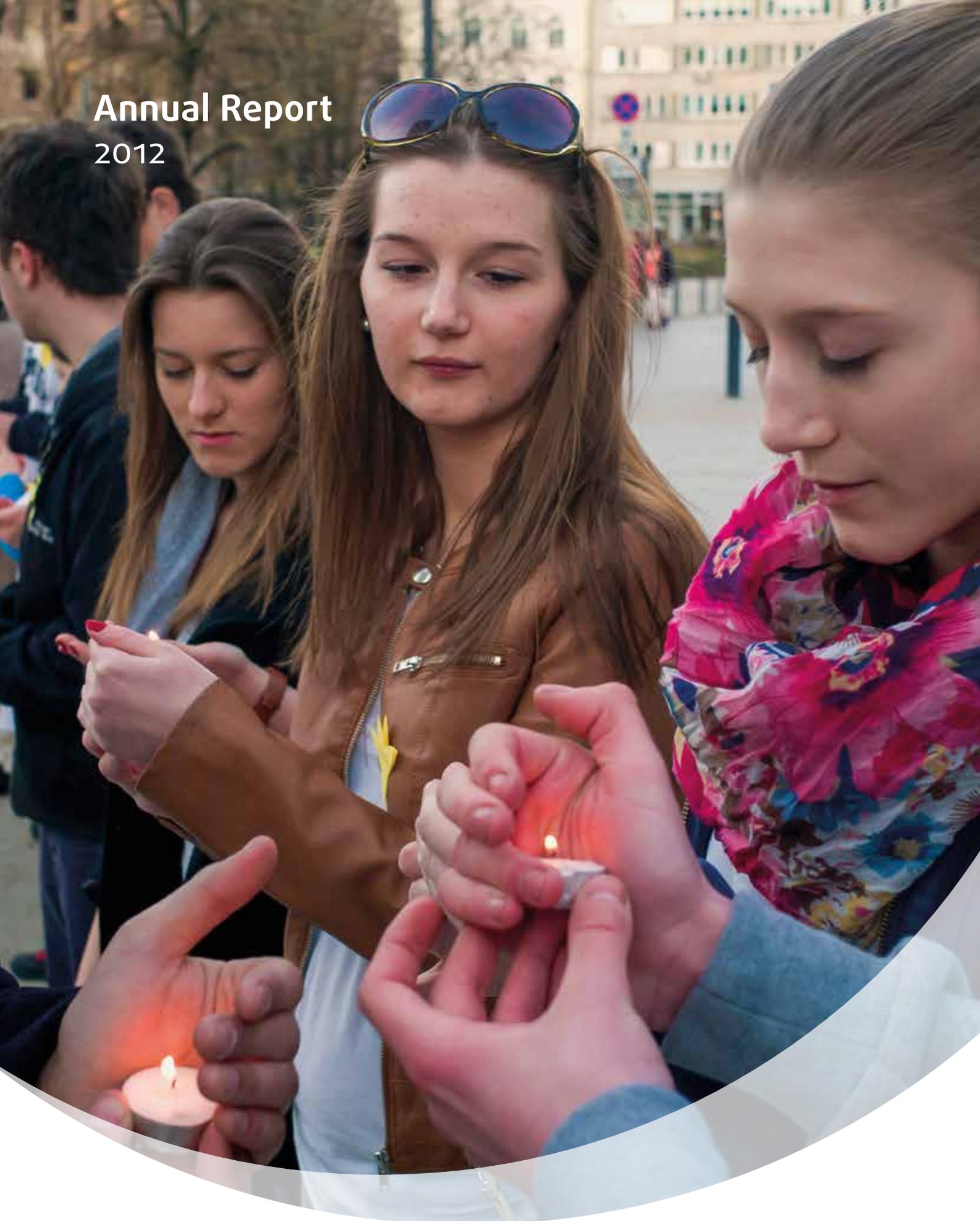


Annual Report 2012





Civil society

Human and social development

Environment and climate change

Green industry innovation

Cultural heritage and diversity

Research and scholarships

Justice and home affairs

Decent work and social dialogue

COVER

Young people with candles in their hands, standing on the former Warsaw's ghetto border to commemorate the 70th anniversary of the Jewish uprising, April 2013

Portugal

Spain



Norway

Estonia

Latvia

Lithuania

Poland

Czech Rep.

Slovakia

Liechtenstein

Hungary

Romania

Slovenia

Bulgaria

Greece

Malta

Cyprus



Academic Choir KameLeon during the Masovian Festival of Academic Choirs in Warsaw.

Foreword

Europe is going through a time of change. The worst predictions have not come true, but every European country and the continents' social fabric will be marked by the financial crisis for years to come.

We are already seeing increasing social and economic disparities, as more and more people lose their jobs, even their homes. This is not just a question of social justice. These developments could also lead to political instability.

Democracy, human rights and the rule of law are common European values deeply rooted in our history. However, we are seeing worrying trends: minorities are being put under pressure. We hear more hate speech. Anti-Semitism, Islamophobia and other forms of racism are gaining ground.

All European countries have committed themselves to protecting their citizens from discrimination and intolerance.

These are crucial concerns for achieving the goals of the EEA and Norway Grants: reducing economic and social disparities in Europe and strengthening bilateral relations.

In our efforts towards these goals we focus on fighting discrimination and intolerance in our programmes under the two Grant schemes, with special attention to the inclusion of minority groups, in particular the Roma. Strengthening the recipient economies is also important in this respect.

Furthermore, the donors remain keenly aware of the continued long-term challenges facing the continent. Promoting increased use of renewable energy plays an important role in this respect, both to slow down the march of global warming and to prepare Europe for a new economic era.

This annual report gives you an update on where we stand today. There are dedicated sections on environmental protection and climate change as well as on promoting fundamental values and multicultural awareness.

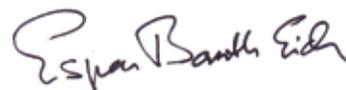
During the course of 2012, programmes were planned and designed. Several were also made operational. There were calls for project proposals and funding. Judging by the huge number of applications and registered participants in match-making events and information briefings, we can conclude that the Grants are indeed needed and that there is growing interest in projects between partners in the beneficiary and donor countries.



Gunnar Bragi Sveinsson
Minister of Foreign Affairs,
Iceland



Dr. Aurelia Frick,
Minister of Foreign Affairs,
Liechtenstein



Espen Barth Eide
Minister of Foreign Affairs,
Norway

A young beggar sits next to a shop on Ermou street – a commercial street in central Athens.





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Young woman working at a steel products plant in the Czech Republic.



The EEA Grants and Norway Grants – solidarity and cooperation

Through the EEA (European Economic Area) and Norway Grants, Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway help to reduce economic and social disparities and to strengthen relations and cooperation with 15 European Union countries in Central and Southern Europe.

The three donor countries have contributed to European cohesion efforts to reduce economic and social inequality for many years. These efforts focus on reducing poverty, inequality and social exclusion through job creation, competitiveness, economic growth, improved quality of life and sustainable development.

Promoting increased contact and cooperation is another key aim of the Grants. Strengthening ties between Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway and the 15 beneficiary countries brings benefits for institutions and organisations in both sets of countries. It lays and strengthens foundations in political, cultural, professional and academic spheres. Together, institutions can continue to address international problems and share experience.

The EEA Grants and Norway Grants are established for five-year periods. For the period 2009-2014, €1.788 billion has been set aside. The EEA Grants are jointly financed by Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway, who contribute according to their size and economic wealth. Of the €988.5 million set aside for the 2009-2014 period, so far Norway has provided 95.6%, Iceland 3.3% and

Liechtenstein 1.1%. The Norway Grants are financed by Norway alone and amount to €800 million. Funding is channelled through 147 programmes in Bulgaria, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Greece, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia and Spain.

In the current period, the environment and sustainable development collectively has the largest funding, and includes substantial grants targeting climate change and green industry innovation. Other key areas of support are health, education, civil society, research and scholarships, justice and social dialogue.

Protecting human rights and empowering vulnerable groups are key concerns in the Grants, reflecting common European roots and values. They are crucial for achieving the goals of the EEA and Norway Grants and cut across programmes and projects. Particular attention is paid to social inclusion for the Roma, combatting discrimination and hate speech, fighting intolerance and promoting multicultural awareness in Europe.

€1.788 billion in funding

15 beneficiary countries

89 partnership programmes

10 priority sectors

About this report

This EEA and Norway Grants Annual Report, which covers the period 1 January 2012 to 31 December 2012, presents the aims, challenges and achievements in the 15 beneficiary countries.

Four main themes run through this report, each important to Europe and each linked to the overall objectives of the Grants:

- > Strengthening bilateral relations between the donor and beneficiary countries
- > Countering hatred and empowering minorities
- > The environment and climate change, to which more than a third of the Grants is dedicated
- > The situation for many young people in Europe today, told through the photos in the report

Country overviews for each of the beneficiary countries provide a snapshot of the main developments in 2012 related to the Grants.

With projects running until 2016, 2012 was mainly a year of preparation, planning, building partnerships and launching calls for proposals.

For the 2004-2009 Grants period, the key results in 2012 underlined the effectiveness and value for money of the Grants.

All photos in the Annual Report 2012 are from the project Sea Change. The project documents the life of young people in Europe today. The photos in this report are from five countries:

Czech Republic – photos by Robin Maddock
Greece – photos by Yannis Kontos
Latvia – photos by Bénédicte Kurzen
Poland – photos by Maciek Nabrdalik
Romania – photos by Donald Weber

Quality and value for money

An end-review of the EEA and Norway Grants 2004-2009 has underlined their positive impact within the prioritised areas. They have led to specific reductions in disparities in the local communities, in particular where EU funding is limited, for example through a targeted approach to vulnerable groups.¹

In 2012, 40 projects implemented under the previous EEA and Norway Grants were monitored to understand the degree to which the targets have been achieved, whether the projects represented value for money, were aligned with the Grant Agreement, or if the project management was of good quality. Findings were overall very positive, underlining:

- > 90% of projects implemented the activities as planned
- > 87% of projects exhibited good quality for the grant money spent
- > 95% of project invoices were paid on time
- > Over 90% exhibited strong management and administration of reports and procurement ■

¹ See End-Review - EEA and Norway Grants 2004-2009, <http://eeagrants.org/Results-data/Results-overview/Documents/Evaluations-and-reviews/End-Review-2004-2009>

Swimmer at the Olympic Sports Club in Bucharest.



Development trends and challenges

Many beneficiary countries are deeply affected by continuing financial and economic concerns. Unemployment and especially youth unemployment rates are extremely high in many countries. At the same time there are worrying trends of rising inequality and intolerance.

Last year was another difficult year for Europe, which saw many countries slip back into recession. Overall, the EU economies shrank by 0.3% compared to 2011 (in real GDP) and forecasts suggest growth will be flat in 2013 before rising in 2014.

Economic disparities

Differences among the beneficiary countries are large. While the economies of Greece and Cyprus are set to shrink further in 2013, estimates suggest the Baltic states of Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia will grow by over 3%.

EU public debt has also increased since the onset of the crisis and, at 82.5% of GDP in 2011, was far higher than the objective of 60% of GDP laid down in the growth and stability pact. The beneficiary countries of the EEA and Norway Grants have been hit hard. Since 2007, five beneficiary countries have seen their debt to GDP ratios increase by more than the EU average.

With continuing economic disparities, the European Council has proposed to dedicate about €370 billion to economic, social and territorial cohesion in the period 2014-2020, equivalent to around a third of the entire EU budget (European Council conclusions, February 2013).²

Sustainable growth

Climate change, low energy efficiency, environmental degradation and biodiversity loss can have a devastating effect on the environment. Often, this affects people at risk of poverty or vulnerable groups the most since they are the ones that live in the worst environments. Although there has been continued progress since 2005 in renewable energy use, since the crisis, greenhouse gas emissions and primary energy consumption have started to rise again rather than fall.

Labour market challenges

Several significant labour market reforms have been implemented in recent years, including raising the retirement age in many European countries. But even if people will have to work longer, demographic trends mean that, over time, a proportionately smaller young working population will support a growing number of people beyond retirement age.

In 2012, 68.5% of 20-64 year olds were employed, some way off the Europe 2020 employment rate target of 75%. Several beneficiary countries of the EEA and Norway Grants have among the lowest employment rates. Within countries, there are large disparities between segments of society. Women with a low level of education are at particular risk, with just four in ten employed, on average in the EU.

² http://www.consilium.europa.eu/uedocs/cms_data/docs/pressdata/en/ec/135344.pdf

Development trends and challenges

Close to 26 million people in the EU were unemployed, equivalent to 10.7% of the workforce. This is almost 10 million more than at the beginning of 2008. Young people between the ages 15 and 24 have been hit hardest and, on average, faced an unemployment rate of 23.2% at the end of 2012. Among the worst affected are the beneficiary countries of Cyprus, Slovakia and Portugal - all with rates of more than 30% - and in particular Spain (55%) and Greece (58%).

Children and youth at risk

Notable pre-crisis progress lifted ten million people out of the risk of poverty and social exclusion between 2005 and 2009. The oldest age groups are now less at risk than they were (although women remain significantly more at

risk than men). But for others, and especially children and youth, the margin has widened markedly since the crisis. In Bulgaria and Romania, one in two children were at risk of poverty and social exclusion in 2011.

This is important because children growing up in poverty or social exclusion are less likely than their better-off peers to do well in school, enjoy good health and realise their full potential later in life (EC 2013).³ But it goes further than that. Beyond the economic benefits of education, the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) shows that higher levels of education lead to greater civic engagement, voting behaviour and significantly increase life expectancy.⁴

Table 1: Employment rate by gender and level of education (20-64 year olds, 2012, %)

	Lower education		Medium education		Tertiary education	
	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women	Men
Bulgaria	30.8	41.5	60.3	68.1	80.0	82.9
Cyprus	50.2	66.4	62.8	74.0	74.4	84.4
Czech Republic	34.5	45.6	63.4	80.8	73.8	88.7
Estonia	42.6	54.0	65.4	75.8	78.9	85.5
Greece	33.9	60.9	41.4	62.8	65.1	75.8
Hungary	31.1	45.9	58.0	68.7	74.0	85.2
Iceland	68.4	77.1	77.8	85.5	89.7	91.9
Latvia	38.3	57.7	59.4	68.1	84.7	86.7
Lithuania	31.3	39.1	58.6	66.7	87.4	86.7
Malta	29.1	73.2	66.4	83.5	82.7	91.3
Norway	60.4	68.8	74.8	83.0	88.4	90.5
Poland	29.2	48.2	52.7	71.5	78.8	87.0
Portugal	56.4	68.1	65.5	69.2	78.2	78.9
Romania	44.6	62.9	55.6	71.4	79.3	83.7
Slovakia	26.2	34.3	57.7	74.5	70.3	80.7
Slovenia	38.5	54.8	62.0	71.0	82.7	86.3
Spain	40.0	55.6	55.0	64.4	71.5	78.6

Source: Eurostat (19/04/2013)

Lower education: Pre-primary, primary and lower secondary education (levels 0-2); Upper secondary and post-secondary non-tertiary education (levels 3 and 4); First and second stage of tertiary education (levels 5 and 6)

³ European Commission Recommendation (20.2.2013) Investing in children: breaking the cycle of disadvantage.

⁴ OECD (2012) Education at a Glance, Highlights, pp. 36-37.

Greek students protest in Athens against the government's austerity measures.



Development trends and challenges

Differences in educational performance

By 2012, just over one third of 30-34 year olds in the EU had a higher education. This is rapid progress, up by 12 percentage points in only ten years. But despite increases in all European countries, eight beneficiary countries of the EEA and Norway Grants were below the EU average in 2012.

Results on student performance in reading and mathematics⁵ show that Lithuania and, particularly, Bulgaria and Romania face considerable challenges. Others, such as Estonia and Poland, appear to fare well against the OECD averages. In general, students from disadvantaged backgrounds are less likely to perform well in reading and mathematics tests.⁶

Persisting inequality

In the EU, the gap between the richest and the poorest has barely changed since 2005. By 2011, the total income for the top 20% of the population was five times as much as for the bottom 20%. The wealthiest 20% earned six times as much as the poorest 20% in Greece, Romania and Bulgaria, and close to seven times as much in Latvia and Spain.

Despite small improvements in gender equality in recent years, considerable differences still remain. The United Nations Development Programme's gender inequality index shows lower inequality in all but a handful of European countries.⁷ Eurostat data, available for 27 of the

Table 2: People at risk of poverty or social exclusion – % of total population

	2005	2008	2011
Bulgaria	:	44.8	49.1
Latvia	45.8	33.8	40.4
Romania	:	44.2	40.3
Lithuania	41.0	27.6	33.4
Greece	29.4	28.1	31.0
Hungary	32.1	28.2	31.0
Poland	45.3	30.5	27.2
Spain	23.4	22.9	27.0
Portugal	26.1	26.0	24.4
Cyprus	25.3	22.4	23.5
Estonia	25.9	21.8	23.1
Malta	20.2	19.6	21.4
Slovakia	32.0	20.6	20.6
Slovenia	18.5	18.5	19.3
Czech Republic	19.6	15.3	15.3
Norway	16.2	15.0	14.6
Iceland	13.3	11.8	13.7

Source: Eurostat (04/03/2013)

At risk of poverty or social exclusion is the percentage of the population who are at risk of poverty or severely materially deprived or living in households with very low work intensity.

Table 3: Inequality of income distribution

	2005	2008	2011
Spain	5.5	5.4	6.8
Latvia	6.7	7.3	6.6
Bulgaria	3.7	6.5	6.5
Romania	4.9	7	6.2
Greece	5.8	5.9	6
Lithuania	6.9	5.9	5.8
Portugal	7	6.1	5.7
Estonia	5.9	5	5.3
Poland	6.6	5.1	5
Cyprus	4.3	4.2	4.3
Malta	3.9	4.2	4.1
Hungary	4	3.6	3.9
Slovakia	3.9	3.4	3.8
Czech Republic	3.7	3.4	3.5
Slovenia	3.4	3.4	3.5
Iceland	3.5	3.8	3.3
Norway	4.1	3.7	3.3

Source: Eurostat (04/03/2013)

Income inequality here is the ratio of total income (equivalised disposable income) received by the 20 % of the population with the highest income to that received by the 20 % with the lowest.

⁵ Results of 15 year old pupils from the OECD's Programme for International Student Assessment, 2009.

⁶ OECD (2011) - Education at a Glance.

⁷ The United Nations Development Programme's gender inequality index reflects inequality in achievements in reproductive health, empowerment and the labour market.

30 EEA countries, point to slight improvements in equality of pay for 20 EEA countries (measured in gross hourly earnings). However, average gross hourly earnings are still 16% lower for women than for men.

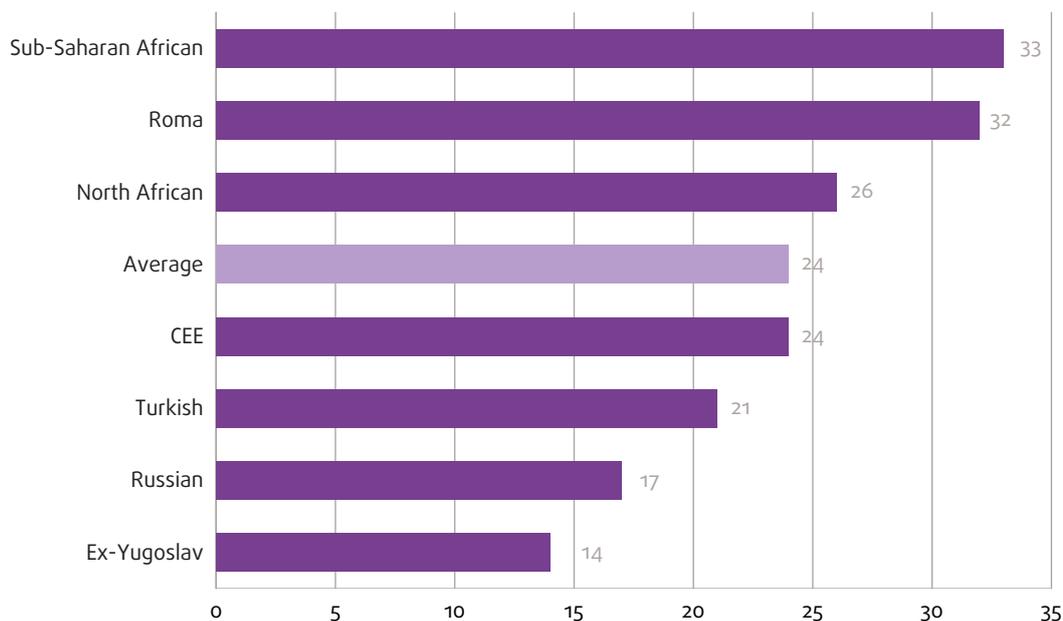
Understanding these economic and social trends is crucial since, for young people, hopes of employment and well-being can easily be displaced by disillusionment and a sense of marginalisation, ultimately scarring young people as they try to find their way in life. Indicators show that the youngest democracies in the EU have been hard hit by these problems and, in some, the problems have provided a breeding ground for pessimism and intolerance.

Intolerance and discrimination

Racism, nationalism and extremism are spreading fear among minorities and vulnerable groups. According to the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights, one in every four people from a minority group said that they had been a victim of crime at least once in the last 12 months (see Figure 1, based on 2008 data).⁸ This is a rising phenomenon, accompanied by increasing use of social media to spread xenophobia, Islamophobia and hate-speech.⁹ ■

Figure 1: Victimization of minorities in the EU

Specific groups, % victimised at least once in 12 months before 2008 in five crimes tested *



* See notes in Annex 2

Source: FRA (2012), EU-MIDIS Data in focus 6: Minorities as victims of crime, Figure 1, p. 8
http://fra.europa.eu/sites/default/files/fra-factsheet_hatecrime_en_final_o.pdf

⁸ The European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights, http://fra.europa.eu/sites/default/files/fra-2012-eu-midis-dif6_o.pdf

⁹ European Network Against Racism, [http://cms.horus.be/files/99935/MediaArchive/publications/shadow%20report%202011-12/shadowReport_EN_LR%20\(3\).pdf](http://cms.horus.be/files/99935/MediaArchive/publications/shadow%20report%202011-12/shadowReport_EN_LR%20(3).pdf)

Strategic focus of the Grants

Providing €1.788 billion for the period 2009-2014, the EEA and Norway Grants target beneficiary countries' needs in line with broader European policies for a smarter, greener and more inclusive European economy.

Responding to country trends and challenges, the Grants operate in ten main sectors (see Figure 2). They also address broader issues such as good governance, fundamental rights and equality.

Poverty and social exclusion

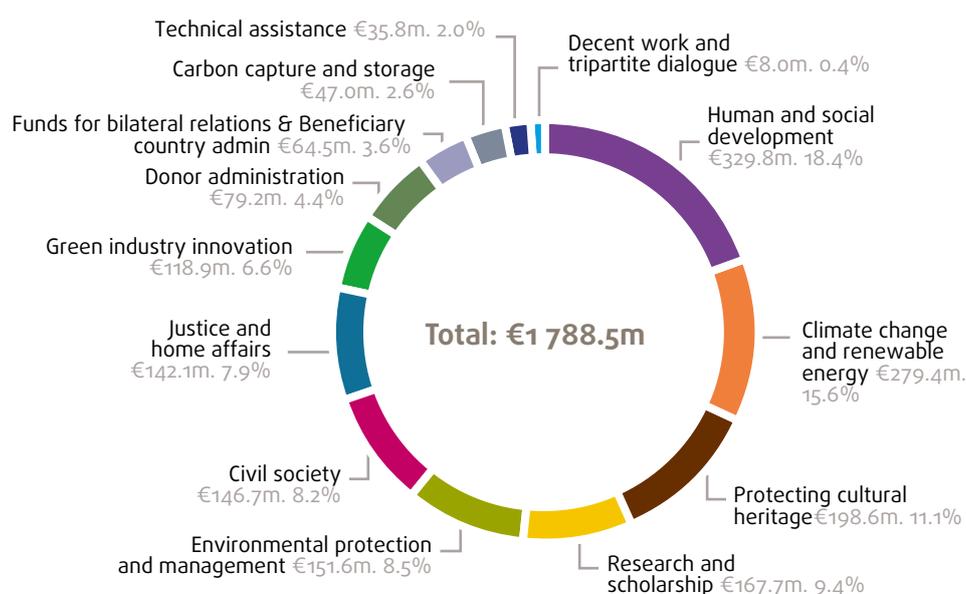
The current crisis has led to increasing disparities between and within many countries and has particularly affected children and families. Two in every ten euros of the Grants are available for human and social development, supporting children and youth at risk, promoting social inclusion for vulnerable groups, improving public health and mainstreaming gender equality. A total of €330m supports human and social development in the 15 beneficiary countries.

Environment and climate change

Environmental degradation is another side-effect of economic inequality, studies suggest. People at risk of poverty or vulnerable groups often live in the worst environments, for example with poor quality water and air, which further impacts health and well-being.

One third of funding is allocated to green issues in line with broader European policies on climate change, renewable energy and energy efficiency. Grants for the four 'green' priority sectors account for 36% of the allocations.

Figure 2: Breakdown of budgeted funds by priority sector, gross allocations in million € and %



Notes: Beneficiary countries' administration includes funds reserved for completion of projects extended from the 2004-2009 period. Some adjustments can be expected while the remaining programmes are agreed. Figures are rounded and may not total 100%.

For example, programmes on climate change and renewable energy contribute to reducing emissions of greenhouse gases and air pollutants. This helps to create jobs in important and sustainable growth areas and at the same time reduces the harmful effects on the environment and people's health.

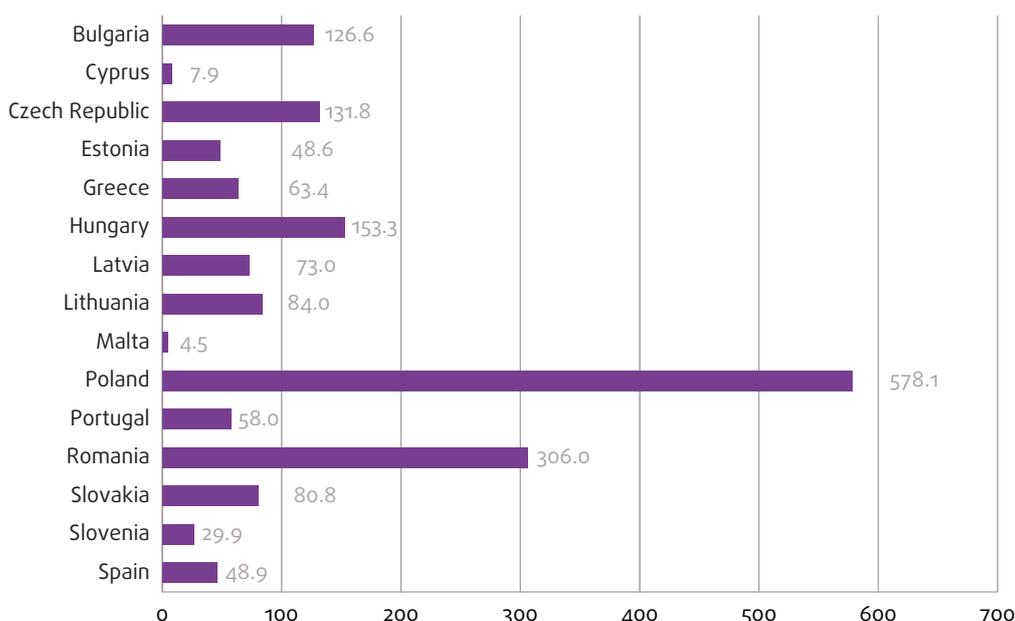
Human rights and shared European values

In many countries, increasing poverty, unemployment and lack of opportunities means that minorities, vulnerable groups and the Roma are marginalised

further. Promoting shared values of tolerance and multi-cultural awareness are important means of combatting discrimination and racism. In 2012, the Grants focused on combatting hate speech online, integrating this issue into relevant programmes in cooperation with the beneficiary countries and other international institutions.

Strengthening fundamental rights, gender equality, democratic development and rule of law span priority sectors and programmes in the beneficiary countries.

Figure 3: Allocation of funds by beneficiary country, gross allocations in million €



Note: Gross allocations are the total amount made available to a beneficiary country, including an amount set aside for the donor state management costs.



Greek students Christos and Andreas play video games.

Strategic focus of the Grants

Strengthening bilateral relations

Strengthening cooperation and contact between the donor and the beneficiary countries is one of the overall objectives of the Grants. More than half of the programmes are shaped through cooperation between public entities from Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway together with their counterparts in the beneficiary countries. The programmes have been agreed in areas of common interest and where the donors have expertise.

International partnerships

Strategic partnerships are a key feature of the EEA and Norway Grants for 2009-2014 and bring expertise, results and value.

The Council of Europe provides strategic advice as well as technical input and know-how. It is an active partner in several projects in the areas of justice, human rights, education and social inclusion. The Council of Europe is also engaged as a donor programme partner in 13 specific programmes in six beneficiary countries. Eight programmes alone target vulnerable groups, including the Roma. The Open Society Foundations also provide strategic advice on Roma issues.

Transparency International provides corruption risk advice on grant management in beneficiary countries. This includes assisting countries with their risk assessments and providing advice on how to tackle corruption.

Effect of the Grants

Implementation of the EEA and Norway Grants for the period 2009-2014 has evolved in several ways to improve the final results.

Strategic development

The first key development is strategic, where a move from a project to a programme approach has sharpened focus and has helped to mutually reinforce the various elements of the programme. For example, civil society initiatives can have clear synergies with programmes on justice and home affairs or on the environment. Several special concerns such as protecting human rights and empowering vulnerable groups also span many programmes.

Bilateral cooperation

The second development places extra importance on partnerships between donor and beneficiary countries as well as with international organisations. This network approach increases the expertise available to support implementation and results. In turn, it strengthens the economic, political and cultural relations between the donor and beneficiary countries. The number and variety of partnerships developed in 2012 already points to the value of this approach.

Focusing on results

A third key development emphasises programme outcomes in line with a results-based management approach. This not only steers the programmes towards two key overall objectives - reducing economic and social disparities in the European Economic Area and strengthening bilateral relations between beneficiary and donor countries - but also encourages a focus on actual outcomes and evidence-based understanding of what works well and what could be improved. There are already positive effects, such as for a project within the programme on asylum and migration in Greece, which has exceeded its targets.

Emphasising programme outcomes has had further positive effects:

- > There is a shift to thinking more about how the programmes make a difference e.g. what do they result in and for whom?
- > There is a momentum to provide performance data and evidence, understand trends and share results.

Risk management

Managing for results does not only mean setting clear objectives and indicators, it also means identifying, analysing and responding to risks. Following a review of the risk management set-up, the EEA and Norway Grants reinforced the risk management approach in 2012 to strengthen understanding and regular monitoring of risks at all levels.

The risk management strategy sets clear responsibilities and has helped to mainstream risk management. This has involved recording, analysing, refining and monitoring country and programme risks as well as developing a variety of risk mitigation actions.

Collaboration with Transparency International helps effective monitoring of corruption risk.

Strategic focus of the Grants

Evaluation

Indicators are useful to highlight trends, but evaluation is needed for a better understanding of impact. Capturing and evaluating results is therefore important for continued success as well as for transparency and accountability. As the programmes are starting to actively run in 2013, the evaluation activity in 2012 focused on putting in place the right frameworks for understanding the effects of the Grants over the longer term.

Measuring bilateral relations

There are high expectations that the programmes and partnerships will help strengthen bilateral relations between beneficiary and donor countries: the level of cooperation, more shared results, improved awareness and knowledge, and wider effects. To address the challenge of getting good quality data and information on bilateral relations, a 2012 study provided baseline information. This study will be repeated mid-term and at the end of the Grants period to measure progress over time.

A self-assessment tool to help develop capacity

Non-governmental organisations (NGOs) are important at the national and international levels and support civil society's engagement with democracy, policy development and raising awareness. NGOs are also very diverse in their size, focus and experience. With support for civil society being a high priority of the Grants, a tool is being piloted that helps NGOs assess what improvements they need to make to the way they work, the competences they have (or do not) and how this is evolving. The idea is that NGOs assess themselves at both the start and the end of projects. These assessments, which can be aggregated to provide comparisons within or between countries, also help donors understand how and where to target capacity development. ■



Young pilgrims in the south eastern Polish village of Kalwaria Paclawska.



Bilateral relations

Shared challenges require shared solutions. Cooperation through bilateral programmes and projects provides an arena for learning from good practice in other countries and for developing joint policies. Many pressing issues such as organised crime, social inequalities, demographic trends, migration, communicable diseases, environmental concerns and sustainability of resources require international cooperation.

Why are bilateral relations important?

Common history, culture, shared values and geographic proximity can help create strong bonds between countries. As well as contributing to reducing social and economic disparities in Europe, the EEA and Norway Grants further strengthen political, professional, social and economic ties through programmes and projects of common interest.

The aim is to establish long-lasting cooperation so that institutions can continue to work together and share experience. The Grants should lay and strengthen foundations between the donor and the beneficiary countries so that, even when funding stops, political, cultural, professional and academic relations can continue.

What are bilateral relations?

Within the EEA and Norway Grants, bilateral relations are the cooperation that leads to political, economic, social and cultural connections between two countries. Bilateral relations can take different forms:

- > cooperating between countries on issues of common interest such as the environment and climate change, organised crime
- > working to achieve results together, for example through research or by improving access to healthcare or increasing energy efficiency
- > increasing mutual knowledge and understanding of numerous and diverse issues such as equity, gender equality, intolerance, hate-speech and cyber-bullying
- > wider effects that result from working closely together such as strong political relations, shared values or economic networks

Stimulating bilateral opportunities

The possibilities for cooperation between the donor and beneficiary countries have been extended and strengthened through the programme approach to the EEA and Norway Grants for the period 2009-2014. Cooperation now takes place at several levels:

- > In programmes: Organisations from donor countries are involved in more than half of the programmes with partners from beneficiary countries
- > In projects: Most programmes support individual projects where organisations from donor countries collaborate with partners in beneficiary countries
- > Through bilateral funds: a more flexible form of support which should be strategic in nature. It might address common European challenges or increase knowledge, understanding and awareness. Diverse activities are supported including conferences, seminars, study visits and exchanges

Strategic partnerships

To strengthen strategic partnerships, donor programme partners – who are public entities from Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway – work together with their counterparts in the beneficiary countries. They play a strategic role in programme planning and implementation and help establish project partnerships between entities from the donor and the beneficiary countries. The donor programme partners have national mandates within their respective fields and bring extensive international experience.

Throughout 2012, there has been a strong focus on building ties between donor and beneficiary countries and developing programmes of common interest.

How do donor programme partnerships work?

The strategic partners from Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway cooperate with the programme operators by:

- > providing advice and assistance on the programme strategy, design and implementation;
- > facilitating networking
- > advising on and reaching out to possible project partners in the donor countries
- > suggesting possible activities within the programme to strengthen bilateral cooperation



Worker at a fairground in Prague.

“Having established a platform of cooperation, it will be easier to jointly apply for EU schemes and this is good for the research sector”.

Interviewee in ‘Baseline study on bilateral relations in the EEA and Norway Grants’, <http://eeagrants.org/content/download/7091/86339/version/1/file/Baseline+study+on+Bilateral+Relations.pdf>

Beneficial partnerships

The Icelandic Human Rights Centre and the Norwegian Helsinki Committee, which support initiatives to strengthen democracy and civil society, facilitate contact and cooperation between NGOs in the 15 beneficiary countries and Iceland and Norway, respectively.

Working together with donor programme partners, the programme operators, who run the programmes in the beneficiary countries, have been finalising programme proposals and launching programmes.

Together they have also organised information meetings and outreach events to bring together expertise, playing a matchmaking role for organisations in the beneficiary and donor countries, and launching calls for proposals for projects in areas of common interest.

Roma inclusion

In September 2012 the Romanian Embassy in Oslo and the Fafo Research Foundation in Norway organised a conference on Roma inclusion in Europe. In line with the 2011 EU Framework for National Roma Integration Strategies, key issues related to employment, education, health and housing were discussed. The conference was supported by the EEA and Norway Grants.

Table 4: Increasing cooperation and contact between donor and beneficiary countries

	Number of programmes with donor programme partners*	Number of different programme partners	Number of projects already agreed **	Number of different project partners
Bulgaria	10	10	15	5
Cyprus	1	2	0	0
Czech Republic	6	8	3	3
Estonia	9	11	8	9
Greece	2	1	0	0
Hungary	9	12	2	2
Latvia	6	9	11	14
Lithuania	9	10	11	7
Malta	0	0	2	4
Poland	8	10	14	9
Portugal	4	4	2	2
Romania	14	16	6	6
Slovakia	6	9	1	2
Slovenia	2	4	3	4
Spain	3	5	2	2
Overall	89	27	80	37

* Including the Council of Europe. One programme in Poland has been discontinued in 2013 which will reduce the figures for Poland and the overall number of programmes with a donor programme partner to 88.

** Some projects in areas of common interest have already been agreed between donor and beneficiary countries. Further project partnerships will be established during the programme calls for proposals.

The result of these efforts is that the EEA and Norway Grants now involve an unprecedented number of institutions in new partnerships between the 15 beneficiary countries and Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway.

Of 147 programmes in the EEA and Norway Grants, 89 have a donor programme partner. Twenty six different public entities from the donor countries (two from Iceland, one from Liechtenstein and 22 from Norway) as well as the Council of Europe support programmes in areas as diverse as research, environmental protection, human rights and the rule of law (see Annex 3 for a breakdown by country).

In addition, 80 projects that the donor and beneficiary countries had singled out as important already had a partner by the end of 2012. More partnerships are expected in other projects in 2013 when the calls for proposals are completed.

These and other successes confirm the thinking behind the partnership model. Technical programme partnership has already provided a springboard for joint activities to develop into higher, policy-level dialogue, for example on a ministerial level.

Research Cooperation

Using the bilateral funds, a number of matchmaking events in 2012 helped develop cooperation and contacts with potential partners in Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway. An Estonian-Norwegian matchmaking event for the bilateral research programme attracted about 130 researchers and representatives from leading Estonian and Norwegian research institutions, laying the ground for new partnerships, collaboration and research.

“ It was especially interesting to meet all the enthusiastic volunteers and NGO representatives who are committed to strengthening relations across borders, while at the same time working together to create better societies.”

Ms. Lillian Solheim, Project Manager at the Norwegian Helsinki Committee.

In the spotlight: Cultural exchange programme in Poland

The first call for proposals under the cultural exchange programme in Poland has allocated €5 million to 24 partnership projects out of 135 applications. The projects all promote diversity within culture and arts in European cultural heritage.

Prior to and during the call for proposals, the Arts Council Norway (who is a donor programme partner), received numerous requests from cultural players in Poland and the donor countries and, in close cooperation with the cultural sectors in Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway, helped establish contact between potential partners, which in many cases resulted in project applications.

The 24 selected projects vary in size and area of activity, covering music, performing arts, visual arts, cultural heritage and cooperation between educational institutions. Both large and small projects have received support and will result in exhibitions, festivals, knowledge transfer, education and joint performances. Of the selected projects, 16 have Norwegian partners, four have Icelandic partners and another four have both Icelandic and Norwegian partners.

Read more: <http://www.eog2016.mkidn.gov.pl/pages/en/promotion-of-diversity-in-culture-and-arts.php>

Girls with model ambitions filling out forms at modelling auditions in Prague.





Bilateral relations

Understanding progress in bilateral relations

Measuring the status of bilateral relations is a major challenge. To meet this challenge, a number of quantitative and qualitative indicators have been developed and are reported on regularly. A study was also conducted in 2012 to provide a situation analysis and a baseline. A similar study will be repeated after two years and at the end of the Grants period to measure changes in perceptions, expectations and to assess the overall results.

Learning lessons: main findings from the Grants in 2004-2009

Results from the previous EEA and Norway Grants period (2004-2009) underline that the majority of project promoters who cooperated with donor country institutions felt that the partnerships developed were important and helped to share knowledge and build mutual understanding.

Partners and institutions not only believe that strengthening bilateral cooperation is an important objective, but that new partnerships and programmes lead to real changes. Many respondents said the Grants had catalysed internal processes of change, had helped to establish a more international outlook or had led to longer-term cooperation between institutions. A broad range of joint activities that took place during the preparation phase (cooperation committee meetings, conferences, training, study visits and programme planning meetings) were considered useful for broadening their perspectives on the Grants and in relation to the regular activities of their institutions.

There are now high expectations that programmes and projects will strengthen bilateral relations, and partners and institutions believe they have a lot to gain. Most partners expect to improve technical knowledge as well as administrative and managerial competence through dialogue and sharing experience with other international professionals. Most also expect the Grants to lead to wider benefits such as continued cooperation, dialogue, knowledge about the sector policies between countries, or further growth into new projects and programmes. ■

Countering hatred, empowering minorities

Promoting democratic values, strengthening fundamental rights and consolidating the rule of law are important common European values, present in many priority sectors and programmes of the EEA and Norway Grants. Combatting racism and discrimination, as well as promoting tolerance and multi-cultural awareness, are important ways of ensuring the inclusion of minorities and vulnerable groups, including the Roma.

All European countries are committed to countering discrimination and intolerance, including hate speech and hate crime. In recent years, we have witnessed continued and renewed violations of fundamental rights, including physical and verbal attacks on minority groups, immigrants, and on organisations defending human dignity. Tackling these issues is crucial to reduce economic and social disparities and to strengthen bilateral relations.

Intolerance

In many countries, the economic and financial crisis has had a significant impact on poverty rates, employment opportunities and standards of living. Hope can easily be displaced by disillusionment and a sense of marginalisation which can provide a breeding ground for pessimism and intolerance. Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway are mobilising to reduce intolerance through different measures and programmes.

Fundamental rights and non-discrimination

The EEA and Norway Grants promote shared values of human rights and tolerance. Respect for fundamental rights, including minority rights (ethnic, religious, linguistic and sexual orientation), is vital to enhance the maturity of democracies. Combatting racism and xenophobia, and fighting discrimination are essential to promote the inclusion of vulnerable groups, such as the Roma. This is a priority for the donors and is high on the political agenda in several beneficiary countries. Combatting gender-based violence and promoting gender equality are also important.

Hate speech

Hate speech is a threat to social justice and fundamental rights. With the appearance of new communication technologies and channels, including social media, spreading hatred has become easier online and practically instant. The issue is not new, but the online dimension and the potential negative impact on democratic development intensify its risks and give additional cause for concern.

Cyber-hate

Combatting hate speech online was a focus in 2012. At a conference co-organised with the Council of Europe (27-28 November 2012 in Budapest, Hungary) participants explored the nature and extent of hate speech in today's Europe including how to counter hatred while defending free speech. The conference was preceded by a training course for young bloggers and followed by a Europe-wide campaign for young activists and youth organisations launched 22 March 2013: 'The no hate speech movement'. The Grants are a strategic partner to the Council of Europe in this campaign.

The Grants continue to focus on how to combat hate speech online and intolerance.

What is hate speech?

Hate speech, as defined by the Council of Europe, covers 'all forms of expression which spread, incite, promote or justify racial hatred, xenophobia, anti-Semitism or other forms of hatred based on intolerance, including: intolerance expressed by aggressive nationalism and ethnocentrism, discrimination and hostility against minorities, migrants and people of immigrant origin.'

Council of Europe, Committee of Ministers Recommendation No. R (97) 20.



The first East European Comic Con in Bucharest, attracting a wide range of young participants involved in gaming, manga, comics and other fantasy elements.

Roma inclusion

The Roma are Europe's largest minority, with an estimated population of 10-12 million. Socially and economically, The Roma are also one of Europe's most vulnerable and disadvantaged groups and frequently face intolerance, discrimination and exclusion. Many lack access to housing, healthcare, social services and education.

A recent report on Roma in 11 EU countries highlights that:

- > one in three Roma is unemployed
- > 90% are living below the poverty line, and many are denied access to adequate healthcare, housing and education
- > 15% of young Roma adults complete upper-secondary education
- > 20% of Roma are covered by health insurance

Source: The EU Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA) 'The situation of Roma in 11 EU Member States – Survey results at a glance', 2012, http://fra.europa.eu/sites/default/files/fra_uploads/2109-FRA-Factsheet_ROMA_EN.pdf

The EEA and Norway Grants contribute to empower Roma, improve their living conditions and their integration. This also includes combatting discrimination. This is in line with the Framework for National Roma Integration introduced by the European Commission in 2011,¹⁰ which sets clear targets and engages EU member countries, civil society and other stakeholders to improve the social inclusion and integration of The Roma.

In Bulgaria, 10% of funding is to go towards improving the situation for the Roma. In Romania, the same 10% target applies to all relevant programmes. In other countries, such as the Czech Republic, Hungary and Slovakia, various programmes have a Roma perspective.

Read more about how the Grants support Roma inclusion:
www.eeagrants.org/Roma

Strategic cooperation

Policy coordination is a way of enhancing impact. This is why the EEA and Norway Grants have established a partnership with the Council of Europe and close cooperation with the European Commission, the Fundamental Rights Agency and other EU bodies. The Grants also work closely with the Open Society Foundation to assess programmes from a Roma inclusion perspective.

The Council of Europe has long been engaged in setting standards on human rights and furthering democracy and the rule of law across Europe. The EEA and Norway Grants entered into partnership with the Council of Europe to enhance democratic principles and promote international standards in the grant schemes.

The Council of Europe is involved in 13 specific programmes in six beneficiary countries as a donor programme partner, where it helps prepare and implement the programmes and facilitates networking and professional exchange. The Council of Europe is mainly a partner in programmes linked to justice and home affairs.

¹⁰ European Commission (2011), An EU Framework for National Roma Integration Strategies up to 2020, <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=COM:2011:0173:FIN:EN:PDF>

The second 'Miss Trans Beauty' pageant in Poland. The contestants were transsexual, transgender and transvetite persons.



Countering hatred, empowering minorities

Promoting tolerance and multicultural awareness

Civil society

A viable democracy depends on a strong civil society. NGOs play a vital role by stimulating engagement, participating in policy development and raising awareness about social issues.

NGO programmes in 15 countries promote democratic values, fundamental rights, anti-discrimination, multicultural dialogue, good governance, gender equality and the fight against poverty and social exclusion. Funding to these areas, to which NGOs provide a unique contribution, makes up at least one third of each programme.

The NGO Fund in Estonia promotes multicultural dialogue and addresses the needs of minority groups. A project in the northeast Narva region – largely populated by the Russian-speaking minority – develops a citizens association. The project fosters cooperation in the region by setting up a shared website for the different language groups.

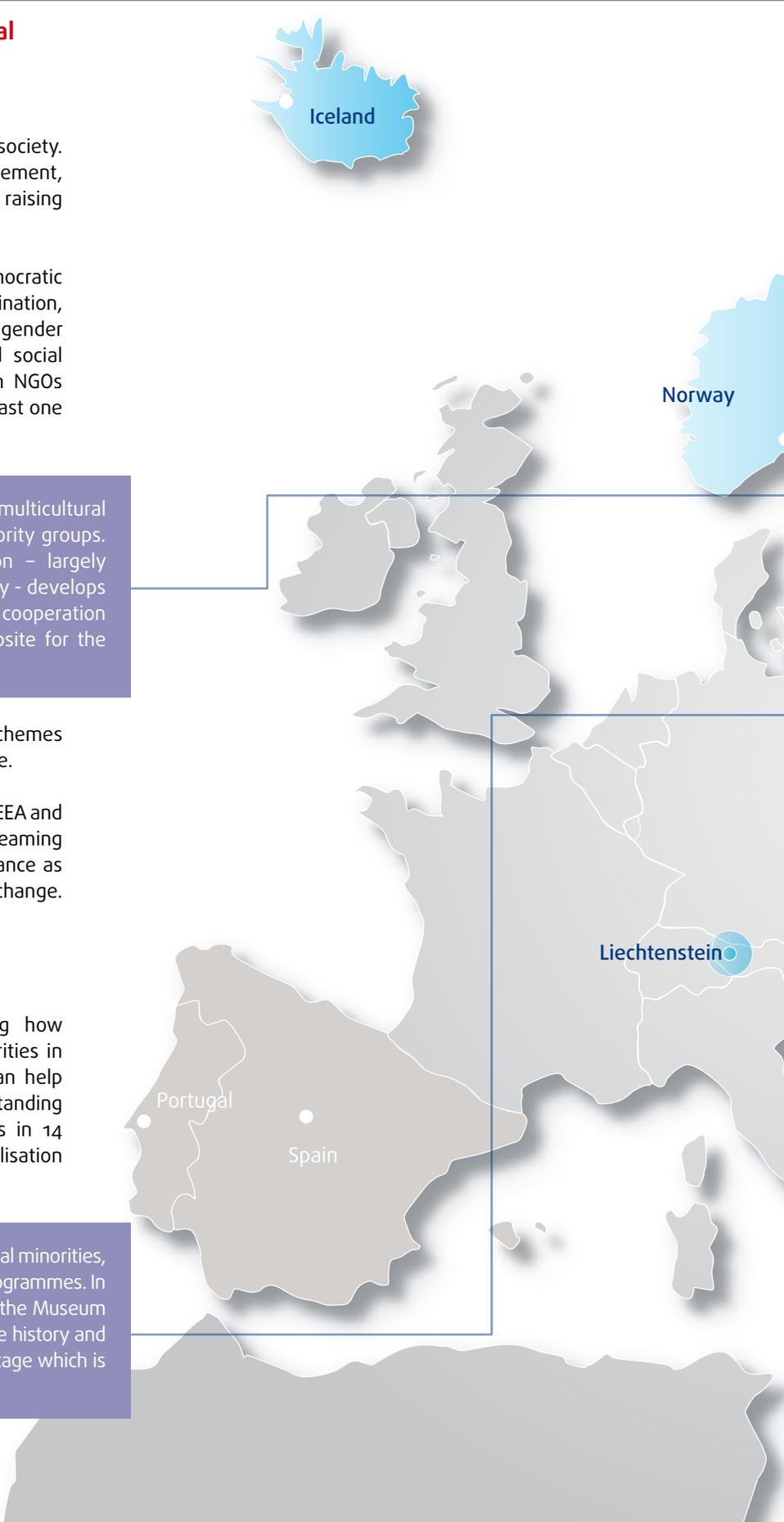
The EEA Grants are one of the prime funding schemes for civil society in Central and Southern Europe.

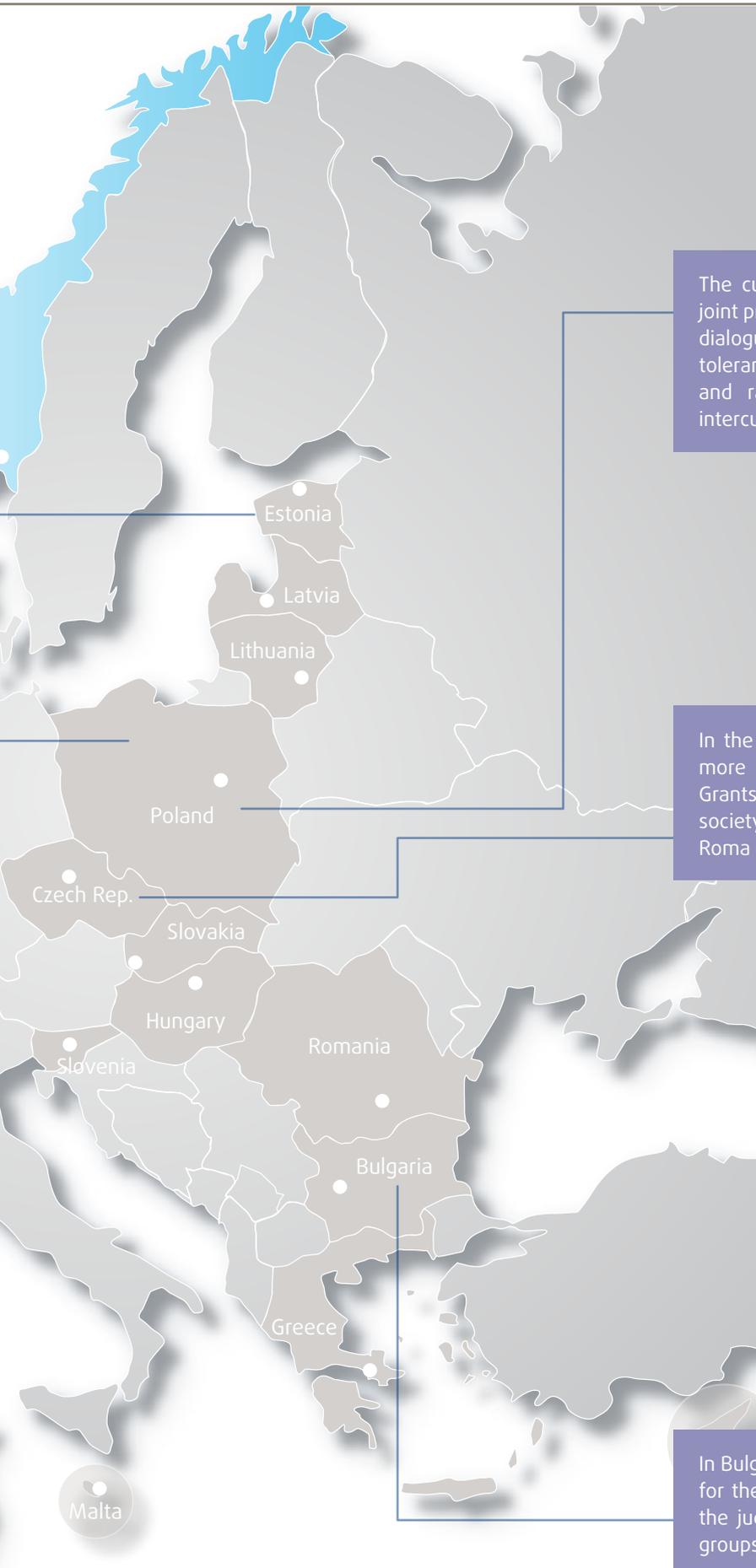
NGOs are also eligible for funding under other EEA and Norway Grants programmes, such as mainstreaming gender equality and promoting work-life balance as well as environmental protection and climate change.

Cultural heritage

Being aware of history and remembering how historical developments have affected minorities in Europe, for example Jewish communities, can help strengthen social cohesion. It increases understanding between people and societies. Programmes in 14 countries support the preservation and revitalisation of important European cultural heritage.

Cultural history, including of ethnic and national minorities, is a special concern in a number of cultural programmes. In Poland, the EEA and Norway Grants support the Museum of the History of Polish Jews to document the history and culture of Jews for a broad audience – a heritage which is in danger of being lost.





Intercultural understanding

Increased awareness of cultural diversity can strengthen tolerance. Specific programmes are set up in ten countries to promote intercultural dialogue and understanding of cultural diversity in Europe. Reaching out to a broad audience is an important objective.

The cultural diversity programme in Poland supports joint projects that build on the principles of intercultural dialogue, multicultural history, anti-discrimination and tolerance. The aim is to promote access to culture and raise awareness about cultural diversity and intercultural dialogue.

Social inclusion

Local and regional initiatives are important to promote inclusion of socially and economically disadvantaged groups. In the Czech Republic, Poland, Romania and Slovakia, this includes better measures to tackle discrimination.

In the Czech Republic, young people are being made more aware about hate crime and its effects. The Grants promote tolerance and anti-discrimination in society, with a particular focus on the situation of the Roma minority.

Research and education

The research programmes build on the principles of freedom of expression, anti-discrimination and gender balance. These programmes (in seven countries) and the scholarship programmes (in a further eleven countries) contribute to enhancing research and innovation capacity and education systems.

Fairer justice systems

The Norway Grants support fairer and more efficient judicial systems, and especially the rights of vulnerable groups within the justice system and in correctional institutions.

In Bulgaria, the Norway Grants help strengthen respect for the European Convention on Human Rights within the judicial system and aim to make sure vulnerable groups have access to legal aid.





Czech cyclists take to the streets at the 'critical mass' bike ride – an event held regularly in cities around the world to celebrate cycling and to defend cyclists' rights.

Environment and climate change

Climate change and loss of biodiversity are among the most important environmental challenges we are facing. These problems are global in nature and require common solutions. Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway are working together with the EU to combat climate change and promote sustainable development.

Europe has some of the highest environmental standards in the world and ambitious climate and energy targets. Yet, according to the EU, the Union is not on track to meet many of its environmental objectives despite progress in some areas.

The Europe 2020 strategy for sustainable growth is an important tool to increase employment and competitiveness while at the same time promoting resource efficiency to tackle environmental and climate challenges. Europe 2020 includes targets to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 20%, increase the share of renewable energy in energy consumption to 20% and achieve a 20% increase in energy efficiency by 2020. By the same year, the EU has also agreed to halt the loss of biodiversity and the degradation of ecosystem services.

Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway share the EU's vision for a more sustainable future and are important partners with the EU and its member states in efforts to protect the environment and combat climate change. Under the EEA and Norway Grants environment and climate is the largest group of priority sectors with an allocation of €478 million. In addition, close to €120 million is allocated to green industry innovation programmes.

Environmental protection and management

Poor water quality or the extent and flow of waters, lakes and seas can be both the cause and effect of other environmental challenges. Climate change and chemical pollution can affect water quality and in turn may impact animal and human health. More than half of the lakes in the beneficiary countries are classified as having bad, poor or moderate water status according to the EU Water Framework Directive (WFD). This directive and the EU Marine Strategy Framework Directive require member states to establish clear environmental targets and monitoring. The EEA Grants support programmes for good environmental management of marine and inland waters, protecting the resources these ecosystems provide.

Halting loss of biodiversity

Protecting biodiversity is essential for healthy ecosystems, sustainable development and reducing vulnerability to climate change. Both donor and beneficiary countries are bound by the UN Convention on Biological Diversity. Natura 2000 is the centrepiece of EU biodiversity policy and, with it, more than 26 000 protected areas have been established to assure the long-term survival of Europe's most valuable and threatened species and habitats. The Grants help the beneficiary countries to manage and monitor both these and non-Natura 2000 areas, including by helping to balance protection and sustainable use, halt the loss of biodiversity and protect ecosystems from invasive alien species as well as through raising awareness of environmental considerations in policy and legislative development.

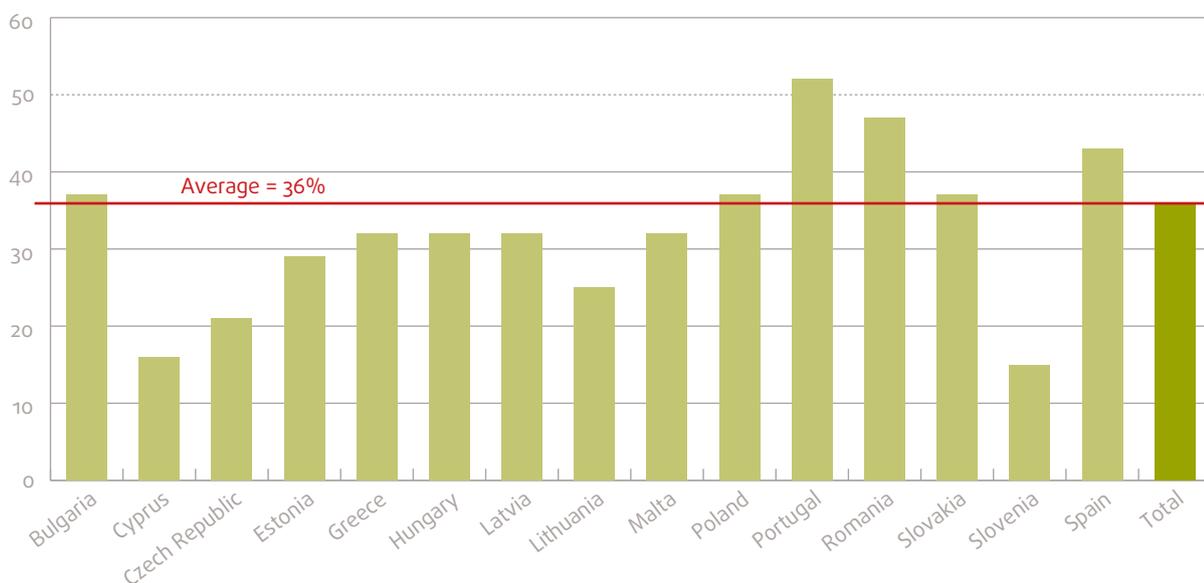
Improving legislative compliance

The donor and beneficiary countries share a large part of their environmental legislation through the EEA Agreement and the donor states' participation in the EU's internal market. The Grants support compliance with EU legislation on geographical information, control with the industry and management of chemicals and hazardous waste.

Climate change

The ambitious European climate change policy requires increased energy efficiency, more use of renewable energy and reduction of greenhouse gas emissions. The EU as a whole is currently on track to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and reach its targets by 2020. But meeting the 20% energy efficiency target will require far more work and progress has been uneven. The share of renewable energy consumption in the EU as a whole is currently 12.5%.

Figure 4: Grant allocations in green sectors*, % of total country net allocation



* This includes the following priority sectors Environmental protection and management, Climate change and renewable energy, Carbon capture and storage, Green industry innovation.

Energy efficiency and renewable energy

Improved energy efficiency is considered to be a relevant and economic way to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Along with renewable energy, it also contributes to improving air quality, particularly in densely populated areas. According to the EU, energy consumption in residential and commercial buildings represents around 40% of EU total final energy use and contributes to about 36% of EU greenhouse gas emissions.

The EEA and Norway Grants support increased use of renewable energy and energy efficiency in eight European countries. The programmes contribute to replacing old heating installations and systems in public buildings and increasing the use of bio-based energy solutions such as thermal energy, wind, water and solar power. Significant funding is used to develop proven geothermal potential in Hungary, Romania and the Portuguese Azores.

Carbon capture and storage (CCS) is one of the technologies available for reducing emissions and mitigating climate change. The technology is in the early stages of development. The Norway Grants fund research and development projects in CCS.

Working together

Environmental challenges do not stop at national borders and require joint action and cross-border cooperation. Exchange of experience and pooling expertise and resources are therefore highly relevant for this sector. Public entities in the donor countries are programme partners in most of the climate and environmental programmes under the EEA and Norway Grants.

Reducing vulnerability to climate change

In addition to reducing greenhouse gas emissions, there is a need to protect people and ecosystems from the impact of a changing climate: changing patterns of rainfall, influence on agricultural production, effects on human health, changes to forests and other ecosystems, or even impact on infrastructure and energy supply. The challenges require public authorities to increase their preparedness and planning, and society as a whole to engage.

The Grants help to reduce vulnerability to climate change in ten countries, supporting such issues as long-term climate change adaptation policies and measures to prevent flooding and retain flood water.¹¹ To do this, it is important to improve systems for exchanging information, increase analytical capacity and raise awareness. A number of initiatives on environment and climate change are also supported by the programmes for NGOs and research.

Green industry innovation

Climate change and the growing pressure on limited natural resources mean that businesses need to innovate to succeed. The EU's Eco-Innovation Action Plan places the issue at the heart of European policies. However, there is still a general lack of available funding to support eco-innovation. Through green industry innovation programmes oriented towards businesses, Norway is contributing close to €120 million to help to step up eco-innovation and develop green business opportunities in eight beneficiary countries. ■

¹¹ Covering the programme areas: adaptation to climate change, maritime sector and environmental and climate change-related research and technology.

A group of young people assemble for a 'flash mob' in Kraków marking the beginning of the higher education students' holiday in Poland: 'Juwenalia'.





Country overviews

This part presents an overview of the main aims of the EEA and Norway Grants and developments in each of the 15 beneficiary countries.

Bulgaria



PRIORITIES

- > Strengthening the justice sector through reform
- > Assisting in the fight against organised crime, including trafficking
- > Combatting violence against women
- > Improving the situation for Roma and other vulnerable groups

Attention is also given to promoting green industry innovation, public health and reducing inequalities in access to health care.

	Bulgaria	EU-27
GDP per capita (2011, in PPS)	11 600	25 100
Economic growth (2012, % change on previous year)	0.8	-0.3
Unemployment rate (2012, %)	12.3	10.5
Youth unemployment rate (2012, %)	28.1	22.8
Public debt (2011, % GDP)	16.3	82.5
Inequality of income distribution (2011, ratio of top 20% to bottom 20%)	6.5	5.1
Gender pay gap (2011, %)	13.0	16.2
At-risk-of-poverty rate (2011, %)	49.1	24.2
Human development index (2011, global ranking)	55	-
Corruption perception index (2012, global ranking)	75	-

See notes to tables in annex 2.

In 2012

Nine programmes were approved. Efforts were directed to building the bilateral dimension of the programmes.

Bilateral relations funds were used to lay the ground for the new reform of the Bulgarian judicial system so as to ensure fair and efficient practices. Representatives from the Council of Europe, EU member countries and other international experts took part in a conference on 20 November 2012 to discuss the judicial reform and exchange best criminal law practices.

Four cooperative projects between trade unions in Bulgaria and Norway to create a better understanding of the benefits of decent work received support from the Global Fund for Decent Work.

Five Norwegian partners participate in programmes to fight climate change, increase competitiveness of green enterprises, strengthen justice, social dialogue and support research. The Icelandic Centre for Research, the Agency for International Education Affairs (Liechtenstein) and the Norwegian Centre for International Cooperation in Education also work together with Bulgarian institutions to increase educational mobility and cooperation.

The Norwegian Association of Local and Regional Authorities and the Norwegian Parents Secretariat are cooperating with Bulgarian partners on capacity-building, social and economic mapping of Bulgarian borderlands and cross-border cooperation with regions in neighbouring countries facing similar challenges. The Norwegian Police Directorate provides expertise in the fight against organised crime.

IN FOCUS: Fairer justice

Bulgaria is a party to the European Convention on Human Rights. This implies that the country is obliged to amend its laws and practices in line with judgements made by the European Court of Human Rights. The Norway Grants and the Council of Europe are helping Bulgaria reform its judicial system, meet these obligations and protect fundamental freedoms.

One pilot scheme for legal aid ensures that vulnerable groups, particularly the Roma, are informed about their rights and how to exercise them. The National Legal Aid Bureau will offer legal aid through a national telephone hotline and two on-site offices in Bulgarian towns with a high concentration of Roma.

Read more about all the programmes: www.eeagrants.org/Bulgaria

Budget 2009-2014 (million €)		Spent by end of 2012 (million €)		Programmes			
EEA	Norway	EEA	Norway	Proposed	Approved	With a donor programme partner	Number of donor programme partners
78.6	48.0	1.2	0.7	14	9	10	10

* See full list of donor programme partners in Annex 3.

Cyprus

PRIORITIES

- > Strengthening civil society
- > Facilitating dialogue and bi-communal cooperation
- > Improving services for and protection of victims of domestic violence
- > Improving health diagnostics and capacity



	Cyprus	EU-27
GDP per capita (2011, in PPS)	23 700	25 100
Economic growth (2012, % change on previous year)	-2.3	-0.3
Unemployment rate (2012, %)	11.9	10.5
Youth unemployment rate (2012, %)	27.8	22.8
Public debt (2011, % GDP)	71.1	82.5
Inequality of income distribution (2011, ratio of top 20% to bottom 20%)	4.3	5.1
Gender pay gap (2011, %)	16.4	16.2
At-risk-of-poverty rate (2011, %)	23.5	24.2
Human development index (2011, global ranking)	31	-
Corruption perception index (2012, global ranking)	29	-

See notes to tables in annex 2.

In 2012

Two programmes were approved in Cyprus in 2012.

Study visits offered the opportunity to exchange good practice and to meet partners. They strengthen bilateral relations in the areas of justice, environment, health and domestic violence.

Norway shared experience on the use of a petroleum fund to manage revenues and its connection with economic policy.

The Norwegian Secretariat of the Shelter Movement and the Cypriot Association for the Prevention and Handling of Violence in the Family (SPAVO) raised awareness of domestic violence and are in the process of setting up Cyprus' first

purposed-built shelter. The shelter provides services to victims of physical or psychological abuse from both the Greek-Cypriot and the Turkish-Cypriot communities.

The Council of Europe is involved in the bi-communal Home for Cooperation's (H4C) history teaching activities (see In Focus).

The Cypriot conflict is the subject of the documentary 'Birds of a Feather', produced in 2012 and funded by the Norway Grants. The film has been screened at different events in Cyprus, Norway, the United Kingdom and Austria.

IN FOCUS: Facilitating dialogue

Cyprus has been divided for almost 40 years. Efforts focus on facilitating dialogue and reaching out to both communities across this divide. Almost one third of the funding is earmarked for the benefit of both the Greek-Cypriot and Turkish-Cypriot communities.

The Home for Cooperation (H4C), located in the buffer zone, was set up with the support of Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway and continues to receive funding today.

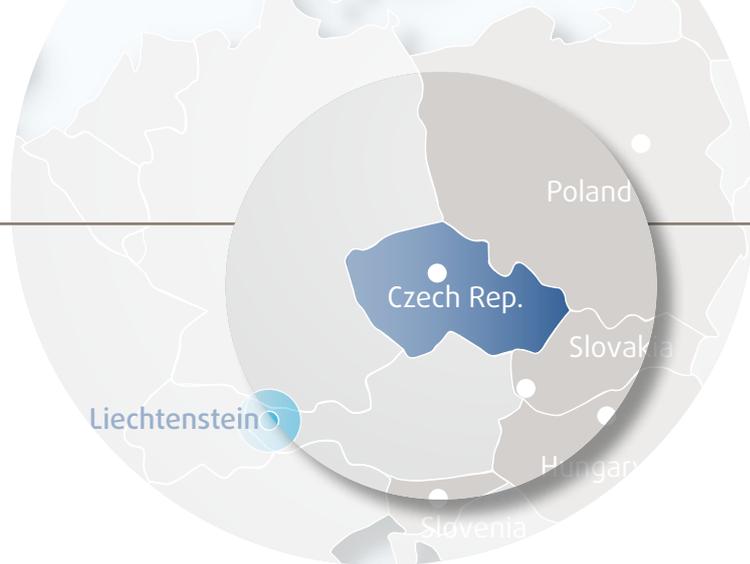
H4C is a place for people from both communities to meet, discuss, share and engage in dialogue. It hosts a library and archive, conference and exhibition spaces, and also offers language classes and offices for various NGOs. H4C welcomes young people, educators, historians, researchers, activists and others engaged in historical inquiry and peace building.

Read more about all the programmes: www.eeagrants.org/Cyprus

Budget 2009-2014 (million €)		Spent by end of 2012 (million €)		Programmes			
EEA	Norway	EEA	Norway	Proposed	Approved	With a donor programme partner	Number of donor programme partners
3.9	4.0	0.0	0.0	2	2	1	2

* See full list of donor programme partners in Annex 3.

Czech Republic



PRIORITIES

- > Improving mental health services and reducing health inequalities
- > Protecting biodiversity, improving environmental monitoring and control, and reducing vulnerability to climate change
- > Enhancing research-based knowledge development through increased research cooperation between the Czech Republic and Norway

Attention is also given to strengthening civil society, promoting gender equality and revitalising important European cultural and natural heritage.

	Czech Republic	EU-27
GDP per capita (2011, in PPS)	20 200	25 100
Economic growth (2012, % change on previous year)	-1.1	-0.3
Unemployment rate (2012, %)	7.0	10.5
Youth unemployment rate (2012, %)	19.5	22.8
Public debt (2011, % GDP)	40.8	82.5
Inequality of income distribution (2011, ratio of top 20% to bottom 20%)	3.5	5.1
Gender pay gap (2011, %)	21.0	16.2
At-risk-of-poverty rate (2011, %)	15.3	24.2
Human development index (2011, global ranking)	27	-
Corruption perception index (2012, global ranking)	54	-

See notes to tables in annex 2.

In 2012

Three projects that promote decent work and tripartite dialogue received funding, all involving Czech and Norwegian project partners.

Programme partnerships have so far been established with eight public bodies from Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway, in addition to the Council of Europe.

The Council of Europe contributes with its expertise to improve the judicial system, including compliance with anti-corruption standards.

The Research Council of Norway facilitates cooperation between Norwegian and Czech research communities.

A seminar on children and youth at risk took place in Prague in June 2012, financed by the bilateral fund.

The Norwegian Directorate for Nature Management is cooperating with its Czech counterparts to halt the loss of biodiversity and better manage 'Natura 2000' sites included in the EU-wide network of nature protection areas.

IN FOCUS: Mental health services

According to EU estimates, one in four Europeans suffers from a mental health problem at least once during their lifetime. People with mental health problems face a higher risk of poverty and social exclusion than the general population.

In most European countries, mental health services have been underfunded for many years. The Czech Republic is no exception and institutional care is still the norm. Under the Norway Grants, new measures allow patients to be treated locally rather than in distant institutions. This important step towards transforming the Czech psychiatric system from institutional to community-based care is supported by the Norwegian Institute of Public Health, which brings experience from similar reforms.

Gradually preparing patients to return to normal life helps reduce the chance of relapse. Czech NGOs provide patient support and follow-up and raise awareness of mental illnesses within their local communities. Removing the stigma for people with mental illnesses is an important aim within this work.

Read more about all the programmes:
www.eegrants.org/Czech-Republic

Budget 2009-2014 (million €)		Spent by end of 2012 (million €)		Programmes			
EEA	Norway	EEA	Norway	Proposed	Approved	With a donor programme partner	Number of donor programme partners
61.4	70.4	0.2	0.2	12	0	6	8

* See full list of donor programme partners in Annex 3.



Young couple in a Prague metro station.

Estonia



PRIORITIES

- > 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

	Estonia	EU-27
GDP per capita (2011, in PPS)	16 900	25 100
Economic growth (2012, % change on previous year)	3.2	-0.3
Unemployment rate (2012, %)	10.2	10.5
Youth unemployment rate (2012, %)	20.9	22.8
Public debt (2011, % GDP)	6.1	82.5
Inequality of income distribution (2011, ratio of top 20% to bottom 20%)	5.3	5.1
Gender pay gap (2011, %)	27.3	16.2
At-risk-of-poverty rate (2011, %)	23.1	24.2
Human development index (2011, global ranking)	34	-
Corruption perception index (2012, global ranking)	32	-

See notes to tables in annex 2.

In 2012

Ten programmes were approved, and a high level of interest in cooperation has led to strategic partnerships with public bodies from the donor countries in all programmes, except the NGO programme.

Many donor programme partners from Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway joined their Estonian colleagues during the launch of the Grants in March after having established or renewed partnerships during study visits, partner days and joint conferences.

The NGO programme was launched in June, and supports a diverse set of projects. It promotes democratic values including human rights and multicultural dialogue, for example, offering NGOs the chance to collaborate against discrimination, to have their voice heard on issues ranging from asylum to policy and to contribute to civil society.

The Norwegian Association of Local and Regional Authorities is cooperating with the Estonian Ministries of Education, Social Affairs and Justice to support vulnerable children and youth in Estonia today. This includes working with young people in local communities who are neglected, abused or face learning and behavioural difficulties, and also with young criminals to integrate them back into society.

The Norwegian Institute of Public Health is supporting the Ministry of Social Affairs in a public health programme (see In Focus), while the Norwegian Directorate of Health is involved in a programme that develops services for victims of domestic violence and victims of trafficking.

IN FOCUS: Children and youth at risk

Studies show that mental health problems are both a cause and a consequence of social and economic inequality and exclusion. Poor mental health is consistently linked with unemployment, lower levels of education and low standards of living. Sometimes used as an indicator for overall mental health, suicide rates in Estonia – though falling – are still some way above the EU average.

In Estonia, more and more children and young people are suffering from mental health problems. The EEA and Norway Grants improve the social conditions for young people and children. An innovative mental health centre for children will be established at the Tallinn Children's Hospital, where children with severe mental illnesses will receive professional help. Regional support units will be established in four regions including in regions with a high proportion of the Russian-speaking minority. The units enable local governments to offer families a variety of healthcare services, including those that address mental health problems.

In addition, at least 10% of the NGO programme funds go to projects, activities or organisations for children and youth.

Read more about all the programmes: www.eeagrants.org/Estonia

Budget 2009-2014 (million €)		Spent by end of 2012 (million €)		Programmes			
EEA	Norway	EEA	Norway	Proposed	Approved	With a donor programme partner	Number of donor programme partners
23.0	25.6	0.5	0.1	10	10	9	11

* See full list of donor programme partners in Annex 3.

Greece



PRIORITIES

- > Safeguarding the right to seek asylum
- > Improving the reception conditions, particularly 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, renewable energy and research are additional areas of cooperation.

	Greece	EU-27
GDP per capita (2011, in PPS)	20 100	25 100
Economic growth (2012, % change on previous year)	-6.4	-0.3
Unemployment rate (2012, %)	24.3	10.5
Youth unemployment rate (2012, %)	55.3	22.8
Public debt (2011, % GDP)	170.6	82.5
Inequality of income distribution (2011, ratio of top 20% to bottom 20%)	6.0	5.1
Gender pay gap (2011, %)	0.0	16.2
At-risk-of-poverty rate (2011, %)	31.0	24.2
Human development index (2011, global ranking)	29	-
Corruption perception index (2012, global ranking)	94	-

See notes to tables in annex 2.

In 2012

Under the programme on asylum and migration, one project on assisted voluntary return of migrants has been implemented by the International Organization for Migration (IOM), exceeding initial targets.

A second project gives grants to the United Nations Refugee Agency (UNHCR) to continue their support of the Greek authorities in implementing the action plan on migration management. During 2012, UNHCR participated in asylum interviews and gave advice on the asylum procedures in 2 763 cases. The advisory opinions provided country of origin information, legal information and other relevant observations.

The UNHCR has also trained Greek police and staff at the new asylum institutions. The training has focused on refugee law, how to assess country of origin information and international good practices on working with asylum claims.

The Norwegian Directorate of Immigration is a donor programme partner in the asylum and migration programme. In 2012, €5.1 million was paid out in Greece, giving a disbursement rate so far of 8.7%.

IN FOCUS: Voluntary return for migrants

Greece is one of the main entry points for irregular migrants to the EU and the borderless Schengen area. The large number of arrivals is a considerable challenge for Greece. At the same time, the economic crisis has hit Greece hard and the number of people at risk of poverty and social exclusion is now one of Europe's highest.

Better conditions for asylum seekers and irregular migrants, especially unaccompanied children, are key objectives for the EEA Grants in Greece.

A project on voluntary return of irregular migrants, implemented by the IOM, assisted migrants wishing to return to their home countries. This ensured a dignified and safe return for over 850 migrants and 23 victims of human trafficking. The majority were irregular migrants, most coming from Pakistan, Bangladesh, Afghanistan, Georgia and Ghana.

Read more about all the programmes: www.eegrants.org/Greece

Budget 2009-2014 (million €)		Spent by end of 2012 (million €)		Programmes			
EEA	Norway	EEA	Norway	Proposed	Approved	With a donor programme partner	Number of donor programme partners
63.4	n.a.	5.1	n.a.	6	1	2	1

* See full list of donor programme partners in Annex 3.

Hungary

PRIORITIES

- > Strengthening civil society
- > Improving the well-being of children and youth at risk
- > Increasing the competitiveness of green enterprises
- > Enhancing research-based knowledge through research cooperation



	Hungary	EU-27
GDP per capita (2011, in PPS)	16 500	25 100
Economic growth (2012, % change on previous year)	-1.7	-0.3
Unemployment rate (2012, %)	10.9	10.5
Youth unemployment rate (2012, %)	28.1	22.8
Public debt (2011, % GDP)	81.4	82.5
Inequality of income distribution (2011, ratio of top 20% to bottom 20%)	3.9	5.1
Gender pay gap (2011, %)	18.0	16.2
At-risk-of-poverty rate (2011, %)	31.0	24.2
Human development index (2011, global ranking)	38	-
Corruption perception index (2012, global ranking)	46	-

See notes to tables in annex 2.

In 2012

One programme was approved. Donor programme partners are present in nine out of eleven programmes proposed, showing the high interest in fostering bilateral relations.

Geothermal energy is considered to be an important renewable energy source in many countries. The National Energy Authority of Iceland works together with relevant Hungarian authorities to exploit the potential of geothermal energy, in particular for district heating, also increasing awareness of and education in geothermal energy and other renewable energy solutions.

Innovation Norway also facilitates partnerships and helps shape the programme around the use of environmentally friendly technologies, creating green jobs and fostering entrepreneurship.

Meetings and study visits between programme and potential project partners strengthened the exchange of good practice and introduced project partners in several areas.

The Council of Europe share their expertise in initiatives to improve the Hungarian child and youth welfare systems and measures to protect the most vulnerable groups, including the Roma population.

In the Hungarian-Norwegian research programme, one of the largest research programmes in the Norway Grants, the Research Council of Norway and Hungarian research institutions are supporting cooperation on environment, health, social sciences and the humanities.

Through the Global Fund for Decent Work and Tripartite Dialogue, five partnership projects between trade unions in Hungary and Norway have been awarded support to improve decent work and decent retirement.

IN FOCUS: Empowering minorities

The current economic crisis has led to cuts in state funding that affect civil society in Hungary. NGOs are suffering from these financial constraints and are struggling to develop their capacity, enhance their advocacy role and improve the provision of much-needed services. At the same time, unemployment and social exclusion remain a concern with the Roma population particularly vulnerable.

The NGO programme in Hungary strengthens the role of civil society in the areas of social justice, democracy and sustainable development. Minorities and vulnerable groups often struggle to get their voices heard in society. Promoting the rights of and empowering the Roma is an important aim of the programme. Through four rounds of calls for proposals, projects related to children and youth as well as gender equality will receive at least 11% of the funding.

Read more about all the programmes: www.eeagrants.org/Hungary

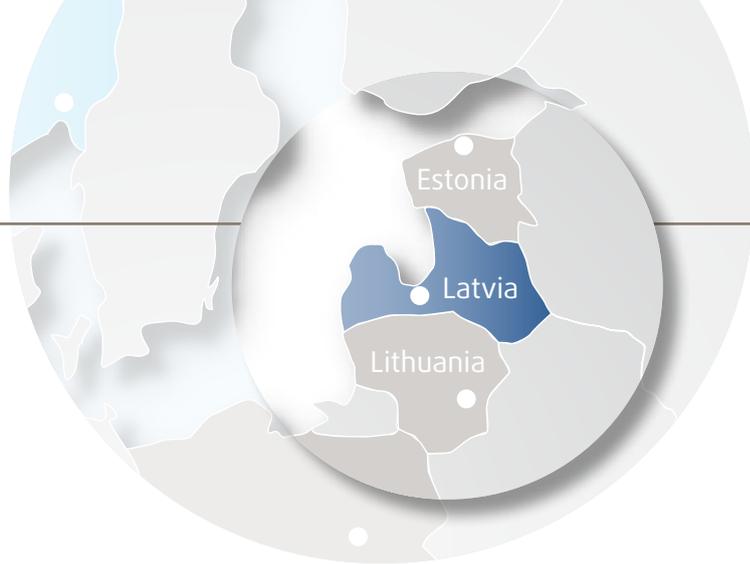
Budget 2009-2014 (million €)		Spent by end of 2012 (million €)		Programmes			
EEA	Norway	EEA	Norway	Proposed	Approved	With a donor programme partner	Number of donor programme partners
70.1	83.2	0.2	0.1	11	1	9	12

* See full list of donor programme partners in Annex 3.



Skate park at Herăstrău Park, the largest park in Bucharest.

Latvia



PRIORITIES

- > Supporting reform of correctional services, including improving the rehabilitation of inmates
- > Strengthening cooperation between local and regional authorities in Latvia and Norway
- > Strengthening civil society
- > Increasing intercultural awareness and dialogue with national minorities

Attention is also given to realising green innovation business opportunities and improving environmental monitoring systems.

	Latvia	EU-27
GDP per capita (in PPS)	14 700	25 100
Economic growth (% change on previous year)	5.3	-0.3
Unemployment rate (%)	14.9	10.5
Youth unemployment rate (%)	28.4	22.8
Public debt (% GDP)	42.2	82.5
Inequality of income distribution (ratio of top 20% to bottom 20%)	6.6	5.1
Gender pay gap (%)	13.6	16.2
At-risk-of-poverty rate (%)	40.4	24.2
Human development index (global ranking)	43	-
Corruption perception index (global ranking)	54	-

See notes to tables in annex 2.

In 2012

Six programmes were approved and partners from Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway participated in the launch of the Grants and of several programmes: cultural heritage, correctional services and the NGO programme. Cooperation was established or revitalised during study visits and joint conferences.

Partnerships with public entities from Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway have been established in all but the NGO programme.

Improving local and regional public services can have important positive effects by generating further regional development. The Norwegian Association of Local and Regional Authorities and the Norwegian Ministry of Local

Governments and Regional Development are working with the Latvian Association of Local Governments and the Latvian Ministry of Environmental Protection and Regional Development to improve organisational methods and practices to develop the regions.

Four projects were approved under the Fund for Decent Work and Tripartite Dialogue.

IN FOCUS: Prison reform

According to the International Centre for Prison Studies, Latvia has the seventh biggest prison population in Europe relative to its total population. Moreover, every second inmate will probably be sentenced more than once and returned to prison. Consequently, Latvia's on-going penal reform aims to prepare inmates for life after prison, and explore alternatives to imprisonment. Success in this reform would help integrate former prisoners back into society.

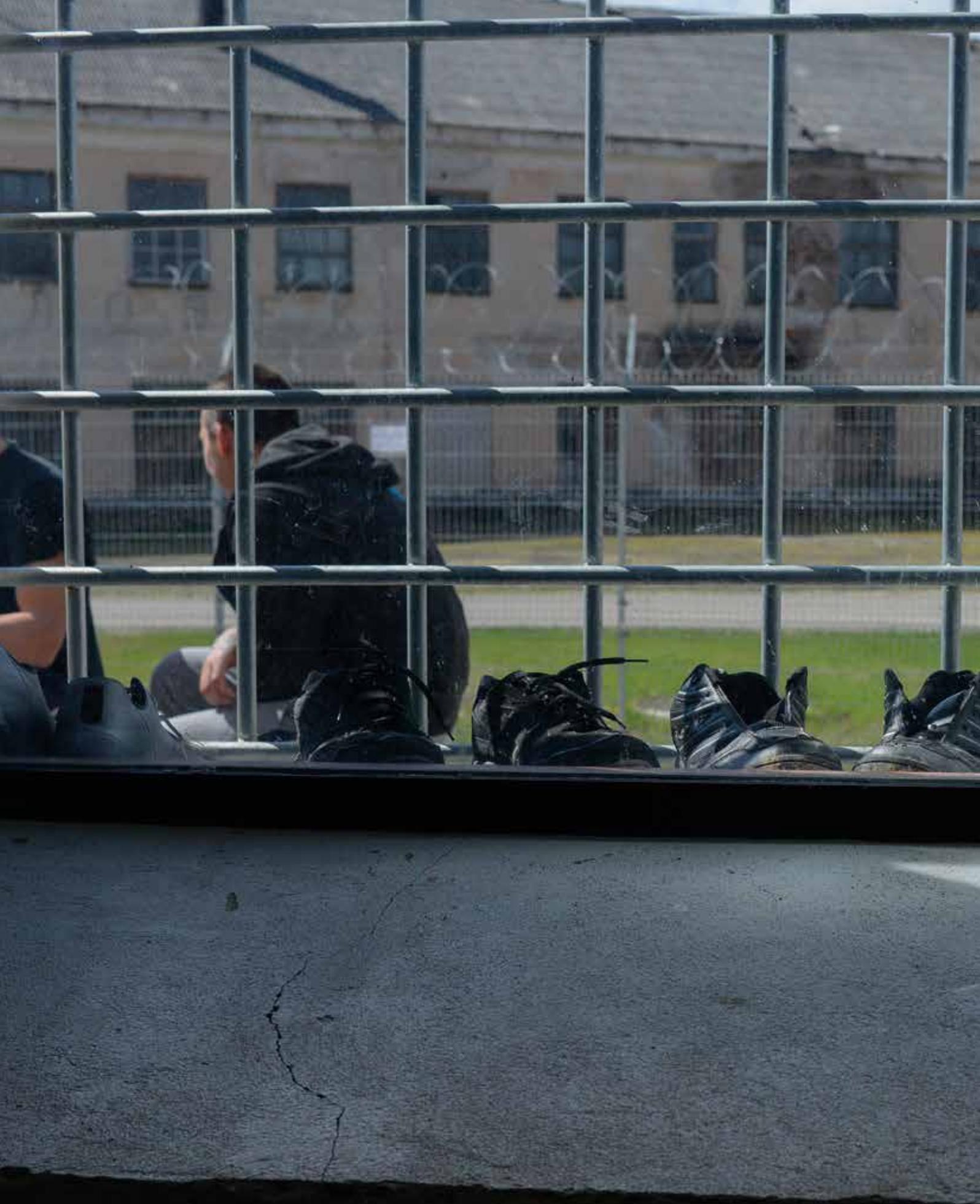
The Grants support efforts that lead to alternatives to prison, including a pilot on electronic monitoring. Measures to reduce the use of administrative detention and the imprisonment of people without charge or trial is implemented. One of the projects includes building a new drug rehabilitation unit in the Olaine prison outside Riga.

An important aspect of the programme is staff training in partnership with the Norwegian Correctional Services and the Council of Europe.

Read more about all the programmes: www.eeagrants.org/Latvia

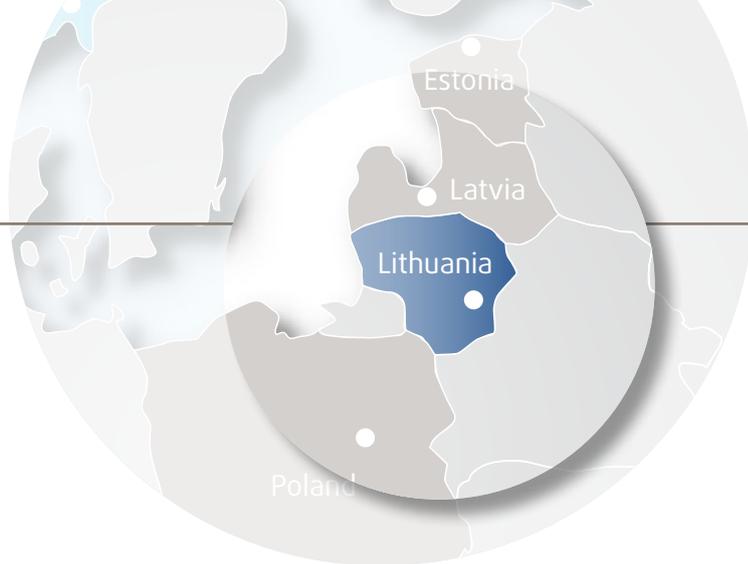
Budget 2009-2014 (million €)		Spent by end of 2012 (million €)		Programmes			
EEA	Norway	EEA	Norway	Proposed	Approved	With a donor programme partner	Number of donor programme partners
34.6	38.4	0.1	0.1	7	6	6	9

* See full list of donor programme partners in Annex 3.



Inmates at the Cesu correctional institution for juveniles in Latvia.

Lithuania



PRIORITIES

- > Judicial reform, including wider use of alternatives to prison
- > Fighting cross-border and organised crime
- > Promoting green industry innovation and entrepreneurship
- > Strengthening cooperation between local authorities and public institutions in Lithuania and Norway

Attention is also given to halting the loss of biodiversity and protecting ecosystems.

	Lithuania	EU-27
GDP per capita (2011, in PPS)	16 600	25 100
Economic growth (2012, % change on previous year)	3.6	-0.3
Unemployment rate (2012, %)	13.3	10.5
Youth unemployment rate (2012, %)	26.4	22.8
Public debt (2011, % GDP)	38.5	82.5
Inequality of income distribution (2011, ratio of top 20% to bottom 20%)	5.8	5.1
Gender pay gap (2011, %)	11.9	16.2
At-risk-of-poverty rate (2011, %)	33.4	24.2
Human development index (2011, global ranking)	40	-
Corruption perception index (2012, global ranking)	48	-

See notes to tables in annex 2.

In 2012

Eight programmes were approved in 2012 and there was a strong focus on developing bilateral relations.

Ten partnerships have been established between Norwegian institutions and Lithuanian partners in areas such as climate change, environment, social dialogue, justice, cultural heritage, local and regional capacity building and scholarships.

Partners from Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway participated in the launch of the Grants as well as the launch of the Green Industry Innovation programme. Cooperation was established or revitalised during study visits and joint conferences.

The Lithuanian Ministry of Justice and the Norwegian Correctional Services agreed to continue their long-standing cooperation and work on reforming the prison system.

The aim is to reduce overcrowding in prisons, increase the use of alternatives to prison and strengthen the competence of prison staff and prisoners. Vulnerable groups in prison are an important target group.

The Lithuanian National Courts Administration and the Norwegian Courts Administration are cooperating to improve the support provided to witnesses and crime victims during the court procedure, to modernise the courts' information system and to further strengthen the competence of judges and court staff through training.

Six projects were approved under the Fund for Decent Work and Tripartite Dialogue.

IN FOCUS: Domestic and gender-based violence

Domestic and gender-based violence is a challenge facing all European countries, including Lithuania. Lithuania recently changed its legislation to make it clearer what constitutes domestic violence and to be able to prosecute also in cases where the victim does not press charges. The new legislation requires training measures for the Lithuanian police.

To address these issues, Lithuanian and Norwegian police officers develop training materials. Approximately 500 Lithuanian police officers are being equipped with the skills needed to implement the law and protect victims of violence. This includes how to investigate cases and collect evidence along with prevention and mediation techniques. The project is carried out in cooperation with the Norwegian Police Directorate, and shares best practice and raises awareness in the general public about domestic and gender-based violence.

Read more about all the programmes: www.eeagrants.org/Lithuania

Budget 2009-2014 (million €)		Spent by end of 2012 (million €)		Programmes			
EEA	Norway	EEA	Norway	Proposed	Approved	With a donor programme partner	Number of donor programme partners
38.4	45.6	0.2	0.1	12	8	9	10

* See full list of donor programme partners in Annex 3.

Malta



PRIORITIES

- > Strengthening oil spill prevention and response
- > Strengthening civil society
- > Improving correctional services for young offenders
- > Increasing renewable energy production

	Malta	EU-27
GDP per capita (2011, in PPS)	21 500	25 100
Economic growth (2012, % change on previous year)	1.0	-0.3
Unemployment rate (2012, %)	6.4	10.5
Youth unemployment rate (2012, %)	14.2	22.8
Public debt (2011, % GDP)	70.9	82.5
Inequality of income distribution (2011, ratio of top 20% to bottom 20%)	4.1	5.1
Gender pay gap (2011, %)	12.9	16.2
At-risk-of-poverty rate (2011, %)	21.4	24.2
Human development index (2011, global ranking)	36	-
Corruption perception index (2012, global ranking)	43	-

See notes to tables in annex 2.

In 2012

Malta was the first country to have all its programmes approved.

The Maltese and Norwegian Coastal Administrations began preparing the oil spill prevention and response project. Through the Global Fund for Decent Work and Tripartite Dialogue, a project for strengthening social dialogue and labour institutions was approved by Innovation Norway.

Partnerships have so far been established with three project partners from the donor countries as well as the Council of Europe.

Malta is decentralising its administration. To support these efforts the Norwegian Association of Local and Regional Authorities, the Norwegian Ministry of Local Government and Regional Development, as well as the Council of Europe, share their experience and expertise.

IN FOCUS: Protecting the coast against oil spills

Each year, more than 65 000 vessels travel within 20 nautical miles of Malta. Its coastline is extremely vulnerable to a possible oil spill, which would not only be disastrous for the environment, but also very damaging for Malta's tourism industry - a crucial part of the island state's economy.

The Grants previously assisted in establishing a containment and clean-up system for major oil spills and will continue to support efforts to reduce Malta's vulnerability to oil contamination. One of the main objectives is to protect the maritime habitat from the effects of a potential oil spill and the Norwegian Coastal Administration cooperates closely with the Maltese authorities in this regard. The efforts also include a study that addresses the risks associated with offshore oil exploration.

Read more about all the programmes: www.eagrants.org/Malta

Budget 2009-2014 (million €)		Spent by end of 2012 (million €)		Programmes			
EEA	Norway	EEA	Norway	Proposed	Approved	With a donor programme partner	Number of donor programme partners
2.9	1.6	0.0	0.0	3	3	0	0

* See full list of donor programme partners in Annex 3.

Fighters Agnieszka and Karolina (in red) doing mixed martial arts training, Poland.



Poland



PRIORITIES

- > Energy efficiency
- > 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

Attention is also given to safeguarding cultural heritage and stimulating cultural exchange.

	Poland	EU-27
GDP per capita (2011, in PPS)	16 200	25 100
Economic growth (2012, % change on previous year)	2.0	-0.3
Unemployment rate (2012, %)	10.1	10.5
Youth unemployment rate (2012, %)	26.5	22.8
Public debt (2011, % GDP)	56.4	82.5
Inequality of income distribution (2011, ratio of top 20% to bottom 20%)	5.0	5.1
Gender pay gap (2011, %)	4.5	16.2
At-risk-of-poverty rate (2011, %)	27.2	24.2
Human development index (2011, global ranking)	39	-
Corruption perception index (2012, global ranking)	41	-

See notes to tables in annex 2.

In 2012

Thirteen programmes were approved, two calls for proposals were launched and intensive preparations took place for all programmes to be implemented in 2013.

Efforts to develop bilateral relations have resulted in strategic partnerships with ten public bodies from Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway.

The Norwegian Climate and Pollution Agency and the National Fund for Environmental Protection and Water Management in Poland are cooperating on environmental monitoring and inspection to support compliance with EU environmental legislation in Poland.

The Norwegian Courts Administration is working with the Polish Ministry of Justice to improve the efficiency of Polish courts. They are sharing experience on ways to support crime victims and witnesses during the court procedure as well as looking at alternative methods of dispute resolution. Under this programme, 90 courts will get a new system for

managing case files and 275 court staff will receive training on using ICT-equipment.

To help Polish cities and municipalities solve common challenges, the Norwegian Association of Local and Regional Authorities is cooperating with the Polish Ministry of Regional Development and the Association of Polish Cities. Infrastructure, unemployment and education, including lifelong learning, are among the areas addressed by this programme through inter-municipality cooperation.

Under the Global Fund for Decent Work and Tripartite Dialogue employers and employees associations, as well as local authorities, are working together with Norwegian partners on 11 projects.

IN FOCUS: Bilateral research co-operation

Investing in research and education is necessary to tackle the many challenges facing our economies and societies today: global competition, climate change, energy and resource scarcity and health care for an ageing population.

The Polish-Norwegian research programme brings together institutions from Poland and Norway in joint projects. So far, 47 projects have been granted support. The main areas are protection of the environment, climate change, health and social sciences. One of the social science projects will analyse the migration flows between Norway and Poland and look at problems encountered by migrants. Within the areas of environment and climate change, one of the projects will study the climate system in the Svalbard area, while one of the health projects will research substances that could be used to treat depression.

The programme targets universities, research institutions and private enterprises, and will increase the number of articles published in international scientific periodicals and the number of joint patent applications.

Read more about all the programmes: www.eegrants.org/Poland

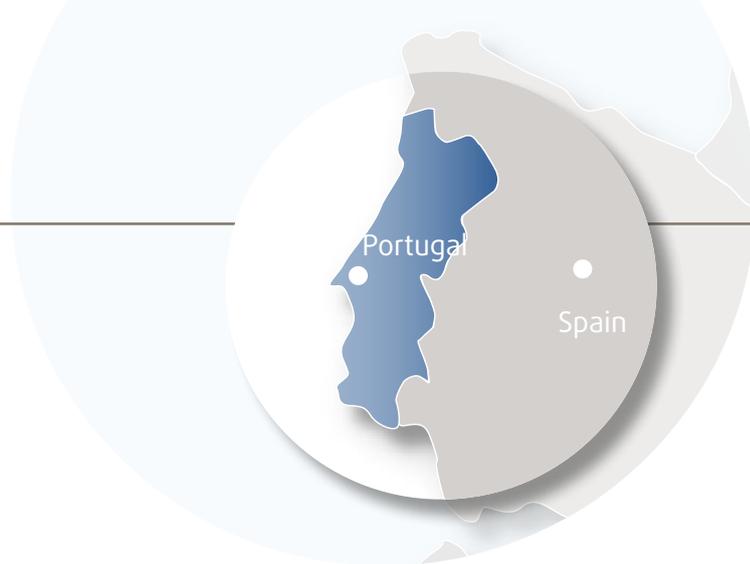
Budget 2009-2014 (million €)		Spent by end of 2012 (million €)		Programmes			
EEA	Norway	EEA	Norway	Proposed	Approved	With a donor programme partner	Number of donor programme partners
266.9	311.2	1.8	2.4	15	13	8	10

* See full list of donor programme partners in Annex 3. One programme in Poland has been discontinued in 2013 which will reduce the figures for Poland and the number of programmes with a donor programme partner.

Portugal

PRIORITIES

- > Improving public health services and reducing inequalities in access to health care
- > Strengthening civil society
- > Improving management and protection of marine natural resources
- > Reducing vulnerability to climate change



	Portugal	EU-27
GDP per capita (2011, in PPS)	19 500	25 100
Economic growth (2012, % change on previous year)	-3.2	-0.3
Unemployment rate (2012, %)	15.9	10.5
Youth unemployment rate (2012, %)	37.7	22.8
Public debt (2011, % GDP)	108.1	82.5
Inequality of income distribution (2011, ratio of top 20% to bottom 20%)	5.7	5.1
Gender pay gap (2011, %)	12.5	16.2
At-risk-of-poverty rate (2011, %)	24.4	24.2
Human development index (2011, global ranking)	41	-
Corruption perception index (2012, global ranking)	33	-

See notes to tables in annex 2.

In 2012

The Memorandum of Understanding for the Grants 2009-14 was signed in March 2012. Developing bilateral relations has led to programme and project partnerships with six public bodies from Iceland and Norway.

With funds to promote bilateral cooperation with the donor countries, Portugal puts priority on exchanges in the fields of marine resources, public health and strengthening civil society.

The Portuguese Environment Agency and the Directorate for Civil Protection and Emergency Planning are working closely to provide practical guidance to municipalities and raise awareness in schools about climate change.

The National Energy Authority of Iceland agreed to work with Electricity of the Azores (EDA) to exploit the potential of geothermal energy.

The Governments of Portugal, Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway will hold an international conference in Lisbon on climate change adaptation in October 2013. This will address the challenges of the increasing frequency and severity of both flooding and drought.

IN FOCUS: Climate change

Climate change requires coordinated efforts. The donor countries and the EU are actively cooperating to protect the environment, manage changes and adapt to those changes already taking place.

Portugal is exposed to rising temperatures and has experienced more frequent drought and wild fires. Changes in the weather could influence coastal erosion and the quality and availability of water. The Grants will help Portugal to be better prepared for climate change, strengthening capacity to deal with natural disasters linked to climate change and raising awareness among decision-makers and the public about climate and weather risks.

Bridging the information gap requires easy-to-understand information and data. Providing environmental information through a new website on 'Local Warming' is one way this will be done. Education is another. One hundred teachers will be trained to teach 1 500 students from 20 schools about climate change.

The Programme draws on the experience of the Norwegian Directorate for Civil Protection (DSB).

Read more on: www.eeagrants.org/Portugal

Budget 2009-2014 (million €)		Spent by end of 2012 (million €)		Programmes			
EEA	Norway	EEA	Norway	Proposed	Approved	With a donor programme partner	Number of donor programme partners
58.0	n.a.	0.1	n.a.	7	0	4	4

* See full list of donor programme partners in Annex 3.



Greek students attend English lessons at a private school.

Romania



PRIORITIES

- > Supporting judicial reform, tackling cross-border and organised crime
- > Increasing competitiveness of green enterprises, boosting green innovation and entrepreneurship
- > Promoting empowerment and social inclusion of the Roma
- > Strengthening civil society to promote social justice, democracy and sustainable development

	Romania	EU-27
GDP per capita (2011, in PPS)	11 400	25 100
Economic growth (2012, % change on previous year)	0.2	-0.3
Unemployment rate (2012, %)	7.0	10.5
Youth unemployment rate (2012, %)	22.7	22.8
Public debt (2011, % GDP)	33.4	82.5
Inequality of income distribution (2011, ratio of top 20% to bottom 20%)	6.2	5.1
Gender pay gap (2011, %)	12.1	16.2
At-risk-of-poverty rate (2011, %)	40.3	24.2
Human development index (2011, global ranking)	50	-
Corruption perception index (2012, global ranking)	66	-

See notes to tables in annex 2.

In 2012

The Memoranda of Understanding between the donors and Romania were signed in March. In addition, much attention was given to designing the institutional framework for administering the Grants. Expert and stakeholder consultations were held in all relevant areas of common interest.

As a result, 21 programme proposals were developed by the end of the year. The bilateral fund contributed to the development of a number of pre-defined projects in the area of environment and climate change.

Cooperation has been established with 21 donor state entities, all of which had an advisory role in the programme preparation phase. The Norwegian Police Directorate, the Courts Administration and Correctional Services played a key role in assisting programme design in the justice and home

affairs sector. The Norwegian Water Resources and Energy Directorate and the National Energy Authority of Iceland contributed to defining the priorities of the renewable energy programme, while the Icelandic Centre for Research, the Agency for International Education Affairs of Liechtenstein and the Norwegian Centre for International Cooperation in Education have helped shape the Scholarship programme.

The involvement of the Council of Europe in several programmes ensures that proven practices will be applied to benefit Roma inclusion.

IN FOCUS: Victims of gender-based violence

Domestic violence and human trafficking remain challenges in Romania. Government bodies and non-governmental organisations lack the necessary resources to provide coordinated responses and protect victims. There is an urgent need to build capacity among law enforcement agencies and the judiciary as well as to improve support for victims. Roma women are vulnerable due to discrimination based on ethnicity and gender.

The domestic and gender-based violence programme in Romania addresses domestic violence and trafficking by improving support services for victims. The efforts also include public awareness campaigns and training of police and health workers. Specific measures target the Roma community, including awareness-raising and a national prevention campaign to reduce vulnerability to trafficking within the Roma and other vulnerable communities. At least 10% of funding for the gender-based violence programme is set aside for Roma issues; Roma women are particularly vulnerable due to multiple forms of discrimination.

Read more about all the programmes: www.eeagrants.org/Romania

Budget 2009-2014 (million €)		Spent by end of 2012 (million €)		Programmes			
EEA	Norway	EEA	Norway	Proposed	Approved	With a donor programme partner	Number of donor programme partners
190.8	115.2	0.0	0.0	21	0	14	16

* See full list of donor programme partners in Annex 3.

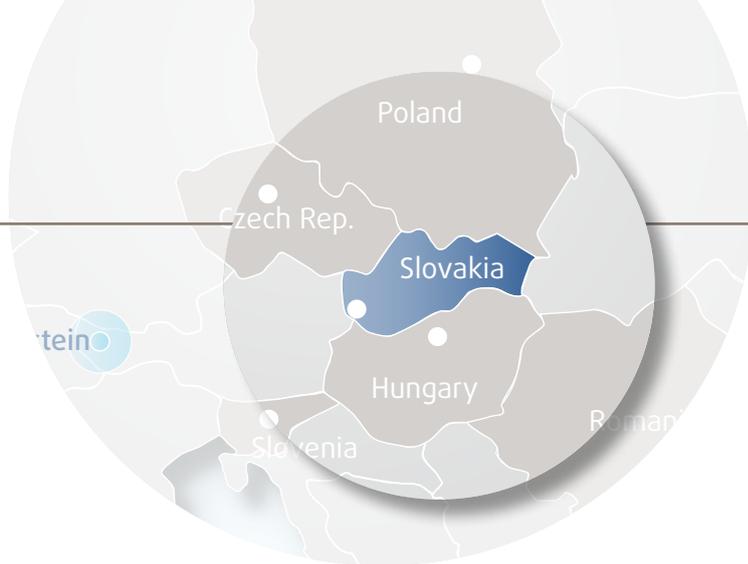


Environmental protests
in central Bucharest.

Slovakia

PRIORITIES

- > Increasing competitiveness of green enterprises and green job creation
- > Improving flood resilience and raising public awareness of flood prevention
- > Strengthening cross-border cooperation with Ukraine
- > Promoting social inclusion of the Roma



	Slovakia	EU-27
GDP per capita (2011, in PPS)	18 400	25 100
Economic growth (2012, % change on previous year)	2.0	-0.3
Unemployment rate (2012, %)	14.0	10.5
Youth unemployment rate (2012, %)	34.0	22.8
Public debt (2011, % GDP)	43.3	82.5
Inequality of income distribution (2011, ratio of top 20% to bottom 20%)	3.8	5.1
Gender pay gap (2011, %)	20.5	16.2
At-risk-of-poverty rate (2011, %)	20.6	24.2
Human development index (2011, global ranking)	35	-
Corruption perception index (2012, global ranking)	62	-

See notes to tables in annex 2.

In 2012

Six programmes were approved. Partnerships with nine public bodies from Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway have been established.

The Council of Europe is involved in providing education for Roma children and improving support services for victims of gender-based violence.

Slovakia was among the first members of the Council of Europe to sign its Convention on Preventing and Combatting Violence Against Women and Domestic Violence. The Norway Grants support services to victims of violence, not only through raising the number of counselling centres to 25 and the number of women who can find shelter to 250, but also

by training practitioners and carrying out public awareness campaigns. The programme is implemented together with the Norwegian Directorate of Health and the Council of Europe.

The Grants awarded six projects under the Global Fund for Decent Work and Tripartite Dialogue, one of which is carried out in cooperation with a Norwegian partner institution. The Fund is operated by Innovation Norway.

IN FOCUS: Cross-border cooperation

Border regions can provide significant opportunities for commerce and exchange yet include many rural communities that need specific support. The two self-governing regions of Eastern Slovakia (Košice and Prešov) lag behind other Slovak regions in terms of development, and the situation is similar in Transcarpathia, on the Ukrainian side of the EU's external border. Košice and especially Prešov regions had among the lowest rates of per capita GDP in the EU in 2009.

The programme for cross-border cooperation is addressing these issues by facilitating cooperation with neighbouring countries. Both larger and smaller projects create or support partnership across borders, contribute to the exchange of know-how and improve border crossing conditions.

Norway has significant experience with the challenges more remote border regions face. In its role of donor programme partner, the Norwegian Barents Secretariat builds links between activities in the Carpathian region and similar activities in both the Barents Region and the Balkans. In addition, project promoters and relevant Norwegian stakeholders share expertise.

Read more about all the programmes: www.eeagrants.org/Slovakia

Budget 2009-2014 (million €)		Spent by end of 2012 (million €)		Programmes			
EEA	Norway	EEA	Norway	Proposed	Approved	With a donor programme partner	Number of donor programme partners
38.4	42.4	2.9	1.4	8	6	6	9

* See full list of donor programme partners in Annex 3.

Slovenia



PRIORITIES

- > Reducing health inequalities and lifestyle-related diseases
- > Improving mental health services
- > Promoting gender equality and work-life balance
- > Protecting biodiversity and improving environmental monitoring and control

	Slovenia	EU-27
GDP per capita (2011, in PPS)	21 000	25 100
Economic growth (2012, % change on previous year)	-2.3	-0.3
Unemployment rate (2012, %)	8.9	10.5
Youth unemployment rate (2012, %)	20.6	22.8
Public debt (2011, % GDP)	46.9	82.5
Inequality of income distribution (2011, ratio of top 20% to bottom 20%)	3.5	5.1
Gender pay gap (2011, %)	2.3	16.2
At-risk-of-poverty rate (2011, %)	19.3	24.2
Human development index (2011, global ranking)	21	-
Corruption perception index (2012, global ranking)	37	-

See notes to tables in annex 2.

In 2012

Strategic partnerships were established with four public bodies from Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway.

To strengthen bilateral relations between Slovenia and the donor countries, study visits, seminars and workshops have enabled exchange of good practice, helped prepare programme proposals and find partners.

The Slovenian Institute of Public Health and the Norwegian Institute of Public Health are working together to strengthen public health and primary health care capacities.

The mapping authorities in Slovenia, Iceland and Norway are cooperating on an environmental monitoring project to improve the management of water as a natural resource and reduce the risk and impact of floods.

Through the Global Fund for Decent Work and Tripartite Dialogue, two projects between trade unions in Slovenia and Norway have been awarded support. The projects will promote decent work and decent retirement.

IN FOCUS: Gender equality

The proportion of women on boards in Slovenia has fallen from just under 23% in 2003 to below 19% in October 2012 (EC, 2012). This is below the European Commission's aim to break the glass-ceiling and reach a 40% target of women on company boards.

Adherence to traditional gender roles is one of several reasons why men are over-represented in decision-making and in positions of power in Slovenia. The Norwegian Association of Local and Regional Authorities is cooperating with the Ministry of Labour, Family and Social Affairs in Slovenia to address gender imbalances in society. This includes analysing and amending legislation to enable greater representation of women in key positions and media campaigns to raise awareness of the importance of women's participation in economic and political life.

The combined health and gender equality programme also addresses these challenges by raising awareness on gender issues and changing attitudes towards gender roles such as equal participation in decision-making. The objective is to empower women and create more favourable conditions for families as a whole.

Read more about all the programmes: www.eeagrants.org/Slovenia

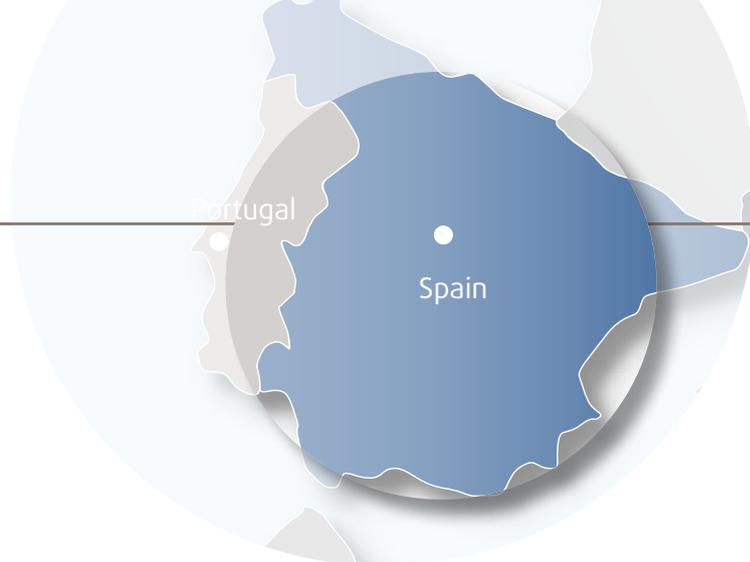
Budget 2009-2014 (million €)		Spent by end of 2012 (million €)		Programmes			
EEA	Norway	EEA	Norway	Proposed	Approved	With a donor programme partner	Number of donor programme partners
12.5	14.4	0.0	0.0	3	0	2	4

* See full list of donor programme partners in Annex 3.

Spain

PRIORITIES

- > Increasing environmental research and development of eco-friendly technologies
- > Promoting gender equality and work-life balance
- > Increasing educational mobility



	Spain	EU-27
GDP per capita (2011, in PPS)	24 700	25 100
Economic growth (2012, % change on previous year)	-1.4	-0.3
Unemployment rate (2012, %)	25.0	10.5
Youth unemployment rate (2012, %)	53.2	22.8
Public debt (2011, % GDP)	69.3	82.5
Inequality of income distribution (2011, ratio of top 20% to bottom 20%)	6.8	5.1
Gender pay gap (2011, %)	16.2	16.2
At-risk-of-poverty rate (2011, %)	27.0	24.2
Human development index (2011, global ranking)	23	-
Corruption perception index (2012, global ranking)	30	-

See notes to tables in annex 2.

In 2012

Priority was given to programme preparation in 2012. Matchmaking events took place in the areas of environmental and climate change technology and research, where Innovation Norway is a donor programme partner. Conferences and study visits gave participants opportunities to exchange good practice and meet partners in the areas of gender equality and scholarship.

Mutual learning and experience-sharing are central elements of the programme on gender equality, where cooperation is of joint strategic interest. The Norwegian Equality and Anti-Discrimination Ombud (LDO) is involved in the programme. Collaboration on work-life balance continues between the Spanish women's institute and the Norwegian association of regional and local authorities.

Cooperation with the Icelandic Centre for Research, the Agency for International Education Affairs in Liechtenstein and the Norwegian Centre for International Cooperation in Education provides students, researchers, research groups and institutions exchange opportunities between Spain and the donor countries. Funding facilitates mobility for 100 Spanish university students.

IN FOCUS: Equal opportunities

Spain is one of the European leaders in gender equality policies, with legislation to combat gender-based violence and to uphold principles of gender equality in private and public life. Despite this, gender gaps remain both in the private sphere and in the labour market. The gender pay-gap is 16%. Women are overrepresented in lower-paying sectors of the economy, and underrepresented on company boards and in other decision-making positions, where they achieve 28%. Spain's ethnic minority women face additional obstacles and discrimination in the labour market.

Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway support gender equality in Spain. One area is mentoring, training and coaching of female employees to reach the European target of 40% women in boardrooms. Public awareness campaigns are used to positively influence attitudes, behaviours and beliefs to address gender equality. Attention is also given to migrant and Roma women who are more vulnerable to social exclusion and face additional obstacles and discrimination in the labour market.

Read more about all the programmes: www.eeagrants.org/Spain

Budget 2009-2014 (million €)		Spent by end of 2012 (million €)		Programmes			
EEA	Norway	EEA	Norway	Proposed	Approved	With a donor programme partner	Number of donor programme partners
45.9	n.a.	0.1	n.a.	6	0	3	5

* See full list of donor programme partners in Annex 3.



Young Greeks enjoy a hip hop concert in Ioannina.

Administration and management

The key results in 2012 from the EEA and Norway Grants 2004-2009, underlined that:

- > Funding has had a positive impact within the prioritised areas by bringing about specific reductions in disparities, in particular where EU funding is limited, for example through a targeted approach to vulnerable groups (see End-Review - EEA and Norway Grants 2004-2009)
- > 87% of projects monitored exhibited good quality for the grant money spent
- > In 2012, 443 projects were formally closed, taking the total to 1 032 projects. Remaining projects will be closed during 2013
- > Total disbursements for the Grants stood at €1.09bn, equivalent to an overall disbursement rate of 87.4% (compared to net allocations). This will increase as remaining projects are closed

Evaluation, reviews and monitoring

Reviews and evaluations in 2012 have assessed the sustainability, relevance, achievements and cost-effectiveness of projects. As well as pointing to the successes and areas that could be improved, they provide valuable input for continued programming improvements for the EEA and Norway Grants 2009-2014.

The final desk review of the EEA and Norway Grants 2004-2009 submitted in early 2012 underlined strong overall performance of the 672 projects sampled, which accounted for almost 63% of total allocations:

- > The share of projects completed was very high at 97%
- > Projects have contributed to reducing specific, local disparities
- > The majority of project promoters with partnership arrangements considered the partnerships with donor country institutions to be important

Performance indicators for the Grants in 2004-2009 also point to a strong overall performance. For example, environment sector targets exceeded plans in terms of wastewater treatment, CO₂ reduction, sewer construction and modernisation of heating lines.

The EEA and Norway Grants have a zero-tolerance policy for corruption and mismanagement. Management is based on the principles of openness, transparency and accountability. In line with the public access policy, a quarterly irregularities report is made accessible to the public. The report gives an overview of all closed irregularity cases from 1 May 2004 to present. In the 2004-2009 period, six of 1 197 committed projects have involved fraudulent activity.

Table 5: Project status and disbursements for the EEA and Norway Grants 2004-2009 per country by end-December 2012

	Total projects supported	Closed projects			Discontinued projects	Commitments (in million €) *	Disbursements (in million €) *	Disbursed (in %) **
		in 2012	Total	(%)				
Bulgaria ***	65	28	49	75%	5	37,6	31,7	81,4%
Cyprus	6	5	5	83%	0	4,4	4,3	97,5%
Czech Republic	144	58	122	85%	0	105,8	102,1	96,4%
Estonia	35	9	34	97%	0	30,9	29,1	93,4%
Greece	38	5	5	13%	13	23,9	9,9	30,0%
Hungary	91	60	70	77%	10	115,0	106,3	82,4%
Latvia	75	45	71	95%	1	50,5	45,8	89,3%
Lithuania	85	42	79	93%	1	63,4	58,8	91,6%
Malta	8	1	6	75%	0	3,5	3,4	97,9%
Poland	419	93	392	94%	2	523,4	498,2	93,4%
Portugal	32	22	22	69%	0	29,2	26,0	86,4%
Romania ***	71	29	55	77%	3	90,3	69,1	74,8%
Slovakia	97	29	94	97%	6	61,2	56,0	83,4%
Slovenia	25	8	19	76%	0	17,7	16,4	92,6%
Spain	21	9	9	43%	0	41,8	32,6	74,0%
Total	1.212	443	1.032	85%	41	1.198,5	1.089,6	87,4%

* Includes appraisal, monitoring and evaluation.

** Disbursements are calculated as a % of the net allocation to countries i.e. excluding donor state management costs.

*** Includes the Norwegian cooperation programme for Economic Growth and Sustainable Development in Bulgaria and Romania.

The 2009-2014 Grants

The year of programming

The focus in 2012 shifted further in the direction of the new EEA and Norway Grants period and, in particular, to programme development. By the end of 2012, 59 programmes had been approved by the donors and 25 programme agreements had been signed. In total, 147 programmes will be implemented under the current funding period and it is expected that the majority of programmes will be approved by the end of June 2013.

Management structure

Public institutions in the donor and beneficiary countries have shared responsibilities and different roles in the management of the Grants.

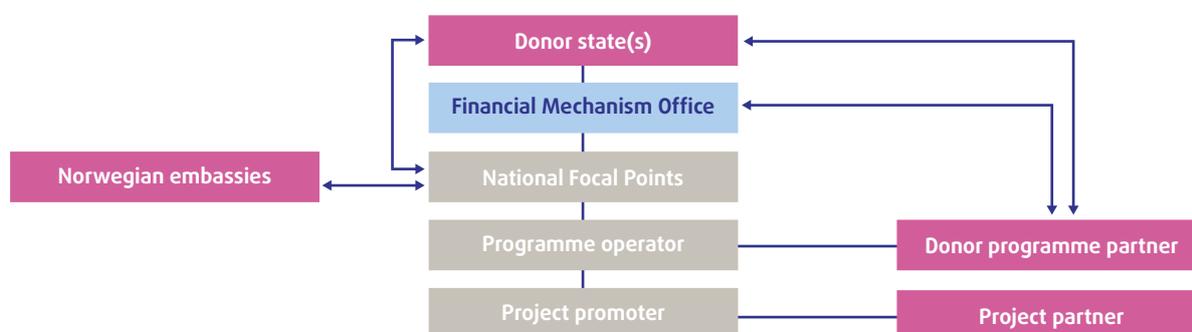
The Financial Mechanism Committee (FMC) is the decision-making body for the EEA Grants. The committee consists of representatives of the Ministries of Foreign Affairs of Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway. The FMC draws up policy and guidelines, approves each programme allocation and ensures monitoring, 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 2012, the FMO had 50 fixed-term staff positions, encompassing 14 different nationalities.

Every beneficiary country has a National Focal Point, responsible for achieving the overall objectives as well as overall management and control in their countries. Most of the focal points are located within relevant ministries or public agencies which also manage other European funding schemes. The focal points also represent the beneficiary country in its relations with the FMC and the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs regarding the Grants.

Each programme is developed and managed by a programme operator, mostly public institutions in the beneficiary countries. The programme operators are also responsible for awarding funding to projects according to agreed criteria and monitoring project implementation.

Organisations involved in the management of the EEA and Norway Grants



In more than half of the programmes, public entities from the donor countries are actively involved in implementation. These donor programme partners have national mandates in their respective fields, and play a strategic role in supporting programme planning and implementation. They also facilitate project partnerships with institutions and organisations in the donor countries. In total, 26 donor programme partners as well as the Council of Europe are involved in 89 separate programmes for the current funding period.

The Norwegian embassies in the beneficiary countries take part in the dialogue between the donor and beneficiary countries. Embassies play an important role in setting up the bilateral funds and communicating results of the Grants but do not administer funds.

Administrative costs

The ceiling for donor management costs is 7.5% for the EEA and Norway Grants in 2009-2014. In addition to management costs for running the FMO, this includes such costs as the participation of the donor programme partners, appraisal, monitoring, evaluation, audit and costs linked to the functions of the Financial Mechanism Committee. Some further administrative costs exist in the beneficiary countries associated with managing the programmes and the projects. Table 6 summarises the expenditure for 2012. ■

Table 6: Administrative expenditure in 2012

	FM 2004-2009 (€ in 2012)			FM 2009-2014 (€ in 2012)		
	EEA	Norway	Total	EEA	Norway	Total
FMO Administrative Costs*	793 750	669 652	1 463 402	5 884 909	4 762 656	10 647 565
of which appraisal, monitoring and evaluation**	0	0	0	641 132	518 868	1 160 000
Programme level administrative costs***	n/a	n/a	n/a	364 690	243 016	607 705
Project level administrative costs***	1 934 081	1 121 360	3 055 441	550 976	363 364	914 340
Total administrative costs	2 727 831	1 791 012	4 518 843	6 800 574	5 369 035	12 169 610

* Budgeted costs.

** Appraisal, monitoring and evaluation of FM 2004-2009 are covered from the net country allocation.

*** Overall administrative costs are estimated based on a sample of programmes/projects.



Young boy taking part in the Russian speaking community's 9 May celebration, Riga.

Annex 1

Table 7: Net allocations by priority sector and country, million €

		BG	CY	CZ	EE	GR	HU	LV	LT	MT	PL	PT	RO	SK	SI	ES	Total
EEA Grants	Environmental protection and management	16.00	1.16	15.35	6.90	9.51			11.52		35.00	19.25	33.18		3.75		151.61
	Climate change and renewable energy	13.26		3.07		9.51	23.13	10.37		1.35	145.00	7.00	36.00	12.46		18.22	279.37
	Civil society	11.79	1.32	9.81	2.30	6.34	12.62	10.37	5.50	0.50	37.00	5.80	30.00	6.90	1.88	4.59	146.71
	Human and social development	13.51	0.39	5.54	6.51	20.87	11.22		6.31		19.54	12.50	26.52	1.00		10.19	134.10
	Protecting cultural heritage	14.00	0.62	21.49	4.51		11.22	10.02	10.00	0.79	80.00	5.00	20.82	10.51	5.06	4.59	198.62
	Research and scholarship	1.50		0.31	0.60	3.00	1.75	0.52	1.42		5.00		24.00	1.92	0.63	3.92	44.55
	Funds for bilateral relations and beneficiary countries' admin.	2.64	0.08	1.23	0.46	9.42	4.91	0.69	0.77	0.04	5.34	4.06	5.92	2.68	0.25	0.92	39.40
Norway Grants	Carbon capture and storage			7.04									40.00				47.04
	Green industry innovation	13.70			6.00		21.22	11.33	8.00		20.00		24.00	14.63			118.87
	Decent work and tripartite dialogue	0.48	0.04	0.70	0.26		0.83	0.38	0.46	0.02	3.11		1.15	0.42	0.14		8.00
	Human and social development	9.78	1.79	24.46	10.91		24.96	4.99	14.00	0.30	66.00		14.10	12.72	11.67		195.69
	Research and scholarship			16.02	4.00		24.13	4.99			72.83				1.22		123.19
	Justice and home affairs	18.00	1.65	15.49	2.00			13.06	18.81	1.14	40.00		25.00	7.00			142.15
	Funds for bilateral relations and beneficiary countries' admin.	2.44	0.22	1.41	0.51		5.82	0.77	0.91	0.02	5.92		2.30	4.45	0.29	0.00	25.06
Total		117.11	7.26	121.92	44.96	58.65	141.80	67.48	77.70	4.16	534.74	53.60	283.00	74.69	24.88	42.41	1 654.36

Annex 2

Notes to the tables

Notes to Figure 1: Prevalence of victimisation in the EU

The data in this chart refer to the share of specific groups that have been victimised in 5 crime types, based on the following questions:

Questions DA1-DE1: During the last 5 years, [or since you've been in the country if less than 5 years], in [COUNTRY] has [TYPE] happened to you? [IF YES] DA2-DE2: Thinking about the last time this happened, when was this: in the last twelve months or before then?

The [TYPES]: was any car, van, truck, motorbike, moped or bicycle – or some other form of transport belonging to you or your household – stolen, or had something stolen

from it? [All forms of motorised and non-motorised transport can be included]. Did anyone get into your home without permission and steal or try to steal something? [Does include cellars – Does NOT include garages, sheds, lock-ups or gardens. Have you personally been the victim of any thefts that did not involve force? Have you been personally attacked, that is hit or pushed, or threatened by someone in a way that REALLY frightened you? Have you been personally harassed by someone or a group in a way that REALLY upset, offended or annoyed you?

Source: FRA (2012), EU-MIDIS Data in focus 6: Minorities as victims of crime, Figure 1, p. 8. http://fra.europa.eu/sites/default/files/fra-factsheet_hatecrime_en_final_o.pdf

Explanatory notes on the indicators in the country overviews

Indicator	Description
GDP per capita (in PPS)	GDP (gross domestic product) 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 PPS (purchasing power standards) eliminates differences in price levels between countries, and calculations on a per head basis allows 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 persons 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 (as defined in ESA95): currency and deposits, securities other than shares excluding financial derivatives, and loans. General government sector comprises the subsectors: central government, state government, local government and social security funds.
Inequality of income distribution (ratio of top 20% to bottom 20%)	The ratio of total income received by the 20% of the population with the highest income to that received by the 20% of the population with the lowest income. Income must be understood as equivalised disposable income.
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. The population consists of all paid employees in enterprises with 10 employees or more in NACE Rev. 2 aggregate B to S (excluding O).
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 severely materially deprived or living in households with very low work intensity.
Human development index (global 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 (global ranking)	The Corruption Perceptions Index (CPI) 2012 is an aggregate indicator that brings together data from a number of different sources that captured perceptions of corruption within the past two years.

Annex 3

Donor programme partners by beneficiary country

Bulgaria

Agency for International Education Affairs, Liechtenstein, Council of Europe, Icelandic Centre for Research, Norwegian Association of Local and Regional Authorities, Norwegian Barents Secretariat, Norwegian Centre for International Cooperation in Education, Norwegian Climate and Pollution Agency, Norwegian Directorate for Nature Management, Norwegian Police Directorate, Norwegian Water Resources and Energy Directorate

Cyprus

Council of Europe, Norwegian Secretariat of the Shelter Movement

Czech Republic

Agency for International Education Affairs, Liechtenstein, Arts Council Norway, Council of Europe, Icelandic Centre for Research, Norwegian Centre for International Cooperation in Education, Norwegian Directorate for Nature Management, Norwegian Institute of Public Health, The Research Council of Norway

Estonia

Agency for International Education Affairs, Liechtenstein, Icelandic Centre for Research, Innovation Norway, Norwegian Association of Local and Regional Authorities, Norwegian Centre for International Cooperation in Education, Norwegian Climate and Pollution Agency, Norwegian Directorate for Cultural Heritage, Norwegian Directorate of Health, Norwegian Institute of Public Health, Norwegian Ministry of Children, Equality and Social Inclusion, The Research Council of Norway

Greece

Norwegian Directorate of Immigration

Hungary

Agency for International Education Affairs, Liechtenstein, Council of Europe, Directorate for Civil Protection and Emergency Planning, Icelandic Centre for Research, Innovation Norway, National Energy Authority of Iceland, Norwegian Agency for Lifelong Learning, Norwegian Association of Local and Regional Authorities, Norwegian Centre for International Cooperation in Education, Norwegian Directorate for Cultural Heritage, Norwegian Institute of Public Health, The Research Council of Norway

Latvia

Arts Council Norway, Directorate for Civil Protection and Emergency Planning, Innovation Norway, Norwegian Association of Local and Regional Authorities, Norwegian Centre for International Cooperation in Education, Norwegian Climate and Pollution Agency, Norwegian Correctional Services, Norwegian Directorate for Cultural Heritage, The Research Council of Norway

Lithuania

Arts Council Norway, Innovation Norway, Norwegian Association of Local and Regional Authorities, Norwegian Centre for International Cooperation in Education, Norwegian Climate and Pollution Agency, Norwegian Correctional Services, Norwegian Courts Administration, Norwegian Directorate for Cultural Heritage, Norwegian Directorate for Nature Management, Norwegian Police Directorate

Poland

Agency for International Education Affairs, Liechtenstein, Arts Council Norway, Icelandic Centre for Research, Norwegian Centre for International Cooperation in Education, Norwegian Climate and Pollution Agency, Norwegian Correctional Services, Norwegian Courts Administration, Norwegian Directorate of Health, The Research Council of Norway

Portugal

Arts Council Norway, Directorate for Civil Protection and Emergency Planning, National Energy Authority of Iceland, Norwegian Institute of Public Health

Romania

Agency for International Education Affairs, Liechtenstein, Arts Council Norway, Council of Europe, Gassnova, Icelandic Centre for Research, National Energy Authority of Iceland, Norwegian Centre for International Cooperation in Education, Norwegian Climate and Pollution Agency, Norwegian Correctional Services, Norwegian Courts Administration, Norwegian Directorate for Cultural Heritage, Norwegian Directorate for Nature Management, Norwegian Police Directorate, Norwegian Radiation Protection Authority, Norwegian Water Resources and Energy Directorate, The Research Council of Norway

Slovakia

Agency for International Education Affairs, Liechtenstein, Council of Europe, Icelandic Centre for Research, Innovation Norway, Norwegian Barents Secretariat, Norwegian Centre for International Cooperation in Education, Norwegian Directorate of Health, Norwegian Water Resources and Energy Directorate

Slovenia

Agency for International Education Affairs, Liechtenstein, Icelandic Centre for Research, Norwegian Centre for International Cooperation in Education, Norwegian Institute of Public Health

Spain

Agency for International Education Affairs, Liechtenstein, Icelandic Centre for Research, Innovation Norway, Norwegian Centre for International Cooperation in Education, Norwegian Equality and Anti-discrimination Ombud

All photos in the Annual Report 2012 are from the project Sea Change. The project documents the life of young people in Europe today. The photos in this report are from five countries:

Czech Republic – photos by Robin Maddock

Greece – photos by Yannis Kontos

Latvia – photos by Bénédicte Kurzen

Poland – photos by Maciek Nabrdalik

Romania – photos by Donald Weber

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