



Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy

Advisory services in support of program and project developments and implementation.



Norwegian
Water Resources and
Energy Directorate

Background:

The EEA Grants are funded by the EEA countries, namely Norway, Iceland and Lichtenstein as a contribution to reducing economic and social disparities in the European Economic Area and to strengthening of bilateral relations. As a result of negotiations, it was decided that funds would be distributed to 15 EU countries in Eastern and Southern Europe (16 countries later in the program period), - to be spent on different program areas. 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 DPP for the countries' respective programs.



In Bulgaria NVE is the DPP for a program covering renewable energy and energy efficiency. In addition, NVE is also the project partner in a related, so-called pre-defined project. This deals further with the establishment of a well-functioning electricity market within the framework of EU regulations - a follow up to work undertaken earlier by Ministry of Energy and NVE.

Activities:

The work in the first part was mostly related to preparatory activities in connection with negotiations and programme development. Preparation of a draft program for the energy efficiency and renewable energy helped building a good working relationship between the program operator and NVE. The program agreement was signed in May 2013.

The program is divided into 4 areas:

- a) Developing small hydro power plants in water supply systems
- b) Measures for renewable energy and energy efficiency in public buildings
- c) Plants producing wooden chips and pellets from biomass
- d) Competence building for state and local officials regarding energy efficiency and renewable energy (modest part of budget)
- e) The predefined market project (10 percent of the budget)

It is allocated grants under b) Measures for energy efficiency in public buildings in the municipalities for 34 projects, c) Biomass for 9 projects in the private sector and d) Competence building for state and local officials regarding energy efficiency and renewable energy (9 projects). For a) Small hydro power

plants in water supply systems, there are no allocation for projects, just bilateral activities due to a lengthy process regarding the assessment of possible conflict of the state aid regulation (this problem is now solved).

More than 20 Norwegian institutions and companies are engaged as project partners.

There have also been many conferences, seminars and other bilateral events in connection with the program for strengthening the relations between the two countries within the program areas.

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Project visit Burgas, September 2016 – new heating system in the central for several school buildings (from diesel fuel to pellets) – project soon to be finished



Nesebar, September 2016 - finished project in Nesebar - solar plant for heating the outdoor pool in a kindergarten

Overall Project Data

Partner:	Financial Mechanism Office (FMO) of EFTA. FMO controls the EEA Grants funds on behalf of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Norway, Iceland and Liechtenstein. The regulator, EWRC, is the Project Promotor for a predefined project under the program.
NVE Mandate:	NVE is Donor Program Partner (DPP) to the Program Operator (PO) in Bulgaria, Ministry of Energy. NVE is also Project Partner to the Project Promotor on the predefined project under the program.
Contract Value/ Duration:	Program budget from the EEA Grants of € 13,260,245 (this is 85 percent of the total budget – the rest comes from the national budget) is at the disposal of the PO. NVE's expenditures as DPP are covered by a separate contract with FMO. For the predefined project NVEs expenditures are covered by the project budget. Program period last until end of 2017, and the projects under the program by April 2017.