



# Adaptation to Climate Change – Drought and Flood Prevention

Advisory services in support to program development 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 (later 16) - to be spent on different program areas. In MoUs with the individual countries the actual allocation is determined. In the MoU it is also determined which Norwegian authorities will be the Donor Programme Partner (DPP) for the countries' respective programs.

In Slovakia NVE is the DPP (together with DSB) for a program that addresses the need for adaptation to climate change – drought and flood prevention. Allocation of the EEA Grants is based on a former comprehensive national climate change adaption program. The program aimed to reverse a negative trend of more drying of landscapes and larger floods. Among others, many structures made of stone and wood have been built in streams and rivers to retain and slow the water flows, to store flood water and to regulate the flows going into the major rivers.

## Activities:

The initial part of the work has mostly been related to the preparatory activities in connection with negotiations and programme development. The preparation of a draft program for adaptation to climate change initiative helped building a good working relationship between NVE and the Governmental Office.

The ongoing specific EEA Grants program on drought and flood prevention, have a wider scope compared to the former program. There are allocations for many water retention related activities in 3 regions, as well as separate measures in 2 cities, and for about 70 schools of the so-called “Blue Schools project” all over the country. All activities consists of various measures for collecting water (water retention). This again will reduce flooding caused by heavy rains, and counteract drought by making it greener and improve groundwater levels. Increased evaporation caused by water retention will also counteract temperature increases.

Examples of measures for water retention are among others, buffers on fields (diches), water reservoirs and check dams made of wood and rocks in the forests, and green roofs and rain gardens in the cities and the blue schools.

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*Project visit in Slovakia in April 2015*



*Visit to one of the blue schools in Slovakia in April 2015.*



*Visit to NVE from Blue schools in May 2015. Testing water retention in practice on a green roof in miniature.*

## Overall Project Data

- Partner:** Financial Mechanism Office (FMO) of EFTA, Brussels. FMO controls the EEA Grants funds on behalf of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Norway, Iceland and Liechtenstein.
- NVE Mandate:** NVE and the Directorate for Civil Protection and Emergency Planning (DSB) are Donor Program Partners (DPP) to the Program Operator (PO), the Governmental Office in Slovakia.
- Contract Value/ Duration:** Program budget from EEA Grants of € 12,463,750 (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 is covered by a separate contract with the FMO. The Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed in June 2011. The program period will last until end 2017. The projects under the program by April 2017.