

# Council of Europe – partner of the EEA and Norway Grants

The Council of Europe contributes its expertise on human rights, democracy and the rule of law to reach the overall goals of the EEA and Norway Grants.

The Council of Europe (CoE) has long been engaged in setting standards on human rights and furthering democracy and the rule of law across Europe. The close partnership between the EEA and Norway Grants (the Grants) and the CoE draws on the Council's wealth of experience and expertise in areas such as justice reform, fighting corruption, trafficking and gender-based violence and promoting equality and social inclusion.

## HOW IS THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE INVOLVED?

The CoE is involved in 19 programmes of the Grants, covering nine beneficiary countries. The CoE gives advice in the development and implementation of programmes and also takes part in a number of projects.

### ROMA

Improving the situation of the Roma is a priority across the Grants and targeted programmes have been established in countries with sizeable Roma minorities such as Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Hungary, Romania and Slovakia. The CoE is involved in several programmes in this area, including on preventing early school drop-out of young Roma girls in Hungary, training of police on human rights in Bulgaria and improving living conditions for Roma communities in Romania.

## WHAT IS THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE?

The Council of Europe (CoE) is an intergovernmental organisation which covers virtually the entire European continent with its 47 member countries. Founded in 1949, the CoE seeks to develop common and democratic principles and the protection of individuals based on the European Convention on Human Rights. [www.coe.int](http://www.coe.int)

Working in partnership with the Council of Europe, the EEA Grants support efforts to improve the well-being of vulnerable children.



**NO HATE  
SPEECH  
MOVEMENT**

## COMBATING HATE SPEECH ONLINE

The EEA and Norway Grants are a strategic partner to the Council of Europe's campaign 'No Hate Speech Movement'. The campaign takes action against hate speech online in all its forms, and is based on human rights education, youth participation and media literacy. All NGO programmes in the beneficiary countries of the Grants are engaged in the campaign, which was launched in March 2013 and runs until summer 2014.

### CHILDREN AND YOUTH

More than 20% of children in the EU are at risk of poverty. Working with the CoE, the Grants are implementing a programme in Hungary promoting education and preventing early school drop-out of marginalised children and young people, with a focus on integration through sports. In Bulgaria, the Grants are supporting the establishment of four youth centres with the CoE quality label as well as nursery schools that foster multicultural learning and the integration of Roma children.

### GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE

Combating gender-based violence is vital for improving gender equality and empowering women. The CoE advises on how to bring national legislation in line with the Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence (Istanbul Convention). Efforts are also being made to improve inter-agency communication and coordination to tackle gender-based violence.

## JUSTICE AND HOME AFFAIRS

The CoE is involved in programmes promoting fairer and more efficient judicial systems. This includes training of legal professionals in judicial ethics and at the European Court of Human Rights as well as modernisation of IT-systems used by judges, prosecutors and legal staff in Bulgaria and Romania. Support also covers provision of legal aid for disadvantaged groups and improved assistance from the courts for victims of crime and witnesses.

The CoE is also engaged in programmes working with the police in the Czech Republic, Bulgaria, Romania and Poland to tackle problems such as corruption, trafficking in human beings and on improving relations between the police and the Roma community. In Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Romania and Latvia, the CoE is involved in programmes on prison reform.

## EEA AND NORWAY GRANTS AT A GLANCE

Through the EEA and Norway Grants, Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway contribute to reducing disparities in Europe and to strengthening bilateral relations with 15 countries in Central and Southern Europe. Funding worth €1.788 billion has been set aside for 2009 to 2014. Key areas of support include environment and climate change, civil society, human and social development, cultural heritage, research and scholarships, decent work and justice and home affairs. Norway contributes 97% of the funding.

With support from the Grants, three Bulgarian judges are working at the European Court of Human Rights in Strasbourg for a year.



(Photo CoE/Sandro Weltin)

## FURTHER COOPERATION

The Grants and the CoE have also teamed up in a strategic partnership, co-organising conferences on issues such as gender-based violence (2011), combating hate speech in social media (2012) and trafficking (2013). The Grants support CoE activities in beneficiary countries in the areas of human rights, democracy and the rule of law, such as constitutional reform in Romania, a conference on hate speech in Poland and promoting media freedom in Hungary.

Country	Programme	Total amount of programme (€ million)
Bulgaria	Children and youth at risk	7.9
	Domestic and gender-based violence	2.0
	Schengen cooperation and cross-border crime	6.0
	Judicial capacity building	3.0
	Correctional services	7.0
Cyprus	Home for Cooperation: strengthening dialogue on history teaching	0.6
Czech Republic	Capacity building and institutional cooperation ( <i>including improved implementation of the GRECO recommendation*</i> )	1.8
	Correctional services	2.5
Hungary	Children and youth at risk	11.2
Latvia	Correctional services	13.1
Malta	Capacity building and institutional cooperation	0.3
Poland	Domestic and gender-based violence	3.0
	Schengen cooperation and cross-border crime	10.0
Romania	Children and youth at risk	22.0
	Domestic and gender-based violence	4.0
	Judicial capacity building	8.0
	Correctional services	8.0
Slovakia	Local and regional initiatives	1.0
	Domestic and gender-based violence	7.0

\* GRECO is the Group of States against Corruption established by the Council of Europe to monitor compliance with the organisation's anti-corruption standards