

CZECH REPUBLIC

The Czech Republic has received funding since entering the EU and EEA in 2004. For the period of 2009-2014, the Czech Republic has been allocated €131.8 million; up from €110.9 million over the previous five year period. Norway provides 97% of the funding, with Iceland and Liechtenstein providing the rest.

KEY AREAS OF SUPPORT

- › Improving mental health services and reducing health inequalities
- › Strengthening research cooperation between Norway and the Czech Republic
- › Protecting biodiversity and reducing vulnerability to climate change
- › Tackling organised crime and strengthening the justice system
- › Improving the situation for vulnerable groups, including Roma
- › Revitalising cultural heritage and improving access to heritage sites

BILATERAL COOPERATION

Five Norwegian public entities are partners in the implementation of programmes in the Czech Republic, with partners from Iceland and Liechtenstein participating on scholarships. The Council of Europe will lend its considerable expertise to programmes on judicial capacity building and correctional services.

The Directorate of Nature Management in Norway is taking part in the programme on environment and climate change. The Research Council of Norway and the Norwegian Centre for International Cooperation in Education are involved in research and scholarships. The Norwegian Institute of Public Health is involved in the public health programme, while the Arts Council Norway is contributing to the small grants scheme for cultural exchange.

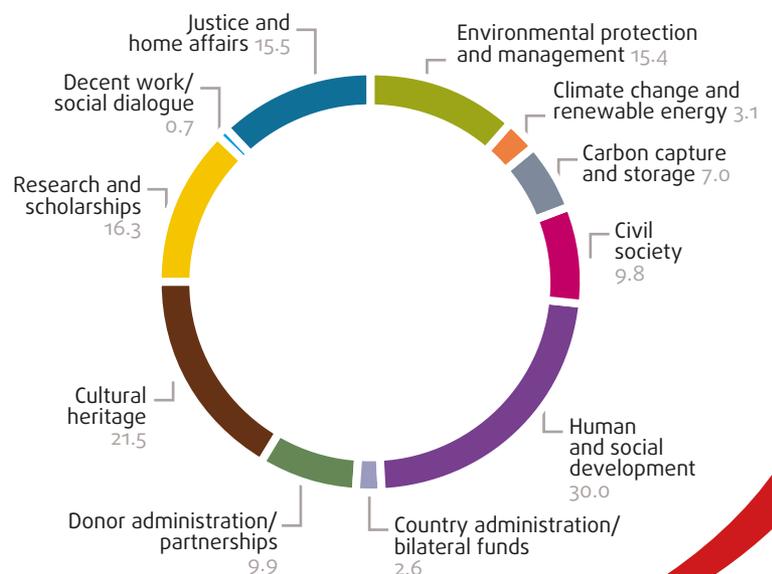
At a national level, funding is available through the bilateral funds to support networking and foster project partnerships.



	EEA GRANTS	NORWAY GRANTS	TOTAL FUNDING
	€61.4 M	€70.4 M	€131.8 M
	Czech Republic		EU-27
GDP per capita in PPS (EU=100)	80		100
Economic growth (% change on previous year)	1.7		1.5
Unemployment rate	6.7		9.7
Youth unemployment	18		21.4
Public debt (% of GDP)	41.2		82.5
Human development index	14 (EU-27 ranking)		
Corruption perception index	21 (EU-27 ranking)		
Inequality of income distribution*	3.5		5

Sources: Eurostat, UNDP, Transparency International
All data is from 2011 except where * indicates 2010

DISTRIBUTION OF FUNDING (€ MILLION)



IN FOCUS

COMMUNITY-BASED CARE FOR THE MENTALLY ILL

According to EU estimates, one in four Europeans suffers from a mental health problem at least once during their lifetime. People with mental health problems face a higher risk of poverty and social exclusion than the general population.

In most European countries, mental health services have been underfunded for many years. The Czech Republic is no exception and institutional care is still the norm. Under the Norway Grants, a new system will be established to allow patients to be treated within their local community rather than in remote institutions. This is an important step towards transforming the Czech psychiatric system from institutional to community-based care. Gradually preparing patients for return to normal life helps reduce the chance of relapse. Czech NGOs will provide patient support and follow-up and will raise awareness of mental illnesses within their local community.

STRENGTHENING TIES THROUGH RESEARCH

Research, innovation and education are at the top of the EU agenda for growth and job creation. The Norway Grants support a major bilateral research programme between the Czech Republic and Norway. The programme is expected to substantially strengthen cooperation between researchers from the two countries and enhance research capacity.

In line with Czech national priorities and based on an analysis of cooperation between Czech and Norwegian researchers within the EU's Seventh Framework Programme, the selected thematic fields are social

sciences, humanities, environment and health. At least one Czech and one Norwegian participant must be involved in each project.

Projects will support, for example, young researchers and those returning from parental leave by, for example, offering them relevant Ph.D. assignments. Small and medium-sized enterprises may be involved in cooperation with research organisations.

REVITALISING CULTURAL HERITAGE

Bringing cultural treasures back to life, and making them accessible for local communities and tourists alike, contributes to economic growth and job creation. Over 40% of the Grants to the Czech Republic in the previous period went to the cultural heritage sector. Increased attractiveness of reconstructed monuments and buildings has boosted visitor numbers and provided local communities with new public spaces. In addition, over four million pages of historical documents were digitised and are now freely accessible online to experts and the public.

The Czech Republic has a wealth of cultural monuments and historical buildings; a total of 12 sites are on UNESCO's world heritage list. Many of the country's heritage sites have fallen into a critical state of disrepair. The EEA Grants are supporting the revitalisation of cultural heritage sites, making them accessible to the public. Plus, the Grants will support projects promoting cultural diversity, cultural exchange and cultural expression of minority groups.

Programme	Partner(s)	Grant (€ million)
Environment and climate change	Norwegian Directorate for Nature Management	18.4
Carbon capture and storage (CCS)		7.0
NGO fund		9.8
Children and youth at risk		4.3
Local and regional initiatives		1.2
Cultural heritage and contemporary arts	Arts Council Norway	21.5
Decent work and tripartite dialogue	Innovation Norway*	0.7
Czech-Norwegian research programme	Research Council of Norway	12.5
Cooperation among schools and scholarships	Icelandic Centre for Research / National Agency for Educational Affairs of Liechtenstein / Norwegian Centre for International Cooperation in Education	3.8
Capacity-building and institutional cooperation		1.8
Public health initiatives	Norwegian Institute of Public Health	19.2
Gender equality and work-life balance		3.5
Domestic and gender-based violence		3.5
Schengen and cross-border crime		7.0
Judicial capacity-building and correctional services	Council of Europe	4.9

*Programme Operator