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# Ten facts about the EEA and Norway Grants



Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs



Iceland  Norway  
 Liechtenstein  Norway  
 Norway grants grants

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## 1 What are the EEA and Norway Grants?

The Grants represent funding from Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway to 15 European Union (EU) countries in Central and Southern Europe and the Baltics. The Grants are linked to the Agreement on the European Economic Area (EEA) which includes a shared goal to work together to reduce economic and social disparities in the EEA.

In total, the donors have provided €3.3 billion through consecutive grant schemes between 1994 and 2014. Of this, €1.8 billion was channelled through 150 programmes in 16 countries the period 2009-2014. Over 6 000 projects received support. Projects financed during this period were implemented until April 2017. Read about results and project stories on [www.eeagrants.org](http://www.eeagrants.org). A further €2.8 billion has been made available in the current 2014-2021 funding period. The programmes will run until 2024.

## 2 What is the European Economic Area?

The EEA binds together the 28 EU member countries and Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway as equal partners in the internal market. All EEA countries have the same rights and obligations when it comes to trade and investment, banking and insurance, and buying and selling services. Their citizens have the same right to work, study and live in any EEA member country. The Agreement also covers cooperation in other important areas such as research and innovation, education, culture and the environment.

## 3 What are the objectives of the Grants?

The objectives are two-fold: to reduce economic and social disparities in Europe, and to strengthen bilateral relations between the donor and beneficiary countries. Reducing gaps between countries in the EEA not only improves the functioning of the internal market, but also contributes to building a stronger Europe based on equality and solidarity.

## 4 Which countries benefit?

The 15 countries eligible for funding are: Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Greece, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia and Slovenia. Spain received only transitional funding in the 2009-2014 period and is no longer eligible for the 2014-2021 period.

## 5 What are the criteria for eligibility?

Eligibility for the Grants mirrors the criteria set for the EU Cohesion Fund aimed at member countries where Gross National Income (GNI) per inhabitant is less than 90% of the EU average.

## Working together for a green, competitive and inclusive Europe

### Beneficiary countries (€ million) 2014-2021

Country	EEA Grants	Norway Grants	Total
Bulgaria	€115.0	€95.1	€210.1
Croatia	€56.8	€46.6	€103.4
Cyprus	€6.4	€5.1	€11.5
Czech Republic	€95.5	€89.0	€184.5
Estonia	€32.3	€35.7	€68.0
Greece	€116.7	-	€116.7
Hungary	€108.9	€105.7	€214.6
Latvia	€50.2	€51.9	€102.1
Lithuania	€56.2	€61.4	€117.6
Malta	€4.4	€3.6	€8.0
Poland	€397.8	€411.5	€809.3
Portugal	€102.7	-	€102.7
Romania	€275.2	€227.3	€502.5
Slovakia	€54.9	€58.2	€113.1
Slovenia	€19.9	€17.8	€37.7
<i>Regional funds</i>	€55.2	€44.8	€100.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>€1 548.1*</b>	<b>€1 253.7</b>	<b>€2 801.8</b>

\* The EEA Grants are jointly financed by all three donors, where contributions are based on their GDP. The estimated share of contributions equates to: Norway (96%), Iceland (3%) and Liechtenstein (1%).



Iceland

Norway

Liechtenstein

Portugal

Malta

Cyprus

€2.8  
billion  
in funding

3  
donor  
countries

€1.5  
billion  
EEA Grants

Financed by Iceland,  
Liechtenstein and Norway

15  
beneficiary  
countries

€1.3  
billion  
Norway Grants

Financed solely by Norway

## 6 What are the areas of support?

For the period 2014-2021, five priority sectors have been agreed between the donor countries and the EU. These reflect the priorities of the EU and aim to respond to the shared challenges facing Europe.

- Innovation, Research, Education and Competitiveness
- Social Inclusion, Youth Employment and Poverty Reduction
- Environment, Energy, Climate Change and Low Carbon Economy
- Culture, Civil Society, Good Governance and Fundamental Rights
- Justice and Home Affairs

A new feature is the establishment of regional funds to tackle youth unemployment (€60.6 million) and promote regional cooperation (€31.9 million).

## 7 How do the Grants promote cooperation?

Partnerships between organisations in the donor and beneficiary countries are widely encouraged. This brings mutual benefits, facilitating exchange and strengthening links across borders. A number of international organisations, like the Council of Europe, are also involved as partners in programmes and projects.

## 8 How much are the Grants worth?

In the 2014-2021 funding period, the Grants amount to €2.8 billion. The EEA Grants (€1.5 million) are jointly financed by all three donors and available in all 15 countries. The Norway Grants (€1.3 million) are financed solely by Norway and available in the 13 countries that joined the EU after 2003.

## 9 How do the schemes work?

Each partner country agrees on a set of programmes with the donors, based on needs and priorities, and the scope for cooperation. A National Focal Point is responsible for the overall management of programmes in each country. Programme Operators develop and implement the programmes, often in cooperation with a public institution from a donor country and award funding to projects.

## 10 Who can benefit from funding?

- National and local authorities
- NGOs and civil society organisations
- Private and public enterprises
- Educational and research institutions
- Students and teaching staff
- Social partners