

This report highlights Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway's contributions to a green, competitive and inclusive Europe in 2020.



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PROGRAMME DEVELOPMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION

For the EEA and Norway Grants, 2020 was a year of implementation and continued contributions to reducing economic and social disparities in Europe, and strengthening relations between the Donor and Beneficiary States. With 15 programme agreements signed in 2020, the Grants are creating even more opportunities for potential project promoters and project partners to implement their ideas. The figures presented below are cumulative and reflect activities spanning the 2014-2021 funding period until the end of 2020.

28 cooperation agreements were signed with **15 Beneficiary States**¹

96 programme agreements² were signed with 14 Beneficiary States³

287 calls for project proposals were launched⁴

€890⁵ million were allocated to **1 600 projects**⁶

Cooperation is at the heart of the Grants. As of 31 December 2020: 44% of funded projects have a project partner from one of the Donor States. 500+ project partners⁷ from the Donor States take part in funded projects.

In Lithuania, three **Fixus Mobilis** 'heritage ambulances' criss-cross the country to inspect and assess cultural heritage sites and plan necessary interventions together with owners of cultural heritage objects. The Lithuanian Cultural Heritage Center – the project promoter behind the Fixus Mobilis project – has partnered up with the Association for Employers in the Church of Norway and the Norwegian Directorate for Cultural Heritage. They plan to examine 200 objects by 2024.

The **Med Mentors** project in Bulgaria supports medical students from Roma communities across the country to succeed in their studies and subsequent careers. By improving the students' opportunities and success rates, the project addresses the growing shortage of health workers in Bulgaria. Participants receive a scholarship for an academic year, and complementary mentorship support from other medical professionals.

¹. 13 cooperation agreements were signed under the EEA Grants and 15 under the Norway Grants. ². 52 are funded by the EEA Grants only, 24 by the Norway Grants and 20 by both the EEA and the Norway Grants. ³. No programme agreements signed with Hungary yet. ⁴. 204 calls are funded by the EEA Grants only, 53 by the Norway Grants and 6 by both the EEA and the Norway Grants. ⁵. Out of the €890 million, €347 million are allocated from the EEA Grants, €473 million from the Norway Grants, and €70 million from both the EEA and the Norway Grants. ⁶. Out of 1 600 projects, 1 204 are funded by the EEA Grants, 354 by the Norway Grants and 42 by both the EEA and the Norway Grants. ⁷. 77 come from Iceland, 1 from Liechtenstein and 427 from Norway.

Results

The EEA and Norway Grants aim to empower people and societies, foster sustainable economic growth and encourage collaboration and partnerships across sectors and countries. Below are a few results from the current funding period until the end of 2020.

580 000+

people involved in civil society organisation activities⁸

280+ small and medium-size enterprises supported¹⁰

100 000+ vulnerable individuals reached by empowerment measures⁹

700+ projects with a donor project partner supported¹¹

600+ jobs created⁹

1 100+ researchers supported¹²

The Grants in the global context

The EEA and Norway Grants reflect Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway's commitment to working together for a green, competitive and inclusive Europe. Through the Grants, the Donor States support the Beneficiary States' contributions towards the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals and the European Green Deal. In the current funding period, the Donor States have allocated €457 million to address environmental issues.

⁸. EEA Grants only ⁹. Out of 609 jobs, 395 were created with support from the EEA Grants, and 214 from the Norway Grants. ¹⁰. Out of 288 SMEs supported, 200 were funded by the EEA Grants, and 88 by the Norway Grants. ¹¹. Out of 729 projects with partners from the Donor States, 114 partnered up with entities from Iceland, 6 from Liechtenstein and 656 from Norway. ¹². Out of 1100 researchers supported, almost 500 were funded by the EEA Grants, and 600+ by the Norway Grants.

Funds

Fund for Youth Employment

The Fund for Youth Employment contributes to sustainable and quality youth employment in Europe. Unlike the ordinary programmes funded by Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway, the Fund for Youth Employment has a transnational focus – it helps entities across Europe pool their efforts and find new ways of reducing youth unemployment.



2 500+ young people have been supported in their job search

€60.61 million

3 200+ young people are now enrolled in education and training

890+ young people are in the process of starting their own businesses

3 600+ young people have benefited from 41 new services such as training

670+ young people are taking part in apprenticeships or mobility schemes

330+ new jobs have been created

Fund for Regional Cooperation

The Fund for Regional Cooperation tackles common European challenges through regional cross-border and transnational cooperation. The supported projects encourage knowledge-sharing, sustainable cooperation in areas such as the private, public and civil sector and academia as well as better policy development.

€31.89 million

19 projects

covering more than 10 programme areas of the EEA and Norway Grants were selected in April

23 partners

from the Donor States

Partners from eight

non-EEA countries involved in the projects (North Macedonia, Serbia, Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, Ukraine, Russia and Turkey): The projects supported must be regional cross-border or transnational in nature and involve partners and activities in at least three different countries.

The EEA and Norway Grants

The EEA and Norway Grants represent the contribution of Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway to strengthen economic and social cohesion in the European Economic Area. The current funding period totals €2.8 billion and builds on the successes of previous funding periods.

3 Donor States

2.8 billion euro in funding (2014-2021)

15 Beneficiary States

1.5 billion euro EEA Grants

2 Overall objectives

1.3 billion euro Norway Grants

Reducing disparities and strengthening cooperation

| Country | EEA Grants | Norway Grants | Total |
|---------------------|-----------------------------|----------------|----------------|
| Bulgaria | 115.0 | 95.1 | 201.1 |
| Croatia | 56.8 | 46.6 | 103.4 |
| Cyprus | 6.4 | 5.1 | 11.5 |
| Czech Republic | 95.5 | 89.0 | 184.5 |
| Estonia | 32.3 | 35.7 | 68.0 |
| Greece | 116.7 | — | 116.7 |
| Hungary | 108.9 | 105.7 | 214.7 |
| Latvia | 50.2 | 51.9 | 102.1 |
| Lithuania | 56.2 | 61.4 | 117.6 |
| Malta | 4.4 | 3.6 | 8.0 |
| Poland | 397.8 | 411.5 | 809.3 |
| Portugal | 102.7 | — | 102.7 |
| Romania | 275.2 | 227.3 | 502.5 |
| Slovakia | 54.9 | 58.2 | 113.1 |
| Slovenia | 19.9 | 17.8 | 37.7 |
| Funds ¹³ | 55.2 | 44.8 | 100.0 |
| Total | 1 548.1¹⁴ | 1 253.7 | 2 801.8 |

All figures are in million €.

¹³ Fund for Youth Employment and Fund for Regional Cooperation. ¹⁴ The EEA Grants are jointly financed by all three Donor States, where contributions are based on their GDP. Norway provides approximately 94.4%, Iceland 4.2% and Liechtenstein 1.3%.

Areas of support (2014–2021)

- + Innovation, Research, Education and Competitiveness
- + Social Inclusion, Youth Employment and Poverty Reduction
- + Environment, Energy, Climate Change and Low Carbon Economy
- + Culture, Civil Society, Good Governance and Fundamental Rights and Freedoms
- + Justice and Home Affairs

591.7

378.9

408.8

415.3

340.6

Overall allocation to the priority sectors is not yet finalised as all Programme Agreements have not been signed yet.

All figures are in million €.