



EEA GRANTS
NORWAY GRANTS

Programme areas

2009-2014



December 2010

Support by country 2009-14



Norway

3 donor states

15 beneficiary states

2009-14: €1.79 billion

EEA Grants

€988.5 million financed by
Iceland, Liechtenstein
and Norway (95%)

Norway Grants

€800 million financed
by Norway

Portugal
€58 million

Spain
€45.9 million

Poland
€578.1 million

Czech Republic
€131.8 million

Liechtenstein

Hungary
€153.3 million

Slovenia
€26.9 million

Estonia
€48.6 million

Latvia
€73 million

Lithuania
€84 million

Slovakia
€80.8 million

Romania
€306 million

Bulgaria
€126.6 million

Greece
€63.4 million

Malta
€4.5 million

Cyprus
€7.9 million

The **EEA Grants** and **Norway Grants** are Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway's contribution to reducing economic and social disparities in the European Economic Area and to the strengthening of bilateral relations with the **15 beneficiary states** in Central and Southern Europe.

This booklet presents the **32 programme areas** of the EEA Grants and Norway Grants 2009-14. The specific **priorities in each beneficiary state** will be agreed in the Memoranda of Understanding.

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NORWAY GRANTS

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EEA GRANTS

2009-14



Priority sector:
Environmental Protection and Management

EEA GRANTS
2009-14

Integrated Marine and Inland Water Management

Objective

Good environmental status in European
marine and inland waters

Expected outcomes

- More integrated management of marine and inland water resources
- Established environmental targets and management plans for marine and inland waters
- Improved water management infrastructure
- Improved monitoring of marine waters
- Increased capacity for assessing and predicting environmental status in marine and inland waters
- Increased awareness of and education in integrated marine and inland water management

The EEA Financial Mechanism shall contribute to the reduction of economic and social disparities in the European Economic Area, and to strengthening the bilateral relations between the EEA EFTA States – Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway – and the Beneficiary States. The programme area shall contribute to these two overall objectives.



Relevance of support

Implementing sustainable marine and inland water management is a key environmental challenge linked to biodiversity, eutrophication, climate change and chemicals. Traditionally, different sectors and different aspects of freshwater and marine ecosystems have been considered separately. In recent years, however, a more comprehensive and holistic approach has been introduced, in particular through the implementation of the EU Water Framework Directive (Directive 2000/60/EC) and the adoption of the EU Marine Strategy Framework Directive (Directive 2008/56/EC).

This approach to management of water regions and marine regions, ecological targets and cross-sectoral cooperation and responsibilities, poses significant challenges. The interests of the agricultural, aquaculture and fisheries sectors, energy production (hydro power, wind power), tourism and environmental protection must be evaluated.

A report from 2008 by the European Environmental Agency (EEA), "Impacts of Europe's changing climate", concludes that there is an increased risk of floods and droughts. The protection of wetlands will both contribute to conservation of nature and the mitigation of greenhouse gases. Active management of ecosystems is necessary in order to enhance natural resilience to climate change.

The EU Water Framework Directive sets up a process for the development of ambitious and ecosystem-based environmental goals. Environmental measures will be selected on a cross-sectoral basis and be more targeted and cost-effective. The implementation of the Water Framework Directive will be of great significance for protected areas, water quality, human health, climate change and renewable energy. The EU Marine Strategy Framework Directive also sets up a process for the development of ambitious and ecosystem-based environmental goals. It includes development of marine strategies, with the aim of achieving "good environmental status" by 2020 at the latest. The Marine Strategy Framework Directive is the environmental pillar of the broader EU Maritime Policy.

The EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region, adopted in June 2009, stresses the poor state of the Baltic Sea, which further underpins the need for a holistic approach to improve the environmental status of the Baltic Sea Region.

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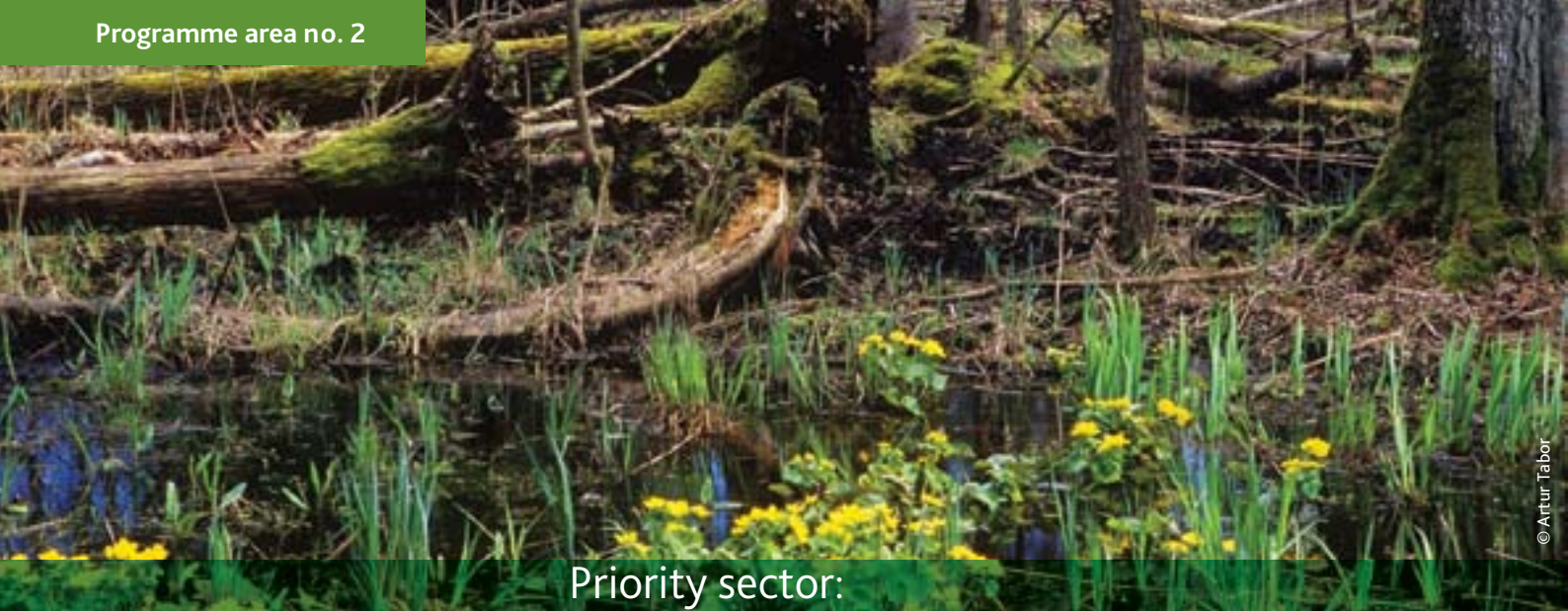
Suggested activities

- Develop methods, e.g. analysis of measures and water quality criteria systems related to implementation of the Water Framework Directive
- Develop catchment models for the simulation of pressures, impacts, end effects of measures and development of new environmental measures and instruments
- Support measures to promote cross-sectoral cooperation on marine and inland water management at national and regional level
- Support measures to strengthen water basin authorities' capacity to implement integrated water resources management
- Support development and implementation of marine strategies at international, national and regional levels
- Implement measures and/or activities related to improving the environmental state of marine and inland waters
- Develop data collection, monitoring and assessment relevant to the implementation of the Marine Strategy Framework Directive and the Water Framework Directive

Programme area specificities

This programme area could be relevant for cooperation between entities in a Beneficiary State and an entity located in a country outside the European Economic Area bordering on the respective Beneficiary State.

Reduce economic and social disparities
Strengthen bilateral relations



Priority sector: Environmental Protection and Management

EEA GRANTS 2009-14

Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services

The EEA Financial Mechanism shall contribute to the reduction of economic and social disparities in the European Economic Area, and to strengthening the bilateral relations between the EEA EFTA States – Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway – and the Beneficiary States. The programme area shall contribute to these two overall objectives.

Objective

Halt loss of biodiversity

Expected outcomes

- Increased capacity to manage and monitor Natura 2000 sites effectively
- Avoided fragmentation of ecosystems
- Increased protection of Natura 2000 sites against external disruptive influences through the establishment of buffer zones
- Increased protection of native ecosystems against invasive alien species
- Increased awareness of and education in biodiversity and ecosystem services, including awareness of and education in the linkage between biodiversity and climate change, and economic valuation of ecosystems
- Improved integration of biodiversity considerations in sectoral policies and legislation
- Increased capacity within environmental NGOs promoting biodiversity



Relevance of support

In Europe, as well as globally, the importance of biodiversity and the value of ecosystem services are increasingly acknowledged. The possibilities for societies to benefit from ecosystem services now and in the future form the very basis for human development. The UN Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) gives a common framework for targeted biodiversity action worldwide. All European countries are committed to halt the loss of biodiversity by 2010 and the EC Biodiversity Action Plan (2006) is an important policy document in this respect. As reported at the Athens Conference on Biodiversity in April 2009: "Scientific indicators show that the EU's 2010 biodiversity target will not be met." The Athens Declaration underlined that the speed and scale of the loss of biodiversity means that urgent actions are needed, while also recognising the progress made over recent years at EU level.

Natura 2000, based on the Habitats Directive (Council Directive 92/43/EEC), and the Birds Directive (Council Directive 79/409/EEC), is the main legislative instrument for protection of biodiversity within the EU. The designation and approval of Natura 2000 sites is only the first step. There is also a need for additional activities in order to ensure the ecological integrity of the areas and to stimulate a balance between the sustainable use of biodiversity and its strict protection.

The biodiversity conservation debate is currently moving from increasing the number of protected sites to more effective management of the sites. Management of protected areas includes many aspects, such as restoration and maintenance of beneficial activities for biodiversity, monitoring of biodiversity, management effectiveness, and enforcement / information, e.g. through inspectorates.

EU policies and legislation already provide a strong basis to address the biodiversity challenge, but there is also a need for more focus on implementation. According to the 2008 assessment of the Member States' implementation of the EC Biodiversity Action Plan, integration of biodiversity considerations into other sectoral policies remains a key challenge. There is also a need to develop valuation systems for ecosystem services relevant to different policy sectors. Implementation of Natura 2000, the focused work on invasive alien species, biodiversity and climate change and strengthening the knowledge base are also important parts of the Biodiversity Action Plan.

The linkages between climate change and biodiversity are becoming clearer. We cannot halt biodiversity loss without addressing climate change. Likewise, it is impossible to tackle climate change without addressing biodiversity loss.

The EEA and Norway Grants 2004-09 support to biodiversity was reviewed in 2009/10. The projects were considered to be very relevant to the achievement of national and international biodiversity obligations and/or research to establish key data to assist with species and habitats protection and management. However, the review remarked that the number of projects and the amounts committed to biodiversity were modest, and called for an innovative approach when it came to raising public awareness about biodiversity loss.

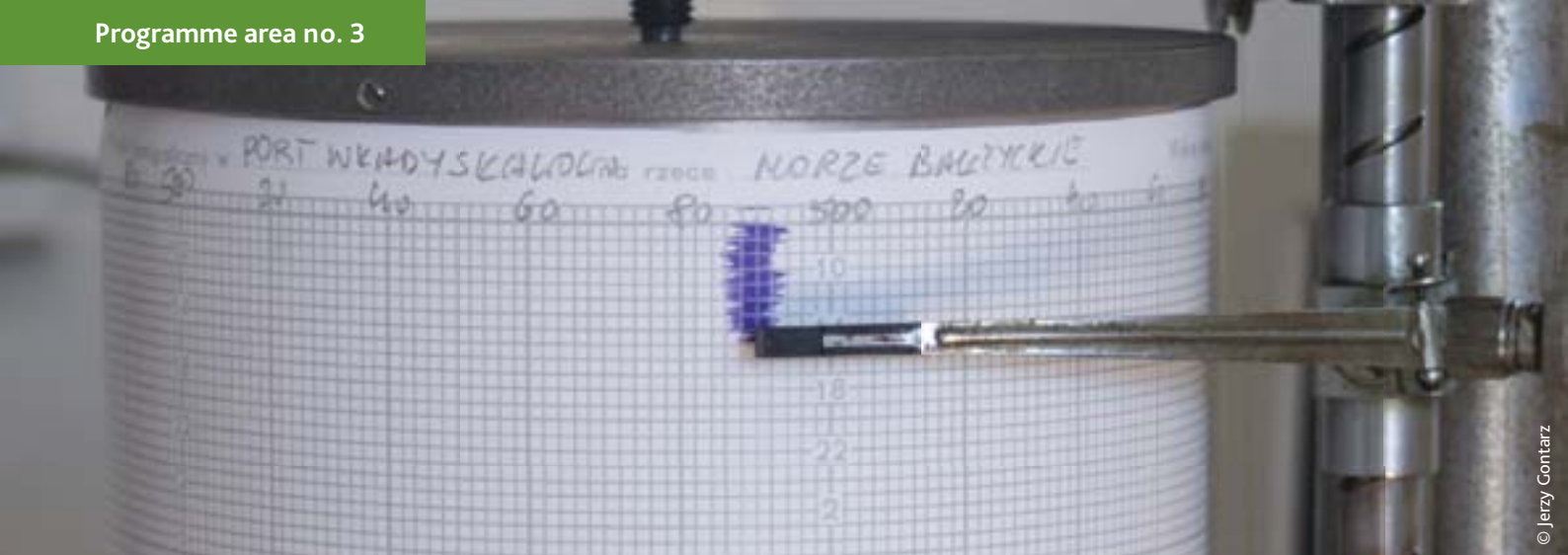
Suggested activities

- Measures to strengthen knowledge of conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity (monitoring and assessment)
- Measures to increase national capacity for the management and monitoring of Natura 2000 sites
- Development of site management plans
- Development, designation and implementation of corridors and buffer zones (green infrastructure)
- Public awareness-raising and education activities related to biodiversity with a special emphasis on collaboration with local communities and NGOs
- Risk analysis, surveys and improved monitoring and mapping of invasive alien species

Programme area specificities

- Particularly relevant for civil society involvement
- Suitable for small grant schemes
- Could be relevant for cooperation between entities in a Beneficiary State and an entity located in a country outside the European Economic Area bordering on the respective Beneficiary State

Reduce economic and social disparities
Strengthen bilateral relations



Priority sector: **Environmental Protection and Management**

EEA GRANTS 2009-14

Environmental Monitoring and Integrated Planning and Control

Objective

Improved compliance with environmental legislation

Expected outcomes

- Strengthened capacity of environmental authorities in relation to integrated planning and control
- Improved environmental information on impact, status and trends
- Increased exchange of information on environmental impact, status and trends between Beneficiary States and other EU Member States
- Increased awareness of and education in environmental monitoring and integrated planning and control

The EEA Financial Mechanism shall contribute to the reduction of economic and social disparities in the European Economic Area, and to strengthening the bilateral relations between the EEA EFTA States – Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway – and the Beneficiary States. The programme area shall contribute to these two overall objectives.

Relevance of support

Accurate and sufficient environmental information is imperative for monitoring, control and analysis related to the environment. Access to modern and updated spatial information and services is necessary to meet the challenges of increased environmental risks, threats to human health and damage to the economy. The verification and documentation of rights to land and natural resources is essential information for many environment-related initiatives.

The IPPC Directive (Directive 2008/1/EC) on integrated pollution prevention and control and the INSPIRE Directive (Directive 2007/2/EC) on establishing an infrastructure for spatial information in the EU are key EU measures in this programme area. The various EU thematic strategies, for example on air, waste, marine environment, and resource management, all require increased environmental monitoring.

There is a wide disparity among the EU Member States' approach to permitting and controlling industrial installations. The IPPC Directive requires that emission allowances are based on the use of the best available technology for pollution protection and control. This is a key instrument in the EU's industrial emissions policy.

The INSPIRE Directive demands that EU Member States share spatial information across national borders, inter alia on transport networks, protected sites, elevation, land cover, natural risk zones, habitats, and biotopes. A number of EU initiatives demand access to spatial information, e.g. the Water Framework Directive (Directive 2000/60/EC).

In addition to INSPIRE there are also other important EU initiatives such as the Shared Environmental Information System (SEIS). SEIS is a joint initiative of the European Commission and the European Environment Agency (EEA) in order to establish an integrated, shared and EU-wide environmental information system together with the EU Member States. This system would better link all existing data-gathering and information flows, and thus make environmental information more readily available and easier to understand for policy-makers and the public.

Suggested activities

- Development of tools for control and risk-based inspections within national and regional environmental authorities
- Education and training schemes for employees at environmental agencies and inspectorates
- Measures to increase national administrative capacity for the implementation of climate and energy legislation related to the EU Emission Trading Scheme (EU ETS), effort sharing (emissions from sectors not included in the EU ETS), renewable energy, etc.
- Measures to strengthen national administrative capacity for the implementation of the INSPIRE Directive, to act as national nodes and to secure management and data sharing across borders
- Production of spatial information in compliance with the INSPIRE Directive and the authorities' participation in related Community and cross-border activities
- Measures to promote open access to environmental information for the public and environmental NGOs
- Support existing monitoring programmes

Programme area specificities

This programme area could be relevant for cooperation between entities in a Beneficiary State and an entity located in a country outside the European Economic Area bordering on the respective Beneficiary State.

Reduce economic and social disparities
Strengthen bilateral relations



Priority sector:
Environmental Protection and Management

EEA GRANTS 2009-14

Reduction of Hazardous Substances

The EEA Financial Mechanism shall contribute to the reduction of economic and social disparities in the European Economic Area, and to strengthening the bilateral relations between the EEA EFTA States – Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway – and the Beneficiary States. The programme area shall contribute to these two overall objectives.

Objective

Prevent injury and adverse environmental effects caused by chemicals and hazardous waste

Expected outcomes

- Strengthened capacity to enforce and implement EU chemicals and hazardous waste legislation
- Increased industry compliance with EU chemicals and hazardous waste legislation
- Developed strategies for authorities' management of hazardous waste
- Improved monitoring of hazardous substances in the environment
- Hazardous waste managed in an environmentally sound manner
- Increased awareness of and education in hazardous substances



Relevance of support

Chemicals are everywhere, and are an essential component of our daily lives. At the same time, some chemicals can severely damage our health. Others could be dangerous if not properly used or handled. There is a worrying increase in health problems that can be partially explained by the use of chemicals. Some man-made chemicals are found in the most remote places in the environment, and also in animals and humans. It is necessary to balance society's need for chemicals with the need to ensure a high level of protection of human health and the environment. In the EU, the production of toxic chemicals has increased at almost the same rate as total chemical production, and both have grown faster than GDP.

Hazardous wastes represent a serious threat to the environment if not disposed of or treated in a sustainable manner. An increasing number of waste types are being classified as hazardous and regulated within the EU. Illegal disposal of hazardous wastes is an important source of soil and water pollution.

Reduction of hazardous substances is a priority area in both the EU and EEA EFTA States. The adoption of the EU's REACH (Registration, Evaluation, Authorisation and Restriction of Chemicals) Regulation obliges industry to document the properties of the chemicals that they place on the market. REACH (Regulation (EC) No 1907/2006) also contains risk management tools allowing the EU to avoid risks from the substances of highest concern to human health and the environment.

Hazardous wastes pose a greater risk to the environment and human health than non-hazardous wastes and thus require a stricter control regime. This is laid down in Directive 91/689/EEC, which sets out requirements in relation to record keeping, monitoring and control obligations "from cradle to grave". Another important element of the regulatory framework in relation to hazardous waste is the Waste Directive (Directive 2006/12/EC).

In order to minimise chemical risk, a major effort is needed to strengthen the national capacity for chemicals management, at a

government level, in industry and for NGOs. A systematic approach to identifying hazards and risks, assessments of less hazardous alternatives, and disseminating and communicating this information through the product chain will require focused efforts to achieve better management of chemicals. Cooperation at government level and sharing experiences in the regulatory field are necessary to secure efficient regulation.

Suggested activities

- Measures to strengthen national capacity for control and enforcement of chemical regulations
- Measures for sharing experiences in the regulatory field
- Measures for sharing experiences in assisting industry, especially the national REACH help-desks
- Industry initiatives, inter alia, the sharing of best practice
- Monitoring of chemicals in the environment
- Measures to strengthen national capacity for control and enforcement of regulations related to hazardous waste
- Development of national strategies for management of hazardous wastes, in cooperation with relevant stakeholders
- Measures to identify and prioritise fractions of hazardous waste that represent specific challenges to the environment
- Pilot projects in environmentally sound management of hazardous wastes
- Measures to increase awareness of and education in hazardous substances

Reduce economic and social disparities
Strengthen bilateral relations



Priority sector:
Climate Change and Renewable Energy

EEA GRANTS 2009-14

Energy Efficiency

The EEA Financial Mechanism shall contribute to the reduction of economic and social disparities in the European Economic Area, and to strengthening the bilateral relations between the EEA EFTA States – Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway – and the Beneficiary States. The programme area shall contribute to these two overall objectives.

Objective

Reduced emissions of greenhouse gases and air pollutants

Expected outcomes

- Improved energy efficiency in buildings
- Increased energy efficiency in industry and the transport sector
- Increased utilisation of excess heat
- Improved capacity at national, regional and local level to undertake energy-efficiency measures
- Increased awareness of and education in energy efficiency

Relevance of support

Energy-efficiency measures are one of the most effective and most cost-efficient approaches for reducing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, as well as for improving air quality, particularly in densely populated areas.

Energy efficiency is a part of the overall approach of the EU in the energy and climate field. In April 2009 the climate-energy legislative package was adopted by the European Parliament and the Council, setting a target of reducing energy consumption by 20% by 2020 (Decision 3738/08). In their National Energy Efficiency Action Plan (NEEAP), EU Member States show how they intend to reach the energy savings target.

Energy use in residential and commercial buildings contributes more than 40% of Europe's greenhouse gas emissions. Through cost-effective energy efficiency measures, significant emissions reductions and cost savings can be achieved. There is also significant potential for reducing consumption, especially in energy-intensive sectors such as construction, manufacturing, energy conversion, and transport. The European Commission Communication, "Energy efficiency: delivering the 20% target", stipulates that industry and the transport sectors have a savings potential of 19% and 20% respectively by 2020.

The EEA and Norway Grants 2004-09 support for greenhouse gas reduction projects was reviewed in 2009/10. The EEA and Norway Grants were considered to be a well-managed and well-received programme. The review found that projects were strongly aligned with national environmental priorities, and represented a cost efficient contribution towards the reduction of emissions of greenhouse gases. The review suggested that a more narrow and prioritised focus would increase the impact.

Suggested activities

- Local projects for increased energy efficiency in buildings
- Measures to develop analytical and surveillance/monitoring tools
- Schemes for more efficient use of vehicles and less polluting fuels
- Energy efficiency initiatives in the SME sector
- Capacity-building projects
- NGO awareness-raising initiatives

Programme area specificities

- Particularly relevant for civil society involvement
- Suitable for small grant schemes
- Suitable for involving small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs)

Reduce economic and social disparities
Strengthen bilateral relations



Priority sector: **Climate Change and Renewable Energy**

EEA GRANTS 2009-14

Renewable Energy

The EEA Financial Mechanism shall contribute to the reduction of economic and social disparities in the European Economic Area, and to strengthening the bilateral relations between the EEA EFTA States – Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway – and the Beneficiary States. The programme area shall contribute to these two overall objectives.

Objective

Increased share of renewable energy in energy use

Expected outcomes

- A less carbon-dependent economy
- Increased renewable energy production
- Increased use of renewable energy in the transport sector
- Increased feed-in of renewable energy to existing energy infrastructures
- Developed strategies to improve the use of green investment schemes
- Improved capacity at national, regional and local level on renewable energy solutions
- Increased awareness of and education in renewable energy solutions

Relevance of support

Renewable sources of energy – wind power, solar power (thermal, photovoltaic and concentrated), hydro-electric power, tidal power, aero-thermal, geothermal energy, and biomass – are essential alternatives to fossil fuels. Their use reduces greenhouse gas emissions and diversifies the energy supply. The growth of renewable energy sources also stimulates employment in Europe, the creation of new technologies and increased trade. The introduction of renewable energy will contribute as such to a necessary energy source shift towards a less carbon-dependent economy.

Currently only a small proportion of the renewable energy potential is utilised in the Beneficiary States.

The Renewable Energy Directive (Directive 2009/28/EC), part of the climate-energy legislative package adopted in April 2009 by the European Parliament and the Council, sets a target for at least a 20% share of energy that should come from renewable sources in the Community's gross final consumption of energy in 2020. Moreover the directive sets a target of a 10% share of renewable energy specifically in the transport sector. Towards 2020 the EU Member States will be required to submit policies and plans to promote renewable energy.

Increased production of renewable energy that should be based on integrated management plans to ensure minimum damage to nature and maximum cost efficiency. In order to increase use of renewables it is important to allow for the integration of renewable energy production into existing energy systems.

The EEA and Norway Grants 2004-09 support for greenhouse gas reduction projects was reviewed in 2009/10. The EEA and Norway Grants were considered to be a well-managed and well-received programme. The review found that projects were strongly aligned with national environmental priorities, and represented a cost efficient contribution towards the reduction of emissions of greenhouse gases. The review suggested that a more narrow and prioritised focus would increase the impact.

Suggested activities

- Activities to increase the use of bio-based solutions
- Measures for increased use of renewable energy
- Measures for increased use of renewable energy in transport (e.g. biofuels)
- Infrastructure development (e.g. networks) relevant for renewable energy
- Capacity-building, e.g. in respect of developing plans and policies
- Co-processing in industry, e.g. by using waste as an energy source

Programme area specificities

- Particularly relevant for civil society involvement
- Suitable for involving small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs)

Reduce economic and social disparities
Strengthen bilateral relations



Priority sector:
Climate Change and Renewable Energy

EEA GRANTS 2009-14

Adaptation to Climate Change

Objective

Reduced human and ecosystem vulnerability to climate change

Expected outcomes

- Developed systems for information exchange on climate change adaptation
- Developed strategies and measures for adapting to a changing climate
- Increased capacity to assess vulnerability to climate change
- Increased awareness of and education in climate change adaptation

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Relevance of support

There is a global recognition of the need for human and natural systems to adapt to a changing climate. Adaptation has the potential to reduce adverse impacts of climate change and to enhance beneficial impacts. Extremes, variability, and rates of change are all key features in addressing vulnerability and adaptation to climate change, not simply changes in average climate conditions. Human and natural systems will to some degree adapt autonomously to climate change. Planned adaptation can supplement autonomous adaptation, though the options and incentives are greater for the adaptation of human systems than for the adaptation to protect natural systems. Adaptation is a necessary strategy in order to complement climate change mitigation efforts.

Adaptation will require actions across many sectors and levels, and could include a broad range of activities. Planning for climate change adaptation should be based on, and be a part of, national, sub-national and local priorities, and aim at integrating climate change considerations into policy, planning and budget frameworks. National adaptation efforts should be designed to support and enhance local and regional efforts.

According to the Inter-governmental Panel on Climate Change's Fourth Assessment Report from 2007, "Impacts, Adaptation and Vulnerability", wide-ranging impacts of changes in current climate have been documented for the first time in Europe.

Implementation of the EU Adaptation Strategy (COM (2009) 147) is a key issue. This white paper constitutes the first step towards a European framework for action on adapting to climate change.

Suggested activities

- Information gathering and exchange by relevant authorities or stakeholders concerned with climate change adaptation
- Measures for spatial planning
- Measures to include climate gradients (latitudinal and altitudinal) in new protection areas offering alternative and possibly more suitable habitats with changing climatic conditions
- Measures to establish corridors and networks between fragmented habitats
- Measures to establish natural bank vegetation as a measure against erosion
- Remedial actions against drainage from agriculture
- Development of ecosystem-based management plans that include climate change effects for marine and inland waters
- Activities related to flood protection, water and biodiversity conservation
- Measures to protect forest resources against natural hazards (e.g. forest fires)
- Contingency systems for extreme weather and climate events

Programme area specificities

- Particularly relevant for civil society involvement
- Suitable for small grant schemes
- Could be relevant for cooperation between entities in a Beneficiary State and an entity located in a country outside the European Economic Area bordering on the respective Beneficiary State

Reduce economic and social disparities
Strengthen bilateral relations



Priority sector: **Climate Change and Renewable Energy**

EEA GRANTS 2009-14

Maritime Sector

Objective

Reduced emissions of greenhouse gases and air pollutants from the maritime sector

Expected outcomes

- Measures taken to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in the shipping sector
- Strengthened capacity of relevant authorities to implement climate change-related policy elements
- Increased awareness of and education in how to reduce emissions from ships

The EEA Financial Mechanism shall contribute to the reduction of economic and social disparities in the European Economic Area, and to strengthening the bilateral relations between the EEA EFTA States – Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway – and the Beneficiary States. The programme area shall contribute to these two overall objectives.



Relevance of support

In an effective global response to climate change, all sectors and sources of greenhouse gas emissions must be addressed. There is considerable potential for reducing greenhouse gas emissions originating from the shipping sector.

Emissions from the shipping sector have reached a level of approximately 1.05 billion tons of CO₂ annually, an increase of around 50% since 1997. Projections show continued high growth of emissions from this sector if no further measures are introduced.

The EU's maritime policy (COM (2007) 575) was launched in 2007 to address, in a coherent and comprehensive manner, the development of EU sea-related activities that had previously been dealt with on a per sector basis. Reduction of CO₂ emissions and pollution from shipping is identified as an area of particular importance in the policy.

Moreover, the EU is taking decisive steps to promote a low-emissions society through the Climate and Energy Package, with increased focus on renewable energy, energy efficiency and Carbon Capture and Storage. The EEA EFTA States and the EU have common interests in delivering concrete results at national and community level. The most important goal is to reduce the use of energy, as energy efficiency has considerable potential for the reduction of emissions. Increased energy efficiency and the use of new technologies in the shipping sector are therefore important, both on a European and a global scale.

The International Maritime Organisation (IMO) has developed technical and operational standards for international shipping. The IMO's "energy efficiency design index" for new vessels is an important initiative to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. This index will give incentives for the development of more energy-efficient ships in the future. The IMO is also developing a more standardised and systematic approach to the planning of operation and management, which can contribute to a more energy-efficient operation of existing ships. Mandatory application of these types of measures is desirable.

The EEA EFTA States and the EU are particularly concerned that greenhouse gas emissions from international shipping are currently not regulated, and both the EEA EFTA States and the EU are working to establish a global regime for reducing emissions from this sector.

Reducing emissions from shipping is important as it contributes to local and regional pollution. Improved energy efficiency and the promotion of better technological solutions for navigation can build a stronger basis for the enhanced international regulation of shipping.

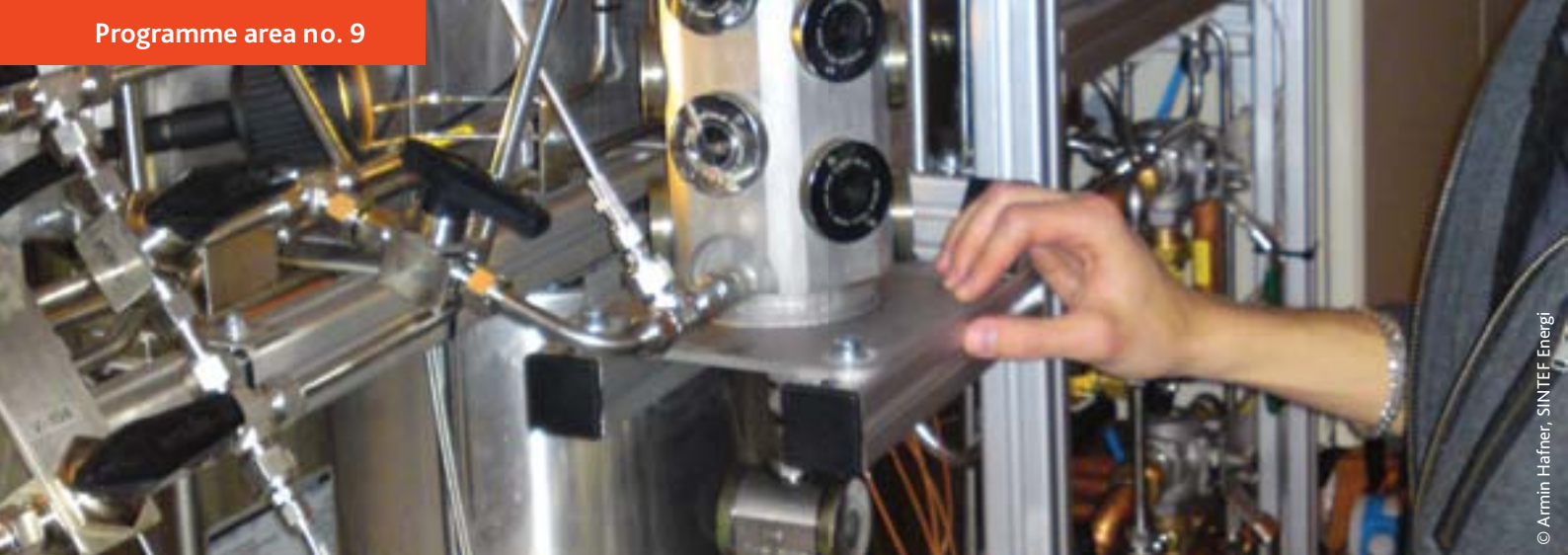
Suggested activities

- Initiatives to promote new and more environmentally friendly solutions for the maritime industry, e.g. the development of better design, machinery and surface treatment at shipyards that will result in reduced emissions
- Capacity-building for national authorities and inspectorates to implement EU maritime policy and IMO standards
- Dissemination and planning of energy efficiency measures in ships' operations (such as the IMO energy efficiency index)
- Application of systematic environmental management systems on board ships, including indicators, targets and monitoring systems

Programme area specificities

- Suitable for involving small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs)
- Might be suitable for involvement of the International Maritime Organisation (IMO)

Reduce economic and social disparities
Strengthen bilateral relations



Priority sector:
Climate Change and Renewable Energy

EEA GRANTS 2009-14

Environmental and Climate Change-related Research and Technology

The EEA Financial Mechanism shall contribute to the reduction of economic and social disparities in the European Economic Area, and to strengthening the bilateral relations between the EEA EFTA States – Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway – and the Beneficiary States. The programme area shall contribute to these two overall objectives.

Objective

Strengthened knowledge base on the environment and climate change and increased application of environmental technology

Expected outcomes

- Increased national and international knowledge base of the EEA programme areas on environment and climate change
- Increased development and application of technology that benefits the environment



Relevance of support

The European Commission is preparing a strategy for a greener, more competitive European economy. Achieving an eco-efficient economy is a key objective of a post-Lisbon strategy (EU 2020).

A sustainable and environmentally friendly Europe requires extensive environmental research and development. Research is a key area for promoting the long-term improvement of environmental protection in Europe.

The environment is a field where collaborative research traditionally has proven to be highly fruitful. The complexity of the problems calls for multidisciplinary approaches. Cooperation between disciplines such as biology, chemistry and social sciences is essential for the understanding and solving of environmental problems. Furthermore, the challenges posed by the increasing pressures on the environment require a coordinated approach at the European and international level.

In respect of the development and application of environmental technologies, it is important to support actions improving innovation processes and moving inventions from research and laboratories and into the market. Strengthening of national infrastructures to promote eco-innovation is a condition for ensuring the optimal use of research results and creating an eco-efficient economy.

Public procurement accounts for around 16% of the EU's GDP. As such it represents a potentially powerful economic driver to further the uptake of environmental technologies. Green Public Procurement (GPP) is therefore one important instrument which demands and increases environmental awareness and knowledge in the public and private sector. The EU has encouraged all Member States to draw up a National Action Plan for GPP, and has also proposed a political target of 50% GPP (priority product and service groups) to be reached by the Member States by 2010. In 2010, the European Commission initiated discussions with Member States on how to monitor progress against the target in an effective fashion.

Suggested activities

- National and international multidisciplinary research on environmental protection and climate change
- Research activities related to the EEA Grants programme areas (e.g. marine and inland water management, biodiversity, environmental monitoring and control, reduction of hazardous substances and climate change adaptation)
- Actions to strengthen national capacity to promote eco-innovations
- National and local action plans to increase the level of Green Public Procurement
- Research activities on the effects of climate change and mitigation options

Programme area specificities

- Suitable for involving small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs)

Reduce economic and social disparities
Strengthen bilateral relations



Priority sector: **Civil Society**

EEA GRANTS 2009-14

The EEA Financial Mechanism shall contribute to the reduction of economic and social disparities in the European Economic Area, and to strengthening the bilateral relations between the EEA EFTA States — Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway — and the Beneficiary States. The programme area shall contribute to these two overall objectives.

Funds for Non-Governmental Organisations

Objective

Strengthened civil society development and enhanced contribution to social justice, democracy and sustainable development

Expected outcomes

- Active citizenship fostered
- Increased involvement of NGOs in policy and decision-making processes with local, regional and national governments
- Cross-sectoral partnerships developed, particularly with government organisations at local, regional and / or national level

- Democratic values, including human rights, promoted
- Advocacy and watchdog role developed
- Developed networks and coalitions of NGOs working in partnership
- Strengthened capacity of NGOs and an enabling environment for the sector promoted
- Increased contribution to sustainable development achieved
- Provision of welfare and basic services to defined target groups increased
- Empowerment of vulnerable groups

Relevance of support

A strong and vibrant civil society is important for democratic development. Non-governmental organisations (NGOs) play a key role in promoting active citizenship, participatory democracy and building cohesive societies, targeting the needs of and empowering specific groups, including those most at risk of inequalities, exclusion and discrimination. NGOs are also instrumental in engaging in advocacy and policy formulation, as well as raising awareness of key issues and challenges in today's societies. The use of the term NGO under the EEA Grants also refers to Civil Society Organization (CSO). See NGO guidelines for further specification.

The importance of participatory democracy has been recognised by the EU in the Lisbon Treaty - Article 11, which considers participatory democracy as a fundamental democratic principle of the EU and proposes ways to organise dialogue with "representative associations and civil society". The existence of NGOs is closely linked to the fundamental right of citizens to form associations in order to pursue a common purpose. This right is included in Article 12 of the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the EU, highlighting the whole range of civil, political, economic and social rights of European citizens and all EU residents.

The areas of support reflect numerous commitments at international level such as the OSCE Human Dimension (which extends beyond the protection of Human Rights and fundamental freedoms to the promotion of the rule of law and democratic institution-building), the European Convention on Human Rights, the Social Charter of the Council of Europe and Art. 3 of the Treaty on the European Union on the overarching long-term goal of sustainable development. Several commitments at EU level on the areas identified also provide a clear policy framework for civil society's role and contribution to achieving progress in these.

Areas of support

The following areas are eligible for support and should be covered by at least one third of the Programme allocation:

- Democracy
- Human rights, including minority rights (ethnic, religious, linguistic and sexual orientation)
- Good governance and transparency
- Participatory democracy
- Combat racism and xenophobia
- Anti-discrimination
- Social inequalities, poverty and exclusion, including in rural areas
- Gender equality
- Gender-based violence

Reduce economic and social disparities
Strengthen bilateral relations

Suggested activities

- Fostering active citizenship and participatory democracy, including at grassroots and/or local level
- Advocacy, watchdog and monitoring activities
- Awareness-raising activities
- Multicultural dialogue activities
- Participation in policy and decision-making processes
- Capacity-building and organisational support to NGOs
- Strengthening governance in membership-based NGOs
- Network and coalition-building
- Mutual learning and dissemination
- Education and training activities
- Cultural initiatives to promote key areas as mentioned above

Additional eligible areas and activities

The following areas and activities are also eligible for support:

Protection of the environment and climate change

- Awareness-raising and civic participation
- Develop umbrella organisations and/or new networks on biodiversity/ climate change
- NGO involvement in national action plans related to biodiversity and/ or climate change
- Mobilising local involvement to protect biodiversity
- Environmental educational activities and training for teachers

Provision of welfare and basic services

Provision of key services to vulnerable groups: children and youth at risk, people affected by HIV/AIDS, children with disabilities and/or mental disorders and their families, victims of trafficking and gender-based violence and/or domestic violence, where such services are not otherwise or not adequately provided by governmental institutions.

Programme area specificities

- Exclusively targeted at NGOs
- Suitable for one or more small grant schemes
- Could be relevant for cooperation between entities in a Beneficiary State and an entity located in a country outside the European Economic Area bordering on the respective Beneficiary State
- At least 10 % of the total Programme allocation shall be allocated to children and youth-driven organisations and/or activities targeting children and youth



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Priority sector: **Human and Social Development**

EEA GRANTS 2009-14

Children and Youth at Risk

The EEA Financial Mechanism shall contribute to the reduction of economic and social disparities in the European Economic Area, and to strengthening the bilateral relations between the EEA EFTA States – Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway – and the Beneficiary States. The programme area shall contribute to these two overall objectives.

Objective

Improved well-being of children and young people at risk

Expected outcomes

- Laws, policies and measures in the field of children's and youth rights, as enshrined in relevant international instruments effectively implemented
- Quality of child welfare systems and protection measures effectively improved, relaying the views of relevant stakeholders and society at large through high-quality and participatory debate
- Effective and efficient measures addressing vulnerable groups of children

and youth facing particular risks implemented

- Instances of violence, abuse and exploitation against children and youth prevented and tackled through high-impact implemented measures
- Policies and standards of intervention in the field of juvenile justice developed and implemented in view to ensuring protection and securing full rights during detention and a wide range of opportunities for young offenders to re-integrate society created
- Health and social care services provided to ensure equal access for children and youth



Relevance of support

Children and youth are still facing major threats related to quality education, proper health and social care. They are victims of different forms of child labour, sexual exploitation and abuse, diseases, various forms of violence, sometimes related to harmful traditional practices. Vulnerable groups of children and youth, or those living in particular conditions, face particular risks and are exposed to discrimination, marginalisation and exclusion. The Lisbon Treaty will give the EU the possibility of a more active role in this area.

The European Commission's Communication of July 2006, "Towards an EU Strategy on the Rights of the Child", expresses its firm commitment to developing a long-term strategy to ensure that EU action effectively promotes and safeguards children's rights and to support the efforts of the Member States in implementing the United Nation Convention on the Rights of the Child. The European Parliament adopted in January 2008 a resolution with reference to the Commission's communication. The resolution covered a wide range of items related to child policy and the child welfare systems in the Member States.

Children facing the justice system, as victims, witnesses or offenders are particularly vulnerable. The EU Guidelines for the Promotion and Protection of the Rights of the Child state that one of its objectives is to "provide support for the provision of child-friendly recovery and social reintegration services to victims, for the development of prevention mechanisms and child-friendly juvenile justice systems".

Child sexual abuse and exploitation is one of most fundamental children's rights violations. The Council of Europe Convention on the Rights of Children against Sexual Exploitation and Sexual Abuse represents the international instrument supporting further improvements in the protection of children in this area. The Convention aims to reinforce actions meant to prevent and combat this issue.

Suggested activities

- Support to promote the rights of children and young people and contribute to the implementation of the UN Convention of the Rights of the Child
- Support to develop and improve the quality of child welfare systems and child protection measures at national and local levels
- Support to prevent children and youth from becoming the object of child welfare systems.
- Support to establish a national Ombudsperson for Children
- Support activities targeted at children and youth with a minority background in their local society
- Support leisure time activities for children and young people
- Support measures to combat poverty and social exclusion
- Support health-service and social-care provisions
- Support projects related to children and youth with behavioural problems
- Support the overall administration of juvenile justice, at national and local levels
- Support national strategies concerning the application of restorative justice in the administration of juvenile justice, and support the development and implementation of alternative reprimand measures for children and youth coming in conflict with the law
- Support measures to protect and secure the rights of children in detention and on probation, and to protect the rights of child victims of crime and abuse or living in a violent environment

Programme area specificities

- Particularly relevant for civil society involvement
- Suitable for small grant schemes

Reduce economic and social disparities
Strengthen bilateral relations



Priority sector: **Human and Social Development**

EEA GRANTS 2009-14

The EEA Financial Mechanism shall contribute to the reduction of economic and social disparities in the European Economic Area, and to strengthening the bilateral relations between the EEA EFTA States – Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway – and the Beneficiary States. The programme area shall contribute to these two overall objectives.

Local and Regional Initiatives to Reduce National Inequalities and to Promote Social Inclusion

Objective

Strengthened social and economic cohesion at national, regional and local levels

Expected outcomes

- Regions and urban areas are cooperating in the fields of public and private services, and business development and innovation, to stimulate social and economic development
- Regions are experiencing improvements particularly with respect to job creation and/or improvement of access to public services
- Local and regional authorities, as well as private and civil society actors, are developing initiatives to strengthen anti-discriminatory measures for groups vulnerable to social and economic exclusion
- Local and regional authorities are cooperating with private and civil society actors to strengthen participation in decision-making processes
- Local and regional authorities are developing and modernising the public sector



Relevance of support

Financial instruments and initiatives to address economic and social imbalances at EU level have existed since the beginnings of European integration, but only in 1986 were legal foundations introduced by the Single European Act, which paved the way for an integrated cohesion policy. Cohesion policy makes clear that everyone, wherever they are in the Union, has the opportunity to participate in and benefit from the single market.

Cohesion policy aims at sustainable development while fostering economic integration throughout the EU as a whole. Cohesion policy is a place-based policy, which gives a role to each European territory in the sense that it is not an obstacle to the optimal allocation of economic activity but can become a source of growth on its own. Recent economic theory confirms this approach in numerous case studies, which show that "geography matters" and that regional policy can make a difference. One-third of the EU's budget, some €347 billion, is presently allocated to the Structural and Cohesion Funds budget for the 2007-13 period.

Tackling social exclusion is a key objective within the EU's cohesion policy, and 2010 has been named the European Year for Combating Poverty and Social Exclusion. There is now a widespread understanding that ethnic minorities and immigrants are disadvantaged and vulnerable to exclusion in most of the EU's Member States. These groups are defined by lower employment rates, lower incomes, higher school drop-out rates, homelessness, financial exclusion and criminal propensity. The Roma are the largest ethnic minority in Europe today, and the majority of Roma are EU citizens. By targeting the most vulnerable regions in the Beneficiary States, the EEA and Norway Grants can help to tackle exclusion in some of the areas most strongly marked by social exclusion.

Suggested activities

- The development of regional networks to benchmark policies, exchange knowledge and spread good practices with regard to the above-mentioned outcomes

- Measures to promote cooperation between urban and rural areas to identify common assets and develop joint strategies, create new jobs or improve accessibility to public services
- Research and innovative activities with the involvement of universities or local training providers
- The establishment of common employment services (placement services, databases of vacancies and training opportunities)
- Measures to strengthen economic development through innovation, retraining and entrepreneurship in business at local level
- Measures to improve access to welfare services
- Measures to increase day-care facilities for children
- Measures to promote the equal treatment and inclusion of vulnerable groups

Programme area specificities

- Suitable for institutional cooperation involving local and regional authorities and their institutions
- Programmes may be directed at selected local authorities
- Suitable for civil society involvement
- Suitable for small grant schemes
- Could be relevant for cooperation between entities in a Beneficiary State and an entity located in a country outside the European Economic Area bordering on the respective Beneficiary State
- Suitable for involving small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs)

Reduce economic and social disparities
Strengthen bilateral relations



Priority sector: **Human and Social Development**

EEA GRANTS 2009-14

The EEA Financial Mechanism shall contribute to the reduction of economic and social disparities in the European Economic Area, and to strengthening the bilateral relations between the EEA EFTA States – Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway – and the Beneficiary States. The programme area shall contribute to these two overall objectives.

Public Health Initiatives

Objective

Improved public health and reduced health inequalities

Expected outcomes

- Reduced inequalities between user groups
- Developed resources for all levels of health care
- Improved governance in health care
- Strengthened financing systems
- National health registries and health information systems, data management and use improved
- Improved access to and quality of health services including reproductive and preventive child health care
- Improved access to and quality of health services for elderly people
- Life-style related diseases prevented or reduced
- Improved prevention and treatment of communicable diseases (including HIV/AIDS and TB)
- Improved mental health services
- Improved food safety and increased access to information about food safety and health for consumers, public authorities and industry

Relevance of support

Well-functioning and strong national health systems are a prerequisite for sustaining and improving the population's standard of health, which in turn is a fundamental factor for a country's economic well-being. The EU Health Strategy, "Together for Health: A Strategic Approach for the EU 2008-13", places the emphasis on fostering dynamic health systems as a means of meeting the health challenges in Europe. The Tallinn Charter of 2008 calls for the strengthening of health systems in Europe and gives guidance on public health initiatives.

The aim of public health initiatives is to improve the health status in a population by focusing on access to health care and on the underlying determinants of health. In some areas, like formal maternal health, swift access to health services is vital, while for other major public health hazards, only a small share is directly shaped by health systems. Other sectors like education, nutrition, taxation and road safety have an important impact on public health.

Public health activities depend on documentation of the distribution (morbidity, mortality, life expectancy, etc.) and the determinants of health. Within health services, public health deals with preventive services, as well as with health promotion and health care management. Concerns for equity and fair distribution have grown in importance in health policies. Life-style related diseases, care for immigrants and national minorities (Roma people in particular), ageing of the population and low fertility rates represent special challenges in terms of health and health care in many of the Beneficiary States as well as in the EU at large. The diversity within the EU in terms of influences on health and health outcomes provides a promising basis for cooperation.

The financial crisis has impacted severely on several of the countries of Central and Eastern Europe. There is a risk that the financial crisis will adversely affect public health expenditure for years to come.

Suggested activities

- Strengthen health systems to face the challenges of the financial crisis and social inequalities in health
- National initiatives for the improvement of health systems, with a focus on marginalised groups
- National health registries and health information systems, monitoring and evaluation as a basis for improved governmental management with a focus on inequalities
- Review of and support for health financing systems to make them sustainable and equal
- Capacity-building and technical cooperation through staff development and infrastructure
- Refine health surveillance and complaint mechanisms
- Strengthen primary health care in terms of quantity and quality
- Document and develop strategies on:
 - life-style-related and preventable diseases
 - mental health suffering, in particular the reduction of suicides
 - sexual and reproductive health
 - communicable diseases
 - ill-health among children
- Foster inter-sectoral cooperation
- Training in management of decentralised health services
- Activities on food safety and increased access to information about food safety and health for consumers, public authorities and industry (formal and informal markets):
 - development of formal control labelling
 - surveillance and support for ensuring food safety in informal markets

Programme area specificities

- Suitable for civil society involvement
- Suitable for small grant schemes

Reduce economic and social disparities
Strengthen bilateral relations



Priority sector: **Human and Social Development**

EEA GRANTS 2009-14

The EEA Financial Mechanism shall contribute to the reduction of economic and social disparities in the European Economic Area, and to strengthening the bilateral relations between the EEA EFTA states – Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway – and the Beneficiary States. The programme area shall contribute to these two overall objectives.

Mainstreaming Gender Equality and Promoting Work-Life Balance

Objective

Gender equality and work-life balance promoted

Expected outcomes

- Gender issues across policies and practices mainstreamed
- Awareness raised and research on gender issues promoted
- Successful national policies and best practices on gender equality exchanged
- Balance between work, private and family life improved
- Gender balance on company boards improved
- Gender pay gap reduced
- Gender equality ombudspersons/ authorities established
- Capacity of gender equality organisations and networks strengthened



Relevance of support

The EU has made significant progress through its efforts to promote gender equality. Nonetheless, many EU Member States are still facing considerable challenges when it comes to addressing the gender dimension of issues such as access to employment, reconciliation of work, private and family life, pay gaps, participation in political and economic decision-making, and multiple discrimination against ethnic minorities.

Equality between women and men is a fundamental right, a common value of the EU and the EEA EFTA States, and a necessary condition for the achievement of the EU objectives of economic growth, more and better employment and greater social cohesion. The 1996 Communication on 'Incorporating equal opportunities for women and men into all Community policies and activities' and the Amsterdam Treaty of 1997, Art. 2 and 3 (elimination of inequalities and promotion of equality between women and men), Art. 13 (anti-discrimination) and Art. 141 (equal pay), create the legal basis for promoting gender equality and fighting gender-based discrimination within the EU.

The current policy framework for actions to promote gender equality at EU level includes the Roadmap for Gender Equality 2006-10, the European Council 2006 European Pact for Gender Equality and the 2008 European Commission Communication on 'A better work-life balance'. In March 2010, the European Commission adopted the Women's Charter, setting out the priorities to be addressed by the new strategy for Gender Equality 2010-15. The Charter aims to include a gender perspective in all EC policies for the next five years, with a specific focus on promoting equal economic independence, reducing the gender pay gap, improving the representation of women in key decision-making roles, promoting the eradication of gender-based violence, and promoting gender equality beyond the EU.

Suggested activities

- Measures to increase awareness at national, regional and local levels through data collection, educational programmes and campaigns targeting both women and men on issues of gender equality and anti-discrimination

- Research structures and activities on gender issues, including but not limited to poverty, women's participation in decision-making and public life, equal economic independence for women and men, and balancing work, private and family life
- Activities to ensure gender mainstreaming in design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of policy, research, legislation, programmes and resource allocation at national, regional and local levels
- Measures to reduce the gender pay gap, including awareness-raising, initiatives to promote gender equality in the workplace, and efforts to improve the supply and quality of statistics
- Measures to foster the capacity of public authorities to develop gender mainstreaming and promote gender equality
- Mainstreaming and awareness activities to promote the reconciliation of work, private and family life
- Establishment of gender equality ombudspersons/authorities
- Information and awareness-raising activities on gender mainstreaming techniques through workshops, seminars and training, and manuals
- Exchanges between social partners, NGOs, the private sector and local and national governments
- Advocacy activities on gender equality
- Capacity-building for gender equality organisations and networks
- Exchange of best practices between EEA EFTA and Beneficiary State entities on gender mainstreaming and awareness

Programme area specificities

- Particularly relevant for civil society
- Suitable for small grant schemes
- Suitable for involving small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs)

Reduce economic and social disparities
Strengthen bilateral relations



Priority sector:
Human and Social Development

EEA GRANTS
2009-14

Institutional Framework in the Asylum and Migration Sector

The EEA Financial Mechanism shall contribute to the reduction of economic and social disparities in the European Economic Area, and to strengthening the bilateral relations between the EEA EFTA States – Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway – and the Beneficiary States. The programme area shall contribute to these two overall objectives.

Objective

Ensure the existence of a functioning national migration management system, that safeguards the right to seek asylum and gives special attention to the situation for unaccompanied asylum seeking children (UASC)

Expected outcomes

- Strengthened institutional framework to ensure legal protection and care for the most vulnerable group of migrants, namely unaccompanied children
- Well-functioning asylum system in place, enabling asylum-seekers to bring forward their claim for international protection, have their claim processed in due time and be offered accommodation during processing of their case, or to return voluntary to their country of origin



Relevance of support

Approximately 287,000 asylum applications were lodged in Europe in 2009. The overall number of asylum seekers was stable compared to the previous year, but the UNHCR data show considerable regional disparities. However, according to the UNHCR, the number of registered applications for asylum does not necessarily reflect the number of persons who wish to apply.

All EU and EEA EFTA States have signed the Geneva Convention relating to the Status of Refugees, as supplemented by the New York Protocol. These documents provide the cornerstone of the international legal regime for the protection of refugees. They shall ensure that nobody is sent back to persecution, i.e. maintaining the principle of non-refoulement.

All EU and EEA EFTA States are part of the Dublin system. This system defines a set of criteria for determining which state is responsible for processing a request for asylum. As a general rule, an asylum application shall be processed in the state where the first application was lodged. The Dublin system is based on the assumption that all participating states respect the principle of non-refoulement. Thereby, the other Dublin states can consider it safe to return a third-country national.

The EU has set itself a goal of creating a "Common European Asylum System" (CEAS). Through CEAS, the EU Member States have defined a set of minimum rules to be applied in order to be in conformity with international asylum legislation. CEAS shall also contribute to limit the secondary movement of asylum-seekers, where such movement is purely caused by differences in legal frameworks.

Suggested activities

- Produce a needs assessment to detect major areas of deficiency within the front-line service (reception of claims for asylum, police registration), case processing and reception facilities
- In cooperation with national authorities, draw up a list of prioritised areas of improvement
- Support initiatives for a more efficient case processing system in compliance with the EU Directives on Procedures and Qualification
- Support capacity-building for developing reception facilities in compliance with the EU Reception Directive with the aim of ensuring the efficient administration of such facilities, with particular emphasis on reception facilities for UASC
- Exchange of knowledge and experience in the field of case processing and refugee and human rights law
- Exchange of knowledge and experience with particular regard to legal guardians for UASC, and support for capacity-building in this area.

Programme area specificities

- Particularly suitable for civil society involvement
- Suitable for small grant schemes
- Might be suitable for involvement of the International Organisation for Migration (IOM) and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)



Priority sector:
Protecting Cultural Heritage

EEA GRANTS
2009-14

Conservation and Revitalisation of Cultural and Natural Heritage

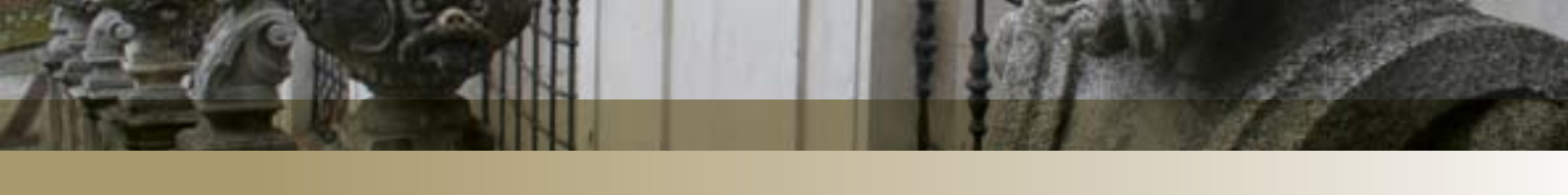
The EEA Financial Mechanism shall contribute to the reduction of economic and social disparities in the European Economic Area, and to strengthening the bilateral relations between the EEA EFTA States – Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway – and the Beneficiary States. The programme area shall contribute to these two overall objectives.

Objective

Cultural and natural heritage for future generations safe-guarded and conserved and made publicly accessible

Expected outcomes

- Cultural heritage restored, renovated and protected
- Cultural history documented
- Local communities further developed and economically sustainable livelihoods established through the revitalisation of cultural and natural heritage
- Cultural heritage made accessible to the public



Relevance of support

Culture is an important factor in socio-economic development. The protection and conservation of cultural heritage contributes to social cohesion and to the preservation of history for future generations. The Lisbon Strategy highlights tourism as an important element of the cultural sector.

The Council of Europe Framework Convention on the Value of Cultural Heritage for Society emphasises the value and potential of cultural heritage widely used as a resource for sustainable development and quality of life in a constantly evolving society. Promotion and presentation of the diversity of cultural and natural heritage is essential.

Furthermore, the 4th meeting of the European Heritage Heads Forum (Bratislava and Vienna) 2009, stated in its final recommendations the value of heritage as an economic driver and highlighted the pivotal role of heritage in the development and implementation of sustainable economic recovery packages. It also stated that investment in heritage has a direct impact on the growth of cultural tourism which leads to long-term social and economic benefits.

The rehabilitation and restoration of monuments and sites has a considerable potential for creating new jobs in both central and remote areas. This sector can absorb a broad range of categories of workers,

from skilled to unskilled labour. Greater demand for nature and cultural tourism may create new niche markets for tourism that evolve around cultural heritage and natural heritage sites. Sustainable tourism also creates locally based enterprises. At the same time, it is of vital importance to protect and secure the cultural and natural heritage from being damaged by conflicting commercial development.

Suggested activities

- Support measures to conserve and restore monuments /sites and items of movable cultural heritage
- Support revitalisation of cultural heritage by supporting new and innovative uses of old and/or abandoned buildings
- Support training and competence building programmes: methodology, approach, management, traditional skills
- Support development of eco-tourism and other sustainable tourism initiatives both in and close to selected natural and cultural areas, e.g. protected areas and monuments
- Support measures to protect cultural and natural heritage sites from degradation as a result of unsustainable commercial development
- Support development of national strategies and practices for management of the cultural heritage sector

Reduce economic and social disparities
Strengthen bilateral relations



Priority sector: **Protecting Cultural Heritage**

EEA GRANTS 2009-14

Promotion of Diversity in Culture and Arts within European Cultural Heritage

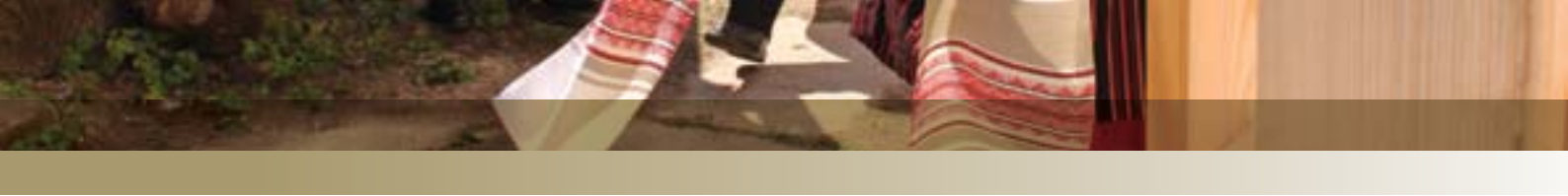
The EEA Financial Mechanism shall contribute to the reduction of economic and social disparities in the European Economic Area, and to strengthening the bilateral relations between the EEA EFTA States – Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway – and the Beneficiary States. The programme area shall contribute to these two overall objectives.

Objective

Cultural dialogue increased and European identity fostered through understanding of cultural diversity

Expected outcomes

- Contemporary art and culture presented and reaching a broader audience
- Awareness of cultural diversity raised and intercultural dialogue strengthened
- Individual citizens' cultural identity strengthened
- Cultural history documented



Relevance of support

Promoting cultural diversity is essential in order to strengthen democratic values in Europe and to contribute to social and economic cohesion. Culture and cultural actors contribute to the development of values, principles and norms at an individual and societal level, thereby influencing people's behaviour and social dynamics. They are thus recognised as efficient mediators between social, ethnic and other groups in order to foster inclusive societies. Recognition of cultural diversity as a key factor in our society enhances individual freedom and creativity, and opens new perspectives on cultural identity.

The European Agenda for Culture introduces a structured system of cooperation and concrete priorities within the cultural field in the EU. The agenda sets out three major objectives that together form a common cultural strategy for the European institutions, the Member States, and the cultural and creative sector. The first of these objectives is the promotion of cultural diversity and intercultural dialogue.

The European Agenda for Culture (part 3.1) states:

"As we live in increasingly multicultural societies, we need therefore to promote intercultural dialogue and intercultural competences. These are also essential in the context of a global economy with regard to enhancing the employability, adaptability and mobility of artists and workers in the cultural sector as well as the mobility of works of art. As citizens are among the main beneficiaries of developing cultural diversity, we need to facilitate their access to culture and cultural works."

Documentation of the cultural history of social, ethnic and cultural minorities and groups is important in order to preserve the cultural heritage of society as a whole. Developing high-quality documentation and presentation practices of the cultural history and contemporary culture of social, ethnic and cultural minorities and groups is vital for a society based on democratic values and intercultural dialogue. In light of this, it is also important to ensure access, be it physical or digital, to cultural heritage and to the contemporary culture of the above-mentioned minorities and groups.

Suggested activities

- Support exhibitions of unfamiliar and untold stories in museums and other venues
- Support documentation projects, including film/video documentation of contemporary culture and cultural history, and projects on the collection and dissemination of museum and archive material
- Support activities linked to the role of culture in the information society, such as digitisation of library and archive material, exchange of expertise and technical solutions for retrieval systems and long term preservation, and development of methodologies for digital presentation
- Support minorities' cultural expressions/cultural history at cultural events
- Support measures to improve cooperation between experts and cultural operators
- Support competence-building through exchange of information on cultural practices

Programme area specificities

- Particularly relevant for civil society involvement
- Suitable for small grant schemes

Reduce economic and social disparities
Strengthen bilateral relations



Priority sector: **Research and Scholarship**

EEA GRANTS 2009-14

Research within Priority Sectors

The EEA Financial Mechanism shall contribute to the reduction of economic and social disparities in the European Economic Area, and to strengthening the bilateral relations between the EEA EFTA States – Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway – and the Beneficiary States. The programme area shall contribute to these two overall objectives.

Objective

Enhanced research-based knowledge development in the Beneficiary States

Expected outcomes

- Increased research cooperation between the EEA EFTA and Beneficiary States
- Strengthened research capacity in the Beneficiary States
- Strengthened research allocations in the Beneficiary States
- Increased application of research results



Relevance of support

The EU has a goal of increasing research investments to 3% of GDP as an important part of efforts to meet goals in the Lisbon Strategy. Investment targets in individual EU Member States may differ from the EU-target.

European and international cooperation in research is a priority shared by all European countries. Increased transnational European research cooperation has been promoted through the EU Framework Programmes for research, technological development and demonstration activities. The EEA EFTA States take part in these programmes. The significance of further strengthening European research cooperation is highlighted by Ministers in charge of research both in EU countries and EEA EFTA States in relation to the European Research Area towards 2020.

The European Research Area (ERA) is a key instrument in achieving the goals set out in the Lisbon Strategy. The ERA is an effort to create a genuine European 'internal market' for research, including the increased coordination of national research activities. ERA activities and priorities have given rise to new activities that also include the participation of the EEA EFTA States.

Beneficiary States may designate some of the priority sectors as more relevant than others for inclusion in this programme area.

Suggested activities

- Research activities should be within agreed priority sectors, preferably also within agreed programme areas, and contribute to achieving the objectives laid out within priority sectors and sub-sectors/programme areas
- Activities may include measures on increased mobility for researchers and students as well as projects promoting institutional strengthening
- Research projects should include opportunities for PhD and Master's candidates
- Homing programmes: Support for the reintegration of researchers after their stay abroad and fostering cooperation with their former host institutions

Programme area specificities

- Suitable for small grant schemes
- Suitable for involving small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs)

Reduce economic and social disparities
Strengthen bilateral relations



Priority sector: **Human and Social Development**

EEA GRANTS 2009-14

Scholarships

Objective

Enhanced human capital and knowledge base in the Beneficiary States

Expected outcomes

- Increased higher education student and staff mobility between Beneficiary and EEA EFTA States
- Increased and strengthened institutional cooperation at all levels of the education sector (school education, higher education, vocational training/education and adult education) between Beneficiary and EEA EFTA States
- Increased mobility of education sector staff at all levels of education between Beneficiary and EEA EFTA States

The EEA Financial Mechanism shall contribute to the reduction of economic and social disparities in the European Economic Area, and to strengthening the bilateral relations between the EEA EFTA States – Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway – and the Beneficiary States. The programme area shall contribute to these two overall objectives.



Relevance of support

Cooperation within the fields of education and research is an objective shared by all European countries. The significance of transnational cooperation has been highlighted by Ministers in charge of education and research in the EU and the EEA EFTA States as part of the Bologna Process and the development of the European Higher Education Area, the development of the European Research Area as well as the Lisbon Strategy and the European Strategic Framework for Cooperation in Education and Training 2020.

Internationalisation remains an important aim for higher education institutions in Europe and is promoted by educational authorities worldwide.

Despite political objectives of increased international student mobility, many European countries are witnessing a decline in student mobility.

The current financial crisis has made access to scholarship funding even more important both for individual applicants and for European educational and research institutions.

Suggested activities

- Individual mobility for higher education students and staff
- Individual mobility of academic and administrative staff at all levels of the education sector
- Inter-institutional cooperation projects at all levels of the education sector, including the transfer of innovation and knowledge

Reduce economic and social disparities
Strengthen bilateral relations

NORWAY GRANTS

2009-14



Priority sector:
Carbon capture and storage

NORWAY
GRANTS
2009-14

Carbon Capture and Storage (CCS)

The Norwegian Financial Mechanism shall contribute to the reduction of economic and social disparities in the European Economic Area, and to strengthening the bilateral relations between Norway and the Beneficiary States. The programme area shall contribute to these two overall objectives.

Objective

Mitigate Climate Change

Expected outcomes

- CO₂ captured and safely stored
- Increased knowledge and transnational cooperation on CCS



Relevance of support

Climate change is a major threat to global development and is at the top of the agenda in the EU and in Norway. The EU is taking decisive steps to promote the Low-Carbon Society through the Climate and Energy Package and the European Energy Programme for Recovery. These initiatives put increased focus on reduced climate gas emissions through renewable energy, energy efficiency and CCS. CCS is the single most promising technology for decarbonising the use of fossil fuels. Financing of CCS demonstration projects is crucial as the technology is in the early stages of development, and also due to the high cost of CCS, and the need to develop a commercially viable market for capture technology. The timing is also important, and 2010 will be a critical year.

The Norwegian Financial Mechanism will support EU efforts to fulfil obligations in the EU Climate and Energy Package such as the goal to establish up to 12 CCS demonstration projects by 2015 and to make CCS commercially viable by 2020. The support will also contribute to paving the way for the implementation of European Strategic Energy Technology Plan (SET plan) intentions in the CCS area.

Interventions under the programme area for CCS will be identified in close cooperation with the European Commission and the relevant Beneficiary States.

Suggested activities

- Support will primarily be provided for one or more of the EU CCS demonstration projects in the Beneficiary States
- Related activities such as awareness building campaigns, CCS research, development and demonstration activities on various aspects of the CCS chain
- Cooperation and sharing of experiences between national authorities

Programme area specificities

- €160 million of the total Norwegian Financial Mechanism should be allocated to this programme area
- Not expected to be a programme area in all Beneficiary States

Reduce economic and social disparities
Strengthen bilateral relations



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Priority sector: **Green Industry Innovation**

**NORWAY
GRANTS
2009-14**

Green Industry Innovation

The Norwegian Financial Mechanism shall contribute to the reduction of economic and social disparities in the European Economic Area, and to strengthening the bilateral relations between Norway and the Beneficiary States. The programme area shall contribute to these two overall objectives.

Objective

Increased competitiveness of green enterprises, including greening of existing industries, green innovation and green entrepreneurship

Expected outcomes

- Realisation of business opportunities of greening the European economy
- Reduced production of waste and reduced emissions to air, water and ground
- More use of environmentally friendly technologies
- Increased green job creation and entrepreneurship



Relevance of support

Competitiveness of green enterprises and the development and implementation of innovative technologies are instrumental in moving towards a greener economy. Norway and the EU subscribe to the principle of sustainable development and share a common objective of creating competitive and dynamic knowledge-based economies. Climate change prompts the urgency of greening economies by minimising emissions and energy used per percentage of GDP created. Investments in green innovation can strengthen economic growth and inspire environmental and eco-sensitive management and production. "EU 2020" emphasises the need for greener and more innovative economies. Green industry development, innovation and entrepreneurship support the efforts of the EU Energy and Climate Package.

The greening of existing industries and the development of new green industries, as well as the development and promotion of innovative technologies are of great importance in order to reach ambitious targets in this field. Innovation in management and production technologies and standards would also be important in order to comply with EU/EEA legislation in the field of environment and energy.

The programme is complementary to EU initiatives such as the EU Competitiveness and Innovation Programme (CIP), the Entrepreneurship and Innovation Programme (EIP) and the Intelligent Energy Europe (IEE) programme. "EU 2020" stresses the creation of competitive, connected and greener economies. Eco-innovation is an important part of EU environmental policy. A key effort lies in bridging the gap between R&D and the market place for eco-friendly products, technologies, services, processes and management methods. This is reflected in the EIP's Eco-innovation programme, which supports eco-innovation projects. The programme also supports and complements the priorities set out in the EU Environmental Technologies Action Plan (ETAP). The Green Industry Innovation Programme may focus on areas less well covered by CIP.

Suggested activities

- Improvements of technology and processes, waste and waste water management, energy efficiency, certification and verifications, strengthening of competences and capacity building
- Innovative services and smart purchasing, both in public and private sectors
- Support projects to implement technologies and standards necessary to comply with EU/EEA legislation in the field of environment and energy
- Development and implementation of strategies for greening of management and production processes
- Development of public strategies for green industrial development
- Cross-cutting training and awareness-raising activities
- Promotion of female and young entrepreneurship

Programme area specificities

This programme area is suitable for involving small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs).

Regarding management of the programme, two options will be available:

The programme can be managed by Innovation Norway in close cooperation with the Beneficiary State. In order to take advantage of Norwegian experiences, technologies and investments, the programme will be based on partnership projects.

Innovation Norway is represented in several of the Beneficiary States and has broad experience in areas such as managing large grant schemes, project appraisals, legal matters, state aid, public procurement, partnership projects and relevant industrial sectors.

Beneficiary States not choosing the option mentioned above may still develop programmes within this priority sector. The programme could then be operated by a legal entity in the Beneficiary State, with Innovation Norway as a programme partner. Partnership projects will be part of the programme.

Reduce economic and social disparities
Strengthen bilateral relations



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Priority sector:

Promotion of Decent Work and Tripartite Dialogue

NORWAY GRANTS 2009-14

The Norwegian Financial Mechanism shall contribute to the reduction of economic and social disparities in the European Economic Area, and to strengthening the bilateral relations between Norway and the Beneficiary States. The programme area shall contribute to these two overall objectives.

Objective

Decent work promoted and tripartite cooperation improved between employers' organisations, trade unions and public authorities in supporting equitable and sustainable economic and social development

Expected outcomes

- Improved social dialogue and tripartite dialogue structures and practices
- Enhanced understanding of the benefits of decent work
- Enhanced access to employment and participation in the labour market
- Enhanced focus on the social dimension of workforce mobility
- Advancement of gender equality and non-discrimination in the workplace
- Improvement of work, family and private life balance
- Worker adaptability and lifelong learning opportunities improved



Relevance of support

Norway and the EU both support the principles of decent work and equal opportunities for all. In a situation of financial crisis and rising unemployment there will be increasing focus on labour market challenges.

The EU has adopted employment and social policies and works in partnership with national authorities, social partners and civil society organisations to create more and better jobs and better working conditions and also promote social inclusion, non-discrimination and equality between men and women. The EU Social Europe initiative reflects these priorities. The EU has also introduced the principle of "flexicurity", focusing on flexible and reliable contractual arrangements, lifelong learning, effective labour market policies and modern social security systems. The new EU 2020 strategy sets out to deliver inclusive growth through fostering a high-employment economy delivering social and territorial cohesion.

The International Labour Organisation (ILO) addresses the social dimension of globalisation, specifically through its Decent Work Agenda with its four pillars of employment creation, workers' rights, social dialogue and social protection. Norway supports the ILO's initiatives and has developed a separate Government strategy to ensure a coherent follow-up to such initiatives.

Suggested activities

- Training and capacity-building to encourage the establishment and functioning of social dialogue structures
- Initiatives to promote bipartite dialogue across industries and sectors
- Initiatives to promote tripartite dialogue
- Initiatives to promote decent work
- Initiatives to address 'flexicurity'
- Initiatives to promote health, safety and environment in the work-place
- Initiatives to foster work-life balance
- Initiatives to promote non-discrimination in the work-place
- Initiatives to promote gender equality in the work-place and in company board-rooms
- Information and awareness-raising activities
- Partnership-building among social partners and with public entities and private sector organisations
- Partnership-building with non-governmental organisations
- Social partner actions to promote employment, education, schooling, housing, anti-discrimination, poverty, health and safety, and social protection

Programme area specificities

Each Beneficiary State shall set aside one percent of its allocation to a fund for the Promotion of Decent Work and Tripartite Dialogue.

The fund will be operated by an entity designated by Norway. The fund will have one common administrative structure to foster networking and lessons learned across borders.

In order to strengthen bilateral relations and take advantage of Norwegian experiences within the fields of decent work and tripartite dialogue, partnership projects will be encouraged but will not be compulsory within this fund.

Specific regulations in order to develop and manage this fund will be worked out, presented to and consulted with the Beneficiary States.

Reduce economic and social disparities
Strengthen bilateral relations



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Priority sector: **Research and Scholarship**

NORWAY GRANTS 2009-14

The Norwegian Financial Mechanism shall contribute to the reduction of economic and social disparities in the European Economic Area, and to strengthening the bilateral relations between Norway and the Beneficiary States. The programme area shall contribute to these two overall objectives.

Objective

Enhanced research-based knowledge development in the Beneficiary States through enhanced research cooperation between Norway and the Beneficiary States

Expected outcomes

- Increased research cooperation between Norway and the Beneficiary States
- Strengthened research capacity in the Beneficiary States and increased application of research results through research cooperation between Norway and the Beneficiary States



Relevance of support

Social and economic development in Europe depends on research, and increasing and strengthening research investments is a priority in all European countries. The EU has a goal of increasing research investments to 3% of GDP, as an important part of efforts to meet goals in the Lisbon Strategy. Investment targets in individual EU Member States may differ from the EU-target.

European and international cooperation in research is a priority shared by all European countries. Increased transnational European research cooperation has been promoted through the EU Framework Programmes for research, technological development and demonstration activities. Norway takes part in these programmes. The significance of further strengthening European research cooperation is highlighted by Ministers in charge of research both in EU countries and in Norway in relation to the European Research Area (ERA) towards 2020.

The ERA is a key instrument in achieving the goals set out in the Lisbon Strategy. The ERA is an effort to create a genuine European 'internal market' for research, including increased coordination of national research activities. The ERA activities and priorities have given rise to new activities that also include the participation of Norway.

Beneficiary States may designate some of the priority sectors as more relevant than others for inclusion in this programme area.

Suggested activities

- Research activities within agreed sectors
- Measures on increased mobility for researchers and students as well as projects promoting institutional strengthening
- Research projects should include opportunities for PhD and Master's candidates
- Homing programmes: support for the reintegration of researchers after their stay abroad and fostering cooperation with their former host institutions

Programme area specificities

- Suitable for small grant schemes
- Suitable for involving small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs)

Reduce economic and social disparities
Strengthen bilateral relations



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Priority sector: **Research and Scholarship**

NORWAY GRANTS 2009-14

Bilateral Scholarship Programme

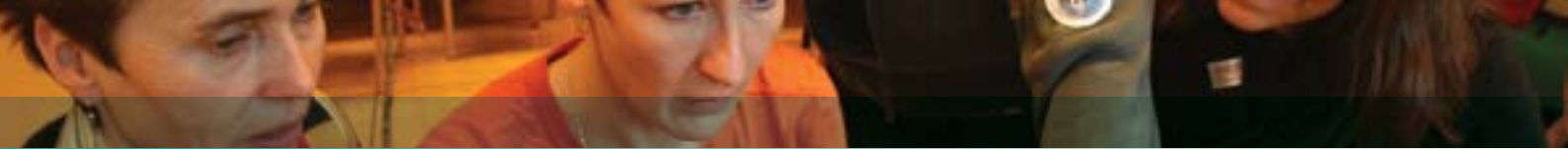
Objective

Enhanced human capital and knowledge
base in the Beneficiary States

Expected outcomes

- Increased higher education student and staff mobility between Beneficiary States and Norway
- Increased and strengthened institutional cooperation within the higher education sector between the Beneficiary States and Norway

The Norwegian Financial Mechanism shall contribute to the reduction of economic and social disparities in the European Economic Area, and to strengthening the bilateral relations between Norway and the Beneficiary States. The programme area shall contribute to these two overall objectives.



Relevance of support

Cooperation within the fields of education and research is an objective shared by all European countries. The significance of transnational cooperation has been highlighted by Ministers in charge of education and research in EU countries and in Norway as part of the Bologna Process and the development of the European Higher Education Area, the development of the European Research Area, as well as the Lisbon Strategy and the European Strategic Framework for Cooperation in Education and Training 2020.

Internationalisation remains an important aim for higher education institutions in Europe and is promoted by educational authorities worldwide.

Despite political objectives of increased international student mobility, many European countries are witnessing a decline in student mobility.

The current financial crisis has made access to scholarship funding even more important both for individual applicants and for European educational and research institutions.

Suggested activities

- Individual mobility for higher education students and staff
- Inter-institutional cooperation projects

Reduce economic and social disparities
Strengthen bilateral relations



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Priority sector:
Human and Social Development

NORWAY GRANTS 2009-14

The Norwegian Financial Mechanism shall contribute to the reduction of economic and social disparities in the European Economic Area, and to strengthening the bilateral relations between Norway and the Beneficiary States. The programme area shall contribute to these two overall objectives.

Capacity-building and Institutional Cooperation between Beneficiary State and Norwegian Public Institutions, Local and Regional Authorities

Objective

Strengthened institutional capacity and human resource development in public institutions, local and regional authorities in the Beneficiary States within the agreed priority sectors through cooperation and transfer of knowledge with similar institutions and authorities in Norway

Expected outcomes

- Increased and strengthened cooperation between public institutions, local and

regional authorities in the Beneficiary States and similar institutions and authorities in Norway

- Enhanced institutional capacity and human resources development in public institutions, local and regional authorities in the Beneficiary States
- Enhanced capacity and quality of the services provided by public institutions, local and regional authorities through enhanced institutional capacity and human resources development



Relevance of support

Public institutions and local and regional authorities play a crucial role in any country. Public institution-building through institutional capacity-building and human resource development is one of the principal tools in improving the services they provide to a country's population.

Institutional cooperation between Norway and the Beneficiary States should aim to assist in the development of modern and efficient administrations, with the structures, human resources and management skills needed to implement their designated tasks to a high standard.

This programme area will facilitate the exchange of experiences and learning between partners in Norway and the Beneficiary States. It provides the framework for administrations and public authorities in the Beneficiary States to cooperate with their counterparts in Norway, with the aim of developing modern and efficient administration. The cooperation between Norway and the Beneficiary States would contribute to the development of networks and exchanges of knowledge and the dissemination of best practices with regard to the above-mentioned outcomes.

Suggested activities

- Measures to strengthen institutional capacity
- Measures to strengthen human resources development
- Measures to improve the quality and accessibility of the services provided by public institutions and local and regional authorities
- Training activities
- Measures to strengthen systems such as quality assurance systems, IT-systems, etc.
- Exchange of personnel on long, medium or short term

All relevant, capable and interested public institutions working within the agreed priority sectors could be eligible for this area. A list of potential Norwegian partner institutions will be developed.

Programme area specificities

- Programmes may be operated directly by the National Focal Point
- Particularly relevant for pre-defined projects
- Only Partnership projects



Priority sector:
Human and Social Development

NORWAY GRANTS 2009-14

The Norwegian Financial Mechanism shall contribute to the reduction of economic and social disparities in the European Economic Area, and to strengthening the bilateral relations between Norway and the Beneficiary States. The programme area shall contribute to these two overall objectives.

Objective

Strengthened cross-border cooperation between regions on both sides of the EU external border

Expected outcomes

- Closer contact and cooperation between local and regional institutions and NGOs on both sides of the EU external border
- Local and regional institutions and NGOs are enhancing knowledge and skills for developing cross-border cooperation
- Mitigation of existing barriers to cross-border cooperation
- Greater understanding of common cross-border challenges and opportunities
- New and innovative forms of cross-border cooperation developed



Relevance of support

For the EU, cross-border cooperation between regions on both sides of its external border has become an increasingly important priority. Building on Cross-Border Cooperation (CBC) experiences under Tacis, Meda and Phare, the European Neighbourhood Policy (ENP) was first outlined in 2003 in the European Commission Communication on a Wider Europe. The European Neighbourhood Policy has since contributed to a significant strengthening of the EU's relations with its neighbouring countries. Today, the ENP includes cooperation programmes for practically all of the Union's neighbouring countries, while the European Neighbourhood Partnership Instrument (ENPI) provides significant support to cross-border project cooperation with neighbouring states, including Russia.

The Eastern Partnership, which was officially launched at the Prague Summit in May 2009, offers an additional platform for cross-border interaction. The partnership, which aims to lay the foundations for accelerated political association and advanced economic integration between the EU and its neighbouring countries, will strengthen the Union's cooperation with Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova, and Ukraine.

It is now widely recognised that regions along the EU external border share a number of common challenges, from pollution in trans-boundary rivers to communicable diseases and organised crime. Cross-border cooperation has the potential to address these issues through the sharing of knowledge and experiences, and the development of joint strategies. Stronger links between civil society organisations on both sides of the EU's borders also have the potential to create stronger foundations for civil society engagement in neighbouring states.

Suggested activities

- Support capacity-building for local and regional institutions and/or NGOs engaged in or wanting to develop cross-border cooperation
- Support research and development of methodologies and practices in the field of cross-border cooperation
- Support measures to exchange information, experiences and best practices from cross-border cooperation
- Support to people to people initiatives that increase awareness of and understanding between peoples in border regions, including exchanges, events, exhibitions, performances, and other joint activities
- Support to the development of sustainable cross-border resource management strategies/ action plans
- Support to the development of emergency response systems

Programme area specificities

- Suitable for civil society involvement
- Suitable for small grant schemes
- Particularly relevant for cooperation between entities in a Beneficiary State and an entity located in a country outside the European Economic Area bordering on the respective Beneficiary State

Reduce economic and social disparities
Strengthen bilateral relations



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Priority sector: **Human and Social Development**

NORWAY GRANTS 2009-14

The Norwegian Financial Mechanism shall contribute to the reduction of economic and social disparities in the European Economic Area, and to strengthening the bilateral relations between the Norway and the Beneficiary States. The programme area shall contribute to these two overall objectives.

Public Health Initiatives

Objective

Improved public health and reduced health inequalities

Expected outcomes

- Reduced inequalities between user groups
- Developed resources for all levels of health care
- Improved governance in health care
- Strengthened financing systems
- National health registries and health information systems, data management and use improved
- Improved access to and quality of health services, including reproductive and preventive child health care
- Improved access to and quality of health services for elderly people
- Life-style-related diseases prevented or reduced
- Improved prevention and treatment of communicable diseases (including HIV/AIDS and TB)
- Improved mental health services
- Improved food safety and increased access to information about food safety and health for consumers, public authorities and industry

Relevance of support

Well-functioning and strong national health systems are a prerequisite for sustaining and improving the population's standard of health, which in turn is a fundamental factor for a country's economic well-being. The EU Health Strategy, "Together for Health: A Strategic Approach for the EU 2008-13", places the emphasis on fostering dynamic health systems as a means of meeting the health challenges in Europe. The Tallinn Charter of 2008 calls for the strengthening of health systems in Europe and gives guidance on public health initiatives.

The aim of public health initiatives is to improve the health status in a population by focusing on access to health care, and the underlying determinants of health. In some areas, like formal maternal health, swift access to health services is vital, while for other major public health hazards, only a small share is directly shaped by health systems. Other sectors like education, nutrition, taxation and road safety have an important impact on public health.

Public health activities depend on documentation of the distribution (morbidity, mortality, life expectancy, etc.) and the determinants of health. Within health services, public health deals with preventive services, as well as health promotion and health care management. Concerns for equity and fair distribution have grown in importance in health policies. Life-style-related diseases, care for immigrants and national minorities (Roma people in particular), ageing of the population and low fertility rates represent special challenges in terms of health and health care in many countries in the EU. The diversity within the EU in terms of influences on health and health outcomes provides a promising basis for cooperation.

The financial crisis has impacted severely on several of the countries of Central and Eastern Europe. There is a risk that the financial crisis will adversely affect public health expenditure for years to come.

Suggested activities

- Strengthen health systems to face the challenges of the financial crisis and social inequalities in health
- National initiatives for the improvement of health systems, with a focus on marginalised groups
- National health registries and health information systems, monitoring and evaluation as a basis for improved governmental management with a focus on inequalities
- Review of and support for health financing systems to make them sustainable and equal
- Capacity-building and technical cooperation through staff development and infrastructure
- Refine health surveillance and complaint mechanisms
- Strengthen primary health care in terms of quantity and quality
- Document and develop strategies on:
 - life-style-related and preventable diseases
 - mental health suffering, in particular the reduction of suicides
 - sexual and reproductive health
 - communicable diseases
 - ill-health among children
- Foster inter-sectoral cooperation
- Training in management of decentralised health services
- Activities on food safety and increased access to information about food safety and health for consumers, public authorities and industry (formal and informal markets):
 - development of formal control labelling
 - surveillance and support for ensuring food safety in informal markets

Programme area specificities

- Suitable for civil society involvement
- Suitable for small grant schemes

Reduce economic and social disparities
Strengthen bilateral relations



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Priority sector:
Human and Social Development

NORWAY GRANTS 2009-14

Mainstreaming Gender Equality and Promoting Work-Life Balance

The Norwegian Financial Mechanism shall contribute to the reduction of economic and social disparities in the European Economic Area, and to strengthening the bilateral relations between the Norway and the Beneficiary States. The programme area shall contribute to these two overall objectives.

Objective

Gender equality and work-life balance promoted

Expected outcomes

- Gender issues across policies and practices mainstreamed
- Awareness raised and research on gender issues promoted
- Successful national policies and best practices on gender equality exchanged
- Balance between work, private and family life improved
- Gender balance on company boards improved
- Gender pay gap reduced
- Gender equality ombudspersons/authorities established
- Capacity of gender equality organisations and networks strengthened



Relevance of support

The EU has made significant progress through its efforts to promote gender equality. Nonetheless, many EU Member States are still facing considerable challenges when it comes to addressing the gender dimension of issues such as access to employment, reconciliation of work, private and family life, pay gaps, participation in political and economic decision-making, and multiple discrimination against ethnic minorities.

Equality between women and men is a fundamental right, a common value of the EU and the EEA EFTA States, and a necessary condition for the achievement of EU objectives of economic growth, more and better employment and greater social cohesion. The 1996 Communication on 'Incorporating equal opportunities for women and men into all Community policies and activities', and the Amsterdam Treaty of 1997, Art. 2 and 3 (elimination of inequalities and promotion of equality between women and men), Art. 13 (anti-discrimination) and Art. 141 (equal pay), create the legal basis for promoting gender equality and fighting gender-based discrimination within the EU.

The current policy framework for actions to promote gender equality at EU level includes the Roadmap for Gender Equality 2006-10, the European Council 2006 European Pact for Gender Equality and the 2008 European Commission Communication on 'A better work-life balance'. In March 2010, the European Commission adopted the Women's Charter, setting out the priorities to be addressed by the new Strategy for Gender Equality 2010-15. The Charter aims to include a gender perspective in all EC policies for the next five years, with a specific focus on promoting equal economic independence, reducing the gender pay gap, improving the representation of women in key decision-making roles, promoting the eradication of gender-based violence, and promoting gender equality beyond the EU.

Suggested activities

- Measures to increase awareness at national, regional and local levels through data collection, educational programmes and campaigns targeting both women and men on issues of gender equality and anti-discrimination
- Research structures and activities on gender issues, including but not limited to poverty, women's participation in decision-making and public life, equal economic independence for women and men, and balancing work, private and family life
- Activities to ensure gender mainstreaming in design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of policy, research, legislation, programmes and resource allocation at national, regional and local levels
- Measures to reduce the gender pay gap, including awareness-raising, initiatives to promote gender equality in the workplace, and efforts to improve the supply and quality of statistics
- Measures to foster the capacity of public authorities to develop gender mainstreaming and promote gender equality
- Mainstreaming and awareness activities to promote the reconciliation of work, private and family life
- Establishment of gender equality ombudspersons/authorities
- Information and awareness-raising activities on gender mainstreaming techniques through workshops, seminars and training, and manuals
- Exchanges between social partners, NGOs, the private sector and local and national governments
- Advocacy activities on gender equality
- Capacity-building for gender equality organisations and networks
- Exchange of best practices between EEA EFTA and Beneficiary State entities on gender mainstreaming and awareness

Programme area specificities

- Particularly relevant for civil society
- Suitable for small grant schemes
- Suitable for involving small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs)



Priority sector:
Justice and Home Affairs

**NORWAY
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2009-14**

Domestic and Gender-based Violence

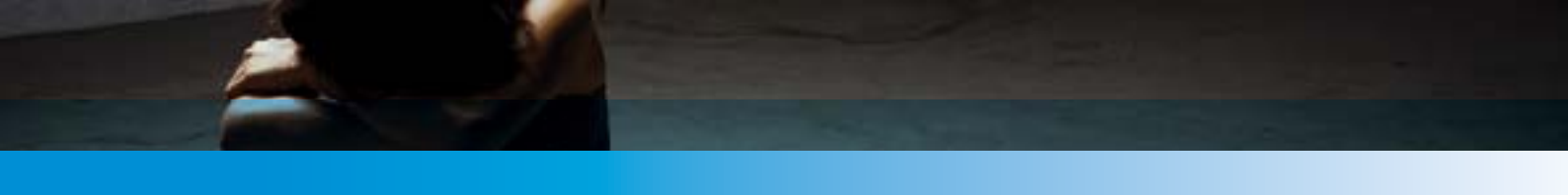
The Norwegian Financial Mechanism shall contribute to the reduction of economic and social disparities in the European Economic Area, and to strengthening the bilateral relations between Norway and the Beneficiary States. The programme area shall contribute to these two overall objectives.

Objective

Gender-based violence prevented and tackled

Expected outcomes

- Gender-based violence reduced
- Domestic violence reduced
- Victims of trafficking supported



Relevance of support

Violence against women represents a major challenge for modern societies, because it is ubiquitous and pervasive. Violence affects women and girls in all European countries, across all ages, cultures, ethnicities, nationalities, socio-economic status, marital status, sexual orientation, trans-gender status, disability, religion or belief, or migration status.

The Council of Europe estimates that 45 percent of all women in Europe have been subjected to and suffered from gender-based violence. Between 40 and 50 percent of women in the European Union report some form of sexual harassment in the workplace. It is estimated that every fifth woman in Europe has been subjected to domestic violence, which remains a major cause of death amongst women. Additionally, about 80 percent of the estimated 100,000 people trafficked in the European Union every year are women and girls.

There has been a range of measures initiated in recent years at international level – both at the UN, Council of Europe and the EU to tackle gender-based violence and human trafficking, including legislation, reports and resolutions.

The Stockholm Programme – the EU five-year plan on justice and home affairs – reflects these commitments. The Commission Action Plan on the Stockholm Programme envisages the preparation of a strategy to combat violence against women, domestic violence and female genital mutilation and will be launched in 2011. The suggested timeframe for the EU strategy is 2011-15. The planned strategy would enhance the efforts of individual Member States, encourage cross-European activities, and provide a vehicle for the implementation of the planned Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence.

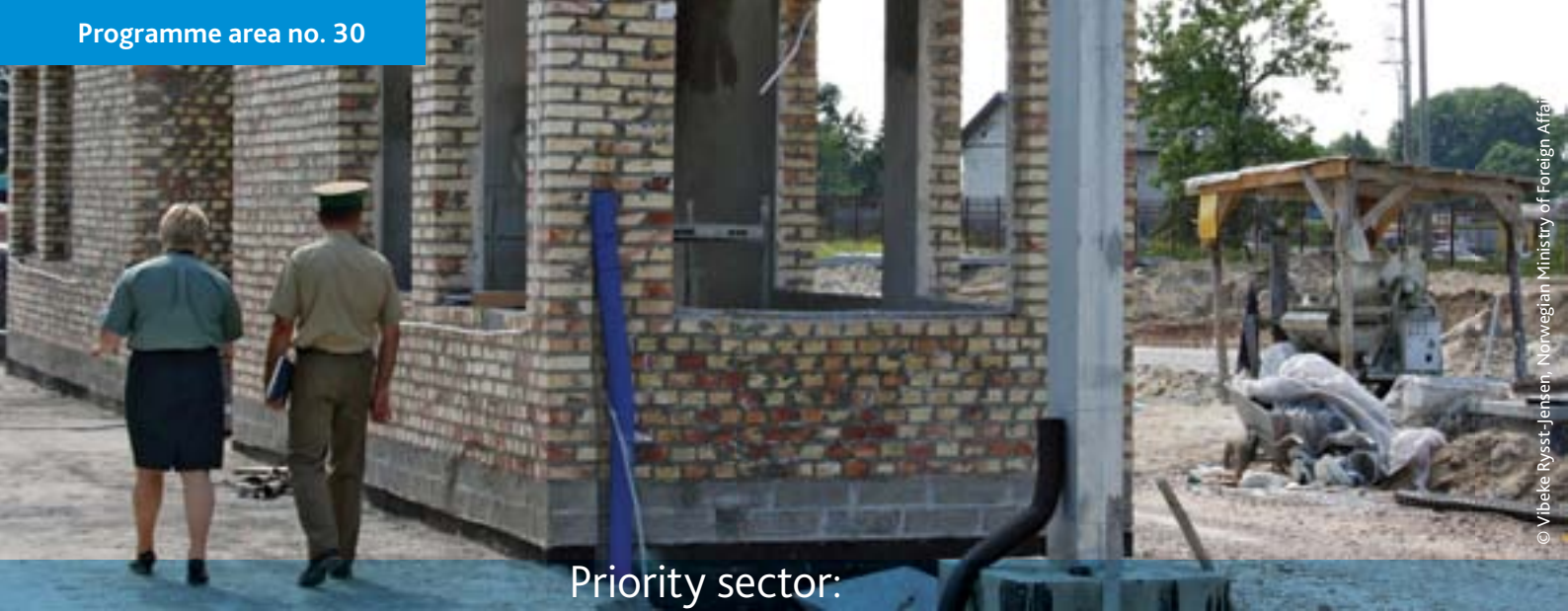
In 2005, the Council of Europe adopted the Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings. The aim of the convention is to prevent and combat trafficking in human beings, and to ensure protection of victims. The Stockholm Programme is now expected to further consolidate the EU Member States' actions in the field of trafficking in human beings through the development of a strategy on the prevention and combating trafficking in human beings, as well as the establishment of an Anti-Trafficking Co-ordinator within the Commission.

Suggested activities

- Support development of policies and national strategies to combat gender-based violence and trafficking
- Support measures to increase cooperation and knowledge in law enforcement and support services on gender-based violence and trafficking
- Support advocacy and awareness-raising activities on gender-based violence and trafficking
- Support protection services for victims of gender-based violence and trafficking, including shelters, phone lines and crisis centres
- Support the use of technical aids in the fight against domestic violence i.e mobile violence alarms and electronic monitoring of offenders, including financial support for investing in such technical aids
- Improve research and data collection, including financial support for necessary technical devices
- Support counselling/treatment programmes for offenders
- Support capacity-building for organisations preventing and tackling gender-based violence and trafficking

Programme area specificities

- Suitable for civil society involvement
- Suitable for small grant schemes
- Might be suitable for involvement of the Council of Europe



Priority sector: **Justice and Home Affairs**

NORWAY GRANTS 2009-14

The Norwegian Financial Mechanism shall contribute to the reduction of economic and social disparities in the European Economic Area, and to strengthening the bilateral relations between Norway and the Beneficiary States. The programme area shall contribute to these two overall objectives.

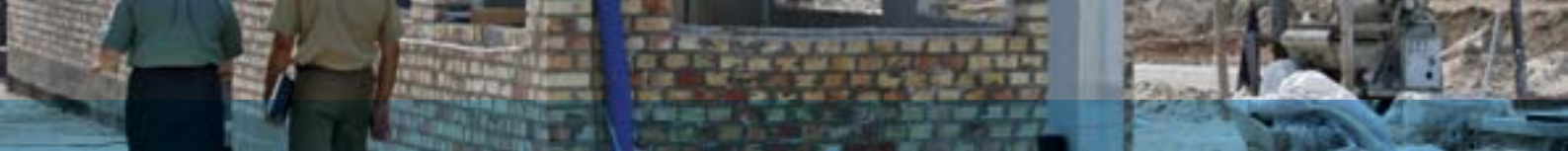
Schengen Cooperation and Combating Cross-border and Organised Crime, including Trafficking and Itinerant Criminal Groups

Objective

Increase citizen's security through improvement of the efficiency of cooperation between law enforcement authorities in the Schengen Member States in fighting organised crime, including trafficking in human beings

Expected outcomes

- Development and improvement of structures, systems and technical equipment in order to improve the implementation of the Schengen acquis
- Strengthening of the cooperation between the police in the Schengen Member States
- Improved capacity to prevent and combat cross-border and organized crime, including trafficking in human beings and itinerant criminal groups
- Improved cooperation between the authorities and relevant stakeholders, including non-governmental organisations, in assisting victims of trafficking



Relevance of support

By the end of 2007, most of the EU Member States were full operational members of Schengen. Bulgaria and Romania are set to join soon. In an area without internal border controls, it remains essential that the law enforcement authorities cooperate smoothly.

The Schengen acquis is developing constantly, particularly in the area of border management. Several initiatives have been put forward with the aim of fulfilling a twin objective: facilitating access to Schengen and improved security. Given that each member of the Schengen area takes responsibility for controlling the external borders on behalf of the other Schengen countries, it is of the utmost importance that these checks are conducted correctly and in accordance with uniform principles.

Combating international organised crime is a high priority for all European countries. Since the Vienna Action Plan in 1999, combating organised crime has been a priority for the European Union. This is also reflected in the Stockholm Programme.

Security in Europe is further enhanced when the law enforcement authorities pool information as effectively as possible and when they have the right technological infrastructure to support them. The law enforcement authorities in Europe cooperate on a bilateral basis, through Europol, Eurojust and Frontex as well as through Interpol.

In 2010 the Financial Mechanism Office presented an evaluation of the EEA and Norway Grants 2004-09 support for the implementation of Schengen in the new EU Member States. The evaluation identified future funding needs specifically to ensure greater efforts in combating organised crime, human trafficking and corruption.

All EU and EEA EFTA States have signed the Council of Europe convention on action against trafficking in human beings. An independent group of experts – GRETA – is tasked with monitoring the implementation of the convention.

Suggested activities

- Improve the capacity and competencies of law enforcement agencies to investigate and prosecute in cases of organised crime, including trafficking, e.g. through measures aimed at improving international cooperation and exchanges of best practices
- Support for developing strategies for combating organised cross-border crime, including trafficking and itinerant criminal groups
- Support the development, improvement and efficient use of necessary technical infrastructure, including SIS II, VIS, and possible new technical infrastructure, like

Eurosur and Entry Exit through financial support, sharing of technical expertise and competence-building measures

- Strengthening of national capacities for efficient use of EU information-sharing instruments, including SIS II, and Prüm-related registers through competence-building measures and financial support
- Strengthening of national capacities in order to improve the interaction with Frontex, Eurojust, Europol and Interpol through competence-building and financial support
- Strengthening of national capacities on forensic services including competence-building and financial support for necessary technical equipment
- Develop and support international networks on an operational level to ensure rapid exchanges of information for investigative purposes as well as regular sharing of best practices
- Support measures aimed at preventing recruitment into trafficking and provide assistance and support for victims
- Training activities

Programme area specificities

- Suitable for civil society involvement
- Suitable for small grant schemes
- Could be relevant for cooperation between entities in a Beneficiary State and an entity located in a country outside the European Economic Area bordering on the respective Beneficiary State
- Might be suitable for involvement of the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe, the Council of Europe and the International Organisation for Migration (IOM)

Reduce economic and social disparities
Strengthen bilateral relations



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Priority sector:
Justice and Home Affairs

**NORWAY
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2009-14**

Judicial Capacity-building and Cooperation

The Norwegian Financial Mechanism shall contribute to the reduction of economic and social disparities in the European Economic Area, and to strengthening the bilateral relations between Norway and the Beneficiary States. The programme area shall contribute to these two overall objectives.

Objective

A fairer and more efficient judicial system

Expected outcomes

- Improved access to justice, including for vulnerable persons (e.g. victims, minors, minorities)
- Alternative dispute resolutions developed (restorative justice)
- Improved efficiency of the court systems, including the development of systems for case handling
- Increased competence of actors within the judiciary



Relevance of support

Fair courts and independent judges help ensure the protection of vital rights and freedoms. The independence of the courts and the efficiency and quality of the judicial system are crucial in any democracy. Not only is this important for public confidence in the judicial system, but it is also a prerequisite of social and economic development.

The European Commission for the Efficiency of Justice (CEPEJ) points to a number of short-comings and obstacles on the way to more efficiency and quality in European judicial systems. These are challenges faced by all members of the Council of Europe and the European Union alike. European judicial systems have unrealised potential when it comes to improving access to justice and in improving the efficiency and effective cooperation of courts and judicial systems. Stimulating alternative dispute resolution mechanisms (restorative justice), improving the accountability of the courts, and protecting the independence of the judiciary and the statute of judges and prosecutors, as well as safeguarding the principle of a fair trial within a reasonable time, are all important elements.

A fair and efficient judicial system is also crucial for the development of mutual trust and mutual recognition in the EU, a cornerstone of both civil and judicial cooperation under the Hague and Stockholm programmes.

Suggested activities

- Assistance in improving the administrative capacity of the courts
- Training programmes for judges, prosecutors, lawyers, mediators and non-legal actors
- Maintenance and investment, including technical equipment, in court buildings and legal aid centres as part of other activities
- Support activities to increase awareness, development and application of restorative justice and alternative dispute resolution

Programme area specificities

- Suitable for small grant schemes
- Suitable for civil society involvement
- Might be suitable for involvement of the Council of Europe

Reduce economic and social disparities
Strengthen bilateral relations



Priority sector:
Justice and Home Affairs

NORWAY GRANTS 2009-14

Correctional Services, including Non-custodial Sanctions

The Norwegian Financial Mechanism shall contribute to the reduction of economic and social disparities in the European Economic Area, and to strengthening the bilateral relations between Norway and the Beneficiary States. The programme area shall contribute to these two overall objectives.

Objective

Improved correctional services system in compliance with relevant international human rights instruments

Expected outcomes

- Overcome challenges connected to growing prison populations and prison overcrowding
- Increased application of alternatives to prison
- Increased focus on vulnerable groups in prison
- Improved competences of both inmates and prison staff



Relevance of support

The UN and the Council of Europe – of which all EU/EEA EFTA countries are members – have over the years developed specific standards in the penitentiary field. The standards are found in recommendations, in binding texts like conventions and protocols, as well as in the case-law of the European Court of Human Rights. The observations of the UN Committee against Torture (CAT) and the reports of the European Committee for the Prevention of Torture and Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (CPT) show a wide range of problems and concerns in places of detention in Contracting States.

Many of the Beneficiary States have to deal with the consequences of growing prison populations, with overcrowding and ill health as a result. The effects of, for example, tuberculosis and other contagious diseases remain very serious in some countries. In addition, the increasing number of prisoners with a drug problem is of growing concern, as is the importing of drugs into prisons. According to assessments, poor infrastructure, lack of qualified personnel, insufficient sanitation and accommodation, and shortages of meaningful activities for inmates are challenges in this sector. In many countries, alternatives to prison are rarely used, rehabilitation and reintegration efforts are few, and conditions in pre-trial detention need improvement.

A number of prison projects and professional partnerships have been established under the Norway Grants 2004-09.

Suggested activities

- Expand national systems for alternatives to prison
- Improve conditions and staff competence with regard to vulnerable groups, e.g. women and juvenile offenders
- Ensure constructive activities, employment, education and training of inmates
- Ensure adequate health care, including approaches to address substance abuse among offenders
- Develop recruitment strategies and further develop the training of staff
- Improve preparations for release and reintegration into society
- Improve material conditions
- International cooperation to enable transfers of sentenced prisoners to their country of origin

Programme area specificities

- Suitable for civil society involvement
- Might be suitable for involvement of the Council of Europe

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NOTES

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Reduce
economic and social
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