalitions or networks developed

#4 ACHIEVEMENT
Improving public health services and reducing health inequalities

695
people have benefited from improved health information and health services

166
students and health professionals received training to improve their skills
Snapshot of projects

Social inclusion for Roma

Norway Grants has allocated €20 million to poverty alleviation in Romania. Donor project partners include the Norwegian branch of the Salvation Army and the City of Oslo.

One project focuses on the Pata Rata settlement on the outskirts of Cluj-Napoca. The Roma people living here have made their living from the collection and trading of waste on the local landfill site; the site will close in 2015. The project is helping 300 families living in the area prepare for the closure. A wide range of measures are helping people to have more control of their lives, from gaining access to adequate education, health and other social services, to building cooperation with different stakeholders, including civil society.

Project promoter: Intercommunity Development Association Cluj Metropolitan Area
Grant amount: €2 million
Project link: bit.ly/1dIW1U8

“Romania faces serious challenges relating to poverty and social exclusion, particularly among the Roma people. This is why we are allocating funds from the Norway Grants to improve their living conditions”

Vidar Helgesen, Norwegian Minister of EEA and EU Affairs

Therapeutic centre for women prisoners

Norway’s Bredtveit women’s prison is providing expertise for the development of a therapeutic community at Gherla women’s prison, based on its best practices and experience in the area. The project involves developing special recovery programs to help prisoners reintegrate into society after they have served their sentence. The project will also improve the professional competence of prison staff in working with vulnerable groups. The project will bring benefits not just to Gherla, but more widely to the whole prison system in how to work with and assist vulnerable groups.

Project promoter: National Administration of Penitentiaries from Romania
Grant amount: €1 million
Project link: bit.ly/1QLGVyz
Programme overview

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Programme</th>
<th>Grant (€ million)</th>
<th>Partners</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Adaptation to climate change</td>
<td>12.5</td>
<td>Norwegian Directorate for Civil Protection, Norwegian Water Resources and Energy Directorate</td>
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<td>Green industry innovation</td>
<td>16.1</td>
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<td>NGO Fund</td>
<td>7.4</td>
<td>Council of Europe</td>
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<td>Cultural and natural heritage</td>
<td>11.9</td>
<td>Council of Europe</td>
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<td>Scholarships</td>
<td>1.9</td>
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<td>Domestic and gender-based violence</td>
<td>8.4</td>
<td>Norwegian Directorate of Health, Council of Europe</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Priority areas of support

- Increasing competitiveness of green enterprises and green job creation
- Preventing and tackling domestic violence
- Improving flood resilience and raising public awareness of flood prevention
- Strengthening cross-border cooperation with Ukraine
- Promoting social inclusion of Roma

Implementation status

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total funding (€M)</th>
<th>Disbursed (€M)</th>
<th>No. of approved projects</th>
<th>No. of approved partnership projects</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>80.8</td>
<td>45.0</td>
<td>239</td>
<td>51</td>
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Country facts

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<tr>
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<td>100</td>
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<td>Economic growth (% change on previous year)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Unemployment rate (%)*</td>
<td>13.2</td>
<td>10.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Youth unemployment rate (%)*</td>
<td>30.4</td>
<td>22.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public debt (% of GDP)</td>
<td>54.6</td>
<td>85.4</td>
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<td>Gender pay gap (%)</td>
<td>19.8</td>
<td>16.4</td>
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<tr>
<td>At-risk-of-poverty rate (%)</td>
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<td>24.5</td>
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<td>Human development index</td>
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<td>(EU-28 ranking)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Corruption perception index*</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>(EU-28 ranking)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Sources: Eurostat/UNDP/Transparency International
All data is from 2013 except where * indicates 2014
See notes to tables in Annex 2
Key results 2014-15

#1 ACHIEVEMENT
Supporting victims of domestic and gender-based violence

- 5 women’s shelter and crisis centres supported
- 45 professionals trained on reducing gender-based violence

#2 ACHIEVEMENT
Strengthening civil society

- 409 people received improved access to welfare services
- 9 NGOs working with vulnerable groups
- 2 laws or policies and practices changed or improved as a consequence of NGO action
- 18 projects carried out in partnership with Norwegian and Icelandic organisations (14%)
- 4 local citizen action initiatives organised such as petitions, contact with parliamentarians and meetings bringing citizens and government together

Project snapshot

Creating job opportunities for Roma

In Slovakia, the unemployment rate among the Roma population is around 80 percent. In the eastern part of the country, Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway are helping create employment opportunities for the Roma through organic farming. The organic farm Malinka in Rudlov is being renovated and expanded, creating at least ten new jobs and helping to secure already existing ones.

“It is necessary to have a long-term perspective and to work systematically to help include marginalised groups like the Roma into society. We hope that our project can serve as inspiration for other projects in Slovakia.”

Štefan Straka, Director, Svatobor

Project promoter: Svatobor
Grant amount: €60 000
Project link: bit.ly/1eiSCuI
Conference: exchanging experience on European integration

An international conference entitled ‘Different models of past and future European integration – a look from inside and outside the EU’ was held in Ljubljana in October 2014. It brought together government representatives from Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway, Slovenia and other countries across the EU, as well as from research institutions, NGOs and think tanks.

“Such forms of creative cooperation should continue to be developed, as they will benefit all partners.”

Karl Erjavec, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Slovenia
Female participation in politics

Despite some progress, women in Slovenia continue to be under-represented in politics and business. One project – OPENN – running under the gender programme is working to identify barriers that hinder greater female participation in politics. The aim is to propose some concrete solutions, which will include new proposals for legislation and awareness raising campaigns.

The Norwegian Association for Local and Regional Authorities is participating as a partner.

“Norway has had a relatively high percentage of female participation in politics at senior levels for many decades. We have seen how important that is, not only for democracy but also in helping to shape legislation, the welfare state and society in general.”

Liss Schanke, Norwegian Association for Local and Regional Authorities

Project promoter: Peace Institute
Grant amount: €248 355
Project link: bit.ly/1FazMMt

Project snapshot
### Spain

**EEA Grants**  €45.9M

#### Programme overview

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Programme</th>
<th>Partners</th>
<th>Grant (€ million)</th>
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<tbody>
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<td>Environmental and climate change-related research and technology</td>
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<td>NGO Fund</td>
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<td>Cultural and natural heritage</td>
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<td>Diversity in culture and arts</td>
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<td>Scholarships</td>
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<td>3.9</td>
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</table>

* EEA Grants  *Programme Operator

#### Priority areas of support

- Increasing environmental research and development of eco-friendly technologies
- Promoting gender equality and work-life balance
- Increasing educational cooperation and exchange

#### Implementation status

<table>
<thead>
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<th>Total funding (€M)</th>
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<th>No. of approved partnership projects</th>
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<td>23.3</td>
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All data extracted end April 2015

#### Country facts

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<td>Youth unemployment rate (%)*</td>
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<td>Corruption perception index*</td>
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</table>

Sources: Eurostat, UNDP, Transparency International

All data is from 2013 except where * indicates 2014.

See notes to tables in Annex 2

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Spanish photographer Begoña Antón Arias spent two months at an artistic residency known as Listhús in Iceland supported by the cultural diversity programme. Picture from the exhibition “Lady Winter”
Key results 2014-15

#1 ACHIEVEMENT
Developing environmental and climate change research and technologies

- 169 research and development projects running involving 183 Spanish companies; 46 involve partners from the donor countries (42 from Norway and 4 from Iceland)
- 1 in 4 of the researchers taking part in the projects is female
- 147 contracts signed between companies and universities/research centres

#2 ACHIEVEMENT
Promoting female entrepreneurship

- 150 women from vulnerable groups taking part in job skills training
- 69 Gender balance improved in 69 company boards
- 6 schools have put equality plans in place

#3 ACHIEVEMENT
Enhancing educational cooperation

- 137 students participated in exchanges with the donor countries
- 75 researchers involved in exchanges with the donor countries

#4 ACHIEVEMENT
Promoting cultural diversity and exchange

- 8 cooperation projects between cultural organisations from Spain and partners from the donor countries
- 19 artists and performers received grants to take part in an exchange with the donor countries
More women in leadership

Only 17% of board members in the world’s biggest companies are women. The ‘Promociona’ project, financed by Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway, may be just one small step on the way to change this, but it’s making big waves.

Promociona seeks to encourage a higher number of women executives on steering committees and boards of directors. The first round finished on 22 January 2015, with excellent results: 7 out of 40 women participants were promoted and a second round with a further 70 top female managers taking part is underway.

Forty female managers from some of the biggest companies in Spain including Renault, Iberdrola, Indra and Siemens received business training, mentoring and coaching in one of the best business schools in Spain in order to improve their skills. Engineer, Beatriz de Dios, Head of the Quality Department in Renault Valladolid, who was promoted after taking part in this project said:

“I must admit that when my company offered me the opportunity to take part in this project I hesitated because of the ‘women only’ label. But the experience couldn’t have been more positive. The programme is very good and the management excellent.”

Project promoter: Spanish Confederation of Business Organizations
Grant amount: €578 000
Project link: bit.ly/1RA4lzg
This part provides an overview of the organisational structure and governance of the EEA and Norway Grants.
MANAGING THE GRANTS
Managing the Grants

Organisational structure

Public institutions in the donor and beneficiary countries share responsibilities for managing the EEA and Norway Grants.

The Financial Mechanism Committee (FMC) is the decision-making body for the EEA Grants. The committee consists of representatives from the Ministries of Foreign Affairs of Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway. The FMC draws up policy and guidelines, approves each programme allocation and ensures monitoring, control and evaluation of the Grants. The Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs is the decision-making body for the Norway Grants.

The Financial Mechanism Office (FMO) is the Brussels-based secretariat for the Grants. The FMO is affiliated with the European Free Trade Association (EFTA) and reports to the Foreign Ministries of Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway. The FMO also serves as a contact point for the beneficiary countries. As of 31 December 2014, the FMO had 53 fixed-term staff positions, encompassing 13 different nationalities.

Each beneficiary country has a National Focal Point (NFP), responsible overall for achieving the objectives of the Grants, as well as overall management and control of their programmes. Most of the NFPs are located within relevant ministries, or public agencies that also have responsibility for managing EU funds. The NFP also represents the beneficiary country in its relations with the FMC and the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs regarding the Grants.

Each Programme Operator (PO) is responsible for awarding funding to projects according to agreed criteria, monitoring project implementation and achieving results. In most cases the PO is a public institution.

Programme Operators often work in close cooperation with a Donor Programme Partner (DPP). DPPs are public bodies from Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway with national mandates in their respective fields. They work with their counterparts in beneficiary countries to:

- provide expertise and strategic advice on programme planning and implementation
- facilitate networking and help project promoters find project partners in donor countries
Cooperation through bilateral programmes and projects provides an arena for exchange of knowledge, mutual learning from best practice and developing joint policies.

In total, there are 24 DPPs from Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway involved in the current funding period. In addition to partners from the donor countries, the Council of Europe is also a DPP in a number of programmes.

The donor Embassies in the beneficiary countries, in particular those of Norway, take part in the dialogue between the donor and beneficiary countries and play an important role in communicating the results of the Grants.

See Annex 3 for a list of Donor Programme Partners involved in each beneficiary country.

Read more about our partnership with the Council of Europe and other international organisations in Part 1: Our cooperation.

Managing for results

Results-based management helps to ensure that programmes are more focused on what they will achieve and take an evidence-based approach to what works well and what could be improved.

In 2014/15, the focus has been on implementation. By end of April 2015, the disbursement rate stood at 46%. A total of 4,149 projects had been contracted, of which 1,056 (25%) had a donor project partner. More projects are still being prepared.

The Office of the Auditor General of Norway published an investigation into the contribution of the EEA and Norway Grants to achieving its objectives of reducing social and economic disparities in 2013.¹ The report found that the 2009 – 2014 programme approach with defined objectives and expected outcomes should improve the achievement of goals.

In line with the Auditor’s recommendations, the number of performance indicators has been reduced and their quality improved. The FMO has also undertaken extensive training in beneficiary countries to improve the quality of information on projects and ensure that results are consistently and reliably reported. Reporting templates have been developed to focus annual reports on the achievement of results. Programme progress is regularly assessed through annual meetings and other visits based on a risk-based approach. A semi-annual risk assessment is undertaken which feeds into business processes.

Good governance

Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway are committed to the principles of good governance, including transparency, accountability, effectiveness and efficiency.

Monitoring and control systems

Each beneficiary country is obliged to establish a certifying authority and a separate auditing authority. These organisations are independent of the National Focal Point and must be established at the outset, before any funds are committed.

The management and control systems established in the beneficiary countries ensure reliable accounting, monitoring and financial reporting systems.

The auditing responsibility lies firstly with the beneficiary countries. The designated audit authority submits an audit strategy for each programme and reports annually on audits carried out. In addition, the FMO arranges audits and on-the-spot inspections of programmes and projects to verify the effective functioning of the management and control systems.

Irregularities

The donors have a zero-tolerance policy to corruption and mismanagement. In line with the public access and transparency policy, a quarterly irregularities report is made accessible to the public. If any resources are unduly paid or lost due to corruption, fraud or mismanagement, the beneficiary country is responsible for refunding the donor countries either by reclaiming it from the project promoter or from their own national funds.

Risk management

Risk management is an integral part of the management framework of the EEA and Norway Grants and a tool to help achieve goals and expected results. Transparency International (TI) is a strategic partner of the Grants and focuses on corruption prevention.

TI offers advice to the FMO and the National Focal Points and is helping to assess the potential exposure to corruption risk in the Grants. TI also participates in the annual risk seminar. In 2014, the seminar focused on results and risk management in the EEA and Norway Grants. Key findings and main mitigating actions highlighted in the reports on potential corruption risks in the beneficiary countries and programmes, prepared by TI, were also discussed.
Training and capacity building

In order to ensure a full understanding of roles, responsibilities and the regulation for the 2009-2014 funding period, a large number of seminars and workshops have been organised for those involved in the management of programmes including: Focal Points, Programme Operators, Donor Programme Partners, donor country embassies, potential beneficiaries and partners.

Donor management costs

The ceiling for donor management costs is 7.5% for the EEA and Norway Grants 2009 – 2014. In addition to management costs for running the FMO, this includes participation costs of donor programme partners, appraisal, monitoring, evaluation, audit and costs linked to the functions of the Financial Mechanism Committee.

The 2004 – 2009 Grants

In 2014, further progress was made to complete and formally close the 2004-2009 financial period. All projects in 11 out of 15 beneficiary countries were closed. Total disbursements at the end of 2014 were €1.1 billion. This is equivalent to an overall disbursement rate of 88% (compared to net allocations).

Table: Project status and disbursements per country by end-December 2014

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Beneficiary State</th>
<th>Projects</th>
<th>Current commitment* (€ million)</th>
<th>Disbursement* (€ million)</th>
<th>Disbursed % of net allocation**</th>
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<tbody>
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<td>Bulgaria**</td>
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<td>Czech Republic</td>
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<td>38</td>
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<td>112.5</td>
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<td>Romania**</td>
<td>71</td>
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<td>Total</td>
<td>1 206</td>
<td>1 172.7</td>
<td>1 096.8</td>
<td>88.03%</td>
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</table>

* Includes appraisal, monitoring and evaluation.
** Disbursements are calculated as a % of the net allocation to countries i.e. excluding donor country management costs.
# Annex 1

## Allocations by priority sector and country (€ million)

<table>
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<th>CY</th>
<th>CZ</th>
<th>EE</th>
<th>GR</th>
<th>HU</th>
<th>LV</th>
<th>LT</th>
<th>MT</th>
<th>PL</th>
<th>PT</th>
<th>RO</th>
<th>SK</th>
<th>SI</th>
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* Includes €70 million for the Polish energy efficiency programme which contributes towards the objectives of the climate change priority.
## Annex 2

### Explanatory notes on the indicators in the country overviews

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Indicator</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>GDP per capita (in PPS)</td>
<td>Gross domestic product (GDP) reflects a country’s economic situation: the total value of all goods and services produced less the value of goods and services used for intermediate consumption in their production. Expressing GDP in purchasing power standards (PPS) eliminates differences in price levels between countries while calculations on a per head basis allow for the comparison of economies significantly different in absolute size.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Economic growth (% change on previous year)</td>
<td>The calculation of the annual growth rate of GDP volume is intended to allow comparisons of the dynamics of economic development both over time and between economies of different sizes.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unemployment rate (%)</td>
<td>Unemployment rates represent unemployed people as a percentage of the labour force. The labour force is the total number of people employed and unemployed.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Youth unemployment rate (%)</td>
<td>Unemployment rates represent unemployed persons aged 15-24 as a percentage of the labour force of the same age.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public debt (% GDP)</td>
<td>Consolidated general government gross debt at nominal value, outstanding at the end of the year in the following categories of government liabilities: currency and deposits; securities other than shares excluding financial derivatives; and loans. General government sector comprises the sub-sector: central government; state government; local government; and social security funds.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gender pay gap (%)</td>
<td>The unadjusted gender pay gap (GPG) represents the difference between average gross hourly earnings of male paid employees and of female paid employees as a percentage of average gross hourly earnings of male paid employees.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>At-risk-of-poverty rate (%)</td>
<td>At risk of poverty or social exclusion is the percentage of the population who are at risk of poverty or who are severely materially deprived or living in households with very low work intensity.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Human development index (EU-28 ranking)</td>
<td>A composite index measuring average achievement in three basic dimensions of human development – a long and healthy life, knowledge and a decent standard of living.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Corruption perception index (EU-28 ranking)</td>
<td>The corruption perception index (CPI) is an aggregate indicator that brings together a number of different sources that capture perceptions of corruption within the past two years.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1 Sources: Eurostat for all indicators except Human Development Index (UNDP) and Corruption Perception Index (Transparency International)
### Annex 3

**Donor programme partners by beneficiary country**

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<th>Croatia</th>
<th>Cyprus</th>
<th>Czech Republic</th>
<th>Estonia</th>
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