

The EEA-enlargement and the EEA financial mechanisms: Possible areas of cooperation in the field of education and research

Norway and the other EEA EFTA states shall in the following five years contribute with 1167 million Euro to the new EU member states and Spain, Portugal and Greece. Education and research have high priority in both of the new EEA financial mechanisms.

It is important to underline that the responsibility for priorities, development of applications and projects, and the follow up of such are the responsibility of the receiving country. The EEA-countries would be pleased to assist in the development and implementation of relevant and suitable actions. The purpose of this document is to address some areas of possible cooperation between Norway and the new member countries in the area of education and research. It is an important Norwegian objective that the financial mechanisms should lead to closer ties between the new EU member states and the EEA-countries

The EEA financial mechanism and the Norwegian instrument state that it should contribute to economic and social cohesion in the European Economic Area. For more information about the agreement and financial mechanism in general see the web pages of the Norwegian MFA: www.europaportalen.no or the website of the Financial Mechanism Office: www.eeagrants.org

Education and Research are important areas to foster development and prosperity in Europe. The Ministry of Education and Research in Norway strongly supports the use of the EEA financial mechanisms in the education and research sectors.

The EEA-financial mechanisms should:

- **Contribute to the development of the enlarged European Economic Area (EEA)**
The projects/programmes on education and research should contribute to the development of these sectors in the new member states. Projects should also preferably contribute to better cooperation between the education and research sectors in Norway and the new EU member states. Education and research are important in the development of the enlarged EEA. Innovation and creativity in the economy are closely connected with the quality and efforts made within education and research.
- **Support the Lisbon strategy**
Projects and programmes should contribute to the fulfilment of the Lisbon goal to make the EU the most competitive and dynamic knowledge-based economy in the world, capable of sustainable economic growth with more and better jobs and greater social cohesion. Norway supports the establishment of the European Research Area and the Future Objectives of the Education Systems in Europe

- **Promote mobility of students, pupils, apprentices, teachers, instructors and researchers**

It is a main objective and priority for The Norwegian Ministry of Education and Research that the financial mechanisms shall contribute to increased mobility of pupils, apprentices, students, teachers, trainers and researchers. Increased mobility is a goal in both the Copenhagen and Bologna processes and in the Lisbon strategy, and the Ministry believe that mobility is important to raise the quality within the individual institutions.

Life long learning

- The role of the tri-partite cooperation between the social partners and the Norwegian Government
- Competence building in enterprises
- Validation of non-formal and informal learning
- Rights to primary, lower and upper secondary education for adults
- Formal and non-formal learning provided by NGO's

Primary and secondary education, including vocational training

- Special needs education and education adapted and customized to individual needs building on Nordic and Baltic experiences (e.g. "A School for all")
- Bilateral cooperation projects focusing on improvement of e.g. learning environment, in particular to prevent bullying in schools
- The Norwegian system of national assessment and monitoring of performance levels in primary and secondary education (experience with methods/tools for monitoring)
- Mobility e.g building on the experiences from Linking up (initial and continuing vocational training- all target groups: pupils, apprentices, young workers, students instructors and teachers) and on the extension of Nordic cooperation in areas such as recognition of professional qualifications to e.g the Baltic states.
- Education for sustainable development, building on experiences from a government funded, web-based network (<http://www.miljolare.no>), linking up schools in primary and secondary education with centres of research.

Higher education

- The Bologna declaration, the goals in the Bologna process
- Develop a system of easily readable and comparable degrees
- Two cycle degree system, undergraduate and graduate
- Mobility of students and staff, establishment of scholarship schemes
- Promotion of European cooperation in quality assurance
- Mutual recognition of higher education, implementation of Diploma Supplement
- Establish a system of credits and credit accumulation based on ECTS
- The social dimension in higher education and students involvement in governance in higher education institutions
- Develop the European dimensions in higher education
- Lifelong learning as part of the European Higher Education Area

Research

- Research is of fundamental importance in the economic, social and cultural development of sustainable societies.
- International research cooperation contributes to the enhancement and exchange of new knowledge.
- The EEA-financial mechanisms may play an important role in strengthening cooperation and building new networks through bilateral programmes.
- Priority may be given to environmental research, health research, social and economic sciences and research relating to institution-building and regional development.
- The EEA-financial mechanism may strengthen the cooperation between researchers for instance through establishing joint research programmes and fellowship- and mobility schemes.

Norwegian contact points

Primary and secondary education

The Directorate for Primary and Secondary Education

Web: <http://www.uddanningsdirektoratet.no/>

Postal address: P.O.Box 2924 Tøyen, 0608 Oslo, Norway

Phone: +47 23 30 12 00 Faxes: +47 23 30 12 99 E-mail: ls@ls.no

Research

The Research Council of Norway

Web: http://www.forskningsraadet.no/forport/application?lang=en_UK

Postal address: P.O.Box 2700 St. Hanshaugen, N-0131 Oslo, Norway

Phone: +47 22 03 70 00 Fax: +47 22 03 70 01 E-mail: post@forskningsradet.no

Higher education (Norwegian operator of EU programmes)

The Norwegian Centre for International Cooperation in Higher Education (SIU)

Web: <http://siu.no/vev.nsf/o/English>

Postal address: P.O.Box 7800, N-5020 Bergen, Norway

Phone: +47 5530 8800 Fax: +47-5530 8801 E-mail: siu@siu.no

Contact persons:

Higher education: Vidar Pedersen - vidar.pedersen@siu.no; tel: + 47 55 30 88 13

Primary and secondary education: Egil Eiene - egil.eiene@siu.no; tel: + 47 44 30 88 12

Vocational training (Norwegian operator of EU programmes)

The National Institute of Technology (Ti)

Web: <http://www.teknologisk.no/eway/default0.asp?e=0&pid=201>

Postal address: P.O.Box 2608 St. Hanshaugen, NO-0131 Oslo, Norway

Phone +47 22 86 50 00 Fax +47 22 20 18 01 E-mail: firmapost@teknologisk.no

Contact person:

Rolf Kristiansen: rolf.kristiansen@teknologisk.no tel: +47 22 86 50 00

Life long learning / Adult education

VOX (National Centre for Adult Learning)

Web: www.vox.no

Postal address: P.O.Box 6139 Etterstad, 0602 Oslo, Norway

Phone: +47 23 38 13 00 E-mail: postmottak@vox.no

Contact person:

Graciela Sbertoli: Graciela.sbertoli@vox.no tel: +47 23 38 13 46

Overall education and research policy questions

The Ministry of Education and Research

Web: <http://odin.dep.no/ufd/engelsk/bn.html>

Postal address: P.O.Box 8119 Dep, 0032 Oslo, Norway

Phone: 22 24 90 90 Fax: 22 24 95 40 E-mail: postmottak@ufd.dep.no