



# Reducing disparities. Strengthening cooperation

BULGARIA.  
EEA AND NORWAY GRANTS 2009-14



ISLAND  
LEICHTENSTEIN  
NORWAY



# Support by EEA and Norway Grants 2009-14



Iceland

## 3 donor countries 15 beneficiary states

Bulgaria is the 5th largest beneficiary: €126.6 million

### EEA Grants

€78.6 million financed by Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway (95%)

### Norway Grants

€48 million financed by Norway



# REDUCING DISPARITIES

EEA and Norway Grants are Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway's contribution to reducing the economic and social disparities in Europe. In 2004-09, €1.3 billion were made available to the 12 newest EU member states, Greece, Portugal and Spain, supporting more than 1250 projects, programmes and funds.

Bulgaria became a beneficiary of the EEA and Norway Grants, following its entry into the EU and the European Economic Area (EEA) in 2007.

Between 2007 and 2009, €41.5 million were allocated to fund economic and social development projects in the field of environmental protection, energy efficiency, sustainable production, health and childcare, cultural heritage, Schengen acquis, etc. In the new funding period 2009-14, Bulgaria has been allocated €126.6 million. Norway provides 97% of the funding. Different priority sectors will be supported, including environmental protection and management, green industry innovation, human and social development, justice and home affairs, cultural heritage, civil society and scholarships. Grants are available for NGOs, research and academic institutions, public and private sectors. Scholarships and grants for cultural exchanges are open for individuals.



A travelling photo exhibition showed results of EEA and Norway Grants 2007-09 in Bulgaria

## The process

EEA and Norway Grants are allocated on the basis of country-specific agreements, called Memoranda of Understanding (MoU). These framework agreements provide an overview of the programme areas, which will be supported in each country, as well as details on the administrative set-up and cooperation with the donor states. Following the signing of the agreements, different thematic programmes are established at national level. The preparation and implementation of the programmes is a responsibility of designated programme operators. Grants are awarded to projects following calls for proposals, organised by the respective programme operators. Information on all open calls for proposals will be published on [www.eegrants.bg](http://www.eegrants.bg), as well as on the respective programme operators' websites.



## STRENGTHENING COOPERATION

Strengthening bilateral relations between the donor and the beneficiary states has been introduced as a dual goal with that of reducing economic and social disparities in Europe for the EEA and Norway Grants 2009-14. Partnerships between entities from the donor and the beneficiary countries are encouraged particularly where they may be of mutual benefit and may bring added value and enhanced quality to the programme or project.

In 2009-14, a more strategic cooperation is established at the programme level. Ten (seven Norwegian) public entities are designated as donor programme partners to Bulgarian programme operators to assist them in the preparation and the implementation of the programmes. Partnerships at project level are also encouraged.

### **Funds for bilateral relations**

Special bilateral funds are set up in the beneficiary states to cover networking, finding partners, exchange of experiences and establishing partnerships. Funds for bilateral relations are available both at the national level in each country and under each programme. Information on the bilateral funds will be published on [www.eeagrants.bg](http://www.eeagrants.bg), as well as on the respective programme operators' websites.

### **Horizontal issues**

Initiatives to address the specific needs of the Roma population will be established across all relevant programme areas. A targeted 10% of the grant allocation will go towards improving the situation of the Roma in areas such as public health, school attendance, reducing domestic and gender-based violence and access to justice.

# PROTECTING THE ENVIRONMENT

“Green funding” - protecting the environment, boosting energy efficiency and promoting green innovation - is the largest area of cooperation in Bulgaria in the period 2009-14. Around one third (€43 million) of the total allocation has been earmarked for programmes aimed at improving marine and inland water management, halting biodiversity loss, promoting energy efficiency and renewable energy, and increasing the competitiveness of green enterprises.

The programme Green Industry Innovation under the Norway Grants, aims to improve the environmental credentials of existing industries and encourage green innovation and green entrepreneurship. In order to take advantage of Norwegian experiences, technologies and investments, the programme will be based on partnership projects.



## FACT BOX

### Green Industry Innovation

**Allocation:** €13 699 000

**Programme operator:** Innovation Norway (IN)

## FACT BOX

### Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy

**Allocation:** €13 260 245

**Programme operator:** Ministry of Economy, Energy and Tourism

**Donor programme partner:** The Norwegian Water Resources and Energy Directorate (NVE)

## FACT BOX

### Integrated Marine and Inland Water Management

**Allocation:** €8 000 000

**Programme operator:** Ministry of Environment and Water

**Donor programme partner:** The Climate and Pollution Agency (KLIF)

## FACT BOX

### Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services

**Allocation:** €8 000 000

**Programme operator:** Ministry of Environment and Water

**Donor programme partner:** The Norwegian Directorate of Nature Management (DN)

## FACT BOX

### Correctional Services, including Non-custodial Sanctions

**Allocation:** €7 000 000

**Programme operator:** Ministry of Justice

**Donor programme partner:** Council of Europe (CoE)

## FACT BOX

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

**Allocation:** €6 000 000

**Programme operator:** Ministry of Interior

**Donor programme partner:** The Norwegian Police Directorate (POD) with the support of the Council of Europe (CoE)

## FACT BOX

### Judicial Capacity-building and Cooperation

**Allocation:** €3 000 000

**Programme operator:** Ministry of Justice

**Donor programme partner:** Council of Europe (CoE)

## FACT BOX

### Domestic and Gender-based Violence

**Allocation:** €2 000 000

**Programme operator:** Ministry of Interior

**Donor programme partner:** Council of Europe (CoE)

# JUSTICE AND HOME AFFAIRS

Justice and home affairs is a significant sector in the 2009-14 period. Norway Grants are providing €16 million to three key areas, namely combating cross-border and organised crime including trafficking, cooperation in the judicial system, correctional services and measures to increase the use of alternatives to prison. A further €2 million will go towards combating gender-based violence and supporting victims of trafficking. Programmes in this field will be able to harness the considerable knowledge and expertise of the Council of Europe which is on board as a donor programme partner.

Furthermore, the Norwegian Police Directorate is a donor programme partner in the field of Schengen cooperation and combating organized crime.



# CULTURAL HERITAGE

Protecting cultural heritage and encouraging the new use of heritage sites is a main priority in this funding period. €14 million will be spent on projects aimed at the conservation and revitalisation of cultural and natural heritage. The programme will contribute to safeguarding heritage sites, making them publicly accessible and increasing their potential to stimulate local development. Furthermore, a minimum of €500 000 is ring-fenced for a small grants scheme to promote cultural diversity and exchange, and contemporary arts and culture projects.



## FACT BOX

### Cultural Heritage and Contemporary Arts

**Allocation:** €14 000 000

**Programme operator:** Ministry of Culture, with support from the Ministry of Regional Development and Public Works

In 2007-09, EEA and Norway Grants supported the establishment of the first Museum of Contemporary Art in Bulgaria. It was opened with Norwegian exhibition "Paradigm" (first photo to the left). Thanks to the grants, the building of the first class school in Bulgaria was preserved and turned into a living museum, showing traditional Bulgarian customs and crafts (right). Archaeological excavations at St. John the Precursor monastery near Sozopol were also part of EEA Grants 2007-09 (down). During the works, archaeologists found remains, which are believed to be relics of St. John the Baptist.



#### FACT BOX

##### Public Health Initiatives

**Allocation:** €13 325 000

**Programme operator:** Ministry of Health

#### FACT BOX

##### Children and Youth at Risk

**Allocation:** €7 860 000

**Programme operator:** Ministry of Education, Youth and Science

**Donor programme partner:** Council of Europe (CoE)

#### FACT BOX

##### Capacity-building and Institutional Co-operation

**Allocation:** €2 016 000

**Programme operator:** OP "Technical Assistance" Directorate, Council of Ministers

**Donor programme partner:** Norwegian Association of Local Municipalities (KS) and Norwegian Barents Secretariat

## HUMAN AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

Good health and childcare, as well as competent human resources in public institutions, local and regional authorities, contribute to improved human and social development. Special programmes on public health, children and youth at risk, institutional capacity building and cross-border cooperation are therefore established in Bulgaria with support from EEA and Norway Grants.

More than 10% of the total funding, or €13.4 million, will go to initiatives aimed at reducing inequalities in healthcare and improving public health. This support will focus mainly on reproductive health, childcare, mental health, and better governance in healthcare, as well as initiatives to target specific health challenges amongst the Roma population.

Improved well-being of children and young people at risk is another objective of the sector. The thematic programme in Bulgaria gives priority to school attendance, including specific needs of Roma children.

Cross-border and institutional cooperation will be strengthened through capacity building and training in public administrations and local and regional authorities. Cooperation and transfer of knowledge will be encouraged with counterparts in similar institutions in Norway, with two projects already agreed - one project to promote exchange of experience between the Norwegian Barents Secretariat and the Bulgarian Ministry of Regional Development and Public Works and another project to promote exchange of experience between the Norwegian Association of Local Municipalities (KS) and the National Association of Local Municipalities in the Republic of Bulgaria.



# SUPPORT TO CIVIL SOCIETY. SCHOLARSHIPS. DECENT WORK

EEA Grants will continue to provide significant support to the civil society sector in Bulgaria. A specialized NGO Fund will aim to strengthen civil society and enhance its contribution to social justice, democracy and sustainable development. This programme will also support social inclusion and anti-discrimination, as well as promoting active citizenship, good governance and transparency.

As in the previous funding period, the Norwegian Helsinki Committee (NHC) will continue to play an important coordinating role between civil society organisations in Norway and the beneficiary states. NHC relaunched the online portal [www.ngonorway.org](http://www.ngonorway.org), which provides relevant information about the NGO Funds and advice for civil society organisations in Norway and the beneficiary countries on how to become involved.

EEA and Norway Grants in Bulgaria will also focus on scholarships, as well as on the promotion of decent work and tripartite dialogue between social partners and public authorities. The aim of the Scholarships programme is to facilitate networking and exchange knowledge between educational institutions in Norway, Iceland and Liechtenstein and Bulgaria. The cooperation can include activities like student and staff mobility and institutional cooperation. The Fund for decent work and tripartite dialogue will further contribute to a more sustainable economic and social development. More information on this programme is available at [www.decentwork.no](http://www.decentwork.no).



## FACT BOX

### Fund for NGOs

**Allocation:** €11 790 000

**Fund operator:** Open Society Institute – Sofia, in partnership with Workshop for Civic Initiatives Foundation

## FACT BOX

### EEA Scholarship Programme

**Allocation:** €1 500 000

**Programme operator:** Ministry of Education, Youth and Science

**Donor programme partner:** The Icelandic Centre for Research (RANNIS), The National Agency for International Education Affairs (AIBA, Liechtenstein), and the Norwegian Centre for International Cooperation in Higher Education (SIU)

## FACT BOX

### Global Fund for Decent Work and Tripartite Dialogue

**Allocation:** €480 000

**Programme operator:** Innovation Norway (IN)

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