

## BROAD VARIETY OF SUPPORTED SCHENGEN PROJECTS

### Extension of Polish road border crossing

The Polish police applies a grant from Norway to improve security at the border crossing in Terespol at the Polish-Belarusian border. Among the activities included in the project are fencing and construction of lighting systems, the establishment of technical systems of security and customs clearance, as well as the development of ICT infrastructure.

### Making Malta Airport Schengen compliant

The project to prepare Malta International Airport for Maltese Schengen membership was the first to be completed under the Norway Grants. The airport has now been divided into one terminal for those travelling within the Schengen area, and another for those travelling to or from third countries.

### Improving Latvian prison building standards

Cēsu Correctional Institution, Latvia's only prison for juvenile offenders, will undergo much-needed refurbishments with Norwegian support. A new pre-trial detention unit will be constructed, as well as new premises for educational and social rehabilitation activities. The new facilities will serve as a pilot project for improving the standard of Latvian prisons.

### Training Czech police officers

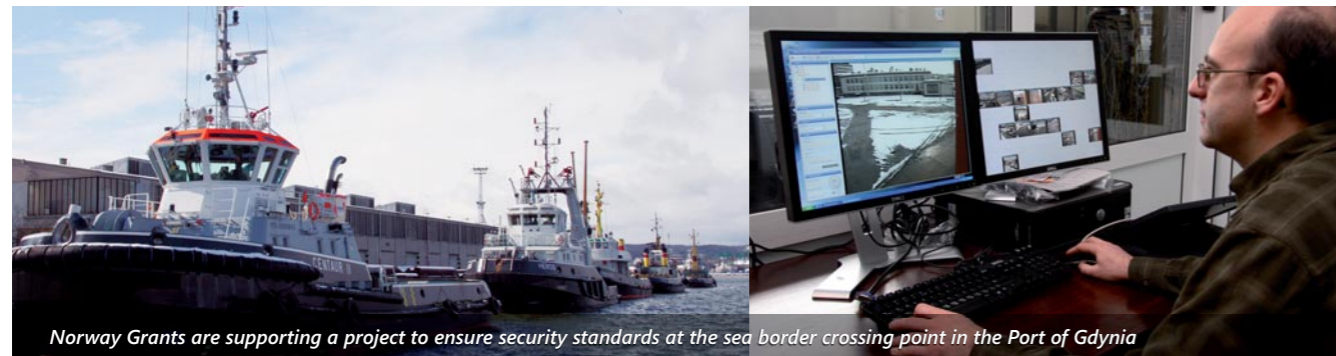
The Czech National Police Headquarters will train police officers in using the SIRENE system, the national section of the Schengen Information System (SIS) – the database that enables European police to exchange data regarding persons and objects. Special training facilities and equipment will be purchased and set up at the police headquarters.

### Fingerprinting devices for use at the Polish border

Security at the external borders of the Schengen Area will be strengthened through new equipment for electronic scanning and control of fingerprints. The new equipment will significantly increase the speed and accuracy of the work of the Polish Border Guard, as it replaces an obsolete, paper based finger print system. In total 25 scanning devices and 40 devices for control will be installed at Polish border crossings.

### Strengthening Polish sea border crossing point

Security at the Port of Gdynia, a major transport hub of the Baltic Sea, will be significantly improved through the installation of close to 60 surveillance cameras. The new security measure will enable the port's security staff to monitor a total area of 240 hectares. Given the sheer size and importance of the port, the surveillance system is likely to play a substantial role in the protection of the Schengen Area's borders.



Norway Grants are supporting a project to ensure security standards at the sea border crossing point in the Port of Gdynia

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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Further information: [www.eegrants.org](http://www.eegrants.org)



## SCHENGEN FACT SHEET DECEMBER 2008

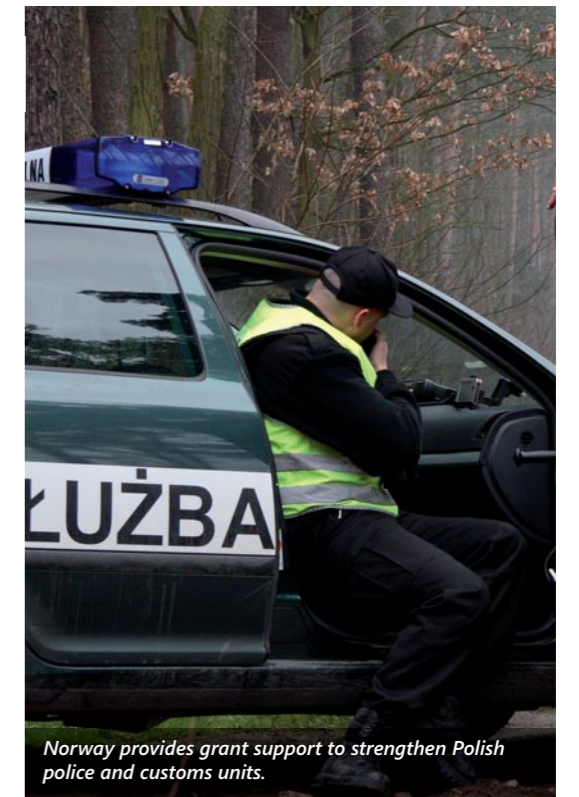
# Implementing Schengen & Strengthening the Judiciary

### Joining forces for a safer Europe

Through its removal of internal border control, the Schengen Agreement affects the everyday life of many Europeans in a very visible way. While a trip across the continent previously involved lengthy stops at national borders, travelling between the member states of the Schengen area today differs little from travelling within any single country. This is particularly important for business, whose trade is no longer stifled by border controls.

With no internal border controls, effective protection of the Schengen area's external border becomes crucial, as does controlling crime in the individual member states. Norway has on this background allocated funding under the Norway Grants to support the implementation of the Schengen agreement in the new EU and EEA member states. Grants have so far been awarded to projects related to border security, police cooperation and a strengthened judiciary in Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta and Poland.

The Schengen support provided under the Norway Grants facilitates cooperation between the Norwegian police and the national police services in the beneficiary states. Ongoing cooperation within supported projects ensure the transfer of knowledge and experience between national police forces, thereby enhancing international police cooperation and the integration of European police forces.



Norway provides grant support to strengthen Polish police and customs units.



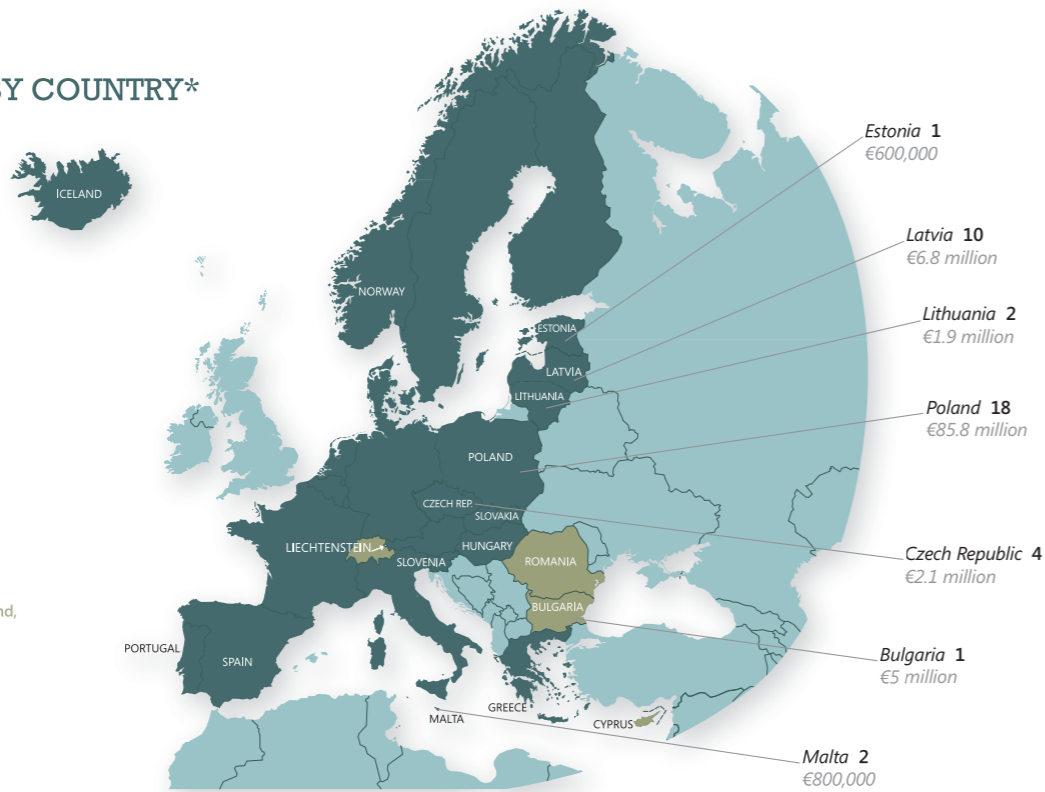
An integrated security monitoring system will be set up in the Polish port Gdynia to ensure adequate sea border protection.

## SCHENGEN PROJECTS BY COUNTRY\*

Total 38 supported projects, programmes and funds  
€103 million in grants

**SCHENGEN COUNTRIES**  
Austria, Belgium, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, the Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden.

**PREPARING FOR MEMBERSHIP**  
Bulgaria, Cyprus, Liechtenstein, Romania, Switzerland.



\* The Norway Grants to Bulgaria and Romania are administered separately by Innovation Norway through bilateral cooperation programmes. For more information: [www.norwaygrants.org](http://www.norwaygrants.org)

## BENEFICIARIES

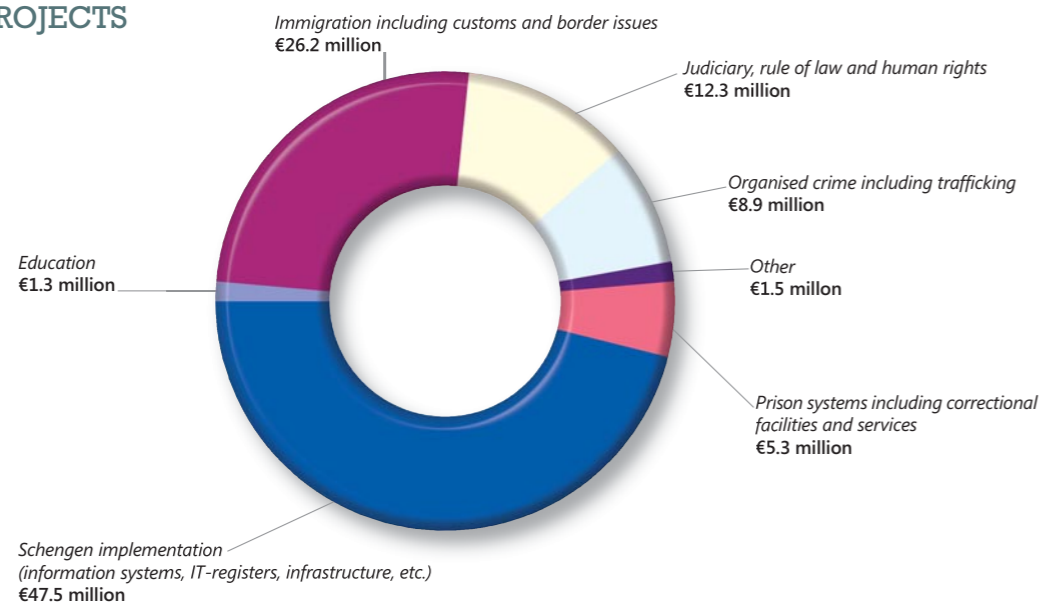
Support to projects within Schengen and the judiciary are financed through the Norway Grants. The ten new member states of the EU and EEA from 2004, as well as Bulgaria from 2007, are eligible for funding. Around 15 percent of the Norway Grants are allocated to Schengen projects in the beneficiary states. 38 Schengen projects with a total value of over €100 million are up and running in Bulgaria, Estonia, the Czech Republic, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta and Poland.

The largest recipient of Schengen related aid from the Norway Grants is Poland, which particularly has focused on strengthening the country's police and customs units. By investing in state of the art equipment and technology, Poland has become better prepared to protect the EU's external border and to fight organised crime. Among changes promoted by these projects is the creation of a more

mobile police force and customs authority, capable of responding quickly to criminal activity. This has become particularly important as removal of border control necessarily reduces the capability to contain crime at the border. The Norwegian police have for more than four years been actively involved in the Polish Schengen projects; this participation has forged close links between the two police forces and laid the ground for operational cooperation.

The Baltic States, Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania, have in comparison focused the Norwegian Schengen support on upgrading the quality of penal enforcement in prisons. New and improved rehabilitation programmes for inmates have been set up in a number of prisons, and comprehensive training programmes are being provided to staff.

## TYPES OF PROJECTS



## PROJECT FOCUS

### Polish-Norwegian Police cooperation

Poland is preparing to face the challenges posed by organised crime at the Schengen border, aided by financial support and technical advice from Norway.

After Poland's accession to the EU, its border became one of the longest stretches of external land border guarded by a single member state. An €8.8 million project under the Norway Grants will now provide police units located near the eastern and northern border of Poland with modern equipment and technology to improve border controls. The project will enable Polish police to purchase state-of-the-art vehicles and technology, including off-road scooters and cars with mobile terminals, sea patrolling vessels, mobile command stations and vehicle stopping nets.

The project is one of several Polish-Norwegian partnership projects targeting Schengen cooperation, and the bilateral cooperation is highly appreciated by both national police forces. Margrethe Christine Bjonge, head of the Norwegian police's project for cooperation under the Norway Grants is pleased with the close collaboration. "As crime gets more and more sophisticated, it is crucial that the police are adequately equipped. Criminals of today know no borders, so it is equally crucial that the international police cooperation works," she said.

The Norwegian Police Directorate plays a central role in the bilateral cooperation on Schengen issues, and is involved in most of the partner projects under the Norway Grants. This cooperation contributes to build valuable contacts, networks and knowledge, making the fight against cross border crime more effective.

## PARTNERSHIP PROJECTS

Through support from the Norway Grants, important bilateral partnerships have been established between police and customs units in Norway and the beneficiary states. So far, eight Schengen projects have such partnerships. Here are some examples:

### Improving the fight against criminal structures in the Czech Republic

The Organized Crime Detection Unit of the Czech police will procure technical equipment and allow for easier and faster processing and retrieving of investigation intelligence. The Norwegian police will participate in training staff on how to use the new equipment.

### Providing education in Latvian prisons

Two prisons in the Zemgale region are developing new educational programmes for inmates in collaboration with the Department of Education under the County Governor in Hordaland (Norway). The majority of inmates in Jelgava and Jakabpils prisons are poorly educated, Russian-speaking Latvians, and the new resocialisation programmes comprised of language training and basic education will give the released convicts a better chance to reintegrate into society.

### Reintegrating young inmates in Estonia

At Viru prison in Estonia, young inmates up to the age of 26 are participating in new rehabilitation programmes to prepare them for school or work after their release from prison. Additionally, all ranks of prison staff will be educated in correctional training, to ensure that qualified personnel are supervising the inmates' schooling. Experts from the Norwegian Police are contributing with expertise within the field of rehabilitation of juvenile delinquents.

### Lithuanian e-management system

The Lithuanian Prison Department is introducing a new e-management system to replace handwritten records for probation, health and registration services in the penitentiary system. The project also includes psychological and pedagogical training to improve the follow-up of imprisoned juveniles. The Norwegian Prison and Probation Department and the Norwegian Board of Health will contribute with know-how and host study visits.



Norway Grants support a project to increase the quality of penal enforcement in Viru prison and create a sustainable reintegration system.