

EEA GRANTS  
NORWAY GRANTS

# Cooperation across Europe

STATUS REPORT 2010



eea  
grants  
iceland liechtenstein norway

# Opportunity Solidarity Cooperation

norway  
grants

STATUS REPORT MAY 2010

# Cooperation for **cohesion**

Through the EEA and Norway Grants, Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway make a substantial contribution to reducing economic and social disparities in the European Economic Area. In the period 2004-09, grants were awarded to 1250 individual projects, programmes and funds in 15 beneficiary states across Central and Southern Europe.

The EEA and Norway Grants also aim to strengthen the relations between the donor states and the beneficiary states. Since the financial mechanisms were established in 2004, bilateral relations have been developed and broadened. More than one in five of the supported projects have partners in the donor states, mainly in Norway.

Given the importance of pooling ideas and resources at local, national or international level, this year's Status Report focuses on cooperation. In the report you can read about how the EEA and Norway Grants turn borders into bridges and bring people together, whether through partnership projects, student exchanges, research networks, or through NGO initiatives promoting human rights and social inclusion.

Over the new period 2009-14, the EEA and Norway Grants will focus on important areas such as environmental protection and climate change, social dialogue, civil society, health, research and the judiciary. This underpins our commitment to economic and social development and a more equal and integrated Europe.



Össur Skarphéðinsson,  
Minister of Foreign Affairs,  
Iceland



Dr Aurelia Frick,  
Minister of Foreign Affairs,  
Liechtenstein



Jonas Gahr Støre,  
Minister of Foreign Affairs,  
Norway

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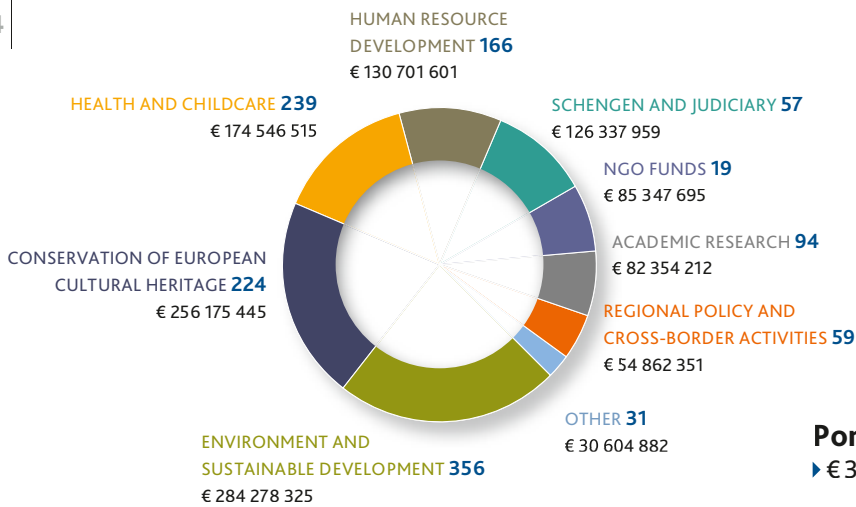
# Reducing economic and social disparities



The EEA and Norway Grants are Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway's contribution to reducing economic and social disparities in Europe. The grant schemes were established in connection with the historic EU and EEA enlargement in 2004.

## Distribution of grants awarded

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### Portugal

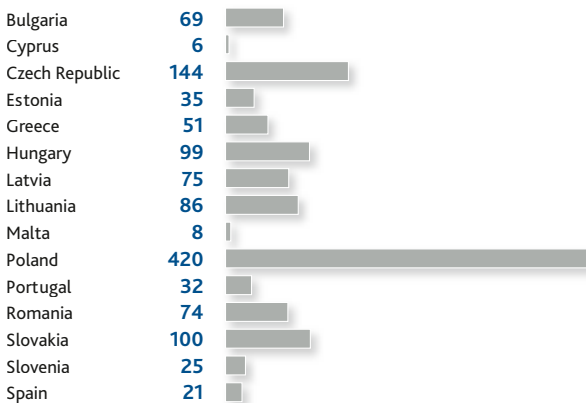
▶ € 31.32 million

### Spain

▶ € 45.84 million



### PROJECTS, PROGRAMMES AND FUNDS



# Support by country 2004–09

Norway

Beneficiary states

Donor states



\* Bulgaria and Romania became beneficiaries in 2007.

# Highlights

## 2004–09

- In the period 2004–09, Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway made €1.3 billion available to **15 beneficiary states** in Central and Southern Europe. **1 250 projects, programmes and funds** were awarded grants and will be completed by end-April 2011.
- Close to **3 400 projects** are supported under the **71 funds and programmes** managed at national level in the beneficiary states for groups such as NGOs, students and researchers.
- Of the projects supported under the funds and programmes, more than **1 860 projects** are managed by **civil society organisations** through the funds for non-governmental organisations (NGOs) in 12 beneficiary states.
- In the projects focusing on energy efficiency and renewable energy, more than **350 public buildings, including schools and hospitals**, are being renovated to reduce emissions of CO<sub>2</sub> and other pollutants.
- More than **56 000 public sector employees** participate in capacity-building initiatives. Around **2 000 students** will participate in exchange programmes with the donor states and **150 PhDs** are supported.
- Refurbishment of hospitals, purchase of new technology and training of more than **9 000 medical staff** will increase the annual diagnosis and treatment capacity by health services with **213 000 patients** per year.
- **150 cultural heritage sites** will be opened to the public following renovation works and more than **430 000 cultural artefacts** are being restored and preserved for future generations.
- More than **70 Schengen border crossings** are being secured and **international police cooperation** is being strengthened to better prevent and combat cross-border crime.

The Courtyard of Honour in Mikulov Castle, Mikulov, Czech Republic, has undergone comprehensive renovation with support from EEA Grants.

Photo © NMFA



## Partnership projects

The EEA and Norway Grants aim to strengthen political and economic ties between the donor states and the beneficiary states.

In the period 2004–09, more than 1 in 5 supported projects are partnership projects between entities in the beneficiary states and Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway. The majority of these projects are found within the fields of academic research, environmental protection and sustainable development. In addition to nearly 320 partnership projects among the individual projects, hundreds of partnership projects are supported under the many funds and programmes managed at national level.

Bilateral cooperation is particularly prominent within the scholarship funds set up in 11 beneficiary states. In addition to scholarships granted to more than 2 000 students and staff to support their studies and work in the three donor states, more than 400 cooperation projects between educational institutions in Iceland, Liechtenstein or Norway and the beneficiary states are financed.

The countries with the largest numbers of partnership projects are Bulgaria, Latvia, Hungary, Portugal and Romania. In Bulgaria and Romania, more than half of all EEA and Norway Grants projects are partnership projects.

# Reviews

## in 2009

### ENSURING COMPLIANCE WITH SCHENGEN REQUIREMENTS

Norway provides €121 million to assist the newly joined Schengen members to implement the Schengen *acquis*, strengthen the judiciary and improve the prison infrastructure. In total, 57 Schengen projects related to border security, police cooperation and a strengthened judiciary are supported. The majority of these projects aim to provide national police forces with adequate training and equipment of common European standards. Significant areas of support are law enforcement activities in Poland and improving conditions for prison inmates in Latvia and Lithuania.

According to an evaluation carried out by INTEGRATION International Management Consultants GmbH, Norway's support to Schengen and judiciary projects is an important contribution to the strengthening of general law enforcement and the fight against organised and transnational crime and illegal immigration. The evaluation said the support had been vital in ensuring that new Schengen countries comply with the requirements and has established valuable partnerships between law enforcement authorities in Norway and the beneficiary states. One third of the supported Schengen projects are implemented in partnership with authorities and institutions within the Norwegian police and correctional service.

### REDUCING GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS

In total, 164 EEA and Norway Grants projects amounting to €115 million in support contribute towards the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions. The majority of these projects are focused on reducing emissions of greenhouse gases by making poorly insulated public buildings more energy efficient through renovation and the introduction of renewable energy sources. Hundreds of hospitals and school buildings are being upgraded to decrease their energy consumption and limit emissions of CO<sub>2</sub> and other pollutants. A review of the projects contributing to reduced emissions concluded that CO<sub>2</sub> emissions will be reduced by 173 000 tonnes per year. The review, developed by COWI, also found that the projects are cost-efficient and strongly aligned with national environmental priorities

### LONG-TERM POSITIVE IMPACT OF BIODIVERSITY PROJECTS

In the period 2004–09, the EEA and Norway Grants provided €49 million in support towards safeguarding biodiversity in ten beneficiary states. The supported projects include expansion of the Natura 2000 network of protected areas, development of national biodiversity databases, mapping of species and habitats in forests and natural parks, and recovery programmes for endangered wildlife. Of the 52 individual projects covering biodiversity, 35 target the conservation of flora and/or fauna, whereas the rest are divided between awareness-raising, research, and educational activities. A review carried out by PITIJA, svetovanje d.o.o., stated that all supported projects are very relevant to the achievement of national and international biodiversity objectives and obligations or for research to establish key data to assist with the protection and management of species and habitats. The projects are estimated to have long-term positive impacts.



Police cooperation: Norwegian and Polish police authorities have considerably strengthened their cooperation through joint participation in Norway Grants supported projects.

Photo © Norwegian National Police Service

## Coming up 2009–14

In December 2009, Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway agreed new financial contributions for the period 2009–14 with the European Union.

According to the Agreed Minutes of the negotiations on the EEA Financial Mechanism (EEA Grants) 2009–14, annual tranches of €197.7 million will be made available to the 12 newest EU Member States as well as to Greece, Portugal and Spain. The priority sectors will be environmental protection and management, climate change and renewable energy, civil society, human and social development, and protecting cultural heritage. Academic research may be eligible within one or more of these sectors. Norway will provide 95 percent of the total amount of the EEA Financial Mechanism.

According to the Agreed Minutes for the separate Norwegian Financial Mechanism (Norway Grants), Norway will make available an additional annual contribution of €160 million to the 12 newest EU Member States. The priority sectors will be carbon capture and storage, green industry innovation, research and scholarship, human and social development, justice and home affairs, and the promotion of decent work and tripartite dialogue.

# New **skills** for tomorrow's Europe

Nearly 430 000 people across Europe will benefit from training and capacity-building initiatives funded by the EEA and Norway Grants. A key goal of the human resource development and training programmes at local and regional level in Central and Southern Europe is the improvement of public services.

By promoting student exchanges, an efficient and accountable public sector, a skilled workforce, and a well-functioning voluntary sector, support granted to human resource development contributes to making the most of existing opportunities, while also creating new ones.

A special focus is placed upon promoting European student, researcher and teacher mobility through scholarship funds, and on strengthening the institutional capacity and know-how of public services at national, regional and local level.





# Exchanging skills and know-how

In Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania, the EEA and Norway Grants support 225 smaller development projects through five funds for regional development and capacity-building in the public sector.

Specific funds for regional development and cooperation have been set up in Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania **to enhance the efficiency and quality of public services at regional and local level**. Grants are awarded to support expert exchanges between municipalities in the donor states and the three beneficiary states, the development of public-private partnerships and local government capacity-building.

## MUTUAL BENEFIT

Employee and expert exchanges and cooperation projects between local and regional authorities in the beneficiary and donor states are of mutual benefit. The parties involved are familiarised with new solutions, alternative approaches and working methods, which may in turn be adapted and put to good use at home.

A case in point is the cooperation project between Estonia's Pärnumaa county and Norway's Buskerud county working with the support of the Estonian local and regional development fund. Pärnumaa is seeking **new solutions for the administrative management and welfare of the elderly**. Such cooperation is of mutual benefit according to Kåre Henning, International Project Advisor at Buskerud County. "Pärnumaa has a highly developed study advisory and careers counselling system in secondary schools. Headmasters and advisors from secondary schools in Buskerud have cooperated closely with Estonian colleagues in developing and introducing such a system in Buskerud", concludes Henning.

## INTRODUCING NEW WAYS OF FUNDING

In Latvia, a separate short-term expert exchange fund has been set up to **encourage cooperation and knowledge exchange** between Latvian institutions and their counterparts in the donor states. A large number of the projects target environmental protection in Latvia and regional development.

Among Latvia's most innovative funds supported by the EEA and Norway Grants is a scheme for developing public-private partnerships (PPPs). Public-private partnerships can facilitate the realisation of projects that are too big or costly to be implemented by public authorities alone. The Municipality of Limbaži in northern Latvia has received support to prepare a PPP project to construct a new regional library and sports centre.

## 11 000 LITHUANIAN CIVIL SERVANTS INVOLVED

In Lithuania, more than 11 000 Lithuanian civil servants participate in activities through projects supported by the capacity strengthening fund and the regional cooperation fund. The regional cooperation fund has been set up to **foster cooperation between Lithuania and Norway in the field of regional development**. The fund supports close to 70 projects within areas such as educational cooperation, exchange of experience on local authorities' dialogue with communities, business promotion, and the development of regional waste management systems. Several Norwegian public agencies, research institutes, associations, municipalities and counties participate as partners.

*The parties involved are familiarised with new solutions, alternative approaches and working methods, which may in turn be adapted and put to good use at home.*



Lithuanian public sector employees attend training courses to exchange experiences and know-how.

Photo © Public institution 'Ideas of wellness', Lithuania

# Connecting schools across Europe

Students, teachers and researchers from 69 Czech and Slovak schools and higher education institutions have participated in exchanges or cooperation projects with 85 similar institutions in Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway.

Activities supported under the Czech and Slovak scholarship funds range from scholarships for individual student, teacher and researcher mobility, to joint elaboration of new teaching materials and jointly managed projects within areas such as environmental protection and cultural heritage preservation.

## PARTNERSHIPS FOR LEARNING

Students play an active role in many of the supported projects. At the Hubeneho Gymnasium in Bratislava, Slovakia, and the Liechtensteinisches Gymnasium in Vaduz, Liechtenstein, students work together to protect the biodiversity of the Danube lowlands and Liechtenstein, focusing especially on the bird fauna. Students also study ecological farming and sustainable natural sources of energy.

Much further north, students from the Sami Upper Secondary School in Karasjok, Norway, and the Upper Secondary Vocational School in Detva, Slovakia, are cooperating in a cultural heritage preservation project. Through seminars, excursions and workshops, students conduct their own research and learn how to protect the environment and preserve European cultural heritage. Special emphasis is placed on folk traditions and history, and on how to present aspects of these to foreign visitors.

## INSTITUTIONAL COOPERATION

One of the projects supported under the Czech scholarship fund is a joint venture by the Mendel Secondary School in Nový Jičín and Asker Upper Secondary School in Norway; the two schools are cooperating on a project to develop teaching materials, encourage young enterprise in Europe, and teach students how to develop their own business ideas.

Another notable project is the initiative by the Metropolitan University in Prague and the Norwegian University of Science and Technology (NTNU) in Trondheim to improve accessibility and support at the universities for physically impaired students.

## SCHOLARSHIP FUNDS IN 11 COUNTRIES

Scholarship funds to promote student exchanges to Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway are in place in 11 countries in Central and Southern Europe. Grants for study or work periods abroad are available to students, researchers, teachers and university staff. Funding is also available for cooperation projects between educational institutions in the beneficiary states and Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway.

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The Czech scholarship fund supports cooperation projects between educational institutions in the Czech Republic and the donor states.

Photo © National Agency for European Educational Programmes (NAEP)

## FUNDS

### CZECH SCHOLARSHIP FUND

INTERMEDIARY	National Agency for European Educational Programmes (NAEP)
AIM	Support cooperation between educational institutions in the Czech Republic and the donor states
GRANT	€ 2 556 100

### SLOVAK SCHOLARSHIP FUND

INTERMEDIARY	Slovak Academic Information Agency (SAIA)
AIM	Develop cooperation among students, lecturers and experts of secondary schools and higher educational institutions in Slovakia and the donor states
GRANT	€ 1 908 900

“

*The international cooperation immensely improved the quality of curricula taught in specialised subjects in our schools. We are already planning a new cooperation project with our Norwegian partner.*

”

Ladislav Abrahám and Irena Bambuchová, teachers at the Mendel Secondary School

### NEW MAPPING AGENCY

The Romanian National Agency for Cadastre and Land Registration is carrying out a major organisational and human resources development project in order to found a new national mapping agency. The Land Registry of Iceland and the Norwegian Mapping and Cadastre Authority are involved as partners.

Photo © Romanian National Agency for Cadastre and Land Registration



### BETTER WORK-LIFE BALANCE

The Spanish Women's Institute is cooperating with the Norwegian Association of Local and Regional Authorities (KS) to promote a better balance between work and family life in Spain.

Photo © iStockphoto



# EDUCATION AND SKILLS projects



### INDIVIDUAL STUDENT MOBILITY

Anete Bērziņa from Latvia spent a semester as an exchange student at the Hochschule Liechtenstein and is one of several hundred students who have benefited from the many scholarship funds under the EEA and Norway Grants.

Photo © Anete Bērziņa



### LABOUR MARKET REINTEGRATION

In Hungary, 4 000 ex-soldiers participate in a comprehensive work training programme to provide them with the skills needed for the civilian labour market. The Norwegian Defence University College is a partner in the project.

Photo © Róbert Szita, Socio-Political Public Foundation of the Hungarian Army



# Joint efforts to improve public services in Poland

Photo © Association of Polish Cities

In Poland, 1500 local government employees participate in a nationwide effort to increase the efficiency and transparency of public services.

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In Poland, public finances are highly decentralised. Local government accounts for one third of the total public expenditures and carries out 67 percent of all investment in the public sector. Polish local and regional authorities are now seeking to improve their services to citizens through mutual learning and sharing of best practices. The project is carried out in partnership with the Norwegian Association of Local and Regional Authorities (KS).

“This is a project for ambitious local government staff,” says Tomasz Potkański, Deputy Executive Director of the Association of Polish Cities. He continues: “The project is built on two assumptions: professionals learn best from other professionals; and, order to improve the quality of services, they have to be carefully measured”.

## LEARNING FROM ONE ANOTHER

Over four years, local government employees from across Poland will come together to share experiences and participate in training schemes. So far, 720 civil servants from more than 300 local government units have participated in services management training and efficiency networks or experience sharing groups are in place.

An important part of the project is the transfer of knowledge between Norwegian local authorities and their Polish counterparts. The new efficiency networks model is based on a model for sharing ideas and information between municipalities. This was developed by the Norwegian Association of Local and Regional Authorities in cooperation with more than half of all local authorities in Norway. In addition, more than 100 Polish local government employees will participate in study visits to, or do traineeships in, Norway.

The contacts established in this way can lead to further cooperation in the future, as is the case with the municipalities of Sochaczew, Poland, and Ullensaker, Norway. Deputy Mayor of Sochaczew, Jerzy Żelichowski, says his municipality would like to continue the cooperation: “Among other things, we hope to draw on their experiences from the development of Oslo Airport at Gardermoen in Ullensaker. In Sochaczew, we have an old disused military airport which we hope to develop into a modern civilian one.”

## TRANSPARENCY AND ACCOUNTABILITY

The local government project also includes annual competitions among municipalities for the most efficient public services, a good practices database, and a benchmarking system for public services, which allows local government employees, citizens and the media to compare their own local government’s use of resources and quality of services delivered to other local governments.

## POLAND – LOCAL GOVERNMENT CAPACITY-BUILDING

PROMOTER	Association of Polish Cities
PARTNER	Association of Polish Counties, the Association of Polish Rural Municipalities and the Norwegian Association of Local and Regional Authorities
AIM	Strengthen the institutional capacity of Polish local government units
GRANT	€2 853 000

# New life for old towns

Photo © Barbara Jakse Jeršič, Riksanitkvarren

Five towns in the Slovenian region of Gorenjska revitalised their old town centres by making historical sites into meeting places for residents.

One historic building in each of the five old town centres in Kranj, Radovljica, Škofja Loka, Tržič and Jesenice/Stara Sava has been renovated to conserve the cultural heritage value of the buildings and make the areas more interesting and appealing to visitors. The local authorities hope the Norway Grants -funded project will act as a catalyst for revitalising the old town centres, making them attractive for both residents and tourists. Above all, the local authorities have attempted to introduce measures that create a foundation for both cultural and economic activity.

## MUTUAL INSPIRATION

Hedmark County Administration, Norway, has been an active project partner since the start-up in 2005. "What they wanted us to help with was organising the activities that could create a cultural and economic impetus in these urban areas so that these buildings would gradually have a kind of pivotal function", says Tove Krattbøl at the Office of the County Governor of Hedmark. Krattbøl underlines the importance of mutual inspiration. The exchange of ideas for the works that took place in the Slovene towns also benefited the local development in the municipalities in Hedmark.

## MULTIFUNCTIONAL BUILDINGS

In the town of Radovljica, the historical building that has been renovated has previously been used as housing for social welfare clients. During the renovation works, the remains of a splendid old assembly room in the baroque style were discovered. It was in a state of decay and had almost been forgotten. The room has now been restored and returned to its former grandeur and decor, and will now be used for weddings and other celebrations. The stately first floor of the building will become a museum devoted to a contemporary of Mozart, the playwright and historian Anton Tomaz Linhart (1756–95).

The Slovene town renewal project is one of 225 cultural heritage projects that receive support under the EEA and Norway Grants. The restoration of historic buildings and fortifications,

the renovation of museums, and the conservation of urban areas, cultural landscapes and historical documents have boosted activity and employment in both central and rural areas in the beneficiary states. New attractions of historical interest have also helped put the enlarged EU on the tourist map.

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From the opening ceremony of the project 'Square Stara Sava' in the old parts of Jesenice town.

Photo © Frode Bakken

## PROJECT

### LIVELY OLD TOWN – INTEGRATED APPROACH TO THE OLD TOWN RENEWAL IN GORENJSKA REGION

PROMOTER BSC, Business Support Centre, L.t.d., Kranj

PARTNER Hedmark County Council, Norway

AIM Revitalise five old town centres in the Gorenjska region to reverse economic and social decline

GRANT €1211242

# Solidarity in health

Health and childcare is a priority for the EEA and Norway Grants. The supported projects have a wide outreach through hospital improvements and health awareness programmes in schools and local communities. Thousands of people are set to benefit from the activities funded.

Children and youth are the focus of one third of all supported health projects. A large part of the funding is used for renovating sports and recreational facilities, upgrading childcare institutions and providing support to families with disabled children. Ensuring access to safe treatment, improved diagnostics and effective medicines is another priority which largely benefits children.

Up to 213 000 patients will receive better care thanks to the refurbishment of hospitals, purchase of medical equipment and training of medical staff across Central and Southern Europe.

# Concerted **attack** on **cancer**

Lithuania is stepping up efforts to prevent and diagnose cancer at early stages. Patients will receive better care with a €7.1 million boost from Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway for vital equipment, new diagnostic and treatment methods, and research on anti-cancer drugs.

Three million people are diagnosed with cancer every year in the EU. It is the second biggest cause of death for both men and women. Lithuania is among the countries battling the highest cancer rates in the EU and half of all malignant tumours are diagnosed in late stages. In 2009, 16 600 Lithuanians were diagnosed with cancer. To stem this trend, Lithuania has initiated a national strategy for cancer prevention and is spending a **quarter of the EEA and Norway Grants health funding on cancer-related projects.**

## NATIONWIDE IMPROVEMENT

The most notable EEA and Norway Grants cancer project in Lithuania concerns **purchasing key diagnostic and treatment equipment for the country's six major medical institutions**, including Kaunas Medical University Clinics, Klaipeda Hospital and Vilnius University Institute of Oncology. This will bring the Lithuanian hospitals to the forefront of new cancer diagnostic and treatment techniques and significantly enhance their capacity for screening, diagnosing and treating cancer. Several cancer types

are targeted: cancer of the digestive system, breast and cervical cancer, lung, stomach and skin cancer.

## FOCUS ON BREAST AND CERVICAL CANCER

A large part of the support from Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway is further **focused on decreasing breast, cervical and colorectal cancer mortality.** According to the Lithuanian Cancer Registry, these cancer types account for more than one third of all cancer cases in Lithuanian women. In 2009, 3 400 Lithuanians were diagnosed with these types of cancers.

At the National Centre of Pathology, which examines tumour tissue of patients in Lithuanian hospitals, three new diagnostic methods have been implemented in a project set to improve the diagnosis of early breast, cervical and colorectal cancer. "The earlier the cancer is detected, the more opportunities you have to act. With this new equipment, we are able to act more quickly", Director Arvydas Laurinavičius says. To increase the competence of staff, 14 pathology

doctors and laboratory specialists have trained at Oslo University Hospital, Nottingham Hospital and Cardiff Hospital to gain insight from similar institutions.

Another training offensive has been undertaken by the Central Polyclinic in Vilnius, the largest primary healthcare institution in the Baltic Region. In one of its EEA and Norway Grants projects, **more than 2 200 healthcare professionals working in the field of cancer have participated in training seminars.**

In a breast cancer awareness campaign the hospital carried out as part of the project in the period May to August 2009, doctors travelled by bus to 200 different locations across the country. Around 12 000 women were examined for breast cancer.

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*The earlier the cancer is detected, the more opportunities you have to act. With this new equipment, we are able to act more quickly.*

”

Arvydas Laurinavičius, Director of the National Centre of Pathology in Lithuania



Thanks to new equipment, Vilnius University Institute of Oncology can offer patients minimally invasive treatment and operations.

Photo © Vilnius University Institute of Oncology

# Mental healthcare for Romanian children

It is estimated that one in five children and adolescents suffer from a mental health problem. Recent reform initiatives of mental healthcare in Romania are now continuing in collaboration with Save the Children.

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“Our aim is to work with these children outside hospitals and not put them under psychiatric medication, but rather prevent a disease from developing at an early phase through counselling and therapy”, says Gabriela Alexandrescu, Executive President of Save the Children Romania. In 2009, Save the Children secured funds from the EEA and Norway Grants to **establish the unique Centre for Children’s Mental Health in Bucharest and education programmes for parents across the country.**

Significant improvements have been made in Romania in the past four years within the field of mental healthcare, with increasing recognition of the problem and more government funding. Alternatives to inpatient mental healthcare for children and young people have particularly increased and the director of the National Mental Health and Addictions Centre, Ileana Botezat-Antonescu, welcomes the new additions from Save the Children.

## LEARNING CENTRE

With €800 000 in support by Norway and premises donated by the Romanian Commercial Bank, Save the Children opened a centre for children’s mental health in December last year. The centre, centrally located in Bucharest,

offers **counselling and guidance by psychologists, psychiatrists, nurses, social workers and psycho-pedagogues free of charge** to children with mental health problems and their families. Parents can contact the centre directly, and by word of mouth, its services are already in great demand. 270 children and youths have already received individual counselling or group therapy – from six-year olds with ADHD, 11-year olds battling eating disorders to teenagers facing depression or social anxiety. 170 parents have participated in counselling to learn how to best work with their children. The centre’s 13 staff are expected to provide individual counselling or group therapy to another 350 children and youths in 2010.

## INTERNATIONAL EXPERTISE

To train the staff at the new centre and **add to the pool of qualified professionals within child mental healthcare** in Romania, Save the Children Romania involved Save the Children Norway. The Norwegian NGO’s south-east European office put its Romanian colleagues in contact with regional experts through study trips to child-friendly institutes for mental health in Belgrade and Zagreb. Tommaso Diegoli of Save the

Children Norway says the aim was to find a model from a neighbouring country that could be easily adaptable to Romania. The answer lay in Serbia. “The approach which is now brand new in Romania imitates the one of the Institute of Mental Health in Belgrade. Doctor Veronika Işpanović-Radojković, a globally recognised expert in child mental health, was kind enough to show us how the institute works and she is still in regular contact with the centre in Bucharest,” explains Diegoli.



Save the Children has set up a low threshold and non-stigmatising educational centre for children with mental health problems.

Photo © Save the Children Romania



Photo © George Roman, Save the Children Romania



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*Our aim is to work with these children outside hospitals and not put them under psychiatric medication.*

”

Gabriela Alexandrescu, Director of Save the Children Romania

**PARENT EDUCATION**

In parallel to the learning centre in Bucharest, and **to ensure a nationwide outreach to parents of children with mental health problems**, Save the Children is rolling out another €1.7 million EEA Grants project. Parent education centres will be set up in five major cities and their surrounding areas: Bucharest, Iași, Suceava, Târgu Mureș, and Timișoara. Teams of psychologists, psychiatrists, school counsellors, social workers and nurses will work with

parents of children and teenagers with mental health problems and carry out capacity-building for employees within the local healthcare, education and social protection services.

In a mapping exercise carried out by Save the Children between July and October 2009, kindergarten and school teachers, psychologists and paediatricians across Romania expressed a need for capacity-building and spoke of a lack of referral options when faced with a child in need

of clinical evaluation. A large number of local schools and the Romanian Association of Family Doctors and Paediatricians have signed up to participate and will help worried parents get in contact with the new service. “Our aim this year is to target and attract 200 families to these new parental centres in order to enhance the quality of care of vulnerable children and teens in their own families,” Alexandrescu says.

**THE BEST OF CARE FOR HEALTHIER ROMANIAN CHILDREN**

Promoted by Save the Children Norway

In cooperation with Save the Children Romania

Aims to run the first child-friendly centre for families with children facing mental health challenges

Granted €800 000

**POSITIVE HEALTHY PARENTING IN ROMANIAN FAMILIES**

Promoted by Save the Children Romania

Aims to develop a network of parenting services in urban and rural areas and enhance the skills of healthcare professionals in the field of child mental health

Granted €1683 100



Local schools across Romania will help put parents in contact with the new parental centres for children with mental health problems.

Photo © George Roman, Save the Children Romania

# A life without violence

The municipality of Považská Bystrica, Slovakia, will soon open the region's first hotline and crisis shelter – built on a Norwegian model.

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In June, a new crisis centre will be opened in Považská Bystrica for victims of domestic violence and their children. The head of the municipality's social services, Janka Dudonová, stresses the growing need for shelter space, especially for women with children. "When women have a problem today, they can turn to us or the police. But after having received advice on how to arrange divorce or file a criminal complaint, they still have to stay with the perpetrator at home. We cannot provide accommodation," she says.

The Secretariat of the Shelter Movement in Norway has provided valuable advice to the municipality of Považská Bystrica on how to set up a crisis shelter.

Photo © Jaroslava Panáková



A €362 000 grant from Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway is about to change this situation. A former kindergarten in the city centre is halfway towards being turned into the region's first crisis centre for victims of domestic violence. The new centre will have seven family rooms with space to house 20 women, men and children as well as space for counselling and training. "People can stay at the centre for three to six months, and up to nine months or longer if the situation is not resolved", says project leader Jaroslava Panáková.

Temporary housing is important, but the goal of Panáková and other municipal staff is to empower people escaping an abusive relationship and enable them to become self-reliant. "To do so, we will use the model of Norway's Crisis Centre movement. It goes beyond accommodation; it is rather a systematic approach to help solve the situation of these women", Panáková says. The staff at the centre will provide social services, psychological counselling and legal



The new crisis centre will provide temporary housing and comprehensive counselling to victims of domestic violence.

Photo © iStockphoto

help. Považská Bystrica municipality estimates that the centre will provide help to 70 people annually.

## PROJECT

### POVAŽSKÁ BYSTRICA – CRISIS CENTRE FOR VICTIMS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

PROMOTER City Považská Bystrica

PARTNER Secretariat of the Shelter Movement in Norway

AIM Open the region's first crisis centre based on a Norwegian model

GRANT €362 400



### SPECIAL CARE FOR INFANTS IN THE CZECH REPUBLIC

The number of babies born prematurely is rising in the Czech Republic. Twelve new intensive care units are now in place in nine Czech cities to increase the survival rate of the newborns.

Photo © Charta 77 Foundation

### PREVENTIVE SCREENING IN POLAND

The inhabitants in the Tatrzański District have been provided with access to modern specialist equipment for identifying possible birth defects and the early detection of breast and colon cancer.

Photo © Wojciech Trzcionka/Agencja Presso



# HEALTH AND CHILDCARE projects



### THERAPEUTIC HORSEBACK RIDING FOR SLOVENE CHILDREN

With Norwegian support, Rakitna Youth Centre in Slovenia is expanding its treatment programme to help children with eating disorders.

Photo © Rakitna Youth Centre



### SPECIALISED HEALTH CENTRES FOR CHILDREN IN LITHUANIA

Three specialised health consultation centres for children will be established in Vilnius to improve the accessibility and quality of child healthcare services.

Photo © Public Entity Šeškinės Poliklinika

# Sowing the seeds of change

Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway acknowledge the importance of NGOs in promoting democratic societies and have placed support for civil society at the core of the EEA and Norway Grants.

NGOs have an important role to play in strengthening social inclusion and promoting democratic values through advocating on public policy issues, initiating public debate and delivering social services.

The EEA and Norway Grants provide the NGO sector in 12 beneficiary states with €85 million in support through grant schemes tailored to the needs of NGOs. To date, 1860 NGO projects have received funding. In addition, €100 million is given in direct support to larger projects run by NGOs in the beneficiary states.



# Promoting Open and democratic societies

Social inclusion, human rights and civil political participation are best ensured by engaging and promoting an active civil society. Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway support close to 500 NGO projects promoting democracy building, the protection of human rights and anti-discrimination initiatives.

More than 1860 NGO projects aimed at influencing public policy and initiating public debate, engaging in advocacy, maintaining watchdog activities or providing social services benefit from the EEA and Norway Grants NGO fund support. The funding provides an **opportunity to promote the development of civil society and enhance its contribution to building more transparent and sustainable societies**. The NGO projects are among the more than 3 400 projects that are supported under the many funds and programmes operated at national level in the beneficiary states.

## REPORTING ATTACKS ON FREE SPEECH

In Poland, the Helsinki Foundation for Human Rights monitors and protects the freedom of media. Through the reporting of 16 local correspondents, the project 'Observatory of the freedom of media'

keeps track of attacks on free speech or breaches on media freedom all over Poland.

In the first quarter of 2010, the Foundation observed and provided legal aid for journalists in 17 legal cases pending before the national courts and the European Court of Human Rights. The Observatory also publishes monthly newsletters and organises debates on current issues relating to freedom of expression in Poland. "Our conferences attract journalists, academics, law and journalism students, and we have around 100 participants per conference", says Programme Manager Dominika Bychawska at the Polish Helsinki Foundation for Human Rights.

Through its membership of the Human Rights House Network and **cooperation with the Human Rights House Foundation (HRHF) in Oslo, Norway**, and the human rights organisation Article 19, the Observatory is taking part in the development of a new joint project – Observatory of Media Freedom in the



The Polish Helsinki Foundation for Human Rights organises debates on issues related to freedom of expression in Poland.

Photo © The Polish Helsinki Foundation for Human Rights

South Caucasus – which aims to transfer best practices from Poland to Armenia, Georgia and Azerbaijan. "The expertise being built in Poland is also of benefit to other countries", underlines Ane Tusvik Bonde of HRHF in Oslo.

In addition, some 200 NGO projects focus on strengthening the participation of disadvantaged groups, such as ethnic minorities, immigrants and disabled people, in society and politics.

The Hungarian NGO fund of the EEA and Norway Grants supports a project to protect women from trafficking and prostitution.

Photo © Foundation for Women in Hungary (MONA)



“  
*The expertise being built in Poland is also of benefit to other countries.*  
 ”

Ane Tusvik Bonde,  
 Human Rights House Foundation, Oslo

# Building cross-border capacity

Through a Hungarian NGO, the Norway Grants support training for more than 400 representatives of municipalities, universities and NGOs in the Balkans and Ukraine in conflict reconciliation, democratisation and civil society development.

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The Szeged Centre for Security Policy, a public policy think tank in the south-eastern part of Hungary, organises training courses, conferences and research activities for municipalities, universities and NGOs in Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo, Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia and Ukraine.

The voluntary and civil society sector is less developed in these countries, and there is a need for training initiatives to strengthen the competencies of local actors. Moreover, the Centre plays an important role in spreading reliable and objective research findings and information in order to encourage public debate about foreign and security policy issues.

## FROM EUROPE TO EUROPE

Through the Centre's 'From Europe to Europe' project, financed by the Norway Grants, 17-week-long training courses have been held for more than 400 participants from across the region. The focus areas of the courses are municipal development, EU regional

policy and institutional reforms and the role of NGOs in the promotion of democratisation and regional security.

These courses and conferences not only provide for training and capacity-building of local and regional stakeholders, but are also an opportunity for sharing experiences and forming informal networks across political

boundaries. This is well in line with the Centre's aim of being a contact point between regional and local actors from the Balkans, Central Europe and Western Europe.

The Szeged Centre for Security Policy is run by the Hungarian Academy of Sciences, the University of Szeged and the Municipality of Szeged.



The public policy think tank Szeged Centre for Security Policy in Hungary runs training courses in conflict reconciliation, democratisation and civil society development.

Photo © Szeged Centre for Security Policy

## PROJECT

### CROSS BORDER TRAINING – HUNGARY, SERBIA, UKRAINE

PROMOTER	Szeged Centre for Security Policy
AIM	Provide training to representatives of civil society organisations, professional organisations, social partners and local authorities from the Balkans and Ukraine
GRANT	€450 900

### EDUCATION FOR DEMOCRACY

Through simulated elections, model parliaments and simulated parliamentary sessions, students in Romania learn how political decisions made at national and European level affect their lives, and how they can influence political processes.

Photo © Asociatia Pro Democratia



### COUNTERING POLICE DISCRIMINATION

Concerns over police discrimination made the NGO Pro Humanum organise workshops seeking to increase the knowledge and awareness of discriminatory attitudes of police officers in Poland.

Photo © Pro Humanum



# CIVIL SOCIETY projects



### VOLUNTEERING AGAINST CORRUPTION

Transparency International Hungary has recruited 20 students to a volunteer programme to build awareness and capacity to fight corruption.

Photo © Transparency International Hungary



### ENGAGING LOCAL COMMUNITIES IN CROSS-BORDER COOPERATION

In eastern Slovakia, local stakeholders are directly involved in the development of the region and in cross-border cooperation with Ukraine through several small-scale projects supported under the Norway Grants.

Photo © Civil Society Development Foundation

# Thinking globally, **acting** **together**

Environmental support is the largest area of involvement supported by the EEA and Norway Grants 2004–09, representing more than €320 million in funding when sub-projects of the NGO funds and research funds are included.

Combating climate change, halting Europe's decline in biodiversity, protecting human health from environmental threats, and ensuring a sustainable use of natural resources demand a concerted international effort. Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway and the 15 beneficiary states have devoted one quarter of the EEA and Norway Grants to environmental and sustainable development projects. Partnership projects between entities in the donor and beneficiary states are particularly prevalent within the environmental projects.

The largest part of the green funding is focused on energy efficiency and renewable energy in public buildings in order to decrease emissions of greenhouse gases and other pollutants. Other key areas of support include reducing water pollution, improving waste management, environmental monitoring and protecting biodiversity.



# On-site pollution controls

Based on Norwegian experiences, the Polish Chief Inspectorate for Environmental Protection is strengthening its capacity to identify and contain industrial emissions in a project that will benefit the environment in Poland and in neighbouring countries.



With technical advice from the Norwegian Climate and Pollution Agency, the Polish Chief Inspectorate for Environmental Protection is modernising its practices.

Photo © GIOS

In 2006, the Polish Chief Inspectorate for Environmental Protection (GIOS) had no clear procedures for the prioritisation and execution of on-site inspections. The system for collecting, storing and analysing polluter-related data was manual and paper-based, and the stored information was spread between the inspectorate and its 16 regional offices. These methods were time-consuming and unsustainable for an institution responsible for supervising 53 000 companies and for carrying out approximately 16 000 inspections annually.

## MORE EFFICIENT AND EXPEDIENT

With financial support from the Norway Grants and technical advice from the Norwegian Climate and Pollution Agency (Klif) the inspectorate is modernising its practices to become more efficient and more accurate. As a part of the project, GIOS has already developed a risk-based inspection system which distinguishes between pollution-intensive industries and those which are less polluting when it comes to frequency and execution of inspections.

In addition, a database for analysing and communicating results has also been developed. Electronic measurement equipment for the rapid, on-site analysis of emission levels has been introduced in two regional offices and will subsequently be rolled out in all regional offices. The project also includes the development of tools and procedures for disseminating results among the enterprises subject to inspection and to the general public.

## MUTUAL BENEFIT FROM COOPERATION

The role of Klif has included providing advice based on its own experiences of more than 30 years of environmental inspections. According to André Kammerud of Klif's Section for International Affairs, the project is one of the most successful in which he has taken part. "GIOS' strong commitment and willingness to reform has led to successful results. The cooperation has also made Klif more aware of the pros and cons of our own system", he said, emphasising Klif's readiness to continue the cooperation with the Polish organisation.



*GIOS' strong commitment and willingness to reform has led to successful results. The cooperation has also made Klif more aware of pros and cons of our own system.*



André Kammerud, Norwegian Climate and Pollution Agency (Klif)

## PROJECT

### IMPROVING THE EFFICIENCY OF POLISH ENVIRONMENTAL INSPECTION

PROMOTER	Polish Chief Inspectorate for Environmental Protection
AIM	Improve identification and containment of emissions from Polish industry
GRANT	€1 709 800

# Joint efforts in the Baltic Sea Region

The EEA and Norway Grants contribute substantially to sustainable development and environmental protection in four countries bordering the Baltic Sea.

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Imagine strolling southwards along the sandy Jūrkalne beach in Latvia in the middle of summer. On the left-hand side, a patchwork of forests and farmlands stretches across the landscape. On the right-hand side, some fishermen are heading to the shore with the catch of the day. Seeing the latter cannot, however, be taken for granted.

Chemical weapons dating from World War II and the Cold War rest on the Baltic Sea's seabed. In addition, the Baltic Sea receives pollution from approximately 250 river systems: leakages of nutrients from agriculture and from pollution related to increasing shipping activity. Combined with the relatively low rate of water exchange in the Baltic Sea, **the marine biodiversity and especially the fish stock of the Baltic Sea are at risk.** Some fish species are already threatened or extinct and the seabed contains several dead zones.

#### SEVERELY POLLUTED

**The Baltic Sea is one of the most polluted seas in the world.** Addressing this issue requires a concerted effort and broad cooperation. Last year the EU adopted the Baltic Sea Region Strategy, which aims to coordinate actions of the Member States and regions within

the environment, maritime conditions and infrastructure. In February 2010, environment ministers from Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Latvia, Lithuania, Norway, Poland, Russia and Sweden met to determine how to save the Baltic Sea.

**The EEA and Norway Grants support environmental projects in Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania and Poland, countries that all border the Baltic Sea.** A total of 190 environmental projects, amounting to €136 million in grants, are supported. Some of these projects focus directly on the Baltic Sea through mapping and monitoring initiatives, while the majority benefit the marine environment indirectly through reduced emissions of pollutants.

#### MAPPING ECOSYSTEM CHANGES

One example is a Lithuanian-Norwegian research project under the Norway Grants that will **map marine resources and water quality along Lithuania's 90 km coastline.** There have been substantial developments along the coastline over the last few years. The project, which is carried out by the Coastal Planning and Research Institute at Klaipeda University in Lithuania in close collaboration with the Norwegian Institute for Water Research (NIVA), will determine recent ecosystem

changes in order to provide the authorities and the surrounding industry with information on further management and sustainable use of the coastal area.

A Norway Grants marine resource mapping project is also taking place in Estonia, where a marine chart will be made of 300 000 ha along the coastline. **The marine chart is not only essential to safe navigation but will also inform fishermen about areas where they can deploy their nets without damaging the ecosystem.** The new information





Photo © JAPAN

“

*The mapping makes it possible to plan human activity with fewer negative effects on the environment.*

”

Trine Bekkby, Research Scientist at NIVA

will also lay the ground for drawing up new management plans for Natura 2000 protected areas along the Estonian coast.

The network of Natura 2000 sites is spread throughout Europe to protect especially vulnerable habitats and species.

**PARTNERSHIP PROJECT**

Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway support the development of a **collection of maps indicating the biologically most sensitive Polish marine areas**

through an EEA Grants project run by the Institute of Oceanology at the Polish Academy of Sciences, together with NIVA and several Polish partners. “One of the key effects of the project, is the biological valorisation of Polish Marine Areas, based on seabed habitat mapping”, project manager Jan Marcin Węśławski of the Institute of Oceanology says.

The developed maps show that the shallow western branch of the Bay of Gdansk, which is the most degraded area on the Polish coast, is also the most biologically diverse and valuable. On the other hand, the clean areas of the open coast are biologically more homogeneous and less vulnerable. Research Scientist Trine Bekkby of the partner institute NIVA emphasises the importance of this knowledge. **“The mapping makes it possible to plan human activity with fewer negative effects on the environment,”** she says.

The Institute of Oceanology at the Polish Academy of Sciences has mapped the biologically most sensitive Polish marine areas.

Photo © Maritime Institute Gdansk



**ASSESSMENT OF MARINE RESOURCES**

Promoted by Klaipeda University

In cooperation with the Norwegian Institute for Water Research and Department of Physics, University of Oslo

Aims to establish a system for assessment of marine resources and water quality

Granted €807 600

**IMPLEMENTATION OF NATURA 2000 IN ESTONIAN MARINE AREAS**

Promoted by the Estonian Marine Institute, University of Tartu

In cooperation with the Norwegian Institute for Water Research (NIVA)

Aims to develop management plans and management proposals for implementing Natura 2000 in marine areas

Granted €594 400

**MARINE ECOSYSTEM MAPPING**

Promoted by the Institute of Oceanology, Polish Academy of Sciences

In cooperation with the Norwegian Institute for Water Research and AquaBiota Water Research

Aims to develop a methodology guide for identifying habitats in Polish marine areas

Granted €576 500

# Finding new solutions together

The Polish-Norwegian Research Fund has become an important platform for extensive cooperation within the field of environmental research for Polish and Norwegian researchers.

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Pollution and dust from roads pose a considerable risk to public health in many European cities. Scientists at the Warsaw University of Life Sciences and the Norwegian Institute for Agricultural and Environmental Research (Bioforsk) have now joined forces to identify the top purifying plant species and plant designs which, when planted alongside roads, **would reduce pollution in areas of heavy traffic in cities**. While the Polish scientists have long-standing experiences in reducing pollutant concentrations in contaminated soils, the scientists at the Norwegian centre Bioforsk have expertise in various tree species.

**Cooperation to draw on each other's expertise** is also at play in a partnership between the Silesian University of Technology in Poland and SINTEF

Energy Research in Norway. Through developing a two-phase ejector system for small-scale heat pumping units, this partnership project aims to improve energy efficiency for refrigeration units and heat pumps by up to 20 percent.

## STRENGTHENING ACADEMIC BONDS

Both projects are supported under the Polish-Norwegian Research Fund. By funding joint research by Polish and Norwegian scientists, the two countries' governments **aim to further the already extensive cooperation between Polish and Norwegian researchers**, primarily within the areas of environment and health research.

According to the Information Processing Centre in Warsaw, which manages the fund, several of the institutions that

have been awarded grants have already initiated further international research projects with their Norwegian project partners. The possibility that the fund acts as a **catalyst for further cooperation** is also underlined by Research Manager Arne Sæbø at Bioforsk. According to Sæbø, the cooperation between Bioforsk and Warsaw University of Life Sciences will most likely lead to further research projects, also including partners from other European countries.

Academic research projects are supported in eleven beneficiary states. In the Czech Republic, Estonia, Latvia, Hungary, Poland and Slovakia, nine funds and programmes have been established. The €21.4 million Polish-Norwegian Research Fund is the largest of these.

*Several of the institutions that have been awarded grants have already initiated further international research projects with their Norwegian project partners.*

## FUND

FUND	Polish-Norwegian Research Fund
INTERMEDIARY	Information Processing Centre in Warsaw
AIM	Establish and strengthen cooperation between Polish and Norwegian researchers in the field of environmental and health research
GRANT	€ 21 403 900

Pawel Adamowicz of the Silesian University of Technology in Poland works with researchers from SINTEF Energy Research to improve the energy efficiency of refrigeration units.

Photo © Armin Hafner, SINTEF Energi



### RAISING ENVIRONMENTAL AWARENESS IN SLOVENIA

In Slovenia, the nationwide 'My neighbourhood' campaign is underway to teach people, organisations and businesses about environmental protection.

Photo © My neighbourhood



### DECREASING CO<sub>2</sub> EMISSIONS

Czech and Norwegian scientists work together in charting possible sites in the Czech Republic for future CO<sub>2</sub> capture and geological storage.

Photo © Czech Geological Survey



# ENVIRONMENTAL projects



### TOWARDS SUSTAINABLE USE OF THE MUREŞ RIVER

Norwegian and Romanian authorities are cooperating to optimise the use of water resources and estimate the effect of climate change on one of Romania's most important rivers.

Photo © NIHW



### PRESERVING THE EUROPEAN CHESTNUT TREE

In the Bulgarian parts of the Belasitsa Mountain, researchers from Bulgaria and Iceland work together to conserve the biodiversity of chestnut trees.

Photo © Tzvetan Zlatanov

# EEA and Norway Grants set-up

The EEA and Norway Grants are implemented in cooperation between the **donor states and the beneficiary states**, with the **Financial Mechanism Office (FMO)** in Brussels acting as the day-to-day secretariat. A national **Focal Point** in each beneficiary state acts as a coordinating authority and follows up on projects, programmes and funds in implementation.

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Decisions on funding by the donor states were made on the basis of recommendations from the FMO. Decisions related to the running of the EEA Grants are taken by the **Financial Mechanism Committee (FMC)** consisting of representatives of the Ministries of Foreign Affairs in the three donor states. For the Norway Grants, decisions are made by the **Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs**. Programmes and funds are managed by **national intermediaries** in the beneficiary states.

The Norway Grants for Bulgaria and Romania are set up as bilateral cooperation programmes administered separately by **Innovation Norway**.

**Further information** including contact details to all institutions involved and summaries of all supported projects, programmes and funds is available at [www.eegrants.org](http://www.eegrants.org)





## EEA and Norway Grants

Financial Mechanism Office  
Rue Joseph II 12-16 (mailing address)  
Bd du Régent 47-48 (visiting address)  
1000 Brussels  
BELGIUM

Tel. +32 22861701  
Fax +32 22861789  
Email: [info-fmo@efta.int](mailto:info-fmo@efta.int)

[www.eeagrants.org](http://www.eeagrants.org)  
[www.norwaygrants.org](http://www.norwaygrants.org)

