

Romania – program on Renewable Energy, Energy Efficiency and Energy Security – funded by EEA- and Norway grants

Background:

The EEA and Norway Grants 2014-2021 represent funding from Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway to reduce economic and social disparities and strengthen cooperation with 15 EU countries in Central and Southern Europe and the Baltics. For the period 2014-2021, a total contribution of €2.8 billion has been agreed. In the Memorandums of Understanding (MoU) with the individual countries, the actual allocation is determined. In the MoU it is also determined which Norwegian authorities will be the donor program partner (adviser) for the countries' respective programs.

In Romania NVE is donor program partner for a program covering renewable energy, energy efficiency and energy security. Being a donor program partner means to provide advisory services in all phases of program and project developments and implementation.

Strengthening relations between Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway and the beneficiary countries is the other of the two main objectives of the EEA and Norway Grants. On program level: public institutions and government agencies from the beneficiary states and Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway cooperate in the design of the program (concept note) and share knowledge and experience during the implementation stage. On project level under the program: private businesses, research groups, municipalities, and NGOs from the donor and the beneficiary countries are encouraged to enter into cooperation to implement joint projects. NVE as a donor program partner will assist in facilitating such project cooperation.

Activities:

The work in the first part was mostly related to preparatory activities in connection with developing a concept note for the program. The program agreement was signed in 2018. The first open calls for project applicants are launched, and the other will be gradually launched in 2019. See link: <https://www.innovasjon Norge.no/en/start-page/eea-norway-grants/Programmes/renewable-energy/romania/res-calls/>

The program is divided into 7 areas:

- a) Developing hydro power
- b) New geothermal energy installations
- c) Other renewable energy
- d) Energy efficiency in all sectors
- e) Competence building in all program relevant areas
- f) Research and development
- g) Off grid electricity solutions

Overall data for the energy program in Romania

NVE Mandate: NVE is Donor Program Partner (DPP) to the Funds Operator in Romania, Innovation Norway (FMO is formally program operator).

Program budget from the EEA- and Norway Grants of euro 62,826,000.

NVE's expenditures as DPP are covered by a separate contract with FMO (Financial Mechanism Office).

Program period: Projects can be awarded until 2021, and must be completed by 2024.

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