

# **Poland – program on Environment, Energy and Climate Change – funded by EEA 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 Poland NVE is donor program partner for a program covering environment, energy and climate change. 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 seems to be signed before summer 2019. Next step is a matchmaking (autumn), and then the open calls for project applicants will be gradually launched.

The program is divided into 10 areas:

- a) Investments in blue-green infrastructure
- b) Awareness raising on climate change in schools
- c) Ecosystems – species and habitats protection
- d) Protection against invasive alien species
- e) Energy efficiency in buildings
- f) Efficient energy cogeneration
- g) Modernization of municipal heating systems
- h) Production of fuel from biomass
- i) Geothermal energy
- j) Small scale hydropower

## Overall data for the energy program in Poland

NVE Mandate: NVE is Donor Program Partner (DPP) to the Program Operator (PO) in Poland, the Ministry of Environment.

Program budget from the EEA Grants of euro 140.000.000 (this is 85 percent of the total budget, which is euro 164.705.882 – the rest comes from national co-financing).

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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