

BULGARIA

Bulgaria has received funding since entering the EU and EEA in 2007. For the period of 2009-2014, Bulgaria has been allocated €126.6 million; up from €41.5 million in the period 2007-2009. Norway provides 97% of the funding, with Iceland and Liechtenstein providing the rest.

KEY AREAS OF SUPPORT

- › Strengthening the justice sector through reforms
- › Assisting in the fight against organised crime, including trafficking
- › Combating violence against women
- › Improving the situation for vulnerable groups, including Roma
- › Promoting green industry innovation
- › Improving public health and reducing health inequalities

BILATERAL COOPERATION

Seven Norwegian public institutions are partners in programmes on climate change, environment, justice, social dialogue, research, scholarships, capacity building at a local and regional level and cross-border cooperation. Iceland and Liechtenstein are participating as programme partners on scholarships.

Among the institutions involved, the Norwegian Police Directorate is on board as a partner in the programme focused on combating organised crime. The Norwegian Climate and Pollution Agency will provide expertise in the management of inland and marine waters. The Norwegian Barents Secretariat is a project partner in dealing with cross-border cooperation. Innovation Norway is operating the green innovation programme that aims to increase competitiveness of green enterprises in Bulgaria. The Council of Europe is involved in helping Bulgaria carry out reforms in a number of important areas.

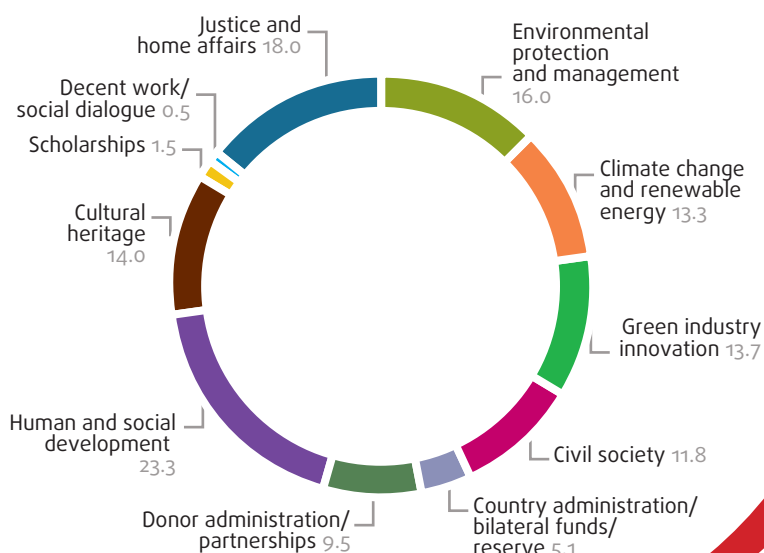
At a national level, funding is available through the bilateral funds to support networking and foster project partnerships.



EEA GRANTS	€78.6 M	TOTAL FUNDING
NORWAY GRANTS	€48.0 M	€126.6 M
	Bulgaria	EU-27
GDP per capita in PPS (EU=100)	45	100
Economic growth (% change on previous year)	1.7	1.5
Unemployment rate	11.2	9.7
Youth unemployment	26.6	21.4
Public debt (% of GDP)	16.3	82.5
Human development index	27 (EU-27 ranking)	
Corruption perception index	27 (EU-27 ranking)	
Inequality of income distribution*	5.9	5

Sources: Eurostat, UNDP, Transparency International
All data is from 2011 except where * indicates 2010

DISTRIBUTION OF FUNDING (€ MILLION)



IN FOCUS

STRENGTHENING CAPACITY AND EFFECTIVENESS OF THE JUDICIAL SECTOR

The European Court of Human Rights states that Bulgaria must undertake structural reforms in order to respect the European Convention on Human Rights, the cornerstone for the protection of human rights in Europe. The Bulgarian government has shown determination to deliver judicial reform and tackle corruption, but further action is needed.

The Norway Grants are enabling the Council of Europe (CoE) to assist Bulgaria with these reforms. Bulgaria will use the grants to improve access to the justice system, make the courts more efficient and increase competence within the judiciary. At the same time, the CoE will help Bulgarian authorities improve upon their track record in combating domestic violence and organised crime and to improve both the legal system and prison facilities. Experts from the CoE will work with Bulgarian institutions to increase their knowledge of the European Convention of Human Rights.

PROMOTING GREEN INDUSTRY INNOVATION

Bulgaria's performance in the field of green industry innovation is below the EU average, plus the economy is the most energy-intensive in Europe. On the basis of this, Bulgaria has developed a new national investment policy with special focus on promoting the development of innovative enterprises.

The Norway Grants are supporting the national push to increase competitiveness of green enterprises, including the 'greening' of existing industries, green innovation and green entrepreneurship. The green innovation programme will stimulate business opportunities and the increased use of environmentally friendly technologies within sectors such as construction, transport, information and communication technologies (ICT) and environmental monitoring.

The Norway Grants are aiming to create a supportive environment for green innovation entrepreneurs. Projects may be implemented in partnership with Norwegian businesses and other entities.

IMPROVED MONITORING OF MARINE AND INLAND WATERS

The Danube River defines Bulgaria's border with Romania and the country has a long coastline on the Black Sea. The European Water Framework Directive requires that all EU countries achieve 'good status' in all waters by 2015.

To achieve this ambitious goal, Bulgaria needs to put an integrated water management system in place. The EEA Grants will contribute to establishing this system. The support will strengthen Bulgaria's capability to monitor and manage its vast marine and inland waters.

Programme	Partner(s)	Grant (€ million)
Green innovation	Innovation Norway*	13.7
Energy efficiency and renewable energy	Norwegian Water Resources and Energy Directorate	13.3
Integrated marine and inland water management	Norwegian Climate and Pollution Agency	8.0
Biodiversity and ecosystem services	Norwegian Directorate for Nature Management	8.0
Correctional services	Council of Europe	7.0
Schengen cooperation and combating cross-border and organised crime	Norwegian Police Directorate/ Council of Europe	6.0
Judicial capacity building	Council of Europe	3.0
Domestic and gender-based violence	Council of Europe	2.0
Public health initiatives		13.4
Children and youth at risk	Council of Europe	7.9
Capacity building and Institutional Co-operation	Norwegian Association of Local and Regional Authorities	2.0
Cultural heritage and contemporary arts		14.0
NGO Fund		11.8
Scholarships	Icelandic Centre for Research / National Agency for International Education Affairs (Liechtenstein) / Norwegian Centre for International Cooperation in Higher Education	1.5
Decent work and tripartite dialogue	Innovation Norway*	0.5

*Programme Operator