New financial support for the sustainable development of Greenland

A Financing Agreement covering the 2015 European Union support to the Greenland education programme was signed today in Brussels by the Prime Minister of Greenland, Kim Kielsen and Marcus Cornaro, Deputy-Director General for International Cooperation and Development, European Commission.

Deputy-Director General Marcus Cornaro said: “The Financing Agreement that we signed today is further proof of the EU commitment towards Greenland. As in previous years the EU assistance will continue to support education sector, which is considered particularly relevant for the sustainable development of Greenland.”

The European Commission foresees a funding of €30.7 million this year. The entire amount will be implemented in the form of budget support in favour of the education sector in Greenland.

Greenland receives funding from the EU’s general budget through the "EU-Greenland partnership". The 2014-2020 cooperation programme was approved by the Commission in September 2014, following extensive consultations between the European Commission and the Governments of Greenland and Denmark.

Education has been chosen as the main sector for the cooperation: continuing existing support for the education sector with a particular emphasis on vocational education and training, the post-elementary school system and the pre-school and elementary school system.

Background

The EU has been assisting Greenland in developing the education sector since 2007, with a focus on vocational training, the acquisition of qualifications (for jobs requiring skilled persons and competence courses for unskilled persons).

Examples of how the EU is making a difference

The EU-Greenland partnership 2007-2013 allocated approximately €190 million, mainly to the education sector.

The EU support has contributed to the following achievements:

- attendance of Vocational Education and Training (VET) and to high school increased by 39% compared to 2005.
• the number of students in higher education increased by 53% compared to 2005.
• the number of graduates from all types of formal education after elementary school increased by 64%.
• places in dormitories increased by 500 between 2010 and 2013.
• In addition, new schools (Greenland School of Minerals and Petroleum in 2011) and school expansions (School for Social Workers in 2010) have been completed.

For more information

Website of DG International Cooperation and Development, cooperation with Greenland: https://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/countries/greenland_en

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