EØS-midlene
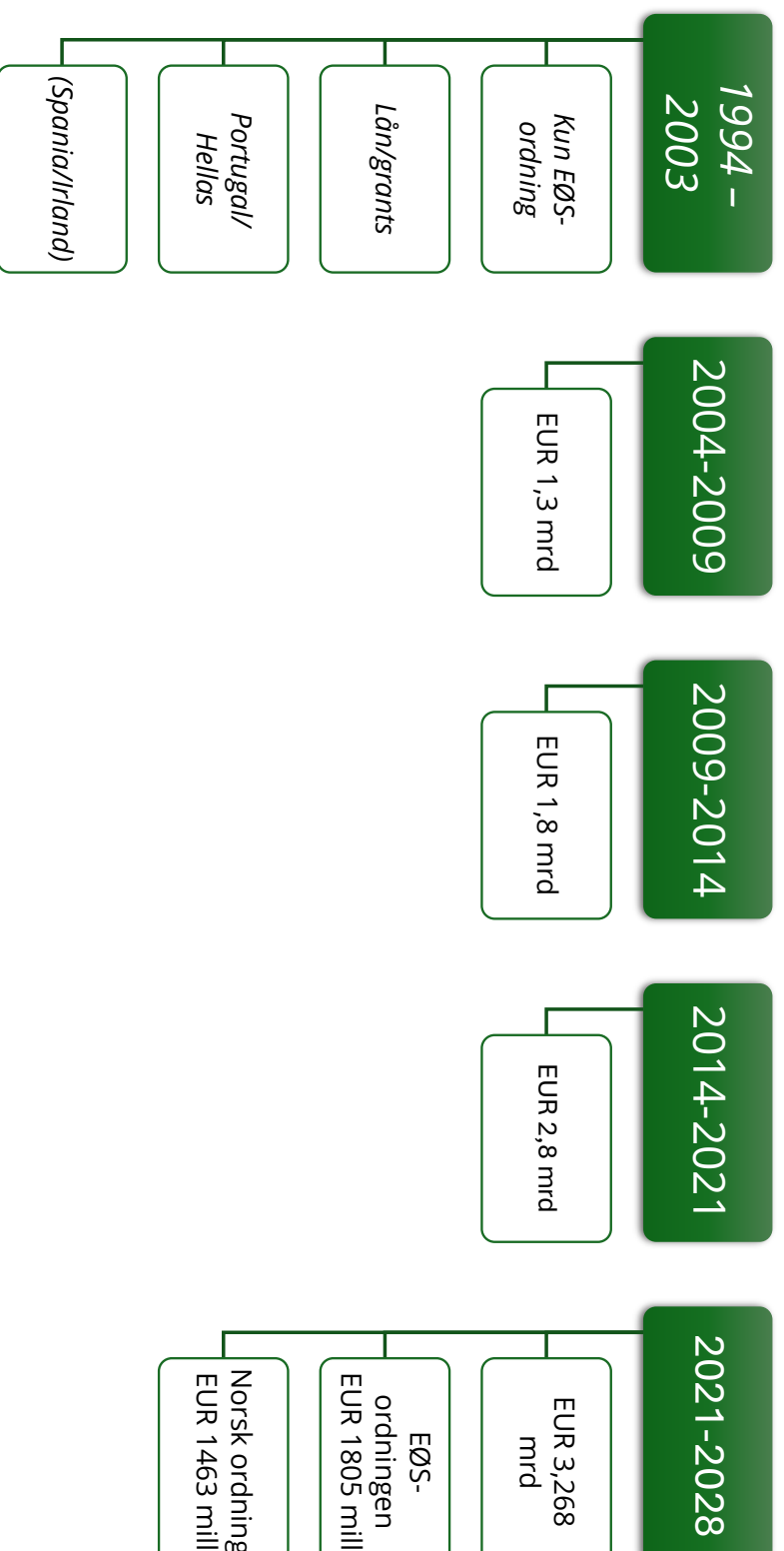
Enhet for EØS-midlene

Oslo, 21.november 2025

Utenriksdepartementet

EØS-midlenes målsettinger

- Redusere økonomiske og sosiale forskjeller
- Styrke bilaterale relasjoner

Bidrag per periode

1994 – 2003
- Kun EØS-ordning
- Lån/grants
- Portugal/Hellas
- (Spania/Irland)

2004-2009
- EUR 1,3 mrd

2009-2014
- EUR 1,8 mrd

2014-2021
- EUR 2,8 mrd

2021-2028
- EUR 3,268 mrd
- EØS-ordningen EUR 1805 mill
- Norsk ordning EUR 1463 mill

15
land

3,268
mrd. euro

Portugal

Iceland

Liechtenstein

Norway

Slovenia

Czech Rep.

Croatia

Hungary

Slovakia

Poland

Lithuania

Latvia

Estonia

Greece

Malta

Bulgaria

Romania

EØS-
midlene

Cyprus

Tematiske prioriteringer

- European green transition
- Democracy, rule of law and human rights
- Social inclusion and resilience

Green transition

Culture

Disaster prevention and preparedness

Green business and innovation

Local development, good governance and inclusion

Access to Justice

Serious and organised crime

Research and innovation

Roma inclusion and empowerment

Domestic and gender-based violence

Asylum, migration and integration

Education, training and youth employment

Public health

Correctional Services

Institutional cooperation and capacity building
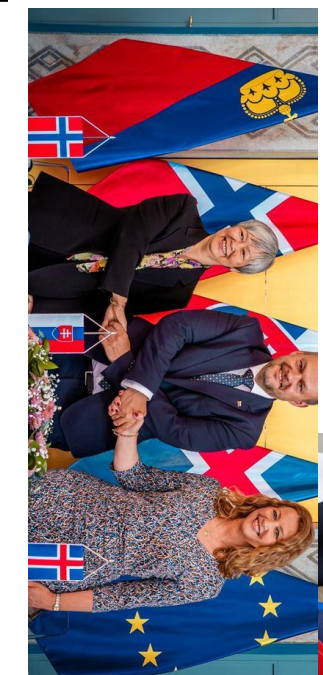
Bilaterale midler

Nasjonalt

- Fremme bilateralt samarbeid bredt.

– forvaltes av mottakerlandene sammen med ambassadene

Programmer

- fremme bilateralt samarbeid innen programmet, fremme partnerskap

– forvaltes i programmene

Samarbeidsavtaler med 9 av 15 land er nå undertegnet

Norske samarbeidspartnere

UDI
Utlendingsdirektoratet
Norwegian Directorate
of Immigration

KS

Forskningsrådet

Direktoratet for
høyere utdanning
og kompetanse

NORGES
DOMSTOLER

Innovasjon
Norge

Miljø-
direktoratet

Justis- og
beredskapsdepartementet

POLITIET
POLITIDIREKTORATET

Helsedirektoratet

Kulturdirektoratet

dsb
Direktoratet for
samfunnssikkerhet
og beredskap

KRIMINALOMSORGS-
DIREKTORATET

NVE

RIKSANTIKVAREN

Kultur

5. Culture

5 land: Polen, Tsjekkia, Bulgaria, Slovakia og Portugal

Programme area objective

Increased participation, sustainability and diversity in arts, culture and cultural heritage.

Rationale for the support

Culture is a global public good that has an intrinsic value and drives sustainable development and social cohesion. Arts and culture are important parts of the democratic infrastructure as venues for freedom of expression and critical reflection, fostering dialogue, and respect for diversity. Cultural heritage, both tangible and intangible, is a valuable source of knowledge and resilience. It also serves as a resource for the vitality and shared prosperity of local communities.

Broad participation in cultural life enhances social cohesion and contributes to informed, engaged and democratic societies. Such societies are more resistant to threats from disinformation, hate speech and extremism. Inequalities in cultural participation and restrictions on artistic expression undermine these benefits and need to be addressed.

Increasing threats from climate change call for adaptation measures and for the safeguarding of cultural heritage and traditional knowledge. At the same time, culture and cultural heritage can be drivers of the green transition by raising awareness, increasing knowledge and contributing to the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions.

With the right skills in place, the digital transition offers new prospects in accessibility, exchange and mobility. To increase participation, this will be coupled with support for and revitalisation of cultural heritage.

Culture and cultural heritage offer a wide scope of opportunities for bilateral cooperation.

Areas of support

- Cultural and artistic creation and cooperation, capacity building, outreach and exchange, with specific regard to cultural diversity.
- Sustainable restoration, revitalisation and management of cultural heritage.

How the objective will be addressed

The programme area will promote the freedom of cultural expression through artistic and cultural creation, exchange and mobility. To increase participation, this will be coupled with support for and revitalisation of cultural heritage.

The programme area will support measures that ensure human rights, cultural diversity, and the participation and cultural self-expression of women, minorities, and persons in vulnerable situations and from disadvantaged areas.

The programme area will support the green and digital transitions of the arts and culture sector through capacity building and networking, as well as through joint cultural programming.

To create conditions for socially, economically and environmentally sustainable cultural heritage management, this programme area will support capacity building, research, monitoring and risk analysis.

Support for the restoration, revitalisation and reuse of cultural heritage monuments, sites and environments will include climate change mitigation and adaptation measures.

To improve access to cultural heritage, the programme area will support documentation and accessible presentation, and community engagement, including through cultural education.

Revitalisation of cultural heritage will contribute to sustainable development through enhanced skills and knowledge, and by generating local revenue. A participatory approach will ensure relevance and that benefits are shared across the community.

To ensure outreach and inclusive and active participation, and to help pool competences needed to respond to challenges, the programme area will encourage multi-stakeholder partnerships across sectors and disciplines, involving, among others, the education sector.

Key actors and beneficiaries

Public and private entities and academic institutions in the field of arts, culture, and cultural heritage, independent cultural actors, and civil society organisations are the main implementing actors. The end beneficiaries are the general public, with a focus on people with limited access to culture, minorities, and persons in vulnerable situations.

Programme area specifics

- All programmes shall include cooperation between Donor and Beneficiary States.
- Investment in infrastructure and equipment (hard measures) shall only be supported alongside capacity building, training, or experience sharing (soft measures).
- The maximum level of funding for investment in infrastructure and equipment (hard measures) shall be set in the memorandum of understanding or, exceptionally, in the programme agreement.
- All programmes shall allocate funds to strengthen the independent cultural sector.

7 land – Polen, Kroatia, Slovakia, Estland, Tsjekkia, Bulgaria, Portugal

1. Green Transition

Programme area objective

Acceleration of the green transition towards a more sustainable society.

Rationale for the support

The triple planetary crisis of climate change, pollution and biodiversity loss demands an acceleration of the green transition. This programme area supports the transition towards climate neutrality in 2050 through the implementation of the EU's Green Deal and its legal obligations.

The green transition gives Europe an opportunity to build resilience. Societies must adapt to the unavoidable impacts of climate change. Further efforts are needed to ensure access to affordable, reliable and clean energy. Energy use must become more efficient, and it is crucial to secure a more sustainable supply of raw materials to scale up clean technologies.

Pollution and unsustainable consumption lead to environmental degradation that damages ecosystems and increases biodiversity loss. To strengthen resilience across sectors, the resource-intensive linear economy must evolve into a resource-efficient circular economy. Efforts are needed to protect and restore nature, increase the use of renewable natural resources, and reverse the degradation of ecosystems.

Some groups and areas suffer disproportionately from the impacts of climate change and environmental degradation. The geographical dimension of ensuring a just green transition must therefore be addressed.

The green transition can have significant impacts on individuals and societies. Equality and non-discrimination are cross-cutting principles that shall be addressed throughout the programme area.

Areas of support

- Clean energy transition.
- Air, water, and soil pollution.
- Energy security.
- Energy poverty.
- Sustainable and smart mobility.
- Circular economy.
- Industrial carbon management.
- Natural sinks for absorbing carbon.
- Climate change adaptation.
- Biodiversity and ecosystems.
- Green governance.

How the objective will be addressed

The programme area aims to strengthen all levels of government to enable the implementation of, and compliance with, the EU's Green Deal. This may include regulatory processes, management systems, and the use of digital solutions, as well as access to and sharing of data. Knowledge sharing, awareness raising, anti-disinformation campaigns, and capacity building will contribute to achieving the programme area objective.

The programme area supports the application of nature-based solutions, low-carbon technologies, and environmentally friendly practices. The funding is suitable both for smaller infrastructure projects and projects that facilitate larger investments. This may include consequence analyses, feasibility studies or testing of new concepts, and pilots. The funding may cover areas where the private sector sees limited potential benefits from investments.

The scope of each programme will be defined by selecting areas of support. Unless otherwise agreed, and to avoid a complex programme design, the scope will be limited to a restricted number of areas of support.

Key actors and beneficiaries

Citizens, the public sector and the private sector must mobilise and work together to address the programme area objective. Public institutions, all levels of government, and private entities are the main implementing actors. Civil society organisations, entities from the Donor States, research institutions, and international organisations are valuable partners. The supported measures will benefit the general public.

The programme area will promote social inclusion, gender equality and youth empowerment. It will target the people that are most affected by climate change and environmental degradation.

Programme area specifics

- All programmes shall include cooperation between Donor and Beneficiary States.
- Investment in infrastructure (hard measures) shall only be supported alongside capacity building, training, or experience sharing (soft measures).

MILJØ-DIREKTORATET

NVE

Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Tsjekkia, Portugal, Bulgaria, Kroatia

Direktoratet for høyere utdanning og kompetanse

Utdanning

4. Education, Training and Youth Employment

Programme area objective

Enhanced quality, access and relevance of education and training for the green and digital transitions, human rights, democracy and youth employment.
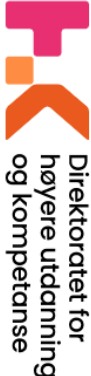
Rationale for the support

Quality education and training are fundamental to the well-being of individuals and their personal development and lay the ground for active citizenship and democratic culture. Lifelong access to education and training supports the employability and professional development of individuals. Access to education, training and apprenticeship adapted to young people's needs is key to a successful transition from school to work.

Quality education, training, reskilling and upskilling are crucial to achieving the green and digital transitions, remedying labour shortages, bridging the skills gap, and addressing the ongoing transformation of jobs due to technological development. Quality education and training fuel research, innovation, and social and economic development, as well as competitiveness.

Areas of support

*   Innovative approaches in formal and non-formal education and training.
*   Capacity building to enhance youth employability.
*   Professional development of teachers, educators, trainers, school leaders and administrative staff in education.

How the objective will be addressed

The programme area aims to strengthen the knowledge, skills and attitudes learners need to participate in the green transition, promoting increased understanding of global societal challenges and their interconnectedness.

Enhanced digital capacity will be supported, as well as the strengthening of transversal skills that enhance civic competences and democratic participation such as creativity, critical thinking, media, and digital literacy. Empowering learners to build a universal culture of human rights and equipping them with skills to combat disinformation will be emphasised.

Emphasis will also be placed on increased cooperation with the labour market to enhance the relevance of education and training and support youth employability.

The programme area will build the capacity of teachers, trainers, school leaders and administrative staff at all levels of education.

Programmes may address

may include interventions at institutional as well as national levels. Cross-sectoral collaboration is encouraged.

Rather than addressing the areas of support broadly, each programme will focus on specific challenges or gaps to make an impact on institutional capacity and learning communities in the Donor and Beneficiary States.

An important aim is to strengthen the participation of the Donor and Beneficiary States in the EU programme for education, training, youth and sport and in the European Education Area, as well as to achieve synergies with European funding.

Key actors and beneficiaries

Key actors are educational institutions, school providers and institutions involved in decision-making and public policy, at all levels, addressing both formal and non-formal education, training and youth employment.

Partnerships with industry and organisations, both in the private and public sectors, including international

governmental organisations, are encouraged. The end beneficiaries are pupils, students, teachers, and other staff at all levels of education and training, as well as enterprises and employees. Specific attention will be given to persons in vulnerable situations.

Programme area specifics

*   Partnerships between Donor State entities and Beneficiary State entities are mandatory in all projects, unless otherwise stipulated in the programme agreement.
*   All programmes shall promote inclusion and diversity, including gender equality.
*   The practice of financing and management under the programme area will be aligned with the principles of the EU framework programme for education, training, youth and sport as far as possible.
*   Student and staff mobility and exchanges may be embedded in institutional cooperation projects. Individual mobility outside the context of institutional cooperation will not be supported.

KS

6. Local Development, Good Governance and Inclusion

Programme area objective

More resilient, inclusive, and sustainable communities.

Rationale for the support

Shifts in the global economy, climate change, the green and digital transitions, migration patterns, pressure on democracy, and demographic trends are major interdependent challenges impacting European communities.

European regions are gradually catching up, but many still struggle and are ill-equipped to reap the benefits of the green and digital transitions. Investments and innovation are increasingly concentrated in metropolitan areas, and the economic downturn has exacerbated existing economic, social, and territorial disparities. More than a fifth of the population in the EU is considered at risk of poverty or social exclusion, with women, immigrants, refugees, Roma, and other disadvantaged groups disproportionately affected.

Local and regional actors manage approximately half of European public investments, including the largest share of climate action. Sustainable local and regional development is hence the cornerstone of national socio-economic development, building resilience, diversity, prosperity, and

Areas of support

- Local investments in the green transition, climate action, environmental sustainability, resilience, social development, gender equality and human rights is key to achieving the programme area objective.
- Local institutional development and public governance.
- Local democracy, local and community media, information integrity, and open local government.
- Socio-economic inclusion promoting equality, non-discrimination, diversity, and active participation of disadvantaged communities.
- Networking and policy exchanges between municipalities, and with civil society and the central government.

How the objective will be addressed

Integrated, territorial, socio-economic development premised on local democracy, enhancing existing initiatives and services, and improving access to, and use of, other sources of funding.

Good governance should prescribe the necessary political and institutional processes and support improvements in public administration governance arrangements and capacity for policy design, implementation, and evaluation practices.

Capacity building of local authorities and stakeholders is highlighted, improving governance mechanisms, fostering multi-stakeholder partnerships, intermunicipal territorial cooperation, community-led local development, inclusion, integration, effective local democracy, and place-based approaches.

The objective is for local and regional authorities to better exploit their potential, aligning local development with EU objectives, aligning national and local priorities, and ensuring that investments are used to respond to citizens' needs.

Programme area specifics

Focus is placed on holistic multi-sectoral methods supporting structural change, piloting novel approaches, and Beneficiary States.

Key actors and beneficiaries

Local and regional authorities are crucial to achieving the programme area objective. The principle of partnership is the cornerstone, building infrastructure and equipment (hard measures) shall be set in the memorandum of understanding or, exceptionally, in the programme agreement.

Special emphasis is placed on disadvantaged areas and groups.

Donor partners and international organisations can be valuable partners.

- All programmes shall include cooperation between Donor and Beneficiary States.
- Investment in infrastructure and equipment (hard measures) shall only be supported alongside capacity building, training, or experience sharing (soft measures).
- The maximum level of funding for investment in infrastructure and equipment (hard measures) shall be set in the memorandum of understanding or, exceptionally, in the programme agreement.
- All programmes shall include capacity building to support good governance at the local level.
- A gender perspective shall be integrated into the design and implementation of all programmes.

Forskningsrådet

Norwegian Ministry
of Foreign Affairs

3. Research and Innovation

Programme area objective

Enhanced excellence in research and research-based innovation, strengthening the foundations for the green and digital transitions, democracy, rule of law, human rights, social inclusion and resilience.

Rationale for the support

Research and innovation strengthen value creation and competitiveness, and build knowledge and capacity to solve societal challenges and support democratic values and principles. Research and innovation have a key role to play in addressing systemic and lasting challenges that put a strain on citizens and communities in Europe. Examples include climate change and environmental degradation, security threats, health issues and well-being, changes in working life and the labour market, rapid technological change, and disinformation.

Areas of support

- Cooperation on research and research-based innovation.
- Informing evidence-based policymaking on societal challenges.
- Engaging citizens in science.
- Overcoming barriers for the career progression of women and early-stage researchers.
- Strengthening the research and innovation ecosystem, such as research administration, communication of research, and open science.

How the objective will be addressed

The programme area will build research and innovation capacity in the Beneficiary States, increasing their participation in the EU framework programme for research and innovation, for example by fostering synergies and complementarities with the EU Missions. The programme area will contribute to the aim of a single market for research, innovation and technology in Europe (the European Research Area).

The programme area will support basic research and applied research focusing on the green transition, climate, and innovation ecosystem.

energy and the environment; the digital transition, including cybersecurity, a competitive and sustainable economy; health; and resilient, socially inclusive and democratic societies.

Research within the social sciences and humanities, as well as cooperation across disciplines and sectors, is encouraged. The programme area will foster the integration of research, education and innovation.

Support for researchers' careers, especially women and young researchers, will take heed of the new Charter for Researchers.

The engagement of citizens, including NGOs, in research and research-related activities will be encouraged to increase the impact of research and innovation. This will strengthen the understanding of democracy, building on scientific knowledge. By contributing to evidence-based decision-making and policy development, the programme area will benefit policymakers, stakeholders, and society at large.

Emphasis will be placed on strengthening the research and innovation ecosystem,

for example by supporting advances towards open science, fostering FAIR data practices to enhance the transparency and reusability of data, safeguarding scientific activities against misuse, and enhancing the skills of research administrators.

Safeguarding fundamental principles and values in research and innovation, such as research ethics and integrity, academic freedom, and open science, in line with the Pact for Research and Innovation in Europe and the Bonn Declaration on Freedom of Scientific Research, is crucial. This encompasses ethical and human rights dimensions of new technology, including artificial intelligence.

Key actors and beneficiaries

Researchers in research organisations and companies are key actors in achieving the programme area objective. The engagement of citizens, non-governmental organisations, public authorities and policymakers is also vital. The public at large is the end beneficiary.

Programme area specifics

- Partnerships between Donor State and Beneficiary State entities are mandatory in all research projects unless otherwise stipulated in the programme agreement.
- The project selection and management under the programme area will be aligned with the principles of the EU framework programme for research and innovation as far as possible. This includes provisions on gender equality, non-discrimination and open science.
- The minimum duration of all research projects will be 36 months unless otherwise stipulated in the programme agreement.

Fond for sivilt samfunn

Society Fund

Samtlige 15 mottakerland

Programme area objective

A vibrant and resilient civil society protecting and promoting democracy, the rule of law and human rights.

Rationale for the support

A healthy democracy relies on a vibrant and resilient civil society that gives a voice to citizens and holds governments accountable. Civil society organisations play a vital role in protecting and promoting democracy, the rule of law, and human rights, as well as in countering discrimination. They contribute to reducing social and economic disparities by fostering informed public debate, taking part in policymaking, building social trust, and strengthening the participation of all, including minorities and groups that are marginalised, in democratic processes and civic activities. For the European green transition, civil society can advocate for systemic change.

Civil society organisations may lack the capacity to fulfil their role effectively. Additionally, civil society in Europe faces increasing challenges, such as restrictive regulatory environments, limited access to resources, intimidation and harassment, and obstacles to participation in decision-making. The digital transformation of civic space offers unprecedented opportunities but also poses challenges to civil society. These challenges threaten the ability of civil society to fulfil its

mission. Civil society's role and engagement of citizens remain critical in protecting the values of the EU and citizen participation as enshrined in Articles 2 and 11 of the Treaty of the EU and in the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights.

Areas of support

- Democratic values, civic engagement, information integrity and media literacy.
- Civil society participation in democratic processes.
- Human rights, anti-discrimination, and social justice.
- Gender equality, including sexual and reproductive health and rights, and LGBTIQ+ rights.
- Climate action, environmental protection, and a just green transition.
- Organisational development and an enabling environment for civil society.

How the objective will be addressed

The objective of the fund will be achieved by supporting civil society organisations involved in advocacy, monitoring, strategic litigation, civic education, and citizen engagement, training and capacity building, as well as research and analysis to inform policy making. The supported activities will contribute to the areas of support and to connected themes such as a stronger rule of law culture, reduced disinformation and hate speech, healthier information spaces, access to information, media pluralism and stronger independent media, a more participatory local democracy, good governance, and an inclusive approach to policy development.

Key actors and beneficiaries

Civil society organisations in the Beneficiary States, working at the grassroots, local, national, or regional levels, are the main actors in achieving the fund's objective. Social movements, informal groups, local community leaders, and human rights defenders are some of the most important partners for civil society organisations and may facilitate the engagement of specific target groups.

The fund will place a strong focus on developing the capacities and resilience of civil society organisations and the sector. Civil society organisations and other organisations will be equipped with new skills to engage volunteers, diversify funding, connect with target groups, enhance their transparency and accountability, and communicate in complex operating environments. In

addition, the fund will support civil society in defending civic space, ensuring an enabling environment for civil society and advocating for better legislation and practices for civic participation.

Independent Fund Operators in each Beneficiary State will manage the programmes and ensure they remain accessible and respond to national needs. A transnational component will foster European-level learning and networking of civil society organisations.

Public sector entities, private companies, and entities from the Donor States can also contribute to civil society activities through partnerships with civil society organisations.

European networks and think tanks may provide support for advocacy initiatives and knowledge exchange that strengthens civil society.

In addition to supporting civil society organisations directly, the fund will benefit diverse target groups, including women, youth, minorities, groups that are marginalised, LGBTIQ+ people, migrants and refugees, and Roma people.

Fund specifics

- All programmes shall include measures to reach out to under-served geographic areas and target groups that are marginalised.
- The provision of social services can only be supported if these services are necessary for enhancing advocacy, community participation, and/or civic engagement.
- At least 20% of the re-granting amount shall contribute to organisational development and an enabling environment for civil society.
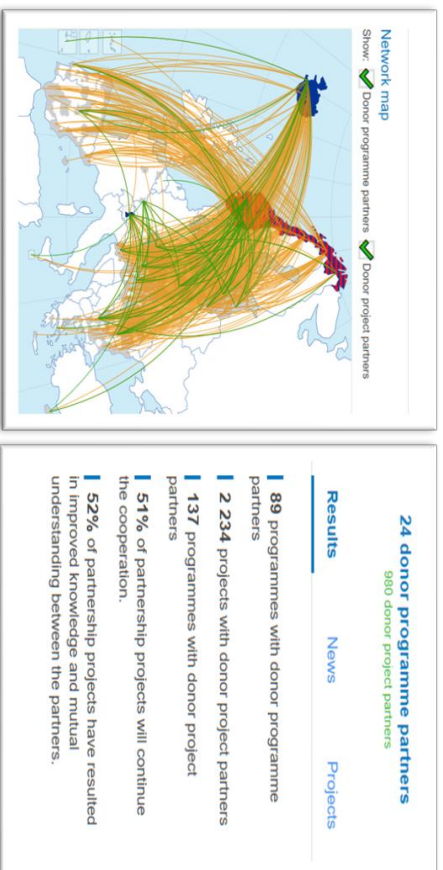
Hvorfor og hvordan være med?

Hvorfor?

- Internasjonal erfaring/nettverk
- Kunnskapsutveksling
- Økt kompetanse
- Springbrett for EU-programmer

Network map
Show: Donor programme partners   Donor project partners

24 donor programme partners
980 donor project partners

Results   News   Projects

89 programmes with donor programme partners

2 234 projects with donor project partners

137 programmes with donor project partners

51% of partnership projects will continue the cooperation.

52% of partnership projects have resulted in improved knowledge and mutual understanding between the partners.

Hvordan?

- Partner – ikke søker
- Fleksibel grad av involvering
  - Studiebesøk
  - Hospitering
  - Workshops
  - Opplæringsaktiviteter
  - Substansielle faglige bidrag
- Flere norske partnere kan samarbeide innen prosjekter

EØS-
midlene

Hvordan holde seg informert?

eeagrants.org

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Liechtenstein
Norway grants   Norway
grants

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us   Countries   Areas of
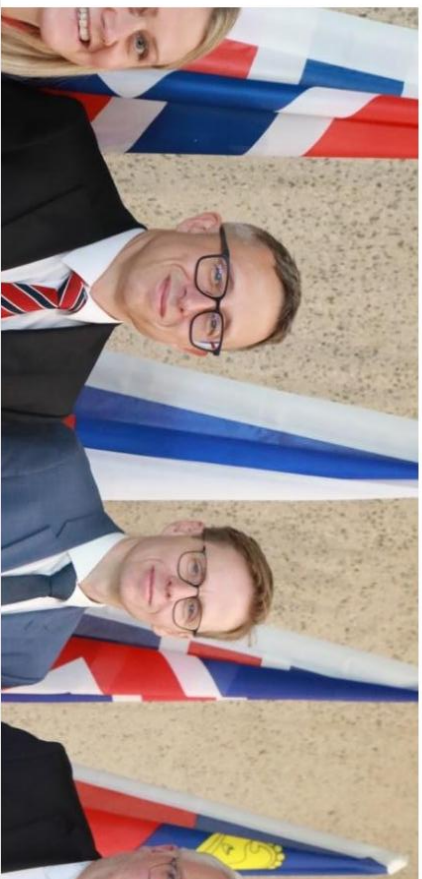work   Partnership
opportunities   Documents
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funding   News &
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Strengthened
support for civil

How to invest in
people and

Utenriksdepartementet

Takk for oppmerksomheten!

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EØS-
midlene

Photo - Guri Dahl/ Tinyagent