

2007-2009

61 projects

€ 2 000 000

2009-2014

454 projects

€ 11 790 000

2014-2021

€ 15 500 000

Over 500 projects and more than 700 organizations have received support for the last 10 years from the NGO Fund in Bulgaria. For the civil sector, this support is particularly important because it fosters an enabling environment and strengthens the NGOs' capacity. In this way, we gave the green light to many causes that touched human destinies, overturned attitudes, and provoked public reaction. For the 2007-2009 period, the NGO Fund in Bulgaria was managed by the Foundation for Local Government Reform and for the 2009-2014 and 2014-2021 periods by the Open Society Institute and their partners.



Support for vulnerable groups, including contribution to national Roma integration policies, is also a focus of the financial mechanisms. We support areas such as education, health, justice and home affairs and culture. A quarter of the projects funded by the NGO Fund also have such a priority.



“The scholarship gave me the confidence necessary to be a full-fledged student and to do my best. The system treated me as equal to everyone else”, says 32-year-old Emil, and his colleague Marin (28) adds: **“The scholarships gave us the opportunity to complete our education. If you need to invest 100% of yourself in a medical specialty, you need 150% if you are Roma.”** The two students are among the beneficiaries of the health programme that gave representatives of vulnerable groups the chance to receive support for education.



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The official relations between Bulgaria and Norway, Iceland and Liechtenstein have their long history, dating back to 1906 with Norway. The financial mechanisms have been implemented in the spirit of friendship and sharing of experience. Over 200 partnerships have been established and hundreds of Bulgarian students, lecturers and scholars have the opportunity to communicate and work with colleagues from donor countries. The Bulgarian scientist is a respected partner and the exchanged experience is priceless for both parties. With great interest and curiosity, Bulgaria and Norway view each other with their rich historical and cultural roots. Thus, with the support of the programmes, from September 2017 for a three-month period an exhibition of the Thracian treasures of Bulgaria visits the Norwegian town of Bergen in an exciting meeting of millennial civilizations. Beyond the received funds and the implemented projects, it is important for all of us that the mutual trust we have already built lays the foundation for future development of current as well as new joint initiatives. Particularly helpful here is the support of the Norwegian Embassy to Bulgaria, which assists in establishing contacts and serves as a valuable intermediary in the initial stages of cooperation.

10 YEARS FINANCIAL MECHANISM of the European Economic Area and Norwegian Financial Mechanism 2007 – 2017

Iceland
Liechtenstein
Norway grants

Norway grants



2007-2009

€ 41.5
million

2009-2014

€ 126.6
million

2014-2021

€ 210.1
million

In 2017 we are marking the first decade of partnership between Bulgaria, Norway, Iceland and Liechtenstein for the implementation of programmes and projects under the EEA and Norway Grants. During this period, Bulgaria got access to more than 160 million euro and provided support for more than 800 projects in various fields, including education, culture, justice and home affairs, environment and civil society.

The cooperation within the European Economic Area dates back to 1994 when the foundations of free movement of goods, services and people within the member states were laid. One of the goals of the agreement for free trade is to reduce the social and economic disparities. This is also the aim of the contribution from Norway, Iceland and Liechtenstein through the EEA and Norway Grants. Development and partnership projects are supported in 15 countries with Bulgaria being among the ones with the highest share of the funding.



2007-2009

2009-2014

2014-2021

66 supported projects

34 with partners from the Donor States

128 small projects under the NGO Fund and the Scholarship Fund

Main priorities

environment, human resources, healthcare, childcare, cultural heritage, etc.

Results

establishment of a national biodiversity monitoring system, fire alarm system for monitoring of Pirin National Park, Schengen border telecommunication system, establishment of a Museum of Modern Art and reconstruction of the Antic Stadium in Plovdiv, reconstruction of hospitals, kindergartens, etc.

Number of supported projects: 770

Number of supported projects with partners from the Donor States - 181

Environment



- 686 volunteers trained to collect data and fill information in the National System for Biodiversity Monitoring;
- 117 buildings with reduced energy consumption and heating expenses;
- Mapping of 100% of the ecosystems in the country, that are out of NATURA 2000

Justice and Home Affairs



- 10 reconstructed places of detention in line with the international standards, including new prison dormitory for 450 people
- Pilot project for electronic monitoring of 183 sentenced people
- 260 prisoners have joined alternative to imprisonment programmes
- Over 1 000 magistrates trained on the European Human Rights Convention
- 14 magistrates and legal experts on internship at the European Court of Human Rights
- 9 656 people provided with legal aid
- 1994 supported victims of domestic violence
- 2 459 law enforcement officers trained on human rights and skills for work in multicultural environment

Cultural Heritage



- Establishment of 11 digital centers and digitalization of 50 000 cultural heritage items;
- 40 new expositions of contemporary art;
- Conservation and restoration of 7 buildings of cultural value including Perperikon, Veliko Turnovo, Tracian mounds in Kazanluk, the old bridge at Svilengrad, Antique Center for Ceramics at Pavlikeni, etc.;
- Establishment of a new city gallery in Pomorie and of a Museum-Library Complex in Dimitrograd

Human and Social Development



- Established and actively working 4 youth centers in the cities of Plovdiv, Stara Zagora, Dobrich and Vratza;
- 68 reconstructed kindergartens;
- 7632 home visits of pregnant women and mothers with children up to 3-years old;
- 135 scholarships for students studying in medical specialty;
- 4667 young people tested for sexually transmitted diseases;

Civil Society, scholarships and decent working conditions



- 56 scholarships for students, teachers and science workers from Bulgaria and the Donor States
- 91 articles and reports as a results of scientific exchange
- 454 projects funded under the NGO Fund, including:
- More than 1000 information events;
- More than 100 advocacy campaigns;
- 230 initiatives to increase the level of information of human rights among citizens

PROGRAMME	PROGRAMME OPERATOR	DONOR PROGRAMME PARTNER	BUDGET, INCL. NATIONAL CO-FINANCING
Local Development, Poverty reduction and Enhanced Inclusion of Vulnerable Groups	Ministry of Education and Science	Norwegian Association of Local and Regional Authorities (KS) Council of Europe (CoE)	€ 41,176,471
Renewable Energy, Energy Efficiency and Energy Security	Ministry of Energy	Norwegian Directorate for Energy and Water Resources (NVE), National Energy Authority (OS)	€ 32,941,176
Environment Protection and Climate Change	Ministry of Environment and Waters	Norwegian Environment Agency (NEA)	€ 15,294,118
Cultural entrepreneurship, heritage and cooperation	Ministry of Culture	Norwegian Arts Council (ACN)	€ 11,764,706
Civil Society	"Open Society" Institute		€ 15,500,000
Business development, Innovation and SMEs	Innovation Norway		€ 28,500,000
Social Dialogue – Decent work	Innovation Norway		€ 951,000
Justice	Ministry of Justice	Norwegian Ministry of Justice (NMOJ); Directorate of Norwegian Correctional Service (KDI); Council of Europe (CoE)	€ 35,294,118
Home Affairs	Ministry of Home Affairs	Norwegian National Police Directorate (POD) Norwegian Ministry of Justice (NMOJ); Norwegian Directorate of Immigration (UDI); Council of Europe (CoE)	€ 25,294,118
Fund for Bilateral Relations	Council of Ministers, "Central Coordination Unit" Directorate		€ 4,202,000