





# WORKING TOGETHER FOR **GREEN**, **COMPETITIVE** AND INCLUSIVE EUROPE



EEA and Norway Grants  
in Bulgaria 2014 – 2021

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Iceland  Liechtenstein  Norway  
Norway grants grants

# EEA and Norway Grants in Bulgaria 2014 – 2021

## 3 Donor Countries

15 Beneficiary States

Bulgaria is the 4th largest beneficiary: 210,1 million Euro

### EEA Grants:

115 million Euro, financed by Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway (96%)

### Norway Grants:

95,1 million Euro, financed by Norway

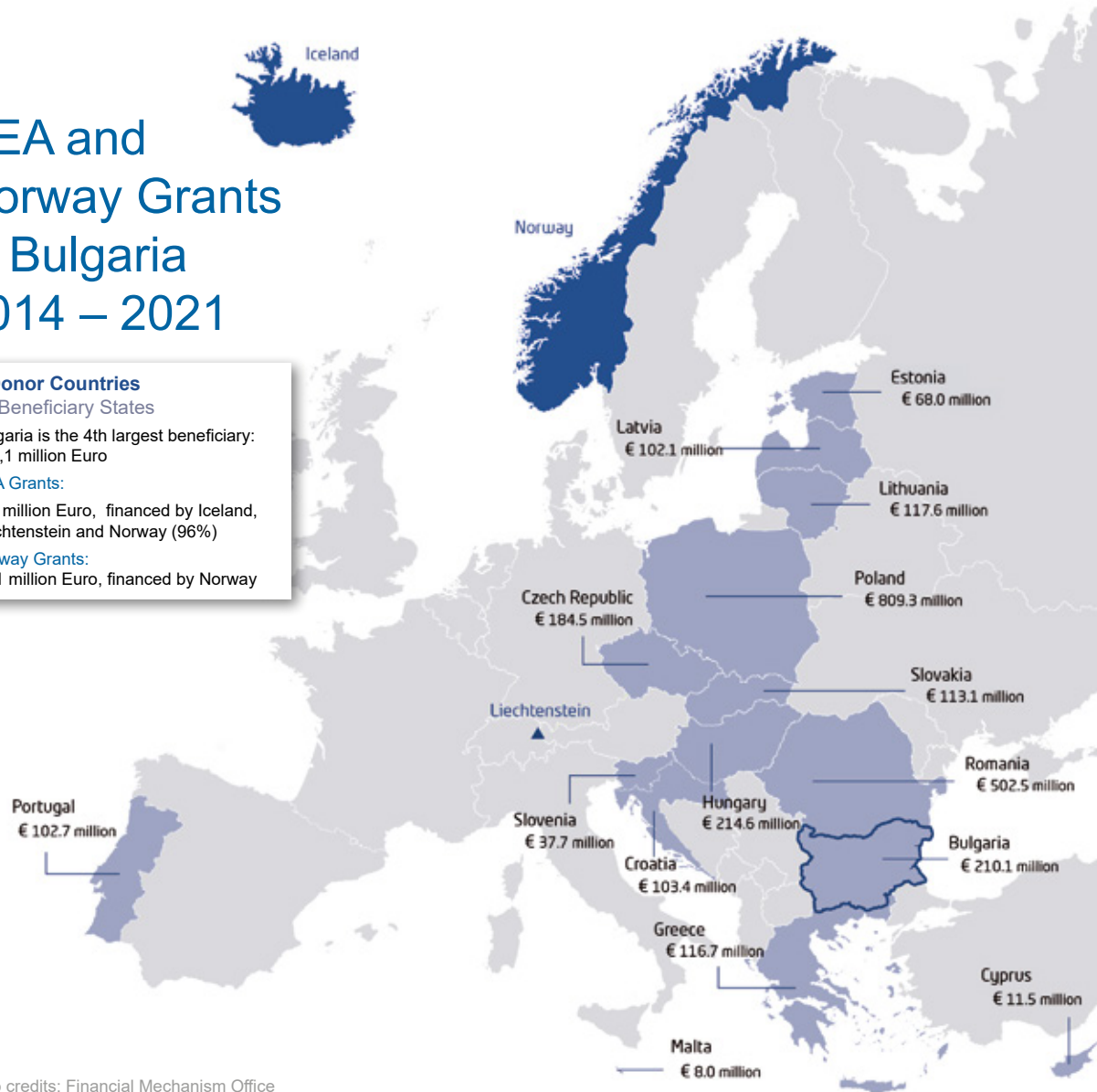


Photo credits: Financial Mechanism Office

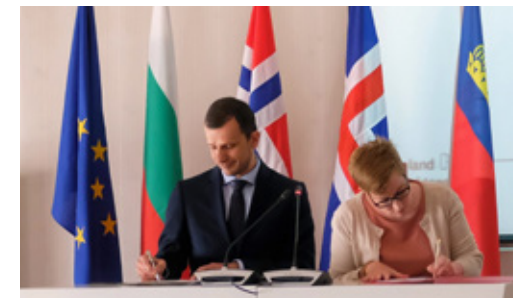
## Working together

The EEA and Norway Grants represent the support of Norway, Iceland and Liechtenstein for the enlarged European Union. The overall aim is twofold – reducing social and economic disparities and strengthening bilateral cooperation through partnership projects, exchange of experience and good practices. The approach is based on the understanding that sustainable growth is possible only through the joint efforts and advancement of neighboring countries.

Bulgaria became a beneficiary under the EEA and Norway Grants following its accession to the EU and the EEA in 2007. For the past 10 years our country has received access to more than 160 million Euro and thus supported close to 1000 projects. More than 200 of which are implemented with at least one partner from a donor country. Serious efforts are made to strengthen the civil sector through a dedicated Fund for support for NGOs.

For the 2014-2021 programming period (projects to be implemented up until 2024) the funding for Bulgaria is increased to 210,1 million Euro in priority fields such as justice, home affairs, culture, civil society, local development, energy, business development, decent work, environment protection and climate change.

This brochure represents our effort to give a brief presentation for each programme supported under the current period of implementation. Should you strive for more information, do not hesitate to contact us through the available e-mails and phones. You can also follow us on our web sites or through the social media where information for upcoming events, calls for projects and other information will be timely shared.



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### Royal Norwegian Embassy for Bulgaria

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**Operator:**  
Ministry of Education and Science

**Amount:**  
41 176 471 Euro

**Partners:**  
Norwegian Association of Local and Regional Authorities (KS); Council of Europe (CoE)

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## Local Development, Poverty Reduction and Enhanced Inclusion of Vulnerable Groups

This is the continuation of the Children and Youth at Risk Programme from the previous period, this time with extended scope with the following themes: education, employment and healthcare. The focus on vulnerable groups still plays an important part of the programme and its aims. We are building up on successful initiatives such as the youth centers in Vratsa, Dobrich, Plovdiv and Stara Zagora, as well as the establishment of new ones.



Through open calls and predefined projects, the programme team has the following goals: increasing the capacity for local development through development and implementation of innovative and sustainable local development models in the most disadvantaged regions, continued support for inclusive education, policies and practices targeting children and youth at risk, support for elderly people with chronic disease, as well as inclusion and empowerment of vulnerable groups.

## Renewable Energy, Energy Efficiency, Energy Security

The main objective of the programme is promotion of energy efficiency, increasing the production of renewable energy and decreasing the CO<sub>2</sub> emissions.



The measures to be supported in the framework of the programme will have a direct impact on decreasing of energy related expenditures of municipalities and industry, mitigation of climate change through modernization of municipal infrastructure. The implementation of innovative good practices as a result of exchange of experience with the donor countries plays an important role in the course of implementation.

The planned results will have potential long-term effect taking into account that energy savings have a wider effect on the way of life of society – they create better living conditions, better surrounding environment and make available funds to be invested for the development of other social and economic policies.

**Operator:**  
Ministry of Energy

**Amount:**  
32 941 176 Euro

**Partners:**  
Norwegian Directorate for Energy and Water Resources (NVE); National Energy Authority (OS)

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**Operator:**

Ministry of Environment  
and Waters

**Amount:**

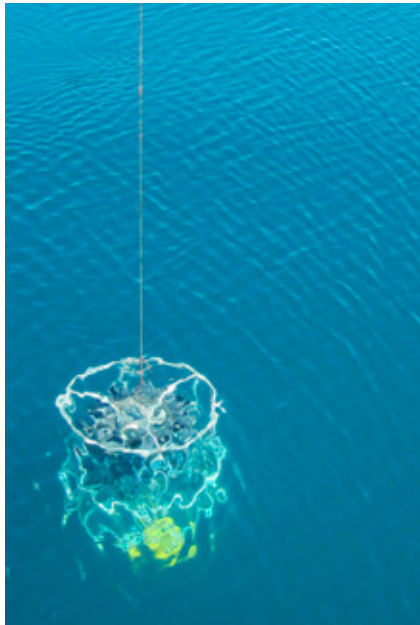
15 294 118 Euro

**Partners:**

Norwegian Environment Agency (NEA)

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## Environment protection and climate change

The main objectives of the programme are the improvement of the environmental status in eco-systems and reduced adverse effects of pollution and other human activities, as well as the mitigation of consequences and reducing vulnerability to climate change.

The following type of measures will be supported in the framework of the programme:

- Development of a system for valuation of eco-system services;
- Improvement of the system for assessment, monitoring and management of the status of marine waters, implementation of pilot models for purification of marine waters and for decreasing of marine litter;
- Improved municipal resource management, circular economy and awareness building on the importance of efficient resource management
- Increasing the capabilities of local communities to reduce emissions and adapt to climate change.

Open calls and small grant schemes are planned for each of the following themes: maritime waters, circular economy and resource and climate management.



## Cultural Entrepreneurship, Heritage and Cooperation

Protecting cultural heritage is a main priority in the new programming period, with focus on cultural entrepreneurship and cultural heritage management. The programme will finance measures for improving the conditions and quality of representation of the rich cultural heritage, part of museum funds, galleries, libraries and community centers. The approach includes applying interactive methods and technologies, encouraging entrepreneurial ideas and digitalization of cultural heritage.



An important task within the programme is improving the access to arts and culture. This will be done through organizing a variety of artistic and creative events, festivals, performances, exhibitions and initiatives that will bring new life to smaller towns and villages and will develop new audiences.

Furthermore, 1 200 000 Euro are foreseen for a small grant scheme to increase the awareness of arts and culture of ethnic and cultural minorities through development of cultural or educational events, exhibitions and documentation of the cultural history with a focus on Roma culture.

**Operator:**

Ministry of Culture

**Amount:**

11 764 706 Euro

**Partners:**

Norwegian Arts Council  
(ACN)

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**Operator:**

Ministry of Justice

**Amount:**

35 294 118 Euro

**Partners:**

Norwegian Ministry of Justice (NMOJ);  
 Directorate of Norwegian  
 Correctional Service (KDI);  
 Council of Europe (CoE)

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## Justice

The main focus of the programme is the improvement of the quality of the correctional services by ensuring safe and secure conditions through renovation of some of the most overcrowded places for detention and related medical centers, building a pilot prison facility in line with the European standards with a capacity up to 400 persons connected to a training centre, introduction of programmes for rehabilitation of prisoners with focus on vulnerable groups and strengthening the application of alternative sanctions to imprisonment.



In addition the programme will support the improved application of the European legal framework, improved capacity of the Bulgarian authorities in the area of child friendly justice and in the area of domestic and gender-based violence.

The programme will be implemented by way of 9 pre-defined projects with Project Promoters: General Directorate "Execution of Penalties", Supreme Judicial Council, National Institute of Justice, National Legal Aid Bureau, National Police General Directorate at the Ministry of Interior and "Procedural Representation of Republic of Bulgaria before the European Court of Human Rights" Directorate of the Ministry of Justice.

## Home Affairs

The programme supports measure in the following main fields: increased capacity of the national authorities in the asylum and migration area; improved capacity for law enforcement agencies in crime prevention and investigation and improved capacities of the Bulgarian authorities to tackle economic crime and corruption. Under two projects the capacity for crime scene inspection for finding and collecting evidence will be improved as well as the capacity for forensic examinations.

In cooperation with the National Criminal Investigation Service of Norway (KRIPOS) the capacity for prevention of transnational and organized crime will be improved. The programme also foresees the establishment of an Interim Care Facility for Unaccompanied migrant minors and provision of health, social and educational services.

Main focus of the programme will also be the improved situation for Roma population through improved capacity of police officers to work in multi-ethnic environment and improvement of the dialogue between police and Roma society. An automated information system in the field of domestic and gender-based violence will be elaborated as well.

**Operator:**

Ministry of Interior

**Amount:**

25 294 118 Euro

**Partners:**

Norwegian National Police  
 Directorate (POD);  
 Norwegian Ministry of Justice (NMOJ);  
 Norwegian Directorate of Immigration  
 (NDI);  
 Council of Europe (CoE)

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**Operator:**

Foundation Open Society Institute – Sofia in partnership with Workshop for Civic Initiatives Foundation and Trust for Social Achievement

**Amount:**

15 500 000 Euro

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<https://www.activecitizensfund.bg>



## Active Citizens Fund

The objective of the Active Citizens Fund is: “Civil society and active citizenship strengthened and vulnerable groups empowered”.

Projects in the following 6 thematic priorities will be supported under the Fund:

- Strengthening democratic culture and civic awareness;
- Increasing support for human rights;
- Empowerment of vulnerable groups;
- CSOs actively address gender equality and GBV;
- Increasing civic engagement in environmental protection/climate change;
- Enhancing the capacity and sustainability of the civil society sector including CSOs.

Two calls for strategic projects in 2018 and 2020 will be announced.

Under the Small initiative Scheme projects in the same thematic priorities will be supported. Bilateral Fund envisaging

- 1) seed money facility,
- 2) support for small bilateral initiatives will also be operational. Scholarships for Roma students in medical/health studies will be provided through a Roma Scholarship component of the Programme.



## Business Development, Innovations and SME

The main objective of the programme is to increase value creation and sustainable growth in the Bulgarian business sector. The Programme seeks to stimulate and develop long-term business cooperation between Norway and Bulgaria. The Programme is oriented towards the Bulgarian private sector – small, medium and large enterprises (with no more than 25 % public ownership).

Projects on Green Industry Innovation must contribute directly to one or more of these outcome indicators: Development of innovative green technologies/processes/solutions; Implementation of innovative green technologies/processes/solutions (new to the enterprise); Placing on the market of green products or services (new to the market); Creating green jobs.

## Social Dialogue – Decent Work

The objective of the Programme is strengthened tripartite cooperation between employer organisations, trade unions and public authorities and the promotion of decent work. The Programme will support social dialogue, contribute to ensure that Beneficiary are better equipped to deal with the challenges following high unemployment and to establish decent work practices, and improve the enforcement of legislation and policies on decent work and social dialogue together with the Norwegian partners.

**Operator:**

Innovation Norway

**BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT****Amount:**

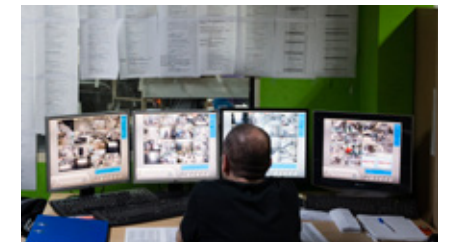
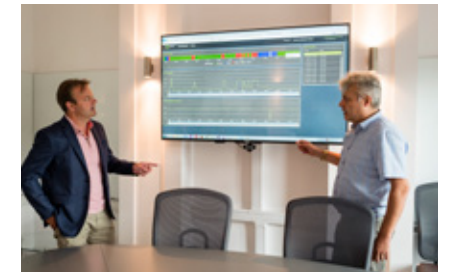
28 500 000 Euro

**SOCIAL DIALOGUE****Amount:**

951 000 Euro

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# Global Fund for Regional Cooperation

For the first time during this programming period, the Donor States have set aside 100 million Euro for two funds dedicated for regional cooperation and youth employment with the common name Global Fund for Regional Cooperation.

The aim is to elaborate innovative ideas for tackling common European challenges and support European values. This is possible only through the joint work of all countries with partnerships and exchange of experience in the very core of our activities.

The Fund is managed by the Ecorys company that coordinates the application and evaluation process. Bulgaria is among the countries with the highest number of approved projects under the Youth Employment Fund with 5 projects as a leading entity and 14 as a partner.

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The EEA and Norway Grants Fund  
for Youth Employment

