Annual Report 2015-2016



ICELAND LIECHTENSTEIN NORWAY
eea grants
norway grants

Front cover photo: George Maragoudakis is an interpreter for the Greek Asylum Service (AS). He is one of 80 interpreters financed through the EEA Grants asylum programme in Greece, contracted to AS via the humanitarian NGO, Metadrasi. Read more about this project on pages 19-20.
Photo credit: Christophe Vander Eecken

Foreword

The EEA and Norway Grants represent the contribution of the three donor countries, Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway, to strengthening economic and social cohesion within the European Economic Area.

This annual report provides an overview of our work and presents examples of achievements and results in each beneficiary country. It also highlights results achieved in two areas: asylum and migration, and research and educational cooperation.

Our Grants are a unique instrument given their dual objective: to contribute to reducing social and economic disparities, and strengthen our bilateral relations.

A section of this annual report is dedicated to show the extent of, and achievements reached through, cooperation between public institutions, the private sector, academia and civil society in the partner and donor countries.

This can be seen as shared results, improved knowledge and mutual understanding. As a result of working together, networks and partnerships established may lead to cooperation beyond the EEA and Norway Grants funded projects and programmes.

More than half of the programmes have programme partners from Iceland, Liechtenstein or Norway. We will continue to be a constructive partner, utilising the Grants to contribute to tackling the economic and social challenges Europe is facing.

The past year has seen advanced implementation in programmes, and many projects have been finalised. Drawing on the strengths and expertise of our partners, we have been able to introduce fresh thinking and innovative solutions.

We take pride in what has been achieved so far. We anticipate even more results once programmes are finalised.

We hope you enjoy reading about the results of our work and the cooperation taking place under the EEA and Norway Grants.



Lilja Alfreðsdóttir
Minister of Foreign Affairs,
Iceland



Dr Aurelia Frick
Minister of Foreign Affairs,
Liechtenstein



Elisabeth Aspaker
Minister of EEA and EU Affairs,
Norway

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All data extracted at cut-off point of 30 March 2016.

About this report

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 2015-16.

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.

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.

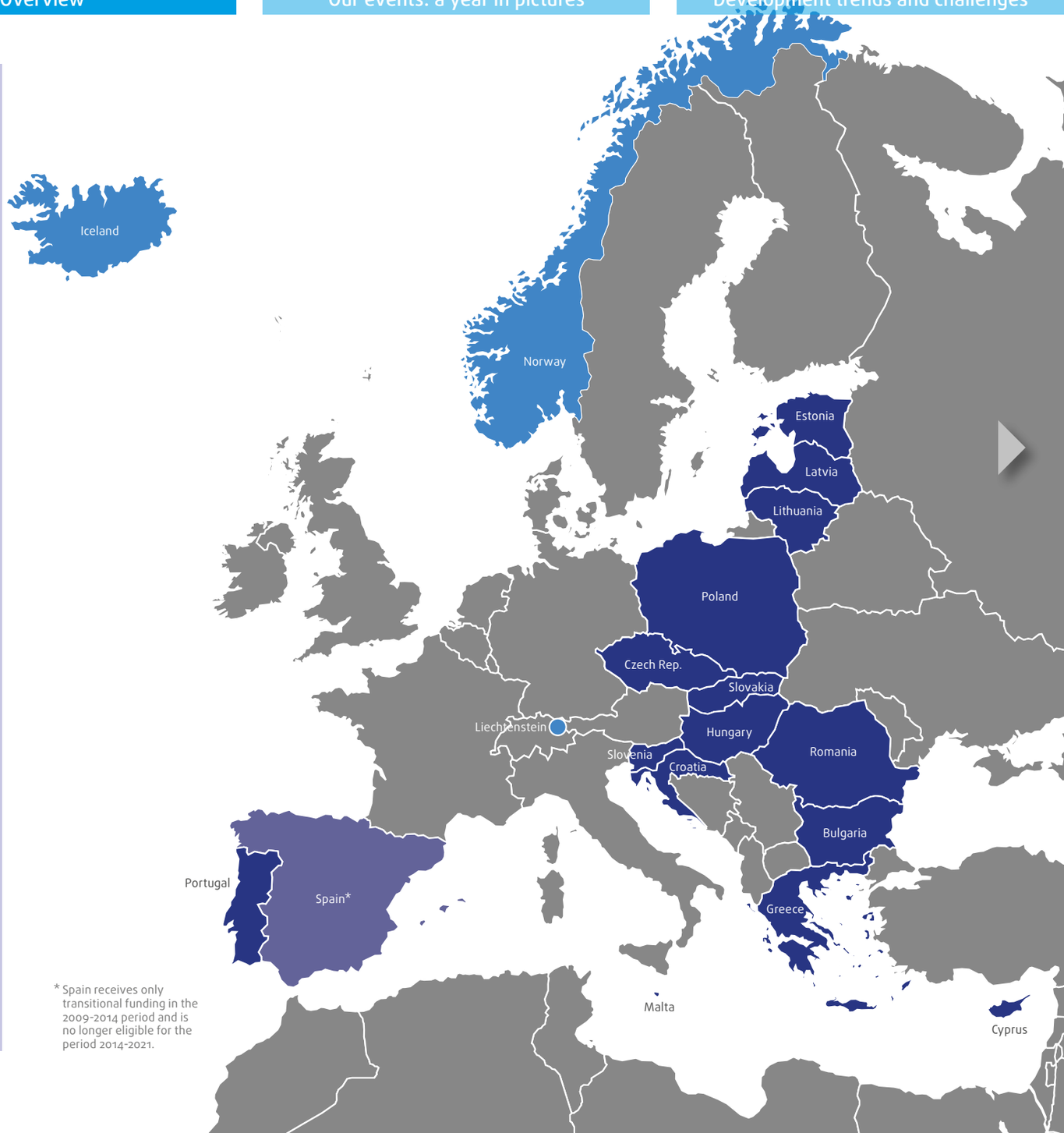
3
donor countries

16
beneficiary countries

€1.8 billion
Total funding

€993.5 million
EEA Grants
Financed by Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway

€804.6 million
Norway Grants
Financed solely by Norway



* Spain receives only transitional funding in the 2009-2014 period and is no longer eligible for the period 2014-2021.

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 2016-2017. The EEA Grants (€993.5 million) are jointly financed by all three donor countries and available in all 16 beneficiary countries. The share of contributions is based on GDP, with Norway currently contributing 95.8%, Iceland 3.0% and Liechtenstein 1.2%. The Norway Grants (€804.6 million) are financed solely by Norway and available in the 13 countries that joined the EU after 2003. A total contribution of €2.8 billion has been agreed for 2014-2021.

The EEA and Norway Grants are linked to the Agreement on the European Economic Area (EEA). The EEA binds together the 28 EU member countries and Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway as equal partners in the internal market.

All EEA countries have the same rights and obligations when it comes to trade and investment, banking and insurance, and buying and selling services. All their citizens have the right to work, live and study in any EEA member country. The Agreement also covers cooperation in other important areas such as research and innovation, culture, education and the environment.

Reducing gaps between countries in the EEA improves the functioning of the internal market and contributes to building a stronger Europe based on equality and solidarity.

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.

Areas of support
(€ million)

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

266.2
Climate change and renewable energy

151.6
Environmental protection and management

127.7
Green industry innovation

160.8
Civil society

383.2
Human and social development

204.2
Cultural heritage and diversity

171.8
Research and scholarships

149.8
Justice and home affairs

8.1
Decent work and tripartite dialogue

5.0
Carbon capture and storage

All data extracted 31 March 2016.

Our events: a year in pictures

April 2015 — Warsaw, Poland

Interculturalism in historical education



May 2015 — Prague, Czech Republic

Europe free from gender-based violence: from commitment to action



September 2015 — Sofia, Bulgaria

Combating the looting of Syria's cultural heritage



October 2015 — Oslo, Norway

Challenges and opportunities for Roma inclusion in Europe



June 2015 Oslo, Norway

Cultural heritage counts for Europe



June 2015 Riga, Latvia

Europride



July 2015 Brussels, Belgium

Agreement on 2014-2021 funding period initialled



October 2015 Prague, Czech Republic

Fighting corruption and economic crime



November 2015 Košice, Slovakia and Uzhorod, Ukraine

6th European border dialogues forum



March 2016 Warsaw, Poland

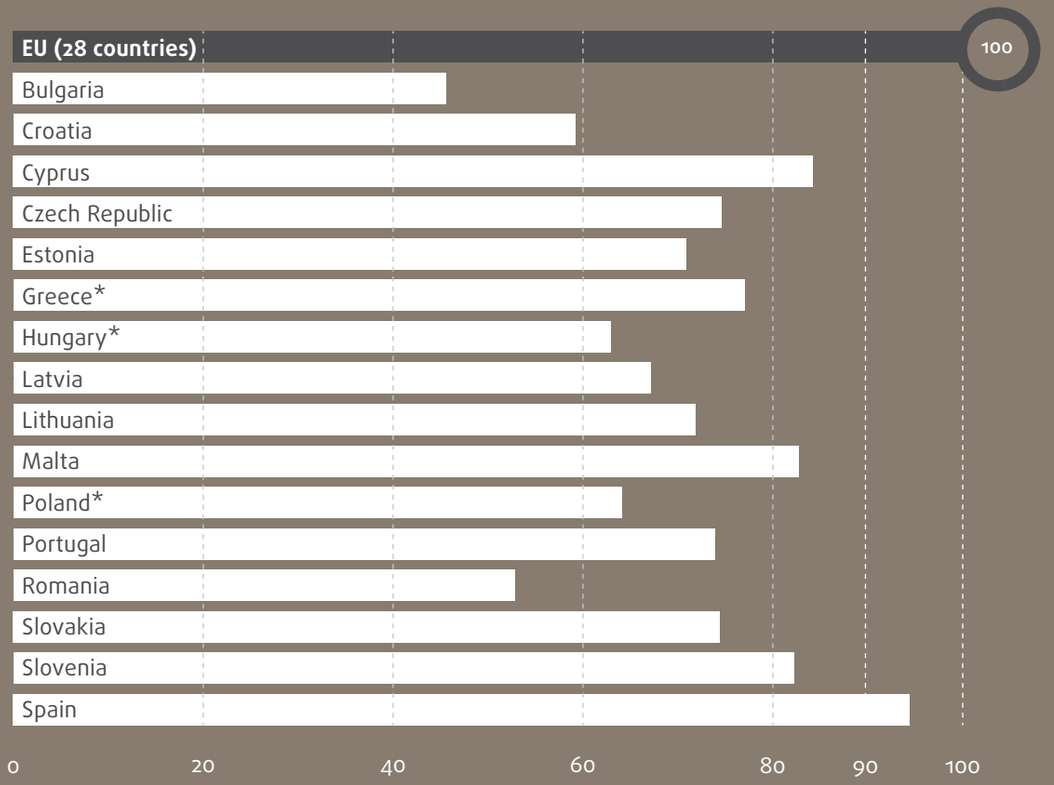
Decent work and tripartite dialogue results conference



Development trends and challenges

Reducing disparities in Europe is a core aim of the EEA and Norway Grants. While there have been some positive developments during the past year with a return to growth in the EU, long-term challenges in many of the beneficiary countries remain significant.

Gross National Income (GNI) per capita in PPS (purchasing power standards)



Eligibility for the Grants mirrors criteria set for the EU Cohesion Fund which is aimed at EU member countries where the GNI per capita is less than 90% of the EU average. Spain is only eligible for transitional funding in this current period.

Source: Eurostat (2013 except where * indicates 2012)

This section reviews the economic and social situation in the beneficiary countries in 2015.

Economic growth

The economic recovery of the EU continues at a moderate pace, with GDP growth up 1.8% compared to the previous year. Nearly all of the beneficiary countries recorded higher growth than the EU-28 average, with Malta (up 5.6% on previous year), Czech Republic (+4.5%) and Slovakia (+4.0%) performing particularly well.

However, divergence in the economic performance across countries remains substantial. Greece registered a decrease in GDP growth (-1.9% compared to the previous year) with Estonia (+0.9%) and Portugal (+1.2%) below the EU average.[1]

Unemployment

The labour market is improving, but slowly. The unemployment rate is declining gradually but disparities between countries remain substantial. The highest unemployment rates in the EU in 2015 were recorded in Greece (24.6%) and Spain (21.4%). More positively, nine of the beneficiary countries registered lower unemployment rates than the EU average of 9.1%, with the Czech Republic (4.6%) and Malta (5.1%) recording the lowest rate amongst the beneficiary countries.[2]

While youth unemployment remains high, there are some signs of improvement. The total number of unemployed young people across the beneficiary states decreased slightly in 2015 to 1.8 million (out of a total of 4.6 million young people out of work across the EU as a whole). The highest youth unemployment rates in the EU were recorded in Greece where almost half of the under 25s are without a job (49.5%), closely followed by Spain (47.5%) and Croatia (45.1%).

49.5%
unemployment for the under 25s in Greece

Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway provide much needed support to research, innovation and education programmes in the beneficiary countries, helping to stimulate economic growth and laying foundations for future job creation.

→ Read more about these efforts in Part 2.

1. Eurostat (2015): Real GDP growth rate (% change on previous year)
2. Eurostat (2015): Unemployment rate



24.4%
of the EU population at risk of poverty or social exclusion

Social exclusion

The number of people at risk of poverty or social exclusion remains at worrying levels. Across the EU, 24.4% of the population were at risk of poverty or social exclusion in 2014.[3] This masks considerable variations between countries. More than a third of the population was at risk of poverty or social exclusion in three of the beneficiary countries – Romania (40.2%), Bulgaria (40.1%) and Greece (36.0%). At the other end of the scale, the lowest share was recorded in the Czech Republic (14.8%). Women, young adults, unemployed and low-educated people continue to face a greater risk.

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)[4]. Women are also overrepresented in part-time work. In 2014, while one in five women in the EU (20.0%) aged 25-49 and without children were working part-time, only one in 12 men (8.2%) were in the equivalent situation. 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) and Greece (19.4 percentage points), with the smallest in Lithuania (2.5 percentage points).

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 (16.1%). In other words, women earn on average 84 cents for every euro a man makes per hour.[5] The gap ranges from less than 5% in Slovenia (2.9%) and Malta (4.5%) to more than 20% in Estonia (28.3%), the Czech Republic (22.1%) and Slovakia (21.1%).

3. Eurostat (2014) 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)
4. Eurostat (2014) Employment rate by gender
5. Eurostat (2014) Gender pay gap





1.2 million

first time asylum seekers applied for protection in the EU

Asylum and migration

In 2015, a record number of over 1.2 million first time asylum seekers applied for international protection in the EU – more than double that of the previous year.[6] The flow of refugees and migrants has put enormous pressure on the asylum system in Greece in particular.

Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway are providing much needed support to strengthen the capacity of the Greek authorities to deal with the situation. Strengthening police and border agency cooperation is also a significant aspect of our work to secure borders in the Schengen area.

In addition, many projects under the NGO programmes in various countries provide welfare and integration support for asylum seekers and refugees.

→ Read more about these efforts in Part 2.

6. Eurostat (2015) First time asylum applicants in the EU

Thematic Section

This part presents an overview of the aims and highlights some key achievements under the two main themes for this year – asylum and migration, and research and scholarships.

Asylum, migration and integration

In recent years, migration has put huge pressure on border and asylum systems in many European countries. Over 1.2 million asylum seekers applied for international protection in Europe in 2015, more than double the number in the previous year.[1]

The large-scale arrival of migrants and asylum seekers has put a strain not only on individual asylum systems but also on the Common European Asylum System as a whole. The EU is working to improve the European response.

Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway contribute to these joint efforts through the EEA and Norway Grants as well as through other national and international channels. This support is provided through the UN system, NGOs and EU bodies like 'Frontex' – the EU Agency which manages cooperation between national border agencies.

Since 2004, we have focused a substantial part of the EEA and Norway Grants on the protection of our common external borders and strengthening the capacity to handle migration. We have also supported the development of an asylum and migration system in Greece since 2012.

What are we doing?

Two dedicated asylum programmes are in operation in Greece. These are designed to strengthen the capacity of the Greek asylum system and address urgent welfare and reception needs. Particular attention is given to unaccompanied asylum seeking children. Given the severity of the situation, in agreement with the Greek government, we increased the funding to the asylum programmes in 2015 by €3.3 million. This brings the total allocation to €24.2 million. The Norwegian Directorate of Immigration (UDI) has worked closely with the Greek authorities in developing and implementing the programmes.

Securing the EU's external borders and managing migratory flows is also an important aspect of our work. A total of €31 million under the Norway Grants is being spent on strengthening police cooperation in the Schengen area and combating cross-border crime.

A further €6.5 million from the NGO (non-governmental organisation) programmes supports migrant welfare and integration projects in various countries.

1 Eurostat (2015) First time asylum applicants registered in EU member states 2014/2015



"The EEA funding is providing for the entirety of our interpretation services as well as for a number of staff. We estimate that the extra personnel have contributed to an increase of 20 – 25% in the number of cases processed.

Essentially, without this project, the service would not have been able to operate. Without interpretation we can't function. And without the extra staff, we couldn't process as many people and would have longer waiting times."

Maria Stavropoulou (pictured), Director, Greek Asylum Service



What has been achieved?

Building capacity

Weaknesses in the Greek asylum system have long been apparent. However, in a country already hit hard by economic crisis, the influx of 2 000 - 3 000 new arrivals each day[2] has stretched state structures to the limits. The situation too is rapidly evolving. Greece had been viewed as a transit country, but as other European countries grappled with the mass movement of people, some tightened border controls. This left many migrants stranded in Greece in the course of the past year.

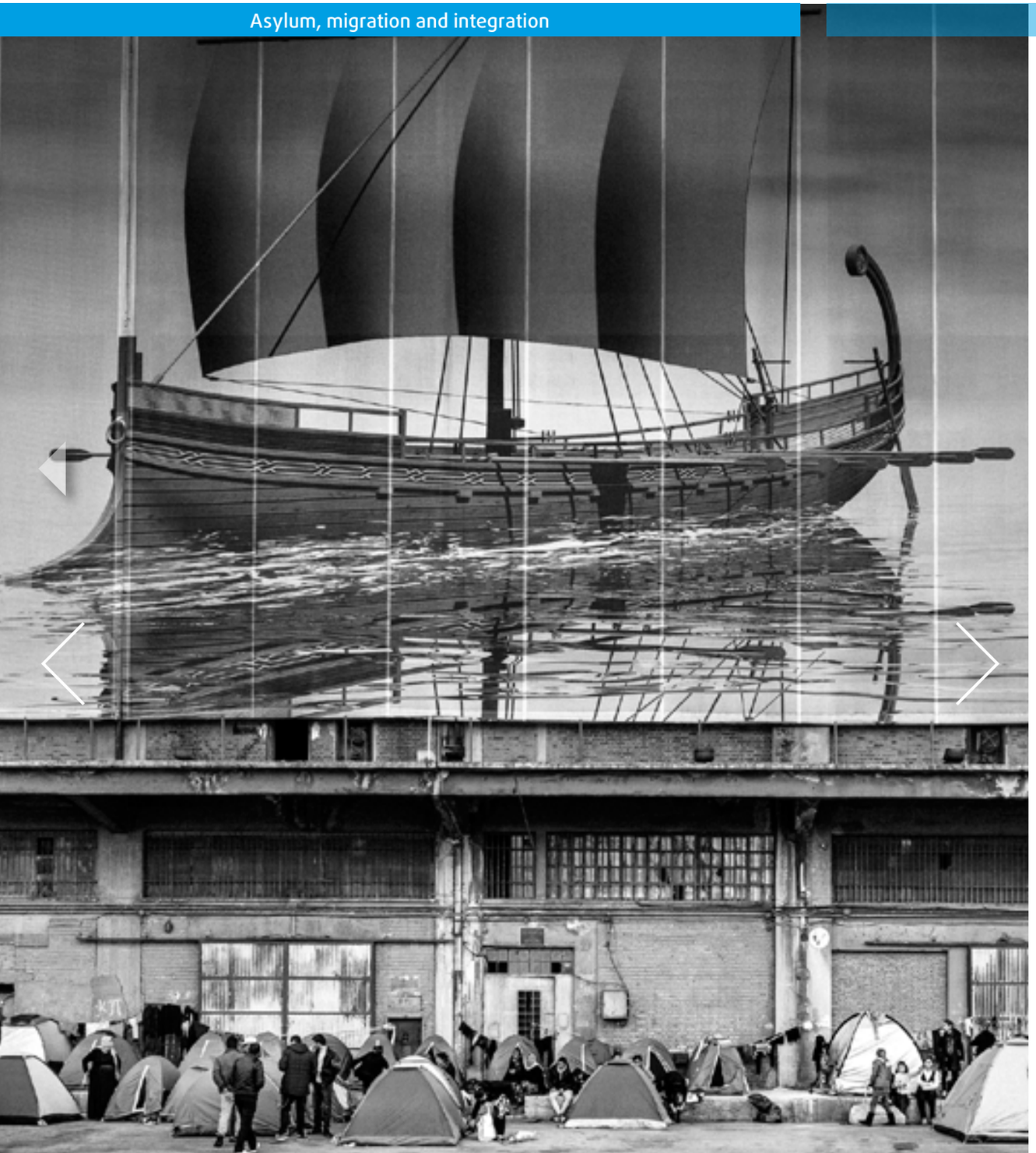
50 extra case workers recruited and **80** interpreters recruited*

2 social workers and **1** psychologist hired

Information leaflet in **21** languages produced

*Indicates total figures from 2014 and 2015

2 UNHCR (2016)



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In this context, a grant of €5 million to the Asylum Service (AS) has proved invaluable. This has covered extra staff, interpreters and psychological support services. In 2015, 9 360 decisions were made in asylum cases. While shortcomings are still apparent, this is a significant rise compared to the previous year.

Fast identification of asylum seekers and protection of the most vulnerable, requires that adequate first reception and screening facilities are in place. The support to the First Reception Service (FRS) screening centre operations at Fylakio, at the land border between Turkey and Greece, and Lesvos, one of the main island entry points for migrants, is helping the Greek authorities to manage the influx and improve reception.

The centre in Fylakio is the first of its kind in Greece. A grant of around €6 million has helped to establish proper registration and support services at the centre. Arrivals now receive clear information about their rights to asylum, basic welfare and medical care. This has been an important step towards achieving a national asylum system that meets international standards.

Another key element has been the close cooperation with the Norwegian partner, UDI. UDI advises on the handling of asylum requests and the running of reception centres. This has significantly contributed to strengthening the competence and capacity of the Greek authorities.

"The unstable economic and political situation combined with the massive influx of migrants has proved incredibly challenging but we've stayed the course. We've advised when programmes have had to adapt and we've created synergies with other stakeholders, like the European Asylum Support Office. This has helped to strengthen migration management," said UDI Senior Adviser, Yiannis Tavridis.

7 874
migrants received shelter, food, clothing and medical care

7 874
migrants informed of their rights

413
accompanied children accommodated

All total figures from 2014 and 2015



New approach through civil society

The shortage of reception places has long been a deficiency of the asylum system in Greece. This is particularly acute for vulnerable groups like unaccompanied children, single mothers and the disabled. Of the almost one million migrants and refugees who reached Greece in 2015, the authorities registered around 2 500 minors travelling alone.[1]

€6.9 million has been channelled to NGOs to run four reception centres for such groups. The International Organization for Migration (IOM) is responsible for the overall management of the programme. As well as basic welfare, the centres offer educational activities, psychological support, medical care and legal assistance.

"The impact of the programme cannot be underestimated, particularly for the children on their own. There are only around 400 places nationwide for minors. The programme is providing a quarter of these," said Natassa Arapidou, IOM Project Coordination Assistant.

Running accommodation facilities is a very new field for civil society organisations in Greece. UDI has been closely involved: "We have transferred best practices from Norway and conducted quality controls. The NGOs and IOM Greece have gained valuable experience from this new approach," said Yiannis Tavridis, UDI Senior Adviser.

There have been challenges. It can be difficult to convince unaccompanied teenagers to stay in the centres and go through the proper procedures, rather than try to move on towards their destination. Close cooperation with the Guardianship Network developed by the Greek humanitarian NGO, METAdrasi, has been effective here. METAdrasi runs two projects under the EEA Grants NGO programme in Greece. The guardians act as a liaison between the child, the various agencies and the reception centres.

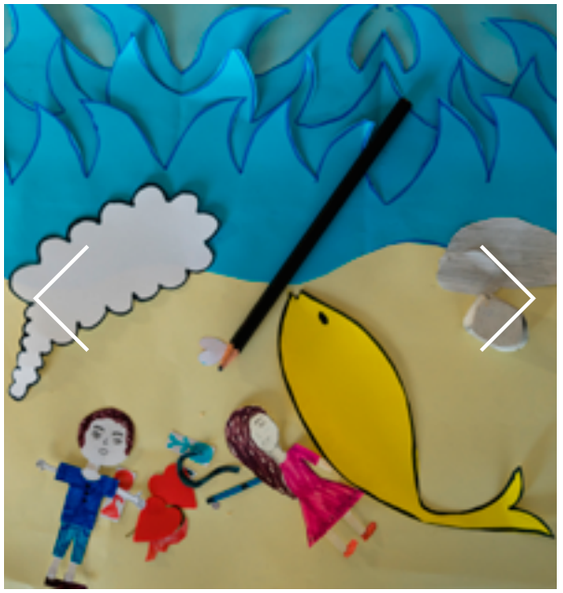
272 reception places secured, with **120** for unaccompanied children

1 755 unaccompanied children and **121** lone mothers given shelter

380 other vulnerable asylum seekers given shelter

Easy-to-use **survival guide** produced for asylum seekers and refugees

1 Eurostat (2015) First time asylum applicants registered in EU member states 2014/2015



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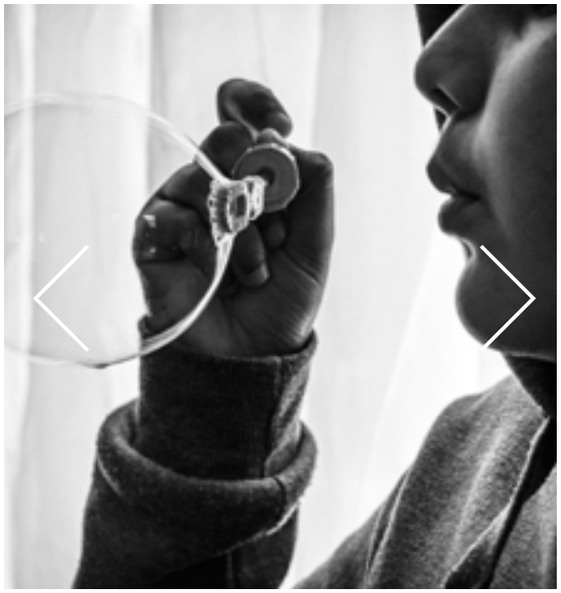
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Frontline protection for refugee children

The plight of unaccompanied children has become one of the most pressing issues of the migrant crisis. At the frontline is Greek humanitarian NGO, METAdrasi, providing critical care and protection through a network of guardians.

"The need for guardians emerged from escorting unaccompanied minors which we began in 2011," explains Mary-Laura Capodistria of METAdrasi.

"At the time, refugee children who arrived in Greece on their own were kept in police custody until they could be transferred to accommodation facilities on the mainland. But there was no one actually to take the child to the safe accommodation. Leaving them to make the journey alone meant effectively placing them in the hands of traffickers. This was a gap we had to fill."

METAdrasi set about training teams of escorts. While 3 500 children have been safely escorted to date, these procedures exposed further gaps in service provision: "We realised the need for ongoing support once the children reach the reception centres. The EEA funding was pivotal in getting the network of guardians started."

The support needs of the children are high. They may have escaped persecution, travelled alone or been orphaned during the journey. The guardians advocate for their rights and protection needs. It is a demanding role and all undergo intensive training. As the concept of guardianship was new in Greece, learning from good practice elsewhere has been important. METAdrasi partnered with Norwegian NGO 'Vergeforeningen Følgesvennen' and some staff were trained in Norway to enable them to benefit from its good practice.

One of the guardians is Evdokia Kouvara: "We are responsible for taking the child through the asylum process, for his or her medical care, education and mental well-being. The ultimate goal is to reunite the child with family members."

So far, 415 children have been supported and 14 guardians employed under the scheme.

Project promoter: METAdrasi/METAction (Action for Mirgration and Development)
Grant amount: € 207 990
Project link: bit.ly/1VDZmqI

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METAdrasi set about training teams of escorts. While 3 500 children have been safely escorted to date, these procedures exposed further gaps in service provision: "We realised the need for ongoing support once the children reach the reception centres. The EEA funding was pivotal in getting the network of guardians started."

The support needs of the children are high. They may have escaped persecution, travelled alone or been orphaned during the journey. The guardians advocate for their rights and protection needs. It is a demanding role and all undergo intensive training. As the concept of guardianship was new in Greece, learning from good practice elsewhere has been important. METAdrasi partnered with Norwegian NGO 'Vergeforeningen Følgesvennen' and some staff were trained in Norway to enable them to benefit from its good practice.

One of the guardians is Evdokia Kouvara: "We are responsible for taking the child through the asylum process, for his or her medical care, education and mental well-being. The ultimate goal is to reunite the child with family members."

So far, 415 children have been supported and 14 guardians employed under the scheme.

Project promoter: METAdrasi/METAction (Action for Mirgration and Development)
Grant amount: € 207 990
Project link: bit.ly/1VDZmqI

Frontline protection for refugee children

> The plight of unaccompanied children has become one of the most pressing issues of the migrant crisis. At the frontline is Greek humanitarian NGO, METAdrasi, providing critical care and protection through a network of guardians.

"The need for guardians emerged from escorting unaccompanied minors which we began in 2011," explains Mary-Laura Capodistria of METAdrasi.

"At the time, refugee children who arrived in Greece on their own were kept in police custody until they could be transferred to accommodation facilities on the mainland. But there was no one actually to take the child to the safe accommodation. Leaving them to make the journey alone meant effectively placing them in the hands of traffickers. This was a gap we had to fill."

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Strengthening border management

The Schengen Area encompasses 26 European countries that have abolished passport and other types of border control at their common borders. It currently covers an area of over four million square kilometres and guarantees free movement to more than 400 million citizens. It functions as a single country for international travel purposes with a common visa policy. As a result of the ongoing refugee and asylum crisis, a number of countries have temporarily reintroduced controls on some or all of their internal borders with other states in the Schengen Area.

An important part of our work in relation to asylum and migration is to secure the common external Schengen border. A total of €31 million under the Norway Grants is being spent on programmes in Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, Hungary, Lithuania, Poland and Romania. Through our programmes, we support and strengthen the cooperation between the police in the Schengen countries. We also contribute to developing and improving structures, systems and technical equipment in order to improve the implementation of the common set of Schengen rules, known as the '*Schengen acquis*'.

15 000
police officers from Bulgaria, Hungary, Poland and Romania trained

12
Romanian officers deployed to police districts in Norway

500
new units of radio surveillance equipment improving the border control between Bulgaria and Greece

Bulgaria is not a full member of the Schengen area, but is legally obliged and wants to join the area. When Bulgaria secures membership of Schengen, it will be one of the entry points into the large borderless area. Ahead of this, the Bulgarian police are confronted with a number of challenges. With support from Norway, the Bulgarian police are upgrading and enlarging their secure communication network on the border with Greece. Bulgarian police officers will also be trained in human rights and community policing.

The Norwegian National Police Directorate (POD) is cooperating with its Bulgarian partners.

"Norwegian and Bulgarian police have a joint project, sharing best practice in the use of different Schengen information cooperation tools," said Assistant Chief of Police in the International Section of POD, Eva Lynghjem (pictured right).

"It is of great value to be able to learn from each other's experience. We are sharing our expertise on Schengen information cooperation tools with our colleagues in Bulgaria," said Lynghjem.



Over 100 NGOs in a number of beneficiary countries receive funding to provide much needed welfare and integration support for asylum seekers and refugees. In addition, strengthening cooperation between the police and law enforcement authorities in the Schengen area is making it easier to manage migratory flows and stem the number of arrivals in Europe.

Snapshot of projects

Bulgaria

In the capital Sofia, an NGO association routinely monitored over 200 administrative and criminal court hearings involving refugees and asylum seekers. Many weaknesses were identified and compiled in a report. It presents recommendations for changes to legislation to improve procedures and practices in cases involving refugees.

Project promoter: Association on Refugees and Migrants
Grant amount: €16 158
Project link: bit.ly/1TfxWRA

Bulgaria

Structures, systems and technical equipment are being developed and improved in order to strengthen the Schengen acquis. A TETRA (terrestrial trunked radio) network has been established along the border with Greece. TETRA enables manufacturers to develop infrastructure and terminal products that fully interoperate and are also integrating into existing TETRA network and radio relay systems. The project has delivered 500 items of radio relay equipment and licences.

Project promoter: Communication and Information Systems Directorate, Ministry of Interior
Grant amount: €2 424 829
Project link: bit.ly/21gwkgs

Czech Republic

Checking travel documents is part of the border control process. The number of identification elements in travel documents is increasing, and this makes the process of checking the passengers time-consuming. Ten new passport scanners are now operational at the Vaclav Havel Airport, facilitating the secure and smooth border crossing of 600 000 citizens from Schengen countries.

Project promoter: Ministry of Interior/Police Presidium
Grant amount: €1 840 000
Project link: bit.ly/1rjV8ry

Czech Republic

The campaign 'Express your solidarity with refugees!' is promoting tolerant debate around refugees. It calls on citizens not to be silent and publicly denounce racism and xenophobia. A debate organised as part of the project led to a 'Migration manifesto', which addresses the entire spectrum of Czech migration, asylum and integration policy.

Project promoter: Consortium of Migrants Assisting Organizations
Grant amount: €36 862
Project link: bit.ly/1WTUSeK

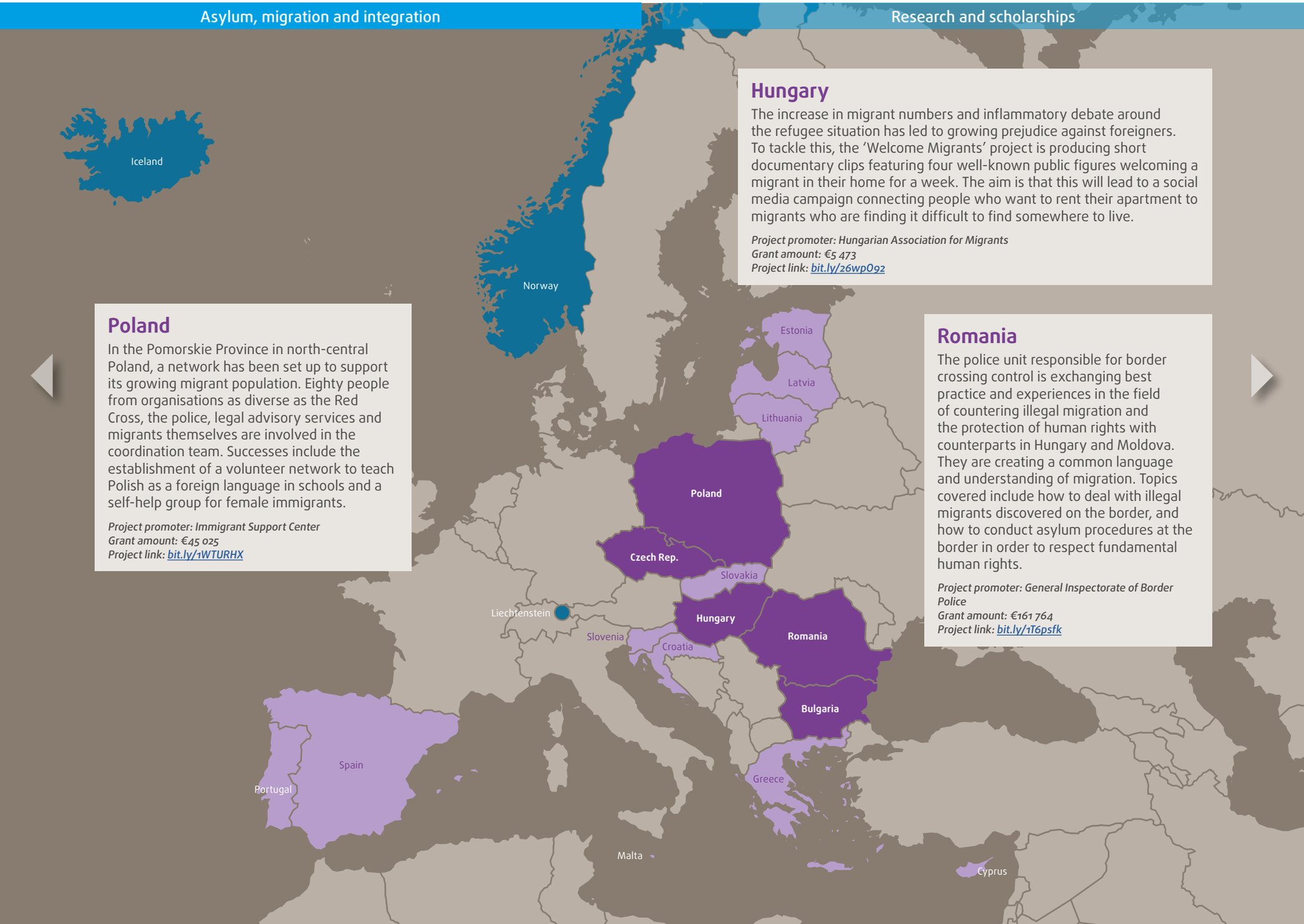
Poland

In 2015, more than 15 000 police officers received training on various topics related to border control, including on the second generation Schengen Information System (SIS II) and language training. Police officers and employees have been trained in practical aspects of using the new functionality of the SIS II. This includes fingerprint data, photographs and creating connections between entries. The correct use of SIS increases the security within the Schengen area.

Project promoter: Police Headquarters
Grant amount: €972 711
Project link: bit.ly/1WTUTzp

Asylum, migration and integration

Research and scholarships



Hungary

The increase in migrant numbers and inflammatory debate around the refugee situation has led to growing prejudice against foreigners. To tackle this, the 'Welcome Migrants' project is producing short documentary clips featuring four well-known public figures welcoming a migrant in their home for a week. The aim is that this will lead to a social media campaign connecting people who want to rent their apartment to migrants who are finding it difficult to find somewhere to live.

Project promoter: Hungarian Association for Migrants
Grant amount: €5 473
Project link: bit.ly/26wp092

Poland

In the Pomorskie Province in north-central Poland, a network has been set up to support its growing migrant population. Eighty people from organisations as diverse as the Red Cross, the police, legal advisory services and migrants themselves are involved in the coordination team. Successes include the establishment of a volunteer network to teach Polish as a foreign language in schools and a self-help group for female immigrants.

Project promoter: Immigrant Support Center
Grant amount: €45 025
Project link: bit.ly/1WTURHX

Romania

The police unit responsible for border crossing control is exchanging best practice and experiences in the field of countering illegal migration and the protection of human rights with counterparts in Hungary and Moldova. They are creating a common language and understanding of migration. Topics covered include how to deal with illegal migrants discovered on the border, and how to conduct asylum procedures at the border in order to respect fundamental human rights.

Project promoter: General Inspectorate of Border Police
Grant amount: €161 764
Project link: bit.ly/1T6psfk

Voices and faces



"It's a small thing for me but it's a big thing for the people we're helping. I wish it wasn't happening, but it is and so for as long as I'm needed, I'll try my best to help.

"It's a big responsibility we have, helping applicants to tell their stories, but looking after these people and giving them protection is an investment for the future. It's a gain not a loss. That's how I see it."

George Maragoudakis,
Interpreter, METAdrasi / Greek Asylum Service

Project promoter: Greek Asylum Service
Grant amount: €4 996 264
Project link: bit.ly/1SC4zt5

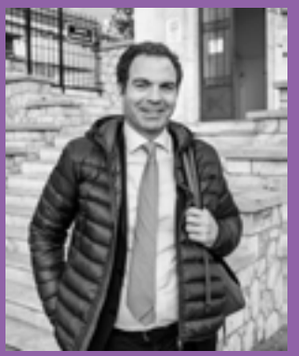
"Children need a person to trust. As a guardian, I am their person of reference. They share their bad and good experiences with us.

"Of course it can be emotionally draining. I'm responsible for three children at the moment. You have to give the same attention to each; but it's extremely rewarding and no more so than when we reunite the children with relatives."

Evdokia Kouvara,
Member of "Network of Guardians of Unaccompanied Minors"

Project promoter: METAdrasi/METAction (Action for Migration and Development)
Grant amount: €207 990
Project link: bit.ly/1VDZmqI





"Our motto is: 'This is our common ground'. That's the essence of the Solidarity Centre. We help everyone who has fallen through the net. Today that means many migrants as well local people. They come for legal advice, medical treatment, counselling, job skills training, to use the free childcare facilities...

"We've created a complementary environment. I'm very proud of what we've achieved. Provision of 70 000 services to those in need way exceeds the targets we set."

Epaminondas Farmakis,
Director, Solidarity Now

Project promoter: Solidarity Now EPE
Grant amount: €1 869 792
Project link: bit.ly/1H41pKQ

"I am Mose. I come from Eritrea. I've come on a very difficult journey to Greece. I have been here for seven years and at the home for the last two. I have friends here I love very much.

"Never in my life have I seen so many people. And I pay attention and I give them love. Here I feel like I'm part of a family."

Mose (pictured left),
Resident of the Society for the Care of Minors reception centre



Project promoter: Society for the Care of Minors
Grant amount: €41 511
Project link: bit.ly/1pJYuCC





"Currently we've 50 unaccompanied minors and ten single mothers. We go way beyond just basic care. We offer psychological support, educational services, language lessons and recreational activities tailored for every individual.

"The good stories are when the children find their parents or relatives through family reunification. We've seen some children who have got their asylum status and been able to get a new start at life."

Tomazina Tsaliki, Social Worker, and Elias Rafael,
Psychologist, MELLON Reception Centre

Project promoter: Nostos
Grant amount: €1 361 335
Project link: bit.ly/1rkP2Hx

"We have 30 unaccompanied minors in our Athens reception centre. Many are highly traumatised. Our job is to give them a safe and secure environment. We provide for their basic welfare as well as giving them psychological and educational support and help them to integrate.

"Like all kids, sometimes they don't want to get up in the morning or go to school! But we teach them that with rights also come obligations. We all respect the same rules. We all contribute and work hard. No-one is idle!"

Dina Vardaramatou (pictured centre),
Coordinator, STEGI PLUS Reception Centre



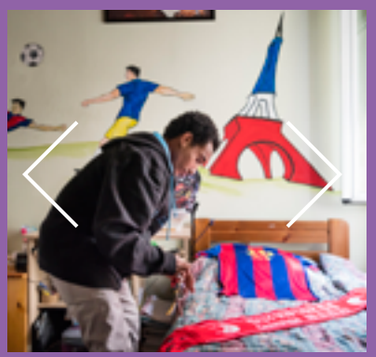
Project promoter: Praksis
Grant amount: €1 457 838
Project link: bit.ly/1NWRs3N



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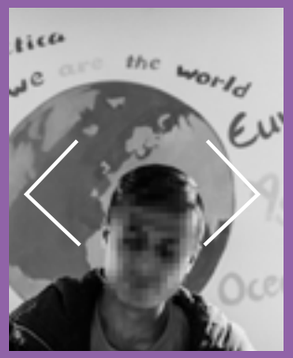
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Research and scholarships

Investment in research, education and innovation is key to growth and job creation in Europe, making it a major focus in European and national strategies. International cooperation strengthens research and innovation systems, as well as the quality and relevance of education and training at all levels. This contributes to economic growth and increased knowledge across all sectors of society.

What are we doing?

We support cooperation and exchanges between Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway and the beneficiary countries in the research, education/training and higher education sectors. The research programmes fund collaborative basic research – which is aimed at increasing understanding how things work – and applied research, focusing on finding a solution to a specific problem. Projects cover diverse fields ranging from social sciences and humanities, health, gender studies, and environment and renewable energy. Educational cooperation and scholarship programmes support projects of teaching methodologies, improved skills and knowledge of teachers and other staff, school development, and the development of new and modernised curricula. Furthermore, they provide work placement and exchange opportunities for both staff and students.

Research cooperation (€ million)

	EEA Grants	Norway Grants	Total funding
Czech Republic	–	14.5	14.5
Estonia	–	3.0	3.0
Greece	3.0	–	3.0
Hungary	–	24.1	24.1
Latvia	–	4.5	4.5
Poland	–	63.2	63.2
Romania	20.0	–	20.0
Total	23.0	109.3	132.30

Scholarship and educational cooperation (€ million)

	EEA Grants	Norway Grants	Total funding
Bulgaria	1.5	–	1.5
Czech Republic	0.3	3.5	3.8
Estonia	0.6	1.0	1.6
Hungary	3.0	–	3.0
Latvia	0.5	0.5	1.0
Lithuania	1.4	–	1.4
Poland	5.0	10.0	15.0
Romania	4.5	–	4.5
Slovakia	1.9	–	1.9
Slovenia	0.6	1.2	1.8
Spain	3.9	–	3.9
Total	23.3	16.2	39.5



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Hungary	3.0	–	3.0
Latvia	0.5	0.5	1.0
Lithuania	1.4	–	1.4
Poland	5.0	10.0	15.0
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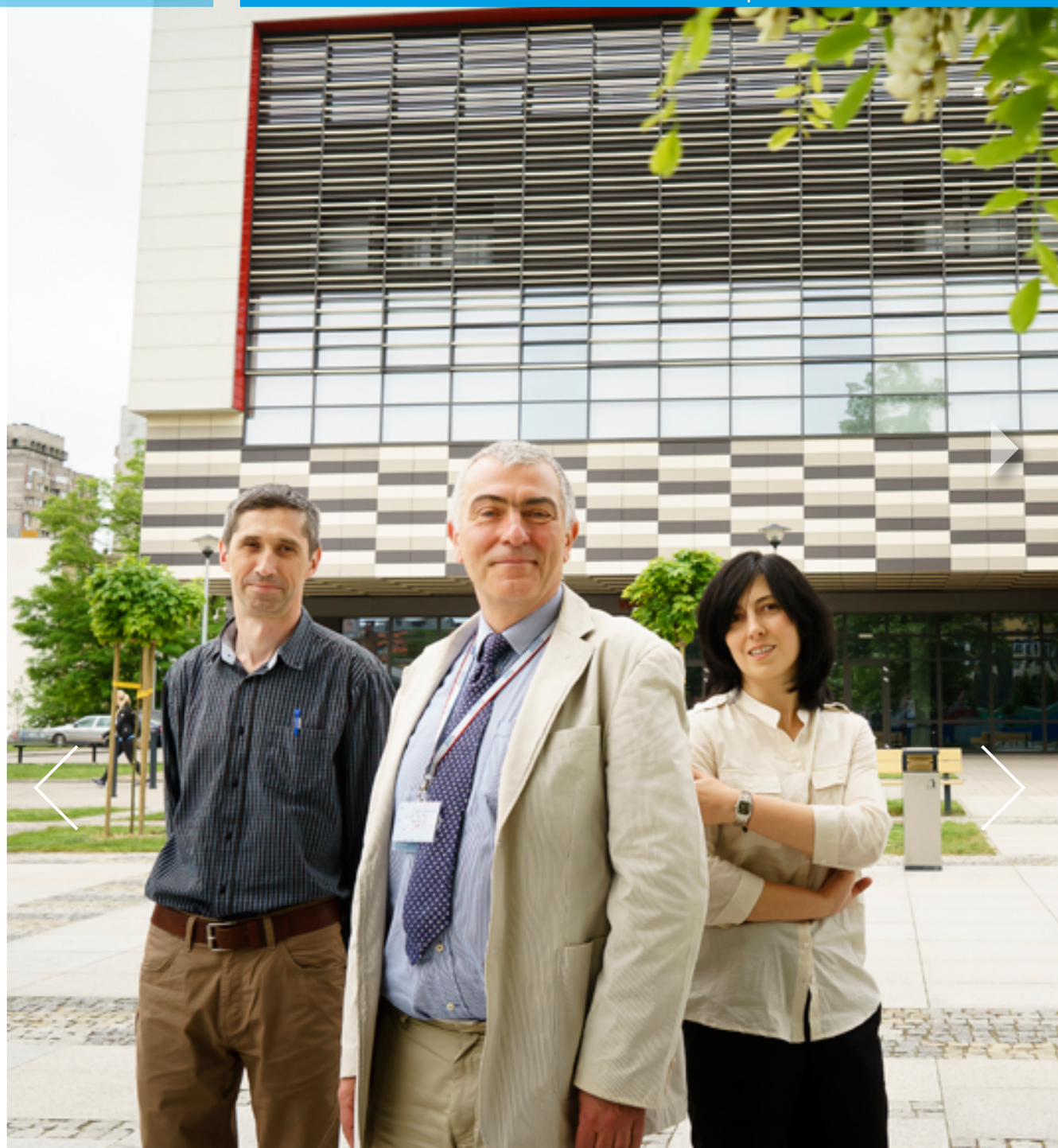


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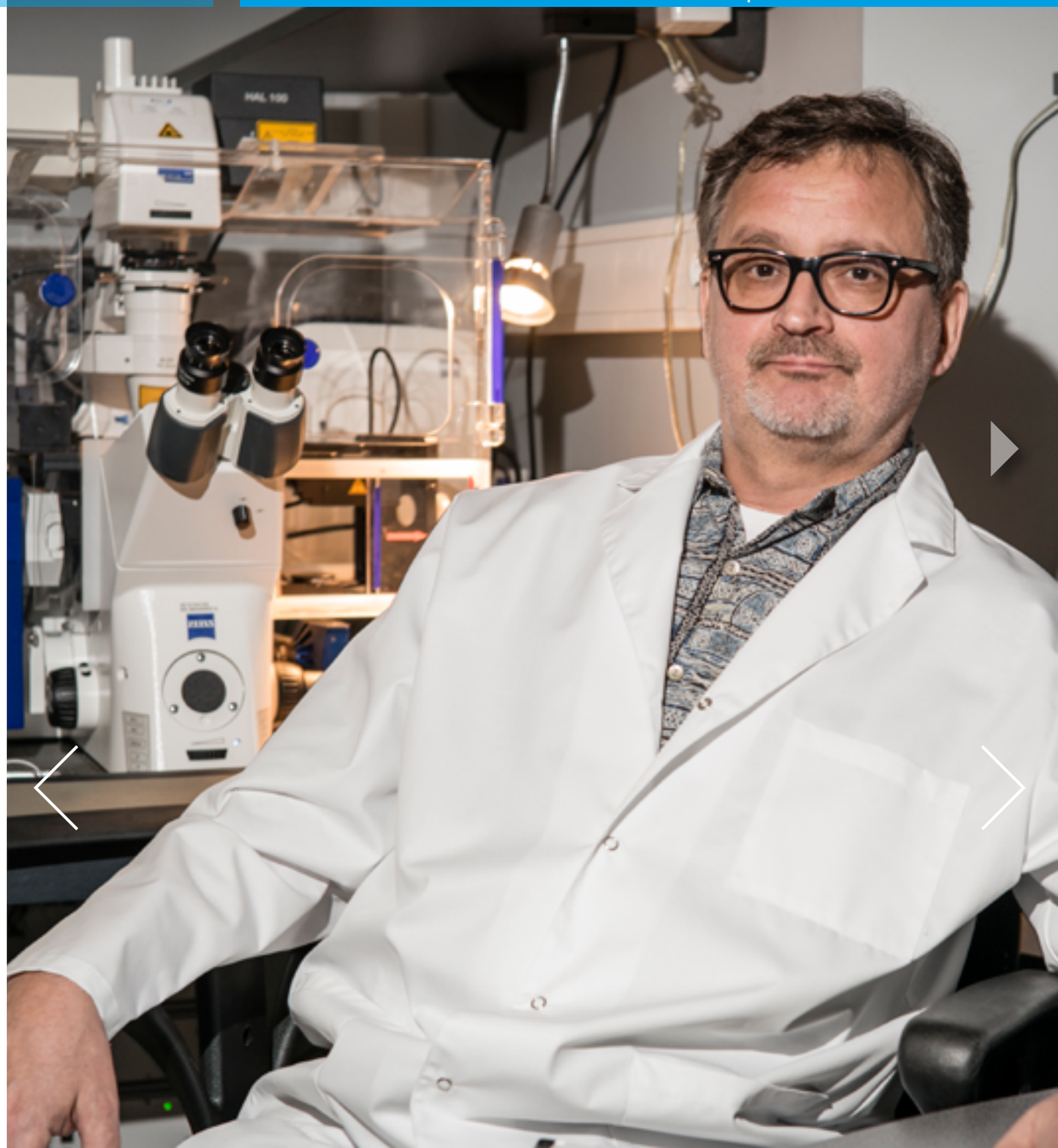
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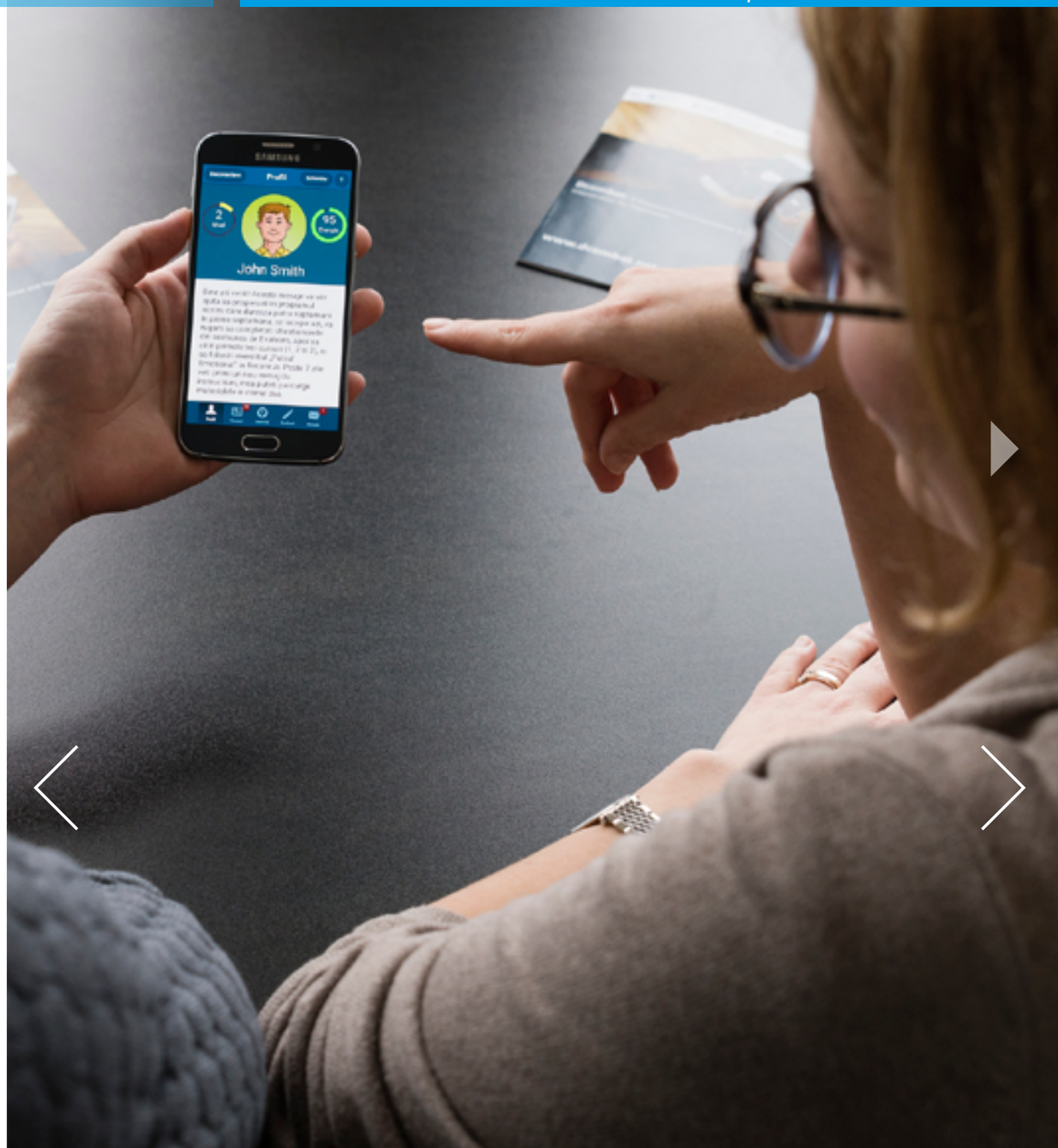
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What has been achieved?

Onwards together

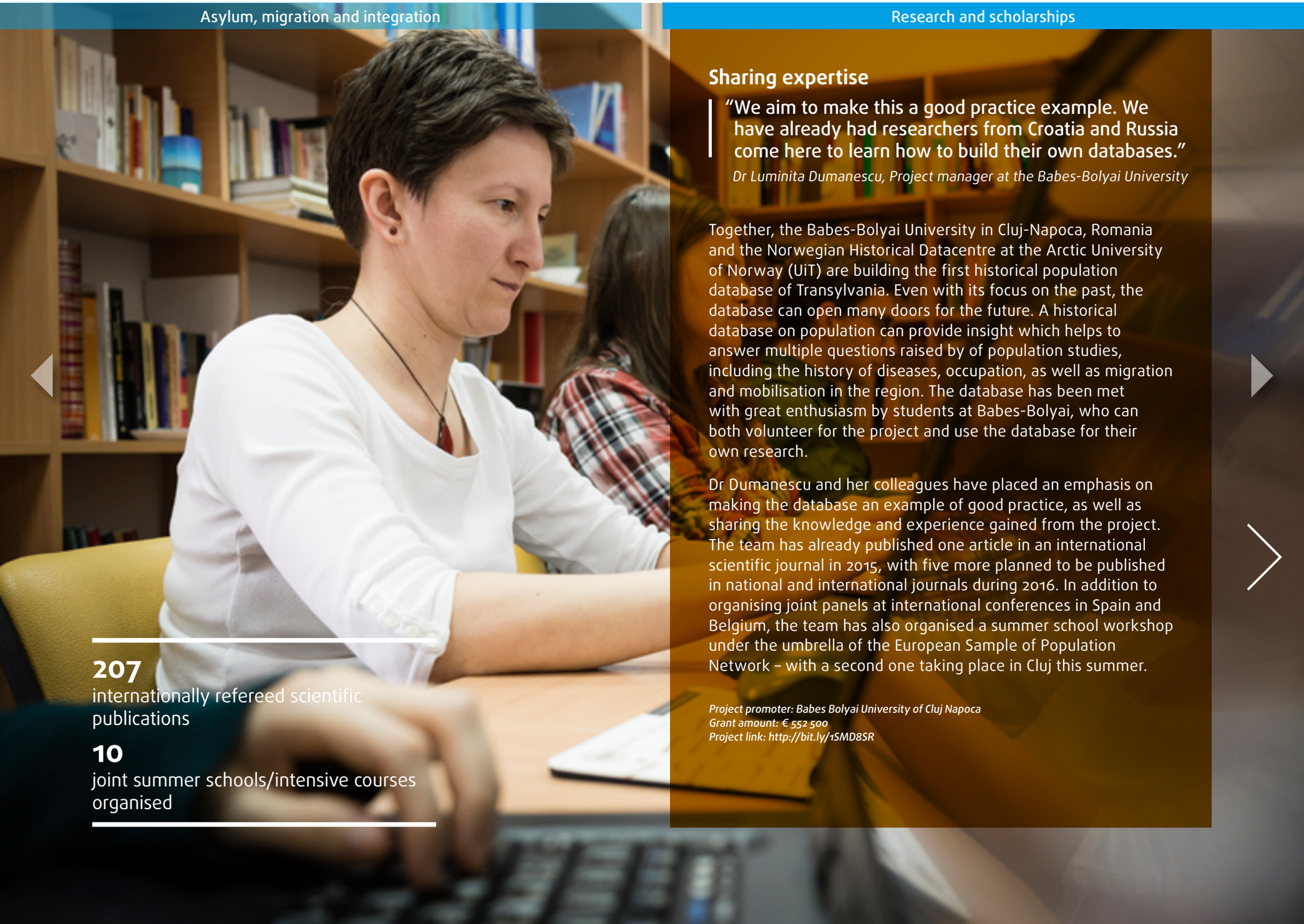
> "Our plan is to apply to Horizon 2020 and we are currently in the process of writing the project proposal. We'd like to develop the application further with more options to make it easier to use."
>
> *Dr Mariano Rincón, project leader at the Spanish National Distance University*

Laying the foundation for fruitful long-term cooperation lies at the core of the research and scholarship programmes. These ambitions are already becoming a reality in the Spanish Scholarship programme, which will be the first programme in the area of research and scholarships to be completed. Around 23% of the projects supported through the programme have indicated that they aim to continue joint research activities after the projects have been completed. This includes further projects to be submitted to the EU's research and innovation programme Horizon 2020 or other funding sources, joint publications and continued study visits.

308
research institutions cooperating together

Among those is the AMOS project. The Spanish National Distance University and the University of Oslo have developed a tool for simplified assessment, diagnosis, monitoring and prognosis of neurodegenerative diseases, conditions which primarily affect the neurons in the human brain. Neurons are the building blocks of the nervous system which includes the brain and spinal cord. The tool provides an automated segmentation of white matter lesions (WML), whose presence in the brains of elderly people is linked to increased risk of stroke, cognitive impairment, dementia and ultimately, death. The new tool is off to a good start. Tested against a radiological gold standard, it has been found to out-perform other WML segmentation tools available and it has received positive attention among both Spanish and Norwegian institutions and companies in the field.

Project promoter: National Distance Education University
Grant amount: € 100 250
Project link: http://bit.ly/1qPN69n



Sharing expertise

> "We aim to make this a good practice example. We have already had researchers from Croatia and Russia come here to learn how to build their own databases."
>
> *Dr Luminita Dumanescu, Project manager at the Babes-Bolyai University*

Together, the Babes-Bolyai University in Cluj-Napoca, Romania and the Norwegian Historical Datacentre at the Arctic University of Norway (UiT) are building the first historical population database of Transylvania. Even with its focus on the past, the database can open many doors for the future. A historical database on population can provide insight which helps to answer multiple questions raised by of population studies, including the history of diseases, occupation, as well as migration and mobilisation in the region. The database has been met with great enthusiasm by students at Babes-Bolyai, who can both volunteer for the project and use the database for their own research.

Dr Dumanescu and her colleagues have placed an emphasis on making the database an example of good practice, as well as sharing the knowledge and experience gained from the project. The team has already published one article in an international scientific journal in 2015, with five more planned to be published in national and international journals during 2016. In addition to organising joint panels at international conferences in Spain and Belgium, the team has also organised a summer school workshop under the umbrella of the European Sample of Population Network – with a second one taking place in Cluj this summer.

Project promoter: Babes Bolyai University of Cluj Napoca
Grant amount: € 552 500
Project link: http://bit.ly/1SMD8SR

207
internationally refereed scientific publications

10
joint summer schools/intensive courses organised

Sharing expertise

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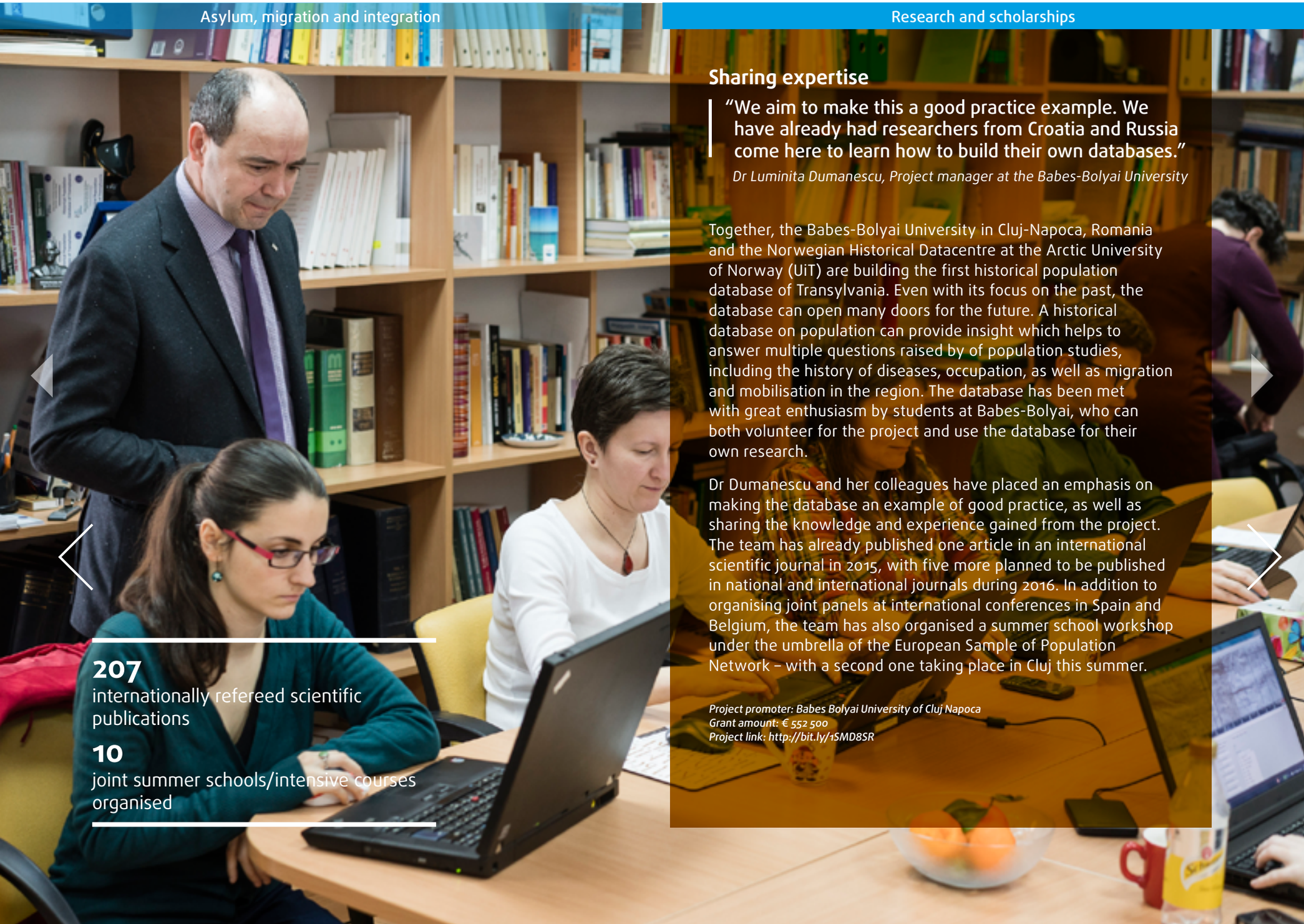
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Project promoter: Babes Bolyai University of Cluj Napoca
Grant amount: € 552 500
Project link: http://bit.ly/1SMD8SR

207
internationally refereed scientific publications

10
joint summer schools/intensive courses organised



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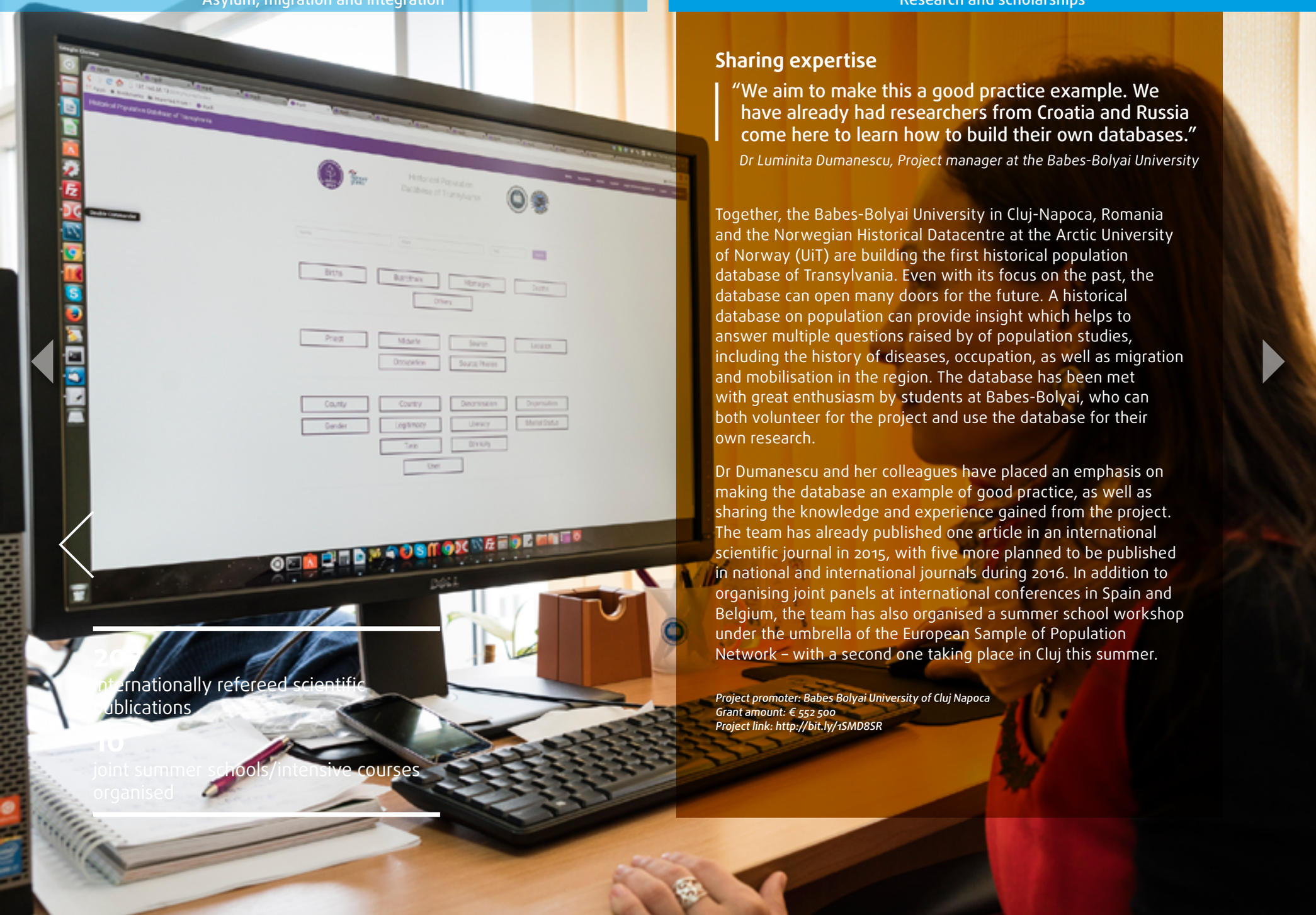
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20+
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Supporting a new generation of researchers

> "As it was the first time I participated in an international research project, I was very privileged to have a chance and to be trusted to propose and execute my ideas, test hypotheses, and plan and conduct the experimental work with the supervision of other project staff members."
>
> *Nele Põldver (pictured left), PhD student in Psychology at the University of Tartu*

One key factor in increasing research capacity is actively to involve young professionals in the field. Engaging junior researchers helps to counter 'brain drain' where skilled people leave their home countries for better opportunities abroad by providing them with an opportunity to expand their knowledge, establish contacts and build new skills. Põldver – a member of the team behind the BerTa-LAB project – is one of 33 PhD students involved in joint research projects under the Norwegian-Estonian research cooperation programme.

Through BerTa-LAB, the University of Tartu and the University of Bergen are working together to increase the understanding of how the brain makes sense of speech. Põldver has been able to play an active part throughout the whole project, both by participating in writing the project application and assisting with project management. Having gained a lot of new knowledge useful for future research projects, Põldver has a clear view on the importance of international cooperation for the new generation of researchers:

"Participating in international collaboration projects is crucial for young researchers as it gives them an opportunity to see how other research facilities and groups work, as well as enabling them to develop specific skills and methodologies that are, for example, not being used in the home laboratory. It also gives invaluable experience in working with top scientists in the field and developing possible future collaboration ideas."

Project promoter: University of Tartu
Grant amount: € 109 681
Project link: http://bit.ly/1T2eXdo

338
PhD and postdoctoral students supported

Opening doors for the future

"I learnt that I have to believe in myself and my abilities. I learnt to be open minded and to use all opportunities that I have."

Barbara Kulpa (pictured below left), a student at the Warsaw School of Economics who took part in an exchange with the University of Liechtenstein in Vaduz

1 046
students have received ECTS credits for their study placements

712
teachers, experts and staff participating in exchange



Broadened horizons, improved language skills and increased adaptability – these are just a few of the skills generally acquired by students who spend part of their studies abroad, strengthening their employability.

Kulpa is one of many Polish student who have received a scholarship to go on a university exchange in Iceland, Liechtenstein or Norway through the EEA and Norway Grants in the last year. She chose the University in Vaduz in Liechtenstein because of its reputation and its relevance to her studies in entrepreneurship. Her stay was inspired by her interest in the small state model:

"It was my dream to see how such a small country is able to function," says Kulpa, who during her stay prepared interviews and reports about the political system in Liechtenstein and organised interviews with politicians in German.

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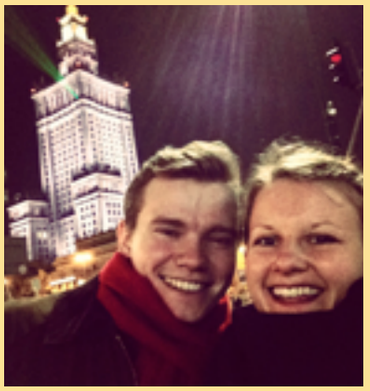


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Voices and faces



"It was particularly interesting to study in Poland as it has developed quickly during the last decades and will be an increasingly influential country for Europe in the future. My exchange semester was a perfect get away from my studies in Norway and gave me great motivation to continue studying and to choose to go abroad for my Master's degree."

Sindre Knutsson (pictured left), a student at the Norwegian School of Economics who spent a semester at the Cracow University of Economics during his BA studies with support through the Grants.

"I discovered Liechtenstein to be a lovely country in the middle of the Alps, with a very healthy atmosphere and wonderful scenery. I particularly appreciated their respect for nature, which made me come back to Romania wanting to campaign for the protection of our natural beauty."

Dr Elena-Codina Dușoiu from the Ion Mincu University of Architecture and Urban Planning (UAUIM), Romania. Dr Dușoiu participated in a staff exchange with the University of Liechtenstein and supervised the work of the two UAUIM students who spent the second semester of 2014-2015 at the University of Liechtenstein with support from the EEA Grants.



"I worked in an international environment where there were many cultures together. It may seem very simple, but it really makes you more understanding and tolerant, as you get to know other people's cultures, ways of life, ways of working and habits."

Olga Novillo Sanjuan (pictured 2nd left), a 23 year old Biology student from the University of Valencia, Spain. The EEA Grants took her on a journey to Trondheim where she spent 10 months studying at the Norwegian University of Science and Technology (NTNU).

"The stay was particularly helpful for my research – I presented and discussed some parts of my doctoral thesis, research design and methods. On a personal level I especially appreciate the contacts that I gained and which I believe, will be further developed in the future cooperation between our institutions."

Tereza Češková is a PhD student of Educational Science at Masaryk University in Brno, Czech Republic. With support through the Grants, she brought her research to the University of Agder in Kristiansand, Norway.



"I have definitely learned a lot. First of all, I studied Icelandic and now I am able to continue to study this language on my own. I was forced to speak English all the time, so the barriers to speaking foreign languages have completely disappeared."

Natalia Dąbrowska, a student of Applied Linguistics at the University of Warsaw. She seized the opportunity to participate in an exchange and spent five months at the University of Iceland in Reykjavík.

"I fell in love with the traditional Norwegian brown cheese (brunost). Most of us have heard of mozzarella or camembert, but I promised myself I would try to make brunost more famous. A Norwegian I met after the exchange in another country was pleasantly surprised that I knew about brunost, so one day he brought me some."

Andra Rugea, West University of Timisoara, Romania who went on an exchange to Østfold University College in southeast Norway.



Working together

Strengthening the political, economic and cultural ties between Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway, and each of the 16 beneficiary countries, is a key objective of the EEA and Norway Grants. This part presents an overview of the aims and some of the key achievements of this cooperation.

Strengthening bilateral relations

Strengthening cooperation between Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway and the beneficiary countries is one of the two main objectives of the EEA and Norway Grants.

A recent evaluation of bilateral cooperation under the Grants highlights the success in building stronger ties between the donor and the beneficiary countries. Seventy-two percent of the respondents believed the funding had strengthened bilateral relations to a high or very high extent.

Working in cooperation

Cooperation between people and institutions at administrative and political levels and in the private sector, academia and civil society is a prerequisite for strengthened bilateral relations. Such cooperation is facilitated and supported at all levels.

- **In programmes:** More than half of the programmes involve cooperation with partners from the donor countries. The donor programme partners (DPPs) are involved in the development and implementation of the programmes. This cooperation promotes professional cooperation and sharing of expertise between public authorities. The donor programme partners also assist in involving donor entities in projects.
- **In projects:** Most programmes have open calls for proposals where partnerships with donor country entities are encouraged. In some programmes, such as in the research and scholarship programmes, it is mandatory to have project partners from the donor countries.
- **Through bilateral funds:** Funds are set aside in all beneficiary countries for developing bilateral cooperation and activities of common interest with Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway. Bilateral funds support networking and foster partnerships and finance activities such as partner search, conferences, workshops, study tours as well as outreach activities and are a more flexible source of funding. Funding may also be used for activities to enhance cooperation in areas of common interest identified by the donor and beneficiary countries. The activities may add value to the cooperation taking place within the programmes or go beyond the programmes.

Dimensions of strengthened relations

In the context of the EEA and Norway Grants, strengthened bilateral relations is defined as:

> "Cooperation, joint results and increased mutual knowledge and understanding between donor and beneficiary states as a function of the EEA and Norway Grants."

Bilateral relations are strengthened through different levels and results can be seen for example as:

- **Extent of cooperation:** Cooperation in programmes and projects between institutions and individuals through formal partnerships or for ad hoc exchanges.
- **Shared results:** Through cooperation the partners are working together to achieve joint results such as development of policies, laws, strategies or new knowledge or practice.
- **Improved knowledge and mutual understanding:** Bringing people and institutions together contributes to creating improved knowledge, trust and mutual understanding. It also increases the awareness of the EEA Agreement which largely extends the EU's free movement of people, capital, goods and services to include the EEA EFTA states Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway.
- **Wider effects:** As a result of working together, the networks and partnerships that are established may lead to further cooperation beyond the EEA and Norway Grants funded projects and programmes. This could be by developing initiatives addressing common European challenges through partnerships under other European funding schemes or joint initiatives in inter-governmental organisations.

Iceland



Project partnerships with Icelandic partners

Beneficiary country	Number of projects with a partner from Iceland
Bulgaria	5
Cyprus	1
Czech Republic	39
Estonia	10
Greece	3
Hungary	7
Latvia	12
Lithuania	16
Poland	86
Portugal	10
Romania	43
Slovakia	6
Slovenia	15
Spain	22
Total	**275**

Bilateral relations between Iceland and the beneficiary countries are strengthened through a wide range of partnership activities.

By sharing their unique know-how in the use of geothermal energy, Icelandic authorities are helping to increase the use of renewable energy across Europe. Non-governmental organisations (NGOs) contribute to capacity building by sharing best practice. Creativity and innovation is supported through staff and student exchanges involving various artistic, educational and research establishments.

What has been achieved?

Two Icelandic entities are involved as donor programme partners in the areas of renewable energy, scholarships and research. Icelandic partners are engaged in formal project cooperation in more than 270 projects.

Sharing expertise

Iceland is a world leader in the use of geothermal energy – a form of heat accessible from below the Earth's surface. It is used to heat about nine out of ten households in Iceland. With more than 40 years of experience in utilising, extracting and developing this sort of energy, and with several high profile companies with expertise in this field, Iceland has put geothermal energy in the forefront of its cooperation with the beneficiary countries.

The National Energy Authority of Iceland is involved as donor programme partner in programmes in Portugal, Romania and Hungary.

"Considering global warming, all countries need to increase their use of renewable energy sources. In Iceland, we have a unique knowledge of the utilisation of geothermal energy. If we can help to make other countries see this potential, it will be an achievement for us," said Jónas Ketilsson, Deputy Director General in the National Energy Authority of Iceland.

When geothermal energy replaces fossil fuels it reduces emissions, increases energy security by shifting to local resources and prices remain stable, giving a long term benefit to consumers.

"The share of the energy bill for a family with two children living in a 100 square meter apartment relative to income is ten times higher in Romania than in Iceland after taking into account heat demand difference. This is why geothermal-based district heating can reduce economic disparities as it brings down the cost of heating in countries like Romania," said Ketilsson.

The Icelandic partners are sharing their experience and knowledge, but Ketilsson underlines that they also gain knowledge and increased understanding of their partner countries.

Utilising the geothermal potential in Romania

In Oradea in western Romania there is great potential to increase the use of geothermal energy. With support from the Grants and in cooperation with Icelandic Geothermal Engineering, the municipality is replacing fossil fuels for district heating.

"Without the Icelandic partner and their experience on board, we would not have achieved this much. The partner's input and technical knowledge enabled us to go ahead with the geothermal development," said Consellor in Oradea municipality, Oana Nicula.

"We have used the experiences from Iceland to inform the public and the local authorities of the benefits of geothermal energy. The project has opened the eyes of the local decision makers," said Arni Gunnarsson from Icelandic Geothermal Engineering, which is also participating in three other projects in Romania, contributing technical support, know-how and machinery.

Project promoter: Municipality of Oradea
Grant amount: € 3.3 million
Project link: bit.ly/1TluXb8



Liechtenstein

Liechtenstein is strengthening its cooperation with other European countries through bilateral partnerships under the EEA Grants.



In particular, deepening Liechtenstein's existing relationship with the Czech Republic remains an important priority as the Czech Republic is the only beneficiary country where Liechtenstein is accredited with a bilateral Embassy.

Cooperation in the field of education has been particularly successful. Entities and individuals in Liechtenstein are participating in project partnerships and exchanges with beneficiary states via the scholarships programmes.

1 14 from Bulgaria, 8 from Romania, 7 from the Czech Republic and from Poland, 6 from Slovenia, 4 from Hungary and 1 from Spain

What has been achieved?

There are currently 26 projects with partners from Liechtenstein. Partnership projects exist with Poland (9), the Czech Republic (7), Romania (4), Latvia (2), Bulgaria (1), Slovakia (1), Slovenia (1) and Spain (1).

Focus on educational exchange

In the current funding period, 47 students, teachers and staff from seven beneficiary countries[1] have so far taken part in exchanges with the University of Liechtenstein, the Liechtenstein Institute, International Akademie für Philosophie, Hilti AG, the Hospital Liechtenstein and Bodhi Massage. Six students and

2015

MAY

Liechtenstein

Courtesy visit: Delegation of Czech senators to H.S.H. Prince Hans-Adam II. von und zu Liechtenstein and meeting with the President of the Liechtenstein Parliament, Albert Frick

SEPTEMBER

Liechtenstein/ Slovenia

Issuing of a collective postage stamp with Slovenia

Slovakia

Political visit: Foreign Minister of Liechtenstein Aurelia Frick in meetings with the Slovak Foreign Minister (pictured above), the Minister of Education and the Prime Minister

OCTOBER

Czech Republic

Conference: Double Tax Treaties Forum attended by representatives from the Liechtenstein Fiscal Authority and Bankers Association

Czech Republic

Conference: Prosecutor General Dr. Robert Wallner and Philip Roeser of the Liechtenstein Financial Markets Authority participated in the International Anti-Corruption Conference financed by the EEA Grants

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"The scholarship programmes are all contributing to strengthening the relations and cooperation with the beneficiary countries as all projects need to have a partner from the donor countries. We welcome the great interest from students and university staff from the beneficiary countries in coming to Liechtenstein. This is also a sign of trust in the quality of the educational system of Liechtenstein," said Marion Kindle-Kühnis from the National Agency for International Education Affairs (AIBA) in Liechtenstein.

AIBA is a donor programme partner in the scholarship programmes in nine beneficiary countries. Through the EEA Grants, students, university staff, primary and secondary schools as well as other educational institutions in Liechtenstein have an increased opportunity to take part in international exchange with the beneficiary countries.

The University of Liechtenstein, together with partners from Iceland and Norway, is also taking part in several projects in Poland to increase educational cooperation, internationalisation and student and staff exchanges.

International cooperation

As an example from the field of culture, the House of Literature in Liechtenstein, together with partners from Iceland and Norway, is involved in a project with Poland which brings together authors from the four countries. The project focuses on helping to change attitudes towards and increase acceptance of cultural differences, acting against stereotypes and initiating intercultural dialogue.

Bilateral funds in each beneficiary country are providing earmarked financing for initiatives aiming to facilitate and promote cooperation. Funded by the bilateral fund in the Czech Republic, an international conference on combating corruption, money laundering and recovering criminal assets was organised in Prague in October 2015. Liechtenstein participated actively in the conference. The Prosecutor General of Liechtenstein moderated an expert panel on asset recovery and closed the conference. The event was attended by high-level speakers and experts and attracted 240 participants from 47 countries.

> "Developing the joint projects together creates trust and understanding on both sides"
>
> *Marion Kindle-Kühnis, National Agency for International Education Affairs*



2016

DECEMBER

Bulgaria

Exhibition: Stamps of Liechtenstein

Liechtenstein/ Czech Republic

Agreement: Agreement between Liechtenstein and the Czech Republic on the continuation of the joint Commission of Historians

Liechtenstein/ Czech Republic

Agreement: Entry into force of an agreement with the Czech Republic on double taxation

Liechtenstein/ Hungary

Agreement: Entry into force of an agreement with Hungary on double taxation

FEBRUARY

Liechtenstein/ Czech Republic

Meeting: Inaugural meeting of the joint Commission of Historians under the new mandate (see picture above)

MARCH

Liechtenstein

Political visit: Bulgarian Deputy Prime Minister for Demographic and Social Policies, Ivailo Kalfin

Liechtenstein

Political visit: Slovak Foreign Minister, Miroslav Lajčák

staff from Liechtenstein have taken part in exchanges with Poland, Romania and Slovakia.

"The scholarship programmes are all contributing to strengthening the relations and cooperation with the beneficiary countries as all projects need to have a partner from the donor countries. We welcome the great interest from students and university staff from the beneficiary countries in coming to Liechtenstein. This is also a sign of trust in the quality of the educational system of Liechtenstein," said Marion Kindle-Kühnis from the National Agency for International Education Affairs (AIBA) in Liechtenstein.

AIBA is a donor programme partner in the scholarship programmes in nine beneficiary countries. Through the EEA Grants, students, university staff, primary and secondary schools as well as other educational institutions in Liechtenstein have an increased opportunity to take part in international exchange with the beneficiary countries.

The University of Liechtenstein, together with partners from Iceland and Norway, is also taking part in several projects in Poland to increase educational cooperation, internationalisation and student and staff exchanges.

International cooperation

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Norway

Twenty Norwegian entities are engaged in institutional programme cooperation with central and southern European counterparts in fields ranging from justice to environmental protection and green industry innovation.

This cooperation ensures the valuable exchange of experience and knowledge and lays the groundwork for the involvement of Norwegian partners in more than 1 660 projects. Through the Grants, people and organisations in Norway and the beneficiary countries are given the opportunity to work together to achieve common objectives, and to develop and cement closer relations within Europe.



What has been achieved?

Extent of cooperation

Out of the 150 programmes supported, 77 are being implemented in cooperation with a donor programme partner (DPP) from Norway. The DPPs - such as the Research Council of Norway and the Norwegian Directorate for Civil Protection - have worked closely with their counterparts in the beneficiary countries to develop targeted programmes. Beyond advising on the content of the programmes, the DPPs have played a key role in facilitating contact with Norwegian entities that wish to enter into project partnerships. In programmes with a DPP, almost 60% of the projects have a donor partner. In programmes without a DPP, only 25% percent of the projects are donor partnership projects.

Slovak programme operators who were interviewed for the recent bilateral mid-term evaluation[1] highlighted that the donor programme partners are regarded as very important in developing bilateral relations. In general, project promoters see the challenge of finding donor project partners as an obstacle in developing bilateral relations.

Bilateral partnerships in projects are widespread, with Norwegian entities currently engaged in formal cooperation in more than 1 660 projects.

1 Draft report of the Mid-Term Evaluation of the Support to Strengthened Bilateral Relations under the EEA and Norway Grants (2016)

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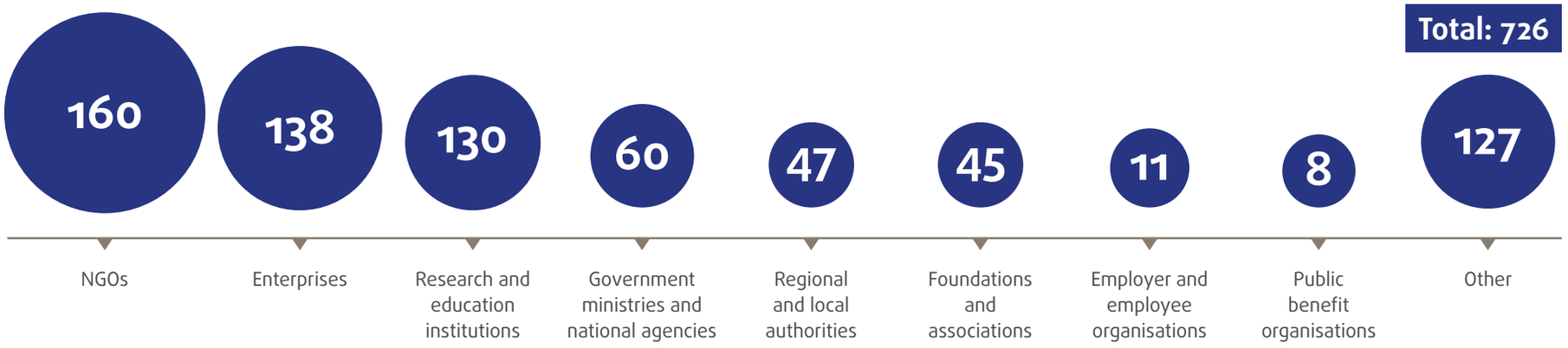
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Types of Norwegian entities taking part in project partnerships



Bilateral funds in each beneficiary country are providing earmarked financing for initiatives which aim to facilitate and promote cooperation. In total, more than €40 million has been made available in 16 countries to finance partner-search, studies, exchanges, workshops, seminars, meetings and study trips.

Bilateral seed money has enabled organisations and entities in both Norway and the beneficiary countries to meet, establish partnerships and to develop project applications together.

Financed by the bilateral fund of the 'Domestic and gender-based violence' programme in Estonia, 18 experts from Norway took part in two match-making seminars and the opening conference of the programme. This was an opportunity for the Estonian organisations to meet potential partners from Norway.

As a result, a list of 40 Norwegian entities was compiled and provided for project applicants. All of the projects with donor partners in this programme found their partners during these meetings.

Beneficiary country	Number of projects	Number of projects with a partner from Norway	%
Bulgaria	718	114	15.9
Croatia	50	0	0
Cyprus	28	3	10.7
Czech Republic	847	379	44.7
Estonia	296	82	27.7
Greece	127	14	11
Hungary	509	39	7.7
Latvia	343	118	34.4
Lithuania	207	83	40.1
Malta	17	3	17.6
Poland	1 239	273	22
Portugal	212	54	25.5
Romania	848	178	21
Slovakia	339	82	24.2
Slovenia	121	56	46.2
Spain	444	162	36.5
Decent work and tripartite dialogue programmes in 13 countries	53	29	54.7
Total	**6 398**	**1 669**	**26.1**



Shared results

The partnerships are established as part of an effort to solve a particular issue through sharing experience, knowledge, know-how and technology. The Norwegian partners are working together with their counterparts to achieve joint results such as the development of policies, laws, strategies or new knowledge or practice. At the same time, the experience of working together also plays a part in strengthening bilateral relations. A shared result means that this result would not have been achieved without input from both parties.

The bilateral mid-term evaluation highlights how entities involved in project implementation point to positive experiences gained by working towards common goals as a good basis for further continued cooperation. Such "common experiences have more impact on bilateral relations than more traditional ways of providing external support, e.g. technical assistance/ expert assistance".

The Romanian enterprise Microelectronica S.A. located in Bucharest is cooperating with the Norwegian enterprise Trilobite Microsystems AS based in the southern city of Kristiansand in a project to make drinking water safe.

Through the project, Microelectronica's factory has been upgraded. It is now more environmentally friendly and ready for the production of Trilobite Microsystems' products. For Trilobite, the project is creating an opportunity to bring their water cleaning technology into volume production in a properly equipped factory with lower production costs. The former Norwegian Minister of EEA and EU Affairs, Vidar Helgesen, visited the project in April 2015 (pictured left).

2015

APRIL

Poland

Political visit: Norwegian State Secretaries, Øystein Bø (Ministry of Defence) and Bård Glad Pedersen (Ministry of Foreign Affairs)

Romania

Political visit: Norwegian Minister of EEA and EU Affairs, Vidar Helgesen (pictured above)

Poland

Conference: 'Interculturalism in historical education' attended by Norwegian State Secretaries, Laila Bokhari (Prime Minister's Office) and Bjørgulv Vinje Borgundvaag (Ministry of Culture)

Poland

Political visit: Norwegian State Secretary, Ingvild Næss Stub (Ministry of Foreign Affairs)

Croatia

Political visit: Norwegian State Secretary, Øystein Bø (Ministry of Defence)

MAY

Norway

Official visit: Portuguese President, Aníbal Cavaco Silva, Minister of Education, Nuno Crato, Minister of Sea and Agriculture, Assunção Cristas, Minister of Defence, José Pedro Aguiar-Branco and Minister of Environment and Energy, Jorge Moreira da Silva



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Knowledge and mutual understanding

The development of personal relations and friendships across borders is a more intangible effect of the cooperation. Strong partnerships are often developed in spite of administrative hurdles and financial obstacles. Through personal meetings and dialogue, the bilateral work is contributing to forming close bonds between people in Norway and the rest of Europe, allowing for better understanding.

The bilateral evaluation confirms that attitudes and trust have increased, with more than 70% of respondents stating this had improved to a high or very high extent: "Stakeholders from both beneficiary and donor states confirm that they have experienced an increase in knowledge and mutual understanding of the partners' culture and socio-economic environment (...), from being exposed to different practices and 'another way of doing things'."

The Kuldiga District Council in Latvia cooperated with Frogn municipality in Norway in a cultural project, and says that the cooperation has increased their understanding of how small municipalities organise their work and has built trust among the partners.

The evaluation also revealed that 75% of the stakeholders involved in the Grants surveyed consider that the programmes have raised awareness of the donor countries' efforts to assist beneficiary countries to a high or very high extent. 75% of project promoters say that they have increased their understanding of the institutional differences and similarities to a high or very high extent through the partnerships with donor entities.

JUNE

Norway
Defence exercise: Polish State Secretary, Czesław Mroczek (Ministry of National Defence)

Poland
Political visit: The Standing Committee on Labour and Social Affairs, Norwegian Parliament

Norway
Political visit: Polish State Secretary, Konrad Pawlik (Ministry of Foreign Affairs)

Norway
Political visit: Polish State Secretary, Marceli Niezgoda (Ministry of Infrastructure and Development)

Norway
75th Anniversary of the reclaiming of Narvik (WW2): Polish Minister of Culture and National Heritage, Małgorzata Omilanowska

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Political visit: Norwegian State Secretary, Vidar Brein-Karlsen (Ministry of Justice and Public Security)



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Wider effects

Wider effects occur when people or institutions working together find common ground and an interest in extending their cooperation beyond the projects and programmes.

As a result of project cooperation under the 'Public health' programme in Estonia, the Norwegian Mental Health Coalition supported the establishment of the Estonian Mental Health and Well-being Coalition (VATEK) where the Norwegian coalition is also a partner. VATEK brings together organisations in the mental health field and influences policy making.

Through the Grants, new and welcome opportunities for researchers to collaborate and establish new relations with other international researchers are created. Cooperation under the Grants also lays the groundwork for further collaboration, with many partners planning to develop future projects together, including under larger-scale EU programmes. This is also confirmed in the mid-term evaluation.

The evaluation highlights that continued cooperation and development of international and EU networks are significant wider effects that arise from the implementation of the research programmes: "The EEA and Norway Grants support processes by being an important contributor that often facilitates the first international cooperation for both parties."

Further cooperation is already planned with Spain. About 23% of the projects under the 'Environment and climate change research and technology' programme report they are forecasting additional joint cooperation activities, for which they are investigating other funding sources, such as the EU's research and innovation programme – Horizon 2020 – or national funding schemes. The Programme Operator maintains that: "These figures are much higher than we expected and a clear indicator of the excellence of the bilateral partnerships that have been developed within the programme."

Some of the programmes have also presented joint results at the international arena. During the 59th session of the UN Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) in 2015, the Norwegian Equality and Anti-discrimination Ombud and the Spanish Ministry of Health, Social Services and Equality organised two joint side events to present their programme results in the area of gender-based violence to an international audience.

This is a two-way transfer of knowledge. Many of the Norwegian entities involved benefit from experience and capacity building gained through exposure to international cooperation, or from the development of platforms for cooperation beyond the Grants. Several entities cite more direct benefits, through adopting beneficiary country practices at home. A joint Spanish-Norwegian initiative to improve social and labour inclusion of Roma and Romani women spearheaded by the Spanish Minsitry of Health, Social Services and Equality in partnership with the Norwegian Equality and Anti-discrimination Ombud (LDO) has not only contributed to breaking stereotypes and raising awareness in Spain. The initiative has succeeded in creating a platform for Norwegian Roma and Romani women to work together, initiating a step forward to reverse historical conflict and animosity between the communities.

2015

JUNE

Portugal
Blue week: Norwegian Minister of Fisheries, Elisabeth Aspaker

Poland
NATO Exercise Noble Jump: Norwegian Minister of Defence, Ine Marie Eriksen Søreide and Norwegian Chief of Defence, Haakon Bruun-Hanssen

Romania
Political visit: The President of the Norwegian Parliament, Olemic Thommessen

Lithuania
Political visit: Norwegian Minister of Defence, Ine Marie Eriksen Søreide

JULY

Croatia
Political visit: Norwegian Minister of Foreign Affairs, Børge Brende

AUGUST

Greece
Political visit: Norwegian Minister of EEA and EU Affairs, Vidar Helgesen





Bilateral cooperation takes place within all sectors supported under the EEA and Norway Grants. Over these next pages we highlight examples of cooperation between Norway and the beneficiary countries in four selected sectors.

Increasing justice cooperation

In the justice sector, the Norwegian Correctional Services have advised the Romanian authorities about the planning and establishment of their very own 'human ecological prison' on a small island in the Danube Delta (see picture on right), inspired by the renowned Norwegian open air prison, Bastøy.

"We had the opportunity to benefit from the know-how and experience of our Norwegian partner in the implementation of the eco-reintegration programme within the Bastøy prison – one of the cheapest prisons to run and with the lowest reoffending rate of the entire Norwegian prison system," said Adrian Luca from the Ministry of Justice in Romania.

As well as sharing a successful prison model, Norwegian authorities have had the opportunity to familiarise themselves with Romanian culture, institutions and prison conditions, improving mutual understanding and knowledge.

"In Norwegian prisons we have inmates from more than 100 other countries, the highest proportion coming from Romania, Lithuania and Poland. For Norwegian partners in the prison service, taking part in projects

Programme overview: Justice sector

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

2015

SEPTEMBER

Poland

Defence Industry Fair MSPO in Kielce: Norwegian Minister of Defence, Ine Marie Eriksen Søreide and Norwegian State Secretary, Øystein Bø (Ministry of Defence)

Romania

Political visit: Norwegian Minister of Foreign Affairs, Børge Brende

Poland

Political visit: Norwegian State Secretary, Elsbeth Tronstad (Ministry of Foreign Affairs)

Romania

Political visit: Norwegian State Secretary, Elsbeth Tronstad (Ministry of Foreign Affairs)

OCTOBER

Czech Republic

Conference: Norwegian State Secretary, Elsbeth Tronstad (Ministry of Foreign Affairs) attended the opening of the International Anti-Corruption Conference financed by the EEA Grants

Spain

Conference: 7th Forest Europe Ministerial Conference attended by Norwegian Minister of Fisheries, Elisabeth Aspaker

and cooperating with these countries increases their cultural and systemic knowledge and understanding which they can then share further in Norway. This is of great value to the Norwegian prison services," said Kim Ekhaugen, Director of the International Unit in the Norwegian Correctional Service.

The Directorate is a partner in programmes contributing to improving prison conditions and promoting alternatives to imprisonment. Fifteen Norwegian project partners – prisons, probation offices and the Correctional Services of Norway Staff Academy (KRUS) – are cooperating with counterparts from the beneficiary countries.

"In the long run, we are working on advancing our agreements on prisoner exchange with the beneficiary countries and it is therefore important to contribute to improving prison conditions," said Ekhaugen.

As a result of the cooperation under the Grants, the General Directors of the Correctional Services in Norway and in the six beneficiary countries where the Norwegian partner is involved have annual or biannual meetings where they can share their challenges and experiences.



"To enable them to make sustainable changes to the prison systems, the top management need to have the right knowledge and to feel ownership. These high-level contacts are therefore very important, together with the projects on the ground. They make the results more sustainable," explained Ekhaugen. The high-level contacts and networks are also mutually beneficial to cooperation in European networks outside the Grants.

Cooperation between the Romanian and Norwegian police forces has also been strengthened. In 2015, 12 Romanian police officers were deployed to different police districts in Norway to strengthen the operational police cooperation between the two countries with the aim of combating crime in both countries. A total of 30 police officers will be deployed to Norway. The project has also contributed to building capacity in the Romanian police force.

The Norwegian Courts Administration (NCA) is donor programme partner in programmes focusing on strengthening the justice system in Lithuania, Poland and Romania. Together with the Council of Europe, they are bringing together partners from these countries as well as from the Czech Republic, to take part in a series of seminars discussing how to integrate the judgement of the European Courts of Human Rights into legal practice.

Projects with partners from Norway

% partnership projects with Norwegian partner



NOVEMBER

Malta
Political visit: Norwegian State Secretary, Elsbeth Tronstad (Ministry of Foreign Affairs)

Norway
Meeting: Bulgarian Deputy Minister of Justice, Petko Petkov and Norwegian State Secretary, Vidar Brein-Karlsen (Ministry of Justice and Public Security)

Slovakia
Political visit: Norwegian State Secretary, Elsbeth Tronstad (Ministry of Foreign Affairs)

DECEMBER

Lithuania
Political visit: Norwegian State Secretary, Elsbeth Tronstad (Ministry of Foreign Affairs)

Latvia
Political visit: Norwegian State Secretary Elsbeth Tronstad (Ministry of Foreign Affairs)

Collaboration in innovation

The green industry innovation programmes are mainly business-focused, to a large extent based on partnership projects with private entities in Norway and aimed at sharing experiences and developing new technologies. More than 50 percent of the projects where partnership is an aim have a Norwegian partner.

"It is our experience that several of the projects with Norwegian partners seem to function better, give good results and progress faster than several of the projects without partners," said István Szabó, vice rector from Szent Istvan University, the programme operator of the 'Green industry innovation' programme in Hungary.

The joint projects are not only resulting in the development and commercialisation of new technologies, but also in the establishment of joint commercial entities, all in all contributing to strengthen the bilateral business cooperation. The Norwegian company ICD Industries has worked together with the Estonian company LDI Innovation in developing a laser technology that can monitor and detect oil-spills in real-time. As a result of the collaboration, the project has been formed into a joint venture.

Programme overview: Green industry innovation

Country	Green industry innovation	Environmental and climate change-related research and technology	Partner from Norway	Grant (€ million)
Bulgaria	●		Innovation Norway *	13.7
Estonia	●		Innovation Norway	6.0
Hungary	●		Innovation Norway	22.9
Latvia	●		Innovation Norway	11.3
Lithuania	●		Innovation Norway	8.0
Poland	●		Innovation Norway *	20.0
Romania	●		Innovation Norway *	29.7
Slovakia	●		Innovation Norway	16.1
Spain		●	Innovation Norway	18.2
Total				**149.9**

*Programme Operator

2016

JANUARY

Norway
Political visit: Lithuanian State Secretary, Algirdas Šešelgis (Ministry of Social Security and Labour) and the Director of State Child Rights Protection and Adoption Service

Portugal
Political visit: Norwegian Minister of Fisheries, Per Sandberg

Norway
Political visit: Slovak Minister of Foreign Affairs, Miroslav Lajčák

Poland
European Handball finals: Norwegian Minister of Culture, Linda Helleland met with Polish Minister of Sports, Witold Banka

FEBRUARY

Norway
Political visit: Polish Prime Minister, Beata Szydlo (pictured on page 46 with Prime Minister, Erna Solberg). Launch of the Norwegian Government's strategy for cooperation with Poland

Norway
Political visit: Polish Minister of Sports, Witold Banka to Lillehammer Youth Olympics

Contacts and networks established through the cooperation under the Grants also result in further collaboration beyond the projects and programmes. Several of the programme operators wish to continue the cooperation with their Norwegian partner Innovation Norway. Francisco Marin, the CEO of the Centre for Technological Industrial Development (CDTI) - programme operator of the 'Environmental and climate change-related research and technology' programme in Spain – has been to Norway to meet with Innovation Norway CEO Anita Krohn Traaseth to discuss possible areas of future collaboration beyond the Grants.

Establishing these relationships also opens up for further cooperation outside of the projects. NCE Smart Energy Markets/Smart Innovation Østfold AS from Norway is taking part in a project in Bulgaria together with the Black Sea Energy Cluster.

"The cooperation has been both educational and beneficial, especially when it comes to future opportunities for collaboration in research and innovation projects," said Dieter Hirdes, R&D Coordinator in Smart Innovation Østfold.

Increasing recycling in Poland with Norwegian technology

With less than 25 percent of waste recycled , Poland still has some way to go to reach 50 percent recycling of waste by 2020, as required by the EU.

Norwegian company Tomra is a global leader in waste sorting solutions and is a project partner in four green industry innovation projects in Poland, as well as being a supplier of waste sorting technologies in Romania.

"The cooperation with Tomra was important because they have the knowledge about sorting metals and other materials," said Krzysztof Brzozowski, Director of WTÓR-STEEL Sp. z o.o. in Poland. The project is using Tomra's sorting systems to separate the most valuable metal waste for recycling.

"Through participation in the projects in Poland, we have sold our technology. Furthermore, the projects contribute to making the industry in Poland more aware of the benefits of automated sorting solutions and that they can help the environment and be profitable at the same time," said Tom Eng, Head of TOMRA Sorting Solutions Recycling.

Project promoter: WTÓR-STEEL
Grant amount: € 1.25 million
Project link: bit.ly/1rzbKfc

* Eurostat (2013)

MARCH

Norway
Working visit: Bulgarian Deputy Minister of Justice, Krassimira Filipova to Norwegian Correctional Service (KDI) and Ringerike Prison

Norway
Political visit: Polish State Secretary, Jan Dziedziczak (Ministry of Foreign Affairs)

Bulgaria
Political visit: Norwegian Minister of EEA and EU Affairs, Elisabeth Aspaker

Norway
Political visit: Hungarian Deputy State Secretary, Zsigmond Perényi (Prime Minister's Office)

Greece
Political visit: Norwegian Minister of EEA and EU Affairs, Elisabeth Aspaker (see picture on page 41)

Norway
Political visit: Lithuanian Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs, Andrius Krivas

Modernising local administration

Cooperation between Norwegian and local authorities in the beneficiary countries is widespread, with Norwegian expertise in modernising public administration in high demand. Norwegian municipalities' main motivation for participation in projects is to facilitate their own capacity building, networking and learning. Through the Grants, local authorities across Europe are working together to provide better and more efficient public services to citizens and enterprises. 94 percent of the projects in these programmes have a partner from Norway.

"European municipalities are faced with similar challenges and are affected by the same political processes. Migration is an example of that. Contact and cooperation is therefore beneficial for both sides," said Elita Cakule from the Norwegian Association of Local and Regional Authorities (KS).

The cooperation through the Grants is creating bonds that are beneficial in fostering participation in European networks beyond the programmes and projects. "We have established contacts with relevant municipal institutions working with policy development in the beneficiary countries. These contacts have also given us new and strong alliance partners when we are discussing development of new EU regulations in the lobby organisation for municipalities at EU level, CEMR," said Cakule. KS has also encouraged its counterparts in the beneficiary countries to take a more active role in working groups at a European level.

Programme overview: Capacity building and institutional cooperation

Country	Capacity-building and cooperation between public authorities in the beneficiary countries and Norway	Partner from Norway	Grant (€ million)
Bulgaria	●	Norwegian Association of Local and Regional Authorities (KS), Norwegian Barents Secretariat (BAR)	2.0
Czech Republic	●		1.8
Hungary	●	Norwegian Association of Local and Regional Authorities (KS)	10.8
Latvia	●	Norwegian Association of Local and Regional Authorities (KS)	5.0
Lithuania	●	Norwegian Association of Local and Regional Authorities (KS), National Police Directorate (POD), Norwegian Environment Agency (NEA)	8.0
Malta	●		0.3
Romania	●		6.0
Total			**33.9**

2016

MARCH

Croatia
Political visit: Norwegian State Secretary, Elsbeth Tronstad (Ministry of Foreign Affairs)

Poland
Political visit: Norwegian Minister of Fisheries, Per Sandberg

Estonia
Political visit: Norwegian Minister of EEA and EU Affairs, Elisabeth Aspaker



Creating environmental networks

Environmental challenges such as climate change and loss of biodiversity do not stop at national borders and require joint action and cross-border cooperation. Exchanging experience and pooling expertise and resources is therefore highly relevant. More than half of the programmes addressing these topics have one or more partners from Norway.

"In this area it is more effective to work together. The Grants have given us a unique opportunity to work together with our Norwegian partners and learn from their experience," said Ilze Krieva from the Ministry of the Environmental Protection and Regional Development in Latvia.

The climate programme in Latvia has two Norwegian programme partners. The Norwegian Environment Agency is contributing to the climate change mitigation part of the programme and the Norwegian Directorate for Civil Protection contributes to the adaptation aspects of the programme (see picture right). Twenty of the 27 projects under this programme have a partner from Norway.

"It is of great importance to have a donor programme partner on board to get Norwegian project partners. They have the networks in Norway and helped us get the relevant partners to come to the match-making session in Latvia. We would not have had so many partnership projects without their involvement," Krieva said. The Ministry also sees prospects for future cooperation with the Norwegian partners after the current programme is finalised. This could be funded through a possible new period of the Grants or under EU financial instruments such as the Interreg programme for the Baltic Sea region.

Programme overview: Environment, climate change and renewable energy

Country	Environment and biodiversity	Climate change	Energy efficiency and renewable energy	Partner from Norway	Grant (€ million)
Bulgaria	●		●	Norwegian Environment Agency Norwegian Water Resources and Energy Directorate	29.3
Cyprus	●				1.2
Czech Republic	●	●		Norwegian Environment Agency	18.5
Estonia	●	●		Norwegian Environment Agency	6.9
Greece	●		●		16.0
Hungary		●	●	Norwegian Directorate for Civil Protection	23.1
Latvia	●	●	●	Norwegian Directorate for Civil Protection Norwegian Environment Agency	10.4
Lithuania	●	●		Norwegian Environment Agency	11.5
Malta	●	●			1.4
Poland	●		●	Norwegian Environment Agency	180.3
Portugal	●	●	●	Norwegian Directorate for Civil Protection	26.2
Romania	●	●	●	Norwegian Environment Agency Norwegian Water Resources and Energy Directorate	57.7
Slovakia		●		Norwegian Water Resources and Energy Directorate Norwegian Directorate for Civil Protection	12.5
Slovenia	●				3.9
Total					**398.9**

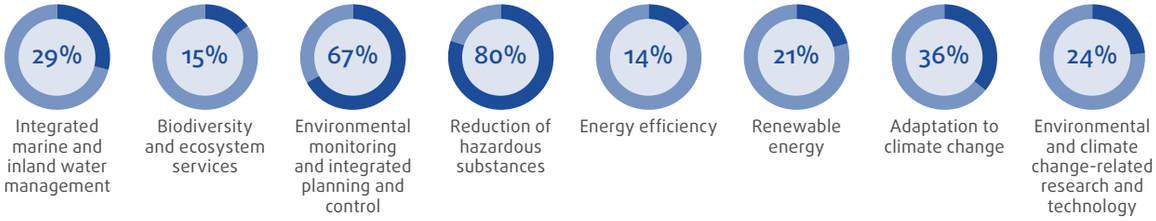


"We get a lot out of the cooperation. We share our experience and competence, but we also learn a lot from our partners in other countries," said Trygve Hallingstad from the Norwegian Environment Agency. Before the Agency got involved in the cooperation, they considered carefully which countries to get involved with, both in terms of where their knowledge and experience would be of most use and how they could also benefit from the cooperation beyond the Grants.

"The experience and contacts we have gained in the beneficiary countries have been very important in a wider perspective, also in terms of synergies. The contacts we made and the people we have met through the cooperation under the Grants, we meet again in expert groups at EU level and in environmental and climate negotiations on a global level. This is of strategic importance to us," Hallingstad said.

Projects with partners from Norway

% partnership projects with Norwegian partner



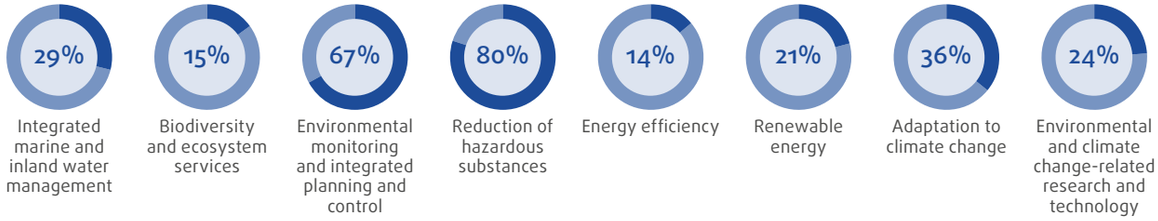


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Projects with partners from Norway

% partnership projects with Norwegian partner



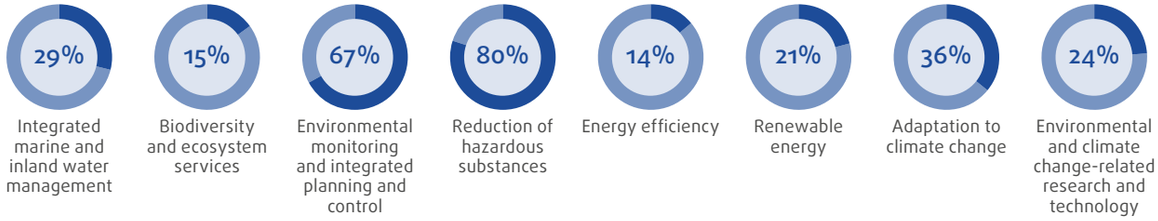


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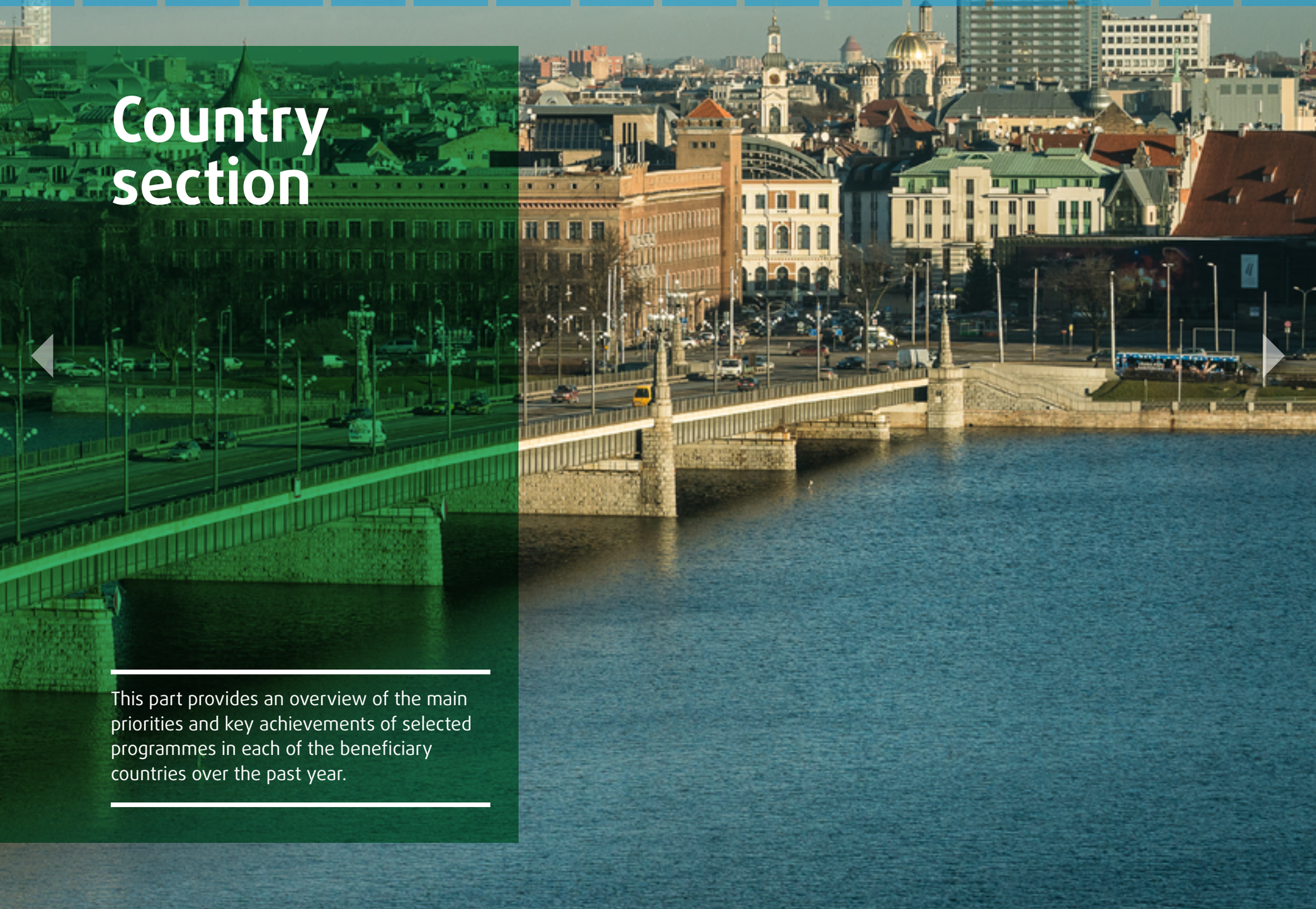
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Projects with partners from Norway

% partnership projects with Norwegian partner



Country section



This part provides an overview of the main priorities and key achievements of selected programmes in each of the beneficiary countries over the past year.

Bulgaria

Read more about programmes and projects in Bulgaria:
www.eeagrants.org/bulgaria

Total Funding	EEA Grants	Norway Grants
€ 126.6M	**€ 78.6M**	**€ 48.0M**

Programme overview

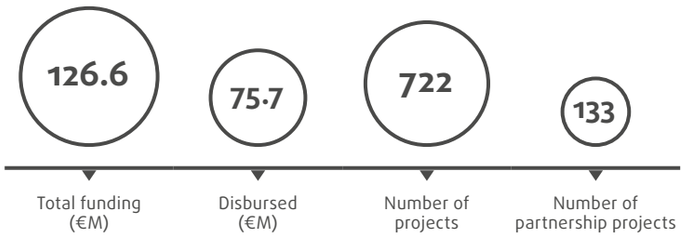
Programme	Partners	Grant (€ million)	
Green industry innovation	Innovation Norway*	13.7	●
Integrated marine and inland water management	Norwegian Environment Agency	8.0	●
Biodiversity and ecosystem services	Norwegian Environment Agency	8.0	●
Energy efficiency and renewable energy	Norwegian Water Resource and Energy Directorate	13.3	●
NGO Fund	–	11.8	●
Public health initiatives	–	13.4	● ●
Children and youth at risk	Council of Europe	8.6	●
Capacity building and institutional cooperation	Norwegian Association of Local and Regional Authorities, Norwegian Barents Secretariat	2.0	●
Cultural heritage and contemporary arts	–	14.0	●
Scholarships	Icelandic Centre for Research, Agency for International Education Affairs (Liechtenstein), Norwegian Centre for International Cooperation in Education	1.5	●
Decent work and tripartite dialogue	Innovation Norway*	0.5	●
Schengen cooperation and cross-border crime	National Police Directorate (Norway), Council of Europe	6.0	●
Correctional services	Council of Europe	8.6	●
Judicial capacity building	Council of Europe	3.1	●
Domestic and gender-based violence	Council of Europe	2.0	●

● Norway Grants ● EEA Grants *Programme Operator

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



All data extracted end March 2016

Country facts

	Bulgaria	EU-28
GDP per capita in PPS (EU=100)	47	100
Economic growth (% change on previous year)	1.5	1.4
Unemployment rate (%)*	8.8	9.1
Youth unemployment rate (%)*	20.7	20.0
Public debt (% of GDP)	27	86.8
Gender pay gap (%)	13.4	16.1
At-risk-of-poverty rate (%)	40.1	24.4
Human development index (2014)	28	(EU-28 ranking)
Corruption perception index (2014)	25	(EU-28 ranking)

Sources: Eurostat/UNDP/Transparency International
All data is from 2014 except where * indicates 2015
See notes to tables in Annex 2

Improving human rights competence within the courts

> The number of complaints against Bulgaria before the European Court of Human Rights has been reduced from 2 000 to less than 800. This is a real benefit to come from sending Bulgarian judges for a placement at the Court, according to the Bulgarian Ministry of Justice.

Over the last few years, nine Bulgarian judges have been seconded to the European Court of Human Rights (ECHR) in Strasbourg for up to one year. The objective has been to improve the competence of the judges and the Bulgarian court system in order to enable Bulgaria to comply with and implement the European Convention on Human Rights. Many of the judgements against Bulgaria in the ECHR relate to delays in bringing cases to trial.

"I apply the acquired knowledge in my everyday work as a judge. Now I look at the court proceedings from a different perspective, which guarantees the parties higher standards of justice," said Irina Ganeva, one of the judges who was seconded in 2013-2014.

This is one of five projects supported under the 'Judicial capacity building' programme. All the projects are implemented in cooperation with the Council of Europe.

The objective of the programme is to improve the human rights situation in Bulgaria by creating a fairer and more efficient judicial system.

To increase access to legal aid for vulnerable groups, a national telephone hotline providing legal advice has been established as well as two regional legal aid centres in Sliven and Vidin, areas with a high Roma population. As a result, the number of people applying for legal assistance to bring their cases to court has been reduced by almost 20%.

Programme operator

Bulgarian Ministry of Justice

Programme partner

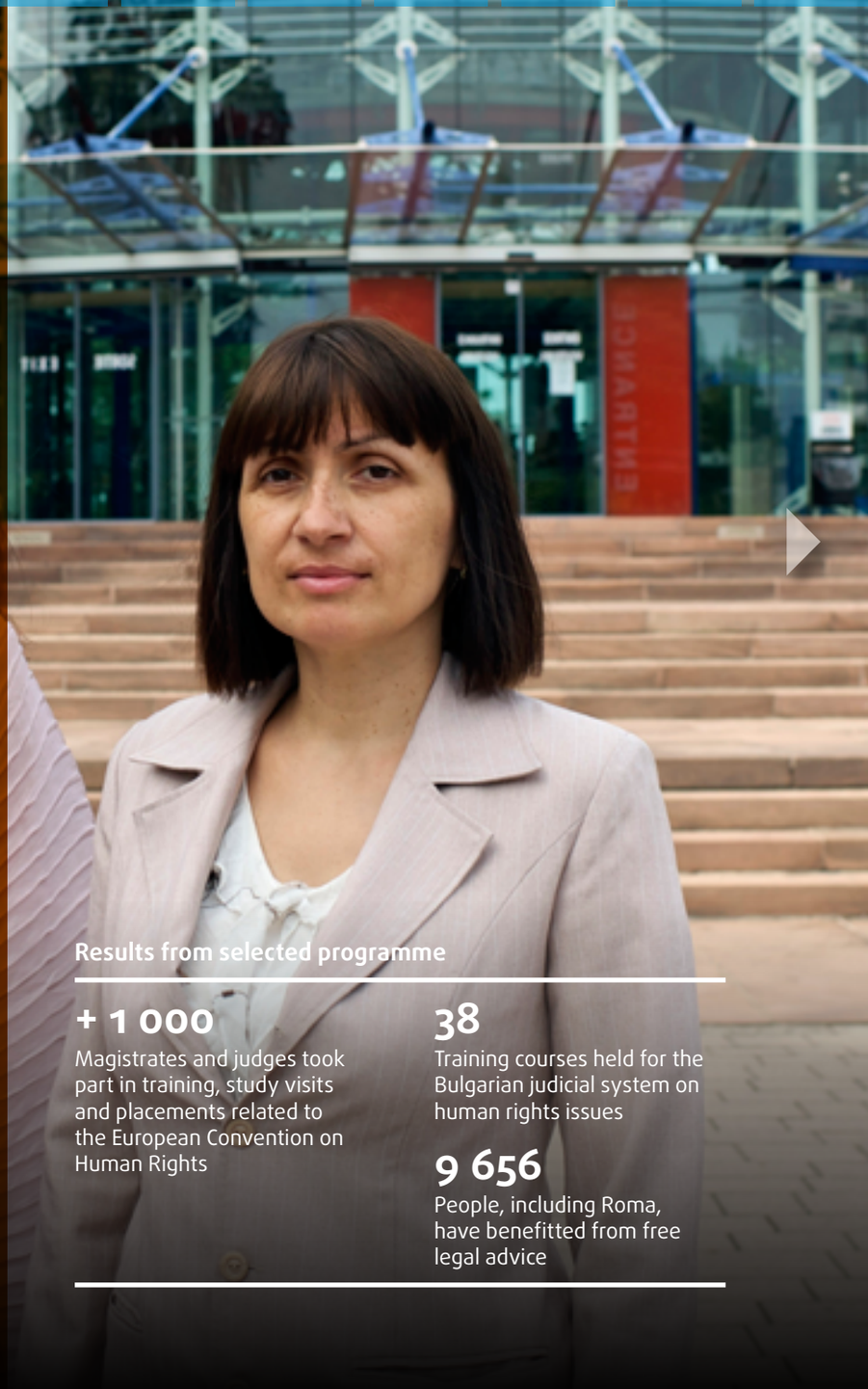
Council of Europe

Grant amount

€3.1 million

Programme link

bit.ly/203B9sX



Results from selected programme

+ 1 000
Magistrates and judges took part in training, study visits and placements related to the European Convention on Human Rights

38
Training courses held for the Bulgarian judicial system on human rights issues

9 656
People, including Roma, have benefitted from free legal advice

Croatia

Read more about programmes and projects in Croatia:
www.eeagrants.org/croatia

Total Funding	EEA Grants	Norway Grants
€ 9.6M	€ 5.0M	€ 4.6M

Programme overview

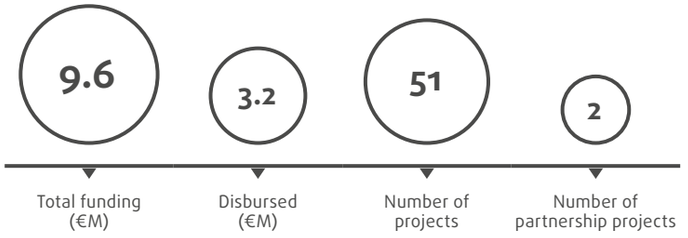
Programme	Partners	Grant (€ million)	
NGO Fund	–	1.3	● ●
Local and regional initiatives	–	3.41	●
Judicial capacity building	Council of Europe	3.65	●
Decent work and tripartite dialogue	Innovation Norway*	0.1	●

● Norway Grants ● EEA Grants *Programme Operator

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 March 2016

Country facts

	Croatia	EU-28
GDP per capita in PPS (EU=100)	59	100
Economic growth (% change on previous year)	-0.4	1.4
Unemployment rate (%)*	16.6	9.1
Youth unemployment rate (%)*	45.1	20.0
Public debt (% of GDP)	85.1	86.8
Gender pay gap (%)	10.4	16.1
At-risk-of-poverty rate (%)	29.3	24.4
Human development index (2014)	26	(EU-28 ranking)
Corruption perception index (2014)	24	(EU-28 ranking)

Sources: Eurostat/UNDP/Transparency International
All data is from 2014 except where * indicates 2015
See notes to tables in Annex 2

Improving social dialogue

> "The project has helped raise awareness of the importance of tripartite social dialogue at both regional and national level and the necessity of active social partners in developing public policy."

Dijana Šobota is responsible for international relations in the Union of Autonomous Trade Unions of Croatia. The union is a local partner in a decent work project run by the Ministry of Labour and Pension System.

The project is helping to stimulate dialogue and cooperation between social partners – workers, employers and the government – with the aim of promoting decent work. A labour market characterised by cooperation brings many benefits, helping in particular to establish trust and reduce conflict.

Through training and the development of a manual with practical guidelines on tripartite dialogue, social partners are now better equipped to work together to formulate and negotiate collective agreements and public policies. A cooperation group has been established to discuss issues of strategic relevance for improving social dialogue.

With its long experience of tripartite consultation, the Norwegian Confederation of Trade Unions has been involved in sharing its expertise and good practices.

This is one of 52 projects across 13 beneficiary countries financed under the €8.1 million Norway Grants decent work and tripartite dialogue programme. An independent review carried out in January 2016 found that the programme has made an important contribution to improving practices and social dialogue structure.



Programme operator

Innovation Norway

Grant amount

€100 000

Programme link

bit.ly/1LWlhFK

Results from selected programme

60
People participated in workshops or training courses

1
Study visit to Norway

1
New cooperation group/entity established

1
Guidance manual on social dialogue developed

Cyprus

Read more about programmes and projects in Cyprus:
www.eeagrants.org/cyprus

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

Programme overview

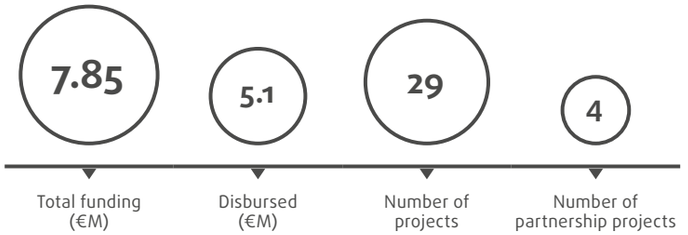
Programme	Partners	Grant (€ million)	
Biodiversity and ecosystem services	–	1.2	●
Civil society support	Council of Europe	0.7	●
NGO Fund	–	1.3	●
Children and youth at risk	–	0.4	●
Public health initiatives	–	1.2	●
Cultural and natural heritage	–	0.6	●
Decent work and tripartite dialogue	Innovation Norway*	0.04	●
Justice and home affairs	–	0.95	●
Domestic and gender-based violence	Norwegian Secretariat of the Shelter Movement	0.75	●

● Norway Grants ● EEA Grants *Programme Operator

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



All data extracted end March 2016

Country facts

	Cyprus	EU-28
GDP per capita in PPS (EU=100)	82	100
Economic growth (% change on previous year)	-2.5	1.4
Unemployment rate (%)*	15.8	9.1
Youth unemployment rate (%)*	32.6	20.0
Public debt (% of GDP)	108.2	86.8
Gender pay gap (%)	15.4	16.1
At-risk-of-poverty rate (%)	27.4	24.4
Human development index (2014)	18	(EU-28 ranking)
Corruption perception index (2014)	13	(EU-28 ranking)

Sources: Eurostat/UNDP/Transparency International
All data is from 2014 except where * indicates 2015
See notes to tables in Annex 2

Better support for victims of domestic violence

> The shelter capacity for victims of domestic violence in Cyprus is low and the operating costs of existing shelters are high. When SPAVO House opens in 2016, it will be the first purpose-built shelter in the country.

The shelter will accommodate up to 24 people in eight rooms, and provide service 24/7.

"There is a need for a shelter with more capacity. The new building will provide stability and a safe harbour for the women and their children," said Sotia Nicolaou at the Association for the Prevention and Handling of Violence in the Family (SPAVO).

The shelter will provide programmes and counselling to help victims find a path forward and start a new life. To date, 224 volunteers and professionals have received training in running the shelter. The Norwegian Secretariat of the Shelter Movement is a partner in the project and has shared its expertise and best practices.

SPAVO is one of five projects supported through the €3.5 million cross-sectorial Norway Grants programme strengthening civil society, improving health diagnostics and making the investigation of money-laundering more effective in Cyprus.



Programme operator

Directorate General for European Programmes, Coordination and Development

Donor programme partner

Secretariat of the Shelter Movement, Council of Europe

Grant amount

€3.5 million

Programme link

bit.ly/1R9vwc8

Results from selected programme

60
Volunteer staff received training

1
Purpose-built shelter built

164
Professional staff received training

Czech Republic

Read more about programmes and projects in Czech Republic:
www.eeagrants.org/czech-republic

Total Funding	EEA Grants	Norway Grants
€ 131.8M	**€ 61.4M**	**€ 70.4M**

Programme overview

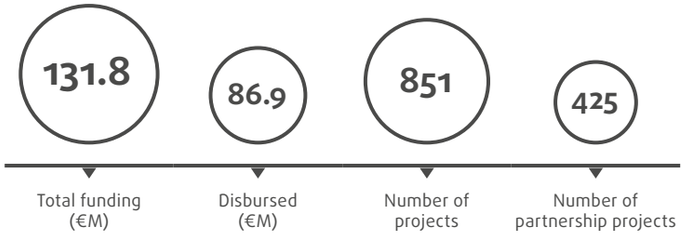
Programme	Partners	Grant (€ million)	
Environment and climate change	Norwegian Environment Agency	18.4	●
Carbon capture and storage	–	5.0	●
NGO Fund	–	11.4	●
Children and youth at risk	–	2.7	●
Local and regional initiatives to reduce inequalities and promote social inclusion	–	1.2	●
Capacity building and institutional cooperation	–	1.8	●
Public health initiatives	Norwegian Institute of Public Health	19.2	●
Gender equality and work-life balance	–	3.4	●
Cultural heritage and cultural diversity	Arts Council Norway	21.5	●
Scholarships	Icelandic Centre for Research, Agency for International Education Affairs (Liechtenstein), Norwegian Centre for International Cooperation in Education	3.8	● ●
Research cooperation	Research Council of Norway	14.5	●
Domestic and gender-based violence	–	4.2	●
Schengen and cross-border crime	–	6.3	●
Judicial capacity-building and correctional services	Council of Europe	4.9	●
Decent work and tripartite dialogue	Innovation Norway*	0.7	●

● Norway Grants ● EEA Grants *Programme Operator

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



All data extracted end March 2016

Country facts

	Czech Republic	EU-28
GDP per capita in PPS (EU=100)	85	100
Economic growth (% change on previous year)	2.0	1.4
Unemployment rate (%)*	4.6	9.1
Youth unemployment rate (%)*	11.4	20.0
Public debt (% of GDP)	42.7	86.8
Gender pay gap (%)	22.1	16.1
At-risk-of-poverty rate (%)	14.8	24.4
Human development index (2014)	15	(EU-28 ranking)
Corruption perception index (2014)	22	(EU-28 ranking)

Sources: Eurostat/UNDP/Transparency International
All data is from 2014 except where * indicates 2015
See notes to tables in Annex 2

Bringing contemporary culture to a broader audience

> "This has been a unique experience. The cooperation has been mutually rewarding. We've challenged each other's artistic perceptions and learned from each other's cultures."

Morten Walderhaug is Artistic Director of Baerum Kulturhus, a performing art centre close to Oslo. The Centre has been collaborating with a renowned dance company in the Czech Republic (Spitfire Compani) since 2014. The result is a highly acclaimed co-production of a new dance performance called 'Sniper's Lake'.

The dance centres on the realities facing refugees, using the power of movement to express their escape, fears and hope. The cast includes three Czech and two Norwegian dancers. It premiered in Oslo in March 2015 and Prague in April. Further performances have been held in Oslo and Prague.

Refugee communities in both countries have been closely involved in the development of the show. They were invited to recount their stories and have also come to see the performances.

"When we started collaborating, we had no idea that the refugee issue would become so topical. While it is sad that it has, we are happy that we have been able to use our creative expression to tell their stories on stage. It has been very powerful and very moving," said Walderhaug.

The success continues, with the collaboration opening other doors. Spitfire is now cooperating with other venues in Norway. New performances are planned to enable more people to be able to see the dance.

'Sniper's Lake' is one of 58 projects financed under the culture programme which aims at making culture more accessible to wider audiences.

Programme operator

Ministry of Finance of the Czech Republic

Grant amount

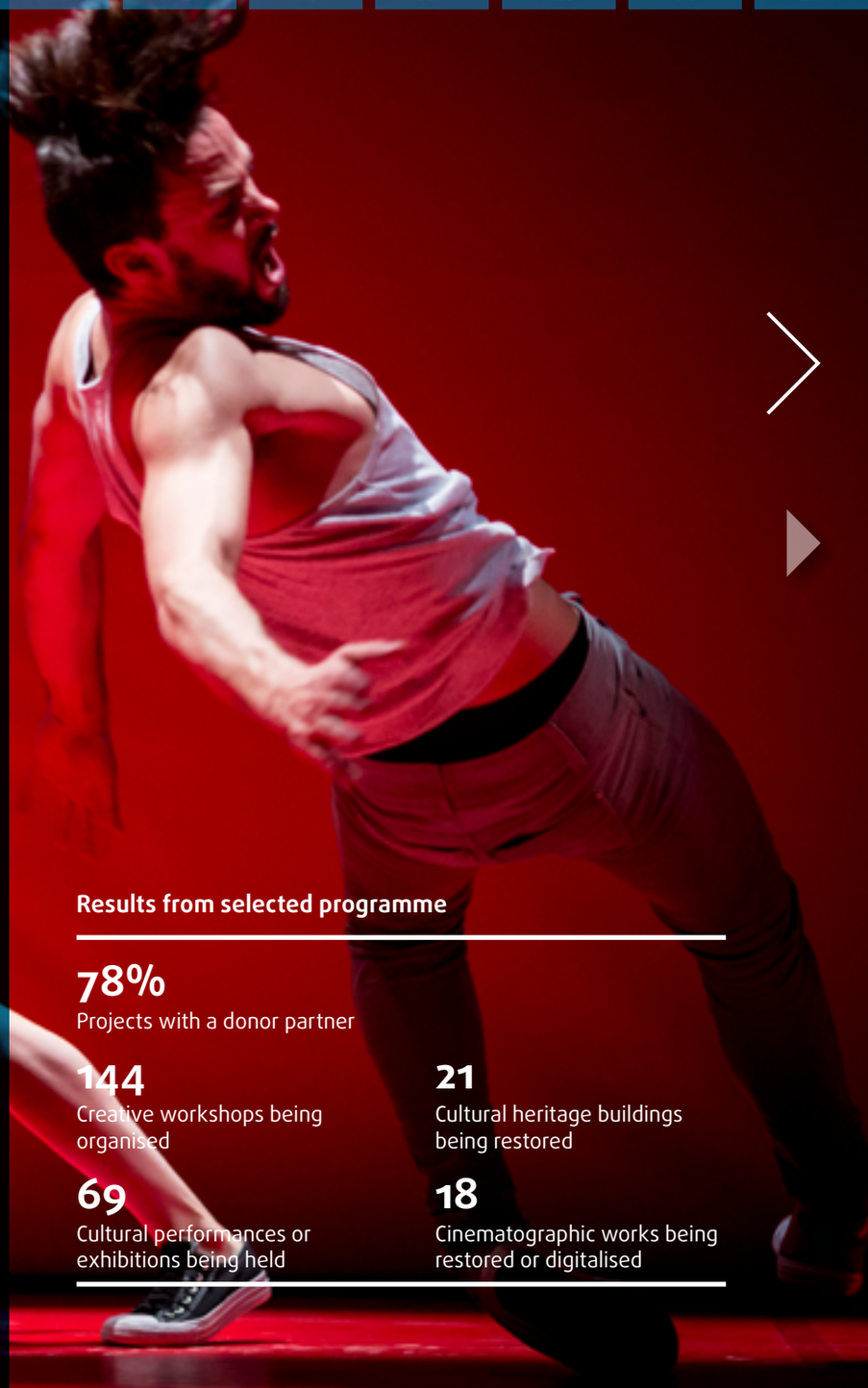
€21.5 million

Donor programme partner

Arts Council Norway

Programme link

bit.ly/1UsLSxc



Results from selected programme

78%
Projects with a donor partner

144
Creative workshops being organised

21
Cultural heritage buildings being restored

69
Cultural performances or exhibitions being held

18
Cinematographic works being restored or digitalised

Bringing contemporary culture to a broader audience

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The dance centres on the realities facing refugees, using the power of movement to express their escape, fears and hope. The cast includes three Czech and two Norwegian dancers. It premiered in Oslo in March 2015 and Prague in April. Further performances have been held in Oslo and Prague.

Refugee communities in both countries have been closely involved in the development of the show. They were invited to recount their stories and have also come to see the performances.

"When we started collaborating, we had no idea that the refugee issue would become so topical. While it is sad that it has, we are happy that we have been able to use our creative expression to tell their stories on stage. It has been very powerful and very moving," said Walderhaug.

The success continues, with the collaboration opening other doors. Spitfire is now cooperating with other venues in Norway. New performances are planned to enable more people to be able to see the dance.

'Sniper's Lake' is one of 58 projects financed under the culture programme which aims at making culture more accessible to wider audiences.

Programme operator

Ministry of Finance of the Czech Republic

Grant amount

€21.5 million

Donor programme partner

Arts Council Norway

Programme link

bit.ly/1UsLSxc

Results from selected programme

78%
Projects with a donor partner

144
Creative workshops being organised

21
Cultural heritage buildings being restored

69
Cultural performances or exhibitions being held

18
Cinematographic works being restored or digitalised

Estonia

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

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

Programme overview

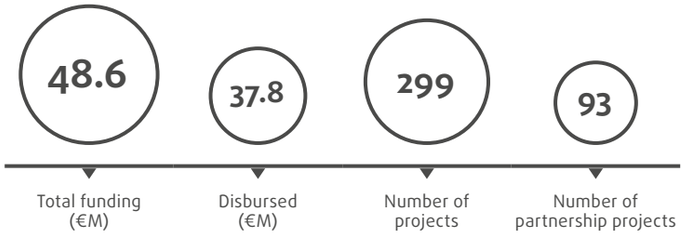
Programme	Partners	Grant (€ million)	
Integrated marine and inland water management	Norwegian Environment Agency	6.9	●
Green industry innovation	Innovation Norway	6.0	●
NGO Fund	–	2.3	●
Children and youth at risk	Norwegian Association of Local and Regional Authorities	6.5	●
Public health initiatives	Norwegian Institute of Public Health	8.9	●
Gender equality and work-life balance	Norwegian Directorate for Children, Youth and Family Affairs	2.0	●
Cultural heritage and contemporary arts	Norwegian Directorate of Cultural Heritage	4.5	●
Scholarships	Icelandic Centre for Research, Agency for International Education Affairs (Liechtenstein), Norwegian Centre for International Cooperation in Education	1.6	● ●
Norwegian-Estonian research cooperation	Research Council Norway	3.0	●
Decent work and tripartite dialogue	Innovation Norway*	0.3	●
Domestic and gender-based violence	Norwegian Directorate of Health	2.0	●

● Norway Grants ● EEA Grants *Programme Operator

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



All data extracted end March 2016

Country facts

	Estonia	EU-28
GDP per capita in PPS (EU=100)	76	100
Economic growth (% change on previous year)	2.9	1.4
Unemployment rate (%)*	6.3	9.1
Youth unemployment rate (%)*	15.4	20.0
Public debt (% of GDP)	10.4	86.8
Gender pay gap (%)	28.3	16.1
At-risk-of-poverty rate (%)	23.5	24.4
Human development index (2014)	17	(EU-28 ranking)
Corruption perception index (2014)	11	(EU-28 ranking)

Sources: Eurostat/UNDP/Transparency International
All data is from 2014 except where * indicates 2015
See notes to tables in Annex 2

Increased competitiveness of green enterprises

> Skeleton Technologies (ST) is the only manufacturer of a revolutionary technology which reduces fuel and battery consumptions in trucks.

"We are a leading company in the business and we aim to help customers to reduce CO_2 emissions and energy loss. This would not be possible without the intelligent module technology developed during the project," says Chief Operating Officer, Oliver Ahlberg.

The financial support made it possible to hire a world class team to develop a new generation of IT solutions.

During the project ST has developed two different types of technology: an engine starting module (ESM) for trucks and other vehicles and a 160V module to store braking energy to use for later acceleration.

Both of the modules developed save energy. The 160V module can reduce the fuel consumption of trucks by up to 25%. The ESM reduces fuel consumption and extends the lifetime of batteries as well as lowering their consumption.

In 2015 Skeleton Technologies won the Swedish Business Awards and was named as one of the top 100 cleantech companies in the world by the Cleantech Group.

The project is one of 15 large projects in a €6 million programme financed by Norway to increase the competitiveness of green enterprises, including the greening of existing industries, green innovation and green entrepreneurship.



Programme operator

Ministry of Economic Affairs and Communications and Enterprise

Grant amount

€6 million

Donor programme partner

Innovation Norway

Programme link

bit.ly/1pBkhNv

Results from selected programme

39
Processes and smart solutions with IT developed and improved

2
New environmental technologies successfully developed

3
New environmental technologies successfully commercialised

11
Projects with a Norwegian partner

Greece

EEA Grants

€ 63.4M

Read more about programmes and projects in Greece:
www.eeagrants.org/greece

Programme overview

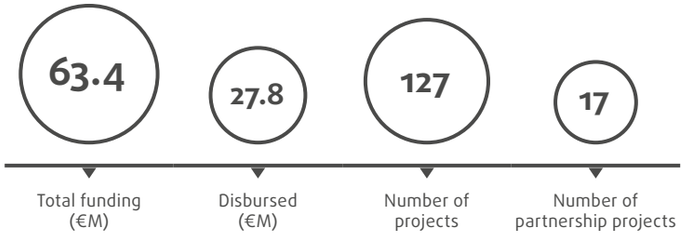
Programme	Partners	Grant (€ million)	
Integrated marine and inland water management	–	6.5	●
Renewable energy	–	9.5	●
NGO Fund	–	7.3	●
Asylum and migration	Norwegian Directorate of Immigration	24.2	●
Solidarity and social inclusion	–	4.3	●
Research	–	3.0	●

● EEA Grants

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



All data extracted end March 2016

Country facts

	Greece	EU-28
GDP per capita in PPS (EU=100)	73	100
Economic growth (% change on previous year)	0.7	1.4
Unemployment rate (%)*	24.6	9.1
Youth unemployment rate (%)*	49.5	20.0
Public debt (% of GDP)	178.6	86.8
Gender pay gap (%)**	15.0	16.1
At-risk-of-poverty rate (%)	36.0	24.4
Human development index (2014)	16	(EU-28 ranking)
Corruption perception index (2014)	26	(EU-28 ranking)

Sources: Eurostat/UNDP/Transparency International
All data is from 2014 except where * indicates 2015 and ** 2010. See notes to tables in Annex 2

Strengthening capacity of NGOs to defend human rights

> "Most of the cases we deal with are about discrimination towards ethnic minorities in the workplace. We often see migrants being unpaid."

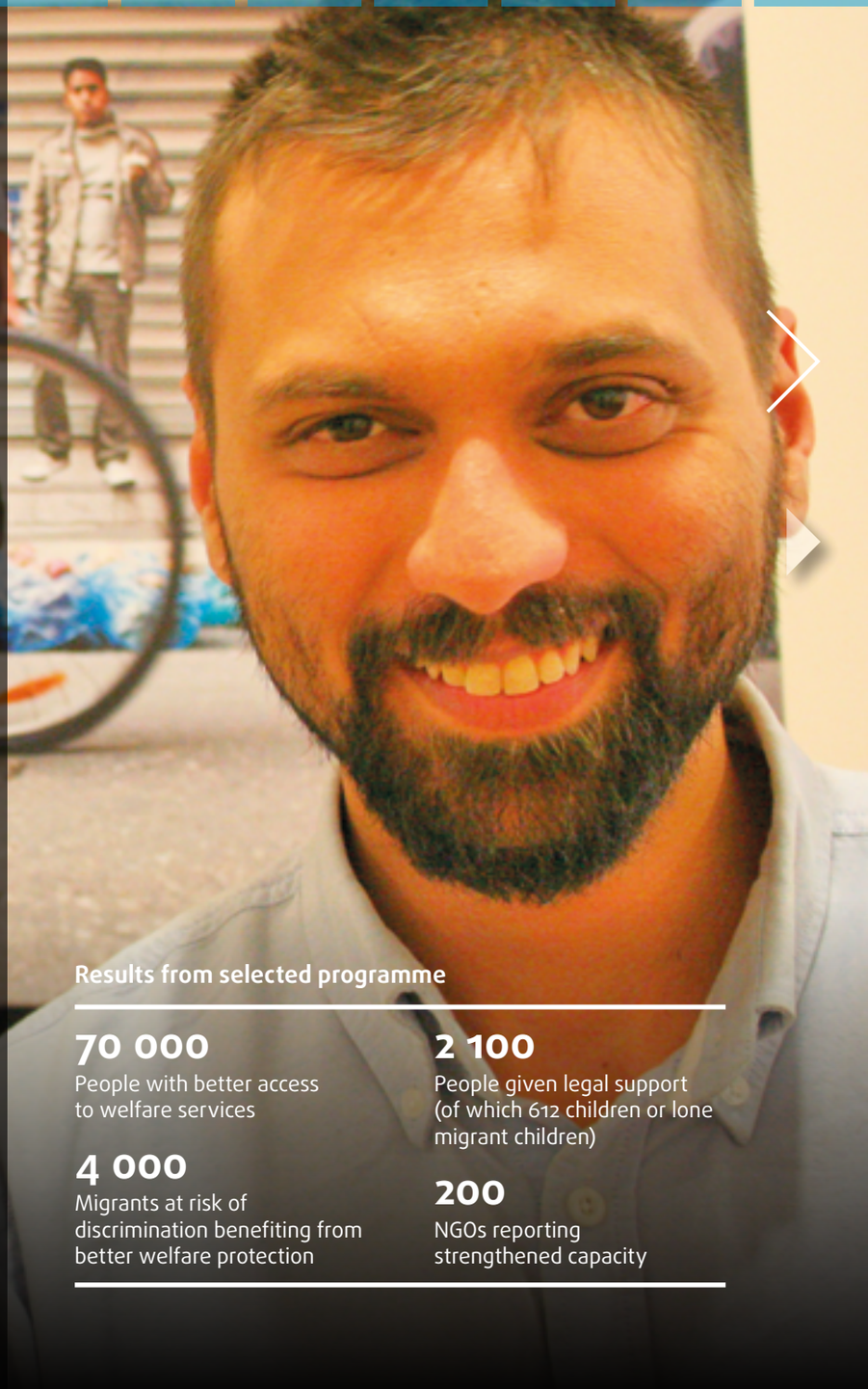
Stathis Mandalakis (pictured) works for the NGO PRAKSIS which provides social and medical support for vulnerable groups, including victims of discrimination, and advocates on their behalf. The majority of migrants who seek help have been in Greece for several years and are either officially recognised as refugees or asylum seekers, or have a residence permit.

"But what they lack," explains Mandalakis, "is access to information on their rights."

According to PRAKSIS, discrimination against people from ethnic minorities is on the rise. One victim is Kwame, 46, from Ghana. He worked at a restaurant in downtown Athens until his employer stopped paying his wages, while continuing to pay all the Greek staff. PRAKSIS took on the case, pressurising his employer to come to an agreement with the Labour Inspection Agency to pay him his wages owed.

The project has so far dealt with 421 cases from 418 people. Over 65% of the reported incidents relate to employment discrimination. All of the data from the cases investigated by PRAKSIS and from a helpline run by partner NGO CIVIS PLUS is compiled and used for advocacy purposes. One major success has been the adoption of new law in Greece which gives asylum seekers the right to work. Previously asylum applicants were not allowed to take employment pending a decision on their claim.

'REACT' is one of 76 projects funded under the NGO programme aiming at strengthening civil society in Greece and enhancing the contribution of NGOs to social justice, democracy and sustainable development.



Fund operator

Bodossaki Foundation

Grant amount

€7.3 million

Programme link

bit.ly/1QMtZXv

Results from selected programme

70 000
People with better access to welfare services

2 100
People given legal support (of which 612 children or lone migrant children)

4 000
Migrants at risk of discrimination benefiting from better welfare protection

200
NGOs reporting strengthened capacity

Strengthening capacity of NGOs to defend human rights

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Fund operator

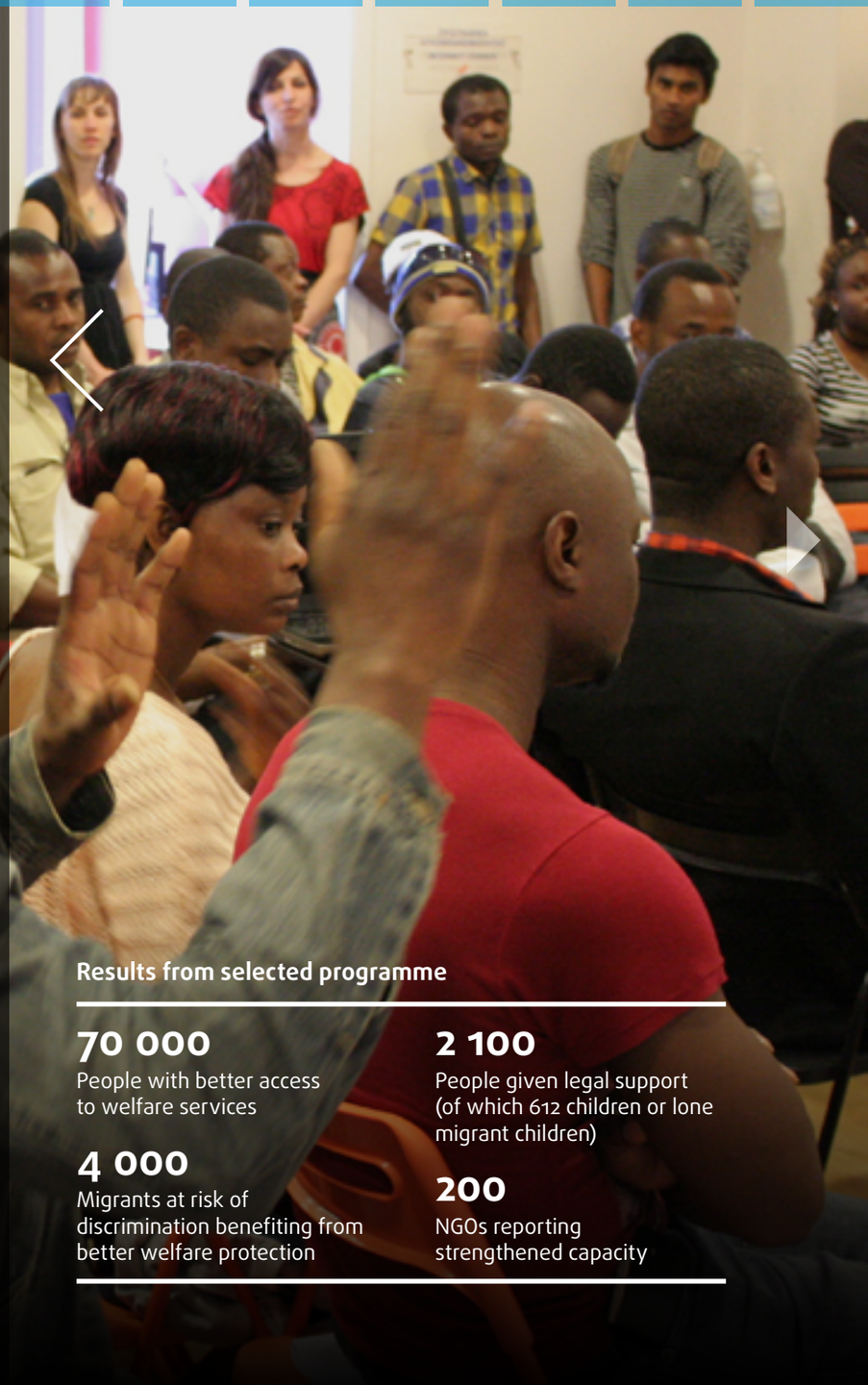
Bodossaki Foundation

Grant amount

€7.3 million

Programme link

bit.ly/1QMtZXv



Results from selected programme

70 000
People with better access to welfare services

2 100
People given legal support (of which 612 children or lone migrant children)

4 000
Migrants at risk of discrimination benefiting from better welfare protection

200
NGOs reporting strengthened capacity

Hungary

Read more about programmes and projects in Hungary:
www.eeagrants.org/hungary

Total Funding	EEA Grants	Norway Grants
€ 153.3M	€ 70.1M	€ 83.2M

Programme overview

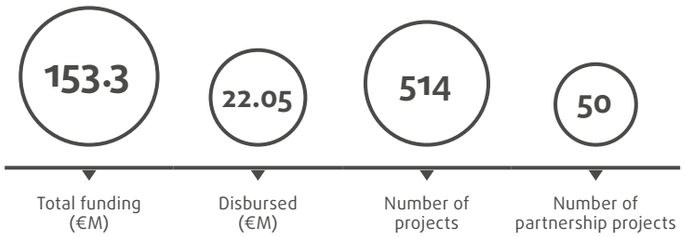
Programme	Partners	Grant (€ million)	
Green industry innovation	Innovation Norway	22.9	●
Energy efficiency	–	8.4	●
Renewable energy	National Energy Authority (Iceland)	7.7	●
Adaptation to climate change	Norwegian Directorate for Civil Protection	7.0	●
NGO Fund	–	13.5	●
Children and youth at risk	Council of Europe	11.2	●
Capacity building and institutional cooperation	Norwegian Association of Local and Regional Authorities	10.8	●
Public health initiatives	Norwegian Institute of Public Health	16.6	●
Cultural and natural heritage	Norwegian Directorate of Cultural Heritage	12.6	●
Bilateral research cooperation	Research Council of Norway	24.1	●
Scholarships	Icelandic Centre for Research, Agency for International Education Affairs (Liechtenstein), Norwegian Centre for International Cooperation in Education	3.0	●
Decent work and tripartite dialogue	Innovation Norway*	0.8	●

● Norway Grants ● EEA Grants *Programme Operator

Priority areas of support

- Strengthening civil society
- Increasing competitiveness of green enterprises
- Adapting to climate change

Implementation status



All data extracted end March 2016

Country facts

	Hungary	EU-28
GDP per capita in PPS (EU=100)	68	100
Economic growth (% change on previous year)	3.7	1.4
Unemployment rate (%)*	6.4	9.1
Youth unemployment rate (%)*	15.0	20.0
Public debt (% of GDP)	76.2	86.8
Gender pay gap (%)	15.1	16.1
At-risk-of-poverty rate (%)	31.1	24.4
Human development index (2014)	24	(EU-28 ranking)
Corruption perception index (2014)	20	(EU-28 ranking)

Sources: Eurostat/UNDP/Transparency International
All data is from 2014 except where * indicates 2015
See notes to tables in Annex 2

Strengthening civil society

> The project 'Glassvillage' has increased the knowledge and awareness of NGOs, citizens, and local elected representatives of their rights to access and publish public information.

"Our study shows that many Hungarian municipalities publish only some of the public documents that they are required by law to make available to their citizens. We wanted to help local governments to be more transparent," said Csaba Madarász from the eDemocracy Workshop Society.

As a result of the project, a network has been established of more than ten municipalities and local stakeholders that are committed to improve transparency.

In addition to organising training courses for 75 NGOs and citizens across the country enabling them to put pressure on local municipalities to increase their transparency, the project has also worked with the local government in Pázmánd. A portal for facilitating the publication and accessibility of public documents has been developed. This provides an example of how to improve transparency for other municipalities.

The mayor of Pázmánd, Mónika Reichenbach, is convinced that the project has contributed to boosting a higher level of transparency and generating a greater degree of trust from citizens.

The project has also drawn on experiences from two Norwegian partners – Buskerud and Vestfold University College and the company Tingtun - on how e-transparency is built up in Norway.

The project is one of close to 450 projects funded under our NGO programme in Hungary. The programme contributes to developing and strengthening civil society in Hungary, and improving the capability of NGOs in addressing citizen's needs and democratic concerns.

Fund operator

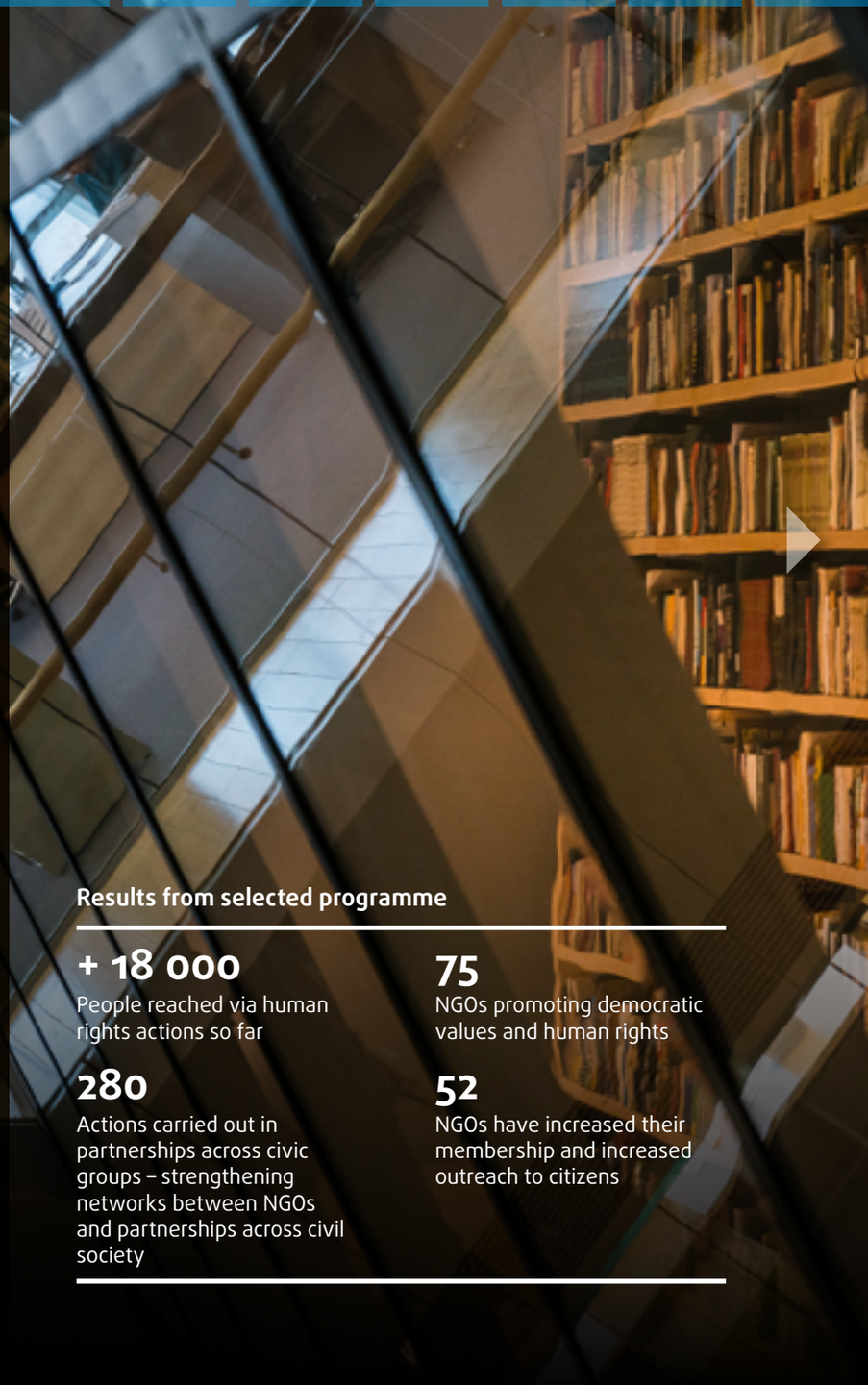
Hungarian Environmental Partnership Foundation (Ökotárs Alapítvány)

Grant amount

€13.5 million

Programme link

bit.ly/1UHTzzL



Results from selected programme

+ 18 000
People reached via human rights actions so far

75
NGOs promoting democratic values and human rights

280
Actions carried out in partnerships across civic groups – strengthening networks between NGOs and partnerships across civil society

52
NGOs have increased their membership and increased outreach to citizens

Latvia

Read more about programmes and projects in Latvia:
www.eeagrants.org/latvia

Total Funding	EEA Grants	Norway Grants
€73.0M	€34.6M	€38.4M

Programme overview

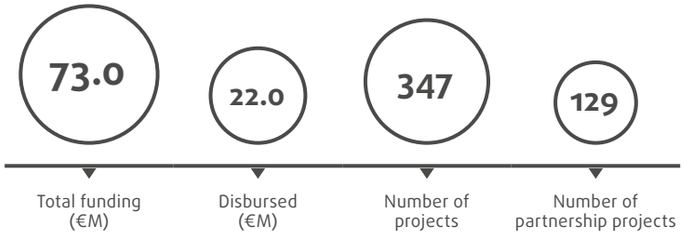
Programme	Partners	Grant (€ million)	
Green industry innovation	Innovation Norway	11.3	●
Adaption to climate change	Norwegian Environment Agency, Norwegian Directorate for Civil Protection	10.4	●
NGO Fund	–	10.4	●
Capacity building and institutional cooperation	Norwegian Association of Local and Regional Authorities	5.0	●
Cultural heritage and contemporary arts	Norwegian Directorate for Cultural Heritage, Arts Council Norway	10.0	●
Research and Scholarships	Research Council of Norway, Norwegian Centre for International Cooperation in Education	5.5	● ●
Decent work and tripartite dialogue	Innovation Norway*	0.4	●
Correctional services	Directorate of Norwegian Correctional Service	13.1	●

● Norway Grants ● EEA Grants *Programme Operator

Priority areas of support

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

Implementation status



All data extracted end March 2016

Country facts

	Latvia	EU-28
GDP per capita in PPS (EU=100)	64	100
Economic growth (% change on previous year)	2.4	1.4
Unemployment rate (%)*	10.0	9.1
Youth unemployment rate (%)*	18.0	20.0
Public debt (% of GDP)	40.6	86.8
Gender pay gap (%)	15.2	16.1
At-risk-of-poverty rate (%)	32.7	24.4
Human development index (2014)	25	(EU-28 ranking)
Corruption perception index (2014)	21	(EU-28 ranking)

Sources: Eurostat/UNDP/Transparency International
All data is from 2014 except where * indicates 2015
See notes to tables in Annex 2

Modernised governance for local authorities

> Latvian municipalities deliver many services to the public but they have tight budgetary constraints. Norway has developed a 'smart' governance approach which is being used as a model in Latvia.

The public wants better quality services and less bureaucracy. Latvia has committed itself to the creation of a public administration that is not only efficient and responsive to change, but which also encourages public involvement and listens to the concerns of local businesses.

"Local governments are the main providers of front line services to the citizens. This project stimulates local government to take more initiative, improve their work and achieve a more efficient use of resources," explains Andris Jaunsleinis, Chairman of the Latvian Association of Local and Regional Governments.

A system that measures the performance of local government in terms of cost and quality of services is supported through a database. This has two main aims: to compare local authority performance and to share innovative ideas and methods. The information will help local authorities objectively to assess whether they are improving.

The project also involves training for local government employees and politicians. "It is very important for us to meet politicians and staff from Norwegian municipalities. The Norway Grants are providing the possibility to exchange knowledge and learn from the Norwegian experiences," Jaunsleinis says.

"We see a high level of motivation from our Latvian partners," says Elita Cakule, Head of International Projects Department at Norwegian Association of Local and Regional Authorities (KS).

Programme operator

Ministry of the Environmental Protection and Regional Development

Donor programme partner

Norwegian Association of Local and Regional Authorities

Grant amount

€5.0 million

Programme link

bit.ly/1MZaczo



Results from selected programme

1
Database for local service performance under development

36
Exchange events between Latvia and Norway

4
Networks established

42
Planning documents drafted or updated

Lithuania

Read more about programmes and projects in Lithuania:
www.eeagrants.org/lithuania

Total Funding	EEA Grants	Norway Grants
€84.0M	€38.4M	€45.6M

Programme overview

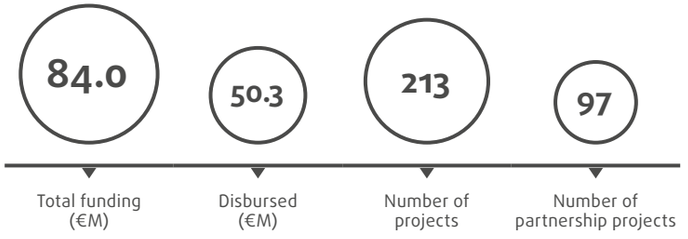
Programme	Partners	Grant (€ million)	
Integrated marine and inland water management	Norwegian Environment Agency	4.7	●
Biodiversity and ecosystem services	Norwegian Environment Agency	6.8	●
Green industry innovation	Innovation Norway	8.0	●
NGO Fund	–	5.5	●
Children and youth at risk	–	6.3	●
Public health initiatives	–	6.0	●
Capacity building and institutional cooperation	Norwegian Association of Local and Regional Authorities, Norwegian Environment Agency, Norwegian Police Directorate	8.0	●
Cultural heritage and natural heritage	Norwegian Directorate of Cultural Heritage	9.0	●
Diversity in culture and arts	Arts Council Norway	1.0	●
Scholarships	Norwegian Centre for International Cooperation in Education	1.4	●
Decent work and tripartite dialogue	Innovation Norway*	0.5	●
Schengen cooperation and cross-border crime	–	3.4	●
Correctional services	Directorate of Norwegian Correctional Service	7.7	●
Judicial capacity building	Norwegian Courts Administration	7.7	●

● Norway Grants ● EEA Grants *Programme Operator

Priority areas of support

- Modernising the public sector through 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



All data extracted end March 2016

Country facts

	Lithuania	EU-28
GDP per capita in PPS (EU=100)	75	100
Economic growth (% change on previous year)	3.0	1.4
Unemployment rate (%)*	8.4	9.1
Youth unemployment rate (%)*	14.9	20.0
Public debt (% of GDP)	40.7	86.8
Gender pay gap (%)	14.8	16.1
At-risk-of-poverty rate (%)	27.3	24.4
Human development index (2014)	21	(EU-28 ranking)
Corruption perception index (2014)	17	(EU-28 ranking)

Sources: Eurostat/UNDP/Transparency International
All data is from 2014 except where * indicates 2015
See notes to tables in Annex 2

Maintaining biodiversity

> In Lithuania wind power plants (WPP) are fast becoming a meaningful source of energy. Despite their attractiveness because of their low carbon emissions, WPP have some direct negative impacts on biodiversity.

We support a project that aims to identify potential conflict zones between the development of wind power and the protection of biodiversity. Usually three types of direct impact from WPP are distinguished: displacement, when wintering or resting birds' sites are occupied; collision, when migratory or soaring birds are killed or injured by blades and turbines; and decompression, when rapid air-pressure reduction in the vicinity of rotating blades causes blood vessels in the lungs of bats to burst.

The project will produce an elaborate Wind Power Conflict Zoning (WPCZ) tool by September 2016. The WPCZ tool will assist spatial planning specialists, wind power plant developers and environmental impact evaluators to find the best location for the wind power plants. This will result in better protection of biodiversity, lower costs of wind power plant development and simpler processes to assess environmental impact.

It is expected that the density of WPP in Lithuania will continue to grow. That will most likely mean that the conflict between wind energy sector development and biodiversity protection will also grow. The identification of potential conflict zones and recommendations to minimise conflict intensity are important steps towards balancing biodiversity protection and wind energy development goals.

"We are identifying conflict areas and will provide recommendations on how to build wind power plants with minimum impact on biodiversity," said Liutauras Stoškus, project coordinator from the Centre for Sustainable Development.

Programme operator

Ministry of Environment

Donor programme partner

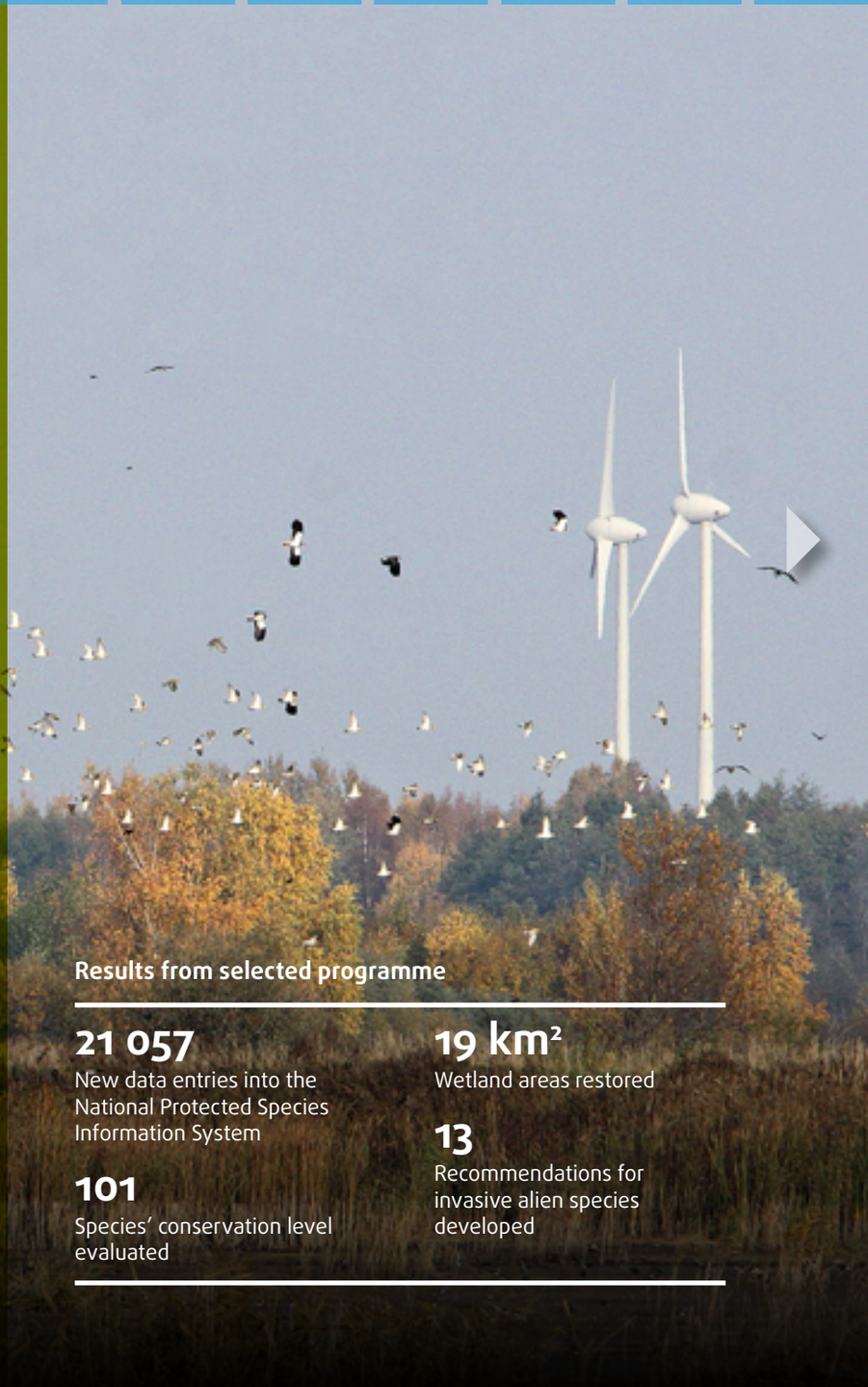
Norwegian Environment Agency (NEA)

Grant amount

€6.8 million

Programme link

bit.ly/1RBNnDG



Results from selected programme

21 057
New data entries into the National Protected Species Information System

101
Species' conservation level evaluated

19 km²
Wetland areas restored

13
Recommendations for invasive alien species developed

Malta

Read more about programmes and projects in Malta:
www.eeagrants.org/malta

Total Funding	EEA Grants	Norway Grants
€ 4.5M	€ 2.9M	€ 1.6M

Programme overview

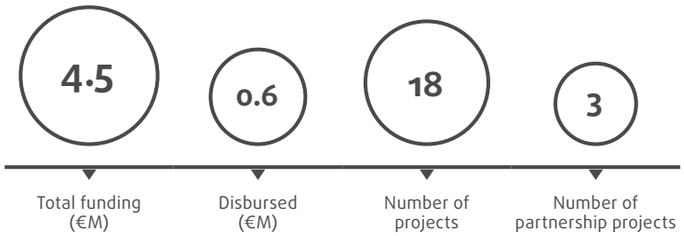
Programme	Partners	Grant (€ million)	
Correctional services	Directorate of Norwegian Correctional Service	1.1	●
Integrated marine and inland water management	–	0.9	●
Adaptation to climate change	Norwegian Coastal Administration	0.5	●
NGO Fund	–	0.5	●
Capacity building and institutional cooperation	Norwegian Association of Local and Regional Authorities, Council of Europe	0.3	●
Decent work and tripartite dialogue	Innovation Norway*	0.02	●
Cultural and natural heritage	–	0.8	●

● Norway Grants ● EEA Grants *Programme Operator

Priority areas of support

- Strengthening oil spill prevention and response
- Restoration of cultural heritage
- Improving correctional services for young offenders
- Strengthening civil society

Implementation status



All data extracted end March 2016

Country facts

	Malta	EU-28
GDP per capita in PPS (EU=100)	84	100
Economic growth (% change on previous year)	3.7	1.4
Unemployment rate (%)*	5.1	9.1
Youth unemployment rate (%)*	12.7	20.0
Public debt (% of GDP)	68.3	86.8
Gender pay gap (%)	4.5	16.1
At-risk-of-poverty rate (%)	23.8	24.4
Human development index (2014)	22	(EU-28 ranking)
Corruption perception index (2014)	19	(EU-28 ranking)

Sources: Eurostat/UNDP/Transparency International
All data is from 2014 except where * indicates 2015
See notes to tables in Annex 2

Preserving world heritage

> "The project will ensure long-term preservation and protection of the site and continued access for the public in the years to come."
>
> *Maria Elena Zammit, project leader from Heritage Malta*

As one of Malta's three UNESCO World Heritage Sites, the Hypogeum of Ħal Saflieni attracts around 26 000 visitors each year. Owing to the delicate microclimate of the site, the maximum number of visitors to the Hypogeum is limited to 80 per day. Building on lessons learned from a mapping project funded under the EEA and Norway Grants 2004-2009, the site has now received a new environmental control system.

The Hypogeum is vulnerable to seasonal variations in temperature. Even the level of carbon dioxide exhaled by tourists may contribute to erosion of the complex, therefore the new control system is vital to stabilise the climatic conditions within the underground limestone site.

The project is one of three under the €2.1 million cross-sectorial EEA Grants programme in Malta. The projects are improving environmental monitoring of marine waters, reducing human and ecosystem vulnerability to climate change and preserving the cultural and natural heritage in Malta.

Programme operator

Ministry for European Affairs and Implementation of the Electoral Manifesto

Grant amount

€2.1 million

Programme link

bit.ly/1RLxY3D

Results from selected programme

1
Cultural heritage site in process of restoration

4
Studies carried out assessing the condition of the site in terms of conservation, geology and biology

1
New environmental management system installed

Preserving world heritage

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>
> *Maria Elena Zammit, project leader from Heritage Malta*

As one of Malta's three UNESCO World Heritage Sites, the Hypogeum of Ħal Saflieni attracts around 26 000 visitors each year. Owing to the delicate microclimate of the site, the maximum number of visitors to the Hypogeum is limited to 80 per day. Building on lessons learned from a mapping project funded under the EEA and Norway Grants 2004-2009, the site has now received a new environmental control system.

The Hypogeum is vulnerable to seasonal variations in temperature. Even the level of carbon dioxide exhaled by tourists may contribute to erosion of the complex, therefore the new control system is vital to stabilise the climatic conditions within the underground limestone site.

The project is one of three under the €2.1 million cross-sectorial EEA Grants programme in Malta. The projects are improving environmental monitoring of marine waters, reducing human and ecosystem vulnerability to climate change and preserving the cultural and natural heritage in Malta.

Programme operator

Ministry for European Affairs and Implementation of the Electoral Manifesto

Grant amount

€2.1 million

Programme link

bit.ly/1RLxY3D

Results from selected programme

1
Cultural heritage site in process of restoration

4
Studies carried out assessing the condition of the site in terms of conservation, geology and biology

1
New environmental management system installed

Poland

Read more about programmes and projects in Poland:
www.eeagrants.org/poland

Total Funding	EEA Grants	Norway Grants
€578.1M	€266.9M	€311.2M

Programme overview

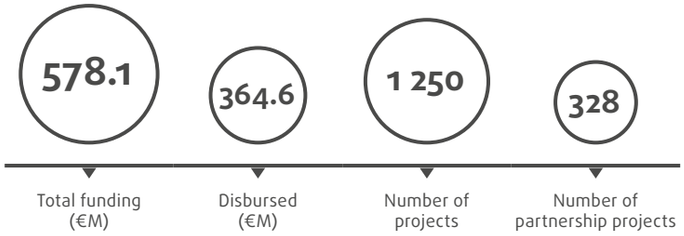
Programme	Partners	Grant (€ million)	
Green industry innovation	Innovation Norway*	20.0	●
Biodiversity and ecosystem services	–	21.1	●
Environmental monitoring and integrated planning and control	Norwegian Environment Agency	15.0	●
Energy efficiency and renewable energy	–	144.2	● ●
NGO Fund	–	37.0	●
Local and regional initiatives	–	9.8	●
Public health initiatives	Norwegian Directorate of Health	76.0	● ●
Cultural and natural heritage	–	70.2	● ●
Diversity in culture and arts	Arts Council Norway	11.0	●
Scholarships	Icelandic Centre for Research, Agency for International Education Affairs (Liechtenstein), Norwegian Centre for International Cooperation in Education	15.0	● ●
Research cooperation	Research Council of Norway	63.2	●
Decent work and tripartite dialogue	Innovation Norway*	3.1	●
Schengen and cross-border crime	–	10.0	●
Correctional services	Directorate of Norwegian Correctional Service	13.0	●
Judicial capacity-building	Norwegian Courts Administration	14.0	●
Domestic and gender-based violence	–	3.6	●

● Norway Grants ● EEA Grants *Programme Operator

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



All data extracted end March 2016

Country facts

	Poland	EU-28
GDP per capita in PPS (EU=100)	68	100
Economic growth (% change on previous year)	3.3	1.4
Unemployment rate (%)*	7.2	9.1
Youth unemployment rate (%)*	20.5	20.0
Public debt (% of GDP)	50.4	86.8
Gender pay gap (%)	7.7	16.1
At-risk-of-poverty rate (%)	24.7	24.4
Human development index (2014)	20	(EU-28 ranking)
Corruption perception index (2014)	15	(EU-28 ranking)

Sources: Eurostat/UNDP/Transparency International
All data is from 2014 except where * indicates 2015
See notes to tables in Annex 2

Increasing access to culture

> More than 3 million people have benefitted from the Jewish cultural heritage project at POLIN, the Museum of the History of Polish Jews in Warsaw. The project was developed in close cooperation between Polish and Norwegian cultural players.

The goal of the project is to promote tolerance in today's multicultural society. It is aimed at school children, teachers and educators. So far, 440 000 school children have taken part in educational activities in and outside the Museum or online. Forty-three towns have been visited by the touring exhibition (Museum on Wheels).

The Jewish cultural heritage project is run in cooperation with several Norwegian institutions: The Center for Studies of the Holocaust and Religious Minorities (HL Centre), European Wergeland Center, Falstad Center and the Jewish museums of Oslo and Trondheim.

"Poland has a unique position in Europe in terms of Jewish history and it is an important task to carry out research on this topic and to communicate this part of history to a broad audience," said Vibeke Moe, Project Coordinator and Researcher at the HL Centre.

POLIN Museum of the History of Polish Jews received the prestigious European Museum of the Year Award (EMYA) 2016. In its decision, the jury highlighted, among other things, the Museum's outstanding educational and outreach programmes that has received support from Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway.

This is one of 24 projects funded through the cultural heritage programme supporting the restoration and conservation of Poland's diverse cultural heritage and increasing access to culture.

Programme operator

Ministry of Culture and National Heritage

Grant amount

€70 million

Programme link

bit.ly/25msR3i

Results from selected programme

21
Cultural heritage buildings restored

19
Projects documenting cultural history making heritage accessible via digital technology

50%
Projects with a donor partner

Strengthening cooperation between Polish and Norwegian researchers

Polish and Norwegian researchers have joined forces to develop a better understanding of the implications of ocean warming.

The Arctic is among the regions most affected by climate change. With retreating ice caps, melting sea ice and increased ocean acidification, there is a great need for increased knowledge on the impact these changes are having on the Arctic ecosystem.

The POLNOR project is taking a step towards filling this knowledge gap. This is a cooperation project between the Institute of Oceanology in Sopot, Poland and the Norwegian Institute for Water Research, involving researchers from both countries. Extensive field research has taken place in the Artic both on Polish and Norwegian research vessels. The Polish project coordinator, Dr Piotr Kukliński from the Institute of Oceanology, notes that the cooperation has been very beneficial:

"We needed partners which will help with some of the issues like marine chemistry or modelling. They are benefiting from our part of the research and we benefit from their part," he explains.

Cooperation has also proved valuable for the Norwegian partner:

"Poland has an important role in understanding the Arctic and is home to some highly regarded researchers," said Richard Bellerby from the Norwegian Institute for Water Research. "Through the project our collaboration has grown stronger and it is highly likely that this consortium will continue to work together pending further national and EU proposal success."

Akvaplan-niva from Tromsø and the Institute of Paeleobiology Polish Academy of Sciences from Warsaw are also partners in the project.

This is one of 75 joint Polish-Norwegian research projects supported by Norway. Fifty of the projects focus on environment, climate change and polar research. The Polish-Norwegian Research Programme is possibly the biggest bilateral research fund in the world.



Programme operator

The National Centre for Research and Development

Donor programme partner

Research Council of Norway

Grant amount

€63.3 million

Programme link

bit.ly/1WLMw6S



Results from selected programme

232
Polish-Norwegian research teams from 152 institutions cooperating

95
Peer reviewed international publications

6
Patent applications made

39%
Female project leaders

172
Researchers have been on exchange



Results from selected programme

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Polish-Norwegian research teams from 152 institutions cooperating

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39%
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Portugal

EEA Grants

€ 58.0M

Read more about programmes and projects in Portugal:
www.eeagrants.org/portugal

Programme overview

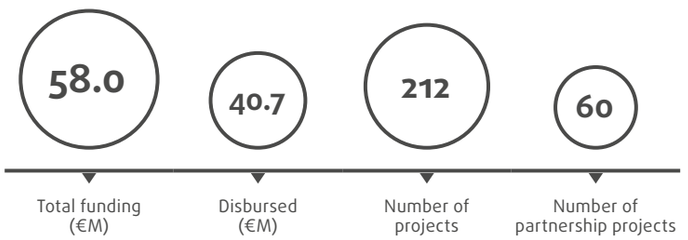
Programme	Partners	Grant (€ million)	
Integrated marine and inland water management	–	19.2	●
Renewable energy	National Energy Authority (Iceland)	4.0	●
Adaptation to climate change	Norwegian Directorate for Civil Protection	3.0	●
NGO Fund	–	8.7	●
Public health initiatives	Norwegian Institute of Public Health	10.0	●
Gender equality and work-life balance	–	2.5	●
Cultural and natural heritage	–	4.0	●
Diversity in culture and arts	Arts Council Norway	1.0	●

● EEA Grants

Priority areas of support

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

Implementation status



All data extracted end March 2016

Country facts

	Portugal	EU-28
GDP per capita in PPS (EU=100)	78	100
Economic growth (% change on previous year)	0.9	1.4
Unemployment rate (%)*	12.4	9.1
Youth unemployment rate (%)*	33.4	20.0
Public debt (% of GDP)	130.2	86.8
Gender pay gap (%)	14.5	16.1
At-risk-of-poverty rate (%)	27.5	24.4
Human development index (2014)	23	(EU-28 ranking)
Corruption perception index (2014)	14	(EU-28 ranking)

Sources: Eurostat/UNDP/Transparency International
All data is from 2014 except where * indicates 2015
See notes to tables in Annex 2

Reducing vulnerability to climate change

How do you get students more interested in learning about climate change? Portuguese teachers are using video, pictures and social media in the classroom.

"We are living in the digital age, so if we don't give students what they are interested in, we can forget about their involvement. If we want pupils to learn about and act on climate change we have to motivate them," says teacher Carla Machado from the Vieira de Araújo School Group, in Vieira do Minho. She is one of many primary and secondary school teachers in Portugal who are learning how to use digital media when teaching the topic of climate change.

The University of Oporto has created an open online course which allows teachers to learn more about how to teach climate change using digital media in the classroom. The course is free and can be used by anyone, anywhere. The course is providing teachers with new tools to enable them to communicate more effectively about climate change and its causes, impact and possible solutions.

The course is a part of the project Clima@EduMedia. The University of Iceland is a partner in the project and contributes among other things its experience in Iceland of engaging young people in asking environmental questions.

"The use of video resources, pictures and social networks in teaching climate change is a more effective and interactive way of learning. Today's students are by default digital natives. When a student sees a video on climate change it creates greater interest than if the same content is on paper," says teacher José Bastos from the Cister School Group, in Alcobaça.

Clima@EduMedia is one of eight projects under the €3 million AdaPT programme, which works on reducing human and ecosystem vulnerability to climate change in Portugal. The donor programme partner is the Norwegian Directorate of Civil Protection (DSB).



Programme operator

Portuguese Environment Agency (APA)

Donor programme partner

Norwegian Directorate for Civil Protection (DSB)

Grant amount

€3.0 million

Programme link

bit.ly/1jSmktd

Results from selected programme

14
Schools competing for a climate award

391
Teachers involved in training

208
Municipal officers involved in training

1 079
Students directly involved in the project

Romania

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

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

Programme overview

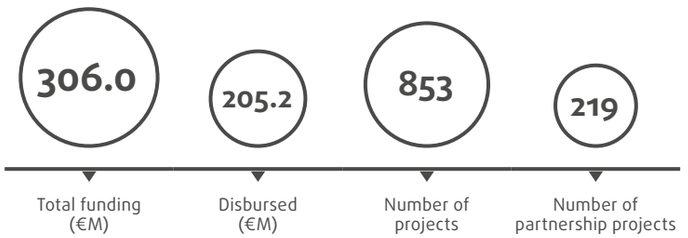
Programme	Partners	Grant (€ million)	
Biodiversity and ecosystem services	Norwegian Environment Agency	15.0	●
Environmental monitoring and integrated planning and control	–	8.2	●
Reduction of hazardous substances	Norwegian Environment Agency	10.0	●
Energy efficiency	–	9.3	●
Renewable energy	National Energy Authority (Iceland), Norwegian Water Resources and Energy Directorate	12.3	●
Adaption to climate change	–	3.0	●
Green industry innovation	Innovation Norway*	29.7	●
NGO Fund	–	36.3	●
Children and youth at risk	Council of Europe	27.0	●
Gender equality and work-life balance	–	4.5	●
Cultural heritage and contemporary arts	Directorate of Cultural Heritage (Norway)	15.7	●
Diversity in culture and arts	Arts Council Norway	6.8	●
Research cooperation	Research Council of Norway, Icelandic Centre for Research	20.0	●
Scholarships	Icelandic Centre for Research, Agency for International Education Affairs (Liechtenstein), Norwegian Centre for International Cooperation in Education	4.5	●
Decent work and tripartite dialogue	Innovation Norway*	1.2	●
Capacity building and institutional cooperation	Norwegian Radiation Protection Authority	6.0	●
Public health initiatives	–	22.6	●
Domestic and gender-based violence	Council of Europe, National Police Directorate (Norway)	4.0	●
Schengen and cross-border crime	National Police Directorate (Norway)	5.3	●
Judicial capacity building	Council of Europe, National Courts Administration	8.0	●
Correctional services	Directorate of Norwegian Correctional services	8.0	●
Poverty alleviation	–	20.0	●

● Norway Grants ● EEA Grants *Programme Operator

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



All data extracted end March 2016

Country facts

	Romania	EU-28
GDP per capita in PPS (EU=100)	55	100
Economic growth (% change on previous year)	3.0	1.4
Unemployment rate (%)*	6.7	9.1
Youth unemployment rate (%)*	21.2	20.0
Public debt (% of GDP)	39.9	86.8
Gender pay gap (%)	10.1	16.1
At-risk-of-poverty rate (%)	40.2	24.4
Human development index (2014)	27	(EU-28 ranking)
Corruption perception index (2014)	28	(EU-28 ranking)

Sources: Eurostat/UNDP/Transparency International
All data is from 2014 except where * indicates 2015
See notes to tables in Annex 2

Creating green jobs

> "We're focusing on quality, safety and good equipment. This project allows us to invest in our own factory, reduce energy costs and offer our employees a better working environment."
>
> *Viorel Prodan, Project manager and co-owner, IKON IDEEA*

Romania has one of the more resource and energy-intensive economies in the EU. To enable the country to move towards a greener economy, support for the development and implementation of innovative green solutions is important, but funding is scarce.

Enabling greener production and a high-quality working environment are key for IKON IDEEA, a Romanian company which is modernising its hydropower production facilities in Cluj in close cooperation with its Norwegian partner, Rainpower.

Together, the two partners are transforming IKON IDEEA's production facilities, creating several new jobs and making a world of difference for the company's efficiency. The main production area, which previously was unheated, will now have energy-efficient floor heating and a new ventilation system will allow workers to breathe cleaner air.

Furthermore, the new facilities enable the company to bring its whole production process under one roof. This eliminates the need for subcontractors and the transportation of large-scale products between different production locations – resulting in a cost efficient and more environmentally friendly production process.

The project is one of 51 projects supported through the €29.7 million 'Green Industry Innovation' programme financed by Norway. The programme aims at encouraging more sustainable production processes, product design and services in Romania.

Programme operator

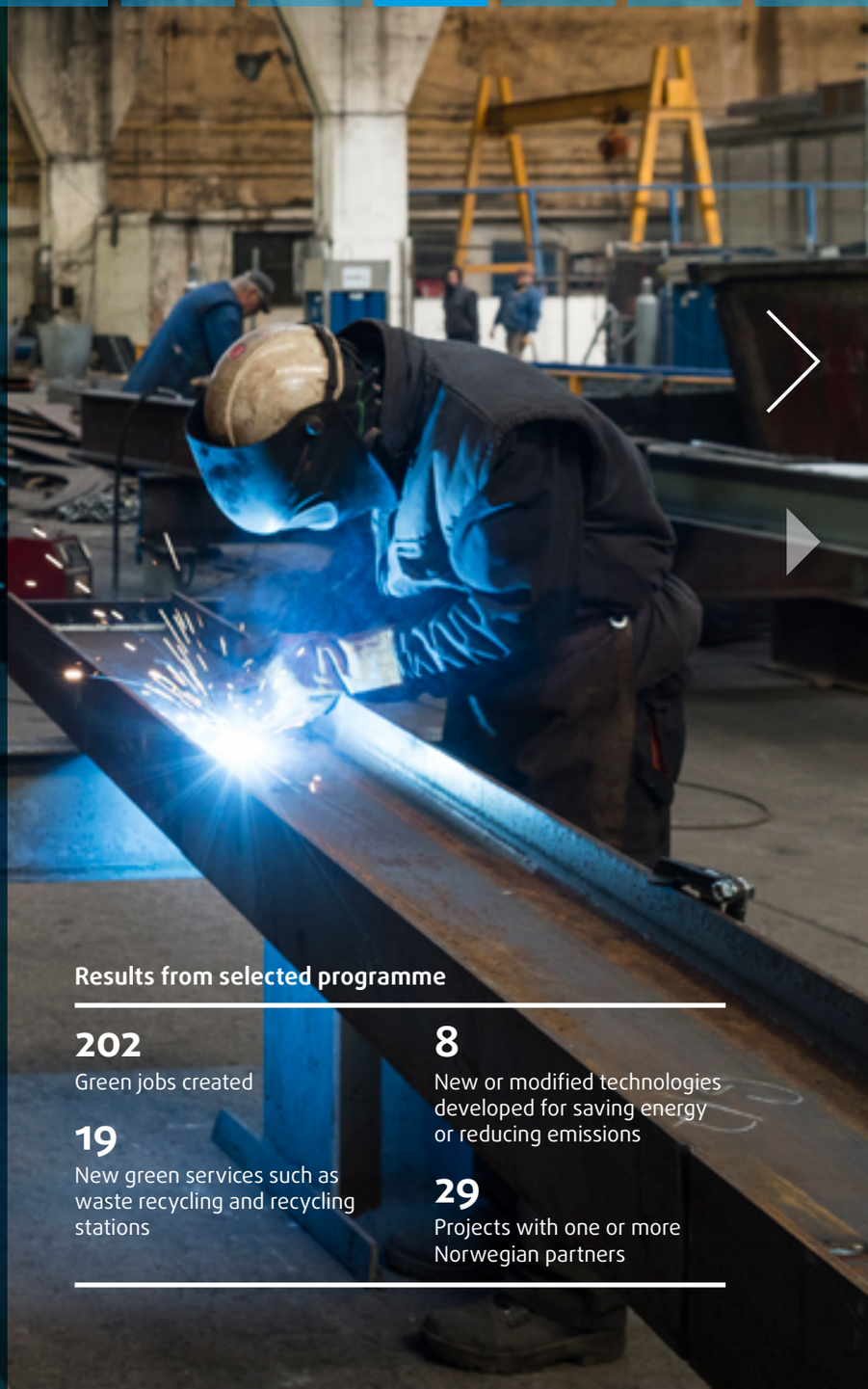
Innovation Norway

Grant amount

€29.7 million

Programme link

bit.ly/1OPCP0o



Results from selected programme

202
Green jobs created

19
New green services such as waste recycling and recycling stations

8
New or modified technologies developed for saving energy or reducing emissions

29
Projects with one or more Norwegian partners

Creating green jobs

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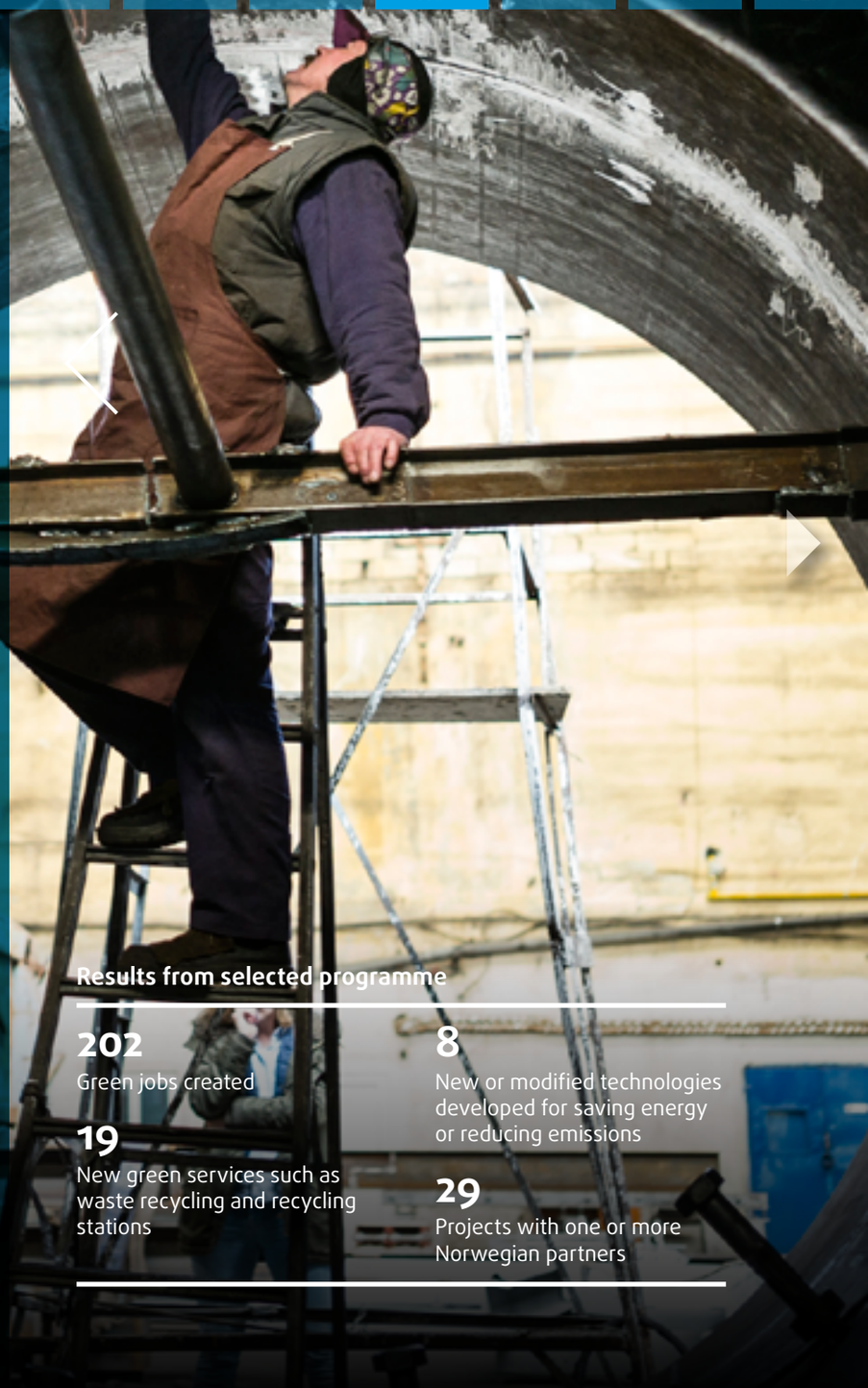
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Grant amount

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Programme link

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Together against poverty

> "In many poor families, parents are forced to send their children to work instead of sending them to school and continuing their education. Through this project, we aim to help ensure that children receive an education and that adults get work."
>
> *Simen Mørstad Johansen, Project manager, Salvation Army*

The Roma are disadvantaged in terms of access to housing, healthcare, social services, employment and education. With the aim of removing barriers to school attendance and to the job market, the Salvation Army in Romania has opened community centres in Iasi and Ploiesti, together with the Salvation Army in Norway. The centres provide deprived residents, many of whom are Roma, with basic welfare and education services.

Over 80 children are enrolled in after-school programmes at the centres where they also get help with homework. Children who are not enrolled in school also receive simple reading and writing lessons. The centres offer access to medical consultations and health education. The project also funds a mobile health clinic providing services for homeless adults and children in Bucharest.

The project also includes Salvatex – a separate business of charity shops where used clothing and other goods are resold, based on the model run by the Salvation Army in Norway. It offers work experience for unemployed people, helping them to build their skills and improve their chances of finding a job.

The project is one of seven initiatives supported through the €20 million 'Poverty Alleviation' programme financed by Norway. The programme aims to address poverty in the long term through education opportunities, including vocational training, and health and other social services.



Programme operator

Deloitte Consultanta S.R.L

Grant amount

€20 million

Programme link

bit.ly/1QDg3O5

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Grant amount

€20 million

Programme link

bit.ly/1QDg3O5

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Programme operator

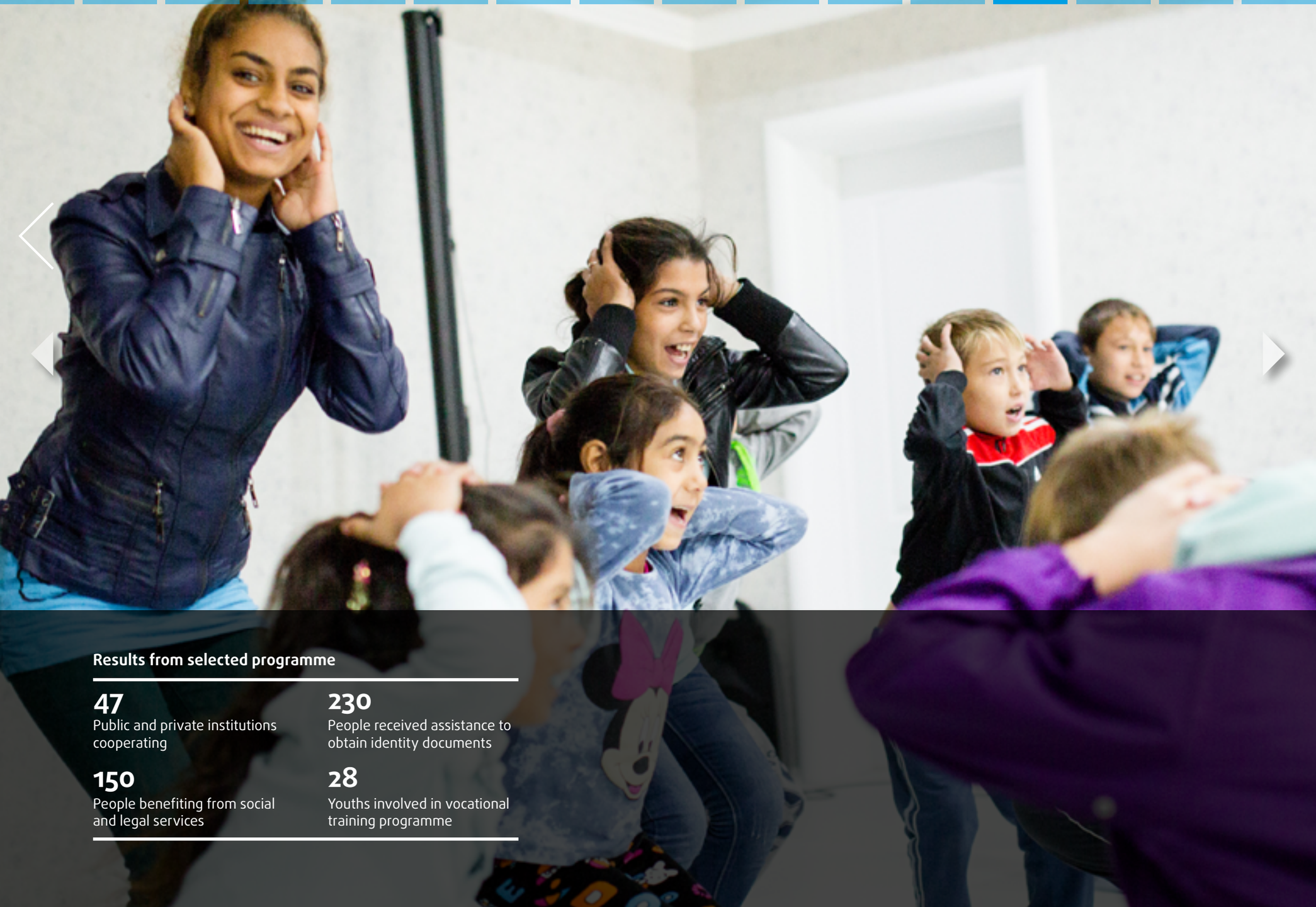
Deloitte Consultanta S.R.L

Grant amount

€20 million

Programme link

bit.ly/1QDg3O5



Results from selected programme

47
Public and private institutions cooperating

230
People received assistance to obtain identity documents

150
People benefiting from social and legal services

28
Youths involved in vocational training programme

Slovakia

Read more about programmes and projects in Slovakia:
www.eeagrants.org/slovakia

Total Funding	EEA Grants	Norway Grants
€80.8M	€38.4M	€42.4M

Programme overview

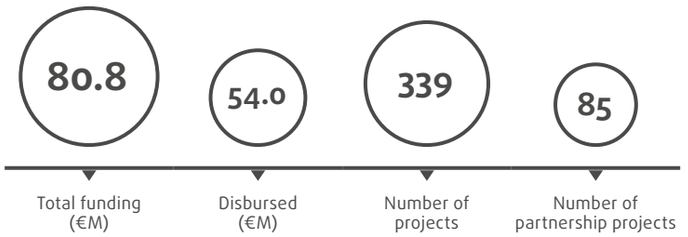
Programme	Partners	Grant (€ million)	
Adaptation to climate change	Norwegian Directorate for Civil Protection, Norwegian Water Resources and Energy Directorate	12.5	●
Green Industry Innovation	Innovation Norway	16.1	●
NGO Fund	–	7.4	●
Local and regional initiatives	Council of Europe	1.0	●
Cross-border cooperation	Norwegian Barents Secretariat	13.4	●
Cultural and natural heritage	–	11.9	●
Scholarships	Icelandic Centre for Research, Agency for International Education Affairs (Liechtenstein), Norwegian Centre for International Cooperation in Education	1.9	●
Decent work and tripartite dialogue	Innovation Norway*	0.4	●
Domestic and gender-based violence	Norwegian Directorate of Health, Council of Europe	8.4	●

● Norway Grants ● EEA Grants *Programme Operator

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



All data extracted end March 2016

Country facts

	Slovakia	EU-28
GDP per capita in PPS (EU=100)	77	100
Economic growth (% change on previous year)	2.5	1.4
Unemployment rate (%)*	10.8	9.1
Youth unemployment rate (%)*	25.4	20.0
Public debt (% of GDP)	53.5	86.8
Gender pay gap (%)	21.1	16.1
At-risk-of-poverty rate (%)	18.4	24.4
Human development index (2014)	19	(EU-28 ranking)
Corruption perception index (2014)	23	(EU-28 ranking)

Sources: Eurostat/UNDP/Transparency International
All data is from 2014 except where * indicates 2015
See notes to tables in Annex 2

Strengthening resistance against floods and droughts

> "Collection of rainwater can reduce the consequences of both flooding and drought. Holding back the water prevents it from flowing into rivers and causing flooding. At the same time, the water can be used to water plants in the area when it is dry."

Pavel Michal is the Director at Maximillian Hell school, one of 65 primary schools in Slovakia which have received funding to implement rainwater collection and recycling systems, green roofs and rain gardens.

The school projects (called 'Blue School' projects), which take place across Slovakia, use the new rainwater collection systems as a starting point for teaching the children about climate change and how society can adapt to it. When the younger generation increases its awareness of climate change issues at school, this information passes on through their families and into the wider community.

In addition to the activities taking place at the schools, 20 teachers and 38 students from the participating schools had the opportunity to visit Oslo, where they met their Norwegian counterparts and learned about local climate change adaptation measures.

The 'Blue School' projects are supported through the €12.5 million 'Adaptation to Climate Change – Flood and Drought Prevention' programme. The programme aims to support the implementation of strategies and measures to enhance Slovakia's resistance to floods and droughts.

Programme operator

Government Office of the Slovak Republic

Donor programme partners

Norwegian Water Resources and Energy Directorate (NVE), Norwegian Directorate for Civil Protection (DSB)

Grant amount

€12.5 million

Programme link

bit.ly/251PLN1



Results from selected programme

264
Water retention and revitalisation measures carried out

57
Communities actively participating in project preparation and implementation

63
Schools have incorporated information from the programme into their environmental education programmes and activities

2
Curriculum packages on rainwater management developed for primary and secondary schools

Strengthening resistance against floods and droughts

> "Collection of rainwater can reduce the consequences of both flooding and drought. Holding back the water prevents it from flowing into rivers and causing flooding. At the same time, the water can be used to water plants in the area when it is dry."

Pavel Michal is the Director at Maximillian Hell school, one of 65 primary schools in Slovakia which have received funding to implement rainwater collection and recycling systems, green roofs and rain gardens.

The school projects (called 'Blue School' projects), which take place across Slovakia, use the new rainwater collection systems as a starting point for teaching the children about climate change and how society can adapt to it. When the younger generation increases its awareness of climate change issues at school, this information passes on through their families and into the wider community.

In addition to the activities taking place at the schools, 20 teachers and 38 students from the participating schools had the opportunity to visit Oslo, where they met their Norwegian counterparts and learned about local climate change adaptation measures.

The 'Blue School' projects are supported through the €12.5 million 'Adaptation to Climate Change – Flood and Drought Prevention' programme. The programme aims to support the implementation of strategies and measures to enhance Slovakia's resistance to floods and droughts.

Programme operator

Government Office of the Slovak Republic

Donor programme partners

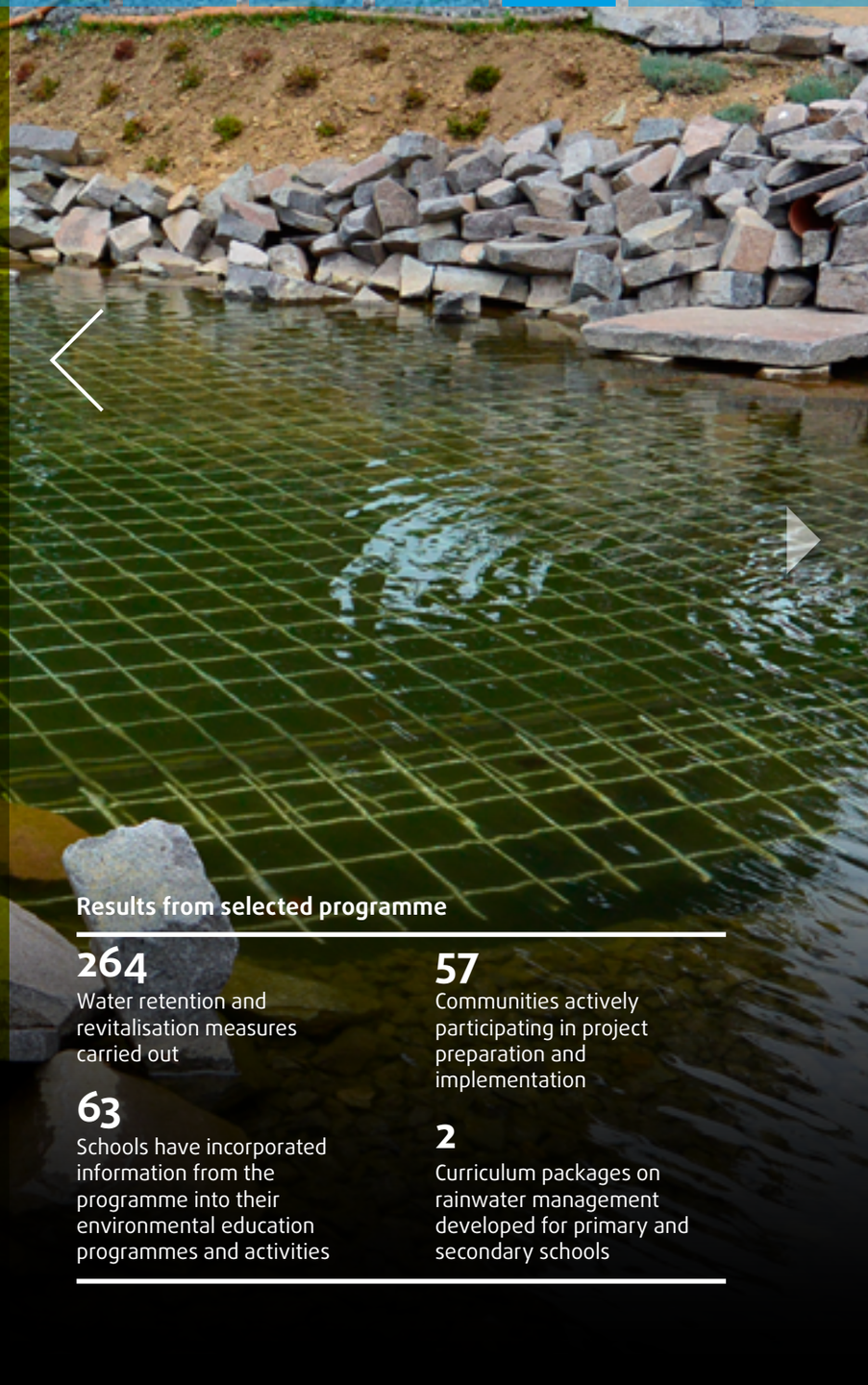
Norwegian Water Resources and Energy Directorate (NVE), Norwegian Directorate for Civil Protection (DSB)

Grant amount

€12.5 million

Programme link

bit.ly/251PLN1



Results from selected programme

264
Water retention and revitalisation measures carried out

57
Communities actively participating in project preparation and implementation

63
Schools have incorporated information from the programme into their environmental education programmes and activities

2
Curriculum packages on rainwater management developed for primary and secondary schools

Slovenia

Read more about programmes and projects in Slovenia:
www.eeagrants.org/slovenia

Total Funding	EEA Grants	Norway Grants
€ 26.9M	**€ 12.5M**	**€ 14.4M**

Programme overview

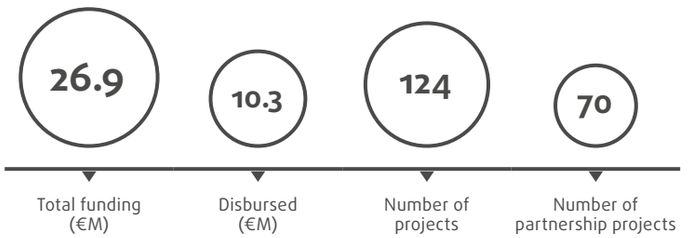
Programme	Partners	Grant (€ million)	
Biodiversity and ecosystem services	–	1.9	●
Environmental monitoring and integrated planning and control	Norwegian Mapping Authority, National Land Survey of Iceland	2.0	●
NGO Fund	–	1.9	●
Public health initiatives	Norwegian Institute of Public Health	10.1	●
Gender equality and work-life balance	–	1.5	●
Cultural and natural heritage	Norwegian Directorate for Cultural Heritage, Arts Council Norway	4.9	●
Scholarships	Icelandic Centre for Research, Agency for International Education Affairs (Liechtenstein), Norwegian Centre for International Cooperation in Education	1.8	●●
Decent work and tripartite dialogue	Innovation Norway*	0.1	●

● Norway Grants ● EEA Grants *Programme Operator

Priority areas of support

- Reducing health inequalities and improving mental health services
- Protecting biodiversity and improving environmental monitoring and control
- Increasing educational mobility between Slovenia and Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway
- Promoting gender equality and work-life balance

Implementation status



All data extracted end March 2016

Country facts

	Slovenia	EU-28
GDP per capita in PPS (EU=100)	83	100
Economic growth (% change on previous year)	3.0	1.4
Unemployment rate (%)*	8.6	9.1
Youth unemployment rate (%)*	14.5	20.0
Public debt (% of GDP)	80.8	86.8
Gender pay gap (%)	2.9	16.1
At-risk-of-poverty rate (%)	20.4	24.4
Human development index (2014)	12	(EU-28 ranking)
Corruption perception index (2014)	18	(EU-28 ranking)

Sources: Eurostat/UNDP/Transparency International
All data is from 2014 except where * indicates 2015
See notes to tables in Annex 2

Cooperation improves health services

> Many victims of domestic violence interact with healthcare professionals when seeking routine or emergency care. Yet, despite guidance on recognising and treating victims of domestic violence in Slovenia, healthcare workers rarely report on incidents.

The 'POND' project run by the Research Centre of the Slovenian Academy of Sciences and Arts, is changing this. The first step was a survey to assess experience. Findings revealed that although 74% of healthcare professionals have encountered a case of domestic violence at work, only 23% had undertaken training on the issue.

To fill the gap, training courses have been held for over 1 700 staff and a number of resources produced. A website, handbook, protocol sheets and smartphone applications offer clear guidance for healthcare workers on responding to domestic violence. Around 1.5 million leaflets explaining how to seek help for victims have been distributed in all inpatient and outpatient services.

"The website and other resources provide the most comprehensive educational platform in Slovenia for health workers working with victims of domestic violence as well as for the victims themselves," said Lilijana Šprah, Academy Psychologist.

Coordination between health services and the police, NGOs and social workers had also previously been limited. As a partner, the Brøset Forensic department at St Olav's Hospital in Trondheim, offered valuable insight from Norwegian domestic violence protocols for improving cooperation and response between the different public and voluntary organisations.

The POND project is one of 20 health and six gender equality projects financed by Norway under an €11.7 million programme to improve public health and promote gender equality.

Programme operator

Government Office for Development and European Cohesion Policy

Donor programme partner

Norwegian Institute of Public Health

Grant amount

€11.7 million

Programme link

bit.ly/1VhQxlL



Results from selected programme

36 300
People benefiting from improved health services

3 713
Professionals and students trained in the health sector

121
People (29 men and 92 women) participated in exchange visits between Slovenia and Norway

115
Professional trained in lifestyle-related chronic disease prevention

Spain

EEA Grants

€ 45.9M

Read more about programmes and projects in Spain:
www.eeagrants.org/spain

Programme overview

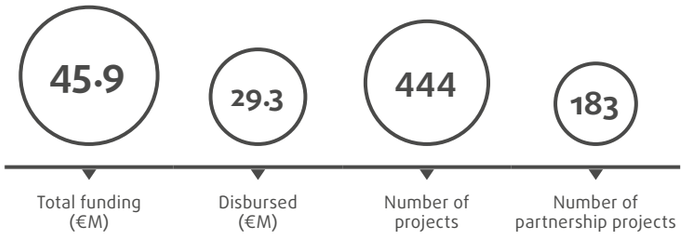
Programme	Partners	Grant (€ million)	
Environmental and climate change-related research and technology	Innovation Norway	18.2	●
NGO Fund	–	4.6	●
Gender equality and work-life balance	Norwegian Equality and Anti-Discrimination Ombud	10.2	●
Cultural and natural heritage	–	4.1	●
Diversity in culture and arts	Norwegian Embassy*	0.5	●
Scholarships	Icelandic Centre for Research, Agency for International Education Affairs (Liechtenstein), Norwegian Centre for International Cooperation in Education	3.9	●

● EEA Grants *Programme Operator

Priority areas of support

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

Implementation status



All data extracted end March 2016

Country facts

	Spain	EU-28
GDP per capita in PPS (EU=100)	91	100
Economic growth (% change on previous year)	1.4	1.4
Unemployment rate (%)*	21.4	9.1
Youth unemployment rate (%)*	47.5	20.0
Public debt (% of GDP)	99.3	86.8
Gender pay gap (%)	18.8	16.1
At-risk-of-poverty rate (%)	29.2	24.4
Human development index (2014)	13	(EU-28 ranking)
Corruption perception index (2014)	16	(EU-28 ranking)

Sources: Eurostat/UNDP/Transparency International
All data is from 2014 except where * indicates 2015
See notes to tables in Annex 2

Developing environmental technologies

> "We estimate huge energy savings of around 125 000 GJ over three years and a reduction of 18 750 tonnes of CO_2. That is the equivalent of emissions from 3 750 cars driven for one year."
>
> *Felip Vidiella, EMEA and India Packaging R&D Director at Dow*

Spain is one of the biggest consumers of seafood products in Europe, with the average person eating more than 40kg per year. While bulk purchases of whole and fresh fish are still common, pre-portioned and packaged fresh fish is steadily gaining market share. This means more waste. With plastic manufacturing generating twice its weight in CO_2 emissions and barely half of fish containers recycled, new packaging solutions are long overdue.

The EcoFishPack project is run by two companies in Spain – Dow Chemical and ULMA Packaging. They are working together to develop new packaging materials, which retain their airtight and durable properties, but crucially can be recycled. The companies have collaborated closely with two technological centres: Nofima, in Tromso (Norway), Ainia, in Paterna (Spain), with all benefiting from the shared learning and expertise of the other partners. In total, four packaging solutions have been developed which will reduce greenhouse gas emissions by an estimated 25-50%.

EcoFishPack is one of 162 projects financed under an €18 million programme which aims to strengthen the knowledge base on climate change and increase the application of environmental technology. Its distinctive funding mix of grants and loans has proved highly successful, with the programme operator receiving more than twice the standard number of applications.

Programme operator

Centre for Technological Industrial Development – CDTI

Donor programme partner

Innovation Norway

Grant amount

€18.2 million

Programme link

bit.ly/1U2b39y



Results from selected programme

176
Environmentally innovative enterprises funded

43
Projects with a donor partner (40 Norwegian and 3 Icelandic)

145
Contracts signed between universities/research centres and companies

25%
Women in funded projects

Managing the Grants

This part provides an overview of the organisational structure and governance of the EEA and Norway 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 2015, the FMO had 60 fixed-term staff positions, encompassing 16 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 23 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.

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

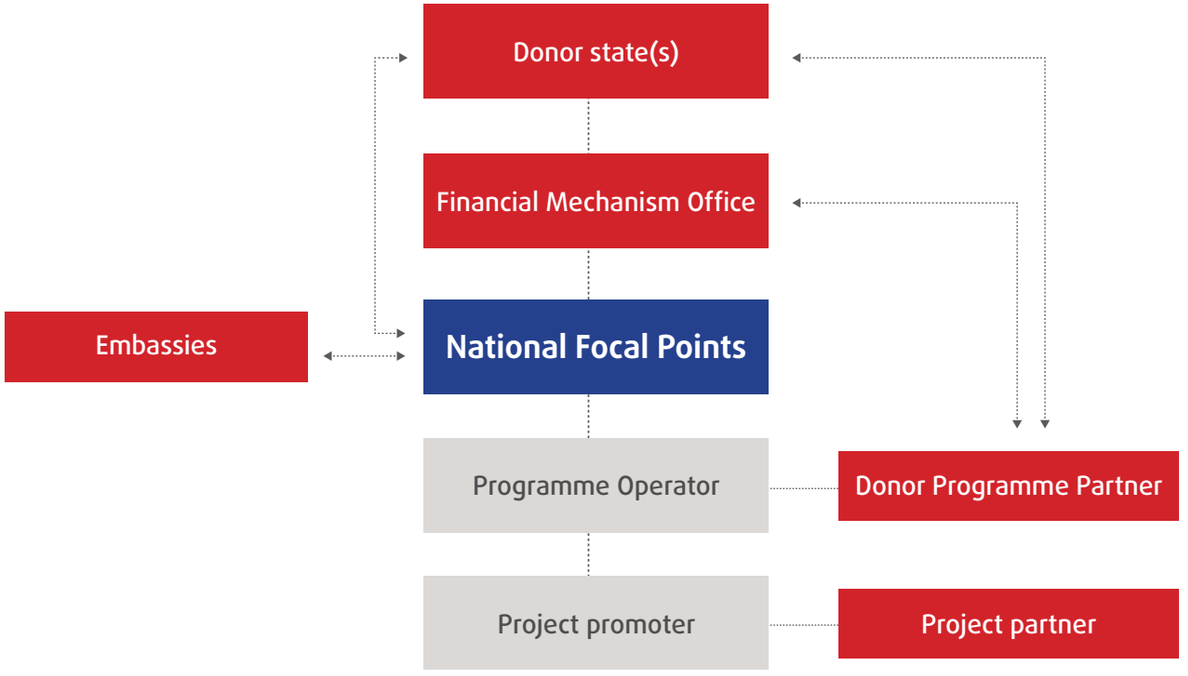
→ Read more about our bilateral cooperation in Part 3.

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.

Strategic partnerships with several **international organisations** – the Council of Europe, Transparency International (TI), the EU Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA) and the Open Society Foundations – also form a key feature of the funding schemes. These partnerships bring added expertise, results and value, and aim to ensure that funding is allocated with maximum efficiency and transparency.

- The **Council of Europe** is involved in 21 programmes in ten beneficiary countries, providing strategic advice as well as technical input in its areas of expertise – human rights, democracy and the rule of law.
- The global anti-corruption organisation, TI, is helping to identify and address corruption risks in the implementation of the grant schemes.
- **FRA** provides expert advice on the protection of fundamental rights and engages with the EEA and Norway Grants on issues of mutual interest.
- The **Open Society Foundations** give strategic advice on Roma issues in the non-governmental organisation (NGO) programmes.

Organisations involved in the management of the EEA and Norway Grants



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.

Evaluation is a key tool to demonstrate the achievement of results. In 2015/16, reviews and evaluations were conducted in several areas:

- a mid-term evaluation of the cultural heritage programmes concluded that these programmes can contribute substantially towards safeguarding cultural heritage and generating economic and social impact;
- a review of the Global Fund for Decent Work and Tripartite Dialogue found that the programme had improved practices and the social dialogue structure and increased understanding of decent work principles. It also underlined that Norwegian employee and employer organisations have played an important part in the results achieved.

A number of other reviews and evaluations have been launched and are due to be finalised later in 2016:

- a mid-term review of the EEA and Norway Grants;
- a mid-term evaluation of the support to strengthened bilateral relations;
- a communication review of the EEA and Norway Grants 2009-2014.

In 2015/16, implemention has progressed steadily. By 31 March 2016, the disbursement rate stood at 63%. A total of 6 398 projects had been contracted, of which 1 898 (30%) had a donor project partner.



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 towards 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 owing to corruption, fraud or mismanagement, the beneficiary country is responsible for refunding the donor countries either by reclaiming the money 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 which can help to achieve goals and expected results. Close monitoring of programme risks is continuous, ensuring that adequate risk mitigation action is taken when necessary.

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.

Training and capacity building

In order to ensure a full understanding of roles, responsibilities and the regulation for the current funding period, many seminars and training 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 and donor technical assistance is 7.5% for the EEA and Norway Grants 2009 – 2014 funding period. 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 2015/16, further progress was made to complete and formally close the 2004-2009 financial period. All projects in 14 out of 15 beneficiary countries were closed. Total disbursements by 31 March 2016 stood at €1.1 billion. This is equivalent to an overall disbursement rate of 88.06% (compared to net allocations).

Table: Project status and disbursements per country by 31 March 2016 (EEA and Norway Grants 2004-2009 (€ million)

Beneficiary State	Projects	Current commitment* (€ million)	Disbursement* (€ million)	Disbursed % of net allocation**
Bulgaria***	65	37.0	31.9	81.94%
Cyprus	6	4.4	4.3	97.65%
Czech Republic	144	104.6	102.0	96.38%
Estonia	35	30.4	29.2	93.48%
Greece	38	22.7	14.9	45.30%
Hungary	90	112.5	107.0	83.02%
Latvia	75	49.7	45.9	89.51%
Lithuania	84	61.9	58.4	91.06%
Malta	8	3.4	3.4	98.70%
Poland	417	517.3	495.9	92.95%
Portugal	32	28.8	26.4	87.68%
Romania***	71	88.5	71.7	77.60%
Slovakia	94	58.8	55.7	83.01%
Slovenia	25	17.4	16.4	92.30%
Spain	20	39.8	34.0	76.41%
Total	**1 204**	**1 177.1**	**1 097.2**	**88.06%**



* Includes appraisal, monitoring and evaluation
** Disbursements are calculated as a % of the net allocation to countries i.e. excluding donor country management costs
*** Includes Norway Grants funded projects administrated by Innovation Norway in Bulgaria and Romania 2007-2009.

Annex 1

Allocations by priority sector and country (€ million)

Priority Sector	BG	HR	CY	CZ	EE	GR	HU	LV	LT	MT	PL	PT	RO	SK	SL	ES	Total
Environmental Protection and Management	16.00	-	1.16	15.35	5.93	6.50	-	2.07	11.34	0.86	36.08	19.25	33.18	-	3.86	-	**151.59**
Climate Change	13.26	-	-	3.07	0.97	9.51	23.13	8.29	0.18	0.47	75.00	7.00	24.59	12.46	-	18.22	**196.15**
Civil Society	11.79	0.95	1.32	11.37	2.30	7.34	13.50	10.37	5.50	0.50	37.00	8.70	36.33	7.40	1.88	4.59	**160.82**
Human and Social Development	14.28	3.40	0.39	3.98	6.51	28.45	11.22	-	6.31	-	19.84	12.50	31.52	1.00	-	10.19	**149.58**
Protecting Cultural Heritage	14.00	-	0.62	21.49	4.51	-	12.62	10.02	10.00	0.80	71.20	5.00	22.50	11.92	4.95	4.59	**194.22**
Research and Scholarship	1.50	-	-	0.31	0.60	3.00	2.98	0.52	1.42	-	5.00	-	24.50	1.92	0.63	3.92	**46.28**
Technical assistance	0.98	0.08	0.06	0.92	0.35	0.45	1.05	0.52	0.58	0.03	1.63	0.87	1.36	0.58	0.19	0.69	**10.32**
Fund for bilateral relations at national level	0.39	0.20	0.02	0.31	0.12	0.32	0.35	0.17	0.19	0.01	1.13	0.29	0.95	0.19	0.06	0.23	**4.94**
Reserve for projects under 2004-09 period	0.50	-	-	-	-	3.08	-	-	-	-	-	-	1.51	-	-	-	**5.09**
Net allocation: EEA Grants	72.71	4.63	3.56	56.80	21.28	58.65	64.84	31.96	35.52	2.68	246.88	53.60	176.44	35.47	11.56	42.41	**918.99**
Carbon Capture and Storage	-	-	-	5.02	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	**5.02**
Green Industry Innovation	13.70	-	-	-	6.00	-	22.88	11.33	8.00	-	89.15*	-	29.70	16.07	-	-	**196.83**
Decent Work and Tripartite Dialogue	0.48	0.10	0.04	0.70	0.26	-	0.83	0.38	0.46	0.02	3.11	-	1.15	0.42	0.14	-	**8.10**
Research and Scholarship	-	-	-	18.04	4.00	-	24.13	4.99	-	-	73.18	-	-	-	1.22	-	**125.57**
Human and Social Development	9.78	0.35	1.88	24.35	10.91	-	27.46	4.99	14.00	0.29	66.00	-	48.60	13.37	11.67	-	**233.65**
Justice and Home Affairs	19.70	3.65	1.70	15.37	2.00	-	-	13.06	18.81	1.15	40.63	-	25.30	8.44	-	-	**149.80**
Protecting cultural heritage	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	10.00	-	-	-	-	-	**10.00**
Technical assistance	0.42	0.07	0.06	1.06	0.38	-	1.25	0.58	0.68	0.02	4.24	-	1.23	0.64	0.22	-	**10.83**
Fund for bilateral relations	0.24	0.08	0.02	0.58	0.13	-	0.42	0.19	0.23	0.01	1.56	-	0.58	0.28	0.07	-	**4.38**
Reserve for projects under 2004-09 period	0.08	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	**0.08**
Net Allocation: Norway Grants	44.40	4.26	3.70	65.12	23.68	-	76.96	35.52	42.18	1.48	287.86	-	106.56	39.22	13.32	-	**744.26**
Donor management costs Donor programme partner technical assistance																	**98.90** **35.96**
TOTAL	**126.60**	**9.60**	**7.85**	**131.80**	**48.60**	**63.40**	**153.30**	**72.95**	**84.00**	**4.50**	**578.10**	**57.95**	**305.95**	**80.75**	**26.90**	**45.85**	**1 798.1**

*Includes €69.2 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

Indicator	Description[1]
GDP per capita (in PPS)	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.
Economic growth (% change on previous year)	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.
Unemployment rate (%)	Unemployment rates represent unemployed people as a percentage of the labour force. The labour force is the total number of people employed and unemployed.
Youth unemployment rate (%)	Unemployment rates represent unemployed persons aged 15-24 as a percentage of the labour force of the same age.
Public Debt (% GDP)	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.
Gender pay gap (%)	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.
At-risk-of-poverty rate (%)	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.
Human development index (EU-28 ranking)	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.
Corruption perception index (EU-28 ranking)	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.

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

Annex 3

Donor programme partners by beneficiary country

Donor Programme Partner	Country	BG	HR	CY	CZ	EE	GR	HU	LV	LT	MT	PL	PT	RO	SK	SL	ES
National Energy Authority	Iceland							●					●	●			
Icelandic Centre for Research	Iceland	●			●	●		●				●		●	●	●	●
National Agency for International Education Affairs	Liechtenstein	●			●	●		●				●		●	●	●	●
Arts Council Norway	Norway				●				●	●		●	●	●			
Norwegian Barents Secretariat	Norway	●													●		
Norwegian Directorate for Children, Youth and Family Affairs	Norway					●											
Norwegian Courts Administration	Norway									●		●		●			
Norwegian Directorate for Civil Protection	Norway							●	●				●		●		
Norwegian Institute of Public Health	Norway				●	●		●					●			●	
Norwegian Directorate of Health	Norway					●						●			●		
Innovation Norway	Norway					●		●	●	●					●		●
Directorate of Norwegian Correctional Service	Norway								●	●		●		●			
Norwegian Association of Local and Regional Authorities	Norway	●				●		●	●	●							
Secretariat of the Shelter Movement	Norway			●													
Equality and Anti-Discrimination Ombud	Norway																●
Norwegian Environment Agency	Norway	●			●	●			●	●		●		●			
Research Council of Norway	Norway				●	●		●	●			●		●			
Norwegian Water Resources and Energy Directorate	Norway	●												●	●		
National Police Directorate	Norway	●								●				●			
Directorate of Cultural Heritage	Norway					●		●	●	●				●			
Norwegian Centre for International Cooperation in Education	Norway	●			●	●		●	●	●		●		●	●	●	●
Norwegian Radiation Protection Authority	Norway													●			
Norwegian Directorate of Immigration	Norway						●										
Council of Europe		●	●	●	●			●	●		●	●		●	●		

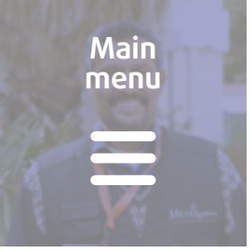
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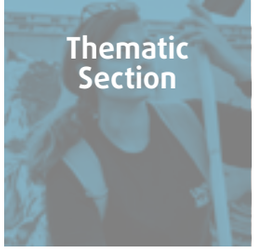
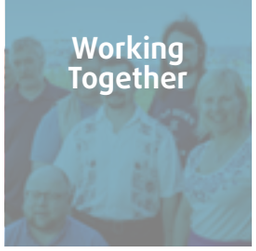
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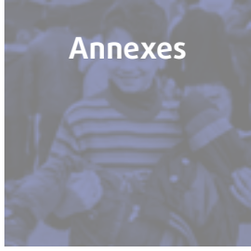
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Pg. 35: Barbara Kulpa
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Pg. 37: Natalia Dąbrowska
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Pg. 42: Latvian Foreign Ministry
Pg. 43: Oradea Municipality
Pg. 44-45: Government of Liechtenstein
Pg. 46: P. Tracz / Chancellery of the Prime Minister
Pg. 48: Rune Bjåstad, Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Pg. 49: Dace Reinkopa
Pg. 51: State Secretary for Social Services and Equality
Pg. 52-53: Ministry of Environmental Protection and Regional Development of Latvia
Pg. 55: Adrian Luca
Pg. 57: WTOR-STEEL
Pg. 61: Ministry of Environmental Protection and Regional Development of Latvia
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Pg. 67: CEA
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