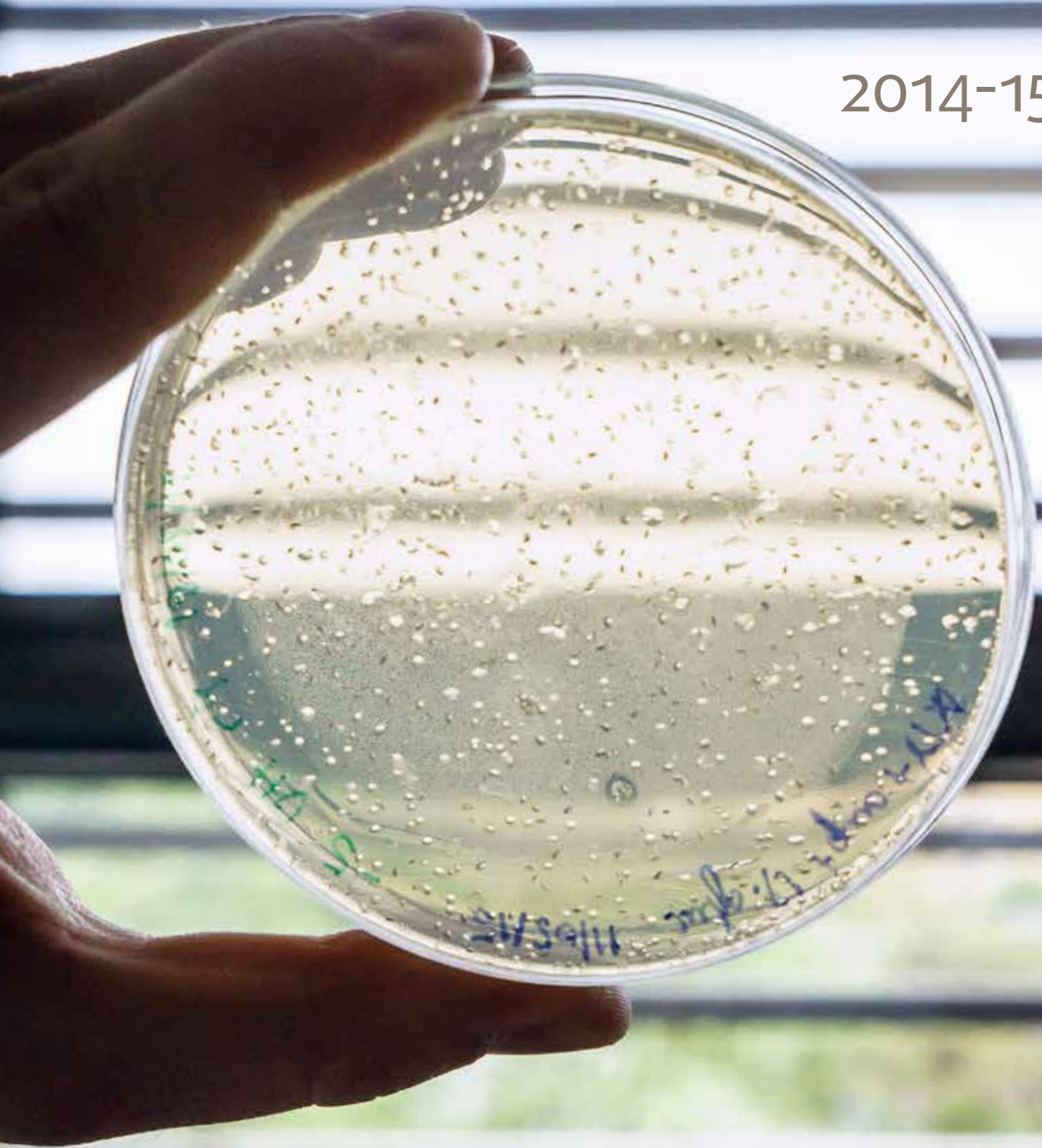


ANNUAL REPORT

2014-15



Foreword

Through the European Economic Area (EEA) and Norway Grants, Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway make an important contribution to strengthening economic and social cohesion and strengthening bilateral relations in the EEA. The past year has been one of delivery. From the early results coming through, we can start to see how the programmes are generating positive change.

All 150 programmes are now up and running. Over 4 000 projects have been contracted so far. In 2014, we also welcomed Croatia as the 16th partner country. This annual report provides an overview of the work underway and sets out examples of achievements in each of these 16 countries.

We also highlight results achieved in three key sectors: innovation and skills, civil society, and justice and home affairs. Our support in these areas is clearly complementary to wider EU priorities on sustainable and inclusive growth and responds to challenges which impede the full implementation of the internal market.

Innovation and skills

Many countries in Europe have struggled to adjust to the rapidly changing global economy. We need to create new growth and employment through investment in innovation, research and education. That's why significant funding is targeted at these areas. A total of 232 research institutions and 1 500 researchers have been involved in joint projects with counterparts in Iceland and Norway. Nearly 900 students, educational staff and researchers have taken part in exchanges between Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway and a number of the partner countries.

Civil society

Over €160 million goes towards strengthening civil society in all 16 partner countries. An independent evaluation of the NGO programmes earlier this year found that, "the programmes have increased the capacity of civil society in Central and Southern Europe and helped to mobilise

citizens to voice their concerns and actively engage with governments". More than 2 300 projects have received funding so far, 718 in the area of democracy and human rights. This support is needed today more than ever to help counter negative trends across Europe, such as the rise of extremism and growing mistrust in democratic institutions.

Justice and home affairs

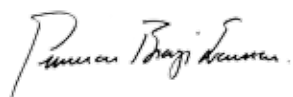
We also seek to strengthen judicial systems to help create more predictable environments for business investment, as well as improve human rights and the rule of law. Norway contributes over €140 million to improving access to and quality of justice systems, fighting cross-border crime and improving correctional services. Results so far are impressive: almost 4 400 legal professionals have received training, 4 800 people have benefitted from free legal advice and nearly 8 000 staff trained to provide better correctional services.

Effective cooperation

Achieving our goal of a stronger and more inclusive Europe requires that we meet shared challenges through efficient and effective cooperation. That's why building enduring partnerships is at the centre of our efforts. We are pleased to see the effects of bilateral cooperation in all countries. Eighty seven of our 150 programmes are carried out in cooperation with partners from the donor countries; a quarter of all projects have a donor partner, enabling mutual exchange and sharing of best practice.

Drawing on the strengths and expertise of our partners, be they individuals, government agencies or companies in the donor countries, we have been able to introduce fresh thinking and innovative solutions. Strategic partnerships with pan-European bodies like the Council of Europe and the EU Agency for Fundamental Rights have also continued to flourish.

Taking a look back, we take pride in what has been achieved in our partner countries so far. This is however just the start; many more results are still to come as implementation progresses in all countries. We hope you enjoy reading about the results of our work and cooperation.



Gunnar Bragi Sveinsson
Minister of Foreign Affairs,
Iceland



Dr. Aurelia Frick
Minister of Foreign Affairs,
Liechtenstein



Vidar Helgesen
Minister of EEA and EU Affairs,
Norway

Contents

Foreword	1
----------	---

All data extracted at cut-off point of 30 April 2015.

About this report

Overview	4
Our year in review	6
• Highlights	6
• Cooperation	6
• Events	8
Development trends and challenges	10

Thematic section

• Innovation and skills	16
• Civil society	24
• Justice and home affairs	30

Country section

• Bulgaria	38	• Hungary	50	• Romania	64
• Croatia	41	• Latvia	52	• Slovakia	68
• Cyprus	42	• Lithuania	54	• Slovenia	70
• Czech Republic	44	• Malta	56	• Spain	72
• Estonia	46	• Poland	58		
• Greece	48	• Portugal	62		

Managing the grants

• Organisational structure	78
• Managing for results	79
• Good governance	80
• Financial table: 2004-2009 Grants	81

Annexes

• Allocations by priority sector and country	84
• Explanatory notes on the indicators in the country overviews	85
• List of donor programme partners by beneficiary country	86

A female scientist with blonde hair tied in a bun, wearing a white lab coat over a white t-shirt, is working in a laboratory. She is holding a pipette in her right hand and a small vial in her left hand, looking down at the vial. The background shows a laboratory window with a view of greenery outside.

ABOUT THIS REPORT

The EEA and Norway Grants annual report provides an overview of the aims and achievements of the funding provided by Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway in the beneficiary countries in 2014-15.

This report highlights key results in several areas. More information on further achievements in the beneficiary countries and across sectors can be found on www.eeagrants.org • www.norwaygrants.org

Overview

Through the European Economic Area (EEA) and Norway Grants, Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway help to reduce economic and social disparities and strengthen cooperation with 16 countries in Central and Southern Europe and the Baltics.

For the period 2009-2014, €1.8 billion has been set aside under the Grants. Funding is channelled through 150 programmes that may be implemented until 2016/17.

The EEA and Norway Grants are linked to the Agreement on the European Economic Area through which Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway are partners with the EU. The Agreement lays down common rules required to ensure stable cooperation within the EEA. A stronger, more inclusive and more prosperous Europe requires that we meet shared challenges through efficient and effective cooperation. To secure a well-functioning internal market, the donor countries have established the EEA and Norway Grants.

Eligibility for the Grants mirrors criteria set for the EU Cohesion Fund aimed at member countries where the Gross National Income per inhabitant is less than 90% of the EU average. The EEA Grants (€993.5 million) are available in 16 European countries and financed by the three donor countries. Of this, Norway currently contributes 95.7%, Iceland 3.2% and Liechtenstein 1.1%. The Norway Grants (€804.6 million) are financed by Norway alone and earmarked for 13 countries that joined the EU after 2004.

Solidarity



The funding is targeted towards areas where there are clear needs in the beneficiary countries in line with broader European policies. Priority areas include climate change, research and innovation, civil society and investing in people through human and social development.

Cooperation



Cooperation across borders is vital to overcome the social and economic challenges Europe is facing. Partnerships between organisations in the donor and beneficiary countries are widely encouraged. Strengthening ties between organisations and institutions brings benefits for the beneficiary and donor countries alike.

AREAS OF SUPPORT

(€ million)

See annex 1 for a breakdown of figures by priority sector, split between EEA Grants and Norway Grants.



265.3

Climate change and renewable energy



154.6

Environmental protection and management



127.7

Green industry innovation



160.8

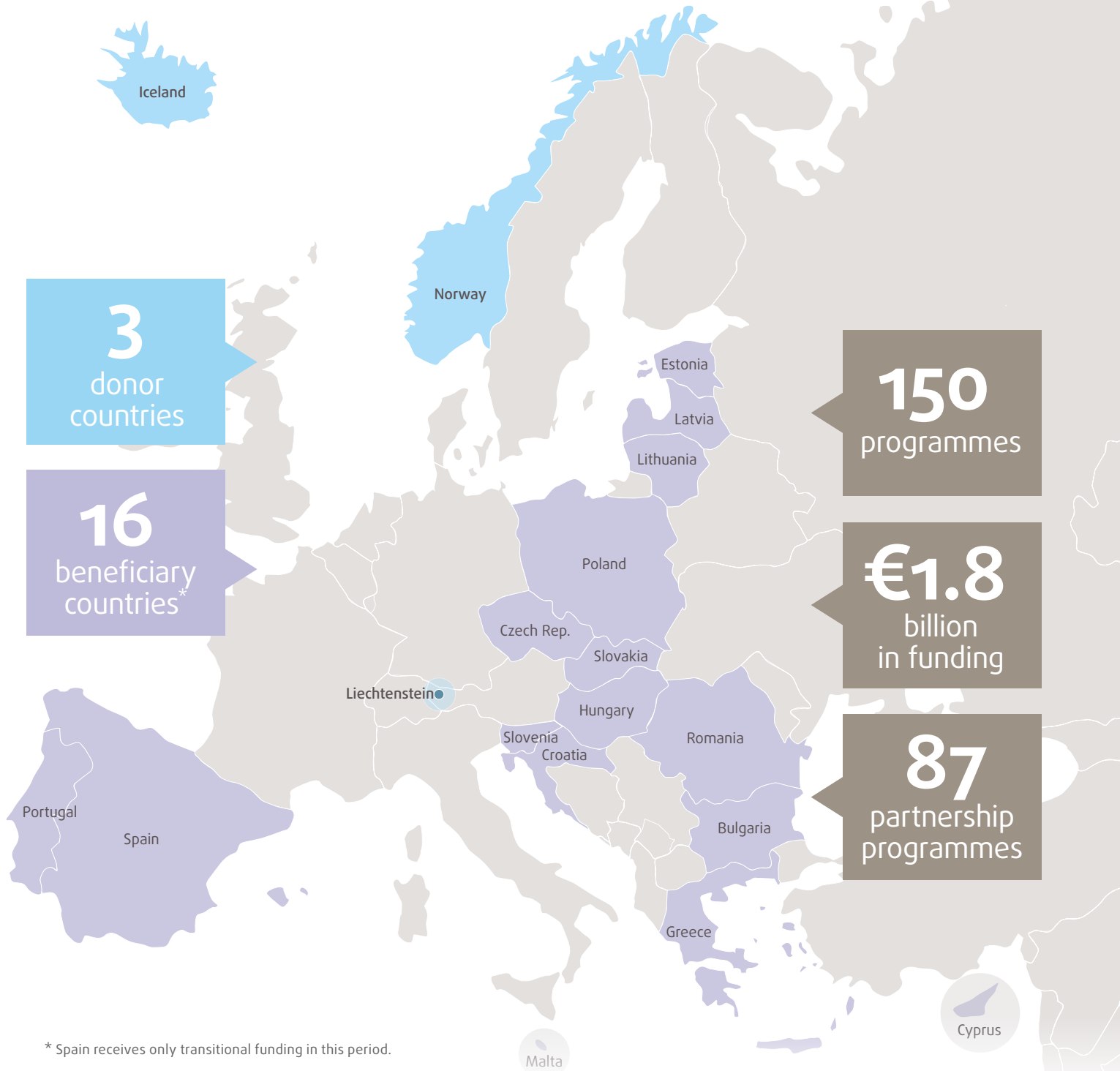
Civil society



379.9

Human and social development





204.2
Cultural heritage
and diversity

171.8
Research and
scholarships

149.8
Justice and
home affairs

8.1
Decent work and
tripartite dialogue

5.0
Carbon capture and
storage

Our year in review

Highlights



27 000

eeagrants.org/
norwaygrants.org
unique visitors per month

6 160



Cooperation

Ensuring the bilateral dimension has been a continued focus over the past year. A large number of organisations and people are involved in partnerships aimed at strengthening political, professional, cultural, social and economic ties.

The benefits of cooperation extend both ways. Cooperation through the bilateral programmes and projects provides an arena for mutual exchange and sharing of best practice. Partnerships developed through the Grants can serve as a springboard for further collaboration or open new avenues for participation in bigger EU funding schemes.

Donor partnerships

To strengthen cooperation, more than half of the programmes involve cooperation with public bodies – known as donor programme partners (DPPs) – from Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway.

Throughout the course of 2014, the DPPs have assisted the Programme Operators (POs) in organising launch events and facilitated partnerships through different outreach, matchmaking and information events. This has helped to bring together potential project promoters and partners from Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway, and contributed to the development of 1 056 donor partnership projects (25%) to date.

The DPPs provide professional advice on policy issues within programmes, taking part, for example, in technical meetings or training events to support the programme strategy development, design and implementation. The close professional cooperation between the POs and DPPs has proven highly valuable for sharing views, best practice and experience on a variety of challenging issues.

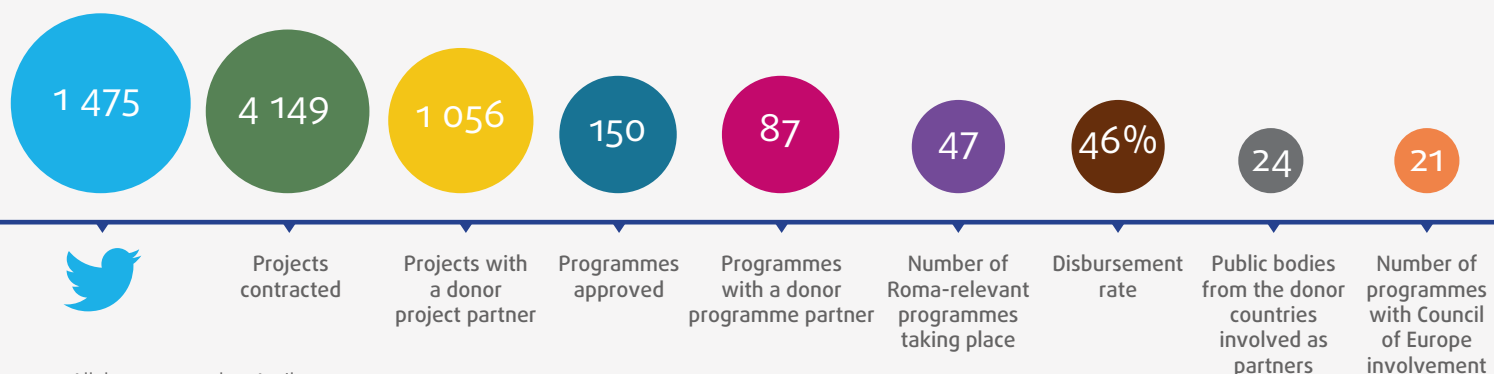
Bilateral funds

To develop cooperation activities and facilitate partnerships, funds are set aside in all beneficiary countries at national level and in each programme.

In 2014, the bilateral funds financed numerous activities including study visits, matchmaking seminars and cooperation events, and provided funding for potential partners looking to establish a partnership. This could also include cooperation in areas identified by the donor and beneficiary countries that are not covered by the individual programmes.

Partnerships with international organisations

Strategic partnerships with several international organisations are a key feature of this funding period, bringing added expertise, results and value to the grant schemes.



All data extracted 30 April 2015.



The Council of Europe provides strategic advice as well as technical input and know-how in its areas of expertise – human rights, democracy and the rule of law. In 2014, substantial progress was made on the implementation of the 21 programmes in which it is involved, spanning ten beneficiary countries, on issues as diverse as gender-based violence and trafficking, to Roma issues and justice reform. The cooperation has also included the Council of Europe youth campaign No Hate Speech Movement, to which the EEA and Norway Grants contributed as a strategic partner.



Collaboration with Transparency International (TI) – a global civil society organisation that promotes transparency and fights corruption – draws on its expertise in assessing corruption risks. Special attention is given to corruption risk associated with the grant management processes. In 2014, TI prepared country reports which point to potential risks of corruption and supported the development of an overview of risk mitigation measures to provide advice on how to tackle corruption.



The European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA) provides expert advice on the protection of fundamental rights and engages with the EEA and Norway Grants on issues of mutual interest. In 2014, cooperation with the EU Agency for Fundamental Rights centred on the themes of hate crime and hate speech, violence against women and Roma inclusion. This cooperation was useful and provided added value for both parties.



Open Society Foundations support a more open, transparent and tolerant society. In the grant schemes, they provide strategic advice on how to strengthen civil society in Europe, promote tolerance and improve the situation of the Roma. In 2014, cooperation also continued in wider platforms, such as the Roma Decade and the Coalition of International Organisations on Roma Inclusion.

SNAPSHOT OF ACTIVITIES

In a project run by the Supreme Judicial Council of Bulgaria in partnership with the Council of Europe, nine Bulgarian judges have received training in the European Court of Human Rights in Strasbourg. Specialists from the Council of Europe have played an important role in sharing their practical expertise on human rights issues. The project received **€785 000** in funding from the Norway Grants.

“This project is very important for Bulgaria. Apart from being more confident in my future work when applying the European Convention on Human Rights, it is also a great opportunity to share the knowledge obtained during this year with my colleagues when I return to Bulgaria.”

Judge Irina Ganeva, one of the judges seconded to the European Court of Human Rights

Events

March

Violence against women in Europe – our response

BRUSSELS, BELGIUM, MARCH 2014

The seminar was organised to mark the launch of the EU Fundamental Rights Agency's (FRA) survey on violence against women in Europe. Some 70 representatives from the beneficiary and donor countries took part, along with stakeholders from the other European organisations. Discussions focused on challenges presented in light of the survey findings.

"I am pleased to see that our Grants are responding to several of the recommendations put forward in the FRA report. Our efforts are relevant, timely and above all very necessary as these findings demonstrate," said Ambassador Ingrid Schulerud of the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs at the event.

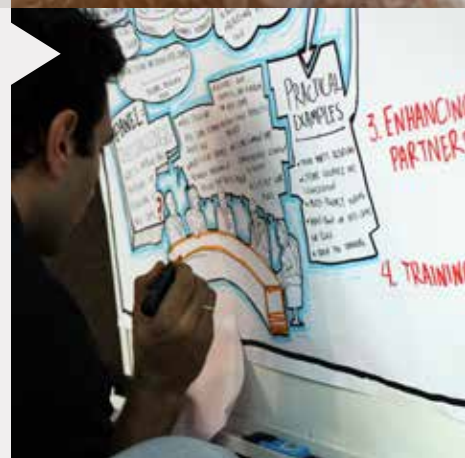


April

How can EU member states combat hate crime effectively?

THESSALONIKI, GREECE, APRIL 2014

The EEA and Norway Grants were a key partner at this event organised by the EU Agency for Fundamental Rights and hosted by the Greek Presidency of the Council of the EU. Bringing together representatives from the EU, national and local authorities, law enforcement agencies, human rights institutions and civil society organisations, participants discussed best practices that could lead to improvements in recording rates of hate crime and to better reporting of such crimes across the EU.



Launch event for EEA and Norway Grants in Croatia

ZAGREB, CROATIA, APRIL 2014

In 2014, Croatia became the 16th beneficiary country of the EEA and Norway Grants. Agreements were signed by Norwegian State Secretary, Ingvid Næss Stub, and Croatian Deputy Minister for Regional Development and EU Funds, Jaksa Puljiz (both pictured).



June

Photo exhibition: Empowering young people in Europe

BRUSSELS, BELGIUM, JUNE 2014

Presented jointly by the European Commission (DG Education) and the governments of Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway, the photo exhibition documented day-to-day life of young people in Europe today. The photos showcased how supported projects are contributing to empowering young people, in particular those most vulnerable.



September

Risk and good governance

TALLINN, ESTONIA, SEPTEMBER 2014

Organised jointly with Transparency International, the annual risk seminar focused on results and risk management in the EEA and Norway Grants. Participants also discussed key findings and main mitigating actions resulting from the corruption risk filtering exercise.

"Results-based management and effective identification and handling of risk are valuable tools for ensuring optimal results and efficient use of resources," said Norwegian State Secretary Ingvild Næss Stub, at the seminar.



November

Closing conference of the decent work and tripartite dialogue programme

OSLO, NORWAY, NOVEMBER 2014

This event provided an opportunity to summarise results of the Global Fund for Decent Work and Social Dialogue programme, exchange best practice, and look to the future. Fifty-two projects have been funded in 13 beneficiary countries, reaching 13 000 people directly and an estimated 2 million people indirectly. More than half of the projects involved cooperation of Norwegian partners.

"We have a strong tradition of cooperation between the authorities and the social partners here in Norway. Binding dialogue has contributed to securing jobs and labour standards. Norwegian partners have brought their experience to the projects," said Norwegian State Secretary, Ingvild Næss Stub, at the event.



Together against hate speech and hate crime

MADRID, SPAIN, NOVEMBER 2014

Organised by the NGO Platform for Social Action with the Royal Norwegian Embassy to Spain and the Spanish Ministry of Health, Social Services and Equality, this event brought together 200 representatives from governments, civil society, Council of Europe and the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights. The conference served as a forum for sharing ideas and experience and for discussing practical initiatives to help prevent, raise awareness and take action on this issue.

"We must not take democracy for granted. Spreading hatred challenges our democracies. We must speak up against hate speech. If we don't, those expressing hate will win," said Ambassador Ingrid Schulerud of the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs at the event.



Development trends and challenges

Reducing disparities in Europe is one of the objectives of the EEA and Norway Grants. The consequences of the economic crisis are still holding back growth and job creation and continue to affect the economies in many of the beneficiary countries and the day-to-day life of their inhabitants, especially the most vulnerable.

This section reviews the economic and social situation in the beneficiary countries over the past year.



Economic growth

All of the beneficiary countries have a GDP per capita less than the EU average. While Romania and Bulgaria have seen their per capita income increase by around 20% since joining the EU, the average income in these countries remains substantially below the EU average.

Limited or negative economic growth over recent years has led to increased disparities throughout Europe. Having come through one of the most severe economic and financial crisis in generations, recovery is still weaker than EU forecasts projected a year ago. More positively, the EU as a whole saw a return to growth by the end of 2014, with GDP rising by 1.3% compared to 0.0% in 2013.

Nearly all of the beneficiary countries recorded higher growth than the EU-28 average as compared to the previous year, with Hungary (up 3.6% on previous year), Malta (+3.5%) and Poland (+3.4%) performing particularly well. Croatia and Cyprus registered decreases.²

1. Eurostat (2013) GDP per capita in PPS (EU28=100)

2. Eurostat (2014) Real GDP growth rate (% change on previous year)

Unemployment

Unemployment levels across the EU are slowly decreasing but still remain unacceptably high. The crisis triggered an ongoing social crisis and the slow recovery is hampering efforts to reduce the high levels of unemployment.³ The Europe 2020 – the EU's ten-year growth and jobs strategy – goal of 75% employment is still some way off.

The highest unemployment rates in the EU in 2014 were recorded in Greece (26.5%) and Spain (24.5%). Seven of the beneficiary countries registered lower unemployment rates than the EU average of 10.2%, with Malta (5.9%) and the Czech Republic (6.1%) scoring well.⁴

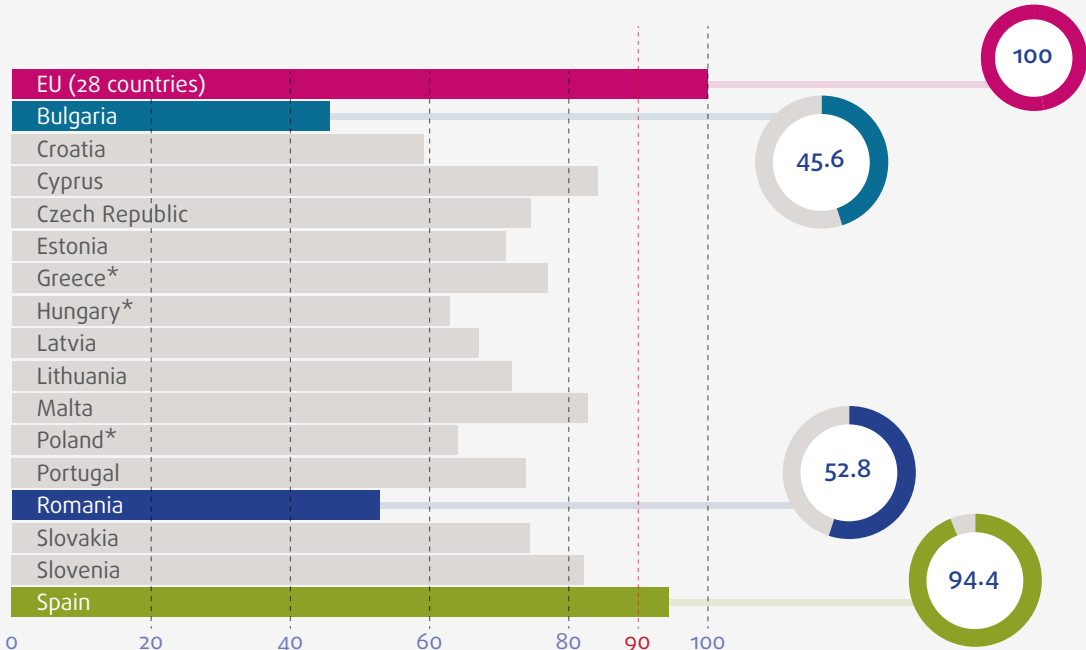
1.9 million
unemployed
young people in
the beneficiary
countries

Long-term unemployment is still rising with developments particularly negative again in Greece and Spain and to a somewhat lesser extent in Cyprus, while significant improvements have been recorded in the three Baltic States.

3. European Commission (2014) Draft Joint Employment Report

4. Eurostat (2014) Unemployment rate

Gross National Income (GNI) per capita in PPS (purchasing power standards)



Eligibility for the Grants mirrors criteria set for the EU Cohesion Fund which is aimed at EU member countries where the GNI per capita is less than 90% of the EU average. Spain is only eligible for transitional funding in this current period.

Source: Eurostat (2013 except where * indicates 2012)

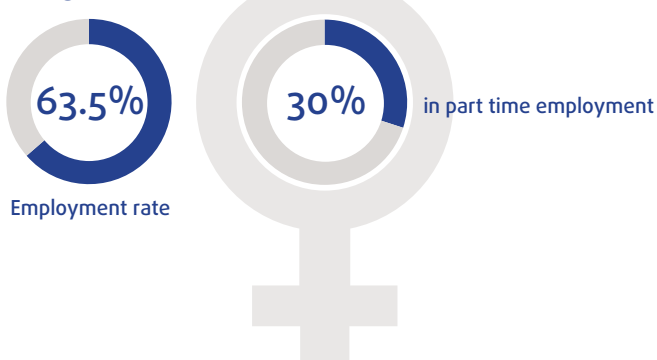
While youth unemployment remains at very high levels, there are some signs of improvement. The total number of unemployed young people across the beneficiary countries slightly decreased in 2014 – down to 1.9 million by the end of 2014 from 2.2 million in the previous year (out of a total of 4.8 million young people out of work across the EU-28 as a whole). The proportion of young people under 25 not in employment, education or training (NEETs) has also remained high.

Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway provide much needed support to research, innovation and education programmes in the beneficiary countries, to help stimulate economic growth laying foundations for future job creation.

→ Read more about these efforts in Part 2.

The employment rate for women remains well below that of men in the EU

WOMEN



MEN





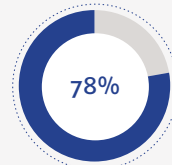
Over **50 Million** people in the beneficiary countries are at risk of **poverty** or **social exclusion**



Nearly half the population in Bulgaria is at risk of **poverty** or **social exclusion**



Half of **Roma** surveyed said that they have experienced **discrimination** in the past year



78% of respondents to a Council of Europe survey have encountered **hate speech online**

Sources: Eurostat, European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights and Council of Europe

Social exclusion

With low or negative growth and low employment rates the number of people at risk of poverty or social exclusion remains a concern. Over 50 million people in the beneficiary countries were at risk in 2013.¹

Some countries have seen an improvement though. The share of people at risk in 2013 compared to 2008 is lower in the Czech Republic, Poland, Romania and Slovakia. Whilst the

proportion of people at risk in Romania has decreased in the past five years, the overall figures remain high at over 40% of the population. In Bulgaria, almost half of the population in 2013 was at risk (48%).

Inequalities and discrimination

While progress has been made, wide gender gaps still prevail. The employment rate for women remains well below that of men in the EU (63.5% versus 75% in 2014)²,



1. Eurostat (2013) People at risk of poverty or social exclusion – this indicator corresponds to the sum of persons who are at risk of poverty (percentage of people whose income is below 60% of the national average) or severely materially deprived or living in households with very low work intensity)
2. Eurostat (2014) Employment rate by gender



Women account for less than

1 in 10

members of the cabinet in Greece, Slovakia, Estonia, Cyprus and Hungary

An estimated **13 million women** in the EU experienced physical violence in the course of 12 months



3.7 million women had experienced sexual violence

with women overrepresented in part-time work. Almost a third of women were in part-time employment, while for men, this figure was less than 10%.

The largest disparities in the employment rate between men and women were recorded in Malta – 80.3% for men and 51.9% for women, or a difference of 29.6 percentage points (pp) and Greece (19.4 pp), with the smallest in Lithuania (2.5 pp) and Latvia (4.6 pp). It should be noted that those countries with the highest female employment rates are generally also those with a high share of employed women working part-time. One noticeable exception here is Estonia, which combines a high female employment rate and a low share of part-time employment for women.

The gender pay gap has decreased slightly at EU level in recent years; nevertheless, on average women still earn less than men in all EU countries (16% on average less per hour of work).³

When it comes to female representation in politics and business, the share of women on company boards in many of the beneficiary countries has increased with the largest percentage point rises occurring in Slovakia (+5.8 pp to 19.6%) and Hungary (+4.7 pp to 12.0%). Less positively, the proportion of women on boards has declined since 2012 in Romania (-2.8 pp to 9.1%) and Poland (-1.4 pp to 10.3%).

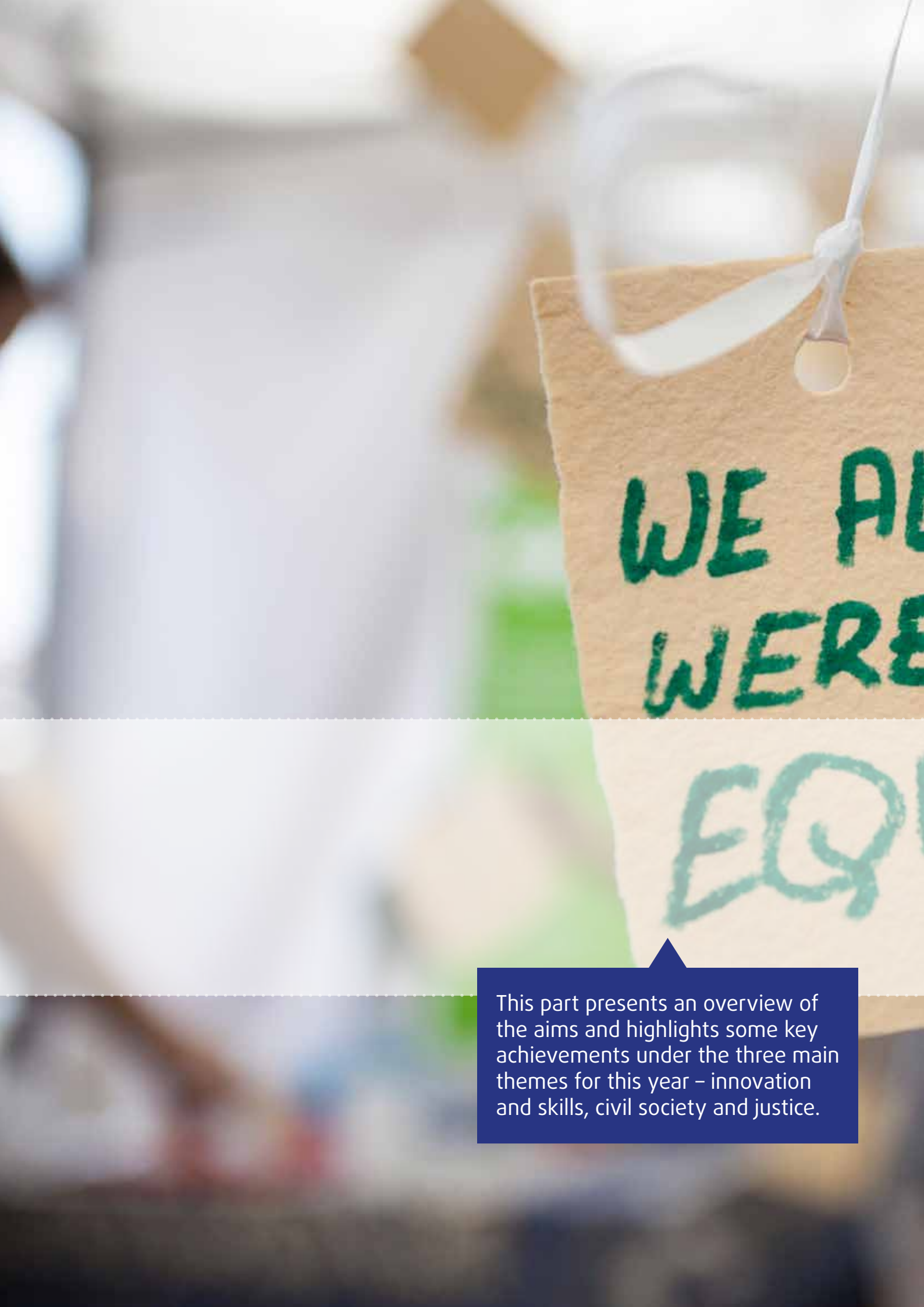
In 2013, women accounted for 27% of senior ministers in national governments across the EU. The gender balanced governments (at least 40% of each gender) of Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway are in sharp contrast to many of the beneficiary countries; women account for less than one in ten members of the cabinet in Greece, Slovakia, Estonia, Cyprus and Hungary.⁴

One of the most serious violations of gender equality is violence against women. According to the findings in a survey published in 2014 by the EU Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA), an estimated 13 million women in the EU experienced physical violence in the course of the 12 months prior to the survey, while some 3.7 million women had experienced sexual violence.

A number of other reports from FRA and other international organisations like the Council of Europe have also documented worrying levels of harassment and violence directed towards vulnerable groups - immigrants, Roma communities and other minorities. The donor countries support numerous initiatives through the EEA and Norway Grants to strengthen fundamental rights, counter discrimination and tackle gender-based violence, hate crime and hate speech.

3. Eurostat (2013) Gender pay gap

4. European Commission (2013) Women and men in leadership positions in the European Union



WE ARE
WERE

EQ

This part presents an overview of the aims and highlights some key achievements under the three main themes for this year – innovation and skills, civil society and justice.



THEMATIC SECTION

Innovation and skills

Investment in education, research and innovation is a key driver of growth and job creation and is crucial to improve Europe's global competitiveness. Significant funding from Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway is targeted at these areas.

The programmes contribute to increasing research capacity and cooperation, promoting educational cooperation, greening of industry and development of green technologies. The cultural programmes offer potential for local job creation and skills development.

What's the issue?

Investing in science, research and technology is crucial to help European companies innovate and stay competitive, create jobs and secure economic and social welfare. Moreover, education and training are essential to the development of today's knowledge society and economic growth. Investment however, is lagging behind and several beneficiary countries have made cuts in public education and research budgets due to the economic crisis. To achieve sustainable economic growth, investment in new green technologies and green innovation is important, but there is still a general lack of available funding to support eco-innovation.

With unemployment rates in Europe remaining high, especially among young people, it is crucial to better match people's skills with the needs of the labour market. Boosting possibilities for international exchange help students acquire new skills and strengthen their employment opportunities.

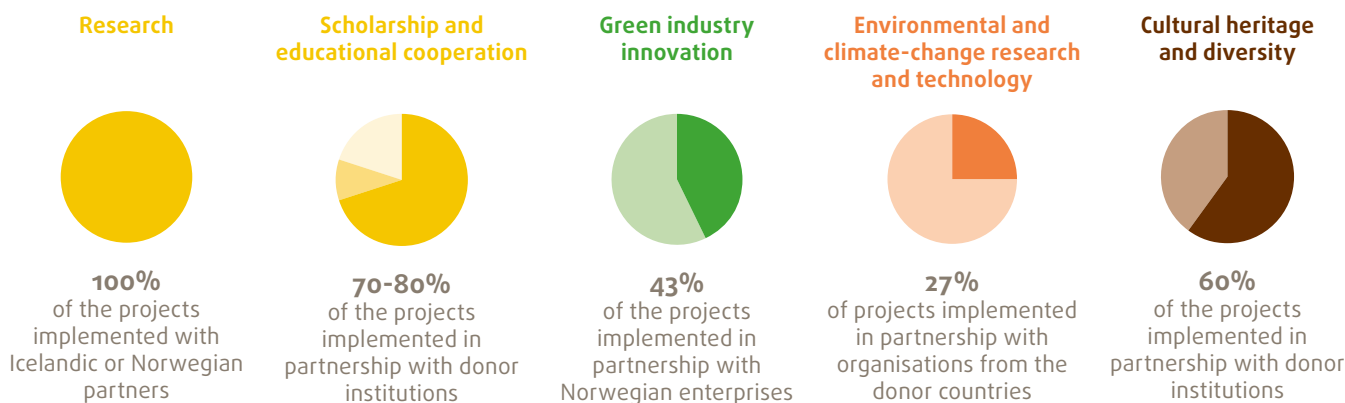
What are we doing?

Almost **one fifth** of the funding under the EEA and Norway Grants is going to growth enhancing programmes.

In addition, Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway support other areas that contribute to skills development, including:

- Revitalisation of cultural heritage and stimulation of cultural cooperation
- Capacity building and training under the NGO programmes
- Early childhood education and preventing youth from dropping out of school

Bilateral cooperation



Meet a partner



Innovation Norway is the Government's most important instrument for innovation and development of Norwegian enterprise and industry. Innovation Norway is involved in all eight green innovation programmes as well as in the environmental and climate change research and development programme in Spain. We asked programme manager Anne Lise Rognlidalen about her experience.

What are the main challenges for small and medium sized enterprises in the beneficiary countries?

We see a lack of new technology and modern resource efficient equipment, resulting in low productivity. Furthermore, there is little financing and knowledge for innovative green projects. The shortage of access to long term financing for investment projects is also a challenge.

What is the added value for Norwegian enterprises getting involved?

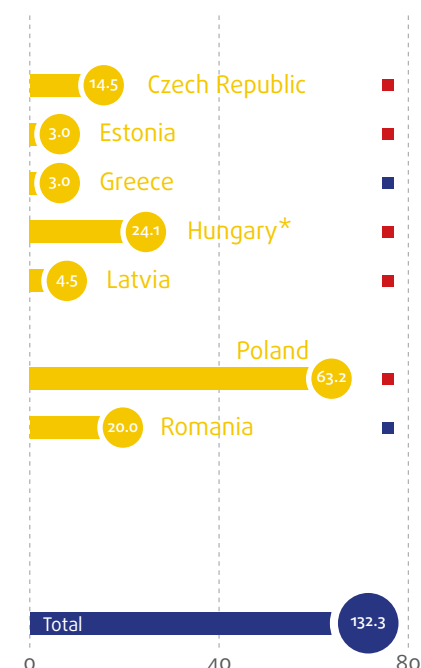
The participation gives direct access to business opportunities and business culture in the beneficiary

countries. The trigger is to gain access to new market knowledge and to build networks. It however, has to be based on a defined need for the Norwegian enterprises' own business development. We are searching for a long term win-win situation for both parties.

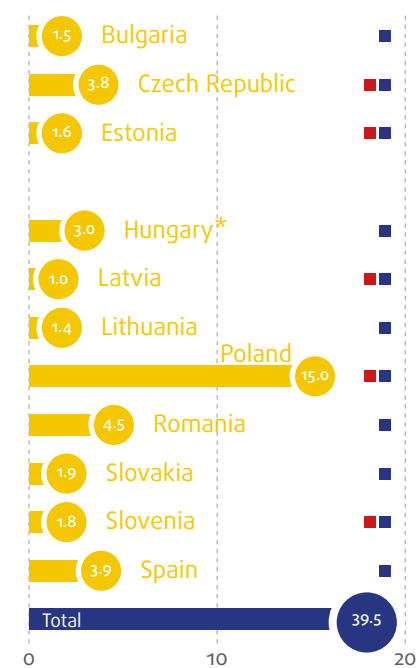
When a Norwegian company wants to explore new market opportunities, they usually need to find a partner in the respective market. This is time-consuming and represents a risk. The green industry innovation programme can therefore be seen as a strategic tool for risk reduction.

Overview of programmes

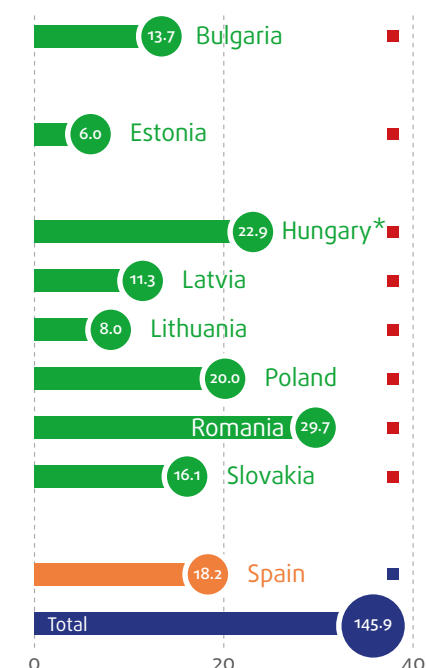
Research (€ million)



Scholarship and educational cooperation (€ million)



Green industry innovation and environmental research and technology (€ million)



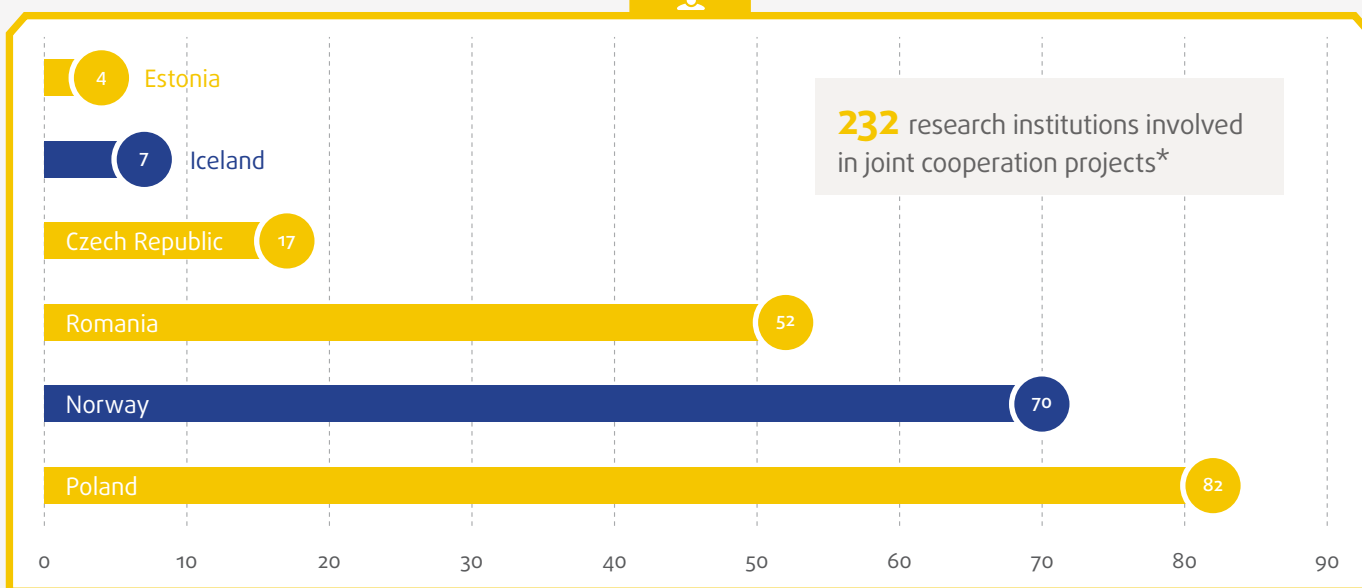
■ Norway Grants ■ EEA Grants *Payments suspended

KEY RESULTS 2014-15

#1 ACHIEVEMENT:

Increasing research capacity through cooperation

- ➔ More than **1 500** researchers involved in joint projects
- ➔ **328** PhD and postdoctoral students supported
- ➔ **29** female professors, post-doctorals and PhD-students in technical sciences in Poland funded to strengthen their career development



* Classification of research institutions may vary from country to country



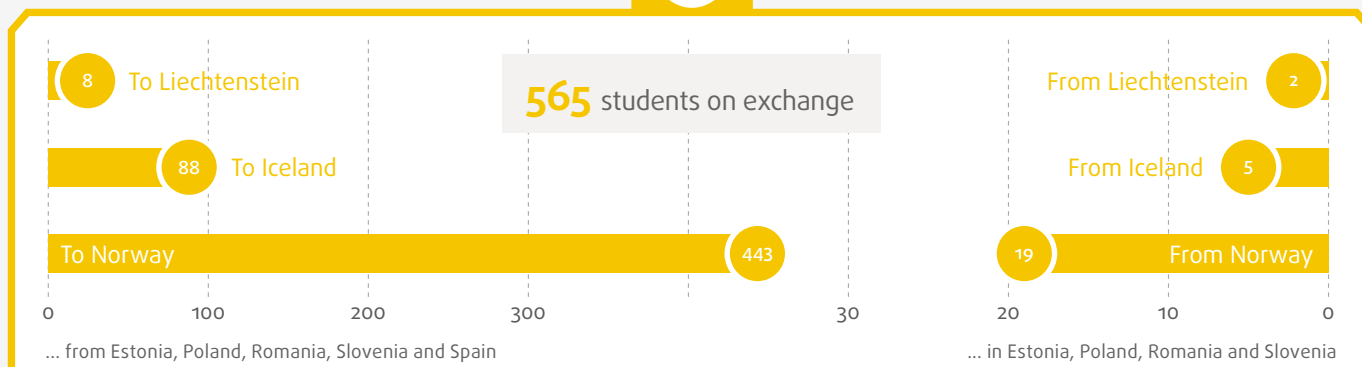
#3 ACHIEVEMENT:

Developing green business

- ➔ **158** green innovation projects to date. **69** of them with a partner from Norway
- ➔ **169** company-driven, innovative research and development projects boosting green technology in Spain. **27%** of them in partnership with companies from Norway and Iceland
- ➔ Transfer of knowledge from universities and research centres to companies through **147** contracts with research institutions

#2 ACHIEVEMENT:

Increasing educational cooperation and exchange





Working in cooperation: snapshots

Poland

Climate change is having a dramatic impact on potato crops. A Polish-Norwegian research partnership is seeking to assess the effects of global warming. Bioforsk PlanteHelse from Norway, the Plant Breeding and Acclimatization Institute in Młochów and the Intercollegiate Faculty of Biotechnology of the University of Gdańsk and the Medical University in Poland have teamed up to look at the most common potato diseases.

Project promoter: Plant Breeding and Acclimatization Institute - National Research Institute

Grant amount: €790 500

Project link: bit.ly/1lQna8

Norway

Slovakia

Current district heating systems in Slovakia consist of old, environmentally unfriendly technologies and heat production depends on externally supplied natural gas. The energy production does not promote the local economy and use of local renewable resources. Through cooperation with three Norwegian partners (International Development Norway AS, Norskog and the Norwegian Forest and Landscape Institute) central heating plants based on biomass have been established in three towns. This will contribute to local job creation and a stable energy supply.

Project promoter: Intech Slovakia

Grant amount: €4.2 million

Project link: bit.ly/1ET579p

Liechtenstein

Portugal

Through the 'Cultural Rucksack' all pupils in Norwegian schools get to enjoy all kinds of professional art and cultural experiences. This concept is now adopted in Portugal and has been adapted to local needs. Portuguese children have access to high quality cultural education to promote social inclusion.

Link to projects: bit.ly/1k6bH3

Portugal

Spain

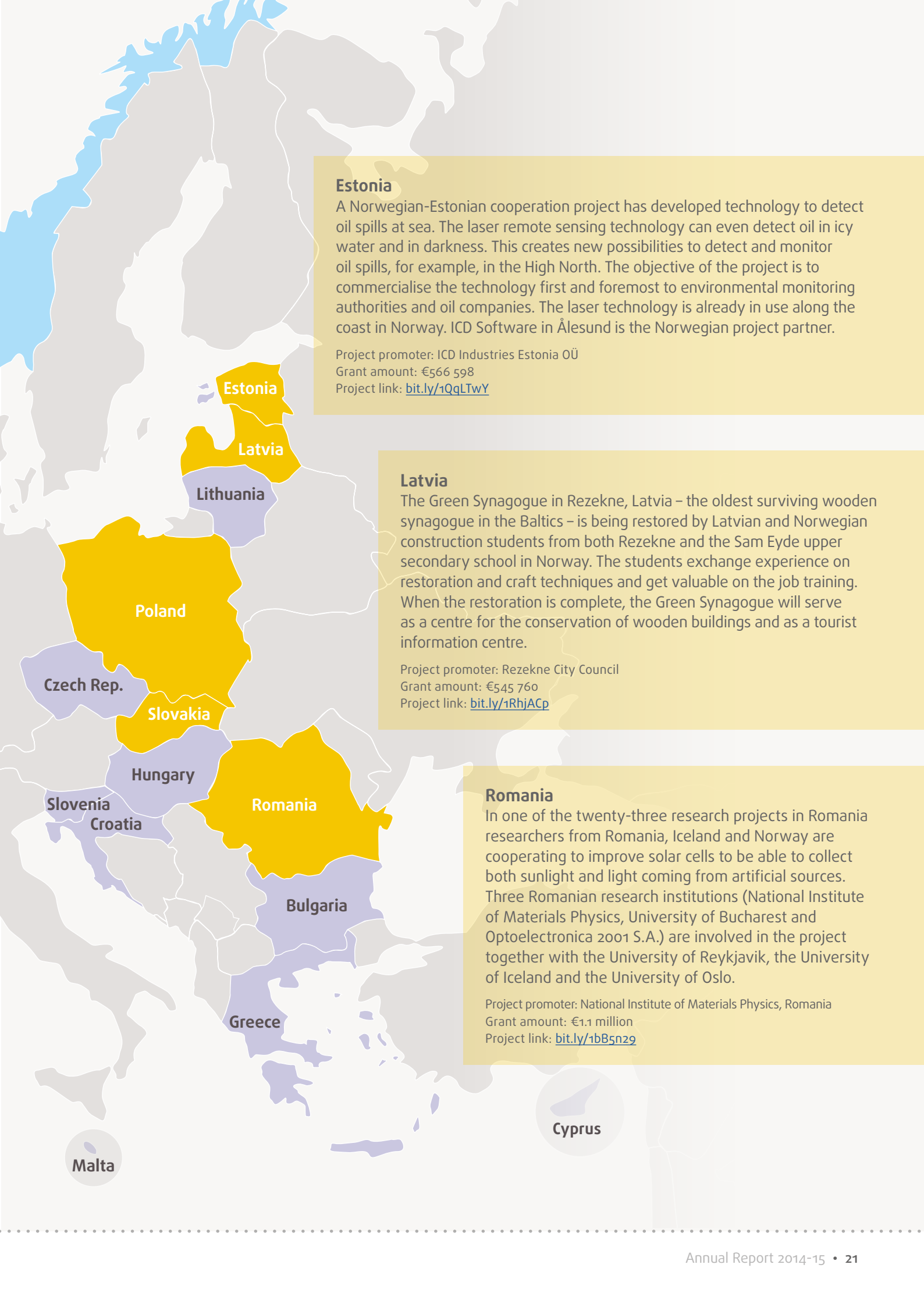
Spain

Spain's number one energy group, Iberdrola, is cooperating with the leading research organisations SINTEF (Norway) and Tecnalia (Spain) looking at the connection of power generated by solar plants to the energy grid. For Iberdrola the cooperation project represents a springboard for future collaboration – opening both new channels of communication and new markets.

Project promoter: Iberdrola

Grant amount: €182 834

Project link: bit.ly/1KHgYfy

A map of Europe with several countries highlighted in yellow and others in light blue. The yellow countries are Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Slovakia, Hungary, Romania, Bulgaria, and Greece. The light blue countries are Czech Rep., Slovenia, Croatia, and Cyprus. Malta is shown in a separate circle at the bottom left. The map is used to provide geographical context for the project locations.

Estonia

A Norwegian-Estonian cooperation project has developed technology to detect oil spills at sea. The laser remote sensing technology can even detect oil in icy water and in darkness. This creates new possibilities to detect and monitor oil spills, for example, in the High North. The objective of the project is to commercialise the technology first and foremost to environmental monitoring authorities and oil companies. The laser technology is already in use along the coast in Norway. ICD Software in Ålesund is the Norwegian project partner.

Project promoter: ICD Industries Estonia OÜ

Grant amount: €566 598

Project link: bit.ly/1QqLTwY

Estonia

Latvia

Lithuania

Poland

Czech Rep.

Slovakia

Hungary

Slovenia

Croatia

Romania

Bulgaria

Greece

Latvia

The Green Synagogue in Rezekne, Latvia – the oldest surviving wooden synagogue in the Baltics – is being restored by Latvian and Norwegian construction students from both Rezekne and the Sam Eyde upper secondary school in Norway. The students exchange experience on restoration and craft techniques and get valuable on the job training. When the restoration is complete, the Green Synagogue will serve as a centre for the conservation of wooden buildings and as a tourist information centre.

Project promoter: Rezekne City Council

Grant amount: €545 760

Project link: bit.ly/1RhjACp

Romania

In one of the twenty-three research projects in Romania researchers from Romania, Iceland and Norway are cooperating to improve solar cells to be able to collect both sunlight and light coming from artificial sources. Three Romanian research institutions (National Institute of Materials Physics, University of Bucharest and Optoelectronica 2001 S.A.) are involved in the project together with the University of Reykjavik, the University of Iceland and the University of Oslo.

Project promoter: National Institute of Materials Physics, Romania

Grant amount: €1.1 million

Project link: bit.ly/1bB5n29

Cyprus

Malta

Voices and faces



Studying the brain from different perspectives

An Estonian-Norwegian research project examines the different molecules which play an important role in the functioning of the brain. Ultimately, the research can help to find more effective treatments of different psychological disorders.

Project promoter: Tallinn University of Technology

Grant amount: €269 999

Project link: bit.ly/1JwDuaR

"We have a very useful cooperation with the University of Bergen. They are really good at in vivo experiments (in the living body of a plant or animal), while this is something we don't have knowledge about here. We draw on each other's different areas of expertise to the benefit of the research project and both parties."

Hanna Vihma, PhD student at Tallinn University of Technology



Collecting waste for recycling

Romania has the lowest recycling rates in the EU. Constantin Cristea with his company Total Waste Management SRL, is creating a network of 25 collection points for different types of waste across the country.

Green Business Norway – an organisation with much experience in organising public awareness campaigns on environmental issues – is a partner in the project. The new collection points integrate Norwegian technology into the concept supplied by Tomra Systems AS and Orwak Norway AS.

Project promoter: Total Waste Management SRL

Grant amount: €1.4 million

Project link: bit.ly/1H39xez

"Each collection point generates 2-5 jobs. So far we have created at least 50 new green jobs under this project. By the end of November 2015, this project will generate 120 new jobs. This might not have a huge impact on employment, but it is still important as we employ mostly from those cities in Romania where people often have problems finding a job."

Constantin Cristea, Total Waste Management

"Cooperation in the research programmes contributes to building research networks enabling further cooperation between researchers from Norway and the beneficiary countries."

Aleksandra Witczak Haugstad, Research Council of Norway, Donor Programme Partner in six countries



"The Icelandic students who came to Warsaw for the workshop on working with wheelchair users had previous experience and knowledge in adapted physical activity which we did not yet have. The workshop opened my eyes to this field focusing on improving the quality of life for persons with special needs."

Łukasz Kozłowski, student of physiotherapy at Józef Piłsudski University of Physical Education in Warsaw, Poland

"It is very important to give youth a chance to study abroad for a while to learn about other cultures, people and school systems. Participants in the scholarship programmes from Liechtenstein are enthusiastic about working with partners from other countries."

Marion Kindle-Kühnis, the Agency for International Education Affairs (Liechtenstein), Donor Programme Partner in scholarship programmes in nine beneficiary countries



"Learning through the scholarship programmes goes both ways. Through cooperation, the Icelandic participants are confronted with challenges, ideas and solutions in the school systems in other countries which they can then bring home."

Vidar Helgason, the Icelandic Centre for Research, Donor Programme Partner in scholarship programmes in nine countries and in the research programme in Romania

Civil society

Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway contribute more than €160 million to strengthen civil society through NGO programmes established in the 16 beneficiary countries. The programmes increase the capacity of civil society in Central and Southern Europe and the Baltics and help mobilise citizens to voice their concerns and actively engage in social development.

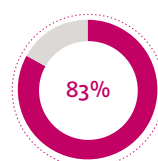
What's the issue?

Civil society is a fundamental building block of democratic governance and social cohesion. Non-governmental organisations (NGOs) play a vital role in promoting democratic values, human rights and fostering civic participation. They help to raise awareness about social and environmental issues, bring citizens' concerns to governments and tackle key concerns in society, both as advocates and service providers.

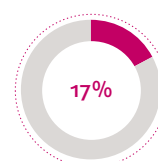
The aim of the NGO programmes is to achieve a stronger and more developed civil society able to empower marginalised groups in society and contribute to democratic development.

The support from the donor countries plays a critical role in building the capacity of the sector itself through organisational support, peer exchanges, training and mentoring, as well as underpinning advocacy work on anti-corruption and transparency, anti-discrimination and human rights.

What are we doing?



€160 million



83% of funding supports:

- democracy and human rights
- social inclusion and vulnerable groups
- anti-discrimination and equality

17% of funding supports:

- welfare services for marginalised groups like Roma

Demand has been high

- **8 times** more applications than available funds. Oversubscription particularly high in Greece and Slovenia
- Over **21 000 applications** received
- Almost **2 300 projects** funded so far

Evaluation of NGO programmes

The NGO programmes have increased the capacity of civil society in Central and Southern Europe and helped to mobilise citizens to voice their concerns and actively engage with governments. This was the key finding in the independent evaluation of the NGO programmes presented in February 2015. The report also confirmed that the programmes are generally well-managed and effectively and efficiently run, demonstrating "an innovative and effective approach to management of public funds, outsourced to organisations independent of governments".

The report contains many more findings, lessons learned and recommendations that will be both followed up and used to inform future programmes. Read more in the full report here: bit.ly/1Ku3uQ0

Bilateral cooperation

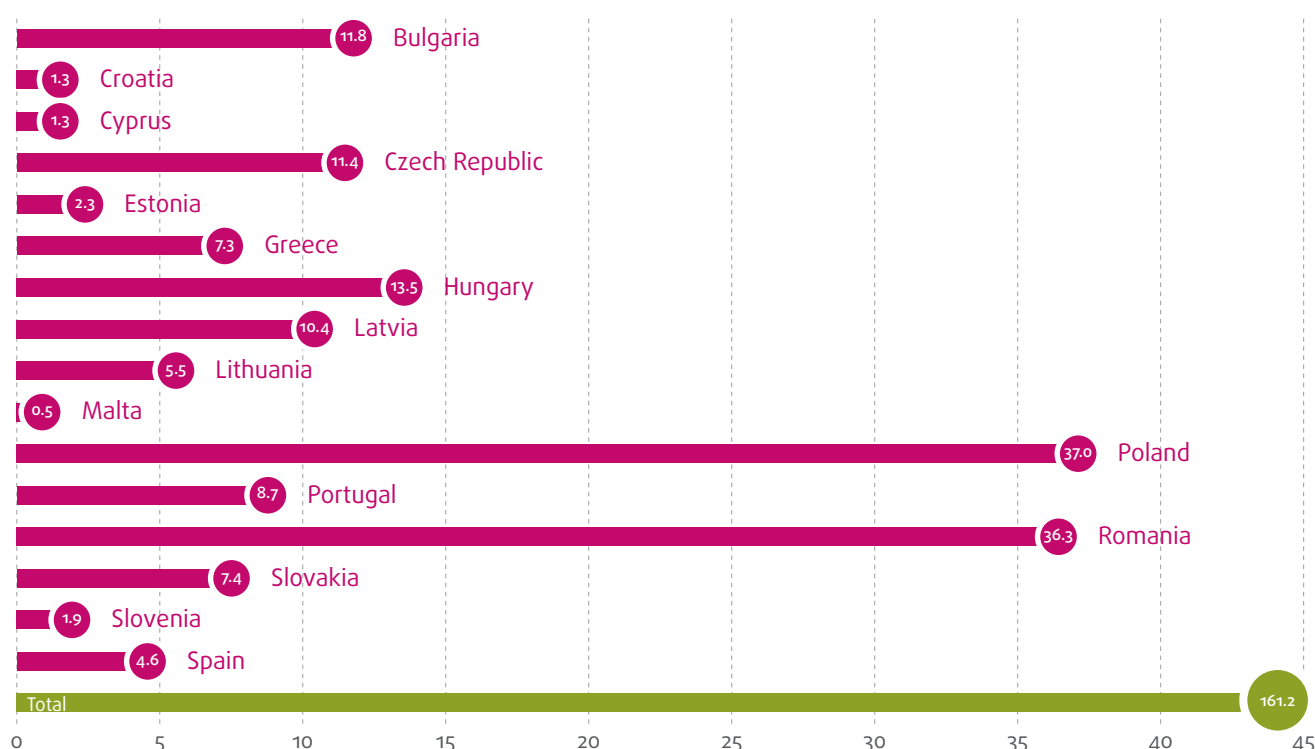
The NGO programmes have generated a high number of partnerships between civil society organisations in the beneficiary and donor country organisations. So far **268 projects involve a partner from one of the donor countries**. These partnerships facilitate innovative types of exchange and peer-to-peer learning, sharing of data, methodologies and best practice around topics of relevance to the programmes. Romania, Poland, Bulgaria and Latvia have the highest number of bilateral partnerships to date.

SNAPSHOT: PROMOTING PEER-TO-PEER LEARNING

In Hungary, the programme supported 11 internships for NGO professionals to spend 3-6 months at a host organisation in Norway or Iceland to learn about best practices on issues as diverse as homelessness, volunteering, human rights, and social entrepreneurship.

The same programme also organised the 'On the Spot' scheme which enabled a number of young people to visit one of the three donor countries and report online on best practice in addressing social problems which could benefit Hungarian society. Those selected each received a grant to help with travel and subsistence costs.

Overview of NGO programmes (€ million)



**NO
HATE**

Tackling hate speech, hate crime and discrimination is a priority for the NGO programmes. More than 500 projects focus on these areas.

The EEA and Norway Grants are a strategic partner to the Council of Europe's No Hate Speech campaign. By raising awareness of hate speech online and mobilising action against online extremism, the campaign aims to promote internet literacy and support young people in standing up for human rights. All of the NGO programmes have made a strong contribution to the campaign which was launched in March 2013 and runs until the end of 2015.

Activities have included developing training toolkits for schools, mobilising youth activists against cyber-bullying and training for bloggers. In total, 352 youth bloggers have received training in how to identify, report on and address hate speech online.



KEY RESULTS 2014-15

#1 ACHIEVEMENT: Working on human rights



718
projects
to date



Support for
178 NGOs
working on human
rights and
anti-discrimination



#2 ACHIEVEMENT: Building NGO sustainability and capacity



125
projects
to date



Almost **300 NGOs**
reporting strengthened
capacity



Over **40 NGOs** have
achieved new sources of
funding helping ensure
future sustainability

#3 ACHIEVEMENT:
Strengthening advocacy and watchdog
activities



163
projects
to date

- **142 NGO coalitions** or networks developed
- Support for **24 NGOs** involved in policy and decision-making processes
- **47 laws or policies** changed or improved because of NGO action



#4 ACHIEVEMENT:
Empowering vulnerable groups and
improving social protection



265
projects
to date

- **44 000** women, children, Roma and victims of trafficking report better welfare protection
- **137 NGOs** working with vulnerable groups supported

Voices and faces



Promoting transparency in governance

A law aimed at protecting whistleblowers in Lithuania was proposed in 2010, but has been stalled in Parliament ever since. Transparency International (TI) Lithuania teamed up with its sister organisation in Norway to promote accountability and openness in public institutions. Drawing on an anti-corruption handbook and training for municipalities developed by TI Norway, the Lithuanian branch is now actively contributing to the preparation of legislative proposals and working groups on institutional openness.

Project promoter: Transparency International Lithuania

Grant amount: €118 978

Project link: bit.ly/1Fnxyym

Giving Roma women a voice

Roma women in Slovakia have benefitted from training on local politics to help them play a more effective role in their communities. Working with 12 women from six localities and two regions in western and eastern Slovakia, the project used a tried-and-tested method promoting civic participation through local action groups. The project has given the women the confidence to meet and influence decision-makers, both at home and beyond, with five travelling to Brussels to meet Slovak MEPs.

Project promoter: In Minorita (In Minority)

Grant amount: €56 489

Project link: bit.ly/1L6Ye4W

"There needs to be someone to advocate for those who are socially disadvantaged. They need a voice. I have always been visible in the community but now I have the confidence to speak out and speak up."

Dana Bandryová, volunteer,
In Minorita



Protecting victims of hate crime

Despite a rise in violent racially motivated attacks, major weaknesses persist in the Greek system for protecting victims of hate crime. The Hellenic League for Human Rights is strengthening its capacity to address the legal and procedural gaps, improve reporting of hate crimes and increase provision of welfare and legal services for victims.

Project promoter: Hellenic League for Human Rights

Grant amount: €198 000

Project link: bit.ly/1LxwXus

My home without violence

Polish NGO, Monar, has strengthened its capacity and improved its own staff training to better support victims of domestic violence. Monar works with victims, in particular single mothers with children living in their shelters, with day-to-day tasks like applying for social housing and ensure that their children are taken care of. It also provides therapy and counselling to help the women integrate back into society.

Project promoter: MONAR Association

Grant amount: €48 888

Project link: bit.ly/1j9VK8

"Our project is carried out in the three Polish cities of Gdansk, Turow and Zgorzelec. In each of these cities we run hostels for women who are victims of domestic violence. Many of these women have become homeless as a result of their abusive relationships."

Iwona Pasichnyk, project manager, MONAR

Advocating for LGBT rights

More than half of the Lithuanian LGBT (lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender) community feel discriminated against. The Lithuanian Gay League is working to mainstream LGBT equality in the decision-making process through awareness-raising activities amongst the general public and policymakers.

Project promoter: Lithuanian Gay League

Grant amount: €111 940

Project link: bit.ly/1zKAXPt



"All of these girls are severely traumatised. They are extremely vulnerable, and often have little trust in the system. We take care of everything in the interim period while they're getting back on their feet."

Jade Holtham, facility manager,
Cyprus Stop Trafficking

Supporting Cyprus to stop trafficking

Cyprus is a destination country where prostitution and human trafficking is thriving. Cyprus Stop Trafficking (CST) cooperates and works alongside other NGOs, the police, social services and other government agencies to provide support to trafficking victims. Through the project, CST has expanded its activities and increased its welfare provision for victims.

Project promoter: Cyprus Stop Trafficking

Grant amount: €101 339

Project link: bit.ly/1KtS7cb

Help for the homeless

From sleeping rough, Milan (pictured) now has a job in DOME C homeless centre's coffee shop in Bratislava, run by the NGO, Vagus. Vagus has been able to finish construction of the centre and increase service provision. The achievements are impressive: 3 100 people have received specialist consultations; 280 are involved in leisure activities; 100 in regular work activities; and 12 have successfully completed the full integration process. The Salvation Army Norway were actively involved as a partner.

Project promoter: OZ Vagus

Grant amount: €79 853

Project link: bit.ly/1FVUcOg



Empowering citizens through technology

Public consultations on draft laws have been available in Greece since 2010. Yet, participation is low and the numbers keep dropping. With the DemocraIT project, the NGO, SciFY has developed a more user-friendly online system to facilitate citizen participation in public consultations. The state-of-the-art web-based solution will present results in an accessible and structured format, enabling decision-makers to take account of a broader range of opinion. The system can be adapted to work with any language and any political system.

Project promoter: SciFY

Grant amount: €55 505

Project link: bit.ly/1Dm2cHL

Justice and home affairs

Norway contributes more than €140 million to strengthening judicial systems, fighting cross-border crime and to improving correctional services in 11 beneficiary countries. An independent, transparent and efficient justice system is a crucial condition for the proper functioning of the internal market. Businesses want to invest in countries where the judiciary can enforce their rights and do so in a timely way.

What's the issue?

Judicial capacity building

A fair and effective justice system is important for reducing disparities.¹ Businesses are more confident about investing in a country if its judicial decisions are made in a predictable, timely and enforceable way. Justice reforms that increase efficiency have been shown to have a positive impact on entrepreneurial activity and foreign direct investment.

The World Bank Group carries out an annual assessment on the ease of doing business. The rankings place particular importance on the ability of companies to enforce contracts.

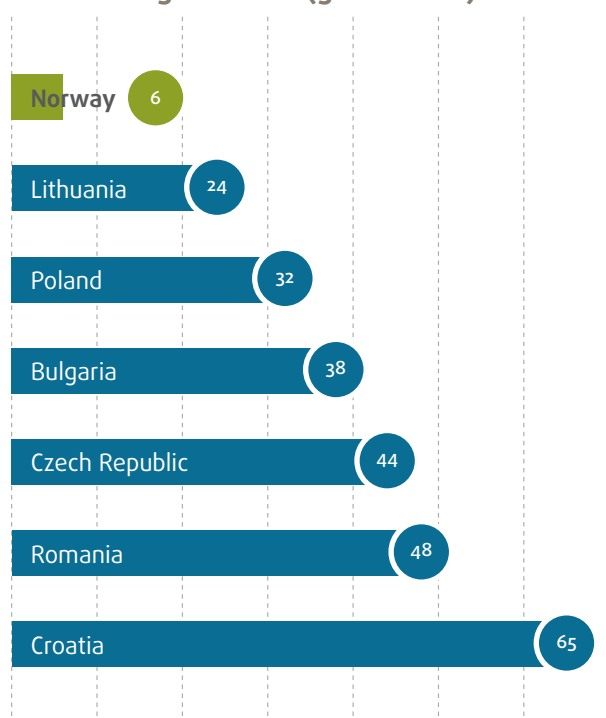
Cross-border crime

Norway is a part of the Schengen agreement that facilitates the free movement of people across Europe. Open borders bring many advantages, but they also require extra vigilance in fighting cross-border crime, such as human trafficking and money laundering.

Correctional services

Norway works with some of the countries with the highest prison populations in the EU. The Council of Europe has highlighted 'chronic prison overcrowding' and the resulting poor conditions as a major issue of concern. Norway is also putting a strong focus on the rehabilitation of prisoners to help ensure that, once out of prison, they no longer become involved in criminal activity.

Ease of Doing Business (global rank)²

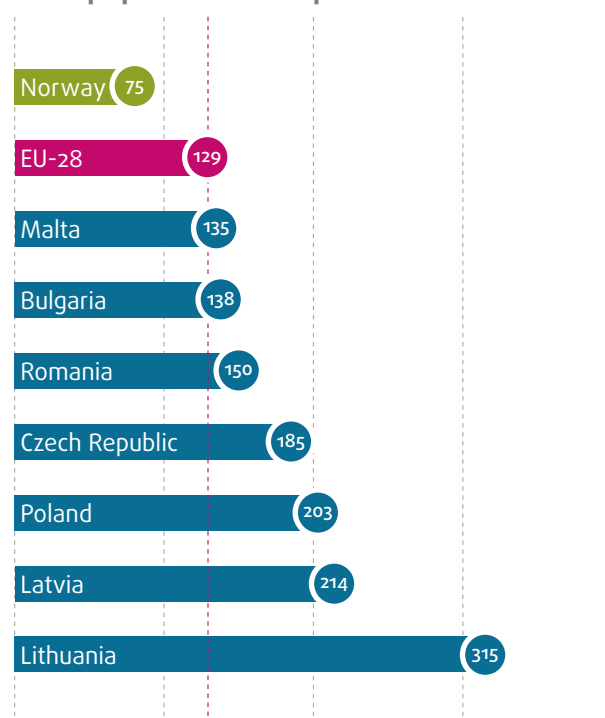


¹ DG Economic and Financial Affairs, European Commission

² World Bank Group (2014)

³ International Centre for Prison Studies (2014)

Prison population rates per 100 000 inhabitants³



What are we doing?

The projects funded in this area are mostly pre-defined; this means that the projects address shortcomings already identified, usually by independent international organisations or national governments. They are also in fields that are usually restricted to state organisations, such as correctional services, the police service, and the court system.

Prisoners are helped in dealing with negative emotions through counselling and dog therapy



SNAPSHOT: IMPROVING PRISON CONDITIONS

In Poland, the Directorate of Norwegian Correctional Services is working in partnership with the Polish Central Board of Correctional Services to improve the competencies of prisoners and prison staff.

This ensures that staff are better qualified to carry out their duties and that prisoners obtain skills for life after prison. Prisons have been adapted to make them more child friendly, helping prisoners maintain family bonds during their sentence. Prisoners are also given skills to help them deal with negative emotions that were often the root cause of the original offence.

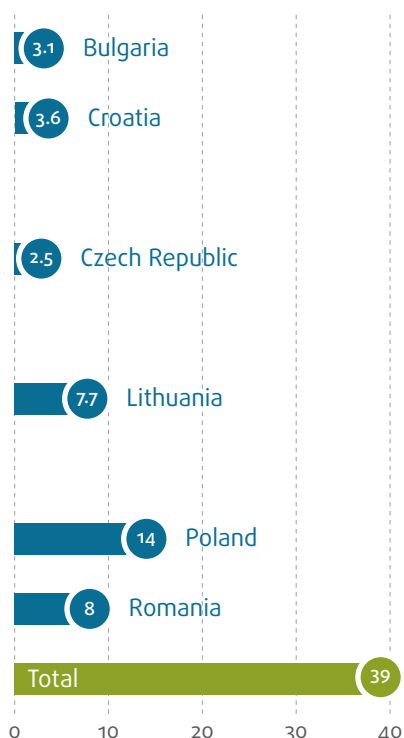
Project promoter: Polish Central Board of Correctional Services

Grant amount: €2.1 million

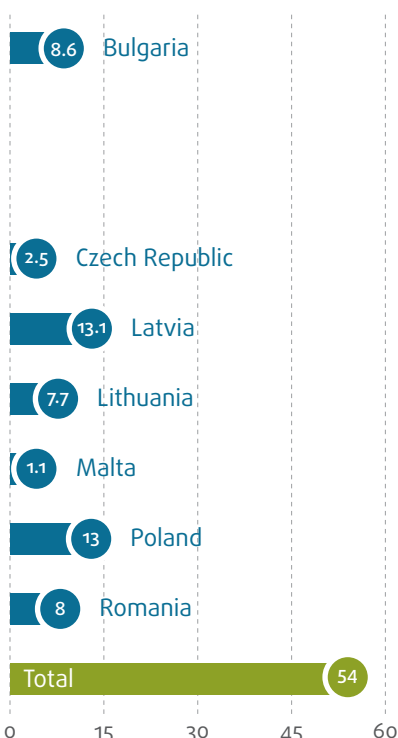
Project link: bit.ly/1FiUeLS

Overview of justice programmes

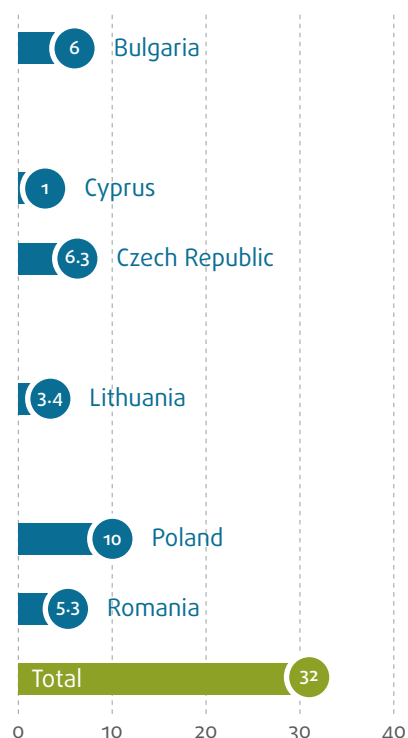
Judicial capacity building and cooperation (€ million)



Correctional services, including alternatives to prison (€ million)



Schengen and combatting cross-border crime (€ million)



KEY RESULTS 2014-15

#1 ACHIEVEMENT:

Strengthening judicial capacity building and cooperation

- **572** judges and other legal professionals trained on the provisions of the European Convention of Human Rights and its case law
- **4 368** legal professionals trained to ensure a faster and more efficient judicial system
- **4 781** people have received free legal advice



#2 ACHIEVEMENT:

Improving correctional services

- Nearly **8 000** prison staff trained to provide improved correctional services
- **326** people are following alternatives to prison
- **260** women receiving health care while in prison

#3 ACHIEVEMENT:

Fighting cross-border crime

- Bulgarian authorities have worked with Norwegian counterparts in a project to learn about Norwegian best practice in the use of Schengen information and sharing tools
- Cyprus authorities established a new IT system and received training from Norwegian experts on how to combat money laundering





Voices and faces: meet the partners

Norwegian organisations and the Council of Europe play a vital role as donor programme partners, they advise and assist beneficiaries on how to meet international standards, bring expertise and provide exchange programmes.



The Directorate of Norwegian Correctional Service (KDI) is a donor programme partner in Romania, Lithuania, Latvia and Poland. In addition, the Directorate cooperates with the Czech Republic and Bulgaria, where the Council of Europe acts as the lead programme partner. We asked the Director of KDI, Kim Ekhaugen, about the exchange of best practice.

In your experience, how easy is it to transfer the Norwegian practice to beneficiary countries?

The transfer of best practice from Norway has been welcomed in the beneficiary countries and 14 partnership projects are being implemented. I would like to emphasise that I see a lot of enthusiasm for change. People are really interested in creating a better future for inmates and staff.

What are the specific challenges that the beneficiary countries face?

Many face serious problems in particular with regard to overcrowding.

Is there a particular project where your involvement has made a real difference?

In Latvia, they are building their first prison unit for addicted inmates. As in most countries, a high percentage of inmates in Latvia are addicted to drugs or alcohol and this is a big problem in prisons. In Lithuania, they are in the process of opening four halfway houses, which will give some of the inmates a completely new way of serving their sentence. By living in a halfway house, they will have to learn basic life-skills and hopefully leave prison for crime-free futures.



The Council of Europe (CoE) is a donor programme partner in five programmes in the fields of judicial capacity building and correctional services. We spoke to Head of the Council's Justice Capacity Building Unit, Natalia Voutova, about their cooperation.

How does the Council of Europe's involvement contribute to this area?

The CoE brings over 25 years of experience in managing joint projects; we know how to make sure projects are viable, efficient and results-oriented. Norway Grants are vitally important in helping countries meet international standards and tackle weaknesses in their judicial systems.

What are the specific challenges that the beneficiary countries face?

This depends on the country as there is an ongoing process of reform in many of the countries. The challenge is to capture and understand what the issues are. Through working with these countries over the last 20 years, we know how to tailor projects to the countries' needs.

Do you think the funding will make a lasting difference?

From the very outset, we have thought about the sustainability of our work, this is one of the 'golden rules' for us, we don't want a short term win, we want to make a long term difference. Norway's funding in this area is starting to make a real difference. Our most advanced projects, in terms of implementation, are in Bulgaria. We have definitely achieved results; the Roma minority has much better access to justice.



The Norwegian Courts Administration (NCA) is a donor programme partner in programmes for judicial capacity building and cooperation in Lithuania, Poland and Romania. We asked Head of International Secretariat, Audun Hognes Berg, about the NCA's cooperation.

In your experience, how easy is it to transfer the Norwegian practice to beneficiary countries?

We have to be cautious when assessing which solutions or practices to propose. Factors like societal and judicial culture must be considered when selecting best practice.

What are the specific challenges that the beneficiary countries face?

Most countries are struggling to combat backlogs and excessive case-processing times, especially with reduced budgets. This is a challenging environment for reforms.

What do you think is the main strength of Norwegian practice?

The Norwegian judicial system is one of the best-functioning in Europe. This relates, among other things, to the timeliness of our decisions. We are also one of the 'cheapest' judiciaries in terms of costs.

Do you think the funding will make a lasting difference to improving the judicial system?

It is hard to predict the long term effects but I am confident that the funding and exchange of experience will improve the judicial systems of beneficiary countries.

By way of example, in Romania we have been involved in a project concerning access to justice. A study was carried out to identify barriers faced by the Roma and other vulnerable groups. Romania will now create a number of centres to help the Roma population and other vulnerable groups in seeking legal advice. These could make a real difference.



The Norwegian National Police Directorate (POD) is involved as a donor programme partner in four programmes in Bulgaria, Lithuania and Romania. Two of these are under the programme area concerning Schengen and Cross-Border Crime. We asked Assistant Chief of Police in the International Section, Eva Lynghjem, about her involvement.

How has POD benefitted from its involvement in this programme area?

It is of great value to be able to learn from each other's experience in order to fight organised and cross-border crime. The programmes allow us to focus on the wider picture and not just those that emerge on a case-by-case basis through regular criminal investigations, or through organisations such as Interpol and Europol. Bilateral cooperation is necessary to fight cross-border and organised crime.

Have you learned anything from the experience that you've found useful in Norway?

Different units in our Police Service have had the chance to cooperate with similar units in the beneficiary countries in order to learn more about their police system. This gives us a better understanding of crime that is committed in Norway.

Is there a particular project where your involvement has made a real difference?

Norwegian and Bulgarian police have a joint project, sharing best practice in the use of different Schengen information cooperation tools, such as SIRENE. Norway has been using these tools since 2001 and has a great deal of experience in their use. We are sharing this expertise with our Bulgarian counterparts.



This part provides an overview of the main priorities and key achievements of the EEA and Norway Grants in each of the beneficiary countries over the past year.



COUNTRY SECTION

Bulgaria

Read more about programmes and projects in Bulgaria:
www.eeagrants.org/bulgaria

Total Funding €126.6M

EEA Grants €78.6M

Norway Grants €48.0M

Programme overview

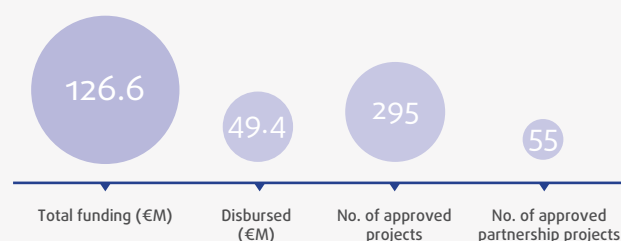
Programme	Partners	Grant (€ million)	
Green industry innovation	Innovation Norway*	13.7	■
Integrated marine and inland water management	Norwegian Environment Agency	8.0	■
Biodiversity and ecosystem services	Norwegian Environment Agency	8.0	■
Energy efficiency and renewable energy	Norwegian Water Resource and Energy Directorate	13.3	■
NGO Fund		11.8	■
Public health initiatives		13.4	■ ■
Children and youth at risk	Council of Europe	8.6	■
Capacity building and institutional co-operation	Norwegian Association of Local and Regional Authorities, Norwegian Barents Secretariat	2.0	■
Cultural heritage and contemporary arts		14.0	■
Scholarships	Icelandic Centre for Research, Agency for International Education Affairs (Liechtenstein), Norwegian Centre for International Cooperation in Education	1.5	■
Decent work and tripartite dialogue	Innovation Norway*	0.5	■
Schengen cooperation and combating cross-border and organised crime	National Police Directorate (Norway), Council of Europe	6.0	■
Correctional services	Council of Europe	8.6	■
Judicial capacity building	Council of Europe	3.1	■
Domestic and gender-based violence	Council of Europe	2.0	■

■ Norway Grants ■ EEA Grants *Programme Operator

Priority areas of support

- Strengthening the justice sector through reforms
- Combating organised crime, including trafficking
- Improving the situation for vulnerable groups, including children, youth and Roma
- Protecting biodiversity and improving the monitoring of marine and inland waters
- Promoting green industry innovation

Implementation status



All data extracted end April 2015

Country facts

	Bulgaria	EU-28
GDP per capita in PPS (EU=100)	45	100
Economic growth (% change on previous year)	0.9	0.1
Unemployment rate (%)*	11.6	10.2
Youth unemployment rate (%)*	23.6	22.2
Public debt (% of GDP)	18.3	85.4
Gender pay gap (%)	13.5	16.4
At-risk-of-poverty rate (%)	48	24.5
Human development index	28	(EU-28 ranking)
Corruption perception index*	25	(EU-28 ranking)

Sources: Eurostat/UNDP/Transparency International
 All data is from 2013 except where * indicates 2014
 See notes to tables in Annex 2

Key results 2014-15



#1 ACHIEVEMENT Strengthening the justice system

4 781

individuals from vulnerable groups, including Roma, received free legal assistance



572

judges and other legal professionals trained on human rights



260

women in prison receiving better medical services



532

professional trained on use of alternatives to prison



326

persons given alternatives to passing sentence in prison, including electronic monitoring



#3 ACHIEVEMENT Strengthening civil society



114

NGOs promoting democratic values and human rights



26

NGO coalitions or networks developed



24%

of the funding so far to projects focusing on Roma inclusion



18

of the projects to date have partners from Norway and Iceland



#2 ACHIEVEMENT Supporting social inclusion and education



53

Roma school mediators and youth leaders trained



179

pre-school staff trained in teaching Roma children and children from deprived families



4

youth centres established in areas with a high Roma population

Cooperation with the Council of Europe

The Council of Europe is involved as a strategic programme partner in **five** programmes and as a project partner in **eleven** projects.

"Through this innovative work with children aged 3-6 years from underprivileged families – including Roma – in Bulgaria, the Council of Europe and its partners are achieving tangible results in building a more inclusive society. Our hope is to scale up and replicate this promising and successful programme."

Jean-Christophe Bas, Director of Democratic Citizenship and Participation at the Council of Europe.

Snapshot of projects

Empowering Roma youth

A youth centre for young people aged between 15 and 29 years is being established in the southern Bulgarian city of Plovdiv which has a large Roma population. The centre serves as a drop-in meeting place and offers both recreational activities as well as vocational skills training opportunities.

The Norwegian research institute Agderforskning is cooperating with Plovdiv municipality in developing and establishing the youth centre.

Project promoter: Municipality of Plovdiv

Grant amount: €828 714

Project link: bit.ly/1D7Xc44

“For us as Roma it can be difficult to meet people from outside our own community. So I hope that the youth centre can be a place where young people from Plovdiv can meet regardless of ethnic background.”

Svetoslav Aleksiev (pictured centre)



Improving milk quality and the environment

By introducing renewable energy sources such as solar collectors to provide hot water, three pilot dairy farms in Bulgaria will reduce their energy consumption. In addition, access to less expensive hot water will enable the farmers to use more hot water for proper washing and cleaning of the milking machines and other equipment. This will contribute to better milk quality and enable the farmers to sell their milk at higher prices.

The project is implemented in partnership with Norges Vel from Norway and Trakia University in Stara Zagora and funded through the green industry innovation programme in Bulgaria operated by Innovation Norway.

Project promoter: Foundation for Organic Agriculture Bioselena

Grant amount: €199 391

Project link: bit.ly/1Ku4He7

Croatia

Read more about programmes and projects in Croatia:
www.eeagrants.org/croatia

Total Funding €9.6M

EEA Grants €5.0M

Norway Grants €4.6M

Programme overview

Programme	Partners	Grant (€ million)
NGO Fund		1.3
iNavis – Green Innovation Centre		1.7
Integrated Schools – Vukovar and Knin		1.3
Decent work and tripartite dialogue	Innovation Norway*	0.1
Judicial capacity building	Council of Europe	3.65

■ Norway Grants
 ■ EEA Grants
 ■ *Programme Operator

Key results 2014-15

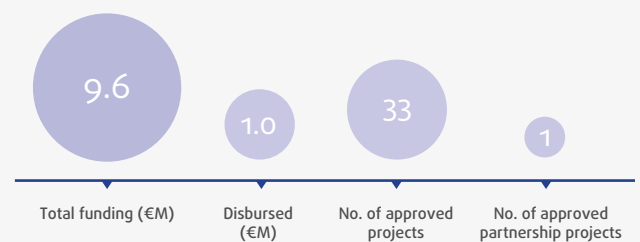
With programmes launching in Croatia at the end of April 2014 following the country's accession to the EEA, implementation is only getting underway. While it is difficult to define results so far, work is moving ahead at pace.

- ➔ Preparations have started in Šibenik for the establishment of iNavis – a new national resource centre for energy and marine research and innovation
- ➔ Work is underway in the multi-ethnic areas of Vukovar and Knin to support increased understanding between ethnic groups. This includes preparations for the establishment of a new integrated school in Vukovar
- ➔ Together with the Council of Europe, the efficiency of the judiciary will be supported through the rehabilitation of the court house in Karlovac
- ➔ Thirty projects focused on solidarity and social capital in local communities have been selected under the NGO Fund so far
- ➔ Social dialogue is being strengthened in partnership with the Norwegian Confederation of Trade Unions and the Confederation of Norwegian Enterprise. Activities taking place this year include a study visit to Norway, a training workshop and a national tripartite conference.

Priority areas of support

- Promote green business, education and research education in cooperation with Norwegian partners
- Improve the infrastructure and efficiency of court systems
- Promote increased understanding between ethnic groups in post-conflict communities
- Enhance the contribution of civil society to justice, democracy and sustainable development

Implementation status



All data extracted end April 2015

Country facts

	Croatia	EU-28
GDP per capita in PPS (EU=100)	61	100
Economic growth (% change on previous year)	-0.9	0.1
Unemployment rate (%)*	17	10.2
Youth unemployment rate (%)*	45	22.2
Public debt (% of GDP)	67.1	85.4
Gender pay gap (%)	7.4	16.4
At-risk-of-poverty rate (%)	29.9	24.5
Human development index	25	(EU-28 ranking)
Corruption perception index*	24	(EU-28 ranking)

Sources: Eurostat/UNDP/Transparency International
All data is from 2013 except where * indicates 2014
See notes to tables in Annex 2

Cyprus

Read more about programmes and projects in Cyprus:
www.eeagrants.org/cyprus

Total Funding €7.85M

EEA Grants €3.85M

Norway Grants €4.0M

Programme overview

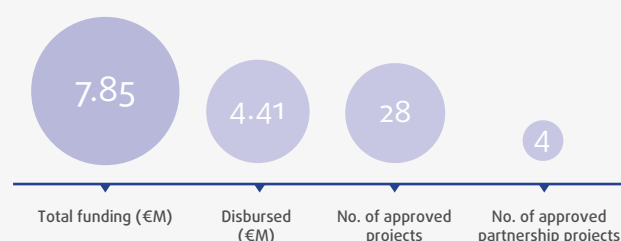
Programme	Partners	Grant (€ million)
Biodiversity and ecosystem services		1.2
Civil society support	Council of Europe	0.7
NGO Fund		1.3
Public health initiatives		1.2
Children and youth at risk		0.4
Cultural and natural heritage		0.6
Decent work and tripartite dialogue	Innovation Norway*	0.04
Justice and home affairs		0.95
Domestic and gender-based violence	Norwegian Secretariat of the Shelter Movement	0.75

■ Norway Grants ■ EEA Grants *Programme Operator

Priority areas of support

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

Implementation status



All data extracted end April 2015

"The Home for Cooperation is something to be really proud of. It constitutes a substantial contribution to the revitalisation of Nicosia's United Nations Dead Zone as well as to the wider peace process."

Jury of the 2014 EU Prize for Cultural Heritage/Europa Nostra Awards

Pictured below is Special Adviser of the UN Secretary-General on Cyprus, Espen Barth Eide, visiting the H4C.



Country facts

	Cyprus	EU-28
GDP per capita in PPS (EU=100)	89	100
Economic growth (% change on previous year)	-5.4	0.1
Unemployment rate (%)*	16.1	10.2
Youth unemployment rate (%)*	35.5	22.2
Public debt (% of GDP)	102.2	85.4
Gender pay gap (%)	15.8	16.4
At-risk-of-poverty rate (%)	27.8	24.5
Human development index	17	(EU-28 ranking)
Corruption perception index*	13	(EU-28 ranking)

Sources: Eurostat/UNDP/Transparency International
 All data is from 2013 except where * indicates 2014
 See notes to tables in Annex 2

Key results 2014-15



#1 ACHIEVEMENT
Increasing interaction between the Greek-Cypriot and Turkish-Cypriot communities



3

international conferences on advancing historical understanding and conflict resolution in divided societies have taken place at the Home for Cooperation (H4C), dialogue and activity centre in the UN buffer zone of Nicosia



33

joint ventures initiated between the H4C and organisations from both sides of the island



#2 ACHIEVEMENT
Improving public health services



+17 400

new donors recruited to the bone marrow registry from both the Cypriot communities



A new gene mapping facility for Cypriot communities established to support the diagnosis of cancer and neurological disorders

Project snapshot

Helping victims of domestic violence

The first purpose-built shelter (pictured) for victims of domestic violence and their children in Cyprus is under construction. The Norwegian Secretariat of the Shelter Movement is advising and sharing experience with the Cypriot project manager in establishing and running the shelter. They have significant experience in dealing with issues related to violence against women and in providing support for children housed in the shelters with their mothers.

Project promoter: The Association for the Prevention and Handling of Violence in the Family

Grant amount: €742 920

Project link: bit.ly/1yOxUwb



Czech Republic

Read more about programmes and projects in the Czech Republic:
www.eeagrants.org/czech-republic

Total Funding **€131.8M**

EEA Grants **€61.4M**

Norway Grants **€70.4M**

Programme overview

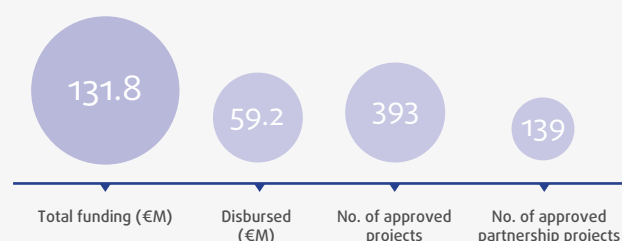
Programme	Partners	Grant (€ million)	
Environment and climate change	Norwegian Environment Agency	18.4	■
Carbon capture and storage		5.0	■
NGO Fund		11.4	■
Children and youth at risk		2.7	■
Local and regional initiatives to reduce inequalities and promote social inclusion		1.2	■
Capacity building and institutional cooperation		1.8	■
Public health initiatives	Norwegian Institute of Public Health	19.2	■
Gender equality and work-life balance		3.4	■
Cultural heritage and cultural diversity	Arts Council Norway	21.5	■
Scholarships	Icelandic Centre for Research, Agency for International Education Affairs (Liechtenstein), Norwegian Centre for International Cooperation in Education	3.8	■ ■
Research cooperation	Research Council of Norway	14.5	■
Decent work and tripartite dialogue	Innovation Norway*	0.7	■
Domestic and gender-based violence		4.2	■
Schengen and cross-border crime		6.3	■
Judicial capacity-building and correctional services	Council of Europe	4.9	■

■ Norway Grants ■ EEA Grants *Programme Operator

Priority areas of support

- Improving mental health services and reducing health inequalities
- Protecting biodiversity and reducing vulnerability to climate change
- Enhancing cooperation on research with Norway
- Strengthening cooperation and educational exchange with the donor countries
- Strengthening civil society
- Revitalising important European cultural heritage

Implementation status



All data extracted end April 2015

Country facts

	Czech Republic	EU-28
GDP per capita in PPS (EU=100)	82	100
Economic growth (% change on previous year)	-0.9	0.1
Unemployment rate (%)*	6.1	10.2
Youth unemployment rate (%)*	15.9	22.2
Public debt (% of GDP)	45.7	85.4
Gender pay gap (%)	22.1	16.4
At-risk-of-poverty rate (%)	14.6	24.5
Human development index	15	(EU-28 ranking)
Corruption perception index*	22	(EU-28 ranking)

Sources: Eurostat/UNDP/Transparency International
 All data is from 2013 except where * indicates 2014
 See notes to tables in Annex 2

Key results 2014-15



#1 ACHIEVEMENT Enhancing research cooperation with Norway



18

cooperation projects to date supporting joint
Norwegian and Czech research



+100

female researchers involved in projects



#2 ACHIEVEMENT Building capacity through cooperation



100

state officials, police officers, judges and
state prosecutors received training in
combating corruption



Major conference organised with Council of
Europe on anti-corruption to be held in Prague
in October 2015 with active involvement of the
donor countries

Project snapshot

Rural community entrepreneurship

Working with the Norwegian University College for Agriculture and Rural Development, the Environment Centre of Charles University (CUEC) is developing a training course supported by the scholarship programme designed to help people in rural communities develop their entrepreneurial skills.

Open to local government officers, masters students and rural entrepreneurs, the course will be delivered by specialists from both institutions in Cesky Krumlov Castle in rural South Bohemia. The castle's museum (pictured) was itself restored with programme support in 2008.

"It's about innovation through bottom-up development."

Jiří Dlouhý, project manager at CUEC

Project promoter: Environment Centre, Charles University

Grant amount: €33 140

Project link: bit.ly/1EZuHJH



Estonia

Read more about programmes and projects in Estonia:
www.eeagrants.org/estonia

Total Funding **€48.6M**

EEA Grants **€23.0M**

Norway Grants **€25.6M**

Programme overview

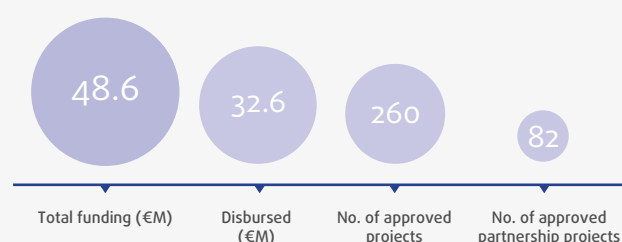
Programme	Partners	Grant (€ million)	
Integrated marine and inland water management	Norwegian Environment Agency	6.9	■
Green industry innovation	Innovation Norway	6.0	■
NGO Fund		2.3	■
Children and youth at risk	Norwegian Association of Local and Regional Authorities	6.5	■
Public health initiatives	Norwegian Institute of Public Health	8.9	■
Gender equality and work-life balance	Norwegian Directorate for Children, Youth and Family Affairs	2.0	■
Cultural and natural heritage	Norwegian Directorate of Cultural Heritage	4.5	■
Scholarships	Icelandic Centre for Research, Agency for International Education Affairs (Liechtenstein), Norwegian Centre for International Education Cooperation in Education	1.6	■ ■
Norwegian-Estonian research cooperation	Research Council Norway	3.0	■
Decent work and tripartite dialogue	Innovation Norway*	0.3	■
Domestic and gender-based violence	Norwegian Directorate of Health	2.0	■

■ Norway Grants ■ EEA Grants *Programme Operator

Priority areas of support

- 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
- Increasing intercultural awareness and dialogue and supporting integration of the Russian-speaking minority

Implementation status



All data extracted end April 2015

Country facts

	Estonia	EU-28
GDP per capita in PPS (EU=100)	73	100
Economic growth (% change on previous year)	2.2	0.1
Unemployment rate (%)*	7.4	10.2
Youth unemployment rate (%)*	15	22.2
Public debt (% of GDP)	10.1	85.4
Gender pay gap (%)	29.9	16.4
At-risk-of-poverty rate (%)	23.5	24.5
Human development index	18	(EU-28 ranking)
Corruption perception index*	11	(EU-28 ranking)

Sources: Eurostat/UNDP/Transparency International
 All data is from 2013 except where * indicates 2014
 See notes to tables in Annex 2

Key results 2014-15



#1 ACHIEVEMENT Enhancing research cooperation with Norway



90
researchers involved
in joint projects



Support for
30
PhD students



#3 ACHIEVEMENT Preventing domestic and gender-based violence



104
professionals have been trained on reducing
gender-based violence



13
services have
been created
or upgraded to
support victims



6
awareness-raising
campaigns to reduce
gender-based
violence



#2 ACHIEVEMENT Improving public health and reducing health inequalities



5 741
people have
benefited from
improved health
services



78%
of those were young
people with mental
health issues



354
health professionals and students have received
training in health care skills

Project snapshot



Advancing energy storage

NXTech AS, is working with Skeleton Technologies OÜ in Estonia, to combine technological solutions with advanced energy storage 'ultracapacitor' batteries. The project will improve the efficiency and reliability of ultracapacitors and lower energy use.

Project promoter: Skeleton Technologies OÜ

Grant: €594 513

Project link: bit.ly/1dBP9rs

www.eeagrants.org/greece

€63.4M

Programme	Partners	Grant (€ million)
Integrated marine and inland water management		9.5
Renewable energy		9.5
NGO Fund		7.3
Asylum and migration	Norwegian Directorate of Immigration	20.9
Solidarity and social inclusion		4.3
Research		3.0

“The situation for the most vulnerable in Greece is difficult. The Solidarity Centre shows how the public sector and civil society can work together to make a difference. Our goal is that this cooperation can be a model for similar projects.”

Vidar Helgesen, Norwegian Minister of EEA and EU Affairs



- Safeguarding the right to seek asylum and improving the reception conditions, in particular 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 and promoting renewable energy and research
- Alleviating the adverse social effects of the economic crisis

Category	Value
Total funding (€M)	63.4
Disbursed (€M)	24.2
No. of approved projects	50
No. of approved partnership projects	3

Country facts

	Greece	EU-28
GDP per capita in PPS (EU=100)	73	100
Economic growth (% change on previous year)	-3.9	0.1
Unemployment rate (%)*	26.5	10.2
Youth unemployment rate (%)*	52.3	22.2
Public debt (% of GDP)	174.9	85.4
Gender pay gap (%)**	15	16.4
At-risk-of-poverty rate (%)	35.7	24.5
Human development index	16	(EU-28 ranking)
Corruption perception index*	25	(EU-28 ranking)

48 • Annual Report 2014-15

Key results 2014-15



#1 ACHIEVEMENT Improving support for migrants and asylum seekers



870

people, including 640 unaccompanied children given temporary accommodation and medical care in 4 reception centres (3 in Athens and 1 in Patras)



2 700

migrants and asylum seekers given shelter and basic welfare support at the first reception centre in Evros on the Turkish border



#3 ACHIEVEMENT Alleviating poverty



4 700

people using the advisory helpline



1 263

children benefiting from day care services



5 000

food vouchers distributed



3 864

visits to health care specialists



#2 ACHIEVEMENT Strengthening civil society



18 000

receiving better access to basic and welfare services



4 000

people accessing social welfare services every day (including medical, mental health and addiction treatment services)

Project snapshot

Solidarity Now!

The Solidarity Centre in Athens is providing assistance to around 37 000 people worst hit by the economic crisis. According to EU figures, every third person in the country of 10.7 million is at risk of poverty or social exclusion. Free health care and medication, food vouchers, assistance when applying for jobs, legal aid and day care for children are some of the services that are offered free of charge at the centre.

Project promoter: Solidarity Now EPE

Grant amount: €1 869 792

Project link: bit.ly/1H41pKQ

Hungary

Read more about programmes and projects in Hungary:
www.eaagrants.org/hungary

Total Funding

€153.3M

EEA Grants

€70.1M

Norway Grants

€83.2M

Payments to Hungary under the EEA and Norway Grants were suspended on 9 May 2014. This followed a breach of the agreements governing the funding. Read more: bit.ly/1K41Ybl. Funding to directly contracted programmes (marked with ** in programme overview) is not suspended.

Programme overview

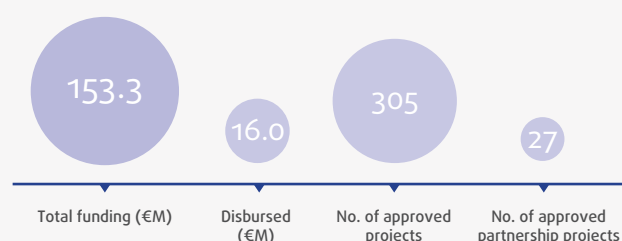
Programme	Partners	Grant (€ million)
Green industry innovation	Innovation Norway	22.9
Energy efficiency		8.4
Renewable energy	National Energy Authority (Iceland)	7.7
Adaptation to climate change**	Norwegian Directorate for Civil Protection	7.0
Bilateral research cooperation	Research Council of Norway	24.1
NGO Fund**		13.5
Children and youth at risk	Council of Europe	11.2
Cultural and natural heritage	Norwegian Directorate of Cultural Heritage	12.6
Capacity building and institutional cooperation	Norwegian Association of Local and Regional Authorities, Norwegian Agency for Lifelong Learning	10.8
Public health initiatives	Norwegian Institute of Public Health	16.6
Scholarships	Icelandic Centre for Research, Agency for International Affairs (Liechtenstein), Norwegian Centre for International Cooperation in Education	3.0
Decent work and tripartite dialogue**	Innovation Norway*	0.8

■ Norway Grants ■ EEA Grants *Programme Operator ** Directly contracted programmes

Priority areas of support

- Strengthening civil society
- Increasing competitiveness of green enterprises
- Adapting to climate change
- Enhancing research-based knowledge through research cooperation

Implementation status



All data extracted end April 2015

Country facts

	Hungary	EU-28
GDP per capita in PPS (EU=100)	66	100
Economic growth (% change on previous year)	1.1	0.1
Unemployment rate (%)*	7.7	10.2
Youth unemployment rate (%)*	20.4	22.2
Public debt (% of GDP)	79.2	85.4
Gender pay gap (%)	18.4	16.4
At-risk-of-poverty rate (%)	33.5	24.5
Human development index	24	(EU-28 ranking)
Corruption perception index*	21	(EU-28 ranking)

Sources: Eurostat/UNDP/Transparency International
 All data is from 2013 except where * indicates 2014
 See notes to tables in Annex 2

Key results 2014-15



#1 ACHIEVEMENT Strengthening the capacity of civil society



143

NGOs reporting
strengthened
capacity



50

NGOs promoting
democratic values
and human rights



24 500

people received improved access to basic
services (this includes one-time services such
as HIV-tests)



#2 ACHIEVEMENT Improving decent work and social dialogue



17

social dialogue bodies established



All **5** projects carried out in cooperation with
Norwegian partners

Project snapshot

Working to prevent hate crime

There has been an increasing number of hate incidents often targeted at local Roma people.

The Oslo Police District in Norway – which has a special group working with hate crimes – has shared its operational experience and employee training methods. The Equality and Anti-discrimination Ombud in Norway has also been involved.

“We train police officers to recognise hate incidents and to engage the communities to prevent further escalation.”

György Makula, Chairman, Fraternal Association of European Roma Law Enforcement Officers

Project promoter: Fraternal Association of European Roma Law Enforcement Officers

Grant amount: €57 671

Project link: bit.ly/1cNk83i



Latvia

Read more about programmes and projects in Latvia:
www.eeagrants.org/latvia

Total Funding **€73.0M**

EEA Grants **€34.6M**

Norway Grants **€37.4M**

Programme overview

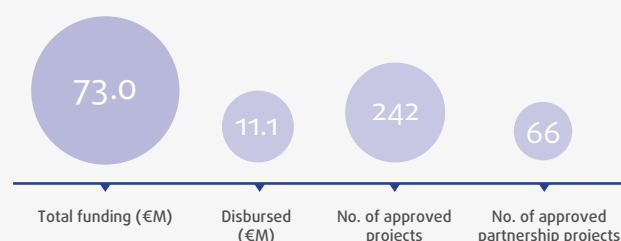
Programme	Partners	Grant (€ million)	
Green industry innovation	Innovation Norway	11.3	■
Adaption to climate change	Norwegian Environment Agency, Norwegian Directorate for Civil Protection	10.4	■
NGO Fund		10.4	■
Capacity building and institutional cooperation	Norwegian Association of Local and Regional Authorities	5.0	■
Cultural heritage and contemporary arts	Norwegian Directorate for Cultural Heritage, Arts Council Norway	10.0	■
Research and Scholarships	Research Council of Norway, Norwegian Centre for International Cooperation in Education	5.5	■ ■
Decent work and tripartite dialogue	Innovation Norway*	0.4	■
Correctional services	Directorate of Norwegian Correctional Service	13.1	■

■ Norway Grants ■ EEA Grants *Programme Operator

Priority areas of support

- Supporting reform of correctional services, including improving rehabilitation
- Strengthening cooperation between local and regional authorities in Latvia and Norway
- Realising green innovation business opportunities
- Strengthening civil society
- Improving environmental monitoring systems
- Increasing intercultural awareness and dialogue with the Russian-speaking minority

Implementation status



All data extracted end April 2015

Country facts

	Latvia	EU-28
GDP per capita in PPS (EU=100)	64	100
Economic growth (% change on previous year)	4.1	0.1
Unemployment rate (%)*	10.8	10.2
Youth unemployment rate (%)*	19.6	22.2
Public debt (% of GDP)	38.2	85.4
Gender pay gap (%)	14.4	16.4
At-risk-of-poverty rate (%)	35.1	24.5
Human development index	26	(EU-28 ranking)
Corruption perception index*	19	(EU-28 ranking)

Sources: Eurostat/UNDP/Transparency International
 All data is from 2013 except where * indicates 2014
 See notes to tables in Annex 2

Key results 2014-15



#1 ACHIEVEMENT Improving correctional services



+500

staff in prisons and short-term detention centres trained



Development of a new approach for prisoners with drug and substance abuse problems, as a result of cooperation with Norwegian Correctional Services



#3 ACHIEVEMENT Local development and capacity building



4

strategic partnerships



13

experience and knowledge sharing events



7

seminars to promote local innovation and entrepreneurship



4

planning regions produced sustainable development strategies, in consultation with the public



#2 ACHIEVEMENT Strengthening civil society



+300

representatives from civil society participated in NGO Forum organised by NGO Fund Operator under Latvian EU Presidency



Almost **30** NGO projects have partners from the donor countries



82

NGO coalitions or networks developed

Project snapshot

Support for eco start-ups

The green technology incubator is helping start-up companies develop their technologies to bridge the gap between innovation and commercialisation. The incubator was established by the University of Latvia and Riga Technical University in cooperation with Industrial Development Corporation of Norway ("SIVA").

Project promoter: Green Industry Innovation Center Ltd.

Grant amount: €1 784 050

Project link: bit.ly/1crCq9g

"The Incubator will not only help green innovation ideas to enter the market, but it will also promote co-operation between the private and academic sectors as well as the exchange of experience and knowledge in the area of green technology between Latvia and Norway."

Steinar Egil Hagen, Norwegian Ambassador to Latvia

Lithuania

Read more about programmes and projects in Lithuania:
www.eeagrants.org/lithuania

Total Funding **€84.0M**

EEA Grants **€38.4M**

Norway Grants **€45.6M**

Programme overview

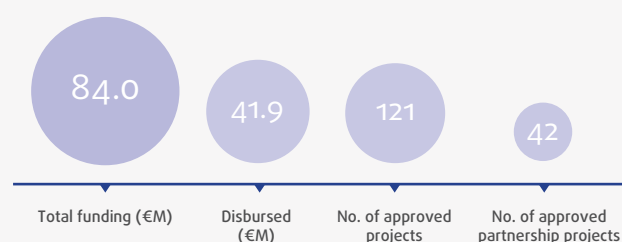
Programme	Partners	Grant (€ million)	
Integrated marine and inland water management	Norwegian Environment Agency	4.7	■
Biodiversity and ecosystem services	Norwegian Environment Agency	6.8	■
Green industry innovation	Innovation Norway	8.0	■
NGO Fund		5.5	■
Children and youth at risk		6.3	■
Public health initiatives		6.0	■
Capacity building and institutional cooperation	Norwegian Association of Local and Regional Authorities, Norwegian Environment Agency, Norwegian Police Directorate	8.0	■
Cultural heritage and natural heritage	Norwegian Directorate of Cultural Heritage	9.0	■
Diversity in culture and arts	Arts Council Norway	1.0	■
Scholarships	Norwegian Centre for International Cooperation in Education	1.4	■
Decent work and tripartite dialogue	Innovation Norway*	0.5	■
Schengen cooperation and cross-border crime		3.4	■
Correctional services	Directorate of Norwegian Correctional Service	7.7	■
Judicial capacity building	Norwegian Courts Administration	7.7	■

■ Norway Grants ■ EEA Grants *Programme Operator

Priority areas of support

- Promoting cooperation between local authorities and public institutions in Lithuania and Norway
- Strengthening judicial reform including the wider use of alternatives to prison
- Fighting cross-border and organised crime
- Promoting green industry innovation and entrepreneurship
- Halting the loss of biodiversity and protection of ecosystems

Implementation status



All data extracted end April 2015

Country facts

	Lithuania	EU-28
GDP per capita in PPS (EU=100)	73	100
Economic growth (% change on previous year)	3.3	0.1
Unemployment rate (%)*	10.7	10.2
Youth unemployment rate (%)*	19.3	22.2
Public debt (% of GDP)	38.8	85.4
Gender pay gap (%)	13.3	16.4
At-risk-of-poverty rate (%)	30.8	24.5
Human development index	19	(EU-28 ranking)
Corruption perception index*	17	(EU-28 ranking)

Sources: Eurostat/UNDP/Transparency International
 All data is from 2013 except where * indicates 2014
 See notes to tables in Annex 2

Key results 2014-15



#1 ACHIEVEMENT Promoting a fairer and more efficient judicial system



56

court staff and legal professionals trained



2

courts have started witness support schemes based on Norwegian model



#3 ACHIEVEMENT Supporting cultural heritage



23

buildings restored or rehabilitated



19

project partnership agreements



#2 ACHIEVEMENT Strengthening civil society



76

young journalists and online activists have been trained in human rights and combating hate speech



1/3

have bilateral partners



3

NGO coalitions have been established



20

NGOs have promoted democratic values and human rights



19

NGOs have secured additional funding through strengthened capacity

Project snapshot

Discovering Jewish heritage through language

The 'Bagel Shop' is a place to celebrate Lithuanian Jewish language, culture and history. Supported under the NGO programme, the project promotes tolerance and raises awareness of anti-Semitism. The Jewish Community of Oslo is a project partner.

Yehuda Vagner from Haifa (pictured), has been a volunteer Hebrew teacher at the Bagel Shop for over two years. Students learn about Jewish traditions and culture, and in Yehuda's words, "Language is a direct way to get to know each other".

Project promoter: Lithuanian Jewish Community

Grant amount: €81 000

Project link: bit.ly/1eD8xoa



Malta

Read more about programmes and projects in Malta:
www.eeagrants.org/malta

Total Funding **€4.5M**

EEA Grants **€2.9M**

Norway Grants **€1.6M**

Programme overview

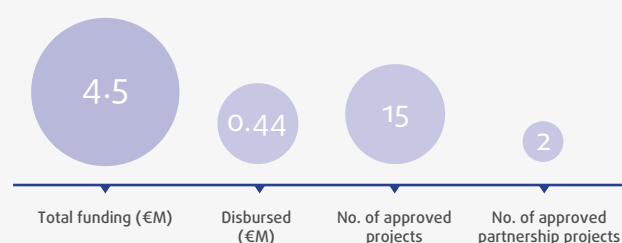
Programme	Partners	Grant (€ million)	
Correctional services	Directorate of Norwegian Correctional Service	1.1	■
Integrated marine and inland water management		0.9	■
Adaptation to climate change	Norwegian Coastal Administration	0.5	■
NGO Fund		0.5	■
Capacity building and institutional cooperation	Norwegian Association of Local and Regional Authorities, Council of Europe	0.3	■
Decent work and tripartite dialogue	Innovation Norway*	0.02	■
Cultural and natural heritage		0.8	■

■ Norway Grants ■ EEA Grants *Programme Operator

Priority areas of support

- Strengthening oil spill prevention and response
- Improving correctional services for young offenders
- Strengthening civil society

Implementation status



All data extracted end April 2015

Country facts

	Malta	EU-28
GDP per capita in PPS (EU=100)	86	100
Economic growth (% change on previous year)	2.9	0.1
Unemployment rate (%)*	5.9	10.2
Youth unemployment rate (%)*	12.7	22.2
Public debt (% of GDP)	73	85.4
Gender pay gap (%)	5.1	16.4
At-risk-of-poverty rate (%)	24	24.5
Human development index	22	(EU-28 ranking)
Corruption perception index*	19	(EU-28 ranking)

Sources: Eurostat/UNDP/Transparency International
 All data is from 2013 except where * indicates 2014
 See notes to tables in Annex 2

Malta is improving its oil spill response capacity thanks to a project run by Transport Malta in cooperation with the Norwegian Coastal Administration.



Key results 2014-15



#1 ACHIEVEMENT Strengthening civil society



4

NGO coalitions
established



12

NGOs promoting
democratic values
and human rights



6

NGOs working with
vulnerable groups



#2 ACHIEVEMENT Strengthening the capacity of local government



A study on the training needs of the current
local government system was conducted



Development of a National Training Strategy
for local government staff

Project snapshot

Promoting human rights through fairy tales

Educating children about human rights at an early stage is of great importance for an inclusive society. As part of a project under the NGO programme, new Maltese-language cartoons have been produced with the aim of reinterpreting such fairy tales on a more positive note. Having been screened at local cinemas and distributed in all Maltese schools, the new cartoons are reaching children across the country.

Present at the launch of the cartoons, the President of Malta, Marie Louise Coleiro Preca, (pictured), welcomed the initiative, highlighting the importance of spreading messages of equality and non-discrimination, particularly among children.

Project promoter: Write Deal Association

Grant amount: €25 375

Project link: bit.ly/1P6gW3P



Poland

Read more about programmes and projects in Poland:
www.eeagrants.org/poland

Total Funding **€578.1M**

EEA Grants **€266.9M**

Norway Grants **€311.2M**

Programme overview

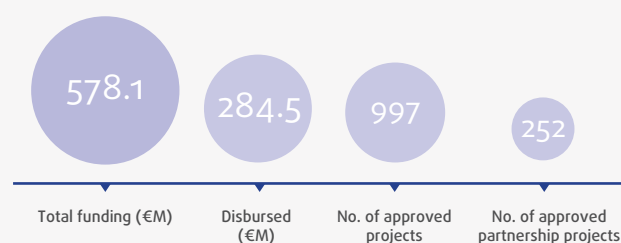
Programme	Partners	Grant (€ million)	
Green industry innovation	Innovation Norway*	20.0	■
Biodiversity and ecosystem services		21.1	■
Environmental monitoring and integrated planning and control	Norwegian Environment Agency	15.0	■
Energy efficiency and renewable energy		144.2	■ ■
NGO Fund		37.0	■
Local and regional initiatives		9.8	■
Public health initiatives	Norwegian Directorate of Health	76.0	■ ■
Cultural and natural heritage		70.2	■ ■
Diversity in culture and arts	Arts Council Norway	11.0	■
Scholarships	Icelandic Centre for Research, Agency for International Education Affairs (Liechtenstein), Norwegian Centre for International Cooperation in Education	15.0	■ ■
Research cooperation	Research Council of Norway	63.2	■
Decent work and tripartite dialogue	Innovation Norway*	3.1	■
Schengen and cross-border crime		10.0	■
Correctional services	Directorate of Norwegian Correctional Service	13.0	■
Judicial capacity building	Norwegian Courts Administration	14.0	■
Domestic and gender-based violence		3.6	■

■ Norway Grants ■ EEA Grants *Programme Operator

Priority areas of support

- Increasing energy efficiency
- Promoting green innovation in cooperation with Norwegian enterprises
- 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

Implementation status



All data extracted end April 2015

Country facts

	Poland	EU-28
GDP per capita in PPS (EU=100)*	67	100
Economic growth (% change on previous year)	1.6	0.1
Unemployment rate (%)*	9.0	10.2
Youth unemployment rate (%)*	34.8	22.2
Public debt (% of GDP)	55.7	85.4
Gender pay gap (%)	6.4	16.4
At-risk-of-poverty rate (%)	25.8	24.5
Human development index	19	(EU-28 ranking)
Corruption perception index*	15	(EU-28 ranking)

Sources: Eurostat/UNDP/Transparency International
 All data is from 2013 except where * indicates 2014
 See notes to tables in Annex 2

Key results 2014-15



#1 ACHIEVEMENT Enhancing research cooperation with Norway



+700

Polish and Norwegian researchers involved
in joint projects



39%

female project managers



Funding of 29 female professors, post-doctorals
and PhD-students from technical sciences to
strengthen their career development



#2 ACHIEVEMENT Increasing educational cooperation



262

Polish students on
exchange in Iceland
(32), Liechtenstein (4)
and Norway (226)



5

Icelandic and **12**
Norwegian students
on exchange in
Poland



94

staff from higher
education institutions
in Poland on exchange
in Iceland (34),
Liechtenstein (2) and
Norway (58)



52

staff from higher
education institutions
in Iceland (17),
Liechtenstein (1)
and Norway (34) on
exchange in Poland

Project snapshot

Developing new cancer therapy

Together with researchers from Oslo University Hospital in Norway, a team of researchers at University of Wrocław are working to develop a new cancer therapy. The cooperation project is based on a long-term collaboration between the Polish and Norwegian researchers in the field of cancer research, which will prove mutually beneficial.

"Today's mainstream approach to cure cancer is the use of chemotherapy that harms both cancer and healthy cells. Our aim is to kill only the cancer cells and do that more effectively. This will reduce the side effects for the cancer patients. The Norwegian researchers are interested in the same protein as us, but we are looking at it from different angles and have different and complementary expertise. We will continue our cooperation after this project."

Professor Jacek Otlewski, University of Wrocław

Project promoter: University of Wrocław

Grant amount: €812 679

Project link: bit.ly/1L6DHOL



Key results 2014-15



#3 ACHIEVEMENT Improving the efficiency and quality of the justice system



Combating organised crime through cooperation
between custom officers in Poland and Norway



6

project partnerships
with Norwegian
institutions



531

police officers trained
in Schengen laws and
IT-systems



13 147

training certificates
on the use of
alternatives to prison
issued to judges,
prosecutors and
prison staff



4 305

certificates issued
to prisoners for
training received
to increase their
knowledge and
social skills



#5 ACHIEVEMENT Promoting joint cultural projects and performances



1 200

cultural events
held reaching
+ 600 000
people



88%

of projects
completed
with partners
from Iceland,
Liechtenstein and
Norway



#4 ACHIEVEMENT Strengthening environmental cooperation with Norway



4 out of 5

projects realised in partnership with Norwegian
environmental entities



The Norwegian Institute for Air Research, the
Norwegian Mapping Authority and the Norwegian
Environment Agency shared their experience on
improving air quality, geographical data systems
and environmental inspections



#6 ACHIEVEMENT Improving decent work and social dialogue



5 out of 11

projects carried out in partnership with
Norwegian entities



14

social dialogue
bodies established



+9 000

people trained



Project snapshot

Reducing emissions

Kogeneracja S.A., the heat and power plant located in the centre of Wrocław (pictured), produces electricity and provides heating for 60 per cent of the city's 600 000 inhabitants. EU legislation requires the coal and biomass-powered plant to reduce its emissions.

By installing a new filter system, the sulphur dioxide (SO₂) and dust emissions will be reduced significantly. The reduction of SO₂ from this plant per year is equivalent to almost 20 per cent of the total Norwegian SO₂ emissions for 2013. The result will be reduced acid rain locally and regionally, as well as improved air quality – benefiting both the environment and the inhabitants of Wrocław and in the wider region.

Norway provides funding for similar improvements to reduce the SO₂ emissions in Poland, contributing to a reduction of more than the annual Norwegian SO₂ emissions for 2013. Norway also supports projects to reduce CO₂ and other hazardous emissions in Poland.

Project promoter: CHP team Wrocław Kogeneracja S.A.

Grant amount: €4.76 million

Project link: bit.ly/1Ktbdbj

Portugal

Read more about programmes and projects in Portugal:
www.eea.grants.org/portugal

EEA Grants **€58.0M**

Programme overview

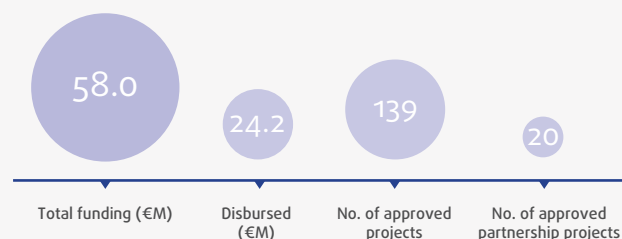
Programme	Partners	Grant (€ million)
Integrated marine and inland water management		19.2
Renewable energy	National Energy Authority (Iceland)	4.0
Adaptation to climate change	Norwegian Directorate for Civil Protection	3.0
NGO Fund		8.7
Public health initiatives	Norwegian Institute of Public Health	10.0
Gender equality and work-life balance		2.5
Cultural and natural heritage		4.0
Diversity in culture and arts	Arts Council Norway	1.0

■ EEA Grants

Priority areas of support

- Reducing vulnerability to climate change
- Improving the management and protection of natural resources
- Increasing the use and development of renewable energy
- Improving public health and reducing health inequalities
- Strengthening civil society

Implementation status



All data extracted end April 2015

Country facts

	Portugal	EU-28
GDP per capita in PPS (EU=100)	79	100
Economic growth (% change on previous year)	-1.4	0.1
Unemployment rate (%) [*]	14.1	10.2
Youth unemployment rate (%) [*]	34.8	22.2
Public debt (% of GDP)	128	85.4
Gender pay gap (%)	13	16.4
At-risk-of-poverty rate (%)	27.4	24.5
Human development index	23	(EU-28 ranking)
Corruption perception index [*]	14	(EU-28 ranking)

Sources: Eurostat/UNDP/Transparency International
 All data is from 2013 except where ^{*} indicates 2014
 See notes to tables in Annex 2

“Cooperation with Norwegian partners is very important because Norway has extensive experience in areas where Portugal needs to upgrade its capacity and expertise.”

Carlos Dias from the National Health Institute which runs a project to develop a new National Health Survey



Key results 2014-15



#1 ACHIEVEMENT Strengthening social entrepreneurship through support to civil society



27

projects on youth employment which are expected to help over 5 000 young people improve their skills and support more than 2 000 budding entrepreneurs



The NGO Fund Operator organised a large-scale international conference in Lisbon in November 2014 on "Youth Employment and Social Entrepreneurship: New Ways Forward"



#3 ACHIEVEMENT Cultural footprint: arts and education



5

cultural education projects developed with 8 Norwegian partners exporting the celebrated Norwegian 'cultural rucksack' concept



23

cultural events developed



30

artists and cultural professionals trained



300

schoolchildren attended art events



#2 ACHIEVEMENT Exchanging knowledge on geothermal energy exploitation



12

students and professionals from the Azores participated in courses on exploration and exploitation of geothermal energy given by Iceland's United Nations University



Courses have taken place both in Iceland and the Azores

Project snapshot

Drawing on Icelandic geothermal experience

The National Energy Authority of Iceland is a partner in the €4 million GALA renewable energy programme, lending its expertise to build capacity as well as collaborating extensively in the planning and implementation. Led by Electricidade dos Açores (Azores Electricity), a pilot power plant is to be established at the Pico Alto Geothermal field to test the viability and sustainability of geothermal power generation.

Programme link: bit.ly/1ml0Te



Romania

Read more about programmes and projects in Romania:
www.eeagrants.org/romania

Total Funding €306.0M

EEA Grants €190.8M

Norway Grants €115.2M

Programme overview

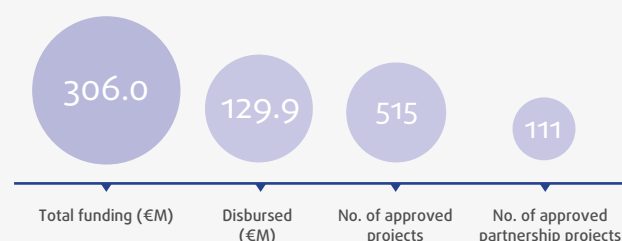
Programme	Partners	Grant (€ million)	
Biodiversity and ecosystem services	Norwegian Environment Agency	15.0	■
Environmental monitoring and integrated planning and control		8.2	■
Reduction of hazardous substances	Norwegian Environment Agency	10.0	■
Energy efficiency and renewable energy		9.0	■
Renewable energy	National Energy Authority (Iceland), Norwegian Water Resources and Energy Directorate	12.3	■
Adaption to climate change		3.2	■
Green industry innovation	Innovation Norway*	29.7	■
NGO Fund		36.3	■
Children and youth at risk	Council of Europe	27.0	■
Gender equality and work-life balance		4.5	■
Cultural heritage and contemporary arts	Directorate of Cultural Heritage (Norway)	15.7	■
Diversity in culture and arts	Arts Council Norway	6.8	■
Research cooperation	Research Council of Norway, Icelandic Centre for Research	20.0	■
Scholarships	Icelandic Centre for Research, Agency for International Education Affairs (Liechtenstein), Norwegian Centre for International Cooperation in Education	4.5	■
Decent work and tripartite dialogue	Innovation Norway*	1.2	■
Capacity building and institutional cooperation	Norwegian Radiation Protection Authority	6.0	■
Public health initiatives		22.6	■
Domestic and gender-based violence	Council of Europe, National Police Directorate (Norway)	4.0	■
Schengen and cross-border crime	National Police Directorate (Norway)	5.3	■
Judicial capacity building	Council of Europe, National Courts Administration	8.0	■
Correctional services	Directorate of Norwegian Correctional services	8.0	■
Poverty alleviation		20.0	■

■ Norway Grants ■ EEA Grants *Programme Operator

Priority areas of support

- Supporting judicial reform, tackling cross-border and organised crime
- Improving the situation of vulnerable groups, including the Roma population
- Boosting green innovation and entrepreneurship
- Strengthening civil society to promote social justice, democracy and sustainable development

Implementation status



All data extracted end April 2015

Country facts

	Romania	EU-28
GDP per capita in PPS (EU=100)	55	100
Economic growth (% change on previous year)	3.5	0.1
Unemployment rate (%)*	6.8	10.2
Youth unemployment rate (%)*	24	22.2
Public debt (% of GDP)	38	85.4
Gender pay gap (%)	9.1	16.4
At-risk-of-poverty rate (%)	40.4	24.5
Human development index	27	(EU-28 ranking)
Corruption perception index*	25	(EU-28 ranking)

Sources: Eurostat/UNDP/Transparency International
 All data is from 2013 except where * indicates 2014
 See notes to tables in Annex 2

Key results 2014-15



#1 ACHIEVEMENT Increasing the efficiency of justice



2 696

legal professionals and court staff trained
in the new criminal codes, human rights and
court management



#2 ACHIEVEMENT Supporting research



444

researchers and **87**
research institutions are involved in joint research
projects involving donor countries



26%

of the funding targets
improvements for the
Roma population



204

doctoral and
post-doctoral
researchers funded



#3 ACHIEVEMENT Strengthening civil society



30

NGOs participated in partnerships
including with local government



12

NGOs established
strategies to
defend rights of
vulnerable groups



7

NGO coalitions
or networks
developed



#4 ACHIEVEMENT Improving public health services and reducing health inequalities



695

people have
benefited from
improved health
information and
health services



166

students and health
professionals
received training to
improve their skills

Snapshot of projects

Social inclusion for Roma

Norway Grants has allocated €20 million to poverty alleviation in Romania. Donor project partners include the Norwegian branch of the Salvation Army and the City of Oslo.

One project focuses on the Pata Rata settlement on the outskirts of Cluj-Napoca. The Roma people living here have made their living from the collection and trading of waste on the local landfill site; the site will close in 2015. The project is helping 300 families living in the area prepare for the closure. A wide range of measures are helping people to have more control of their lives, from gaining access to adequate education, health and other social services, to building cooperation with different stakeholders, including civil society.

Project promoter: Intercommunity Development Association Cluj Metropolitan Area

Grant amount: €2 million

Project link: bit.ly/1dIW1U8

“Romania faces serious challenges relating to poverty and social exclusion, particularly among the Roma people. This is why we are allocating funds from the Norway Grants to improve their living conditions”

Vidar Helgesen, Norwegian Minister of EEA and EU Affairs



Therapeutic centre for women prisoners

Norway's Bredtveit women's prison is providing expertise for the development of a therapeutic community at Gherla women's prison, based on its best practices and experience in the area. The project involves developing special recovery programs to help prisoners reintegrate into society after they have served their sentence. The project will also improve the professional competence of prison staff in working with vulnerable groups. The project will bring benefits not just to Gherla, but more widely to the whole prison system in how to work with and assist vulnerable groups.

Project promoter: National Administration of Penitentiaries from Romania

Grant amount: €1 million

Project link: bit.ly/1QLGVyz



Slovakia

Read more about programmes and projects in Slovakia:
www.eaagrants.org/slovakia

Total Funding

€80.8M

EEA Grants

€38.4M

Norway Grants

€42.4M

Programme overview

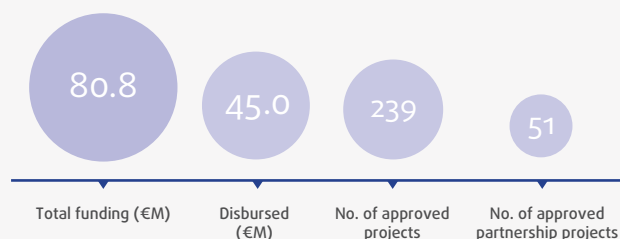
Programme	Partners	Grant (€ million)	
Adaptation to climate change	Norwegian Directorate for Civil Protection, Norwegian Water Resources and Energy Directorate	12.5	■
Green industry innovation	Innovation Norway	16.1	■
NGO Fund		7.4	■
Local and regional initiatives	Council of Europe	1.0	■
Cross-border cooperation	Norwegian Barents Secretariat	13.4	■
Cultural and natural heritage		11.9	■
Scholarships	Icelandic Centre for Research, Agency for International Education Affairs (Liechtenstein), Norwegian Centre for International Cooperation in Education	1.9	■
Decent work and tripartite dialogue	Innovation Norway*	0.4	■
Domestic and gender-based violence	Norwegian Directorate of Health, Council of Europe	8.4	■

■ Norway Grants ■ EEA Grants *Programme Operator

Priority areas of support

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

Implementation status



All data extracted end April 2015

Country facts

	Slovakia	EU-28
GDP per capita in PPS (EU=100)	75	100
Economic growth (% change on previous year)	0.9	0.1
Unemployment rate (%)*	13.2	10.2
Youth unemployment rate (%)*	30.4	22.2
Public debt (% of GDP)	54.6	85.4
Gender pay gap (%)	19.8	16.4
At-risk-of-poverty rate (%)	19.8	24.5
Human development index	21	(EU-28 ranking)
Corruption perception index*	23	(EU-28 ranking)

Sources: Eurostat/UNDP/Transparency International
 All data is from 2013 except where * indicates 2014
 See notes to tables in Annex 2

Key results 2014-15



#1 ACHIEVEMENT Supporting victims of domestic and gender-based violence



5

women's shelter
and crisis centres
supported



45

professionals trained
on reducing gender-
based violence



#2 ACHIEVEMENT Strengthening civil society



409

people received
improved access to
welfare services



9

NGOs working
with vulnerable
groups



2

laws or policies and
practices changed
or improved as a
consequence of
NGO action



18

projects carried
out in partnership
with Norwegian
and Icelandic
organisations (14 %)



4

local citizen action initiatives organised such
as petitions, contact with parliamentarians
and meetings bringing citizens and
government together

Project snapshot

Creating job opportunities for Roma

In Slovakia, the unemployment rate among the Roma population is around 80 percent. In the eastern part of the country, Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway are helping create employment opportunities for the Roma through organic farming. The organic farm Malinka in Rudlov is being renovated and expanded, creating at least ten new jobs and helping to secure already existing ones.

"It is necessary to have a long-term perspective and to work systematically to help include marginalised groups like the Roma into society. We hope that our project can serve as inspiration for other projects in Slovakia."

Štefan Straka, Director, Svatobor

Project promoter: Svatobor

Grant amount: €60 000

Project link: bit.ly/1eiSCul



Slovenia

Read more about programmes and projects in Slovenia:
www.eeagrants.org/slovenia

Total Funding €26.9M

EEA Grants €12.5M

Norway Grants €14.4M

Programme overview

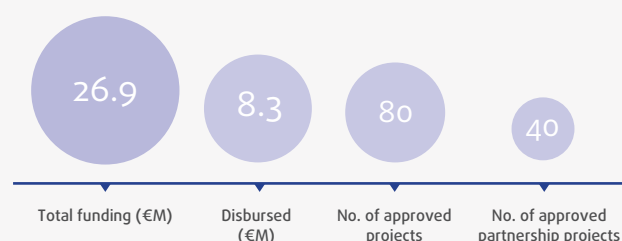
Programme	Partners	Grant (€ million)	
Biodiversity and ecosystem services		1.9	■
Environmental monitoring and integrated planning and control	Norwegian Mapping Authority, National Land Survey of Iceland	2.0	■
NGO Fund		1.9	■
Public health initiatives	Norwegian Institute of Public Health	10.1	■
Gender equality and work-life balance		1.5	■
Cultural and natural heritage	Norwegian Directorate for Cultural Heritage, Arts Council Norway	4.9	■
Scholarships	Icelandic Centre for Research, Agency for International Education Affairs (Liechtenstein), Norwegian Centre for International Cooperation in Education	1.8	■ ■
Decent work and tripartite dialogue	Innovation Norway*	0.1	■

■ Norway Grants ■ EEA Grants *Programme Operator

Priority areas of support

- Reducing health inequalities and improving mental health services
- Protecting biodiversity and improving environmental monitoring and control
- Increasing educational mobility between Slovenia and Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway
- Promoting gender equality and work-life balance

Implementation status



All data extracted end April 2015

Country facts

	Slovenia	EU-28
GDP per capita in PPS (EU=100)	82	100
Economic growth (% change on previous year)	-1.1	0.1
Unemployment rate (%)*	9.8	10.2
Youth unemployment rate (%)*	21.7	22.2
Public debt (% of GDP)	70.4	85.4
Gender pay gap (%)	3.2	16.4
At-risk-of-poverty rate (%)	20.4	24.5
Human development index	12	(EU-28 ranking)
Corruption perception index*	17	(EU-28 ranking)

Sources: Eurostat/UNDP/Transparency International
 All data is from 2013 except where * indicates 2014
 See notes to tables in Annex 2

Conference: exchanging experience on European integration

An international conference entitled 'Different models of past and future European integration – a look from inside and outside the EU' was held in Ljubljana in October 2014. It brought together government representatives from Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway, Slovenia and other countries across the EU, as well as from research institutions, NGOs and think tanks.

"Such forms of creative cooperation should continue to be developed, as they will benefit all partners."

Karl Erjavec, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Slovenia

Key results 2014-15



#1 ACHIEVEMENT Enhancing educational cooperation



99

teachers and educational staff from secondary and higher education levels involved in exchanges



74

students involved in educational exchanges



63

educational staff improved their skills through exchanges



#2 ACHIEVEMENT Strengthening civil society



28

NGO coalitions or networks developed, such as a new network promoting female social entrepreneurship



8

laws or policies changed or improved due to NGO advocacy work

Project snapshot

Female participation in politics

Despite some progress, women in Slovenia continue to be under-represented in politics and business. One project – OPENN – running under the gender programme is working to identify barriers that hinder greater female participation in politics. The aim is to propose some concrete solutions, which will include new proposals for legislation and awareness raising campaigns.

The Norwegian Association for Local and Regional Authorities is participating as a partner.

“Norway has had a relatively high percentage of female participation in politics at senior levels for many decades. We have seen how important that is, not only for democracy but also in helping to shape legislation, the welfare state and society in general.”

Liss Schanke, Norwegian Association for Local and Regional Authorities

Project promoter: Peace Institute

Grant amount: €248 355

Project link: bit.ly/1FazMMt



Spain

Read more about programmes and projects in Spain:
www.eeagrants.org/spain

EEA Grants **€45.9M**

Programme overview

Programme	Partners	Grant (€ million)
Environmental and climate change-related research and technology	Innovation Norway	18.2
NGO Fund		4.6
Gender equality and work-life balance	Norwegian Equality and Anti-Discrimination Ombud	10.2
Cultural and natural heritage		4.1
Diversity in culture and arts	Norwegian Embassy*	0.5
Scholarships	Icelandic Centre for Research, Agency for International Education Affairs (Liechtenstein), Norwegian Centre for International Cooperation in Education	3.9

■ EEA Grants *Programme Operator

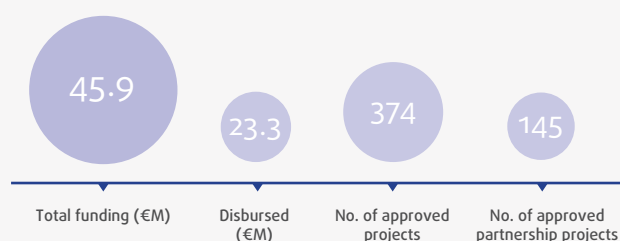
Spanish photographer Begoña Antón Arias spent two months at an artistic residency known as Listhús in Iceland supported by the cultural diversity programme.
 Picture from the exhibition "Lady Winter"



Priority areas of support

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

Implementation status



All data extracted end April 2015

Country facts

	Spain	EU-28
GDP per capita in PPS (EU=100)	94	100
Economic growth (% change on previous year)	-1.2	0.1
Unemployment rate (%)*	24.5	10.2
Youth unemployment rate (%)*	53.2	22.2
Public debt (% of GDP)	92.1	85.4
Gender pay gap (%)	19.3	16.4
At-risk-of-poverty rate (%)	27.3	24.5
Human development index	14	(EU-28 ranking)
Corruption perception index*	16	(EU-28 ranking)

Sources: Eurostat/UNDP/Transparency International
 All data is from 2013 except where * indicates 2014
 See notes to tables in Annex 2

Key results 2014-15



#1 ACHIEVEMENT Developing environmental and climate change research and technologies



169

research and development projects running involving 183 Spanish companies; 46 involve partners from the donor countries (42 from Norway and 4 from Iceland)



1 in 4

of the researchers taking part in the projects is female



147

contracts signed between companies and universities/ research centres



#3 ACHIEVEMENT Enhancing educational cooperation



137

students participated in exchanges with the donor countries



75

researchers involved in exchanges with the donor countries



#2 ACHIEVEMENT Promoting female entrepreneurship



150

women from vulnerable groups taking part in job skills training



69

Gender balance improved in 69 company boards



6

schools have put equality plans in place



#4 ACHIEVEMENT Promoting cultural diversity and exchange



8

cooperation projects between cultural organisations from Spain and partners from the donor countries



19

artists and performers received grants to take part in an exchange with the donor countries

Project snapshot



More women in leadership

Only 17% of board members in the world's biggest companies are women. The 'Promociona' project, financed by Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway, may be just one small step on the way to change this, but it's making big waves.

Promociona seeks to encourage a higher number of women executives on steering committees and boards of directors. The first round finished on 22 January 2015, with excellent results: 7 out of 40 women participants were promoted and a second round with a further 70 top female managers taking part is underway.

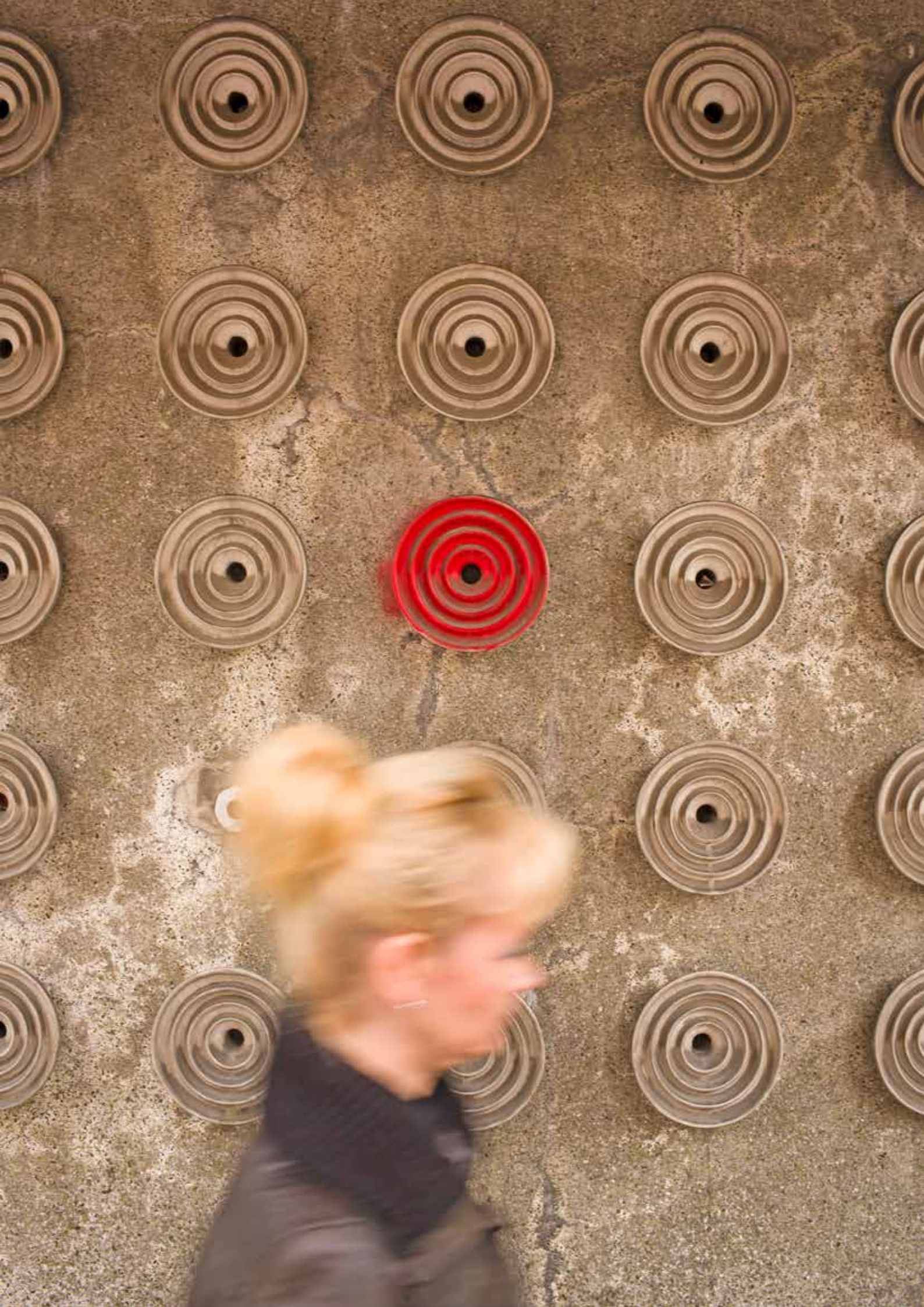
Forty female managers from some of the biggest companies in Spain including Renault, Iberdrola, Indra and Siemens received business training, mentoring and coaching in one of the best business schools in Spain in order to improve their skills. Engineer, Beatriz de Dios, Head of the Quality Department in Renault Valladolid, who was promoted after taking part in this project said:

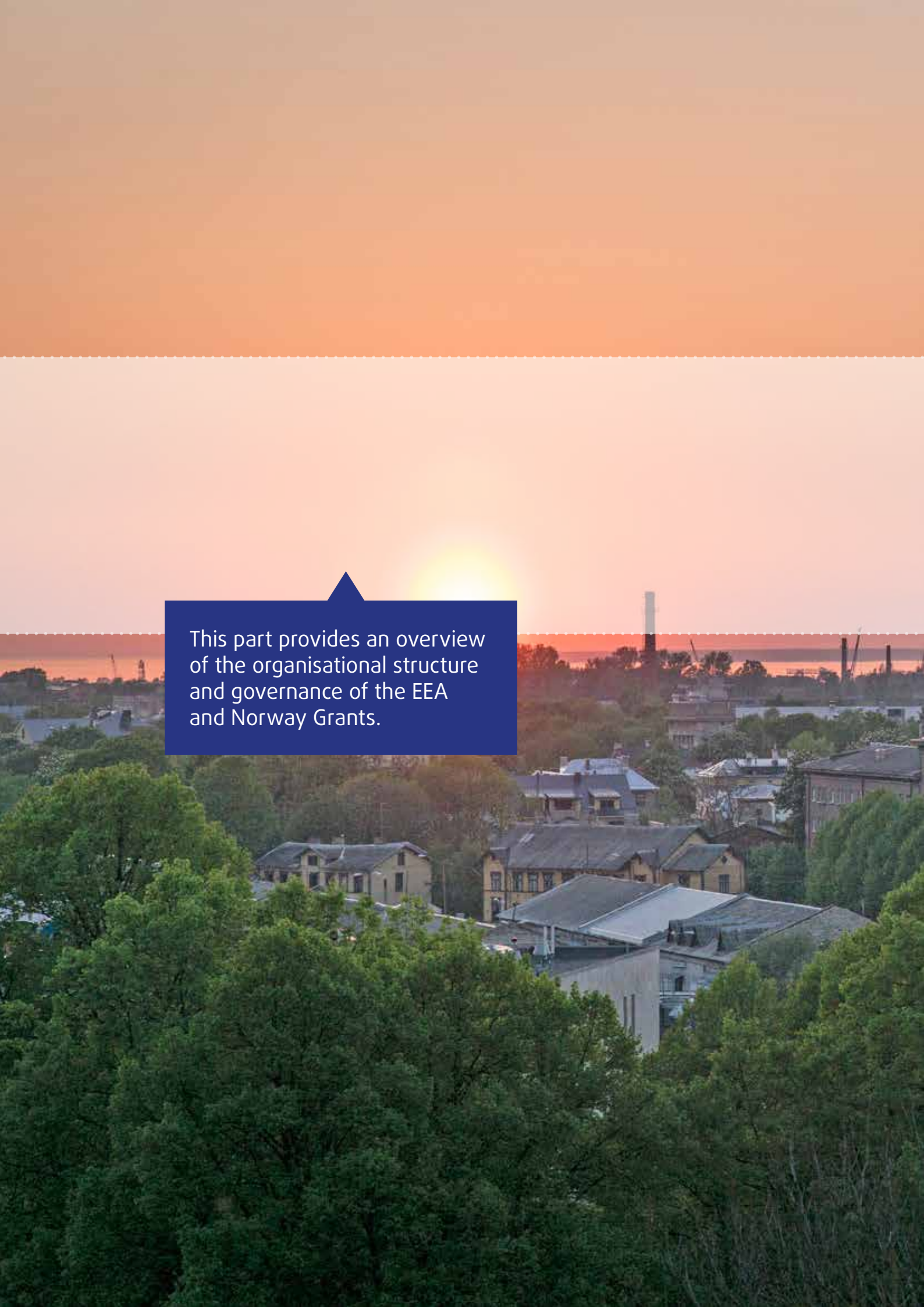
"I must admit that when my company offered me the opportunity to take part in this project I hesitated because of the 'women only' label. But the experience couldn't have been more positive. The programme is very good and the management excellent."

Project promoter: Spanish Confederation of Business Organizations

Grant amount: €578 000

Project link: bit.ly/1RA4Izq



The background image is a scenic view of a city at sunset. The sky is a gradient of orange and yellow, with the sun low on the horizon. In the foreground, there are dense green trees. In the middle ground, there are several buildings, including a large one with a grey roof. In the background, there are industrial structures like chimneys and cranes. A large blue speech bubble with a white border is positioned in the center-left of the image, containing white text.

This part provides an overview of the organisational structure and governance of the EEA and Norway Grants.

MANAGING THE GRANTS



Managing the Grants

Organisational structure

Public institutions in the donor and beneficiary countries share responsibilities for managing the EEA and Norway Grants.

The **Financial Mechanism Committee (FMC)** is the decision-making body for the EEA Grants. The committee consists of representatives from 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.

53

fixed-term staff positions, encompassing 13 different nationalities

point for the beneficiary countries. As of 31 December 2014, the FMO had 53 fixed-term staff positions, encompassing 13 different nationalities.

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



Each beneficiary country has a **National Focal Point (NFP)**, responsible overall for achieving the objectives of the Grants, as well as overall management and control of their programmes. Most of the NFPs are located within relevant ministries, or public agencies that also have responsibility for managing EU funds. The NFP also represents the beneficiary country in its relations with the FMC and the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs regarding the Grants.

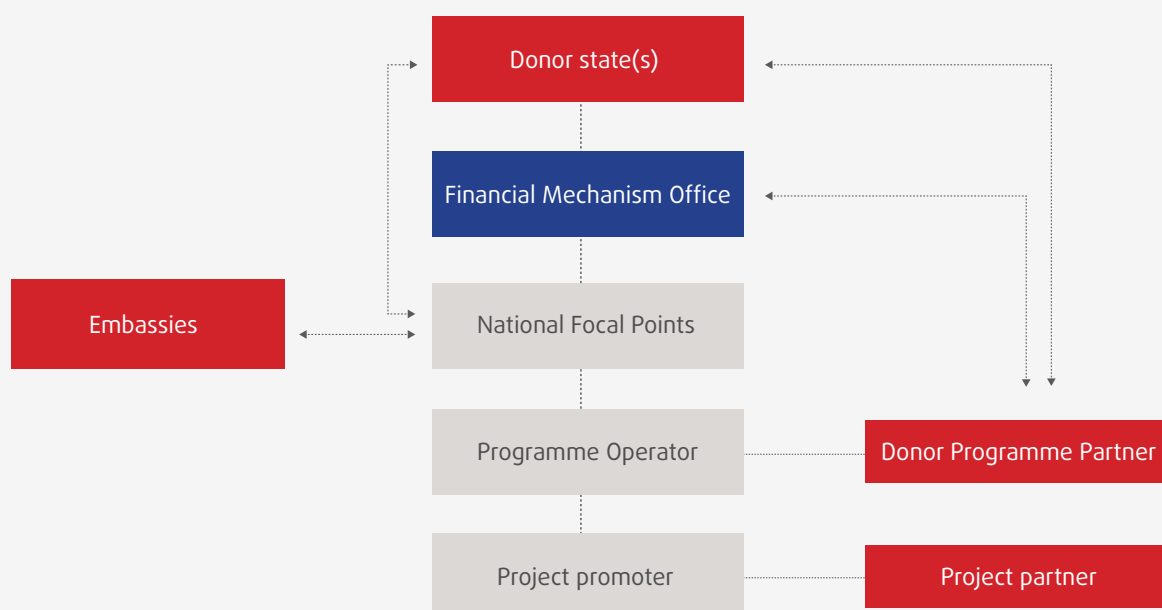
Each **Programme Operator (PO)** is responsible for awarding funding to projects according to agreed criteria, monitoring project implementation and achieving results. In most cases the PO is a public institution.

Programme Operators often work in close cooperation with a **Donor Programme Partner (DPP)**. DPPs are public bodies from Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway with national mandates in their respective fields. They work with their counterparts in beneficiary countries to:

- provide expertise and strategic advice on programme planning and implementation
- facilitate networking and help project promoters find project partners in donor countries



Organisations involved in the management of the EEA and Norway Grants



Cooperation through bilateral programmes and projects provides an arena for exchange of knowledge, mutual learning from best practice and developing joint policies.

In total, there are 24 DPPs from Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway involved in the current funding period. In addition to partners from the donor countries, the Council of Europe is also a DPP in a number of programmes.

24
DPPs from Iceland,
Liechtenstein and
Norway

The donor **Embassies** in the beneficiary countries, in particular those of Norway, take part in the dialogue between the donor and beneficiary countries and play an important role in communicating the results of the Grants.

- See Annex 3 for a list of Donor Programme Partners involved in each beneficiary country.
- Read more about our partnership with the Council of Europe and other international organisations in Part 1: Our cooperation.

Managing for results

Results-based management helps to ensure that programmes are more focused on what they will achieve and take an evidence-based approach to what works well and what could be improved.

In 2014/15, the focus has been on implementation. By end of April 2015, the disbursement rate stood at 46%. A total of 4 149 projects had been contracted, of which 1 056 (25%) had a donor project partner. More projects are still being prepared.

The Office of the Auditor General of Norway published an investigation into the contribution of the EEA and Norway Grants to achieving its objectives of reducing social and economic disparities in 2013.¹ The report found that the 2009 – 2014 programme approach with defined objectives and expected outcomes should improve the achievement of goals.

In line with the Auditor's recommendations, the number of performance indicators has been reduced and their quality improved. The FMO has also undertaken extensive training in beneficiary countries to improve the quality of information on projects and ensure that results are consistently and reliably reported. Reporting templates have been developed to focus annual reports on the achievement of results. Programme progress is regularly assessed through annual meetings and other visits based on a risk-based approach. A semi-annual risk assessment is undertaken which feeds into business processes.

1. http://www.riksrevisjonen.no/en/Reports/Documents/Documentbase_3_15_2012_2013.pdf



Good governance

Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway are committed to the principles of good governance, including transparency, accountability, effectiveness and efficiency.

Monitoring and control systems

Each beneficiary country is obliged to establish a certifying authority and a separate auditing authority. These organisations are independent of the National Focal Point and must be established at the outset, before any funds are committed.

The management and control systems established in the beneficiary countries ensure reliable accounting, monitoring and financial reporting systems.

The auditing responsibility lies firstly with the beneficiary countries. The designated audit authority submits an audit strategy for each programme and reports annually on audits carried out. In addition, the FMO arranges audits and on-the-spot inspections of programmes and projects to verify the effective functioning of the management and control systems.

Irregularities

The donors have a zero-tolerance policy to corruption and mismanagement. In line with the public access and transparency policy, a quarterly irregularities report is made accessible to the public. If any resources are unduly paid or lost due to corruption, fraud or mismanagement, the beneficiary country is responsible for refunding the donor countries either by reclaiming it from the project promoter or from their own national funds.

Risk management

Risk management is an integral part of the management framework of the EEA and Norway Grants and a tool to help achieve goals and expected results. Transparency International (TI) is a strategic partner of the Grants and focuses on corruption prevention.

TI offers advice to the FMO and the National Focal Points and is helping to assess the potential exposure to corruption risk in the Grants. TI also participates in the annual risk seminar. In 2014, the seminar focused on results and risk management in the EEA and Norway Grants. Key findings and main mitigating actions highlighted in the reports on potential corruption risks in the beneficiary countries and programmes, prepared by TI, were also discussed.

Training and capacity building

In order to ensure a full understanding of roles, responsibilities and the regulation for the 2009-2014 funding period, a large number of seminars and workshops have been organised for those involved in the management of programmes including: Focal Points, Programme Operators, Donor Programme Partners, donor country embassies, potential beneficiaries and partners.

Donor management costs

The ceiling for donor management costs is 7.5% for the EEA and Norway Grants 2009 – 2014. In addition to management costs for running the FMO, this includes participation costs of donor programme partners, appraisal, monitoring, evaluation, audit and costs linked to the functions of the Financial Mechanism Committee.



The 2004 – 2009 Grants

In 2014, further progress was made to complete and formally close the 2004-2009 financial period. All projects in 11 out of 15 beneficiary countries were closed. Total disbursements at the end of 2014 were €1.1 billion. This is equivalent to an overall disbursement rate of 88% (compared to net allocations).

Table: Project status and disbursements per country by end-December 2014

Beneficiary State	Projects	Current commitment* (€ million)	Disbursement* (€ million)	Disbursed % of net allocation**
Bulgaria**	65	37.0	31.9	81.94%
Cyprus	6	4.4	4.3	97.65%
Czech Republic	144	104.6	101.9	96.29%
Estonia	35	30.4	29.2	93.48%
Greece	38	22.7	14.5	44.06%
Hungary	90	112.5	107.0	83.02%
Latvia	75	49.7	45.9	89.51%
Lithuania	84	61.9	58.4	91.06%
Malta	8	3.4	3.4	98.70%
Poland	418	517.3	496.0	92.97%
Portugal	32	28.8	26.4	87.68%
Romania**	71	88.5	71.7	77.55%
Slovakia	95	58.8	56.0	83.49%
Slovenia	25	17.4	16.5	93.07%
Spain	20	39.8	33.6	76.41%
Total	1 206	1 172.7	1 096.8	88.03%

* Includes appraisal, monitoring and evaluation.

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

*** Includes Norway Grants funded projects administrated by Innovation Norway in Bulgaria and Romania 2007-2009.



A photograph of a modern glass-fronted building. The glass panels reflect a historic brick church tower with a tall spire. The building's facade is composed of a grid of glass panels separated by dark frames. At the bottom of the image, there are brick pillars and a metal structure with a lamp. The word "ANNEXES" is written in large, bold, blue capital letters across the middle of the image.

ANNEXES

Annex 1

Allocations by priority sector and country (€ million)

Priority Sector	BG	HR	CY	CZ	EE	GR	HU	LV	LT	MT	PL	PT	RO	SK	SI	ES	Total
Environmental protection and management	16.00		1.16	15.35	5.93	9.51		2.07	11.34	0.86	36.08	19.25	33.18		3.86		154.60
Climate change	13.26			3.07	0.97	9.51	23.13	8.29	0.18	0.47	75.00	7.00	24.59	12.46		18.22	196.15
Civil society	11.79	0.95	1.32	11.37	2.30	7.34	13.50	10.37	5.50	0.50	37.00	8.70	36.33	7.40	1.88	4.59	160.82
Human and social development	14.28	3.40	0.39	3.98	6.51	25.14	11.22		6.31		19.84	12.50	31.52	1.00		10.19	146.27
Protecting cultural heritage	14.00		0.62	21.49	4.51		12.62	10.02	10.00	0.80	71.20	5.00	22.50	11.92	4.95	4.59	194.22
Research and scholarships	1.50			0.31	0.60	3.00	2.98	0.52	1.42		5.00		24.50	1.92	0.63	3.92	46.28
Technical assistance	0.98	0.08	0.06	0.92	0.35	0.75	1.05	0.52	0.58	0.03	1.63	0.87	1.36	0.58	0.19	0.69	10.62
Funds for bilateral relations / beneficiary country admin	0.39	0.20	0.02	0.31	0.12	0.32	0.35	0.17	0.19	0.01	1.13	0.29	0.95	0.19	0.06	0.23	4.94
Reserve for projects under 2004-09 period	0.50	-	-	-	-	3.08	-	-	-	-	-	-	1.51	-	-	-	5.09
Net allocation: EEA Grants	72.71	4.63	3.56	56.80	21.28	58.65	64.84	31.96	35.52	2.68	246.88	53.60	176.44	35.47	11.56	42.41	918.99
Carbon capture and storage				5.02													5.02
Green industry innovation	13.70				6.00		22.88	11.33	8.00		89.15*		29.70	16.07			196.83
Decent work and tripartite dialogue	0.48	0.10	0.04	0.70	0.26		0.83	0.38	0.46	0.02	3.11		1.15	0.42	0.14		8.10
Research and scholarships				18.04	4.00		24.13	4.99			73.18				1.22		125.57
Human and social development	9.78	0.35	1.88	24.35	10.91		27.46	4.99	14.00	0.29	66.00		48.60	13.37	11.67		233.65
Justice and home affairs	19.70	3.65	1.70	15.37	2.00			13.06	18.81	1.15	40.63		25.30	8.44			149.80
Protecting cultural heritage											10.00						10.00
Technical assistance	0.42	0.07	0.06	1.06	0.38	-	1.25	0.58	0.68	0.02	4.24	-	1.23	0.64	0.22	-	10.83
Funds for bilateral relations / beneficiary country admin	0.24	0.08	0.02	0.58	0.13	-	0.42	0.19	0.23	0.01	1.56	-	0.58	0.28	0.07	-	4.38
Reserve for projects under 2004-09 period	0.08	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.08
Net allocation: Norway Grants	44.40	4.26	3.70	65.12	23.68	-	76.96	35.52	42.18	1.48	287.86	-	106.56	39.22	13.32	-	744.26
Donor management costs																	98.90
Donor programme partner technical assistance																	35.96
TOTAL	126.60	9.60	7.85	131.80	48.60	63.40	153.30	72.95	84.00	4.50	578.10	57.95	305.95	80.75	26.90	45.85	1 798.1

* Includes €70 million for the Polish energy efficiency programme which contributes towards the objectives of the climate change priority.

Annex 2

Explanatory notes on the indicators in the country overviews

Indicator	Description ¹
GDP per capita (in PPS)	Gross domestic product (GDP) 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 purchasing power standards (PPS) eliminates differences in price levels between countries while calculations on a per head basis allow 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 people 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: currency and deposits; securities other than shares excluding financial derivatives; and loans. General government sector comprises the sub-sector: central government; state government; local government; and social security funds.
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.
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 who are severely materially deprived or living in households with very low work intensity.
Human development index (EU-28 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 (EU-28 ranking)	The corruption perception index (CPI) is an aggregate indicator that brings together a number of different sources that capture perceptions of corruption within the past two years.

¹ Sources: Eurostat for all indicators except Human Development Index (UNDP) and Corruption Perception Index (Transparency International)

Annex 3

Donor programme partners by beneficiary country

Donor Programme Partner	Country	Bulgaria	Croatia	Cyprus	Czech Republic	Estonia
Arts Council Norway	Norway				■	
Agency for International Education Affairs	Liechtenstein	■			■	■
Norwegian Barents Secretariat	Norway	■				
Norwegian Directorate for Children, Youth and Family Affairs	Norway					■
Council of Europe		■	■	■	■	
Norwegian Courts Administration	Norway					
Norwegian Directorate for Civil Protection	Norway					
Norwegian Institute of Public Health	Norway				■	■
Norwegian Directorate of Health	Norway					■
Innovation Norway	Norway					■
Directorate of Norwegian Correctional Service	Norway					
Norwegian Association of Local and Regional Authorities	Norway	■				■
Secretariat of the Shelter Movement	Norway			■		
Equality and Anti-discrimination Ombud	Norway					
Norwegian Environment Agency	Norway	■			■	■
Research Council of Norway	Norway				■	■
Norwegian Water Resources and Energy Administration	Norway	■				
National Energy Authority	Iceland					
National Police Directorate	Norway	■				
Directorate of Cultural Heritage	Norway					■
Icelandic Centre for Research	Iceland	■			■	■
Norwegian Centre for International Cooperation in Education	Norway	■			■	■
Norwegian Radiation Protection Authority	Norway					
Norwegian Directorate of Immigration	Norway					
Norwegian Agency for Lifelong Learning	Norway					

Total number of DPPs: 24

	Country										
	Greece	Hungary	Latvia	Lithuania	Malta	Poland	Portugal	Romania	Slovakia	Slovenia	Spain
1											
2											
3											
4											
5											
6											
7											
8											
9											
10											
11											
12											
13											
14											
15											
16											
17											
18											
19											
20											
21											
22											
23											
24											
25											
26											
27											
28											
29											
30											
31											
32											
33											
34											
35											
36											
37											
38											
39											
40											
41											
42											
43											
44											
45											
46											
47											
48											
49											
50											
51											
52											
53											
54											
55											
56											
57											
58											
59											
60											
61											
62											
63											
64											
65											
66											
67											
68											
69											
70											
71											
72											
73											
74											
75											
76											
77											
78											
79											
80											
81											
82											
83											
84											
85											
86											
87											
88											
89											
90											
91											
92											
93											
94											
95											
96											
97											
98											
99											
100											

Photo credits

All photos in this year's report were taken by Christophe Vander Eecken except the following:

Financial Mechanism Office: Pg. 23, 26, 28, 29, 32, 33, 63, 78, 81.

Pg. 6: Sugar David

Pg. 8-9: Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs (NMFA) / NGO Platform for Social Action

Pg. 12: NGO Platform for Social Action

Pg. 14-15: Adam Rostkowski

Pg. 17: FotoSviat.bg

Pg. 22: Total Waste Management

Pg. 23: Ingeborg Thorsland / Mariola Godlewska / Agency for International Education Affairs

Pg. 25: Adam Rostkowski

Pg. 26: Donald Weber (Sea Change)

Pg. 27: LGL

Pg. 28: Evgenia Levin

Pg. 29: LGL / OZ Vagus

Pg. 31: Central Board of Prison Service

Pg. 32: Council of Europe / Benedicte Kurzen (Sea Change)

Pg. 34-35: Siv Dolmen / Council of Europe / Norwegian

Courts Administration / Ingeborg Thorsland

Pg. 42-43: NMFA / The Association for the Prevention and Handling of Violence in the Family

Pg. 45: Royal Norwegian Embassy in Prague

Pg. 47: Eino Kink - Äripäev

Pg. 48: Solidarity Now

Pg. 51: Fraternal Association of European Roma Law Enforcement Officers

Pg. 55: Human Rights Monitoring Institute

Pg. 57: Write Deal Association

Pg. 62: Norwegian Institute for Public Health

Pg. 66: Jens Petter Søråa, Adresseavisen

Pg. 69: Štefan Straka

Pg. 71: Peace Institute

Pg. 72: Hugo Atman

Design by **karakas**



