

EEA GRANTS  
NORWAY GRANTS

# Reducing disparities Strengthening relations

European Economic Area Seminar  
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# AGENDA

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- I. Historic background
- II. EEA and Norway Grants 2004-09
- III. Bilateral relations
- IV. Lessons learned
- v. Key features 2009-14

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# I. HISTORIC BACKGROUND

# EEA AGREEMENT

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## Article 115

...With a view to promoting a continuous and balanced strengthening of trade and economic relations between the Contracting Parties agree on the need to **reduce the economic and social disparities** between their regions...

## FINANCIAL MECHANISM

**1994-1998**

**Donor states:** Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway, Austria, Finland, Sweden

**Beneficiary states:** Greece, Ireland, Northern Ireland, Portugal, Spain

**Funding size:** ECU 500 mln + interest rebates on €1.5 bln EIB loans

**Sectors:** Environment, Education and training, Transport

**Projects:** 56

## FINANCIAL INSTRUMENT

**1999-2003**

**Donor states:** Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway

**Beneficiary states:** Greece, Ireland, Northern Ireland, Portugal, Spain

**Funding size:** 119.6 mln

**Sectors:** Environment, Education and training, Transport

**Projects:** 25

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II. EEA GRANTS  
NORWAY GRANTS  
2004-09

NORWAY GRANTS  
€567 MLN

EEA GRANTS  
€672 MLN

## 10-FOLD INCREASE IN 2004



**€1.3 bln**

in funding 2004-09

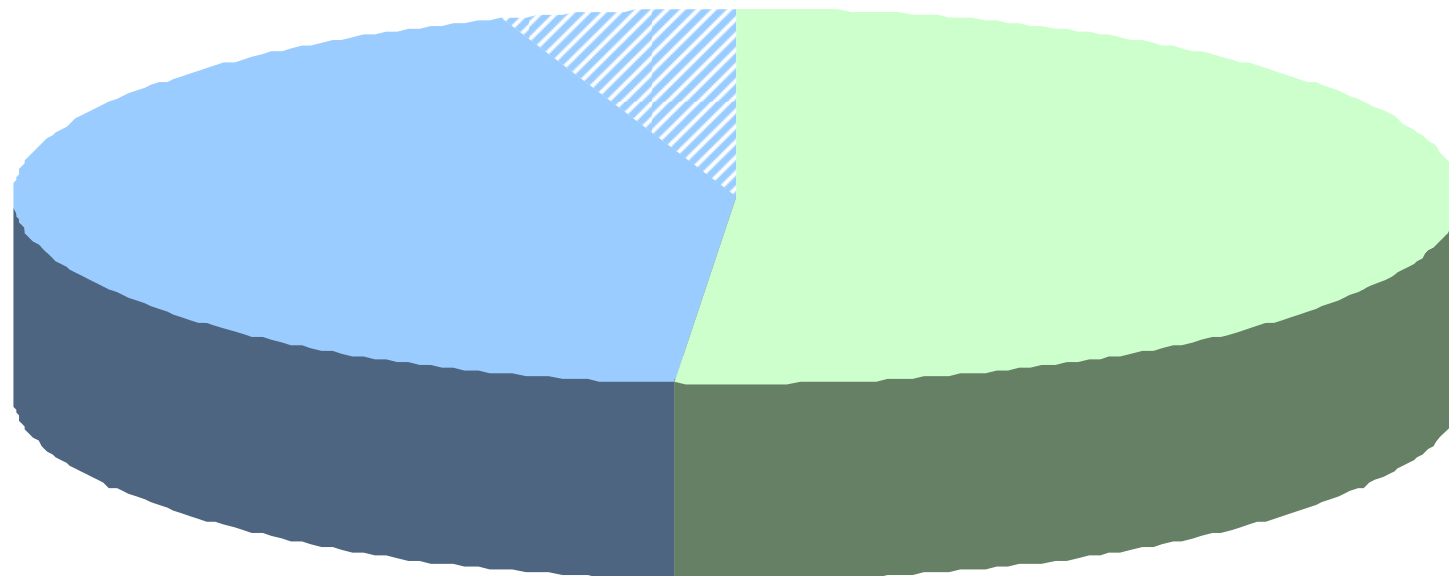
**+10** new members in 2004  
75 mln inhabitants

**+2** new members in 2007  
BG and RO w/ 29 mln inhabitants

**+3** “old” member states  
Greece, Portugal and Spain

## CONTRIBUTION 2004-09

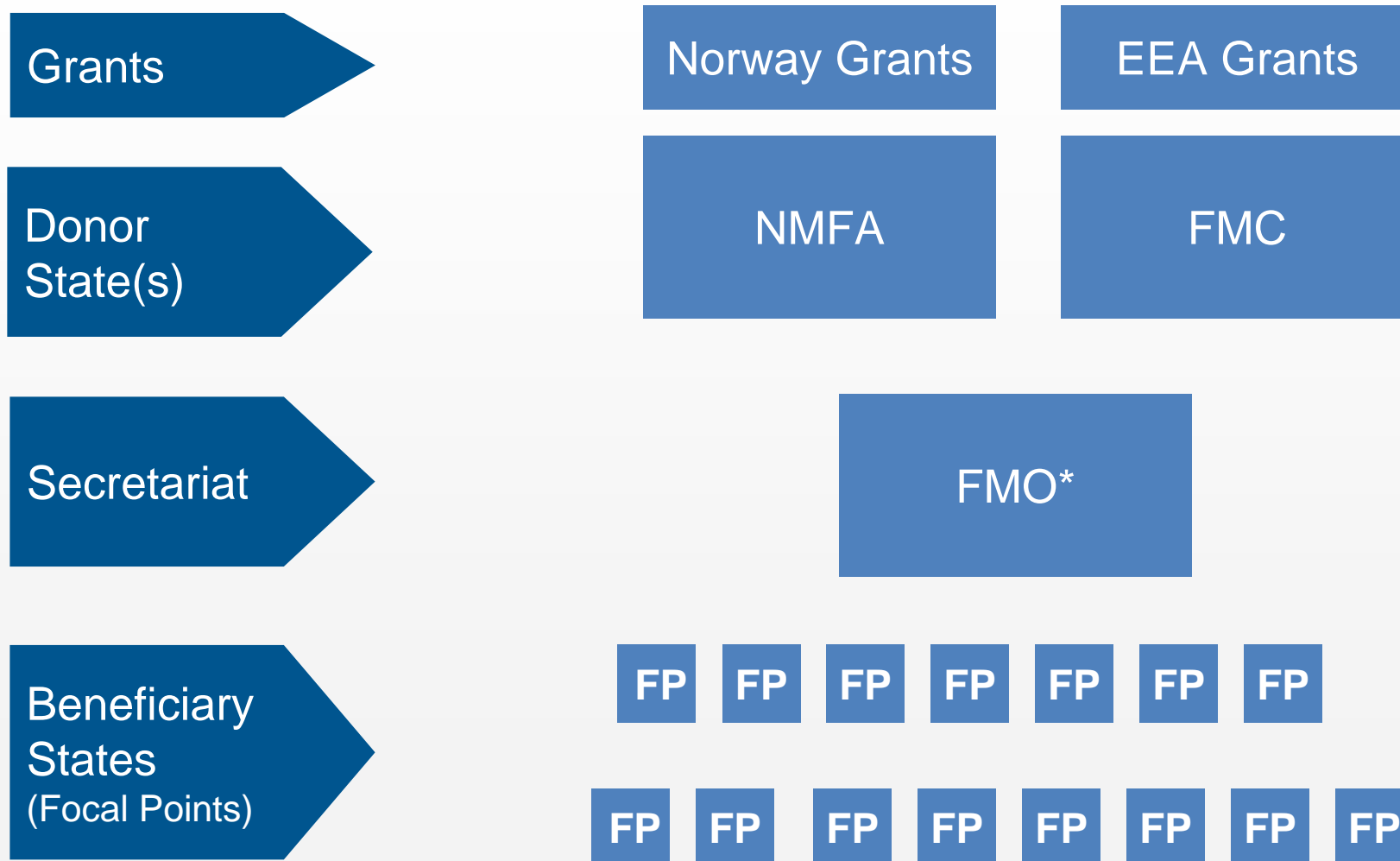
Norwegian Cooperation Programmes with  
BG & RO (NORWAY GRANTS) €68 Mill



EEA Grants €72 Mill



# DECISION MAKING 2004-09



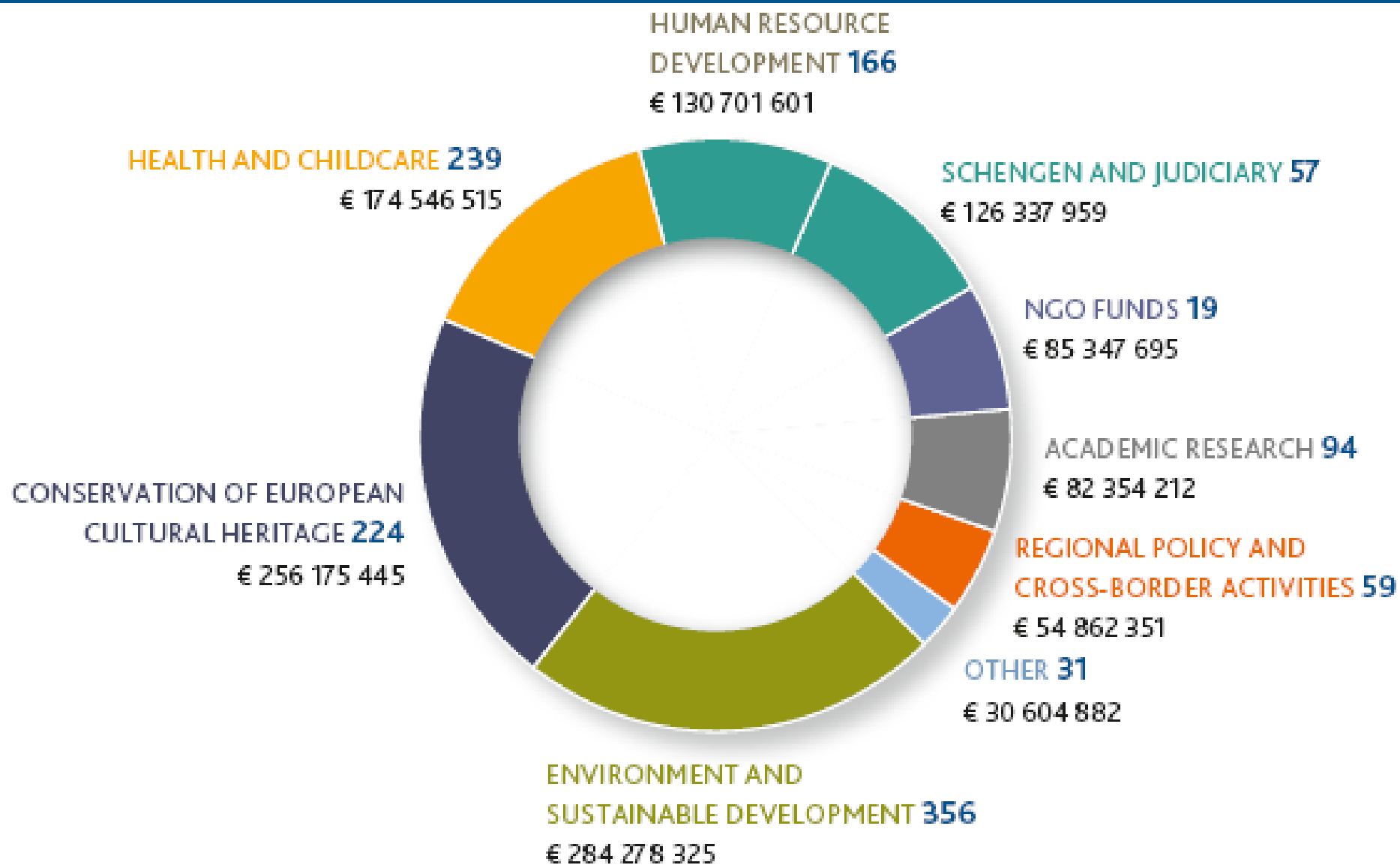
\*Innovation Norway administers the Norwegian Cooperation Programmes with Bulgaria and Romania (Norway Grants)

## KEY FIGURES 2004-09

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- **€1.2 billion**  
in net funding
- **1250 grants**  
to individual projects, programmes and funds
- **3500 sub-projects**  
under programmes and funds
- **300 partnership projects**  
with donor state entities

# DISTRIBUTION OF GRANTS AWARDED



## WELL ON TRACK

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- **100% FUNDING ABSORBED**
  - All available funding committed in all beneficiary states
  - A few projects have been withdrawn after commitment
- **Most countries on track in their implementation**
  - 90% were finalised before implementation deadline 30 April 2011
  - 100 projects given 1-year extensions
  - 61.5% disbursed

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### III. BILATERAL RELATIONS

# HIGH VISIBILITY



# BILATERAL RELATIONS

## 300 PARTNERSHIP PROJECTS

- 20-25% of projects
- Mostly academic research and environment
  - 3 in 5 research projects (environment & health)
- 1 in 3 partnership projects are in Poland
- Largest proportion of partnership projects in Bulgaria, Latvia, Hungary, Portugal and Romania

## VAST COOPERATION UNDER FUNDS

- Scholarship funds in 11 countries  
2500 students and teachers on exchange to the donor states  
370 cooperation projects between educational institutions
- Polish cultural exchange fund  
71 cooperation projects between cultural institutions/artists
- Norway-Poland research fund  
34 cooperation projects
- Regional development funds in the Baltic trio  
Expert exchanges between municipalities



## EXPECTED RESULTS

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- 170 000 tonnes of yearly CO2 emissions reduced
- 140 environmental monitoring systems created
- 190 000 patients/year benefiting from increased capacity
- 150 cultural heritage sites opened to the public
- 770 scientific publications published
- 1100 buildings constructed or renovated
- 1650 permanent jobs created

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## IV. LESSONS LEARNED

# MID-TERM EVALUATION

## POPULAR, APPRECIATED AND VISIBLE

+

Highly popular and appreciated

Highly visible in the countries

Funds and programmes appear most successful

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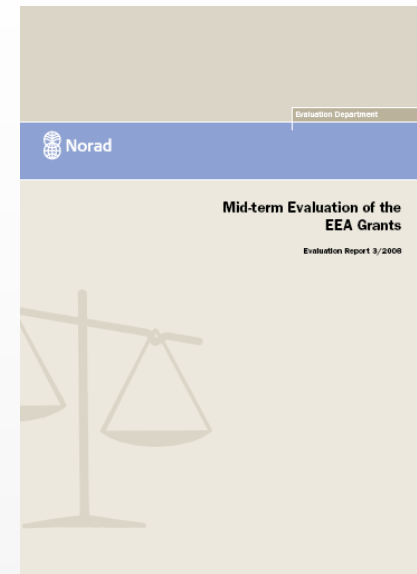
Inefficiencies and double work in implementation have led to delays

More responsibility should be delegated to the beneficiary states

Need to provide clearer links between overall and project objectives



Recommendations taken into account in the continued implementation and have guided the development of the EEA and Norway Grants 2009-14



## EEA AND NORWAY GRANTS SET-UP

- ✓ SOLID AND EFFICIENT MANAGEMENT AND CONTROL
  - All available funding committed
  - Few irregularities to date
  
- ✓ GOOD COOPERATION WITH THE BENEFICIARY STATES
  - Shared checks and control systems
  - Close dialogue between FMO and Focal Point
  
- ✓ BUT CENTRALISED APPROACH CAN BE TIME-CONSUMING

## ESTIMATION OF IMPACT

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- ✓ MANY GOOD AND VIABLE PROJECTS WITH IMPORTANT RESULTS AND ACHIEVEMENTS
- ✓ BUT LACK OF STRATEGIC APPROACH AND LINK BETWEEN OVERALL OBJECTIVE AND PROJECT ACTIVITIES
- ✓ PROJECT APPROACH (BOTTOM-UP) NOT IDEAL FOR SECURING AND MEASURING IMPACT

## BILATERAL RELATIONS

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- MOST SUCCESSFUL WHEN BUILDING ON EXISTING RELATIONSHIPS
- ...AND WHEN THE PARTNERS DEVELOPED THE PROPOSAL TOGETHER
- MANY SUCCESSFUL PARTNERSHIPS, BUT ALSO CHALLENGES:
  - High transaction costs due to administrative and bureaucratic procedures
  - Limited resources to develop partnerships
  - Uneven level of involvement by the partners and unclear expectations
  - Capacity constraints, language and cultural barriers

# SECTOR EVALUATIONS AND REVIEWS

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- Regional policy and cross-border activities
- Greenhouse gases
- Energy saving and renewable energy in Poland
- Biodiversity
- NGO funds
- Cultural heritage in the Czech Republic
- Schengen and the judiciary
- Bilateral partnerships

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## V. KEY FEATURES 2009-14



## Overall objectives

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**Reduction of economic and social disparities**

in the European Economic Area

**and**

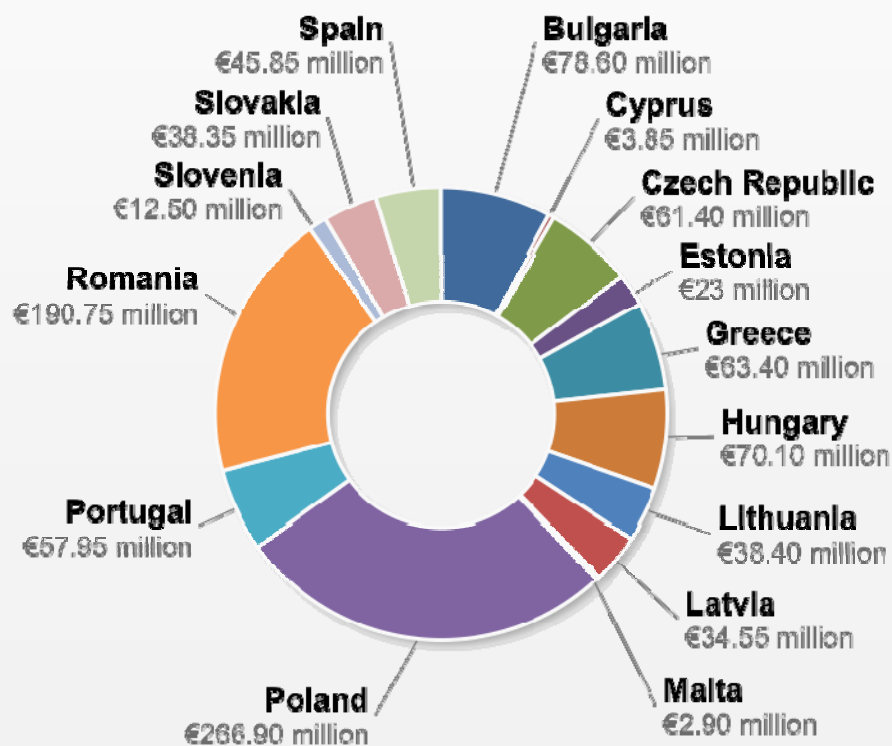
**Strengthen bilateral relations**

between the Donor States and the Beneficiary States

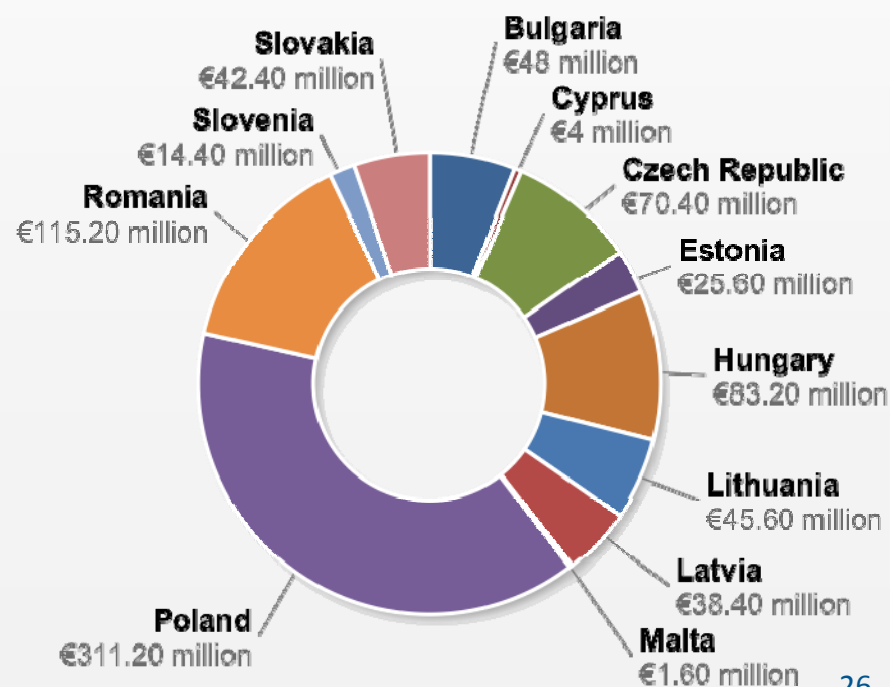
# STRENGTHENED CONTRIBUTION

1.79 billion euro in total

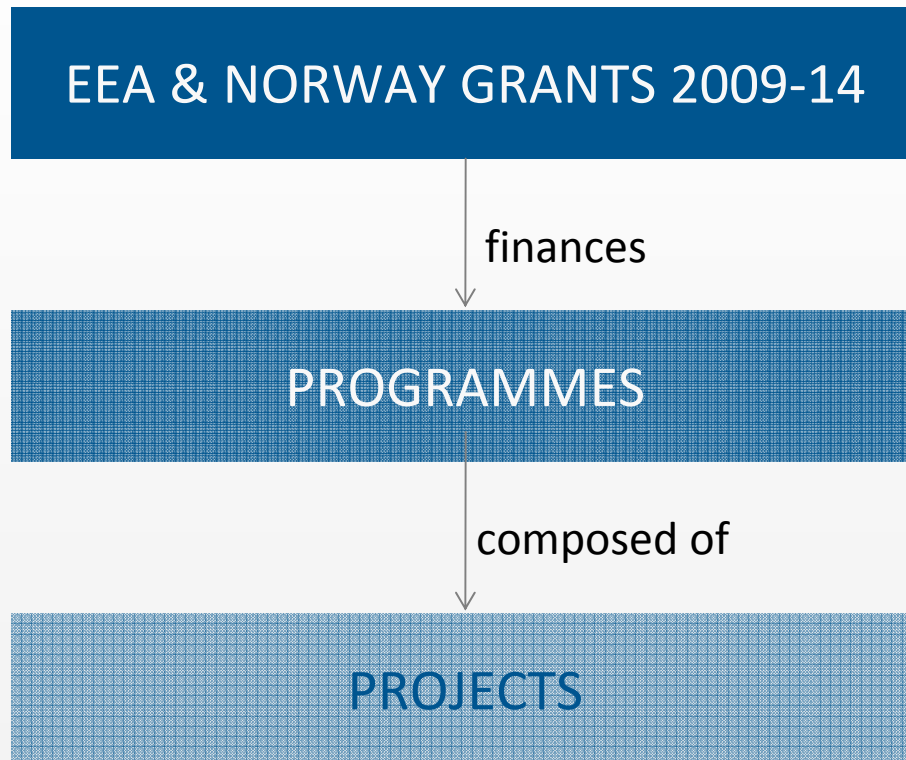
**EEA Grants 2009-14**  
€ 988.50 million



**Norway Grants 2009-14**  
€ 800 million



# PROGRAMME APPROACH



- More focused support for increased impact
- Recommendation from mid-term review and own experience
- Places more responsibility and tasks at country level

# STRENGTHENING BILATERAL RELATIONS

- MORE STRATEGIC COOPERATION

- Strengthening bilateral relations is a new objective in the agreements
- Partnership at programme level for more strategic and long-term cooperation
- Partnerships at project level will continue
- Funds for networking and establishing partnerships

## Donor Partnership Programmes

Cooperation between public entities in the Donor States and the Beneficiary States will be defined within priority sectors in each country

## PRIORITY SECTORS

### ■ GREEN FOCUS

¼ of the funding to environmental and climate efforts

- Strengthened focus on climate change, incl. CCS
- Green industry innovation as a new area

#### EEA GRANTS

Min. 30% per BS to  
environment, renewable  
energy and climate change

#### NORWAY GRANTS

Minimum 20% to  
Carbon capture and storage

## PRIORITY SECTORS

- Continued focus on the development of **civil society**
- New funding for **social partners**
- Continued support to research and scholarships, cultural heritage, human and social development, the justice sector

### EEA GRANTS

Minimum 10% per BS  
to civil society

### NORWAY GRANTS

1% per BS to Promotion of decent  
work and tripartite dialogue

# 32 programme areas developed

## Integrated Marine and Inland Water Management

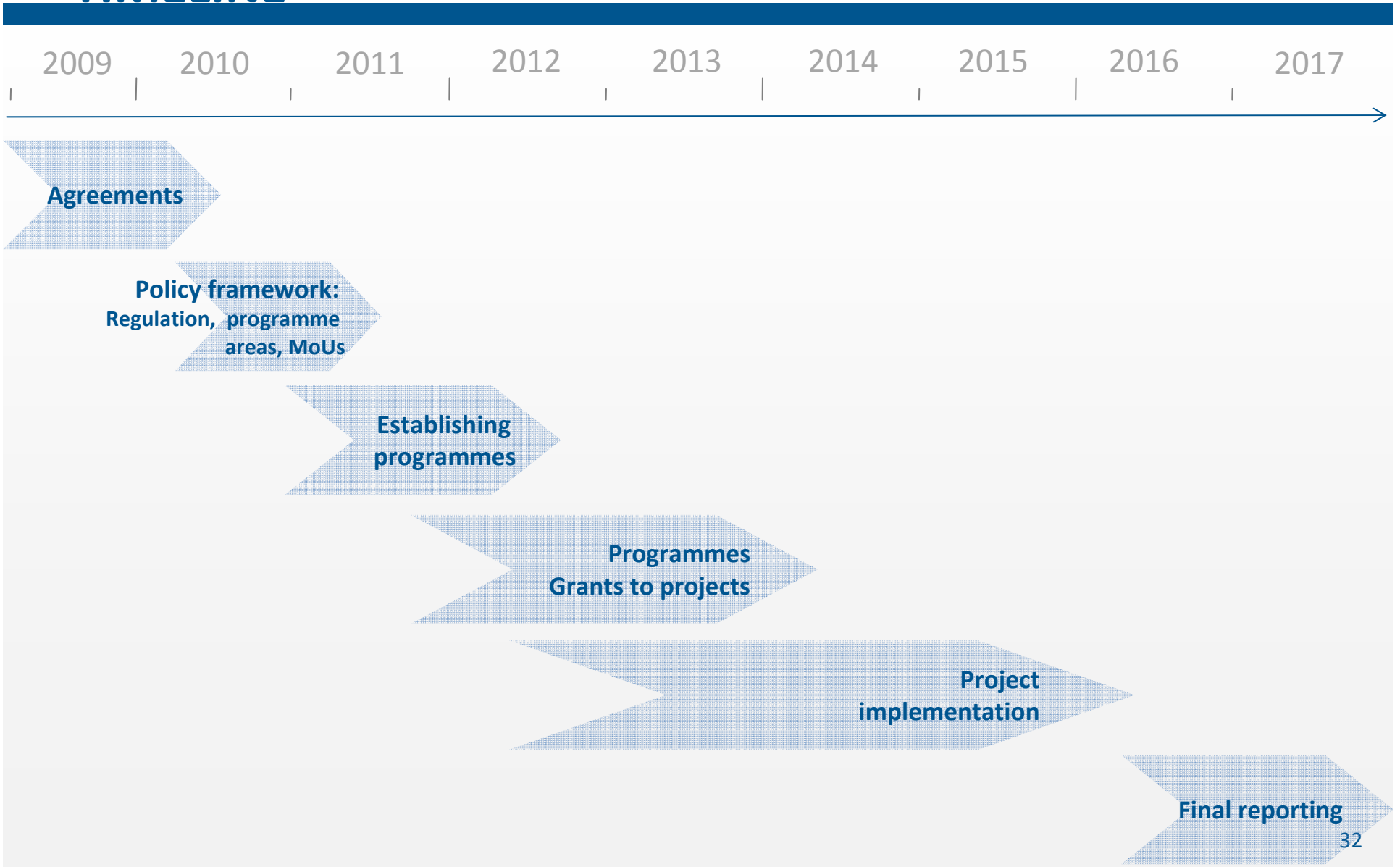
Expected outcomes

- More integrated management of marine and inland water resources
- Established environmental targets and management plans for marine and inland waters
- Improved water management infrastructure

## Good environmental status in European marine and inland waters

- Improved monitoring on marine waters
- Increased capacity for assessing and predicting environmental status in marine and inland waters
- Increased awareness of and education in integrated marine and inland water management

# TIMELINE





# ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

## FMC/Norway

- Management of FMs

## FMO

- Day-to-day implementation

## European Commission

- Screening of programme

## National Focal Point

- Implement MoU
- Reach FMs objectives
- Strategic reporting

## Auth. on irregularit.

- Preparation and submission of irregularities reports

## Audit Authority

- Verifying the management and control system

## Certifying Authority

- Certify financial information

## Monitoring Comm.

- Review progress in the implementation

## Progr. Operators

- Prepare/implement programmes
- Reporting
- Monitoring

## (Donor) Progr. Partners

- Contribute to the development /implementation of programmes

## Cooperation Comm.

- Provide advice on preparation and implementation of programmes

## Project Promoters

- Initiate, prepare and implement projects
- Reporting

## (Donor) Project Partners

- Contribute to the preparation and implementation of projects

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[www.eeagrants.org](http://www.eeagrants.org)

[www.norwaygrants.org](http://www.norwaygrants.org)

[www.facebook.com/EEANorwayGrants](https://www.facebook.com/EEANorwayGrants)

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