

Reducing disparities Strengthening relations

EFTA Seminar on the European Economic Area

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Financial Mechanism Office

- Manages the EEA and Norway Grants (the Financial Mechanisms)
- Administratively part of EFTA
- Reports to the MFAs of Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway (Financial Mechanism Committee)
- Oversees implementation in 15 beneficiary countries



Chairman of the
Norwegian EEA Review
Committee, Professor
Fredrik Sejersted

“The history of the grants is an interesting chapter in the story of the relationship between the EU and Norway 1992-2011”

Norwegian EEA Review Committee

- Important part of Norway-EU relationship
- Great political and economical importance
- Central foreign policy instrument

€1.8 bln

2009-14

15

beneficiary states

**Environment, health,
justice, research,
education, public
sector, civil society**

**Reducing
disparities**

**Strengthening
relations**

Economic disparities

GDP/person

in PPS, compared to EU average (2010)

Norway +81 %

Iceland +11 %

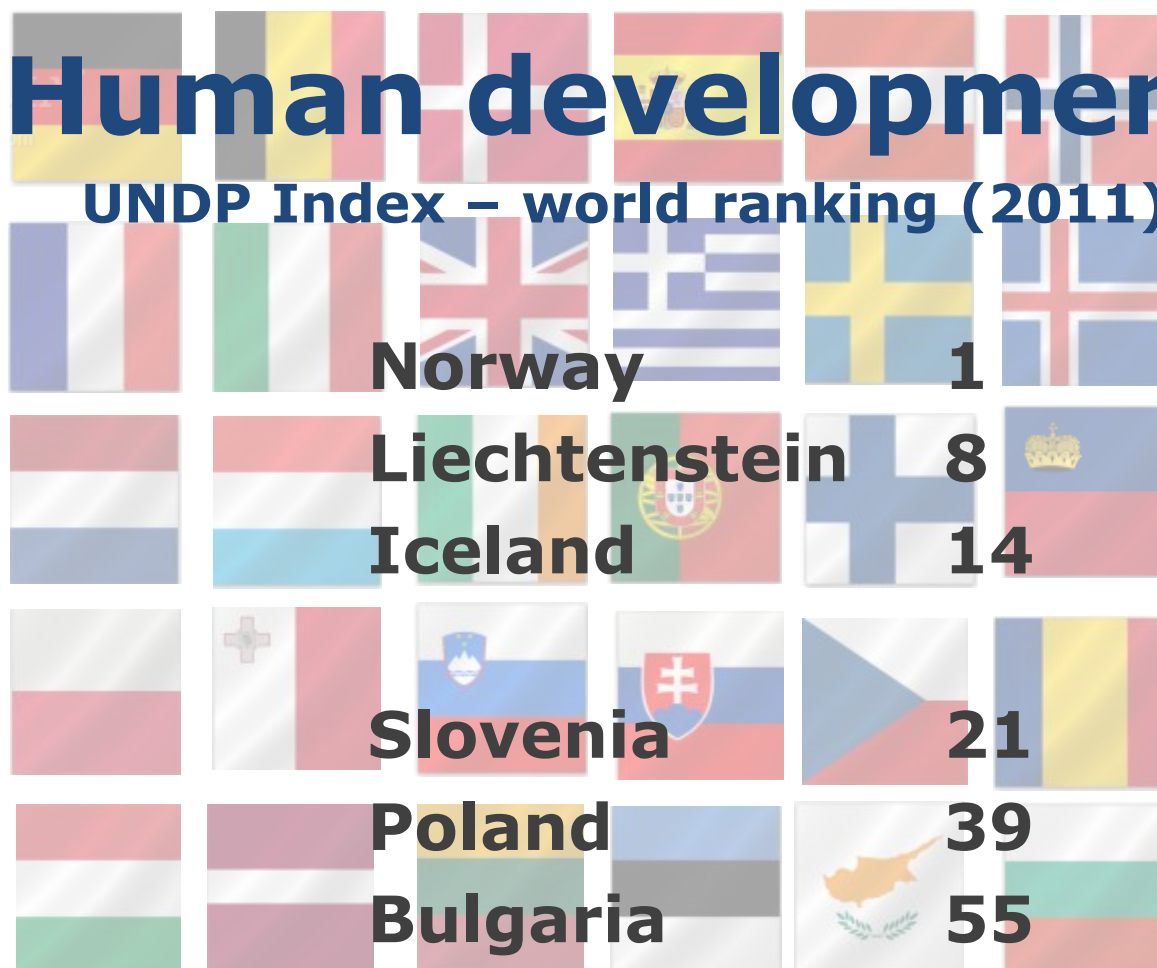
Latvia -49%

Romania -54%

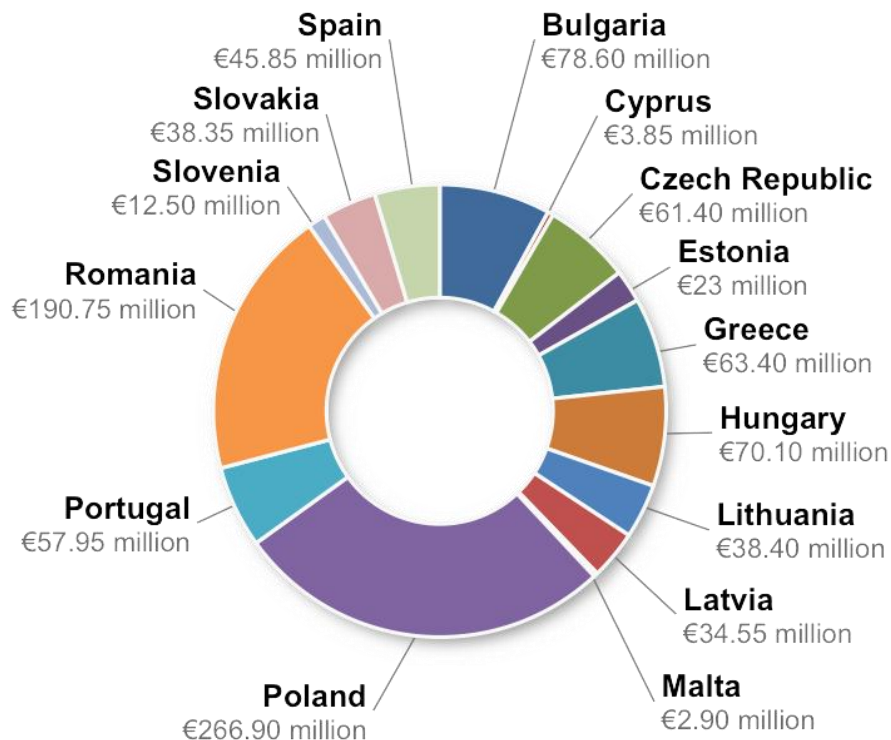
Bulgaria -56%

Human development

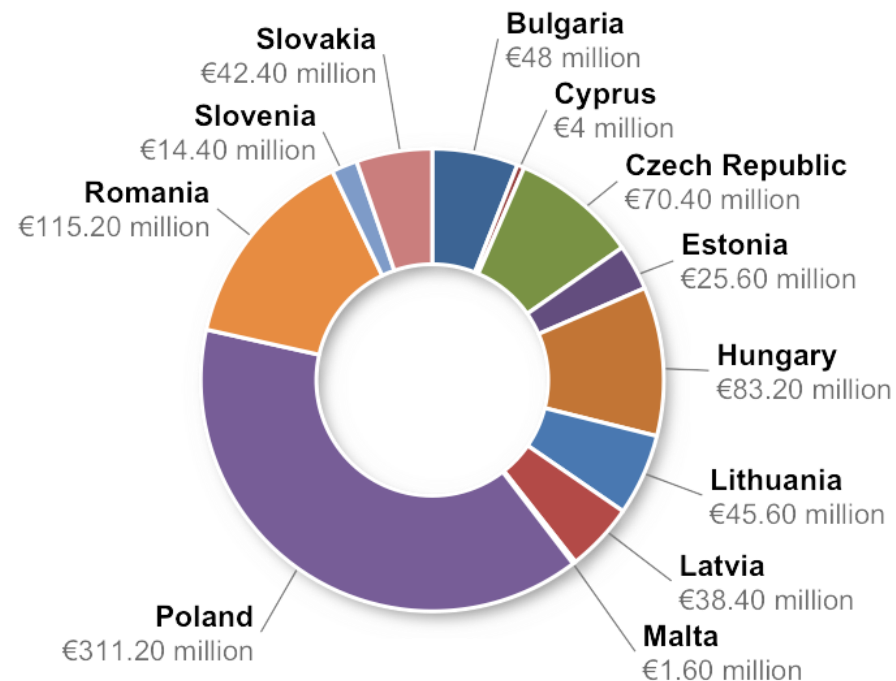
UNDP Index – world ranking (2011)



EEA Grants 2009-14 € 988.50 million

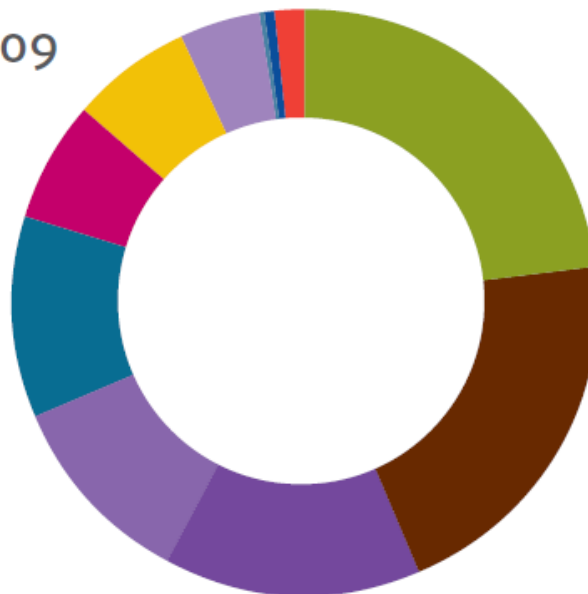


Norway Grants 2009-14 € 800 million



Looking back

2004-2009



Environment 344

€275.2 million

Cultural heritage 220

€244.1 million

Health and childcare 233

€171 million

**Human resource
development** 163

€127.6 million

Schengen and Judiciary 59

€132.5 million

Civil society 17

€77.4 million

Academic research 93

€80.3 million

**Regional policy and
cross-border** 57

€52.6 million

Acquis communautaire 7

€3.9 million

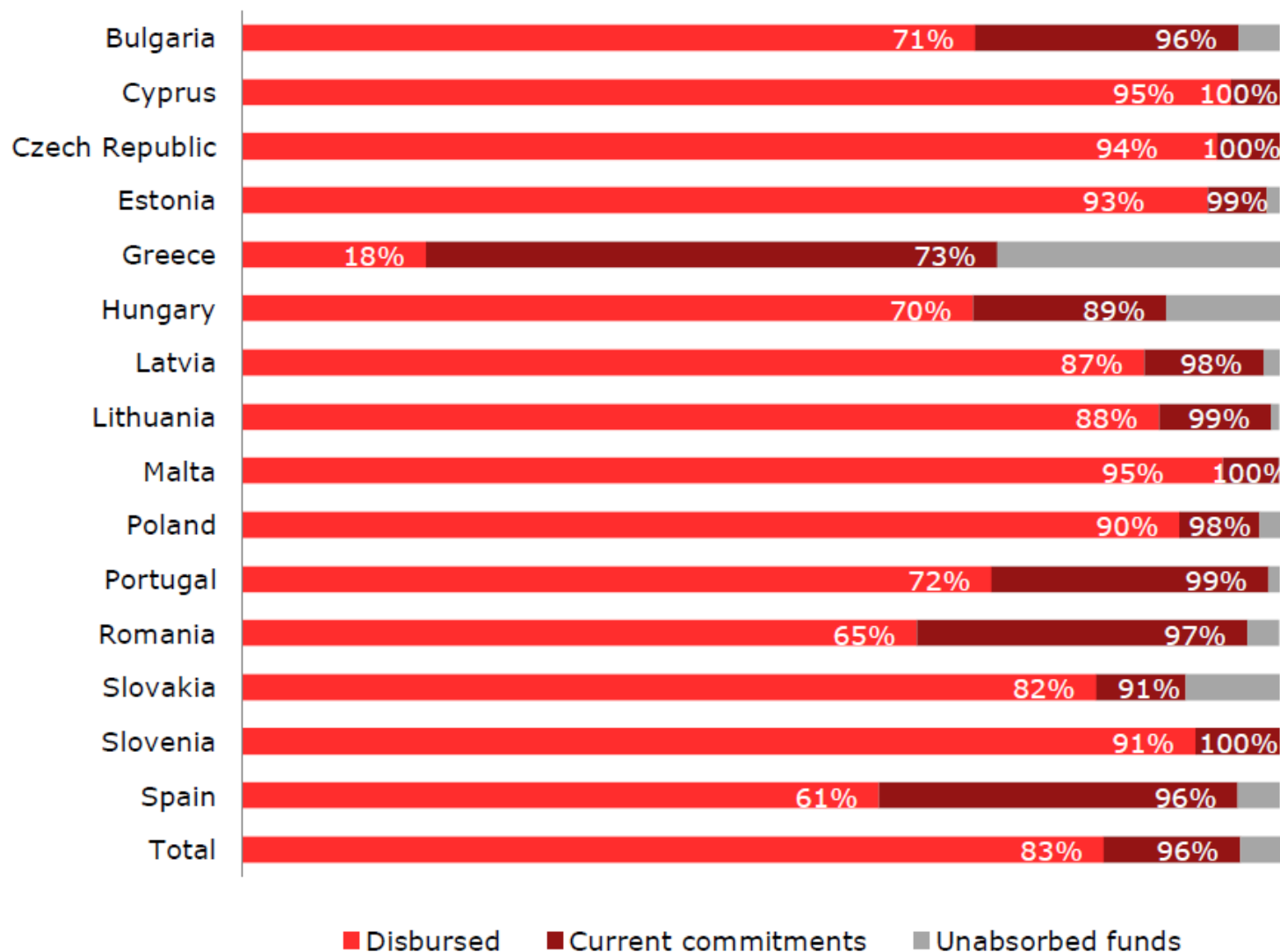
Seed money funds 9

€5 million

Technical assistance 13

€19.6 million

Absorption rate per February 2012



Characteristics

- Accessible funding
- Complementing EU funds
- Flexible
- Popular
- Visible



Learning and change

- **More focus for higher impact** – fewer areas of support, more focused in each country
- **Programme approach** – increasing responsibility and ownership at country level
- **Strategic cooperation** – programme partnerships as well as funds available to spur networking and cooperation in projects



Changes have been implemented in order to improve results when it comes reducing disparities and strengthening bilateral relations.

Bilateral cooperation



- Donor partnership programmes
 - with public entities from Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway
- Cooperation in projects
- Bilateral funds
- Council of Europe



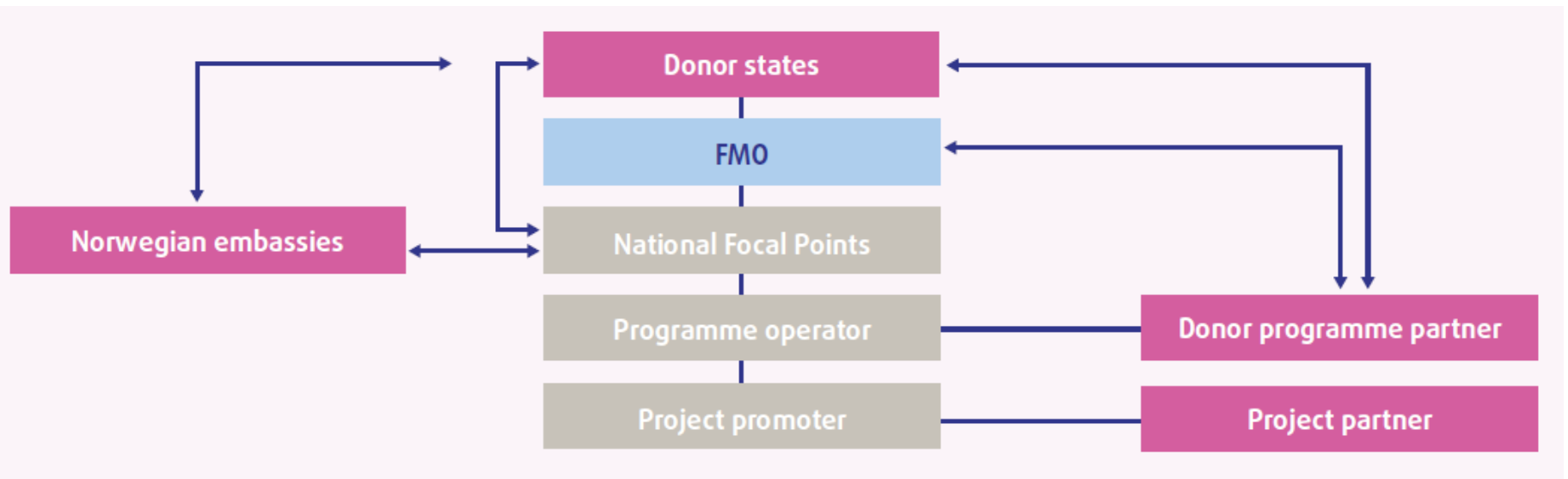
Risk management

- Cooperation with Transparency International
- Country level integrity checks
- Programme level risk assessments
- External consultants to make the assessments
- Yearly seminars with all countries



**TRANSPARENCY
INTERNATIONAL**

Set-up



1/3 to environment and climate change

- Renewable energy
- Energy efficiency
- Climate change
- Carbon capture and storage
- Green innovation
- Research and innovation
- Biodiversity



Green industry innovation is a new sector. €100 million to business development in cooperation with Norwegian SMEs. BG, EE, HU, LV, LT, RO, SK.

NGO funds in all 15 countries - €147 million

- Democracy and good governance
- Human rights
- Anti-discrimination
- Social justice
- Sustainable development



NGOs play a key role in mobilising citizens and bringing issues to the fore in the public arena, engaging in policy debates and tackling key concerns in society.

Research and scholarships

- Research cooperation
- Application of research
- Educational cooperation
- Student mobility
- Staff mobility



Bilateral cooperation is key to the programmes on research and education. Scholarships for 2-way mobility between Norway and 11 countries.

Protecting and assisting vulnerable groups

- Improve capacity
- Improve systems
- Equal access to health
- Protecting vulnerable groups



Roma is Europe's largest minority group and also the most discriminated against. The Grants are stepping up the support to improve the situation of the Roma population.

JUSTICE AND HOME AFFAIRS

Fighting crime and improving the judiciary system

- Police cooperation
- Access to justice
- Efficient judiciary
- Better prisons
- Fight human trafficking



*Fighting cross-border
and organised crime,
and improving
correctional services,
including non-custodial
sanctions*

Status and timeline

- Most programmes approved by end of 2012
- Open calls and selection of calls will pick up in 2013
- Implementation of projects - peak 2014-2015
- Seeing results and impact 2015-16
- Closing 2016-17
- New Grants 2014-19?

www.eeagrants.org

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