

norwegian cooperation programmes

A set of new Norwegian cooperation programmes has been established to help stimulate economic growth and sustainable development in Bulgaria and Romania – two new members of the European Economic Area (EEA). Support from the Cooperation Programmes will be awarded to bright ideas for partnership projects between Norwegian and Bulgarian or Romanian private or public companies, institutions, ministries, non-governmental organisations and social partners.

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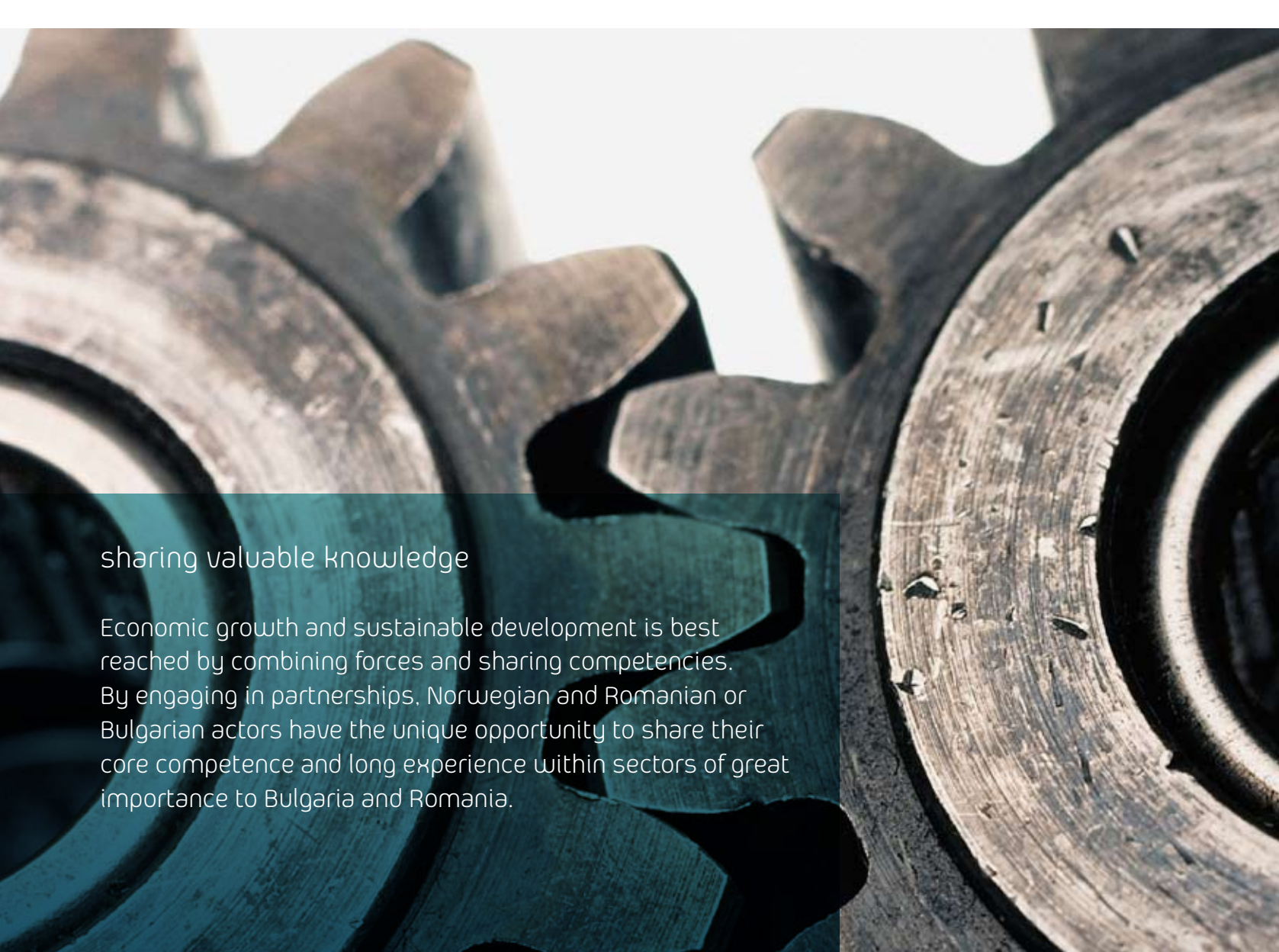
cooperation for development

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sharing valuable knowledge

Economic growth and sustainable development is best reached by combining forces and sharing competencies. By engaging in partnerships, Norwegian and Romanian or Bulgarian actors have the unique opportunity to share their core competence and long experience within sectors of great importance to Bulgaria and Romania.

€68 MILLION TO SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

In July 2007, agreements to include Bulgaria and Romania in the European Economic Area (EEA) were signed. Following this enlargement, Norway is granting €68 million through a new set of Cooperation Programmes with the two new member states. The objective is to stimulate economic growth and sustainable development.

PROGRAMMES BASED ON PARTNERSHIPS

Support from the Cooperation Programmes will be granted partnerships between participants from the beneficiary states and participants from Norway. The partnership must be established prior to application.

It is possible to apply for seed money assistance prior to applying to the Cooperation Programmes. Seed money can be granted for preparations of innovative approaches or complex project themes, or to establish new partnerships.

WHO CAN APPLY?

Public or private companies, institutions, ministries, non-governmental organisations and social partners are eligible applicants within the sectors of priority to the programmes. These are sectors in which Norway has specific competencies and technologies, and the beneficiary countries have specific needs:

- Environmental protection, including reduction of emissions to air and water, waste management and safe handling of hazardous substances
- Energy efficiency and renewable energy
- Facilitating sustainable production, including certification and verification
- Implementation of Schengen requirements (specifically for Bulgaria)
- Implementation of health projects (specifically for Romania)

When evaluating applications for the Cooperation Programmes, a wide range of activities within all of these sectors will be recognised, such as innovation, human resource development, networking, capacity-building, technology and knowledge transfer, research and development.

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Applications may be submitted until December 31, 2008. For further information about the programmes, including application process, rules and procedures, selection criteria and more, please visit www.norwaygrants.org.

The Cooperation Programmes are administered by Innovation Norway. The Ministry of Finance in each of the beneficiary states are coordinating partners (National Focal Points). Contact information is included on the back of this leaflet.

EEA GRANTS

In addition to the Norwegian Cooperation Programmes, projects in Bulgaria and Romania can also receive financial support through the EEA Grants scheme. This is a programme funded by Norway, Iceland and Liechtenstein, and makes available €72 million to projects and funds that contribute towards social and economic cohesion in Bulgaria and Romania.

The EEA Grants are administered by the Financial Mechanism Office (FMO) in Brussels. For more information about priority sectors, application process and deadlines, rules and procedures, and selection criteria, please visit www.eeagrants.org.

