



Solidarity  
Opportunity  
Cooperation

New partnerships for cohesion in Europe

Through the financial mechanisms the three EEA-EFTA states Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway contribute to the reduction of social and economic disparities in Europe, and support new EU member states in their efforts to participate fully in the enlarged Internal Market.

The establishment of the financial mechanisms was agreed with the European Union in the lead-up to the historical enlargement of the EU in 2004, an expansion that also entailed an enlargement of the European Economic Area (EEA). Through the mechanisms a wide range of public authorities and institutions, organisations and businesses in the beneficiary states are eligible for grant support to realise projects in the public benefit. The mechanisms are part of wider initiatives of European integration, and emphasis is placed on strengthening political and economic ties between the beneficiary states and the EEA-EFTA states.

## PRIORITIES

The financial mechanisms will make € 1.17 billion available over the 2004-2009 period to support projects in a wide range of priority sectors:

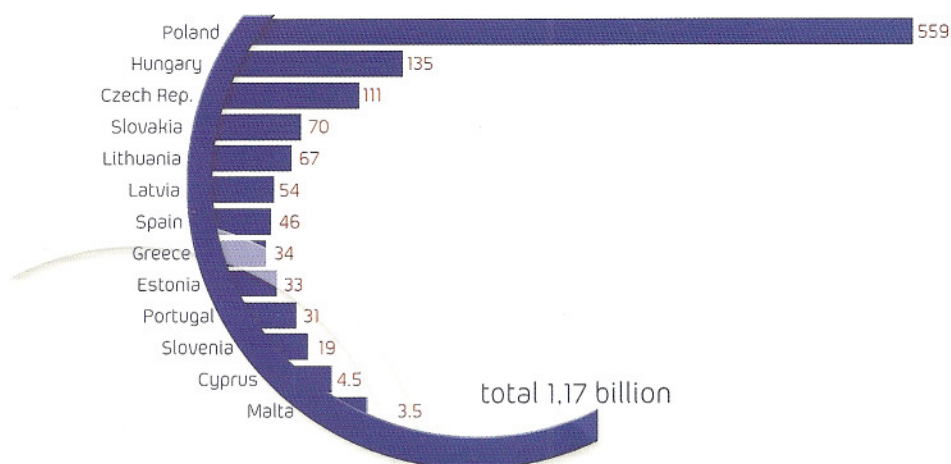
- Conservation of European cultural heritage
- Development of human resources
- Health and childcare
- Protection of the environment
- Sustainable development

The Norwegian Financial Mechanism will also make funding available for:

- Implementation of legislation in the field of internal security and border control
- Implementation of aquis communautaire through technical assistance
- Regional policy and cross-border activities

Academic research within all these priority sectors may also be eligible for funding.

*Allocations by country of the total €1.17 billion available through the two mechanisms:*



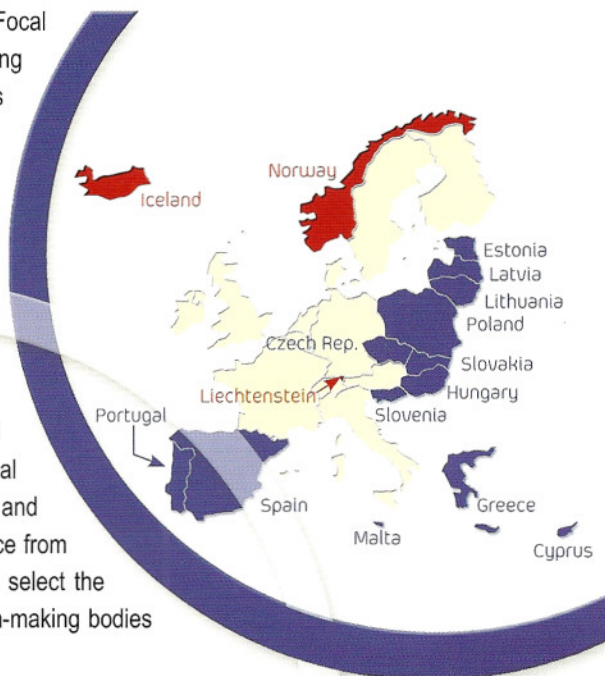
## break-down of allocations

(country-by-country in € millions)

Through the EEA Financial Mechanism, the three EEA-EFTA states Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway will make a total € 600 million available to the 10 countries that joined the EU and EEA in May 2004, as well as to Greece, Portugal and Spain. Through the Norwegian Financial Mechanism, Norway will make an additional € 567 million available to the 10 countries that joined the EU and EEA in 2004.

## BENEFICIARY STATES PLAY THE KEY ROLE

In each beneficiary state a national Focal Point is set up as the co-ordinating authority. These national contact points are responsible for implementing the financial mechanisms in their respective countries. The Focal Point co-ordinate all applications and follow up all projects within the beneficiary state. Additionally, the Focal Point ensures that information about the available grants is made public in the beneficiary state. Potential project promoters can contact the Focal Point in their country with inquiries and submit project applications for assistance from the mechanisms. The Focal Points will select the projects to be submitted to the decision-making bodies of the two mechanisms.



*A full list of Focal Points and their contact details is available on: [www.eeagrants.org/focalpoints](http://www.eeagrants.org/focalpoints)*

## FLEXIBLE PROJECT ASSISTANCE

The mechanisms offer several different types of assistance to allow end recipients in the beneficiary states more flexibility and greater possibilities. Assistance may be awarded in the form of:

- Individual projects - generally addresses a single issue of economic, environmental or social need within any one of the priority sectors
- Programmes - which could be seen as groups of projects coordinated jointly to achieve a common objective in either a region, a priority sector or as a combination of both
- Block grants - administered by an intermediary in the beneficiary state to facilitate the implementation of smaller projects, such as those of Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs), research institutions, and other target groups or sectors
- Seed money - to support the development of promising project ideas of high relevance

*The different types of project assistance are described in the rules and procedures of the mechanisms and in separate guidelines available on: [www.eeagrants.org/documents](http://www.eeagrants.org/documents)*

## WHO CAN APPLY FOR A GRANT?

Project proposals can be submitted in a wide range of priority sectors by any public or private sector body or NGO constituted as a legal entity in the beneficiary states and operating in the public interest, such as:

- Central, regional and local authorities
- Education and research institutions
- Environmental bodies
- Voluntary and community organisations
- Public-private partnerships

## HOW TO OBTAIN A GRANT?



Calls for proposals are held in each beneficiary state, giving potential applicants the opportunity to submit project proposals – upon receipt the national Focal Point makes a first evaluation of the submitted applications.

Project proposals should comply with national priorities, the formal requirements of the financial mechanisms and EU rules and regulations. They must also be relevant to the priority sectors. Grants will generally require co-financing by the end-recipient.

The Focal Point forwards prioritised proposals together with a reasoned opinion to the Financial Mechanism Office (FMO) in Brussels. The FMO is the secretariat for both mechanisms, and makes a thorough appraisal of each project proposal. To ensure compatibility with EU goals, the application is subsequently forwarded to the European Commission for screening. The mechanisms have joint management, but separate decision-making procedures.

*More detailed information about the application procedure, the co-financing requirements, as well as the application form is available on: [www.eeagrants.org](http://www.eeagrants.org)*

## MORE INFORMATION

Financial Mechanism Office  
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## USEFUL LINKS

[www.eeagrants.org](http://www.eeagrants.org) • [www.island.is](http://www.island.is) • [www.liechtenstein.li](http://www.liechtenstein.li) •  
[www.europaportalen.no](http://www.europaportalen.no) • [www.norway.info](http://www.norway.info)

## FOCAL POINTS

Contact details for Focal Points in all beneficiary states available on:  
[www.eeagrants.org/focalpoints](http://www.eeagrants.org/focalpoints)