



A quarterly newsletter

EEA and NORWAY GRANTS in BULGARIA

Highlights:

Open call "Care for children at risk". Deadline for application is **5 Sept 2013**.

See page 6 for more info.

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READY, STEADY, GO

The EEA and Norway Grants 2009-14 are now getting speed. Three open calls for projects were closed in April 2013 and the proposals received are currently under evaluation. The EEA Grants NGO Programme proved to be very popular with 559 applications received under the first call. The Green Industry Innovation programme within Norway Grants received 42 applications for partnership projects between Bulgarian and Norwegian organisations. Within the Children and Youth at Risk programme Bulgarian municipalities were encouraged to prepare projects for the establishment of youth

centers, bearing the Council of Europe quality label. Ten proposals were received within the call deadline at the end of April.

Four more programmes are under implementation with projects already started – Decent work, Capacity-building and institutional cooperation, Judicial cooperation and Correctional services. Another five programmes are approved and will have their first calls this autumn. The programmes targeting domestic and gender-based violence, public health and biodiversity await finalisation.

EEA and NORWAY GRANTS in BULGARIA: Stories



A [Global Fund for Decent Work and Tripartite Dialogue](#) has been established within Norway Grants in all beneficiary states. The objective of the Fund is to promote the social dialogue on decent work issues and improve tripartite cooperation between employers' organisations, trade unions and public authorities. In Bulgaria, it supported 4 projects, which are currently implemented. The [Norwegian Confederation of Trade Unions](#) and the [Confederation of Norwegian Enterprise](#) are involved in two of the projects as partners.

Among the main challenges, which the programme addresses is occupational stress. The [Trade Union Federation of the Employees in the Bulgarian Ministry of Interior](#) works on a project aiming at promoting policies for decent work and developing a system for reduction of occupational stress at police officers' work place. In order to do that, the Federation will promote decent work goals and related rights, develop a methodology for reduction of occupational stress and conduct trainings for police officers.

PRESENTING THE PROGRAMMES

Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy

With a budget of 15 600 288 Euro, the programme falls within the Climate change and renewable energy priority sector of EEA Grants.

The Programme Operator is the Bulgarian Ministry of Economy and Energy ([MEE](#)), while a Donor Programme Partner (DPP) is the Norwegian Water Resources and Energy Directorate ([NVE](#)).

Why is the programme needed?

Despite improvements in recent years, Bulgaria remains the most energy-intensive economy in the EU. 70% of the energy demand is covered by import of energy sources such as natural gas and crude oil coming from Russia. Renewable energy solutions constitute only 9.3% of the country's total energy consumption.

The Bulgarian Government has developed a RES policy with a target of 16% RES share of total energy consumption in 2020. A more efficient energy use is also encouraged.

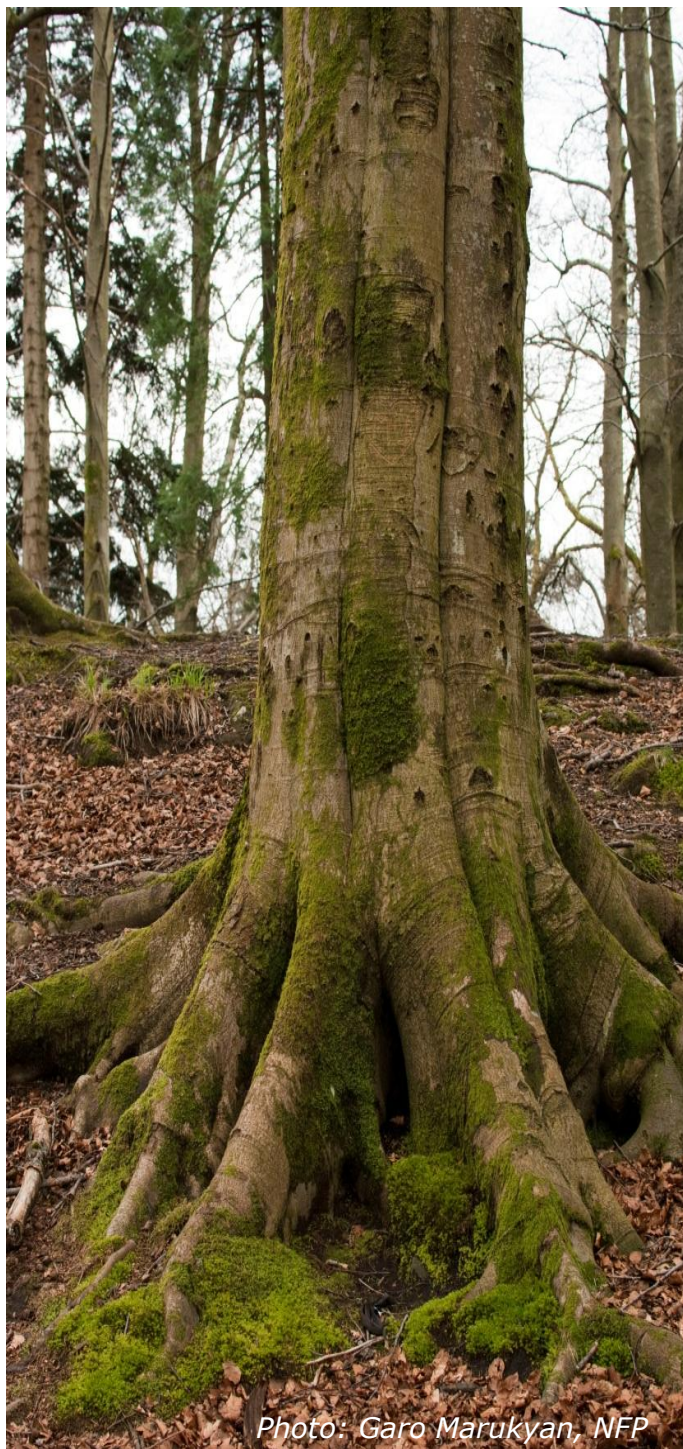


Photo: Garo Marukyan, NFP

PRESENTING THE PROGRAMMES

Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy

What will the programme achieve?

The programme will in the long-term contribute to reduced emissions of greenhouse gases and air pollution. It will also fulfill outcomes of increased energy production from renewable energy sources like hydropower and biomass, and improved energy efficiency in public buildings. Additionally, the programme will increase the knowledge and awareness of RES and energy efficiency measures with various stakeholders at different levels.

How will it be achieved?

The programme contains four components covering the following topics directly related to the outcomes defined for the programme:

1. Pilot micro-electricity generation (up to 200kW) in piped water supply and irrigation gravity systems.
2. Energy efficiency measures in public buildings

(changing of fuel and boilers, replacement of heating installations and systems) and increased use of renewable energy solutions for heat generation.

3. Production of fuels for heating based on biomass.

4. Training and education activities aimed at increasing capacity of state and municipal administrations in energy efficiency and RES.

In addition, the programme contains one pre-defined project: Implementation of the Euro Electricity Market, where grounds were prepared in Phase I under the 2004-09 Grants.

How the bilateral relations will be strengthened?

The Donor Programme Partner in the programme is the Norwegian Water Resources and Energy Directorate (NVE), which will also be the bilateral partner in the pre-defined project (with different units involved).

PRESENTING THE PROGRAMMES

Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy

The Donor Programme Partner and Programme Operator have also cooperated in Phase I of the pre-defined project under the previous Grants, a successful cooperation so far.

What are the partnership opportunities?

The open calls for the projects will encourage partnerships between project promoters and donor institutions.

The Fund for Bilateral Relations will be open for potential project promoters to attend seminars, trade fairs, and exhibitions, to meet potential donor partners, and to establish networks.

The DPP will assist the PO in identifying potential project partners from the donor states.



Photo: Garo Marukyan, NFP

Who can apply for funding under this programme?

- **Component 1:** state- and municipal-owned water supply and irrigation entities
- **Component 2:** state and municipal authorities
- **Component 3:** small and Medium-sized Enterprises
- **Component 4:** universities, training organisations and energy service companies

EVENTS, OPEN CALLS and INFO DAYS

New call for proposals:

Care for children at risk

The Programme Operator of Children and Youth at Risk programme within EEA Grants 2009-2014 – the Bulgarian Ministry of Education and Science, launched a new call for proposals. Municipalities or associations of municipalities in the Republic of Bulgaria have the opportunity to prepare and submit project proposals under Component 2 of the programme: Care for children at risk. The total budget available for the call is 1 849 412 euro. A project could receive a grant of between 200 000 and 250 000 euro. The deadline for submission of project applications is **17.30 h on 5 September 2013.**

The Care for Children at Risk Component will support activities related to improved preparedness for school for children from underprivileged groups including Roma, improved social skills of children aged 3 to 6 years old and improved language skills of children speaking languages other than Bulgarian.



*Photo: Nikolay Abadzhiev,
Embassy of Norway*

The activities have to be targeted at children at risk of social exclusion due to poverty and not enough education through measures in the early education field.

The text of the call for proposals and the detailed Guidelines for Applicants are available on the [website of the programme](#).

EVENTS, OPEN CALLS and INFO DAYS



Photo: Council of Europe

In brief

❑ **A team of Bulgarian Ministry of Education and Science**, working on the EEA Grants Children and Youth at Risk programme, visited in May 2013 the European Youth Centre in Strasbourg, established by the Council of Europe in 1972. The center serves as an educational laboratory for the development of quality standards for youth work. The programme for the visit included a number of meetings and a tour through the facilities of the centre.

❑ **The Supreme Judicial Council of Bulgaria** chose the Constitutional Day of Norway – 17 May, for the launch

of its Norway Grants project aiming at capacity-building and improved efficiency in the judiciary. The project will contribute to the establishment of a system for electronic summoning in Bulgaria and an improved capacity of judges to implement the European Convention on Human Rights. Nine judges will be placed at the European Court of Human Rights and will form a network of judges specialized in human rights issues.

The Supreme Judicial Council will also work on the elaboration of a mechanism for evaluation of the workload in the judiciary, both individually and at institutional level.

EVENTS, OPEN CALLS and INFO DAYS



❑ **On 13 June the Bulgarian Ministry of Culture attended** an informal meeting of the Programme Operators of the EEA Grants Cultural Heritage programmes, organised in Oslo by the Arts Council of Norway. Ten countries were represented and shared their experience and good practices in programme management. Specialists in the field of culture gave lectures on topics like cultural diversity, intercultural dialogue in Europe, cultural policy and social inclusion followed by discussions of various points of view.

❑ **An information meeting on EEA and Norway Grants**, held by the Norwegian Embassy and the National Focal Point on 10 June in Varna, gathered 50 representatives of local authorities from the Black Sea region, universities, health and social institutions, NGOs. The objective of the meeting was to present the EEA and Norway Grants programmes and inform on the current developments. Norwegian Ambassador Guro K. Vikør highlighted the donors' priorities and encouraged the mayors from the Black Sea region to get involved.

EVENTS, OPEN CALLS AND INFO DAYS

Check out the cultural agenda:

July 2013, Sofia City Library

Days of Norwegian cinema (more information at www.libsofia.bg and www.norvegia.bg)

Good to know:

A rich collection of **Norwegian fiction and self-study courses in Norwegian language** are available for loan at the Nordic Reading Room at the Sofia City Library (Slaveykov Sqr. 4, tel: +359 2 801 59 45)

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Photo: Garo Marukyan, NFP