



Electronic newsletter

EEA and NORWAY GRANTS in BULGARIA

Points of interest:

Open calls "Domestic and gender-based violence".

Deadline for application is **1 Sept 2014**.

See page 5 for more info.

Matchmaking event under the Bilateral Fund at national level



Photo: NFP

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Strengthening the bilateral relations between Bulgaria and the Donor States is a priority of the EEA and Norway Grants. A matchmaking event, aiming to facilitate the establishment of partnerships between Bulgarian and donor states organisations, was held in Sofia on 12 May.

Nearly 40 organisations from Bulgaria and 9 entities from Norway and Iceland participated. The event was organized under the EEA and Norway Grants bilateral national fund, which supports partnership initiatives within the Grants priority areas.

EEA and NORWAY GRANTS in BULGARIA



Photo: NFP

In Bulgaria, €633,000 has been set aside for the [bilateral national fund](#). The Fund is managed by the National Focal Point for the EEA and Norway Grants in Bulgaria and is currently open for applications (see info on next page).

Among the focus areas for the fund, are children and youth, combating drugs and organised crime, promotion of European values and nuclear energy.

Funded activities include study visits, organising and participating in seminars, workshops and conferences, training courses and

other meetings implemented with the joint participation of representatives of beneficiary and donor states, joint participation in international events, studies and reports, etc.

During the matchmaking event in May, the Focal Point made a detailed presentation of the Fund's priorities and the application process.

Additionally, donor states participants had bilateral meetings with potential Bulgarian partners and discussed different project ideas. All presentations from the event are available [here](#).

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INFORMATION ON THE FUND FOR BILATERAL RELATIONS

Priority	Available budget	Deadline
Priority 1: Knowledge exchange in combating drugs and organized crime, children and youth at risk (open call for proposals)	EUR 120 000	15th December, 2014, 5 p.m. (local time)
Priority 2: Promotion of European values and in particular history teaching in multicultural society (open call for proposals)	EUR 100 000	15th December, 2014, 5 p.m. (local time)
Priority 3: Nuclear Energy Decommissioning (eligible applicants are predefined - the Nuclear Regulatory Agency, Bulgaria; State Enterprise for Radioactive Waste, Bulgaria)	EUR 100 000	Accessible to eligible applicants on an ongoing basis till the implementation of the Fund for Bilateral Relations at National Level
Unallocated Fund: Predefined activities that promote research partnerships, encourage regional activities on topics of bilateral importance and strengthen cooperation with inter-governmental organizations	EUR 107 550	Accessible to eligible applicants on an ongoing basis till the implementation of the Fund for Bilateral Relations at National Level
Travel Support Scheme for participation in seminars, workshops, conferences, events with clear bilateral dimension within all programme areas	EUR 35 000 (for 2014)	Accessible to eligible applicants on an ongoing basis during the implementation of the Fund for Bilateral Relations at National Level

EEA and NORWAY GRANTS in BULGARIA

Stories



Through an EEA Grants funded project Animus Association Foundation, working in partnership with the Norwegian Association Voksne for Barn, will introduce "Zippy's Friends" in Bulgaria. The project is implemented within the [NGO programme in Bulgaria](#) and will cover 12 schools in

A new project aims at preventing aggression and violence at school

Back in 1996 the "Zippy's Friends" school programme was developed in the UK in order to address issues related to child health. The concept includes a series of illustrated tales for a beetle called Zippy and his children friends that help him be accepted by the others in spite of his "vulnerability". The stories of Zippy follow the everyday difficulties that children face. They discuss the different situations and participate in games, with roleplaying, drawing, etc. Currently, the model is implemented in 27 countries around the world.

Sofia with identified problems with school violence and drop outs of children from vulnerable groups. A total of 300 children, 24 tutors and psychologists, 12 directors of schools and 300 parents are expected to take part.

The participation of the children in the "Zippy's Friends" programme is expected to improve their emotional resilience and to benefit their successful handling of traumatic experiences. It will help children develop positive coping strategies which will increase their self-esteem while decreasing the urge in children to hurt others or themselves.

PRESENTING THE PROGRAMMES

Domestic and Gender-based Violence



Key facts about the programme:

Programme operator: Ministry of Interior

Programme budget: €2,352,941

Calls for project proposals under all measures are currently open.

Final date for application:

1 Sept. 2014, 16.00 h. local time

More information is available at [the website of the PO](#).

Why is the Programme needed?

According to the organisation Women Against Violence Europe (WAVE) an estimated 900,000 women in Bulgaria suffer from domestic abuse every year. There is a severe lack of adequate support services for victims, and Bulgaria does not fulfill the Council of Europe recommendation of safe accommodation in specialised women's shelters. Moreover, the absence of specific provisions criminalising domestic violence and marital rape calls for reforms in the legal framework to ensure the protection of victims of such violence.

PRESENTING THE PROGRAMMES

Domestic and Gender-based Violence

What will the Programme achieve?

The programme will support the creation of a robust legal framework ensuring the protection of victims and enhancing the capacity of professionals and relevant institutions in dealing with cases of such violence. In addition, the programme includes measures to improve victim support services, and to raise public awareness. The programme will include specific measures to target the Roma.

How will it be achieved?

The programme consists of one pre-defined project, three calls for proposals and two small grants schemes, and will result in the following:

- The development of proposals for legislative changes improving the Bulgarian legal framework in the field of domestic and gender-based violence;
- The establishment of shelters and other victim support services;
- Capacity building of 550 professionals involved in cases of domestic violence;

- Awareness raising campaigns to help change public perceptions;
- Research and data collection on domestic and gender-based violence; and
- Sensitization campaigns with a special focus on Roma and other vulnerable groups.

How will bilateral relations be strengthened?

The programme will be implemented in cooperation with the Council of Europe. Mutual learning and exchange of experience will be of key importance in the implementation of the programme. It will draw on the CoE Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence.

Who can apply for funding under this programme?

Local, regional and national entities, as well as NGOs and certain intergovernmental organisations are eligible for funding under the programme. Only entities registered in Bulgaria are eligible as project applicants. Project level partnerships between relevant entities in Bulgaria and Norway are encouraged.

EVENTS, OPEN CALLS AND INFO DAYS



Cultural Heritage and Contemporary Arts

More than 380 project proposals were submitted within the open calls of the EEA Grants Cultural Heritage and Contemporary Arts programme. The deadline for application expired in late spring. Bulgarian Ministry of Culture is an operator of the programme, which will support projects in the following areas:

- Restoration, renovation and protection of cultural heritage;
- Documentation of cultural history;

- Accessibility of cultural heritage;
- Presentation of contemporary art and culture to the broader public;
- Activities aimed at strengthening the bilateral relations between Bulgarian cultural actors and those from Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway.

The project proposals are now under a three-stage evaluation that is expected to conclude within 3 months. More information is available on the [website of the programme](#).

EVENTS, OPEN CALLS AND INFO DAYS



NGO programme

624 project proposals were submitted within the second open call for proposals of the EEA Grants [NGO Programme in Bulgaria](#). Almost half of them are small projects, applying for a grant of up to 20 000 euro.

169 projects were submitted for the first thematic area of the fund - Democracy, Human Rights and Good Governance. The Social Inclusion and Empowerment of Vulnerable Groups thematic area received 197 applications, the Sustainable Development and Protection of the Environment thematic area - 79, and for the Capacity Building for NGOs thematic area - 167.

Green industry innovation

The deadline for submission of project proposals within the second call of the [Green Industry Innovation Programme Bulgaria](#) expired on 9 April 2014.

The Programme Operator - Innovation Norway, received 33 applications in the frame of the focus area "Investments in environmental technology and processes, training, research and development".

The grant amount applied for is 12.9 million euro. 14 project proposals have Norwegian partners.

Eligible activities – second call:

- ✓Development, implementation and investment in innovative environmentally-friendly technologies;
- ✓Development of green products and services;
- ✓Development and implementation of greener production processes;
- ✓Other activities such as training and awareness raising as secondary to the above activities;

EVENTS, OPEN CALLS AND INFO DAYS



Family photo with the scholars. Photo: PO

Scholarship Fund

On the 22nd of May a group of 21 student, staff and teachers attended the official ceremony of contract awarding of scholarship beneficiaries under the EEA Grants. The ceremony was led by H.E. Ms. Guro Katharina Vikør and Ms. Aneliya Klisarova, Minister of Education and Science. The total number of approved applicants is 48 (out of 74). One of them is a student that is going to the International Academy of Philosophy

in Liechtenstein and there is also one applicant from Norway that has been approved and will study for one month in the city of Varna.

This is only the first opportunity for exchange of students, administrative staff and professors between Bulgaria and the Donor States. More calls will be available in the months to come so be sure to plan your visits now.

EVENTS, OPEN CALLS AND INFO DAYS



Photo: NFP

Biodiversity and Integrated Marine and Inland Water Management

Bulgarian capital Sofia hosted a launching conference and a matchmaking event for two environmental programmes supported by Norway, Iceland and Liechtenstein through the EEA Grants. The events took place on 25 and 26 June 2014 and were arranged by Bulgarian Ministry of Environment and Water in cooperation with Norwegian Environment Agency. Around 60 participants from Bulgaria and 15

participants from Norway and Iceland were present.

16 million euro is set aside from the EEA Grants for the implementation of the programmes "Integrated marine and inland water management" and "Biodiversity and ecosystem services". The funding covers the five-year period 2009 – 2014. Projects will be implemented within April 2016.

More information about the event is available in English and Bulgarian on the [website of Bulgarian Ministry of Environment and Water](#).

RESULTS IN FOCUS



Photo: Norwegian Embassy

Improved child and health care facilities in the women's prison in Sliven

The only Bulgarian prison for women is located in the town of Sliven. The number of inmates there is close to 300. Between 3 and 15 babies are born in the Sliven prison each year.

According to Bulgarian legislation the new-borns of women deprived of their freedom could stay close to their mothers until they are 1 year old.

Through the Norway Grants, the premises of the child nursery and the healthcare centre at the Sliven prison were renovated and equipped with modern equipment.

The renovation is part of a larger project for improvement of the physical conditions in Bulgarian prisons, supported by Norway Grants through the Correctional services programme. The project promoter is Bulgarian General Directorate "Execution of Sentences". The total grant from Norway is 5 620 780 euro.

OTHER ACTIVITIES

Celebrating the 200-year anniversary of the Norwegian constitution

On the 17 of May every year the Norwegian constitution is celebrated all over Norway with children's parades and festivities. This year the celebrations will be held throughout the year as it marks the bicentenary of the Norwegian constitution.

The Norwegian Constitution has been amended more than 400 times since 1814, but, notwithstanding this, is considered to be the same working document. This makes it Europe's oldest and the world's second oldest written constitution still in operation.

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Photo: Terje Heiestad/Stortinget