

# EEA EFTA

## Participation in EU Programmes

Through the EEA Agreement, the EU Member States and the EEA EFTA States (Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway) have created the shared European Economic Area – the EEA. The EEA Agreement enables the EEA EFTA States to participate as members of the EU's Internal Market, but it also strengthens and broadens cooperation in other fields such as research and development, environment, education, and social policy. Cooperation and integration between EU Member States is in many areas managed through EU programmes such as Horizon Europe and Erasmus+.



The EEA EFTA States have a right to participate in EU programmes through the EEA Agreement and this participation is an important part of their integration in the Internal Market and a key instrument for cooperation in a wider range of areas.

The participation of the EEA EFTA States in EU programmes is formalised by the inclusion of relevant programme regulations in Protocol 31 to the EEA Agreement.

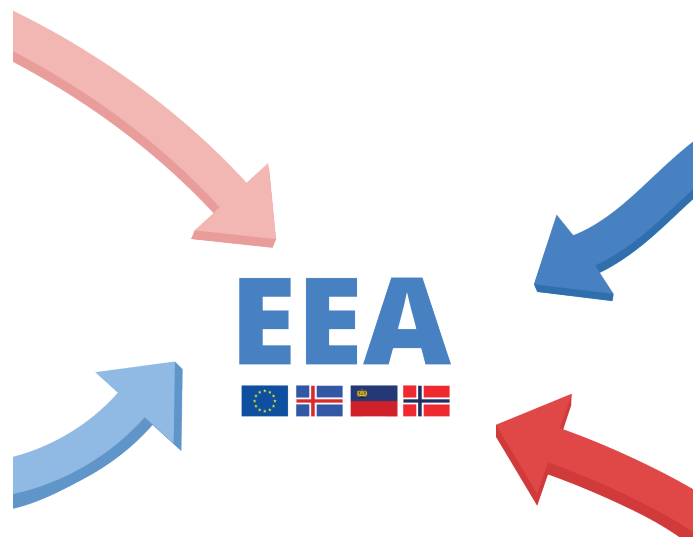
## Cooperation according to the EEA Agreement

Part VI of the EEA Agreement covers cooperation between the EEA EFTA States and the EU Member States outside the four freedoms, specifically through participation by Iceland, Liechtenstein

and Norway in EU programmes. Article 81 of the Agreement extends to the EEA EFTA States the right to access all parts of the programmes in which they participate. When participating in projects, institutions, undertakings, organisations and nationals from Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway have the same rights and obligations as those from the EU Member States.

## Financial contribution

The EEA EFTA States contribute financially to the programmes in which they participate by adding onto the agreed EU budget. The financial contribution takes the form of multiannual commitments by the EEA EFTA States to make annual payments towards the programmes. Each payment is established as a proportion of the EU's annual budget towards each specific programme. The proportion varies from year to year based on the ratio between the gross domestic product (GDP) of the EEA EFTA States and the total GDP of the European Economic Area.





## ***Mutual benefits of EEA EFTA participation in programmes***

The positive impact of programme participation is substantial for the citizens of the EEA EFTA as well as EU Member States. It enables cross-border collaboration between researchers, businesses, cultural exchanges, strengthened consumer and environmental protection, and facilitated mobility of students and workers. Participants learn from each other and exchange expertise and best practices that exist in a wide range of areas.



**EU Programme participation**

**[www.efta.int](http://www.efta.int)**

## ***EEA EFTA participation in the 2021-2027 programming period***

EU programmes are normally implemented in periods of 7 years corresponding with the Union's Multiannual Financial Frameworks (MFF). The EEA EFTA States participate in 13 EU programmes in the 2021-2027 programming period, either fully or partially:

- **Horizon Europe (ICE, NOR)**
- **European Defence Fund (NOR)**
- **Digital Europe (ICE, LIE, NOR)**
- **Life (ICE)**
- **Erasmus+ (ICE, LIE, NOR)**
- **European Solidarity Corps (ICE, LIE)**
- **EU Programme for Employment and Social Innovation (ESF +/- EaSI) (ICE, NOR)**
- **Single Market Programme (ICE, LIE, NOR)**
- **Union Civil Protection Mechanism/ RescEU (ICE, NOR)**
- **European Space Programme (ICE, NOR)**
- **Creative Europe (ICE, LIE, NOR)**
- **EU4Health (ICE, NOR)**
- **InvestEU (ICE, NOR)**