THE EEA FINANCIAL MECHANISM
and
THE NORWEGIAN FINANCIAL MECHANISM 2004-2009

A new partnership for cohesion
THE EEA ENLARGEMENT

- The EEA-EFTA states Norway, Iceland and Liechtenstein are part of the EU Internal Market through the EEA Agreement

- The EU enlargement from 15 to 25 members also meant that the EEA expanded from 18 to 28

- The EEA agreement includes cohesion objectives

- The EEA EFTA states have a history of cohesion funding
OUR OBJECTIVES

• To reduce economic and social disparities in the enlarged EEA area

• To integrate the new EEA members into the Internal Market

• To strengthen cooperation between the EEA-EFTA states and the Beneficiary States - the ten EU newcomers, and Spain, Portugal, Greece
MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

• Each Beneficiary State signs a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for both the EEA and the Norwegian Financial Mechanism (the EEA FM MoU only for Spain, Portugal, Greece)

• The MoUs contain:
  - a framework agreement
  - Annex A: managerial set-up
  - Annex B: further specifications within priority areas
  - Annex C: further specifications of forms of grant support, for example NGO funds
PRIORITIES

• Protection of the environment
• Sustainable development
• European cultural heritage
• Human resources development
• Health and childcare
• Research within above sectors

• Additions under the Norwegian Financial Mechanism
  – Implementation of Schengen _aquis_
  – regional policy
  – cross-border activities
  – technical assistance for implementation of EU _aquis_
HEALTH AND CHILDCARE
- Objectives from the MoUs with Poland

• Improvement of living standard through
  • Prevention and health promotion programmes
  • Improved quality of healthcare services
  • Increased access to and streamlining of healthcare

• Focus on small towns and rural areas with substantially limited availability of medical services and information

• Consistency with national and regional healthcare development strategies
TYPES OF ELIGIBLE HEALTH PROJECTS
- Example Poland

- Health promotion
- Prenatal healthcare improvement
- Increasing social awareness on modern family planning methods and mature parenthood standards
- Therapeutic telemedic systems and medical internet-based education and data collection systems
- Improvement of access to and quality of healthcare
- Integration of societies menaced by pathology and prevention of juvenile crime
- Integration of disabled children with fully abled children
FUND ALLOCATIONS

- Poland: 47% (47%)
- Hungary: 11% (11%)
- Czech Republic: 10% (10%)
- Slovakia
- Slovenia
- Malta
- Lithuania
- Latvia
- Cyprus
- Spain
- Greece
- Estonia
- Portugal
### BREAK-DOWN OF ALLOCATIONS

(by-country in EUR millions)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Allocation (EUR millions)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Poland</td>
<td>558.630</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hungary</td>
<td>135.057</td>
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<tr>
<td>Czech Rep.</td>
<td>110.910</td>
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<tr>
<td>Slovakia</td>
<td>70.329</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lithuania</td>
<td>67.257</td>
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<tr>
<td>Latvia</td>
<td>53.760</td>
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<tr>
<td>Spain</td>
<td>45.840</td>
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<tr>
<td>Greece</td>
<td>34.260</td>
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<tr>
<td>Estonia</td>
<td>32.760</td>
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<tr>
<td>Portugal</td>
<td>31.320</td>
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<tr>
<td>Slovenia</td>
<td>18.594</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cyprus</td>
<td>4.662</td>
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<tr>
<td>Malta</td>
<td>3.621</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td><strong>1,167.000</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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TYPES OF PROJECT ASSISTANCE

• Promoters/intermediaries select the appropriate type of project assistance:
  – Individual Projects
  – Programmes

• Or apply for specific types of grant assistance:
  – Block grants
  – Seed money
CO-FINANCING

• The Beneficiary State will generally be required to co-finance the projects

• Contributions from one mechanism may not exceed 60% of project costs, except:
  - Projects co-financed by government budget allocations, where it can go up to 85%

• Combined support from the two mechanisms should generally not exceed 90% of total costs

• European Community ceilings for co-financing are not to be exceeded in any case
GRANT RATE

• The grant rate shall be the minimum necessary to allow the project to proceed

• The grant rate shall be calculated with regard to:
  – The revenue generated by the project
  – EU rules on state aid and competition
DISBURSEMENTS

• Disbursements are normally made as reimbursements of already incurred costs except:
  – Up to 10% advance payments for individual projects and programmes
  – Partial advance payments for block grants and seed money

• The FMO will nominate a disbursement agent
SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

Available on www.eeagrants.org

• Rules and Procedures
• Application form
• Guidelines:
  - detailed eligibility provisions – expenses
  - programmes
  - projects
  - block grants
  - seed money facilities
  - publicity

To come on www.eeagrants.org

• Standard Grant Agreement
• Guidelines
  - disbursements
  - reporting and monitoring
  - revenue generating projects
ORGANISATION

• Coordination between the two mechanisms

• The FMC and the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs

• The FMO – “one-stop shop”
APPLICATION PROCEDURE

Applicant → Applicant → Applicant

National Focal Point

FMO

NMFA

FMC

Screening by the EC
PROJECT CYCLE

• Applicants send applications to Focal Point
• Focal Point reviews the applications
• If the review is positive, the application is forwarded to the FMO
• An appraisal of the complete application is carried out by an independent agent
• After the appraisal, the EU Commission screens the applications
• The FMO gives the FMC/Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs a reasoned recommendation
• The FMC/Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs sends the Focal Point a grant offer letter or a reasoned refusal
• Signing of grant agreement
REPORTING AND MONITORING

• The Beneficiary State is responsible for the reporting and monitoring of projects

• Monitoring arrangements will be set in the grant agreements

• The FMO will also conduct external monitoring of projects through a monitoring agent
AUDITS AND FINANCIAL CONTROL

• The Beneficiary State is responsible for the auditing of approved projects

• The Beneficiary State is required to provide an audit trail for all operations

• The EFTA Board of Auditors and the Office of the Norwegian Auditor General will conduct audits on behalf of the two mechanisms

• The FMC and the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs may also arrange audits and inspections
COMPLETION OF PROJECTS

• The Beneficiary State will be required to make a completion report, which releases the last disbursement

• Ex-post evaluations may be carried out
THE FMO IN BRUSSELS

• Ms Stine Lundin Andresen, Director
• Ms Laura Harjapaa, Senior Officer
• Mr Hjortur Sverrison, Senior Legal Officer
• Mr Kurt Haugen, Senior Financial Controller
• Mr Norman Weisz, Senior Environment Officer
• Mr Erik Brynhildsbakken, Information Officer

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