

EEA AND NORWAY GRANTS

NGO programme „Human rights and democracy“ in Slovakia

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EEA AND NORWAY GRANTS

- The EEA Grants and Norway Grants represent the contribution of Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway to reducing economic and social disparities and to strengthening bilateral relations with 15 EU countries in Central and Southern Europe.
- Through the European Economic Area (EEA) Agreement, Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway are partners in the internal market with the 28 EU member states.

- Ever since the establishment of the EEA Agreement in 1994, Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway have provided funding to reduce social and economic disparities in the EEA.
- Objective of the EEA and Norway Grants. Strengthening ties between European countries brings mutual benefits for institutions and organisations in both the donor and beneficiary countries.

Financing

- The EEA Grants and Norway Grants are set up for five-year periods. For the period 2009-2014, €1.7885 billion has been set aside under the Grants.
- The EEA Grants are jointly financed by Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway, who contribute according to their size and economic wealth. Of the €988.5 million set aside for the 2009-14 period, Norway provides around 94%, Iceland close to 5% and Liechtenstein just over 1%.
- The Norway Grants are financed by Norway alone and amount to €800 million in this period.

Funding

- Funding is channelled through 147 programmes in the 15 beneficiary countries. Country allocations are based on population size and GDP per capita, making Poland the largest beneficiary state, followed by Romania, Hungary and the Czech Republic.
- Each beneficiary country agrees on a set of programmes with the donor countries, based on national needs and priorities and the scope for cooperation with the donor countries. All programmes must adhere to standards relating to human rights, good governance, sustainable development and gender equality.

Beneficiary Countries – 2009 - 2014

- Bulgaria - €78.6 M, Cyprus - €3.9 M,
- Czech Republic - €61.4 M, Estonia - €23.0 M,
- Greece - €63.4 M, Hungary - €70.1 M,
- Latvia - €34.6 M, Lithuania - €38.4 M,
- Malta - €2.0 M, Poland - €266.9 M,
- Portugal - €58.0 M, Romania - €190.8 M
- Slovakia - €38.4 M, Slovenia - €12.5 M,
- Spain - €45.9 M

Areas of Support 2009 - 2014

- **Environmental protection and management**
- **Climate change and renewable energy**
- **Civil society**
NGO programmes
- **Human and social development**
- **Protecting cultural heritage**
- **Research and scholarship**

NORWAY GRANTS

- In the period 2009-14, the Norway Grants support 61 programmes in 12 countries in Europe. The Norway Grants are available to the 12 EU member countries that joined in 2004 and 2007.
- Under the Norway Grants, Norway has set aside €800 million for the current funding period. The decision-making body for the grant scheme is the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Norway also provides 95% of the funding to the EEA Grants.
- Bulgaria, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia

Areas of Support NF 2009 - 2014

- **Carbon capture and storage**
- **Green industry innovation**
- **Decent work and tripartite dialogue**
- **Research and scholarship**
- **Human and social development**
- **Justice and home affairs**

Main Goal and Priorities

- To increase participation of NGOs in solving problems related to preservation of human rights, promotion of equal opportunities principles and non-discrimination, support of judiciary and transparency, and strengthening of multi-cultural environment in Slovakia
 1. supporting protection of human rights, 8
 2. supporting right to equal treatment, 10
 3. strengthening judiciary, 7
 4. strengthening multicultural environment , 10

NGO Fund – Human Rights Protection 2004 - 2008

Total Amount:	€1 984 664.54- -
project administration	€198, 465.78
re-granting	€1,786,198.76
• 2 Calls for Proposals, independent expert committees,	
• Final decision OSF BA Board of Directors,	
• Observers from Public Administration	
• Minimum support per subproject:	€20,000
• Maximum support per subproject :	€80,000
• Number of supported subprojects:	35
• Projects targeting Roma Communities:	10

Main Achievements

- Improvement of the conditions for respecting of fundamental human rights and freedoms in the society and strengthened capacity of NGOs working in this field;
- Legal assistance and legal aid have been made available to disadvantaged groups;
- Right to equality and non-discrimination has been promoted, awareness has been raised in respect of the application of the right to equal treatment;
- Multicultural environment strengthened, principles of equality, tolerance, non discrimination and freedom promoted by each project

The NGO Program “Democracy and Human Rights”

2009 - 2014

- The overall priority of the Program is the development of NGO capacities and improvement of their position in the society.
- The Programme is addressing horizontal concerns such as: hate speech, extremism, racism and xenophobia, homophobia, anti-Semitism, tolerance/multicultural understanding, Roma, sexual harassment, violence against women and trafficking.

Areas of Support 2009 - 2014

- Democracy, good governance and transparency, 8
- Human rights, including minorities rights, 5
- Gender equality and Gender-based violence, 8
- Anti discrimination, combat racism and xenophobia, 5

- At least 10% of the total eligible expenditures will be dedicated to support children and youth at risk. The program is also focusing on the specific needs of minorities including the Roma.

Bi-lateral Fund

- The goal of the Bilateral Fund is to facilitate and support the development of mutually beneficial partnerships and cooperation between Slovak non-governmental organizations and entities in donor states.
- The Bilateral Fund financing is designed to facilitate and support the development of mutually beneficial partnerships and cooperation in supported areas:
 - Democracy, good governance and transparency;
 - Human rights including minority rights;
 - Gender equality and gender based violence;
 - Anti-discrimination, combating of racism and xenophobia.

Grant Scheme & Complementary Action

- The 1st Call for applications offered funding up to 150000 euro. The amount of funding available discouraged smaller/local NGOs to apply as far as they have difficulties to bring up the co-financing – 10% of the total cost of the project.
- Smaller NGOs are not often able to consume such an amount due to their organizational capacities and/or to the type of activities they are doing.
- “Small Grant Scheme” - to balance the support to the grass-root initiatives and national advocacy initiatives, an opportunity to empower and activate people on the ground- mostly members of vulnerable groups.

Timeline

- January 2014 - within the Timeline of calls of proposals given in the 2nd round
- May 2015 within the Timeline of calls of proposals given in 3rd round

Areas of support:

- a) Human Rights, including minority rights
- b) Anti discrimination, combat racism and xenophobia

Minimum 3,000 euro

Maximum 5,000 euro

Main Contribution of EEA/NF

- Support directed to issues essential for a society in transition; complementary to structural funds but aiming at the unique areas (social sphere, environment and sustainable living, human rights, multicultural society, judiciary, cross-border cooperation in education and creating partnerships between the NGOs with other subjects);
- Introduction of a Northern model of relationship between public administration and NGOs in which the NGOs are accepted as respectful, critical but constructive partners that are worth of support from public resources;
- Opportunity for the NGOs in Slovakia not only to implement the projects but also to be intermediaries distributing public funds to other NGOs;
- Opportunity for Slovak NGOs to find partners in donor countries and to establish international networks

Lessons Learned

- The EEA and NF proved to be very essential since there is a need in society for implementing activities in this field. There is still need for:
- In-depth research and analysis
- Influencing decision-makers
- Spreading ideas of positive impact of diversity
- Reduction of the political influence in the HR area
- Further development and implementation of already opened topics and issues
- Institutional support of NGOs and HR activists

Thank you for your attention

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