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GUIDE TO EU PROGRAMMES
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For more information on participation in programmes, please use the contact points.

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Foreword



Dear Reader,

This edition of the EFTA Bulletin presents the EU programmes with the aim of providing EFTA citizens with up-to-date information on the programmes and an effective tool to navigate through the vast opportunities open to us.

The participation of the EFTA States in the programmes may well be the best example of good EFTA-EU cooperation in the Internal Market outside the four freedoms. The participation of the EFTA States has proven to be beneficial for both sides. While allowing EFTA participants to find EU partners, the programmes also provide an opportunity for the EU to benefit from the expertise and best practice of the EFTA States as well as from an increase in the programmes' budget through the EFTA States' financial contributions.

Crucial for the administration of the EU programmes in the EFTA States are the EFTA national agencies, national Contact points, programme offices and project managers. These are the interfaces between the EFTA participants and the EU programmes because they provide information, guidance on application, and partner search and are increasingly managing decentralised actions within the programmes. We have, therefore, in this issue of the EFTA Bulletin highlighted the web contacts of the EFTA facilitators under each programme.

We would like to thank the EFTA National Experts in Brussels and Luxembourg for their contribution to the EFTA case project sections and for their valuable input to this issue.

The guide also includes information on the EEA Grants provided by Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway, as well as the Norway Grants, which aim at reducing disparities in the EEA. Together they represent considerable opportunities for entities in the three EFTA countries. Strengthening cooperation between the 15 EU countries benefiting from the financial support and the three EEA EFTA States are overarching goals of the grant schemes.

I hope that EFTA citizens will exploit the possibilities that have become available with these programmes. Impulses from abroad stimulate new thinking and broaden horizons. International involvement and knowledge of other countries' cultural traditions and social conditions are becoming increasingly important to understand and meet new global challenges in an environment that is constantly changing.

Kåre Bryn

Secretary-General



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The EU Programmes



*By José Manuel Barroso,
President of the European Commission*

It is a pleasure to contribute to the European Free Trade Association (EFTA) Bulletin on the new EU programmes. I come from a country which has a long history of good relations with EFTA. Portugal was one of the founding members of the Association in 1960 and remained a member until it joined the European Union in 1986.

Since then, we have followed different paths, but at the same time the relationship between the EU and EFTA has grown ever closer. One of the main reasons for this is the Agreement on the European Economic Area (EEA), which came into force in 1994. It brought the EEA EFTA States into the internal market and the EU programmes. In this way, the EFTA States have been active participants in and contributors to EU cooperation in areas such as research, education and the media, to name but a few. Switzerland has also joined parts of this process under a series of bilateral agreements with the EU.

For me, these EU programmes underline one of the key concepts behind European integration - mobility. By facilitating mobility with the aid of intercultural dialogue, exchanges and the joint quest for knowledge and innovation, the new EU programmes provide powerful tools for developing a competitive, inclusive and tolerant Europe. Mobility is, of course, also the central factor for building a true internal market with

free movement of persons, goods, capital and services. I also want to add a fifth freedom of movement - the free movement of knowledge, which is a key objective of European research.

Mobility is an essential for human development: by forging links between individuals, small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), organisations and cultures, Europe can capitalise on its competitive advantages, build tolerance and share experience. I therefore believe that the mobility stimulated by these EU programmes is crucial for the whole of Europe - including the EFTA States. By facilitating dialogue, mobility paves the way for Europe to develop in an increasingly globalised economy and multicultural society. The Lisbon Strategy, with its clear focus on growth and jobs, has been one of the cornerstones of this European project up to now.

As the next step, the Commission has proposed the follow-up to the Lisbon Strategy on jobs and growth, in the form of the EU 2020 Strategy endorsed by the European Council on 17 June 2010. Cultivating knowledge, reinventing education, developing broad research, promoting innovation policies and greening the economy are at the core of the EU 2020 Strategy.

The EU programmes are designed particularly to support the main priorities of the EU 2020 Strategy, with their focus on sustainable economic progress, solidarity, security and a stronger role for Europe in the world.

In 2009, Europe - with the cooperation of all the EFTA States - celebrated the Year of Creativity and Innovation. Putting the spotlight on Europe's creative and innovative capacity, a number of projects were devised to create space where new ideas could bring together potential stakeholders from many different walks of life, including governments, schools, universities and NGOs at European, national, regional and local levels. Innovation and creativity are not only fundamental for generating sustainable economic growth, but also vital for Europe's social and



individual well-being, forging links between individuals, small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), organisations and cultures.

This stronger emphasis on dissemination of knowledge and ideas is also reflected in the greater attention paid to developing European research. The Seventh Framework Programme for Research and Technological Development, with a budget of over €50 billion for the seven years from 2007 to 2013, is substantially increasing spending on grants to co-finance research, technological development and demonstration projects all over Europe and beyond. It is providing a boost for innovation relevant to the needs of European industry, enabling Europe to compete successfully in the global economic arena.

Why have we been attaching such importance to research and innovation in the EU programmes? - because they are the key to European competitiveness. To maintain a high quality of life, we must keep our economies competitive. Creating a knowledge society is essential for a durable, competitive Europe. Research and innovation are the best ways to achieve this. In turn, open and competitive markets act as incentives to innovate. So the basics are there to create a virtuous circle of benefits and rewards for us all. Our Competitiveness and Innovation Programme (CIP) is another programme designed to address these growing challenges.

The Lifelong Learning Programme is also contributing to mobility and to developing Europe as an advanced knowledge-based society, with sustainable economic development, more and better jobs and closer social cohesion, while protecting the environment effectively for future generations. In particular, it aims to foster interchange, cooperation and mobility between education and training systems within the Community so that they become a world benchmark for quality.

I hardly need to mention the strong relationship that binds the Union and the EFTA countries. The EFTA States are the Union's closest partners. Their participation in the EU programmes is evidence of a solid, yet dynamic, partnership. We are therefore grateful for the contributions made by the EEA EFTA States to the EU programmes.

These have grown from €50 million in 1995 to €165 million in 2007 and are expected to rise to €290 million by 2013. Let me also mention that, under the current programmes, the EFTA States are seconding around 50 National Experts to the European Commission, a clear indication of how the expansion of the programmes to the EEA complements the quest to spread and share knowledge.

I am convinced that, as a result of their participation in the programmes, the 30 States in the European Economic Area and Switzerland will each benefit from the others' experience and that this will help us to achieve our common goals.

José Manuel Barroso



President of the
European Commission



Research – FP7

Research and innovation are necessary to boost economic growth in Europe and for the benefit of the whole of European society. Not only does research and innovation contribute to a higher level of competitiveness at a global level, but it can also help to counteract the challenges that Europe faces such as climate change, energy needs and ageing. Although great emphasis has been put on research and innovation in Europe, only 2% of the EU Member States' total GDP is spent on research, compared to 2.5% in the USA and over 3% in Japan). The goal is therefore to raise EU research spending to 3% of its GDP, as expressed in the Europe 2020 Strategy.

Three key instruments are used to stimulate research and innovation:

- The Seventh Framework Programme of the European Community for research, technological development and demonstration activities 2007-2013 (FP7), which is dealt with below;
- The Cohesion Policy, which is funded through the EU structural funds and cohesion policy (not part of the EEA Agreement or the EU-Swiss bilateral agreements); and
- The Competitiveness and Innovation Framework Programme (CIP), which is described later in a separate chapter.

FP7 is designed to respond to Europe's employment needs, competitiveness and quality of life. The programme aims to strengthen and develop the European Research Area (ERA) to counter some of Europe's weaknesses in the area of research: insufficient funding, lack of an environment to stimulate and exploit results, the fragmented nature of activities and the dispersal of resources. The objective of the European Research Area initiative combines three related and complementary concepts:

- To create an "internal market" in research by

devising an area of free movement of knowledge, researchers and technology, with the aim to increase cooperation to stimulate competition and achieve a better allocation of resources;

- To restructure the European research fabric by improving the coordination of national research activities and policies which account for most of the research carried out and financed in Europe;
- To develop a European research policy which not only addresses the funding of research activities but also takes into account all relevant aspects of other EU and national policies.

Who can apply?

Individual researchers, research organisations/institutes, universities, enterprises, and national or international organisations can apply for funding under FP7.

Participation in FP7 is open for:

- EU Member States;
- Associated Countries (who have signed agreements on participation and contribute to the EU budget);
- Candidate Countries (for future accession);
- Third Countries (as long as the main objective is in line with that of the EU).

To be able to participate in the FP7 programme, applicants have to monitor and respond to the various 'calls for proposals' that are announced on the EU research portal CORDIS.

Through the EEA Agreement and an EU-Swiss bilateral Agreement, the four EFTA States participate fully in the Seventh Framework Programme. In addition, Switzerland participates in the Euratom Research Framework Programme.

The EEA EFTA States fall under the category of 'Associated Countries'.

FP7 2007-2013

The EU budget for the non-nuclear FP7 programme 2007-2013 is approximately €50.5 billion, a 63% increase from FP6. For the EEA EFTA States, their participation in FP7 represents more than 70 % of their total financial contribution to EU programme participation. In total, Iceland, Norway and Liechtenstein will contribute around €1.3 billion to FP7.

The three main aims of FP7 are:

- To create an **internal market in research** that will generate the free movement of knowledge, researchers and technology. The aim is to stimulate competition and achieve a better allocation of resources;
- To **restructure the European research fabric** by improving the coordination of national research activities and policies which account for most of the research carried out and financed in Europe;
- To develop a **European research policy** which not only addresses the funding of research activities but also takes into account all relevant aspects of other EU and national policies.

The Seventh Framework Programme consists of five specific programmes with the following share of the total FP7 budget:

- **Cooperation** (64%)
- **Ideas** (15%)
- **People** (9%)
- **Capacities** (9%)
- **Support actions of the Joint Research Centre** (3%).

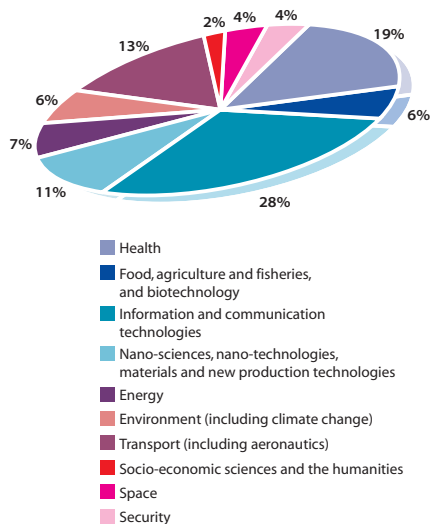
All these work together to promote and encourage the creation of European poles of scientific excellence.

The Cooperation Programme



The EU has set the aim to become the leader in key scientific and technological areas. The Cooperation Programme funds transnational activities and is the largest programme among the non-nuclear activities. The Commission provides €32.4 million for this programme, which is allocated to universities, industries, research centres and public authorities within and outside the EU. The Cooperation Programme is divided into ten sub-programmes, which all operate independently. The proportion of the budget assigned to each of the programmes is shown in the diagram below.

Budget division for Cooperation Programme



Across the ten sub-programmes, support to transnational cooperation is implemented through:

- **Collaborative research:** To establish excellent research projects in order to attract researchers and investors through collaborative research. The



programme supports Collaborative Projects, Networks of Excellence, Coordination Actions, Support Actions etc.

- **Coordination between national research programmes:** The aim is to support coordination of national research programmes and reduce the fragmentation of the European Research Area. Support is given to stakeholder consultations, ERA-NET schemes of national programmes and integration of regional/national programmes into real European research programmes under Article 185 of the EC Treaty.
- **Joint Technology Initiatives:** The main aim of the JTIs is to combine the private sector with public funding, including grants from the FP7 programme and loans from the European Investment Bank.
- **European Technology Platforms:** ETPs have been set up in areas where Europe's competitiveness, economic growth and welfare depend on research and technological progress. They bring together stakeholders, under industrial leadership, to define and implement a Strategic Research Agenda (SRA) in particular in areas of industrial relevance.

Ideas Programme



The main aim of the Ideas Programme is to support knowledge, new ideas and creativity in European society, which is commonly achieved through basic research. European society has not been using most of its research potential and resources and there is an urgent need to strengthen this field. In response to this, the EU has set up a **European Research Council (ERC)**, for this programme, with a budget of €7.5 billion. The ERC will be there to support basic research driven by individual teams competing at European level. The grants from the ERC will be allocated to young and established researchers from the participating countries, whether they are established in Europe or outside. The most important point is that through a competition the best ideas are supported each time.

The People Programme



The People Programme (previously the Marie Curie Programme) is dedicated to human resources in research with a budget of €4.7. Abundant and highly trained qualified researchers are necessary

to advance science and innovation, and to attract and sustain investments in research by public and private entities. The programme supports actions addressing researchers at all stages of their careers, in the public and private sectors, from initial research training, specifically intended for young people, to life long learning and career development. Efforts are made to increase participation by women researchers, by encouraging equal opportunities by designing the actions to ensure that researchers can achieve an appropriate work/life balance and by facilitating resuming a research career after a break:

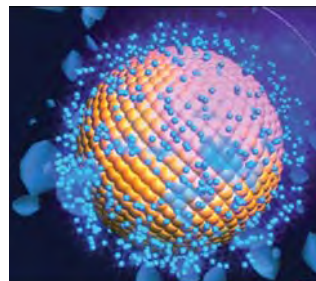
- **Initial training of young researchers** to improve career perspectives in public and private sectors, by broadening their scientific and generic skills, including those related to technology transfer and entrepreneurship;
- **Life-long training and career development** to support experienced researchers in complementing new skills and competencies or in enhancing inter/multidisciplinary and/or intersectoral mobility, in resuming a research career after a break and in (re)integrating into a longer term research position in Europe after a trans-national mobility experience;
- **Industry-academia pathways and partnerships** to stimulate intersectoral mobility and increase knowledge sharing through joint research partnerships in longer term cooperation programmes between organisations from academia and industry, in particular SMEs and including traditional manufacturing industries;
- **International dimension** to contribute to the life-long training and career development of EU researchers, to attract research talent from outside Europe and to foster mutually beneficial research collaboration with research actors from outside Europe;



Case project I

Metastatic tumours facilitated by hypoxic tumour micro-environments

METOXIA is a five-year collaborative project with 22 partners and a total budget of €15.8m. The project is co-ordinated by the Department of Physics-Biophysics and Medical Physics, University of Oslo, Norway. Solid cancers generally contain areas with abnormally low levels of oxygen. Such areas are denoted hypoxic. It has long been known that cancer cells in such hypoxic micro-environments are resistant to treatment.



Recent research has furthermore shown that hypoxia in tumours are one of the major drivers of the metastatic spread of cancer, the major cause of death by the disease. Thus, hypoxia is responsible for a double effect of reducing the potential of a successful treatment of the cancer patient: Resistance to treatment and ability to spread. At the same time the very low level of oxygen found in solid tumours are specific to cancer.

Therefore, if it were possible to develop methods that specifically located and inactivated cells in hypoxic areas it may be possible to obtain a cancer-specific effect, selective for the most harmful of the cancer cells. This development is the core task of the METOXIA project.

See www.metoxia.uio.no/

Case project II

BIOBIO – Indicators for Biodiversity

BIOBIO is a three-year collaborative project with 16 partners and a budget of €3.9 m. The project is coordinated by The Federal Department of Economic Affairs, Research Station, Switzerland.

Organic and low-input farming systems have been shown to benefit farmland biodiversity although a generic indicator system to assess these benefits at European level is lacking. The BIOBIO project will therefore pursue the following objectives:

- Conceptualisation of criteria for a scientifically-based selection of biodiversity indicators for organic/low-input farming systems;
- Assessment and validation of a set of candidate biodiversity indicators in representative case studies across Europe and in Uganda, Ukraine and Tunisia;
- Preparation of guidelines for the implementation of biodiversity indicators for organic/low-input farming systems for Europe and beyond.



The investigation will include new agricultural practices, e.g. soil conservation, crop rotation management, seed and crop mixtures and economic issues relating to the costs of indicator measurement and to benefits of biodiversity as perceived by different groups of the population. Stakeholders (farming communities, conservation NGOs, administrators) will be integrated at critical stages of the indicator selection process. A handbook with factsheets will be produced for validated indicators and a sampling design for biodiversity monitoring in organic and low-input farming systems across Europe.

See www.biobio-indicator.org

- **Specific actions** to remove obstacles to mobility and to enhance the career perspectives of researchers in Europe.

The main parts of the People Programme are implemented by the Research Executive Agency (REA), an independent Community body that has been established to serve this part of the Framework Programme.

The Capacities Programme



The aim of the Capacities Programme is to enhance research and innovation capacities throughout Europe and ensure their optimal use by supporting a coherent development of policies, contribute to EU policies and initiatives, complement the Cooperation Programme and find synergies with the Structural Funds, education and training programmes and the Competitiveness and Innovation Programme (CIP).

The programmes' budget of €4.1 billion is divided between seven areas:

- **Research and infrastructure** to optimise the use and development of the best infrastructures in Europe;
- **Research for the benefits of SMEs** to strengthen the innovation capacity of SMEs in Europe, as well as their contribution to new products and technologies;
- **Regions of knowledge** to support the development of research driven regional clusters associated with universities, research centres, enterprises and regional authorities;
- **Research potential** to stimulate research in the 'convergence and outermost' regions in Europe and strengthen their capacities in order for researchers from these areas to be able to participate in the EU activities;
- **Science in society** to stimulate the harmonious integration of scientific and technological endeavour and associated research policies into European society;
- **Coherent development of research policies** co-ordinating research policies, as well as linking public research to industry and to the leverage effects of investment by private actors;

- **Activities of International Cooperation** to become more competitive globally which is to be achieved through three key approaches: Strategic partnerships; contact with and access to third country institutions; and establishing mutual interests and benefits with third countries.

Support Actions of the Joint Research Centre

The EU's Joint Research Centre provides independent scientific and technical advice to the European Commission and Member States of the **European Union** (EU) in support of EU policies. With headquarters in Brussels (DG JRC) and located in seven scientific institutes at five different sites in Europe, the JRC is primarily involved in the Seventh Framework Programme (FP7) through its own research activities - known as 'direct actions'. These are organised in two specific programmes: one focusing on prosperity in a knowledge intensive society, sustainable management of resources, security and freedom, Europe as a world partner; and one covering the nuclear field: treatment and storage of nuclear waste, non-proliferation, reactor safety, nuclear medicine and radiation monitoring. In addition, the JRC is eligible to participate in FP7 instruments on the same basis as any other research organisation in Europe ('indirect actions').

Contact points



European Commission

<http://ec.europa.eu/research/>
http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/home_en.html



Rannis

www.rannis.is/english/home/



Office of Economic Affairs

www.avw.llv.li/



Norwegian Research Council

www.forskningradet.no/en/Home_page/1177315753906



Swiss National Science Foundation

www.snf.ch/E/Pages/default.aspx

Lifelong Learning – LLP



When speaking about learning, people tend to think about the education taken at certain stages in life. The European Commission has, however, emphasised the importance of continuing to learn and train throughout life, not only in schools but also at work. As early as 1993 Mr. Jacques Delors, the President of the Commission, pointed out the importance of lifelong learning, enabling people to receive formal and informal education and training throughout their lifetime.

The EEA Agreement ensured EEA EFTA participation from 1 January 1994 in “all programmes of the Community in the field of education, training and youth in force or adopted” (Protocol 31, Article 4.2). From the very beginning, Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway participated in the Socrates and Leonardo da Vinci education and training programmes. In 1998, the first pre-accession countries joined the programmes.

Who can apply?

Students at all levels of education, teachers, experts on education, educational institutions and organisations can all apply for the different parts of the Lifelong Learning Programme.

The Lifelong Learning Programme

There has been an ever-increasing focus on knowledge and innovation as part of the Lisbon Strategy’s objective of making the EU “the most competitive and dynamic knowledge-based economy in the world”. In the year 2000, Heads of State discussed the need for a challenging programme for the modernisation of social welfare and education systems. In 2002, the Council and Commission adopted a 10-year work programme, “Education and Training 2010”, aimed at reducing the percentage of early school leavers and of pupils with low reading literacy and at increasing the percentage of people having completed upper secondary education. The programme also aimed to increase the number of tertiary graduates in Mathematics, Science and Technology, and to increase the lifelong learning participation of the adult population.

The European Commission has devoted €7 billion to the Lifelong Learning Programme 2007 - 2013, which is about 10% of the total EU programme budget. The EEA EFTA States provide around €160 million to the programme.

The Lifelong Learning Programme comprises four sub-programmes, or pillars:

- **Comenius** (school education);
- **Erasmus** (higher education and training);
- **Leonardo da Vinci** (vocational education and training);
- **Grundtvig** (adult education).

The four sub-programmes are complemented by a **transversal programme**, covering four key activities:

- **Policy co-operation:** Innovating and sharing good policy practices
- **Languages:** Breaking the language barriers
- **Information and communication technologies:** Innovative learning
- **Dissemination and exploitation of project results:** Spreading and implementing the results

The final aspect of the Lifelong Learning Programme is the **Jean Monnet Programme**. It supports the following areas:

- The Jean Monnet Action (support for University-level projects on European integration), setting up teaching projects in the field of European integration, European modules, and permanent courses;
- The support of six specific academic institutions pursuing an aim of European interest. These include the College of Europe, the European University Institute, the European Institute of Public

Administration, the Academy of European Law, the International Centre for European Training, and the European Agency for Development in Special Needs Education; and

- The support of European-wide associations active at the European level in the field of education and training.

Comenius	Erasmus	Leonardo da Vinci	Grundtvig
School education	Higher education and advanced training	Vocational education and training	Adult education
<p>Transversal programme</p> <p>4 key activities: policy cooperation, languages, ICT and valorisation (valorisation = dissemination and exploitation of results)</p>			
<p>Jean Monnet programme</p> <p>3 key activities: Jean Monnet action, the European institutions and European associations</p>			

Comenius

The Comenius Programme focuses on the first phase of education, from pre-school and primary to secondary schools. Johann Amos Comenius (1592-1670) was a Czech teacher and scientist who believed that education was the key to fully developing a person's talents. The programme seeks to develop knowledge and understanding among young people and educational staff of the diversity of European cultures, languages and values.

Erasmus

The Erasmus Programme is aimed at higher education and training and is the EU's flagship initiative, enabling more than 180.000 students to study and work abroad each year, as well as supporting cooperation between higher education institutions across Europe. The programme is named after Desiderius Erasmus Rotterdamus (1465-1536)

who was the pioneer of the mobility grants that now bear his name. The programme is aimed at the following segments:

- **Students:** To facilitate studying abroad, doing a traineeship abroad, as well as to assist linguistic preparation;
- **University/higher educational staff:** To enable teaching or training abroad;
- **University/higher education institutes:** Puts in place intensive programmes, academic or structural networks, and multilateral projects;
- **Enterprises:** Hosting student placements, enabling teaching abroad and participation in university cooperation.

Leonardo da Vinci

This programme is targeted at Vocational Education and Training (VET). Leonardo da Vinci (1452-1519) was an Italian scientist and artist, who unified art and invention. It funds a wide range of actions, notably cross-border mobility initiatives; cooperation projects to develop and spread innovation; and thematic networks. Potential beneficiaries include trainees in initial vocational training, people already in the labour market, VET professionals, and private or public organisations active in this field.

Grundtvig

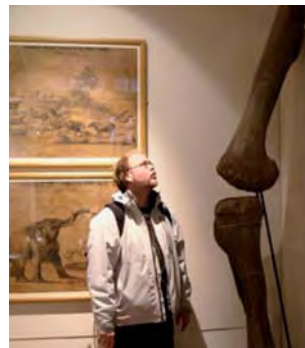
The Grundtvig Programme is directed at adult education. It was launched in 2000 and named after Nicolai Grundtvig (1783-1872), one of the founding fathers of the so-called Folk high school. Grundtvig aims to provide adults with ways to improve their knowledge and skills, keeping them mentally fit and potentially more employable. It not only covers learners in adult education, but also the teachers, trainers, education staff and facilities that deliver these services. There are also actions supporting adult learner mobility, such as exchanges and, now in the 2007-2013 programme, so-called 'assistantships'.

Case project

Erasmus exchange programme to Scotland

Hlynur Pálsson, 32, left Iceland for three months to discover the Scottish way of theatre studies.

“During the last year of my degree in theatre at the Iceland Academy of the Arts, I went abroad for an Erasmus exchange programme to Scotland. I’d heard good things about the Contemporary Performance Practice Programme at the Royal Scottish Academy of Music and Drama. There were some administrative problems with awarding credits there, but after talking with the programme leaders, it was agreed I could validate my year by taking on extra work as an assistant director on a theatre performance. I left for Glasgow with high spirits.



A week after arriving in Scotland, the Icelandic banking system collapsed. I had to be resourceful to live off my Icelandic student loan and the Erasmus grant. I had no means of getting a minor job since my schedule was already full at the institute. I had to collect 30 ECTS credits (ten more than my fellow students); I worked as an assistant director for the show ‘Five’ and took part in out-of-school activities.

The broken economy was not however my greatest worry at the time. My girlfriend and my 3-year old daughter had stayed in Iceland, and the separation from them was difficult throughout the semester. Fortunately I enjoyed my course and my new surroundings so much that time rattled on and I was soon back with them in Iceland. I had a great time in Glasgow, I met a lot of friends there and I will definitely return to the city, this time with my family.

In hindsight, my exchange Program would not have been possible without the Erasmus grant pulling me through the hard financial crisis. My deepest gratitude goes to Alma, the extremely helpful Erasmus coordinator in Iceland, the Erasmus Programme as a whole and all the great and wonderful people I got to know in Glasgow.”

Hlynur Pálsson (Iceland) was selected as the 2 000 000th Erasmus student due to organising his studies abroad in obtaining sufficient ECTS credits, for not studying in a common Erasmus study field and coping with the financial crisis.

New developments in lifelong learning

In the Youth and Culture Council meeting in May 2009 the Council recognised the need for an updated strategic framework for European cooperation in education and training, building on the progress made under the ‘Education and Training 2010’ work programme. It reiterated that European cooperation in the period up until 2020 should be established in the context of a strategic framework spanning education and training systems as a

whole in a lifelong learning perspective. Indeed lifelong learning should be regarded as a fundamental principle underpinning the framework designed to cover learning in all contexts and at all levels (from early childhood education through to adult learning).

Specifically, emphasis was placed on the following four objectives:

- Making lifelong learning and mobility a reality;
- Improving the quality and efficiency of education and training;

- Promoting equity, social cohesion and active citizenship; and
- Enhancing creativity and innovation, including; entrepreneurship, at all levels of education and training.

Furthermore, as a means of monitoring progress and identifying challenges, new benchmarks were established that Member States are invited to consider when formulating national policy.

- **Adult participation in lifelong learning:** by 2020, an average of at least 15% of adults should participate in lifelong learning.
- **Low achievers in basic skills:** by 2020, the share of low-achieving 15 year olds in reading, mathematics and science should be less than 15%.
- **Tertiary level attainment:** by 2020, the share of 30-34 year olds with tertiary educational attainment should be at least 40%.
- **Early leavers from education and training:** by 2020, the share of early leavers from education and training should be less than 10%.
- **Early childhood education:** by 2020, at least 95% of children between 4 years old and the age for starting compulsory primary education should participate in early childhood education.
- **Mobility:** the Council invited the Commission to submit a proposal for a benchmark in this area by the end of 2010. The Commission was also invited to study the possibility of extending such a benchmark to include vocational education and training and teacher mobility.
- **Employability:** the Council invited the Commission to submit a proposal for a possible European benchmark in this area by the end of 2010.
- **Language learning:** the Council invited the Commission to submit a proposal for a possible benchmark in this area by the end of 2012, based on the ongoing work on language competences.

The EEA EFTA States have been active participants in the Lifelong Learning Programmes. Reports on the results of the programmes' objectives show that the EEA EFTA States are doing well in achieving the goals set.

Contact points

 **European Commission**
<http://ec.europa.eu/llp/>

 **Icelandic Lifelong Learning Office**
www.lme.is/page/lme_english

 **Agency for International Educational Affairs**
www.aiba.llv.li/

 **Norwegian Centre for International Cooperation in Higher Education (SiU)**
www.siu.no/en

Erasmus Mundus



The Erasmus Mundus Programme II (2009-2013) is a cooperation and mobility programme in the field of higher education that has been designed in response to the challenges of globalisation faced by European higher education today.

It particularly aims to address the need to adapt education systems to the demands of the knowledge society in accordance with the objectives of the Lisbon Treaty; to enhance the attractiveness and visibility of European higher education worldwide; and to stimulate the process of convergence of degree structures across Europe. In addition, it provides an important vehicle for the promotion of intercultural dialogue between Europe and the rest of the world.

The programme is made up of three main actions, of which the EEA EFTA States participate in Actions I and III. Projects include the implementation of Joint Masters and Doctorate degrees to foster cooperation between higher education institutions and academic staff in Europe, as well as the organisation of seminars, workshops and the like to raise the profile of European higher education throughout the world.

Who can apply?

Involvement in the Erasmus Mundus Programme is principally open to European higher education institutions and individuals. Higher education institutions of EEA EFTA States participate in Actions I and III of the programme, and individuals may apply to the joint degrees and for the scholarships offered through Action I.

Participation in the programme is also open to research organisations and other organisations active in the field of higher education. The objectives of Erasmus Mundus do not directly support research activities, but the programme is nonetheless open to any organisation that may contribute to its objectives, particularly as regards the enhancement of the quality of higher education. Similarly, other organisations, including public administration bodies, NGO's, social partners, chambers of commerce or industry, enterprises, etc.,

may take part as partners or associated members, and can submit and co-ordinate projects under Action III.

Erasmus Mundus II (2009-2013)

One of the core objectives of the programme is to allow for the provision of structured cooperation between higher education institutions within Europe and beyond its borders.

The programme is intended to have a value in its own right - both by raising the profile of European higher education as a centre of excellence and by enhancing the quality of higher education with a distinct European added value - but is also designed to contribute to some of the EU's key objectives, including the strengthening of the internal market. In enhancing the mutual recognition of higher education qualifications and targeting programmes to the development of appropriate skills, the free movement of persons is facilitated, and the labour market strengthened.

Erasmus Mundus II is structured so as to address these core objectives and is divided into three main actions.

Action I:

Erasmus Mundus Joint Programmes (including scholarships)

Action I provides:

- Support for high-quality joint masters courses (Action IA) and doctoral programmes (Action IB) by a consortium of European and possibly third-country higher education institutions;
- Scholarships/fellowships for European and third-country students/doctoral candidates to enable participation in the joint courses;
- Short-term scholarships for third-country and European academics to carry out research or teaching assignments as part of the joint masters programmes;
- The Action aims to foster cooperation between higher education institutions and academic staff in

Case project

The European Masters in System Dynamics

The University of Bergen, Norway, is participating in the first international masters programme of its kind, a programme in System Dynamics, in cooperation with three other leading European Universities: the University of Palermo (Italy), Lund University (Sweden), and Radboud University Nijmegen (Netherlands).

The programme is specifically designed for students who are interested in learning about how to initiate strategic change in organisations. History is loaded with examples of decision-makers failing to design effective policies for their organisations in the face of increasingly interconnected and complex systems. The common denominator in such cases is a lack of understanding of these very systems, such as was undoubtedly the case in some organisations in the lead-up to the current financial crisis.

The European Masters in System Dynamics builds on the strengths of the universities involved to help people make better decisions when confronted with the complexity of dynamic systems. It is an example of where the Erasmus Mundus Programme has enabled universities from a number of European countries to team together, tap their individual strengths, and fill a gap in the market where a cross-cultural system of education bears a clear added value. Participating students are awarded with a unique experience, and a unique joint or multiple masters degree from the universities they attended.

Europe and third countries with a view to creating pools of excellence and improving Europe's human resources. The Joint degrees must involve a transfer between at least two of the participating institutions within a consortium, and lead to the award of recognised joint double or multiple degrees to successful candidates.

Action II:

Erasmus Mundus Partnerships between Europe and third-country higher education institutions. The EEA EFTA States do not participate in this part of the Erasmus Mundus programme.

Action III:

Promotion Projects

Action III provides support to transnational initiatives, studies, projects, events and other activities aimed at enhancing the attractiveness, profile, image and visibility of, and accessibility to, European higher education.

The Action relates to the international, or global, dimension of all aspects of European higher education,

including the quality assurance, credit recognition, promotion, accessibility, the recognition of European higher qualifications abroad, curriculum development, mobility, quality of service, and so on.

Activities may take the a number of different forms (conferences, seminars, workshops, studies, analyses, pilot projects, prizes, international networks, development of information, communication and technology tools etc.); may take place anywhere in the world; and participation is open to any organisation able to contribute to the action's overall objective.

Previous programme

Erasmus Mundus II (2009-2013) represents an extension of the original Erasmus Mundus Programme implemented in 2004 for the period 2004-2008. Both the original and its extension are linked to the Bologna Declaration of 1999 establishing an intergovernmental process aimed at creating a 'European Higher Education Area' by 2010 (in which all the EFTA countries were full members from the beginning); and both support the strategic goal of the Lisbon Treaty for

Europe to become the most competitive and dynamic knowledge-based economy in the world.

Erasmus Mundus II both continues and extends the scope of the activities already launched during its first phase (2004-2008). It adopts similar actions and objectives to its original, but with certain adaptations such as an extension of the programme to doctoral level, the further integration of higher education institutions located in third countries, and the provision of more funds to support European participants.

Further Information

Erasmus Mundus Programme (2009-2013) is managed by the Education, Culture and Audiovisual Executive Agency (EACEA), responsible for drawing up Calls for Proposals, selecting projects and signing project agreements, the financial management, the monitoring of projects, and communication with beneficiaries and on-the-spot controls. Actions I and III of the programme are supervised by DG Education and Culture, the overall budget for these Actions is €470 million.

Contact points



European Commission

http://ec.europa.eu/education/external-relation-programmes/doc72_en.htm



Icelandic Lifelong Learning Office

www.lme.is/page/lme_english



Agency for International Educational Affairs

www.aiba.lv.li/



Norwegian Centre for International Cooperation in Higher Education (SiU)

www.siu.no/en

Competitiveness and Innovation – CIP



The Competitiveness and Innovation Framework Programme (CIP) aims to encourage the competitiveness of European enterprises. With small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) as its main target, CIP will offer funding possibilities for a wide range of business-oriented innovation projects. The total budget is €3621 billion and the programme will run from 2007 to 2013.

The main objectives of CIP are to:

- Foster the competitiveness of enterprises, in particular SMEs;
- Promote all forms of innovation including eco-innovation;
- Accelerate the development of a sustainable, competitive, innovative and inclusive information society;
- Promote energy efficiency and new and renewable energy sources in all sectors including transport.

Whilst eco-innovation will be a transversal theme of the whole programme, CIP is composed of three specific programmes: the Entrepreneurship and Innovation Programme; the Information Communication Technologies Policy Support Programme and the Intelligent Energy Europe.

Who can apply?

In addition to the EU Member States, the EEA EFTA States (Iceland, Norway and Liechtenstein) and Croatia participate fully in all parts of the CIP programme. Turkey and Serbia take part in the Entrepreneurship and Innovation Programme, as well as in the ICT Policy Support Programme together with Macedonia and Montenegro.

The Entrepreneurship and Innovation Programme – EIP

The EIP programme will support the development of innovation policy in Europe and facilitate the exploitation of synergies between national, regional and European innovation policy and support activities. Networking among stakeholders is supported in the EIP to facilitate the flow of knowledge and ideas that are necessary for innovation. The EIP is the largest part of CIP. The EIP is to achieve its objectives through the following actions:

- **Access to finance for SMEs through EU financial instruments.** These instruments target companies in different phases of their lifecycle: seed, start up, expansion and business transfer. The aim is to support investments in technological development, innovation - including eco-innovation, technology transfer, and the cross border expansion of business activities. The instruments are managed by the European Investment Fund (EIF) in cooperation with financial institutions.
- **Enterprise Europe Network - a network of business and innovation service centres.** The Network is the largest network of Contact points providing information and advice to European companies, in particular SMEs. The Network offers solutions to entrepreneurs and companies in more than 40 countries, including all the members of the European Economic Area (EEA). The Enterprise Europe Network combines and builds on the former Innovation Relay Centres and Euro Info Centres. The new integrated Network offers a “one-stop shop” to meet all the information needs of SMEs and companies in Europe.
- **Support for initiatives to foster entrepreneurship and innovation.** Support will be given to encourage the trans-national networking of innovative companies and all other actors in the innovation process,

including benchmarking initiatives and the exchange of best practice.

- **Eco-innovation - making sustainable development become a business reality.** The Eco-innovation funding scheme objective is to bridge the gap between research and the market. The support will focus on innovative products, processes and services aimed at reducing environmental impacts, preventing pollution or achieving a more efficient and responsible use of natural resources.
- **Support for policy-making.** The programme will also be used to support policy-makers; the latest trends and developments in certain sectors, European as well as global markets will be analysed in studies and the results disseminated.

The Information Communication Technologies Policy Support Programme – ICT PSP

The ICT PSP programme aims at stimulating innovation and competitiveness through the wider uptake and best use of information communication technologies (ICT) by citizens, governments and businesses. The programme will facilitate the development of lead markets for innovative ICT-based solutions, notably in areas of public interest, and will open a wide range of new business opportunities in particular for innovative SMEs. The programme will do so by creating wider market opportunities and better services for SMEs rather than providing them with direct subsidies. The aim is to optimise the use of the resources available for the programme and to build on and complement national, regional and other European initiatives. The ICT PSP is an important financial instrument to achieve these objectives.

The ICT PSP programme is one of the main financial instruments of i2010 – A European Information Society for Growth and Employment. The i2010 promotes an open and competitive digital economy and emphasises ICT as a driver of inclusion and quality of life. The i2010 proposes three priorities for Europe's information society and media policies:

- The completion of a Single European Information Space which promotes an open and competitive internal market for the information society and media;
- Strengthen innovation and investment in ICT research and promote growth and more and better jobs;
- Achieve an inclusive European information society that is consistent with sustainable development and that prioritises better public services and quality of life.

Intelligent Energy Europe – IEE II

The IEE II is a programme for the promotion of energy efficiency and use of renewable energy sources. The programme builds on the experiences gained from the first Intelligent Energy Europe (IEE) Programme (2003-2006), and its timeframe is from 2007 to 2013. IEE II has three main focal points:

- **Fostering energy efficiency and the rational use of energy resources (SAVE).** Actions include the improvement of energy efficiency and the rational use of energy, in particular in the construction and industry sectors;
- **Promoting new and renewable energy sources and to support energy diversification (ALTENER).** Actions cover the promotion of new and renewable energy sources for the centralised and de-centralised production of electricity, heat and cooling, thus supporting the diversification of energy sources;
- **Promoting energy efficiency and the use of new and renewable energy sources in transport (STEER).** Actions support initiatives relating to all energy aspects of transport, and the diversification of fuels. The programme also includes the promotion of renewable fuels and energy efficiency in transport.

In addition, IEE II has also provided support for cooperation in these three fields at international level, including the neighbouring countries of the EU (COOPENER).

As part of CIP, IEE II is not only meant to help achieve the overall policy goals of the Lisbon agenda, but is



Case project

Integrated Energy Design in public buildings

INTEND

'Integrated energy design' is a process which focuses on passive energy strategies, low-energy measures and indoor climate of buildings, before looking at any mechanical or electrical features. The main objective of this project was to demonstrate that outstanding results regarding energy efficiency, renewable energy sources and indoor climate can be achieved if architects, engineers, building owners and investors together adopt an Integrated Energy Design approach. Guidelines, an Internet database, literature and the study of at least 12 building projects formed part of the work, with the results and practical experiences reported to relevant actors through a variety of events.

Among the result from the project are:

- An Internet database of low-energy buildings description and literature. This online showroom will be a source of inspiration for architects, developers, municipalities and all actors of the construction business.
- Integrated Energy Design guidelines for practical use by the participants involved in a design process.

KanEnergi AS, Norway, coordinated the project, which ran from 2007 to 2009.

more specifically meant to support the implementation of the EU's energy legislation, such as the Directive on the Energy Performance of Buildings, the Directives Ecodesign and the labelling of energy-related products, the Energy Star Agreement, and the Directive on the promotion of the use of energy from renewable sources, to mention but a few.

IEE II addresses the fact that the uptake of sustainable energy technologies in the EU is too slow for the EU to meet its targets. The programme therefore seeks to overcome non-technical barriers to the increased use of renewable energy sources and the spread of efficient use of energy. Such barriers may be institutional, related to low levels of investment, low demand, or simply lack of awareness or insufficient promotion of the possible benefits stemming from increased energy efficiency and use of renewable energy sources.

With a budget of €727 million for 2007-2013, IEE II aims at boosting investment across EU Member States in new and best performing technologies. An important focus is to bridge the gap between successful demonstrations of innovative technologies and their subsequent broad market uptake, so that public and private sector investment can be ensured.

Contact points



European Commission

http://ec.europa.eu/cip/index_en.htm



Enterprise Europe Network - Iceland

www.een.is/



Office of Trade and Transport

www.aht.ltv.li/



Innovation Norway

www.innovasjon Norge.no/Satsinger/Internasjonalisering/CIP---konkurranseevne-og-innovasjon-/

Employment and Social Solidarity – PROGRESS



PROGRESS – is the EU’s employment and social solidarity programme which runs from 2007-2013. It was established to support the implementation of the EU’s social agenda and Lisbon objectives in the areas of employment, social protection and social inclusion, working conditions, anti-discrimination, and equality between men and women, and to help the Member States deliver on their commitments to create more and better jobs, to achieve equal opportunities for all and to have a uniform application of EU laws. The EEA EFTA States have been participating in PROGRESS since mid 2007, and have so far benefited from support to major projects including the public employment services, gender equality and anti-discrimination bodies.

for funding under this programme and have contributed to shaping both EU and national gender policies. By participating in EU peer reviews in social inclusion and social protection, and mutual learning in employment, the EEA EFTA States have taken an active part in the open method of coordination (OMC) in social and employment policy together with the EU Member States.

PROGRESS 2007-2013

The total financial envelope for 2007-2013 is €683 million (excluding the Progress microfinance facility for the EU Member States), distributed among policy sections as follows: employment 23%, social protection and social inclusion 30%, working conditions 10%, non-discrimination 23%, gender equality 12% and general support for the implementation of the programme 2%.

The Commission selects the projects to fund either through calls for tenders or through calls for proposals. It provides a maximum of 80% co-financing with some exceptions.

PROGRESS focuses on activities with a strong European dimension to guarantee an EU added value. The programme’s annual work plan is linked up with the strategic framework for the implementation of the programme. It also reflects the new focus and evolving priorities set out in the renewed Social Agenda for opportunities, access and solidarity adopted by the Commission on 2 July 2008 and will underpin the objectives and flagship initiatives of the new Europe 2020 Strategy in the years to come.

The renewed Social Agenda sets out actions to:

- Respond to the challenges and problems facing Europe’s children and youth;
- Help to create more and better jobs for individuals throughout their lives; and support those who are not able to work;



Who can apply?

PROGRESS is open to applicants in public and/or private bodies, local and regional authorities, public employment services and national statistical offices in the EU Member States, EEA EFTA States and candidate countries. Also universities and research institutes, as well as social partners and non-governmental bodies can apply.

Activities

PROGRESS continues activities that have proven successful in impact and efficiency in previous programmes. In addition to the continuation of tasks related to the four previous programmes, the fields of working conditions and social protection have been added to PROGRESS.

The EEA EFTA States participated actively in all the previous programmes until their termination in 2006. The level of activity has been particularly high in the field of gender equality, where the EEA EFTA States have participated in the different cycles of EU action programmes since 1996. Each year, projects submitted by stakeholders in the EEA EFTA States have been selected

Case project

Fostering good practices in the workplace

The Norwegian Equality and Anti-discrimination Ombud has in 2009 and 2020 received support from Progress to run an awareness campaign aiming at increasing the level of knowledge and competence among employers, the social partners and the general public about obligations and possibilities in the national anti-discrimination and equality laws.

The purpose of the project is to spread information about existing equality and anti-discrimination legislation, employers' obligations and good practices to private employers, social partners, service employees, and the general public.

Actions involved are:

- regional training seminars for representatives from labour unions, the business sector, and their advisors;
- awareness-raising activities aimed at specific target groups and the general public regarding the Directives and their implementation in Norwegian law;
- identification and promotion of good practices in the area of employment and access to services.

Further information: www.ldo.no/en/



- Factor in the dynamics of ageing and help citizens to enjoy longer, healthier lives in Europe's ageing society;
- Respond effectively to the needs of the disadvantaged - those who cannot reap the benefits of an open, rapidly changing society;
- Foster gender equality, social inclusion and non-discrimination, mobility and integration, participation and dialogue.

Examples of what PROGRESS is able to fund include:

- Europe-wide studies such as research on health and safety at work;
- Collecting statistics on the number of workplace accidents and diseases;
- Compiling European Labour Force surveys and disseminating the results, Funding European

observatories such as the European Employment Observatory (EEO) to track employment policies and labour market trends;

- Training of legal and policy practitioners;
- Creation of networks of national experts, such as legal experts, exchanging and discussing issues raised by EU employment law and its application;
- Funding of EU networks of NGOs fighting social exclusion and discrimination on grounds of racial origin, age and disability or promoting gender equality public awareness campaigns on EU social and employment policies and laws, including EU Presidency Conferences and the Social Forum.

According to the PROGRESS annual work plan 2010, the programme will finance activities aimed in particular at delivering an ongoing series of high quality, authoritative, comparative policy research and

analysis studies in the following main fields reflecting main challenges facing the EU today:

- Sustaining high levels of participation in employment, including for the most disadvantaged groups;
- Addressing changing skills requirements;
- Developing a safe, efficient, productive European labour market;
- Promoting social inclusion, combating poverty and modernising social protection systems;
- Combating discrimination and promoting equal opportunities for all;
- Promoting gender equality in all policies.

In more concrete terms, the operational objectives of the work programme include efforts

- to provide evidence or data underpinning the Commission's internal decision-making process, in particular to counteract the social impact of the current economic crisis;
- to provide information on the implementation of Community legislation and policies at EU and national level;
- to offer a forward-looking perspective with a view to accompanying the implementation of the new EU 2020 Strategy.

Contact points



European Commission

<http://ec.europa.eu/PROGRESS>



Icelandic Ministry of Social Affairs and Social Security

<http://eng.felagsmalaraduneyti.is/>



Liechtenstein EEA Coordination Unit

www.sewr.llv.li/



Norwegian Ministry of Labour

www.regjeringen.no/en/dep/aid

Combating Violence – Daphne



The Daphne Programme is one of the building blocks of the European Commission's fight against crime within its priority programme to establish an area of freedom, security and justice. The Daphne Programme was set up to combat violence against children, young people and women in Europe, and to support victims and reduce vulnerability to violence. The programme has brought together the experience of hundreds of individuals and organisations and has broken new ground in research and action in favour of Europe's most vulnerable citizens. Since the first initiative in 1997, Daphne has become an important part of the NGO and public authority action in Europe.

Who can apply?

The programme is open to private and public organisations, NGOs, local public authorities and institutions (mainly universities and research institutes) from the 27 EU countries, the EEA EFTA countries, the candidate countries and the Western Balkan States.

Daphne III 2007-2013

We are now in the third generation of Daphne Programmes, the current annual budget amounts to €16.7 million. The general objective of Daphne III is to contribute to the protection of children, young people and women against all forms of violence and to attain a high level of health protection, well being and social cohesion. These objectives contribute to the

development of Community policies, in particular those related to public health, human rights, gender equality, actions aimed at the protection of children's rights, the fight against the trafficking in human beings and sexual exploitation.

The programme's specific objective is to contribute to the prevention of and the fight against all forms of violence occurring in the public or private domain against children, young people and women. This includes sexual exploitation and the trafficking in human beings. The programme aims to achieve its objectives through transnational actions (grant funding), the Commission's own-initiated actions (contracts) or operating grants to NGOs, which aim to:

- Assist and encourage NGOs and other organisations active in this field;
- Develop and implement targeted awareness raising actions;
- Disseminate results obtained under Daphne;
- Support actions that will contribute to the positive treatment of people at risk;
- Set up and support multi-disciplinary networks;
- Expand the knowledge base and exchange, identification and dissemination of information and good practices;



Case project

The EEA EFTA States have participated in more than 20 projects since they joined the first Daphne Programme in 2000. Three of these projects have had a main coordinator in Norway: minority women victimised by repeat perpetrators - service provision and policy making; Baltic Sea region comprehensive assistance to child victims of trafficking - BSR CACVT; and most recently the Bidens Project on protecting victims through pregnancy and delivery.

- Design and test awareness raising and educational materials;
- Study phenomena related to violence and its impact;
- Develop and implement support programmes for victims and people at risk and intervention programmes for perpetrators.

The call for proposals based on the Daphne III annual work programmes for 2009 and 2010 combined the priorities as well as the resources available for both years. Therefore approximately twice the usual funding will be available amounting to an indicative €28,990,560. It is therefore expected that a higher number of projects will be funded than in previous calls.

Contact points



European Commission

www.daphne-toolkit.org/



Icelandic Centre for Gender Equality

www.jafnretti.is/jafnretti/?D10cID=News&lang=EN



Liechtenstein Stabsstelle

Chancengleichheit

www.scg.llv.li/



The Norwegian Centre on Violence and Traumatic Stress

www.nkvts.no/en/Pages/Index.aspx

The Health Programme



The Health Programme is one of several programmes to implement health policy at EU level.

Who can apply?

To receive Community financial support for a project, i.e. to be a main beneficiary or associated partner, organisations need to be legally established in the EU, in an EEA EFTA country or in Croatia. Organisations from other countries can only participate as sub-contractors or collaborating partners in projects.

Non-governmental organisations, public sector bodies, public administrations, universities, higher education establishments, research institutions and commercial firms can submit a project proposal as the main partner or participate as an associated partner(s) as far as no funding is generated by the project.

The Health Programme 2008-2013

The Health Programme 2008-2013 is a key strategic tool for the development of health policy within the EU. The programme supports actions in areas where it is believed that the EU can make a difference, the ultimate goal being to contribute to a high level of physical and mental health and well-being throughout the EU. The total budget for the whole programme period is €321,5 million, and the estimated budget for 2010 is €48,4 million. Funding is allocated to projects as well as other actions such as conferences, operating grants for organisations and networks, tenders and joint actions.

The programme has three general objectives:

- To improve citizens' **health security**;
- To **promote health**, including the reduction of health inequalities;
- To generate and disseminate **health information** and knowledge.

It offers several financing mechanisms:

- Grants for projects
- Operating grants
- Grants for conferences
- Joint actions
- Calls for tender
- Call for expressions of interest: Experts for Health Programme

Up to 60% of the eligible costs of the project can be covered by the Community contribution. Given the complementary and motivational nature of Community grants, at least 40% of project costs must be funded from other sources - from the partners' sources such as staff costs pertaining to national officials and other external resources. In cases of **exceptional utility**, projects can receive **up to 80 percent co-financing of eligible costs**.

In the previous years the amount of grant varied from €120,000 to up to €1,200,000. All projects should:

- Provide high added value at EU level;
- Be innovative;
- Normally last not more than three years.

Proposals should provide a genuine **European dimension** in order to make sense both technically and in terms of policy. This means that they should involve at least two mutually independent legal entities - one main partner and one associated partner - established in two different eligible countries. Exceptionally, a project may have only one beneficiary as long as it offers a European dimension by itself (e.g. a pan-European association). Depending on the scope of the action, previous projects involved from 2 to more than 30 partners.

For the period 2010 onwards, more emphasis is on increasing the quality of the projects rather than the quantity. More support is also given to call for tenders and joint actions (a joint action is a cooperation mechanism between the participating states and the Commission) in order to achieve more tangible results in line with the EU's overall health policy.



Case project

European network for traumatic stress-training and practice



Approximately 80% of the population experience at least one traumatic event in the course of their lifetime. In order to prevent trauma survivors from developing posttraumatic disorders and to promote early recovery, evidence-based interventions should be available throughout the European region.

Between May 2007 and May 2009, the TENTS-TP project established a community wide network of expertise on posttraumatic stress treatment for victims of natural and other disasters and examined which interventions are effective in the aftermath of disaster and whether these are available throughout Europe. The project produced an evidence-based model of care with dissemination materials as brochures and guidelines and e-learning materials. TENTS-TP will expand and develop the network and connect to other important European initiatives in the field of psychosocial care after trauma.

TENT-TP is coordinated from Netherlands with partners in Croatia, Finland, Germany, Spain, Norway, Poland, Sweden, Turkey and United Kingdom.

Further information: www.tentsproject.eu

Other projects under the Health programme with participation from EEA EFTA States include [EQADeBa](#) - establishment of quality assurances for detection of highly pathogenic bacteria of potential bioterrorism risk, [HEPS Schoolkit](#) - development and implementation of national policy for promoting healthy eating and physical activity for schools in Europe, [Pro-greens](#) - promotion of fruit and vegetable consumption among schoolchildren in Europe, and [EUBIROD](#) - European best information through regional outcomes in diabetes.



Previous Programmes

In the 1990s, the EEA EFTA States participated in the “sectoral” Health Programmes of the EU, followed by the Public Health Programme (2003-2007). The 2008-2013 programme builds on these previous efforts, comprising health promotion, cancer, drug dependence, AIDS and other communicable diseases, health monitoring, rare diseases, accidents and injuries and pollution-related diseases.

Contact points



European Commission

<http://ec.europa.eu/eahc/health/>



Icelandic Ministry of Health

<http://eng.heilbrigdisraduneyti.is/>



Liechtenstein Office of Public Health

www.ag.llv.li/



Norwegian Directorate of Health

www.helsedirektoratet.no/globalhealth

Drugs Prevention and Information

Since July 2008, the EEA EFTA States have been participating in the EU's new Drug Prevention and Information Programme (DPI), which is part of a general EU programme 'Fundamental Rights and Justice' for 2007-2013. The DPI programme is complementary to other EU programmes, including the 7th Research Framework Programme and the Health Programme. The objectives of the DPI programme are also aligned with the work of the European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction.

The total EU budget for this programme is small compared to other EU programmes, with €21.4 million throughout the 2007-2013 period to fund transnational projects which aim to prevent and reduce drug use, dependence and drug related harms. The EEA EFTA States estimated contribution to the programme is €0,45 million for the period 2008-2013.

Who can apply?

The programme is open for public and private organisations and institutions (local authorities, universities, research centres) from the EU, EEA EFTA, candidate and Western Balkan Countries.

The Drugs Prevention and Information Programme 2008-2013

The DPI programme is one strand of the EU Drugs Strategy 2005-2012 which sets targets for all EU drug-related activities to attain a high level of protection, well-being and social cohesion by preventing and reducing drug use, dependence and drug-related harms to health and society. The EU Action Plan on Drugs 2009-2012 translates these targets into a list of concrete actions to reduce the prevalence of drug use among the population and to reduce the social harm and health damage caused by drugs. The Action Plan includes wide-ranging measures to strengthen European cooperation to curb the adverse consequences of drug use and cut drug-related crime. It has five priorities:

- Reducing the demand for drugs;
- Mobilising European citizens;
- Reducing supply;



Case project

Throughcare Services for Prisoners with Problematic Drug Use

Professor Morag MacDonald at the Birmingham City University is the lead partner for the PROGRESS Throughcare project with five other European organisations. The research examines existing approaches to throughcare and aftercare services for people with problematic drug use returning to the community from prison across Europe. As well as identifying the key challenges and highlighting good or promising practices in service delivery, the partners will create a standardised evaluation tool to enable service providers to carry out their work more effectively. The findings from the project will be disseminated at a major European conference to be held in Abano Terme, Italy on 6-7 October 2011.



- Improving international cooperation;
- Improving understanding of the drugs phenomenon.

Projects under the DIP programme should consist of the creation of multidisciplinary networks, transnational programmes, studies and research, exchange of best practice, training, study visits, staff exchanges, seminars, meetings, conferences or a combination of these.

According to the DIP programme, projects in the following areas can be co-funded:

- Ensure the expansion of the knowledge base, the exchange of information and identification and dissemination of good practices in the area of drug-demand reduction;
- Raise awareness of the health and social problems caused by drug use or which influence drug consumption, and to encourage an open dialogue with a view to promoting a better understanding of the phenomenon of drugs;
- Support measures aimed at preventing drug use, including by addressing reduction of drug-related harm and treatment methods taking into account the latest state of scientific knowledge;
- Projects aimed at the involvement of civil society in the implementation of the European Union's Drug Strategy and Action Plans on Drugs;
- Projects aimed at the monitoring, implementation and evaluation of specific actions under the Drugs Action Plans 2005-2008 and 2009-2012.

Contact points



European Commission

http://ec.europa.eu/justice_home/funding/drugs/funding_drugs_en.htm



Icelandic Ministry of Health

<http://eng.heilbrigdisraduneyti.is/>



Liechtenstein Office of Public Health

www.ag.llv.li/



Norwegian Directorate of Health

www.helsedirektoratet.no/internasjonal_helse/helsesamarbeid_eu/eu_narkotikaprogram/eu_sitt_program_for_narkotikaf_rebygging_og_informasjon_2007_2013__199274

Consumer

Promoting consumers' rights, prosperity and wellbeing are core values of the European Union, enshrined in Articles 153 and 95 of the Treaties. The EU consumer policy aims to ensure that the Internal Market is open, fair and transparent so that consumers can exercise a real choice. It also aims for a better understanding of consumers and markets to ensure a better consumer protection regulation and a greater participation of civil society stakeholders.

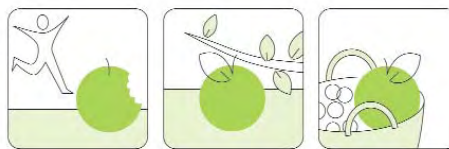
The Consumer Programme 2007-2013 aims primarily to ensure a high level of consumer protection and the effective application of consumer protection rules. The Consumer Programme is linked to the EU Consumer Policy Strategy 2007-2013 in that it supports the priorities of the Strategy.

The Strategy acknowledges the central role of the 493 million EU consumers in the main challenges facing EU growth, jobs and the need to reconnect with the citizens. The Strategy emphasises that confident, informed and empowered consumers are the engine of economic change as their choices drive innovation and efficiency.

The aim of the Strategy to increase consumer's confidence in the internal market and at the same time contribute to the improvement of business competitiveness, is implemented by establishing a uniform regulatory environment that is equally enforced across the Internal Market. The Internal Market has the potential to be the largest retail market in the world but instead of being one single market it remains largely fragmented along national lines, forming 27 mini-markets.

The Strategy strives to increase consumer's confidence by developing consumer education tools, supporting EU consumer organisations, and their involvement in policy making.

One of the priorities of the Strategy is to collect consumer-related data to support the development of legislative proposals and other initiatives. A concrete example is the Consumer Markets Scoreboard.



Who can apply?

The programme is open to consumer organisations, councils and agencies.

The Consumer Programme 2007-2013

The Commission adopts an annual Work Plan for the implementation of the programme setting out the priorities and actions to be undertaken, including the allocation of financial resources for each priority area. The EEA EFTA States have participated fully in the EU Consumer Programmes since the EEA Agreement came into force in 1994.

The financial contribution from the EU budget is fixed at €156.8 million, and will also cover the executive agency's running costs. The programme will be implemented through a combination of 11 actions according to the priorities set out in the annual programme.

The aim of the programme is to complement, support and monitor national consumer policies and to contribute to protecting the health, safety and economic and legal interests of consumers, to protect their rights to information, education, and to form consumer organisations to safeguard their interests.

The programme will pursue this aim through two main objectives: firstly to ensure a high level of consumer protection through improved evidence, better consultation and better representation of consumer interests, secondly to ensure the effective application of consumer protection rules notably through enforcement cooperation, information, education and redress.

Each of the aims should be achieved through a combination of actions and instruments which are specified in the programme.

The first objective is supported by actions relating to:

- Collection, exchange, and analysis of data and

Case project I

The Consumer Markets Scoreboard



The Consumer Markets Scoreboard aims at identifying, through a number of data indicators (complaints, prices, satisfaction, switching and safety), the areas in the Internal Market which do not function well for consumers, and where intervention may be needed.

The third edition of the Scoreboard which was published in 2010 concludes that consumers European consumers still rely on buying goods and services in their own country. Sustained efforts are needed to address barriers that hinder the development of e-commerce, which delay the benefits that the digital economy can deliver to consumers and the potential to enhance the level of integration in the internal market. It also finds that national consumer environments differ substantially between countries. Trust in the national consumer protection system, in the national authorities dealing with consumer affairs, in independent consumer organisations or in providers to protect consumers' rights varies from around 20% to around 80% across Europe.



Through their participation in the European Consumer Programme, the EEA EFTA States were able to participate in the Scoreboard exercise; indeed the third edition of the Scoreboard includes data from the EEA EFTA States.

Further information: http://ec.europa.eu/consumers/strategy/docs/3rd_edition_scoreboard_en.pdf

Case project II

Participation in the European Consumer Centre (ECC) Network

The ECC-Net is a tool which develops consumer education and information and provides assistance to the consumer for redress in case of a violation of consumer rights in cross-border transactions. Iceland and Norway have participated in the Network since 2005.

The host organisations for the European Consumer Centres in the EEA EFTA States are the Consumer's Association in Iceland (Neytendasamtökin) and the Consumer Council in Norway. As an example, in 2008 ECC Norway received 1381 requests from consumers, 363 of which were requests for information, and 1018 requests for legal assistance.

Further information: http://ec.europa.eu/consumers/redress_cons/index_en.htm

information on the development of consumer policy and for the integration of consumer interests in other Community policies, as well as the safety of consumer goods and services;

- Support for scientific advice and risk evaluation, including the tasks of the independent scientific committees established by the Commission and preparation of legislative and other regulatory initiatives and the promotion of co-regulatory and self regulatory initiatives;
- Financial contributions to the functioning of European consumer organisations;
- Capacity building for regional, national and European consumer organisations.

The second objective should be achieved through:

- Improving the effective application of Community consumer protection legislation in line with EU better- regulation policy;
- Legal and technical expertise, including studies, for the monitoring and assessment of the transposition, implementation and enforcement of consumer protection legislation by Member States including the development and maintenance of easily and publicly accessible databases covering the implementation of Community consumer protection legislation;
- Actions on information, advice and redress;
- Actions on consumer education.

Previous programmes

Since 1975, when the first Community interventions on behalf of consumers started, consumer actions have developed a great deal from being primarily centred on consumer protection, and have become an integral part of the internal market policy.

Contact points



European Commission

<http://ec.europa.eu/eahc/consumers/>



Icelandic Consumer Agency

www.neytendastofa.is/English



Liechtenstein Office of Trade and Transport

www.llv.li/amtstellen/llv-aht-home.htm



Norwegian Consumer Council

http://forbrukerportalen.no/Emner/engelsk_fransk



The Civil Protection Programme

Europe and other regions of the world regularly suffer from major natural and man-made disasters. Floods, tornados, forest fires and earthquakes, as well as technological accidents such as factory explosions and chemical spills occur frequently. In some cases countries are able to cope with such disasters single-handedly but often they need swift emergency assistance from abroad. This is where the Community strategy and programme in the field of civil protection comes in.

Who can apply?

Public sector bodies, public administrations and private non-profit organisations such as research and education institutions, international organisations, non governmental organisations, commercial firms, etc. can apply.

The Civil Protection Financial Instrument 2007-2013

The financial instrument provides the legal framework for the financing of preparedness and rapid response actions inside and outside the EU. The Civil Protection Financial Instrument is thus designed to ensure a visible expression of European solidarity towards countries affected by major emergencies by facilitating the provision of assistance through the mobilisation of Member States' intervention. At EU level, the existing legislative framework governing civil protection cooperation has been strengthened over the past few years and a series of proposals have been tabled to contribute to a more effective and well coordinated response to major disasters occurring inside or outside the European Union. The new measures allow the Commission to better address any shortage of transport and equipment needed at the site of a disaster. Moreover, additional measures contribute to the further development of early warning systems, improved coordination and provision of logistical support and sharing between national crisis centres to maximise the effectiveness of response.

The Civil Protection Financial Instrument will finance studies, surveys, modelling and scenario

building to facilitate the sharing of knowledge. Also, best practices and information to enhance prevention, preparedness and effective response are supported. The Civil Protection Financial Instrument (the Action Programme), is open to any legal person (public or private) established in one of the EU Member States and in Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway. Croatia joined the European Community Civil Protection Mechanism on 1 October 2009 as the 31st participating state. The Community Mechanism works closely with other EU membership candidate countries. The participation of candidate countries in the Community programmes is an important element of their pre-accession strategy.

In addition to the Community Action Programme on civil protection, the EEA EFTA States participate in the interlinked Community Mechanism for Civil Protection, the Monitoring and Information Centre (MIC), and the Crisis Communication System CECIS. The main role of the Community Mechanism for Civil Protection is to facilitate cooperation in civil protection assistance interventions in the event of major emergencies which may require urgent response actions. This applies also to situations where there may be an imminent threat of such major emergencies. It is therefore a tool that enhances Community cooperation in civil protection matters.

In May 2009 an international exercise, EU-SweNorEx 09, was held in the region of the Swedish-Norwegian border in the area between Arvika and Kongsvinger. The MSB (Swedish Civil Contingencies Agency) and the Norwegian DSB (Directorate for Civil Protection and Emergency Planning) jointly planned and held the exercise which received funding from the EU Civil Protection Financial Instrument.

The goal of the exercise was to improve cooperative work between UNDAC team members and the experts of the EU's Community Mechanism for Civil Protection during relief operations for large-scale disasters.

The scenario was an earthquake in the adjoining border regions of two fictitious countries; to which

Case project

Preparation for Threats to Environments in Arctic Regions



PRETEAR is a 17 month project, co-funded by the EU Civil Protection Financial Instrument. The project started in October 2009 and will conclude in February 2011.

The project is co-ordinated by the Norwegian Fire Protection Training Institute (NBSK) which is based at Fjelldal in Norway.

Northern regions face increasing levels of environmental threat resulting from factors such as the discovery of large reserves of natural resources in the area. The movement of these resources from source to buyer will lead to increased maritime activity around enormous lengths of coastline with fragile eco-systems and unique features, which make them difficult to protect.

Linking these factors to the problematic areas of cold climate issues which affect both man and machinery, lack of daylight in winter months and sparse population the need for action now in preparation for any future events can be clearly seen.

The aim of PRETEAR is to increase levels of preparedness, reinforce cooperation and improve cohesive transnational actions in Northern Regions in readiness for co-ordinated, rapid reaction to prevent future environmental accidents becoming catastrophes.

Other partners of the project include Narvik University College and Harstad University College (Norway), INASMET-Tecnalia (Spain), Iceland Fire Authority, Swedish Civil Contingencies Agency, Pomor State University (Russia) and Oil Spill Response (United Kingdom)

Further information: www.pretear.no/

international assistance flooded in; both organised and unorganised.

The aim of such exercises is to systematically bring order to the chaos that arises when major relief operations are underway. The large organisations within the UN and EU have not previously trained together on coordination and cooperation.

The hope is that cooperation between the EU and UN will function well when personnel, material and supplies are dispatched to large-scale operations; and that in the fullness of time these two organisations will

be able to work together more effectively.

The Community Mechanism for Civil Protection has participated in the aftermath of a variety of natural and man-made disasters. Some of the major disasters requesting assistance over the past two years have included, among others, the India Mumbai Terror attacks (2008), the Georgia conflict (2009), the Moldova gas supply crisis (2009), the earthquake in Italy (2009) as well as reoccurring eastern European floods, southern European forest fires, the earthquake in Indonesia (2009) and most recently the Haiti earthquake and the Hungarian toxic sludge (2010).



In connection with the earthquake in West Sumatra, an EU Disaster Assessment and Coordination Team together with UNDAC (United Nation Disaster Assessment and Coordination) assisted Indonesian authorities in mapping the needs for urgent response actions and helped coordinate the international emergency relief in the aftermath of the earthquake. A Norwegian expert, from the Norwegian Directorate for Civil Protection and Emergency Planning, was deployed to the EU team through the Community Mechanism for Civil Protection.

run until 2013. The budget for the Action Programmes has been significantly extended from €11.5 million for the period 2000-2006 to €189.8 million for the period 2007-2013. The EEA EFTA States have participated fully in the EU Civil Protection Programmes since 1998.



Previous programmes

Action Programmes on an EU level have been in place since 1998. They aim to improve coordination and pooling of resources and experience between EU Member States, and to provide emergency relief. The Community Action Programme in the field of civil protection is intended to support and supplement the EU Member States' efforts at national, regional and local levels by implementing actions for the protection of persons, property and the environment in the event of natural and technological disasters. It also endeavours to implement actions that facilitate cooperation, exchange of experience and mutual assistance between EU Member States. The First Action Programme was adopted in 1997 and ran from 1998 to 2000. The Second Action Programme ran from 2000 to 2004 and was subsequently extended to 2006. The new Civil Protection Financial Instrument, adopted on 5 March 2007, replaced the old generation of Programmes and will

Contact points



European Commission – European Civil Protection

http://ec.europa.eu/environment/civil/prote/cp01_en.htm



National Commissioner of the Icelandic Police - Civil Protection Department

www.almannavarnir.is/display.asp?cat_id=133



Liechtenstein Office for Civil Protection

www.abs.llv.li/



Directorate for Civil Protection and Emergency Planning

www.dsb.no/no/Hygiene/English/



Youth in Action

With the objective of promoting active citizenship, tolerance and mutual understanding between young people, the EU Youth Programmes have supported two main actions since they started in 1988: youth exchanges between groups for a period of up to 21 days, and individual voluntary service where young people can spend up to 12 months carrying out civic work in another country.

As with the Maastricht Treaty from 1993, the youth concept was included as a part of Article 149 (2), whereas it is said that the development of youth exchanges should be enhanced. From 2001 the European Commission published a White Paper in order to further develop and implement cooperation of the EU Member States in specific areas for youth. The four different areas focus on the following topics: participation, information, voluntary activities and a greater understanding and knowledge of youth. All of these have the basic objective of helping youth to become more active European citizens.

Who can apply?

The programme is for young people between 15-28 and in some cases from 13-30. Geographically it reaches throughout the EU and to the neighbouring countries (Eastern Europe, Caucasus, the Mediterranean region and South-East Europe), as well as to other participating countries such as the EFTA countries.

In 2002 the European Council established a framework for European cooperation in the field of youth, based on the White Paper, which was then extended to the European Youth Pact with three emphases:

- Young people's active citizenship;
- Social and occupational integration;
- Including a youth dimension in other policies.

The Youth in Action Programme is the flagship of the EU initiatives for young people. It was adopted in 2006 and is based on the former programmes Youth for Europe (1989-1999), the Voluntary Service and the YOUTH Programme (2000-2006).

The European Commission devotes €889 million to the Youth in Action Programme, which is approximately 1.3 % of the total EU Programme budget. The EEA EFTA States' financial contribution is around €22 million.

The programme is based on non-formal learning, whereas the learning process happens out of school. It is based on five actions:

Action 1 - Youth for Europe

Youth for Europe aims at more active involvement of young people in European culture and to more involvement in the democratic process. It is possible to divide it into the following three parts:

- **Youth Exchanges:** the main aim of the programme is to bring together young people between 13-25 years from different cultures to give them an opportunity to explore differentials around them. For each exchange there is a theme decided in advance, for example: young people in society, racism or drugs.
- **Youth Initiates:** is mainly aimed at young people 15-18 years (if they have an instructor) and 18-30 year olds. The programme is supposed to strengthen young people's creativity, enterprise and initiative. It is organised by young people themselves within their own country or on transnational basis. It can involve different subjects such as art and culture, unemployment or sports events.
- **Democracy Projects:** aims at increasing the involvement of young people in democratic process on national, regional and European level. This should give young people an opportunity to know how democracy works and how to make decisions and participate in the democratic community.

Action 2 - European Voluntary Service

European Voluntary Service supports young people to spend up to one year in a country other than their own to participate in civic activities as voluntary workers. These activities could be in the field of the environment, culture and youth and child activities.

Case project I

Dice – a café managed by young people and for young people

Anja, Gina and Michaela were fed up with the lack of social venues in Liechtenstein. So together with other young people between 13 and 18 they decided to create their own meeting place. From making the initial decision to the opening of the café a lot of work had to be done: looking for sponsors, finding a venue, painting/decorating and preparing the opening celebration which took place in January 2009. The inauguration was a big success and Dice became a place to be seen in Liechtenstein. But managing a café was not always plain sailing. Team members changed, and the young managers had often little spare time left for other activities, yet had to deal with problems such as violence, division of tasks and having to make quick and good decisions.



Gina can only underline that she has learnt a lot through this experience such as communicating with the other team members, resolving problems as well as serving the customers and cleaning the premises.

Dice was made possible through the Youth in Action Programme grants in the frame of the Youth Initiatives (Action 1.2).

Further information: www.aha.li

Case project II

Sea Combat in South Norwegian Archipelago

The Cinderella theatre group Askepott-teatret in Homborsund in Southern Norway organised a youth exchange including 50 actors and musicians from the Netherlands, France, Denmark and Norway. They spent two weeks in the South Norwegian summer paradise of Homborsund, climbing, canoeing, swimming and fishing when not on stage.



Photo: Agderposten, Norway

After intense rehearsals, the international theatre group premiered its performance *Bataljen i Homborsund* (Conflict in Homborsund) at the local lighthouse. The play was based on a real sea combat which took place there in 1741.

In the play, all actors spoke their own language, giving an international dimension which helped attract tourists. Two old sail ships from the Grimstad and Arendal region added to the maritime experience, by serving as part of the stage as well as accommodation for the youth.

The project received support from the EU Youth Programme, the Grimstad Municipality, Aust Agder County, as well as from private sponsors.

Action 3 - Youth in the World

Youth in the World supports projects between young people in the EU and in neighbouring countries such as Russia and the Western Balkans.

Action 4 - The Youth Support Systems

The Youth Support Systems back bodies active at European level in the field of youth, in particular the operation of youth non-governmental organisations (YNGOs) and their networking. This action also supports the work of the EU Youth Forum, the training of youth workers and youth leaders, youth information activities and projects fostering quality and innovation in youth work.

Action 5 - Support for European Cooperation in the Youth Field

Support for European Cooperation in the youth field organises structured dialogue between the various actors in the field of youth, in particular young people themselves, those active in youth work, youth organisations and policy-makers. This action supports youth seminars, networks and policy cooperation in the youth field, e.g., with the Council of Europe.

Two initiatives have supplemented the EU actions in the field of youth and contributed to the development of EU Youth Programmes:

At its spring summit in March 2005, the European Council adopted a European Pact for Youth as part of its revised Lisbon Strategy refocusing on growth and employment. The main objective of the Youth Pact is to improve school education and vocational training, mobility, integration of young people into the workplace and social inclusion. At the same time, the aim is for young people to have a better work-life balance.

Contact points



European Commission

<http://ec.europa.eu/youth/>



Ministry of Education, Science and Culture

www.euf.is/euf/english/



Liechtenstein Office of Social Affairs

www.asd.llv.li/



Youth in Action - Norway

www.aktivungdom.eu/english/



The Culture Programme



The European Commission encourages cooperation between cultural operators within Europe through both its policies and programmes. A total amount of €400m is available for the Culture Programme over the period 2007-2013. Cultural projects can also be funded by other Community programmes, including the Lifelong Learning Programme, the Youth in Action Programme, the Europe for Citizens Programme, and the MEDIA Programme in the audiovisual field. Funding for cultural projects is also possible through the structural funds, which are managed nationally.

In spite of Europe's diversity, Europeans nevertheless share a common cultural heritage and certain values. The general aim of the programme is therefore to enhance this cultural area shared by Europe's citizens through the development of cross-border cultural cooperation between creators, cultural players and cultural institutions of the countries taking part in the programme, with a view to encouraging the emergence of European citizenship.

This aim is reflected in the programme's three specific objectives:

- To promote the transnational mobility of people working in the cultural sector;
- To encourage the transnational circulation of works and cultural and artistic products;
- To encourage intercultural dialogue in Europe.

Who can apply?

The programme supports cooperation projects, organisations, promotional activities and research in all cultural sectors, except the audiovisual sector, for which there is a separate programme (MEDIA). Cultural operators, including cultural enterprises, can participate in the programme as long as they act in a non-profit-making capacity.

Organisations based in the following countries are eligible for the programme:

- EU Member States;
- EEA EFTA countries
- EU Candidate countries

For more details on future eligible countries, and cooperation with cultural operators from third countries (countries not included in the list above), see the link to the European Commission's website on the Culture programme below.

The Culture programme 2007-2013

The programme has a flexible, interdisciplinary approach and focuses on the needs expressed by cultural operators during the public consultations leading up to its design in 2006. This has led to a more user-friendly application procedure and the development of a programme guide containing essential information on the programme.

There are three main types of activity supported under the programme. Support is thus grouped under the three following strands:

Strand One - Support for cultural actions

- Multi-annual cooperation projects: six partners from six different eligible countries - duration: 3-5 years;
- Cooperation projects: three partners from three different eligible countries - duration: up to 2 years;
- Literary translation projects - duration: up to 2 years;
- Cooperation with third countries: three partners from three different eligible countries, plus cooperation with one organisation from the selected third country -duration: up to 2 years;
- Special measures such as cultural prizes (contemporary architecture, cultural heritage, pop music and contemporary literature) and the European Capitals of Culture.



Case project

Shahrazad - stories for life

Bringing exceptional tales to Europe: stories from writers silenced in their homelands



The project celebrates literature that would not otherwise be told or experienced within Europe due to the fact that the writers do not enjoy freedom of expression in their homelands, and seeks to make their work accessible to a broader European public.

ICORN, the International Cities of Refuge Network, has been established to offer persecuted writers a safe haven where they can write and express themselves freely without fear of being censored or silenced. The project is closely linked to ICORN and cooperates with the writers in the network: issues such as human rights, freedom of speech, diversity and solidarity are therefore core values.

During the project Shahrazad - stories for life, the co-organisers will initiate events and activities on a broad scale, operating at local, regional, national and international levels, bringing the ICORN writers and their stories to large target audiences throughout Europe and beyond. The activities will vary in scale, format and genre: from intimate readings to interactive digital school projects, to large-scale festival events, debates, exhibitions, films, publications and so on.

The project partners from the cities of Barcelona, Brussels, Frankfurt, Norwich, Stockholm and Stavanger, will give a high priority to working with children and young people. The stories created will supply the partners with lots of material for working with young immigrants.

Further information: www.shahrazadeu.org/



Strand Two - Support for cultural organisations and networks of European interest

- This strand aims to co-finance the operating costs of the long-term work programmes of organisations pursuing an aim of general European interest in the field of culture or an objective forming part of the EU policy in this area.

Strand Three - Support for activities maximising the impact of projects, analysis, statistics, studies on cultural cooperation and cultural policy development

- This support aims to promote analysis in the cultural field, raise awareness of the programme, and promote its results.

The EU grants will not cover the full costs of an action. Applicants are required to show their commitment to the action by finding additional resources other than the EU grant, for example through fund-raising activities, own resources, or grants from other organisations (e.g. local, regional or national authorities, foundations, etc.).

How to participate?

Applications for projects are assessed on the basis of the criteria set out in the programme guide. Applicants are advised to take careful note of these criteria when preparing their applications. Cultural Contact points have been established in the countries taking part in the programme. Their purpose is to promote the programme, provide information, and assist cultural

operators with their applications. If you are interested in preparing an application you are strongly advised to contact your local Cultural Contact Point at an early stage and to make use of its expertise.

Contact points



European Commission

http://ec.europa.eu/culture/calls-for-proposals/call2061_en.htm



Cultural Contact Point in Iceland

www.evropumenning.is/Default.asp?Page=244



Liechtenstein Office of Cultural Affairs

www.skf.llv.li/



Arts Council Norway

www.kulturrad.no/toppmeny/english/

MEDIA



The MEDIA Programme is the EU support programme for the European Audiovisual industry and MEDIA Mundus. The programme co-finances training initiatives for audiovisual industry professionals, the development of production projects, as well as the production of European audiovisual works. The MEDIA Programme also seeks to ensure that the latest technologies and trends are incorporated into the business practices of the programme's beneficiaries.

The overall objectives of the programme are

- to strive for a stronger European audiovisual sector, reflecting and respecting Europe's cultural identity and heritage
- to increase the circulation of European audiovisual works inside and outside the European Union
- to strengthen the competitiveness of the European audiovisual sector by facilitating access to financing and promoting use of digital technologies

Who can apply?

Depending on the support scheme, professionals (individuals and companies) who participate in the development of audiovisual production projects distribute or promote films and audiovisual programmes, providers of training for the European audiovisual industry, as well as film festivals that promote European films and their distribution across Europe. Applicants must be resident in a country participating in the programme. In addition to the EU Member States, this includes Croatia, Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway, and Switzerland. Participation is also possible for EU accession and pre-accession countries.

MEDIA 2007-2013

The MEDIA 2007 programme (2007-2013) is the fourth multi-annual programme since 1991 and has a budget of €755 million. It simplifies the programme's administration and strengthens its objectives:

The MEDIA 2007 Programme comprises a series of support measures for the European audiovisual industry focusing on:

- training professionals
- developing production projects
- distributing films and audiovisual programmes
- promoting films and audiovisual programmes
- supporting film festivals

MEDIA and the EFTA States

One of the priorities of the programme is to reduce the imbalances in the European audiovisual market between high audiovisual production capacity countries and countries or regions with a low audiovisual production capacity and/or a restricted geographic and linguistic area. This criterion is valid for all four EFTA countries and has been recognised by the MEDIA Programme. Production capacity is low in all EFTA countries. The MEDIA Programme allows the relatively small audiovisual national industries to find partners for the production of their features and documentaries in a unique way, to find new markets for the distribution of their products and to improve their European network. Thanks to participation in the MEDIA Programmes, Norwegian films have found distributors in France and in Greece, Swiss producers participate in European co-productions and a small but very successful audiovisual industry is thriving in Iceland.

MEDIA Mundus 2011-2013

The Media Mundus Programme is a broad international cooperation programme for the audiovisual industry to strengthen cultural and commercial relations between Europe's film industry and film makers of third countries. The EU will provide €15 million of funding from 2011-2013 for projects submitted by audiovisual professionals from Europe and from third countries.

The new MEDIA Mundus Programme will capitalise on this growing interest and the opportunities offered by global cooperation of the audiovisual industry.

Case project I

Max Manus – Man of War

Max Manus (English title: Man of War) is a Norwegian 2008 biographic war film based on the real events of the life of resistance fighter Max Manus. The production included around 1,800 extras, and 2,000 workers behind the cameras. The film is the most expensive of all purely Norwegian film productions before 2009. The Media Programme contributed with €50.000 under the scheme. Six weeks after opening night over 1.060.000, almost a quarter of Norway's population, had seen the film.

Further information: www.maxmanusfilmen.no/



Case project II

The Bothersome Man

The Norwegian/Icelandic/German co-production feature Den brysomme mannen (English title: The Bothersome Man) received the Independent Distributors prize (ACID) at the 2006 Cannes Film Festival. The film was shown in nine different European countries. For its distribution, the MEDIA programme paid various distributors a total amount of €74.000 under the programme's selective scheme.

Further information: www.bothersomeman.com/

It will increase consumer choice by bringing more culturally diverse products to European and international markets and will create new business opportunities for audiovisual professionals from Europe and around the globe.

EEA EFTA participation in MEDIA Mundus is foreseen from 2011.

Contact points



European Commission

<http://ec.europa.eu/media/>



Media Desk Iceland

www.mediadesk.is/english/



Liechtenstein Office of Cultural Affairs

www.skf.llv.li/



Media Desk Norway

www.mediadesk.no/iCM.aspx?PageId=118/



Media Desk Switzerland

www.mediadesk.ch/index.php?language=de

The Safer Internet Programme

Illegal and harmful content and conduct have concerned lawmakers, industry, parents and teachers since the establishment of the Web with unregulated content only one click away from any Internet-connected PC. Young people and children are today amongst the biggest user groups of online and mobile technologies in Europe. According to a Eurobarometer survey in 2008, two thirds of all parents were worried that their child might see sexually or violently explicit images on the Internet. Parents were also worried about their children's exposure to online grooming and cyber bullying.

According to another survey financed through the Safer Internet Programme from 2003, 40% of children said that people they had met online had asked to meet them in person. In 2006, 22% of them actually met the person, 51% of them never told their parents or teachers about this. A Eurobarometer survey in 2005 also showed that 60% of parents set rules for their children's Internet use, but most only set rules on what sites not to visit and how much time can be spent online. The parents did not instruct their children on how to react when contacted by a person directly.

The Safer Internet Programme aims at empowering and protecting children and young people online by awareness raising initiatives and by fighting illegal and harmful online content and conduct.

Who can apply?

All legal persons in the EU Member States and the EEA EFTA States can apply for funding, such as Internet service providers, mobile operators and national or local authority organisations fighting for children's rights.

Safer Internet 2009-2013

The Safer Internet programme 2009-2013 builds on the success of the previous programmes and the overall aim of the programme is to promote safer use of the Internet and other communication technologies and to educate users. Funds also serve to develop expert knowledge about existing and emerging uses, risks and consequences of online technologies for children's

lives, including the technical, psychological and sociological aspects of online-related child sexual abuse. The Safer Internet Programme 2009-2013 has a budget of €55 million.

The programme supports four lines of action:

- Ensure awareness of children, parents and teachers on how to stay safe online:** a central aim for the Safer Internet Programme is to increase awareness, particularly among children, parents, carers and educators, of the opportunities and risks of using online technologies, and means of staying safe online. The main aim is to help them find relevant information and teach them how they can use the Internet and other online technologies more safely. Safer Internet Centres coordinate and carry out awareness actions and programmes towards the prioritised groups in close cooperation with all relevant actors at European regional and local level. The programme also funds actions to provide logistical and infrastructural support for the awareness activities of the Safer Internet Centres.
- Fighting illegal content and harmful contact and conduct online:** the Safer Internet Programme seeks to reduce the amount of illegal content trafficked online and to deal adequately with harmful contact and conduct, with a particular focus on online distribution of child sexual abuse material, grooming and bullying. Under the former Safer Internet Plus Programme, a thematic network of law enforcement agencies called CIRCAMP was set up to encourage organised, extensive cross-border exchange of best practice in the fight against production and online distribution of child sexual abuse material within Europe and internationally. The activities of this network will continue under the Safer Internet Programme 2009-2013. The programme will also provide funding for a European network of hotlines for the public to report illegal content and for Contact points (helplines) where parents and children can receive information on how to stay safe online, including advice on how to deal with both grooming and cyber bullying. The programme will seek to

Case project

Safer Internet Day

Safer Internet Day is organised by Insafe each year in February to promote safer and more responsible use of online technology and mobile phones, especially amongst children and young people across the world.

The topic for 2011 is "our virtual lives" around the slogan "It's more than a game, it's your life".

In 2010 Safer Internet Day was celebrated through over 500 events in 65 countries all over the world.

Further information: www.saferinternet.org/web/guest/safer-internet-day

facilitate dialogue and exchanges of experience among law enforcement agencies, hotlines and ISPs. The programme is also intended to contribute to fostering international cooperation and encouraging related activities in a clear country-specific approach in countries adjacent to the EU, such as Russia and the Ukraine.

- **Promoting a safer online environment:** the Safer Internet Programme aims to bring stakeholders together to find ways of promoting a safer online environment. The creation of the Safer Internet Forum allows industry, child welfare organisations and policy-makers to discuss safer Internet topics. In 2008 a Social Networking Task Force gathering leading social networking services used by children in Europe was set up to draw a set of common safety guidelines. The common guidelines were signed on the Safer Internet Day in 2009.
- **Establishing a knowledge base:** The programme aims to establish a knowledge base for dealing adequately with existing and emerging uses of the online environment and relevant risk and consequences, with a view to designing adequate actions aimed at ensuring online safety for all users. The knowledge base action will focus on online grooming from the victims' perspective.

Previous programmes

The European Community set up the first multiannual action plan, in 1999, to promote safer use of the Internet by combating illegal and harmful content on global networks. Initially running over a four-year period, it co-funded in total 37 projects with a total budget of €38.5 million. In 2003, the programme was extended to 2004.

The Safer Internet Plus Programme covered the period 2005–2008 with €45 million worth of funding. It covered mainly public awareness activities, actions for fighting illegal and harmful content online and actions promoting a safer online environment. It aimed to take into account developments in information and communication technologies and support cooperation among the different actors from mobile operators to child welfare NGOs. Consequently, the programme had a wider scope than its predecessors, covering technologies as diverse as third generation (3G) mobile phones, online games and chat rooms and dealing with content ranging from child abuse images to racism.

The EEA EFTA States have been participating in the Safer Internet Programmes since they began in 1999. Norway in particular has been very active in this field and the Norwegian promoters have been pioneers in the combat against child pornography on the net since 1996.

Contact points



European Commission

<http://ec.europa.eu/saferinternet>



SAFT Iceland

www.saft.is



**Liechtenstein Office of
Telecommunications**

www.ak.llv.li/



Norwegian Media Authority

[www.medietilsynet.no/en-GB/
Safe-Use-project/About-us/](http://www.medietilsynet.no/en-GB/Safe-Use-project/About-us/)

Interoperability Solutions for European Public Administrations (ISA)



The ISA Programme is a follow-up to the IDABC Programme, which came to an end in 2009. The new programme is based on the experience gained from the former IDABC IDA programmes and aims to support cooperation between European public administrations by facilitating efficient electronic cross-border interactions between administrations. The objective is to enable increased delivery of electronic public services, thereby also giving support to the implementation of Community policies and activities.

The ISA programme 2010-2015

The programme runs from 2010-2015 and shall support and promote:

- The establishment and improvement of common frameworks in support of cross-border and cross-sectoral interoperability;
- The assessment of the ICT implications of proposed or adopted Community legislation and planning for the introduction of ICT systems to support the implementation of such legislation;
- The operation and improvement of existing common services and the establishment, industrialisation, operation and improvement of new common services, including the interoperability of public key infrastructures (PKI);

- The improvement of existing reusable generic tools and the establishment, provision and improvement of new reusable generic tools.

The programme budget for the period 2010-2015 is €164.100.000.

Who can apply?

All legal persons in EU Member States and the EEA EFTA States can apply for funding, such as Internet service providers, mobile operators and national or local authority organisations fighting for children's rights.

Contact points



European Commission

<http://ec.europa.eu/isa/>



Norwegian Agency for Public

Management and eGovernment (Difi)

www.difi.no/artikkel/2009/11/about-difi



The Galileo Programme



The Galileo programme is Europe's initiative for a state-of-the-art global satellite navigation system, providing a highly accurate, guaranteed global positioning service under civilian control. While providing autonomous navigation and positioning services, the system established under the Galileo programme will at the same time be interoperable with GPS and GLONASS, the two other global satellite navigation systems. The fully deployed system will consist of 30 satellites and the associated ground infrastructure.

How is it organised?

The definition phase and the development and In-Orbit Validation phase of the Galileo programme have been carried out by the European Space Agency (ESA) and co-funded by ESA and the European Community.

The Full Operational Capability phase of the Galileo programme is fully funded by the European Community and managed by the European Commission. The Commission and ESA have signed a delegation agreement by which ESA acts as design and procurement agent on behalf of the Commission.



Who can participate?

In addition to the EU27, Norway participates fully in the Galileo programme through a decision of the EEA Joint Committee. The decision entitles Iceland and Liechtenstein to join later. Talks between Switzerland and the EU on participation in Galileo have started, but were not concluded by the end of 2010. Both Norway and Switzerland are full members of the European Space Agency (ESA).

In 2010, the European Commission awarded contracts for the procurement of Galileo's initial operational capability and its operations. Procurement contracts for the ground mission infrastructure and the ground control infrastructure will be awarded in 2011.

Contact points



European Commission

<http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/policies/satnav/galileo>



Norwegian Space Centre

www.spacecentre.no/English/About_NSC/



Marco Polo – freight transport

Marco Polo is the only EU funding programme dedicated to freight transport. Marco Polo encourages the shift of freight transport from road to more sustainable and environmentally-friendly transport modes such as rail, sea and inland waterways.

EU road freight is forecast to increase by more than 60% by 2013. This would cause congestion, environmental degradation, accidents and the risk of lost competitiveness for European industry, which needs efficient and reliable transportation systems.

The Marco Polo Programme is projected to move 20,5 billion tonne-kilometres off the road per year - the equivalent of over half a billion trucks a year travelling between Berlin and Paris.

Who can apply?

The programme is open to commercial entities coming from fully participating countries, i.e. EU Member States and EEA EFTA, as well as Croatia since 2009. Also undertakings from close third countries are eligible to participate in the Marco Polo Programme; however, only costs arising on the territory of fully participating countries are eligible for funding.

Marco Polo II 2007-2013

Marco Polo II, which runs from 2007 to 2013, is more ambitious than its predecessor. It has a larger budget and supports new types of actions in an extended area that includes neighbouring non-EU countries.

The budget for Marco Polo II is €450 million, which represents more than a five-fold increase compared to the previous programme. Annual calls for project proposals will be published in the first quarter of the year.

A novel feature of the Marco Polo II Programme is the extension to third countries other than accession countries and the EFTA/EEA countries, such as the Mediterranean region.

The programme will provide support for measures that reduce congestion, improve the environmental performance of the transport system and enhance intermodal transport. Marco Polo II contains two new types of action – the motorways of the seas and traffic avoidance measures – which were not included in the first Marco Polo Programme. In all, 5 distinct types of action are supported:

- **Modal shift actions:** these aim to shift as much freight as economically meaningful under current market conditions from road to short sea shipping, rail and inland waterways. The grants support the start-up of new services or significant upgrades of existing services. In 2003-2009, 79 % of the actions supported were modal shift actions.
- **Catalyst actions:** The goal here is to change the way non-road freight transport is conducted in the EU. Support will be provided to innovative proposals aimed at overcoming structural market barriers in European freight transport.
- **Common learning actions:** The objective here is to enhance knowledge in the freight logistics sector and foster advanced methods and procedures of cooperation in the freight market.
- **Motorways of the sea actions:** The aim is to shift freight from long road distances to a combination of short sea shipping and other modes of transport.
- **Traffic avoidance actions:** The objective is to integrate transport into production logistics. This should lead to a reduced freight transport demand by road with a direct impact on emissions. It is emphasised that actions of this type shall not adversely affect either production output or the production workforce.

Among the 140 projects supported by Marco Polo (I and II), two are led by a Norwegian company.

In 2009 the EU regulation establishing the Marco Polo programme was amended to stimulate participation by

Case project

DanNed



Bergen based shipping company Sea-Cargo AS has secured support from Marco Polo to create a new sea route between Esbjerg (Denmark) and Amsterdam (Netherlands). The company operates two sailings per week in each direction with two of its RoRo freight ferries. The main goal of the DanNed project is to migrate movement of goods between the Scandic region (Denmark, Eastern Norway & Western Sweden) and the Netherlands from road to sea transportation by offering shipments of unaccompanied trailers.

The Marco Polo project runs for a three year period with an EU contribution of €1.3 million over the full period. Sea-Cargo AS operates the project together with its subsidiary companies Sea-Cargo Agencies Esbjerg APS and Sea-Cargo Agencies Amsterdam BV.

Further information: www.sea-cargo.no



small enterprises, lowering the eligibility thresholds, increasing the grant intensity and simplifying the administrative processes of the programme.

Previous programmes

The first EU programme to promote intermodality was the [Pilot Actions for Combined Transport \(PACT\)](#) Programme. In operation between 1992 and 2001, the programme provided €53 million in funding for 167 projects and supported the activities related to the creation of the Trans-European Network.

The [Marco Polo I Programme](#) was proposed following the 2001 White Paper on Transport, in which intermodality was a key concept. It was launched in 2003 to improve the sustainability and efficiency of the transport sector.

The programme provides grants to transport service operators to facilitate a shift from road to more environmental friendly modes of transportation, such as short sea shipping, rail and inland waterways or to a combination of modes of transport in which road journeys are as short as possible. The idea is to assist

supporting intermodal freight transport initiatives and alternatives to road-only transport in the early stages until they become commercially viable.

The EEA EFTA States have been participating in the Marco Polo Programme since 2004.

Contact points



European Commission

<http://ec.europa.eu/transport/>



**Icelandic Ministry of Transport,
Communications and Local
Government**

<http://eng.samgonguraduneyti.is/>



**Liechtenstein Office of Trade and
Transport**

www.aht.llv.li/



**Norwegian Ministry of Transport and
Communications**

www.regjeringen.no/en/dep/sd.html?id=791

Statistics



Eurostat, the Statistical Office of the European Union based in Luxembourg, was established in 1953 to meet the requirements of the Coal and Steel Community. Over the years its task has broadened and when the European Community was founded in 1958 it became a Directorate-General of the European Commission. Eurostat's mission is to provide the European Union with high quality statistics at a European level and ensure that comparisons between countries and regions can be done with comparable data. This is also recognised in the EEA Agreement, which states that comparable and coherent statistical information describing the economic, social and environmental aspects of the EEA has to be produced and disseminated.

The Statistical Programme

The programme is open for full participation to national statistical authorities responsible for the production and dissemination of European statistics in each Member State of the EU, the EEA EFTA States and Switzerland.

Previous programmes

The first multiannual programme was established in 1982 for a three-year period. The requirement for a multiannual statistical programme followed in 1997 from a Council regulation also known as Statistical Law. As per this regulation, the Statistical Programme defines the approaches, the main fields and the objectives of the actions envisaged for a period not exceeding five years, and constitutes a framework for the production of all Community statistics. The Statistical Programme is implemented via annual work programmes which provide more detailed work objectives for each year and via specific legislation for major actions.

New programmes

In 2008, the 7th consecutive medium term programme came into force which covers 2008-2012. This programme deals with the production and supply of

statistical products and services to users, the improvement of the quality of statistics and the further development of the European Statistical System (ESS). The ESS is a partnership comprising Eurostat and national statistical authorities. While official statistics are used in support of almost all the EU policies, the new programme is guided by the following overall policy priorities:

- Prosperity, competitiveness and growth;
- Solidarity, economic and social cohesion and sustainable development;
- Security;
- Further enlargement of the European Union.

In this general context, special attention is paid to better defining the priorities within the programme and to reducing the burden on information providers.

Participation of EFTA States

Protocol 30 of the EEA Agreement provides for the full participation of the EEA EFTA States in the programme. The EEA EFTA States are consulted on the programme via their participation in Working Groups and finally in the European Statistical System Committee (ESSC).

Several National Experts from the EEA EFTA States have been seconded to Eurostat in Luxembourg since the early 1990s to strengthen cooperation. Usually, four Experts at a time represent a contribution in-kind for the publication and dissemination of EEA EFTA statistical data by Eurostat. Two additional Experts are seconded as a contribution to the Technical Cooperation Programme in the field of statistics. Delegates from the EEA EFTA States participate actively in statistical meetings organised by Eurostat to harmonise and develop methodology and prepare new legislation in the field of statistics. In 2009, EFTA National Experts attended a total of 140 Eurostat meetings.

The bilateral Swiss-EU agreement on cooperation in the area of statistics regulates the progressive harmonisation of statistical data collection between the



Swiss Federal Statistical Office and Eurostat. Comparability of Swiss and European data in such important areas as trade relations, the employment market, social security, transport and the environment is thus guaranteed in the medium term. Switzerland has also gained visibility in Europe, as more Swiss data has been published in statistics compiled by Eurostat. The EU Statistical Programme is also the framework for Swiss- EU cooperation. A specific annual Swiss-EU Working Programme is the implementing device.

Overall cooperation between the EEA EFTA States and Eurostat has been very good as has been shown by the high level of participation in meetings in 2009. However, the main goal of cooperation is the production, transmission and dissemination of data from the four EFTA States together with data from the EU States in all dissemination tools. More data from the EFTA States has been included than ever before in Eurostat databases and in publications such as the Statistical Yearbook. In the 2009 version of the Yearbook for example, Norway was included in 88% of all indicators presented and Iceland in 69%. Liechtenstein was included in 22% of the indicators and Switzerland in 57%. By this all countries have increased their inclusion rates over the last years.

The EFTA Statistical Office

The EFTA Statistical Office (ESO) in Luxembourg is a liaison office between Eurostat and the EFTA national statistical institutes, as explicitly mentioned in Protocol 30 of the EEA Agreement. ESO's main objective is to sustain the integration of the EFTA States in the evolving European Statistical System, and thus provide harmonised and comparable statistics supporting general cooperation between EFTA and the EU within and outside the EEA framework.

One of ESO's tasks is to develop the EEA Annual Statistical Programme in close cooperation with the heads of the EEA EFTA national statistical institutes, which implement the five-year programme. This programme is a sub-section of the EU Statistical Programme and runs in parallel with the Commission's annual work programme.

Furthermore, ESO is responsible for the follow-up and incorporation of the procedures of EU statistical acts into Annex XXI of the EEA Treaty. New EU legal acts relevant to the EEA are then formally included in Annex XXI after adoption by the EEA Joint Committee. Amongst other tasks, ESO also informs the EFTA national statistical authorities of Eurostat meetings and coordinates the participation of EFTA experts in these meetings.

Contact points



European Commission - Eurostat

<http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/>



EFTA Statistical Office

<http://efta.int/statistics.aspx>



Statistics Iceland

www.statice.is/



Statistics Liechtenstein

www.avw.llv.li/



Statistics Norway

www.ssb.no/english/



Swiss Statistics

www.bfs.admin.ch/bfs/portal/en/index.html

How to apply?

To achieve European funding for your project idea, you will need a structured approach. There are three main ingredients needed for the application: (1) the concept (the project idea and the development of the concept), (2) the partnership and (3) the practical work. The three depend on each other: however clever the project idea, it will not attract funding unless the partnership has credibility and you manage to deliver the project proposal to the European Commission as a complete project application on the correct form with all the requested enclosures on time.

The starting point of a good project application and a successful project is a [good project idea](#). If the core of the project is weak, the presentation can not save the proposal. Start out by formulating the general project idea, and by looking into the relevant programmes, and up-coming calls for proposals. Check out the type of financing the programme offers (reimbursement of eligible costs, lump sums, flat rate financing, or a combination). It is also useful to get a picture of the type of contract the Commission offers, the responsibility you are taking on as a lead or general partner, and the time schedule of the project application and implementation phases.

Your next step is to set up the [partnership](#). Be critical and ask how a possible partner can contribute to the project. National desks can often help, and some programmes have partner portals. Another possibility is to identify possible partners from project databases. If you are the project leader, you may want to make inquiries about the financial situation of some possible partners. The strongest partnerships are often built among parties that already have established cooperation.

The precise project design with aims, target groups and expected outputs etc. should be developed by the partners in cooperation, to secure a strong partnership

with shared project ownership and a better project. Here, it is crucial to describe clearly what will be delivered to whom, when and how, and to demonstrate the main contribution of the project compared to what is already available and the expected long-term results. Some programmes such as the Intelligent Energy Europe (IEE) sub-programme of the CIP Framework Programme have explicit requests to include a description of how a project proposal relates to the terms of European policy and formerly supported IEE projects. You need to re-check the proposal against the text of the call and the relevant legal documents.

Kick off the [practical side of the work](#) by studying the application form and the guidelines (available at the website of the relevant Commission service). It is useful to set up a time schedule for the different parts to be completed, including enclosures, and the responsible people (time management becomes even more important in the project implementation phase). Do not forget the coordination between the partners, and possible need for assistance with detailed budgeting, formatting of text and tables, etc.

In the interest of equal treatment of applicants the Commission and its Executive Agencies often have a policy of not meeting project promoters whilst a call is open. Some programmes, however, offer an active dialogue with project promoters (the 7th Framework Programme) or at least the possibility of posting project ideas for feedback. The national desk of the programme is your best support in the application phase.

Writing an application takes time and effort. The competition is fierce on many programmes – but the rewards can be equally high. Participating in a European project is tremendously beneficial: you will get contacts and opportunities open up. European project experience is also meriting in many contexts, for example when applying for national or other funds.

Other important aspects

You have to describe the planned activities and methods of the project in a work programme. The requested detail depends on the programme as well as the complexity of the proposal. The role of the different partners is crucial here. Also keep in mind that the activities are supposed to reach a wide public, both directly and indirectly. You should aim at showing consistency between the proposed activities, the budget allocated to each of them, the methods, and the staff available to implement the project

The budget is one of the most important tools for demonstrating ability to carry out a project. Make sure the budget is realistic, balanced according to the priorities of the programme, and transparent.

The extent of European added value is an important award criterion of project proposals across European programmes. This concerns the European dimension of the project and the relevance of the project for the EU (and ultimately the subsidiarity between the EU

and the programme countries/regions). To be successful, you have to argue why the project's objectives, methodology and effects apply to the European arena as a whole rather than to a national or regional context, and let aspects such as the geographical composition of the consortium, the localisation of events and the languages of project outputs reflect this.

The communication and visibility of project results have become more and more important criteria for the allocation of community funds. At this step, you must describe in depth the foreseen dissemination and promotion of the results of the project. You need a detailed communication and dissemination plan relevant to your type of project, target groups, and the promotional tools you intend to use (website, press, brochures, TV, radio, etc.) to ensure the visibility of the project. The Life Long Learning Programme and the Culture Programme are examples of programmes which have specific requests for the detailed description of promotion and use of project results in project applications.

Financing the EU Programmes

The EU programmes are financed through the Commission's part of the EU budget. Since the EEA EFTA States do not contribute directly to the EU budget, EEA EFTA participation in a programme requires a yearly financial contribution to the relevant part of the Commission's budget.

How is EEA EFTA participation established?

The principle for participation is that the three EEA EFTA States agree on the programme's EEA relevance and that they can provide the necessary financing. If these requirements are fulfilled, a decision of the EEA Joint Committee is taken incorporating the programme into Protocol 31 of the EEA Agreement. The EEA EFTA States participate in most EEA relevant programmes but not all. Switzerland participates in some EU programmes on a bilateral basis.

The EEA EFTA financial contribution

How to calculate the EEA EFTA financial contribution to an EU programme is laid down in Article 82 and Protocol 32 of the EEA Agreement. The contribution is established by using a "proportionality factor" which is calculated yearly and based on the most recent GDP (gross domestic product) statistics for the EEA EFTA States relative to the GDP of the whole EEA (EU 27 + EEA EFTA). Since the beginning of the EEA Agreement this factor has increased steadily. For 2009 it was 2.40% and in 2010 it is 2.52%. The EEA EFTA financial contribution is the equivalent of this percentage multiplied by the amount of the relevant EU budget for the programme in question. It should be noted that the EEA EFTA contribution to a programme is added on to the initial EU budget for that programme and hence increases the amount

EU programmes with EEA EFTA participation	Commitments 2010 (euros)	
	EU27	EEA EFTA
Seventh Research Framework Programme (FP7)	6 932 938 000	174 710 038
Lifelong Learning Programme (LLL)	1 009 300 500	25 434 373
Galileo Programme	894 400 000	21 555 040
Competitiveness and Innovation Programme (CIP)	525 708 000	13 247 842
Youth in Action	127 800 000	3 220 560
Media Programme	111 005 000	2 797 326
Employment and Social Solidarity Programme (Progress)	109 570 000	2 761 164
Erasmus Mundus	97 988 000	2 469 298
Marco Polo (transport)	63 940 000	1 611 288
Culture Programme	58 164 000	1 465 733
Health Programme	53 100 000	1 338 120
Community Statistical Programme	40 889 250	1 030 409
Civil Protection Financial Instrument	26 450 000	666 540
Interoperability Solutions for Public Administrations (ISA)	23 800 000	599 760
Consumer Programme	20 190 000	508 788
Fight against violence (Daphne)	18 350 000	462 420
Safer Internet Programme	11 070 000	278 964
Drugs prevention and information	3 050 000	76 860
TOTAL	10 127 712 750	254 234 521

available for project applications. This gives stakeholders from the EEA EFTA States the right to participate on an equal footing to stakeholders from the EU Member States with no limitations.

How much does it cost the EEA EFTA States?

The ongoing long term EU budget runs over a seven-year period from 2007-2013. The EU programme budgets are approved by the European Council and the European Parliament within the same timeframe. The total EU Budget for the EU programmes with EEA EFTA participation over this period is around €70 billion.

The estimated EEA EFTA financial contribution to the EU programmes over the same period is approximately €1.7 billion. It should be noted that as the EEA EFTA proportionality factor changes annually, the EEA EFTA contribution may increase as one gets closer to 2013. For the EEA EFTA States, the average annual contribution over the seven-year period is around €250 million.

Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway split the cost between themselves according to their GDP. In 2010, the internal cost sharing was as follows: Iceland 3.16%, Liechtenstein 1.07% and Norway 95.77%.

As can be seen from the table below, the largest programme in the EEA programme cooperation is the Seventh Research Framework Programme, which accounts for 70% of the EEA EFTA financial contribution to the EU programmes.

Secondment of National Experts

As part of the EEA EFTA administrative contribution to programmes, the EEA EFTA States are committed to second a certain number of National Experts to the Commission's services. This arrangement is called in-kind contribution as opposed to direct financial contribution. The National Experts are civil servants from public administrations, intergovernmental organisations or other public authorities, who are sent from their national employers for a period between one to four years and who have expertise that is useful to the Commission Services. The experts acquire valuable experience and knowledge about the EU institutions and the policy fields within which they work in addition to establishing an international network. A list of the National Experts from the EFTA States seconded to the Commission under this arrangement as well national as under bilateral agreements between EFTA countries and the EU, can be found on the EFTA website: <http://efta.int/eea/list-national-experts>.

EEA Grants and Norway Grants



Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway's own EEA Grants and Norway Grants represent considerable opportunities for entities in these three EFTA countries. Reducing disparities in the EEA and strengthening cooperation between the 15 EU countries benefiting from the financial support and the three EEA EFTA States are overarching goals of the grant schemes. Partnership projects between actors in the donor states and the beneficiary states are strongly encouraged.

EEA and Norway Grants 2009-2014

In the period 2009-2014, Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway make available financial support for programmes in 15 European countries: Bulgaria, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Estonia, Greece, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia and Spain.

Of the total €1.79 billion, €988.5 million is provided through the EEA Grants and €800 million through the Norway Grants. Project support will be made available to applicants through calls for proposals under each programme.

The EEA and Norway Grants 2009-2014 are divided along thematic programme areas that are important in the European context, with programmes linked to

environmental and climate change issues absorbing at least one quarter of the total funding. Efforts to strengthen civil society will be enhanced, and programmes for this will be established in all beneficiary states. A new fund for social dialogue will be established with a view to promoting tripartite cooperation

The priority sectors are:

EEA Grants

- Environmental protection and management
- Climate change and renewable energy
- Civil society
- Human and social development
- Academic research
- Protecting cultural heritage

Norway Grants

- Carbon capture and storage
- Green industry innovation
- Promotion of decent work and tripartite dialogue
- Human and social development
- Research and scholarships
- Justice and home affairs



Case project

In June 2010, the municipality of Považská Bystrica, Slovakia opened the region's first hotline and crisis shelter – built on a Norwegian model.

A €362,000 grant from Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway has financed the first centre for victims of domestic violence in Považská Bystrica in north-western Slovakia. The head of the municipality's social services, Janka Dudonova, stressed the growing need for shelter space, especially for women with children. The new centre will provide help to 70 people annually.

Cooperation with the Secretariat of the Shelter Movement in Norway has been important in the establishment of the new centre. "Having run crisis centres for 32 years, we have experiences to share when it comes to establishing shelters as well as awareness-raising and prevention with regard to strengthening women's rights in general", says Director Tove Smaadahl of the Secretariat of the Shelter Movement.



Who can apply?

Private and public sector bodies and NGOs in the beneficiary states may apply for support, provided that they are registered as legal entities in the respective country and that they are operating in the public interest. Partnerships with entities from Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway may find place at both programme and project level.

Previous programmes

The EEA EFTA States have contributed to European cohesion efforts ever since the EEA Agreement entered into force in 1994. In 2004, the €1.3 billion EEA and Norway Grants were established in connection with the historic EU and EEA enlargement.

Grants were awarded to 1250 projects, programmes and funds managed by central and local governments, research and academic institutions, NGOs and private organisations in the beneficiary states. One in five projects was carried out in partnership with entities in Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway.

Close to a quarter of the funding was awarded to environmental projects, followed by conservation of European cultural heritage, health and childcare and human resources development. Special NGO Funds were set up to target civil society in the beneficiary states and projects were also supported within academic research, Schengen acquis and strengthening the judiciary, regional policy and cross-border activities.

Contact points

 **EFTA Secretariat,
Financial Mechanism Office**
www.eeagrants.org

 **Icelandic Ministry of Foreign Affairs**
www.government.is/

 **Liechtenstein Mission to the
European Union**
www.liechtenstein.li/en

 **Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs**
www.europaportalen.no





The European Free Trade Association (EFTA) is an inter-governmental organisation for the promotion of free trade and economic integration to benefit its four Member States: Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway and Switzerland. The Association is responsible for the management of:

- The EFTA Convention, which forms the legal basis of the organisation and governs free trade relations between the EFTA States;
- EFTA's worldwide network of free trade and partnership agreements;
- The Agreement on the European Economic Area (EEA), which enables three of the four EFTA Member States (Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway) to fully participate in the EU's Internal Market.

The EFTA Bulletin aims to serve as a platform for discussion and debate on topics of relevance to European integration and the multilateral trading system. The Bulletin draws on the experience and expertise of academics, professionals and policy-makers.

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