

# Renewable Energy

Advisory services in program development and implementation.



## 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 (later 16) countries in Eastern and Southern Europe - 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 Romania NVE is DPP for the part of the program on renewable energy that regards hydropower. Parallel to this, it is in the same program, also an allocation for geothermal heat. Here the Icelandic authority, OS, is the DPP. During the program period there have been a close cooperation between the OS and NVE.

## Activities:

The work in the initial phases were related to preparatory activities in connection with negotiations and programme development. The preparation of a draft program for renewable energy initiatives helped building a good working relationship between Environmental Fund Administrator EFA and NVE.

The projects were selected and for the hydropower part, grants allocated to four private small-scale hydro power plants, with project promoters representing three different companies. For the geothermic part grants are allocated to two projects. There is one Norwegian and one Islandic partner on the hydropower part, and one Islandic partner on the geothermic part.

Due to problems for the companies selected for the small-scale hydro power plants getting private financing for the remaining part not coming from the EEA grants (maximum 50 percent), it seems that none of the projects will be implemented as planned and applied for. The two geothermal projects allocated to the public sector (with 100 percent financing) will be implemented.



In addition to the projects, there are ongoing bilateral activities under the program areas, among others an project in a small village in a protected area – developing a local off-grid energy solution for the people in the village combining several energy sources as hydro, wind and solar. 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.

Contact: Bjørn Aulie, [aul@nve.no](mailto:aul@nve.no)



*Study trip May 2016 the Monastery village Cracaoani, in Neamt county, Romania.*

## 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 is Donor Program Partner (DPP) to the Program Operator (PO), the Environment Fund Administration (EFA).

**Contract Value/ Duration:** Program budget from EEA Grants of € 12,270,000 (this is 85 percent of the total budget – the rest comes from the national budget). NVE's expenditures is covered by a separate contract with the FMO. The Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed in March 2012. The program period will last until end 2017, and the projects under the program by April 2017.