The rule of law and well-functioning judicial systems are fundamental building blocks for democratic societies. Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway support programmes to strengthen the rule of law, help police to address cross-border crime and empower communities.

The programme will be implemented through:

- **Pre-defined projects**
- **Open calls for proposals**
- **8 Beneficiary States**
- **EEA and Norway Grants**

**Why support the rule of law?**

The police, the prosecuting and the judiciary services play an important role in guaranteeing basic human rights and freedoms, as well as protection from violence and discrimination. Investments, trade and economic growth rely on a sound, predictable and transparent legal environment.

**What is supported?**

An independent and capable judicial system based on justice and human rights principles, efficient procedures and transparent judicial decisions contributes to increased public trust in the judicial systems in Europe. The EEA and Norway Grants’ support in this sector includes:

- Improving the efficiency of the judiciary
- Training judges, lawyers and prosecutors on the European Convention of Human Rights
- Improving the capacity of law enforcement agencies to investigate and prosecute cases of organised crime, including trafficking
- Strengthening cooperation between national and international law enforcement authorities
- Strengthening the justice chain – the cooperation between judicial institutions
- Strengthened cooperation between civil society and the judicial system, for example through legal aid projects, child friendly justice and the rights of minorities

**Where we work**

Effectiveness and efficiency of the judicial system, strengthening rule of law and international police cooperation and combating crime programmes are available in eight Beneficiary States.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>State</th>
<th>EEA Grants</th>
<th>Norway Grants</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bulgaria</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>22.8</td>
<td>22.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Croatia</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>13.2</td>
<td>13.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Czech Republic</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>6.9</td>
<td>6.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Latvia</td>
<td>15.6</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>15.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lithuania</td>
<td>8.0</td>
<td>5.8</td>
<td>13.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Poland</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>9.1</td>
<td>9.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Romania</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>18.0</td>
<td>18.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Slovakia</td>
<td>1.0</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>1.0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Amounts are in € million and for the period 2014-2021. The figures are subject to change until all relevant programme agreements are signed in all countries.

In addition, rule of law projects are also supported through the Grants’ support to civil society through the Active Citizens Funds.
About the EEA and Norway Grants

Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway provide funding to:

- Reducing disparities in Europe
- Strengthening bilateral relations

Areas of support

- Innovation, research, education and competitiveness
- Social inclusion, youth employment and poverty reduction
- Environment, energy, climate change and low carbon economy
- Culture, civil society, good governance and fundamental rights and freedoms
- Justice and home affairs

* EEA Grants are jointly financed by Iceland (3%), Liechtenstein (1%) and Norway (96%) **Norway Grants are solely financed by Norway

Rule of law

Cooperation

Sharing knowledge and experiences is crucial for strengthening the Rule of law. Partnerships with entities from the Donor States are strongly encouraged. To support such bilateral cooperation, the following entities are Donor Programme Partners in this area: the Norwegian Correctional Service, the Norwegian Courts Administration, the Norwegian Directorate for Civil Protection, the Norwegian Directorate of Immigration, the Norwegian Ministry of Justice and Public Security and the Norwegian National Police Directorate. The Council of Europe and the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) are engaged as International Partner Organisations.

Improved capacity of the judiciary to comply with human rights standards:

The Grants contributed to the improvement of the efficiency of courts, and the capacity of the judiciary to implement the European Convention on Human Rights and the case law of the European Court of Human Rights.

Stronger police cooperation between Romania and Norway:

Close international cooperation is crucial when fighting human trafficking and criminal groups travelling from one place to another. With support through the Grants, 25 Romanian police officers participated in joint operational missions in Norway where they assisted Norwegian police in the combating of crime committed by Romanian nationals. In addition, more than 500 police officers participated in joint workshops on counteracting organised crime and strengthening intelligence and strategic analysis.

Key achievements from the 2009-2014 funding period

A total of €70.9 million was allocated to judicial capacity-building, Schengen and police cooperation. A total of 100,000 legal professionals and police officers were trained, and 267,000 people received assistance or legal advice.

Country | Programme | Programme Partner
--- | --- | ---
Bulgaria | Home affairs | Council of Europe, Norwegian Directorate of Immigration, Norwegian Ministry of Justice and Public Security, Norwegian National Police Directorate
| Justice | Council of Europe, Norwegian Correctional Service, Norwegian Ministry of Justice and Public Security, Norwegian Courts Administration
Croatia | Justice | Council of Europe, Norwegian Courts Administration
Czech Republic | Home affairs | Council of Europe, Norwegian Correctional Service
| Justice | Council of Europe, Norwegian Correctional Service
Latvia | Home affairs | Council of Europe
Lithuania | Justice and home affairs | Council of Europe, Norwegian Correctional Service, Norwegian Courts Administration, Norwegian Ministry of Justice and Public Security, Norwegian National Police Directorate
Poland | Home affairs | Norwegian Directorate for Civil Protection, Norwegian Ministry of Justice and Public Security, Norwegian National Police Directorate
| Justice | Norwegian Correctional Service, Norwegian Courts Administration, Norwegian Ministry of Justice and Public Security
Romania | Home affairs | Council of Europe, Norwegian Directorate of Civil Protection, Norwegian Ministry of Justice and Public Security, Norwegian National Police Directorate
| Justice | Council of Europe, Norwegian Correctional Service, Norwegian Courts Administration, Norwegian Ministry of Justice and Public Security
Slovakia | Good governance | Norwegian Barents Secretariat, OECD

Judge Tsveta Jeliazkova (pictured) is one of several Bulgarian judges who received a one-year placement in the European Court of Human Rights in Strasbourg.