

Strengthening relations

Small but strategically located in the heart of Europe, Slovenia is a gateway to South Eastern Europe and the Balkans. In recent years, cooperation, exchange and trade have increased between Slovenia and Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway. The EEA and Norway Grants aim to strengthen relations by facilitating joint implementation of the programmes between Slovenian entities and donor-state counterparts.

In the period 2004-2009, five partnership projects between Slovenian and Norwegian entities were awarded support. In addition, a number of partnerships were established under the NGO fund and scholarship fund. In the current period, more strategic cooperation is being established at the programme level. At least seven donor-state entities are foreseen as programme partners. Project partnerships continue to be encouraged.

Within the programmes and projects, numerous tenders for contracts for work, supplies and services also offer business opportunities. Likewise, the EEA and Norway Grants contribute to the business and work-life environment by investing in gender-equality measures and social dialogue initiatives with social partners and public authorities.



EEA GRANTS
NORWAY GRANTS



Support and cooperation in Slovenia

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EEA and Norway Grants in Slovenia

The EEA and Norway Grants are contributions from Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway to reducing economic and social disparities in the European Economic Area (EEA) and strengthening bilateral relations with the 15 beneficiary states. Slovenia has been a recipient of funding from the three donor states since becoming a member of the European Union and the EEA in 2004.

In the funding period 2009-14, Slovenia has been allocated €26.9 million, up from €18.6 million in the previous five-year period. Norway represents around 97% of the contribution. Public health initiatives, preservation of cultural heritage, environmental protection and civil society are all key areas of support.



© Rakina Youth Centre in Preserje: Equine assisted psychotherapy for children and teenagers in need.

A snapshot of achievements 2004-09

Total allocation: €18.6 million

Cultural heritage

Preservation of cultural heritage was the largest sector supported in this period. Over one-third of the funding (€6.4 million) went to projects to restore historical buildings, create new facilities for cultural events and revitalise old town centres, such as the €1.2 million 'Lively Old Town' project which saw the renovation of key heritage sites in five cities in the Gorenjska region, in cooperation with Hedmark County Council, Norway.

Health and childcare

Over €3 million was allocated to health and childcare projects in this period. Notable examples include the construction of a new nursery school in Idrija, where radioactive radon gas from local mining activities had threatened the health of school children, and modernisation of the Slovenian Institute for Blind and Partially Sighted Children, implemented in partnership with Huseby Resource Centre, Norway.

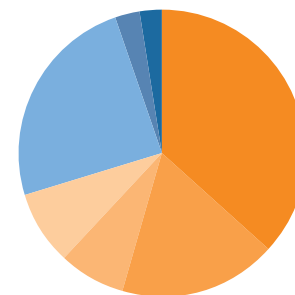
Environmental protection

€4.2 million funded projects concerning environmental protection and sustainable development. Better quality drinking water, support for setting up environmental educational resource centres, and a nationwide campaign to promote environmental awareness are just some of the achievements.

Funds for NGOs and students

Other key allocations included almost €1.5 million to an NGO fund supporting the development of civil society and institutional capacity building. A scholarship fund worth €1.3 million was very successful with students participating in academic exchanges in the donor states.

Support by sector 2004-09



See all supported projects at:
www.eeagrants.org/projects

Projects in implementation until 2011

Key areas of support 2009-14

Total allocation: €26.9 million

Public health and gender equality

Improving public health and gender equality represents over 40% of the total allocation. €10.2 million will be spent on reducing health inequalities, preventing lifestyle-related diseases and improving mental health services. Particular target groups include children and youth at risk and disadvantaged communities such as the Roma. In addition, €1.4 million will focus on gender equality and work-life balance initiatives.

Cultural heritage

Protecting cultural heritage remains important in this funding period. Around one-fifth (€5 million) of the total funding will be spent on projects to safeguard historic assets, increase accessibility, and properly protect natural heritage for present and future generations.

Environment

Environment and climate change is another large sector with €3.75 million earmarked for programmes to halt biodiversity loss and protect ecosystems as well as improve environmental monitoring and integrated planning.

Civil society, social partners and students

Support will continue for the civil society sector, scholarships to students, and new funding to promote tripartite dialogue between social partners and with public authorities.

Support by sector 2009-14

