

The Social Dialogue – Decent Work programme



€14
million in
funding

Norway Grants 2014-2021



The **Social Dialogue – Decent Work programme** aims to strengthen tripartite cooperation between employer organisations, trade unions and public authorities and promote decent work.

Photo credit: iStockphoto

The programme will be implemented through



Open calls
for proposals



Beneficiary
States



Norway
Grants



Pre-defined
projects in Lithuania
and Poland

Why is the programme needed?

A closer involvement of social partners – trade unions and employers' associations – is crucial in addressing the economic and social challenges Europe faces, and to help strengthening the national ownership and accountability of new policies. Increased globalisation, technological progress, declines in trade union density and the decentralization of collective bargaining exert a significant negative impact on the relationship between employers and employees. A stronger emphasis on capacity-building of national social partners is therefore needed. Social dialogue is an important driver of the [European Pillar of Social Rights](#) which was agreed by EU Heads of

States in 2017. The Pillar sets out several key principles and rights to support fair and well-functioning labour markets and welfare systems. The goal is better working and living conditions across Europe. Social partners may support the implementation of the Pillar via collective bargaining at national level, increasing awareness of workers' rights and obligations, health and safety concerns and facilitating access to the labour market, especially for the young and long-term unemployed. The Social Dialogue – Decent Work programme is important in this context.



Photo credit: Christophe Vander Escken

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Key achievements from the 2009-2014 funding period

With a modest **€8.1 million in funding** the previous programme still had a strong impact, leading to improved social dialogue structures and awareness of the decent work agenda:



Photo credit: Christophe Vander Eecken

97

social dialogue bodies established

34

tripartite dialogue structures improved

51

agreements on tripartite dialogue and six on decent work signed

8 400

workers trained in awareness of decent work issues

90%

of project promoters were inspired by the **Nordic model**

Creating partnerships

The tripartite model is considered one of the major factors for an inclusive labour market and socio-economic growth in Norway since the 1970s. Cooperation between Norwegian entities and entities in the beneficiary countries plays a major role in this programme where Norwegian social partners share expertise and experience.

Work-related crime

Work-related crime, undeclared work, social dumping and trafficking are the negative results of increased globalisation and mobility, and work-related crime represents a serious threat to the aims of the European Pillar of Social Rights. The Norwegian Government promotes

a strategy for combating work-related crime which is based on cooperation with the social partners. [The Government has also proposed establishing closer cooperation at European level](#) on preventing and detecting work-related crime. In conformity with [the Norwegian Government's strategy on cooperation with the EU](#), the Social Dialogue – Decent Work programme and Norway Grants are applied to strengthen cooperation between European supervision and control agencies. Social partners and enforcement authorities, such as labour inspectorates, tax and social security authorities, can meet to exchange information and good practice and develop knowledge and evidence and engage in closer cross-border co-

operation. Examples of such cooperation can be seen in pre-defined and bilateral project ideas currently being explored under the programme. Labour inspectorates want to monitor the working conditions of foreign workers, perform bilateral inspections together, create campaigns to inform foreign workers of their labour rights, and share good practice. The design of the programme also builds on [the European Platform set up to tackle undeclared work](#), which aims to enhance cooperation between EU Member States.

About the EEA and Norway Grants

Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway provide funding to:

- Reduce disparities in Europe
- Strengthening bilateral relations

