

BROAD VARIETY OF SUPPORTED ENVIRONMENTAL PROJECTS

Environmental monitoring in Czech national park

The Bohemian Switzerland National park has initiated a comprehensive environmental monitoring programme. The new information about the area's ecology, geology, flora and fauna will be used to improve the management of the park. The Bohemian Switzerland National Park was established in 2000, and covers an area of about 80 km² in the northern Czech Republic.

CO₂ neutral conference centre in Hungary

The Regional Environmental Centre for Central and Eastern Europe has constructed a new environmentally friendly conference centre. The centre's ambitious target of zero annual CO₂ emissions will be possible through simultaneous use of specific design techniques, automated systems and renewable sources of energy, including solar power.

Polish research on solar energy

A project by the Cracow's University of Science and Technology (AGH) intends to improve the efficiency of solar panels, optimise solar energy production for Polish conditions, and decrease the energy demand of environmental monitoring systems. The project is of key importance, both for international research within renewable energy and for developing optimal photovoltaic systems to be used in Poland's Malopolska region.

Environmental awareness campaign in Slovenia

The private non-profit institute Moja Soseska (My Neighbourhood) will carry out a nationwide promotional campaign to raise awareness about the necessity of environmental protection. The comprehensive promotional campaign consist of clean-up events, workshops for young people, publicity work and dialogue with the most important polluters.

Biomass for heat production in Slovakia

The Municipal Office of Vrábľe promotes a project to install a biomass boiler (1.9 MW) to supply more than 3,000 inhabitants in the Luky quarter of Vrábľe with heating. The project aims to reduce the unit price for delivered heat, to reduce the emissions of carbon dioxide and to create new local and regional jobs in the biomass fuel preparation process.

Thermo insulation of Polish public buildings

In Poland, close to 70 energy efficiency projects are under way at some 300 schools, hospitals and other public institutions. The projects include standard measures for insulation, new windows and doors, as well as upgrades to new and more efficient energy sources, sometimes using renewable energy. The average energy saving in these projects is above 50 percent.

In Olsztynek, Poland, the regional children's hospital will insulate its buildings with a contribution from the EEA Grants. The project is expected to lower running costs by 10-15 percent, thereby saving heating costs for the hospital and reducing air pollution. The upgrade will also improve working conditions for staff and the comfort for the 5,000 children treated every year.



With support from EEA and Norway Grants, some 300 Polish public buildings will be insulated and made more energy efficient.

In May 2004, the European Economic Area (EEA) was expanded to include the ten new Member States of the EU, with a further enlargement to include Bulgaria and Romania in 2007. At the same time the three non-EU members of the EEA - Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway - established the EEA and Norway Grants to support social and economic cohesion within the enlarged EEA.

The 30 members of the EEA share access to the Internal Market, characterised by the free movement of goods, services, capital and persons.

Over the five-year period 2004-2009, the EEA and Norway Grants will make available €1.3 billion to 15 beneficiary states in the EU. Norway provides 97% of this funding. Projects are supported in a wide range of priority sectors such as protection of the environment, conservation of the European cultural heritage, health and childcare, and development of human resources.

EEA AND NORWAY GRANTS

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ENVIRONMENT FACT SHEET DECEMBER 2008

Protection of the environment & Sustainable development



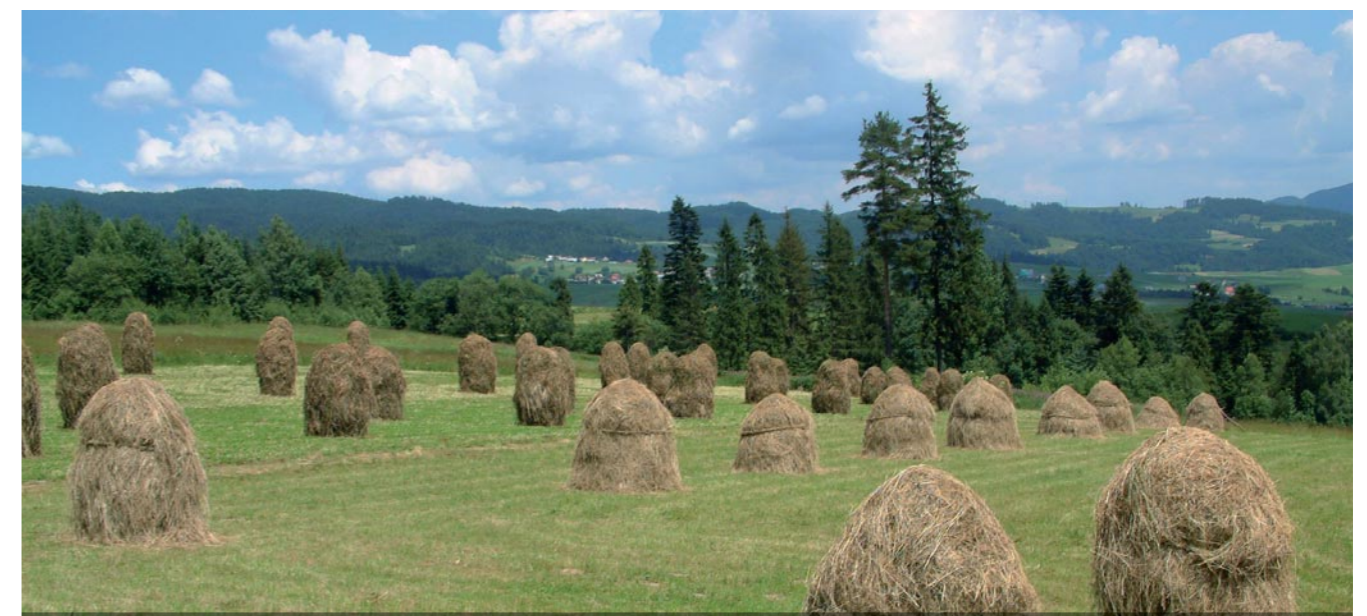
Local residents are participating in the management of Natura 2000 sites in the Polish Carpathian region.

Protecting Europe's environment

Fighting climate change, loss of biodiversity, and pollution of air and water are high on Europe's agenda. Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway have made the protection of environment and promotion of sustainable development core areas of support from the EEA and Norway Grants. Around one quarter of the EEA and Norway Grants will be channelled towards environmental and sustainable development projects.

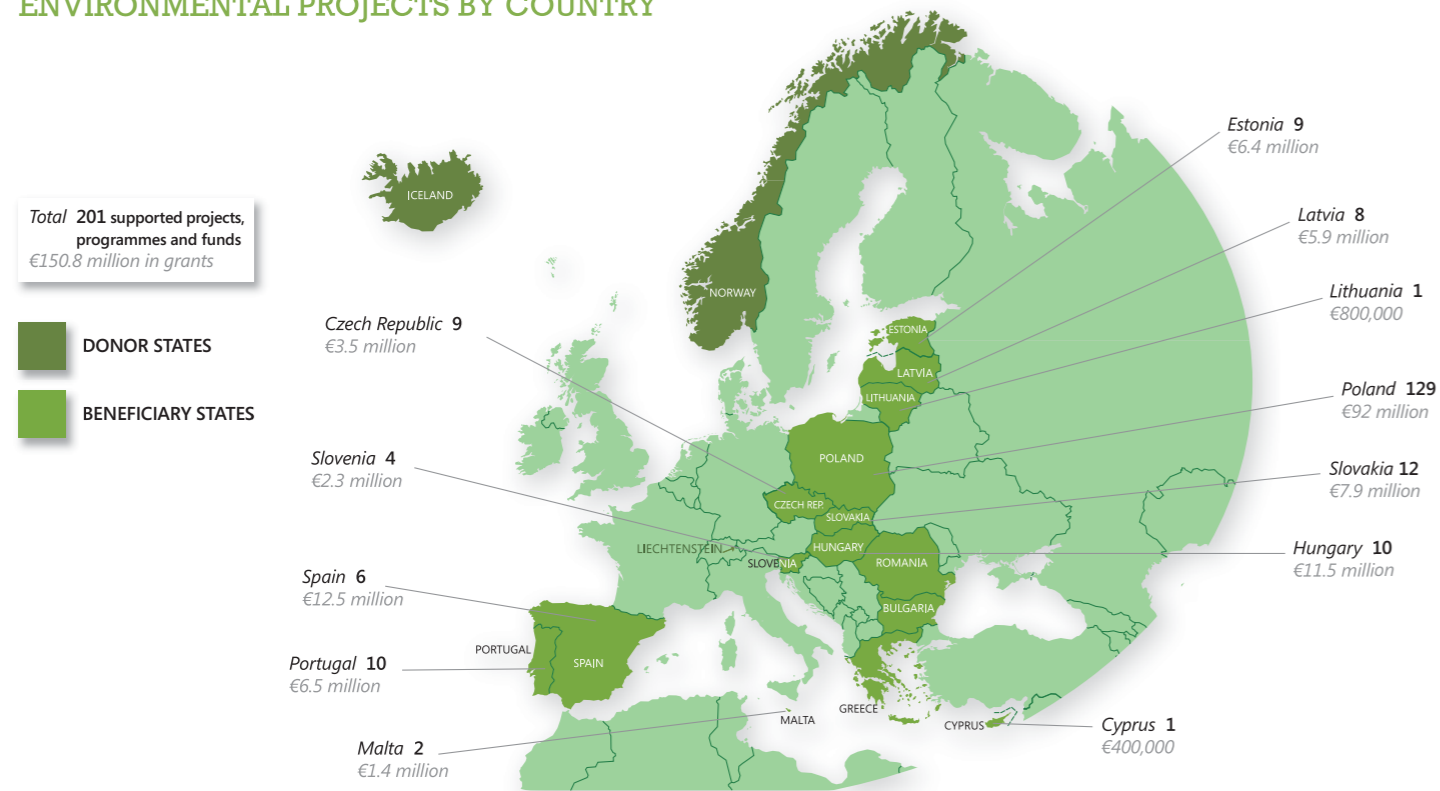
The main area of support concerns reduction of greenhouse gases through energy efficiency and renewable energy measures. Several hundred public buildings are currently being upgraded to decrease their heating demand and cut CO₂ emissions. Multiple research projects on renewable energy complement this effort. The EEA and Norway Grants also provide funding to areas such as reducing water pollution, protecting biodiversity and improving waste management.

Carbon emissions affect the global climate, pollution is transported by wind, rivers and ocean currents, and loss of biodiversity is a loss for us all. Protecting land, sea and air is therefore a shared responsibility, and through the EEA and Norway Grants, Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway make a valuable contribution.



Management strategies for 23 Natura 2000 sites in the Carpathians will be developed with support from the EEA Grants.

ENVIRONMENTAL PROJECTS BY COUNTRY



BENEFICIARIES

Finding the pathways to a sustainable Europe is a core idea underpinning the EEA and Norway Grants. Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway and the 15 beneficiary states have therefore jointly agreed to channel support to environmental projects in all countries. Achieving a green Europe requires all actors to take responsibility.

In light of this, it is encouraging to see the mosaic of 200 supported projects in the private and public sector, on the regional and local level, among NGOs and other interest groups, spurring sustainable development and protecting the environment in Central and Southern Europe.

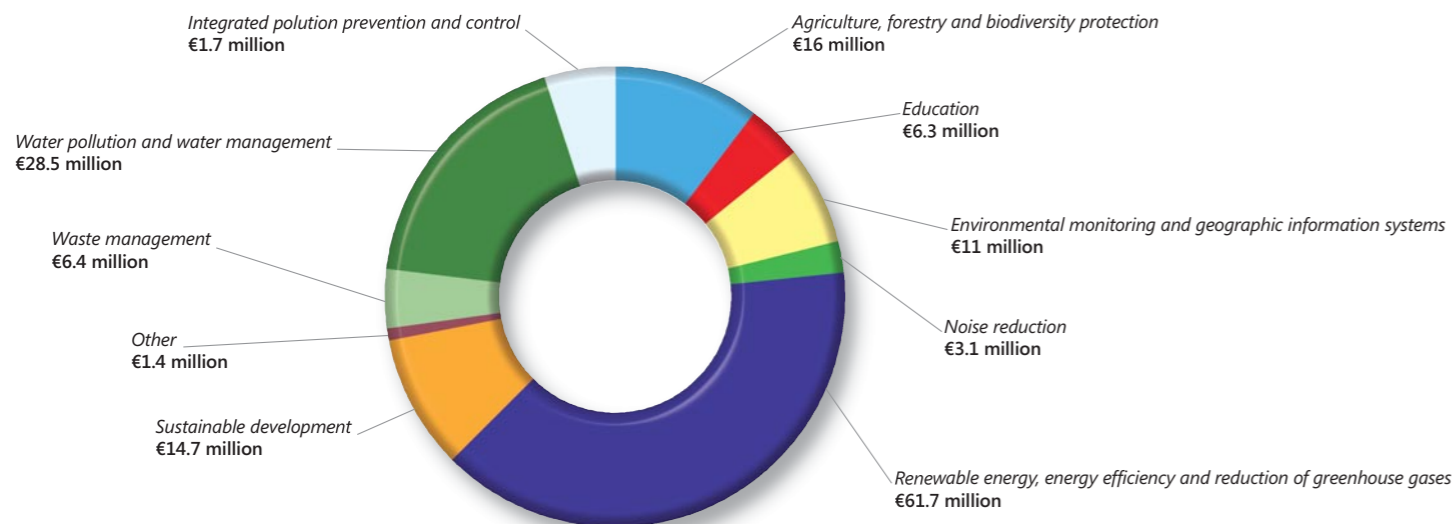
Projects

Most supported projects focus on cutting greenhouse gases through energy efficiency and renewable energy. In addition, grants are supporting environmental awareness campaigns, protection of forests and biodiversity, as well as efforts by local and regional policy authorities to integrate environmental issues into other policy areas.

Green NGO funds

Civil society participation is essential to reach the goals of a greener Europe. Funding has therefore been earmarked for civil society actors, such as non-governmental organisations (NGOs) in the beneficiary states. Specific NGO funds providing support to environment and sustainable development projects are in place in Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Hungary, Latvia, Poland, Portugal, Romania and Slovakia.

TYPES OF PROJECTS



PROJECT FOCUS

Waste for energy in Estonia

The cement industry is a major polluter of greenhouse gases, and AS Kunda Nordic Tsement will in a €3.4 million project cut its CO₂-emissions through enabling its plant to use waste for energy production.

AS Kunda Nordic Tsement (KNT) is applying a €0.8 million grant from Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway to its waste combustion project. The Estonian company will contribute to a reduction of pollution from its plant in Kunda, by recycling waste and decreasing the plant's use of oil-shale as a source of energy. Following the investment of some 54 million EEK in technology, waste from Kunda and the town's surrounding region will be burnt in the cement kilns instead of traditional fuels. According to Meelis Einstein, Purchasing Manager at Kunda Nordic Tsement, the company aims to replace 25 percent of the present fuels with waste materials by 2011.

The cement industry is a major polluter of greenhouse gases, contributing about five percent to man-made CO₂ emissions. In Estonia the cement production is heavily dependant on the combustion of oil shale, a low grade fuel known for its polluting properties both with regard to extraction and processing. In addition, most waste is still placed in landfills in Estonia.

PARTNERSHIP PROJECTS

Bilateral partnership projects between the beneficiary states and Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway are possible under the EEA and Norway Grants. The environmental project portfolio includes 25 approved partnership projects with Norwegian and Icelandic partners.

Slovak energy certification

The project aims to improve the energy performance of Slovak buildings. By developing manuals, training programmes and software for energy performance calculation, the project will enable Slovakia to comply with the EU Directive on the Energy Performance of Buildings. This is a cooperation between the Slovak University of Technology (STU) and the Norwegian consultancy ENSI.

Pilot monitoring of fish stock in the Czech Republic

With technical assistance from the University of Oslo and the Institute of Marine Research, Bergen, the Biology Centre of the Czech Academy of Sciences is developing a manual for fish stock monitoring in large fresh-water reservoirs. As well as improving the management of Czech fish resources, the development of this manual is expected to generate several academic articles, adding to the prestige of the Czech and Norwegian scientific communities.

Improving the efficiency of Polish environmental inspection

In cooperation with the Norwegian Pollution Control Authority (SFT), the Polish Chief Inspectorate for Environmental Protection sets forth to improve the implementation and enforcement of environmental legislation in Poland. Activities undertaken under this project include the development of an electronic data handling system, of sector specific inspection guides, of a system for dissemination of information to the general public, as well as the provision of equipment suited for on-site inspections.

RESULTS SNAPSHOT

Reduction of biodegradable waste to landfill in tonnes/year	86,000
CO ₂ reduction and/or avoidance in tonnes/year	196,000
Estimated heat saved in MWh/year	214,000