



Norway and the European Union

Las Palmas, 14 November 2011



photo: christian hauge/thingent

www.norway.info

The EU and Norway are close partners

- Norway is an active partner in European cooperation
- Not a member of the European Union



Photo: The Council of the European Union

Important trading partners

- Norway is the EU's 5th largest trading partner:
 - 13% of EU oil imports come from Norway (2010)
 - 24% of EU natural gas imports come from Norway (2010)
 - 19% of EU fish imports come from Norway (2009)
 - Substantial Norwegian investments in equities, securities and real estate in Europe



Photo: H. Valderhaug, Innovation Norway

Three pillars of EU – Norway relations

- Economic relations
 - Agreement on the European Economic Area (EEA Agreement)
- Justice and home affairs
 - including Schengen cooperation
- Foreign and security policy



The EEA Agreement

- Promoting trade and economic relations between the EU and Norway, Iceland and Liechtenstein
- European internal market with free movement of:
 - Goods
 - Services
 - Persons
 - Capital
- Common rules
- Equal framework conditions



EEA – common rules

- Food safety and veterinary matters
- Social security
- Professional qualifications
- Elimination of technical trade barriers
- Financial services
- Transport and communication
- Energy
- Competition and state aid
- Public procurement
- The environment
- Company Law



The EEA agreement does not include:

- The common agricultural and fisheries policies
- The customs union
- EU external trade policy
- The Economic and Monetary Union and the Euro



The EEA and Norway Grants

- Programmes and grants to reduce social and economic disparities in Europe
- EUR 1.79 billion from 2009 to 2014
- Norway contributes 97% of the total
- Strengthened bilateral relations between Norway and the 15 beneficiary states



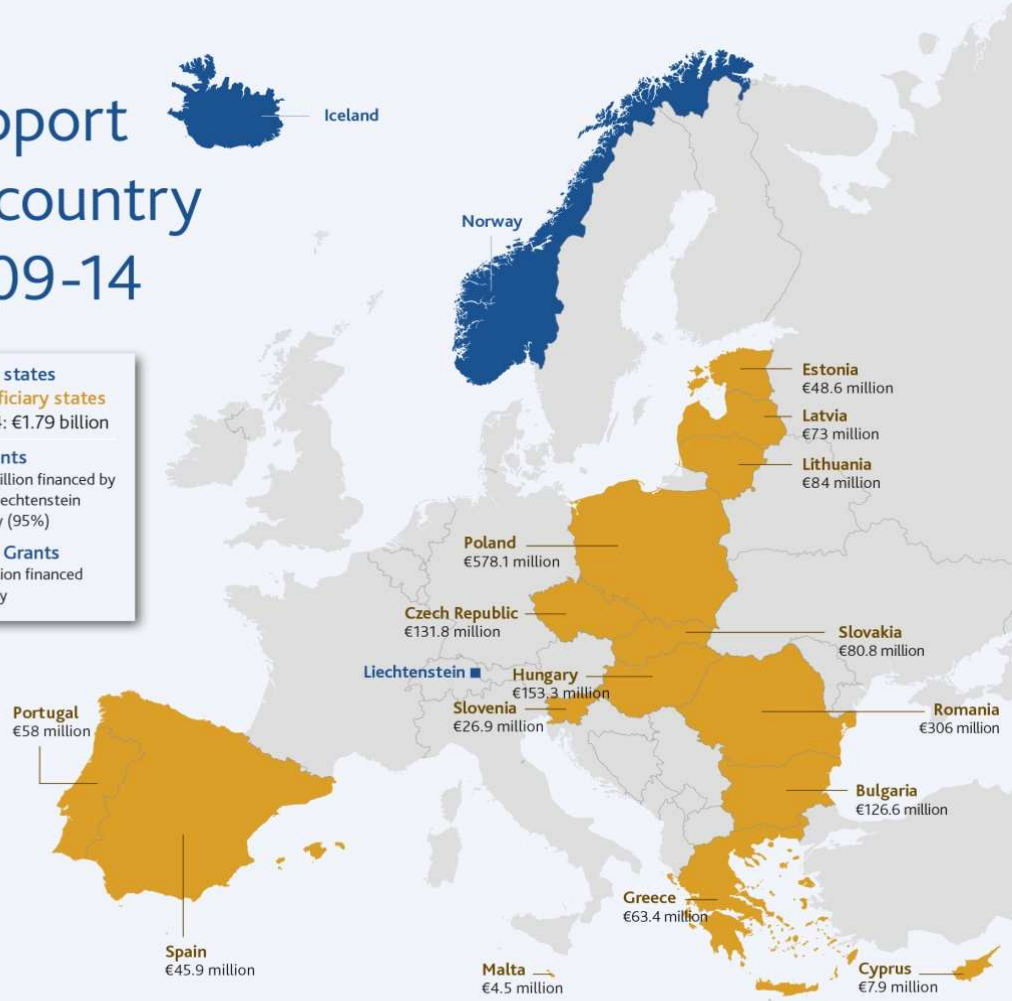
Photo: The Regional Environment Center for Central and Eastern Europe, Hungary

Support by country 2009-14

3 donor states
 15 beneficiary states
 2009-14: €1.79 billion

EEA Grants
 €988.5 million financed by Iceland, Liechtenstein & Norway (95%)

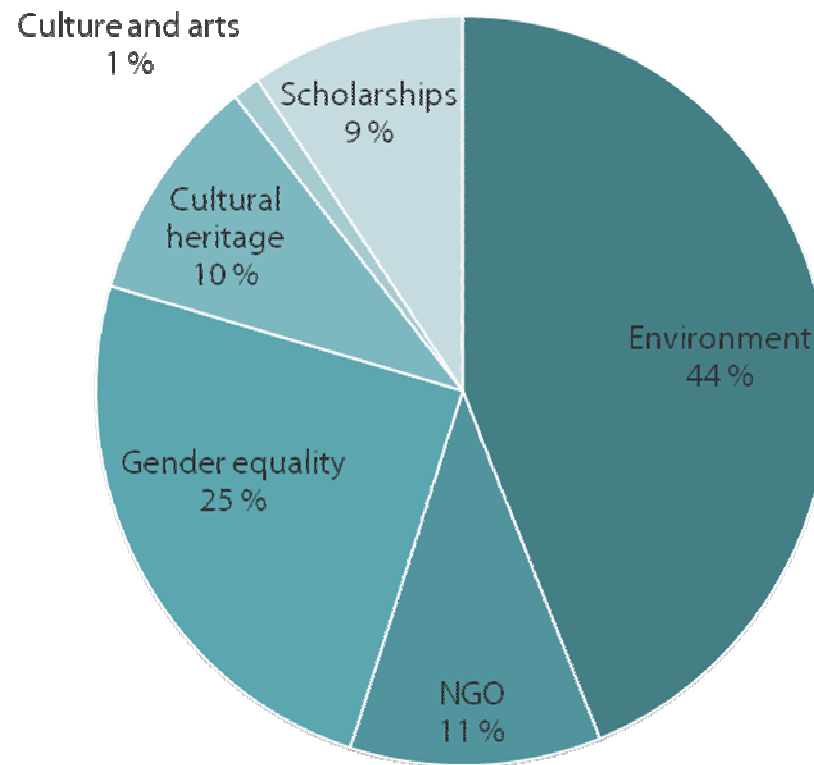
Norway Grants
 €800 million financed by Norway



The EEA Grants in Spain



Programme areas





norway



MINISTERIO
DE CIENCIA
E INNOVACIÓN



Centro para el Desarrollo
Tecnológico Industrial



INNOVATION
NORWAY



Environmental and climate change-related research and technology

- **Program grant:** €18,215,000
- **Objective:** Strengthened knowledge base on the environment and climate change and increased application of environmental technology
- **Expected outcomes:** Increased development and application of technology that benefits the environment
- **Specific concerns:** The programme should include measures related to the hydroelectric, solar, wind, and marine energy sectors.



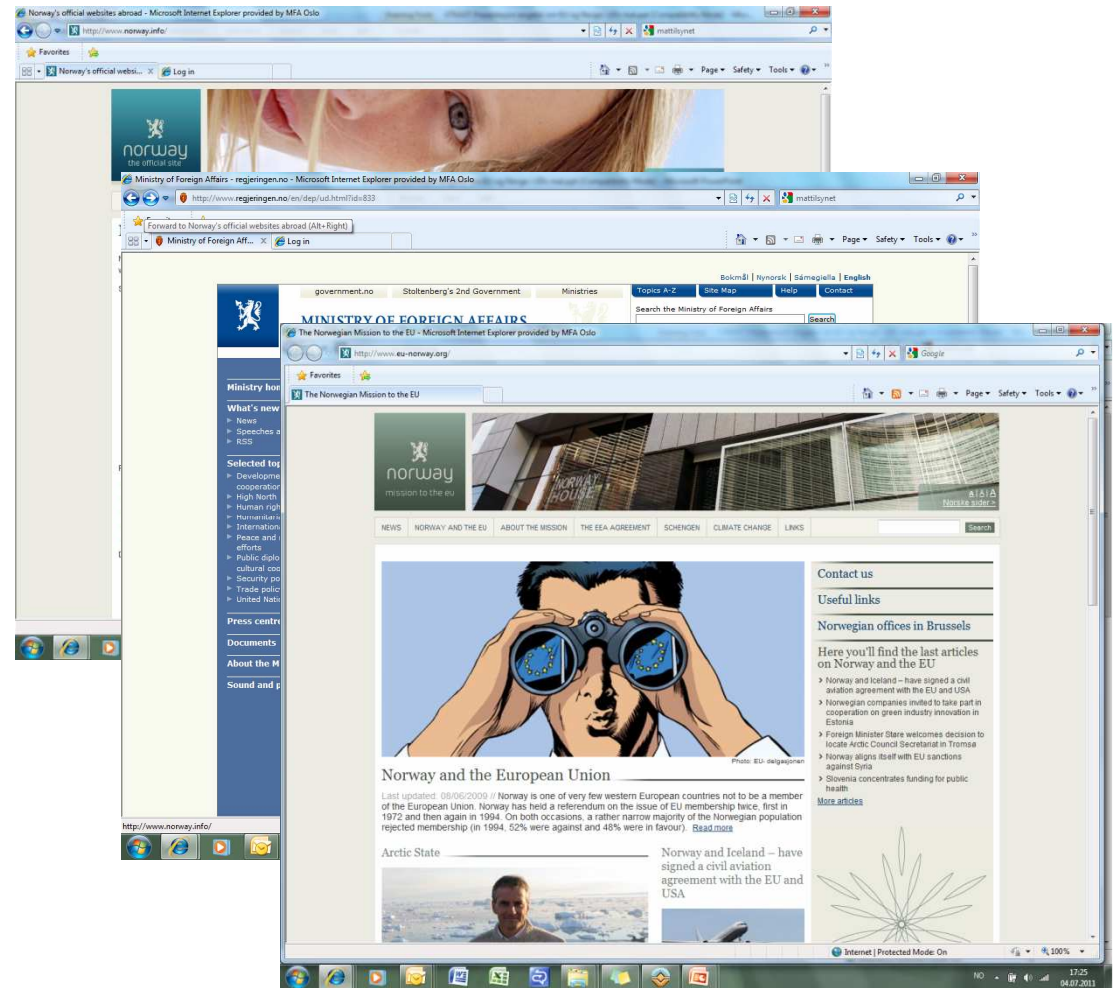
Main features of the programme

- R&D and Innovation projects - not infrastructure
- Focus: hydroelectric, solar, wind, and marine energy
- Eligible applicants: companies
- Financial instrument: grant + soft loan
- Legal framework: EU/EEA state aid rules for R&D and Innovation
- Overriding objective: collaboration between ES/NOR companies
- Launch: within 2012



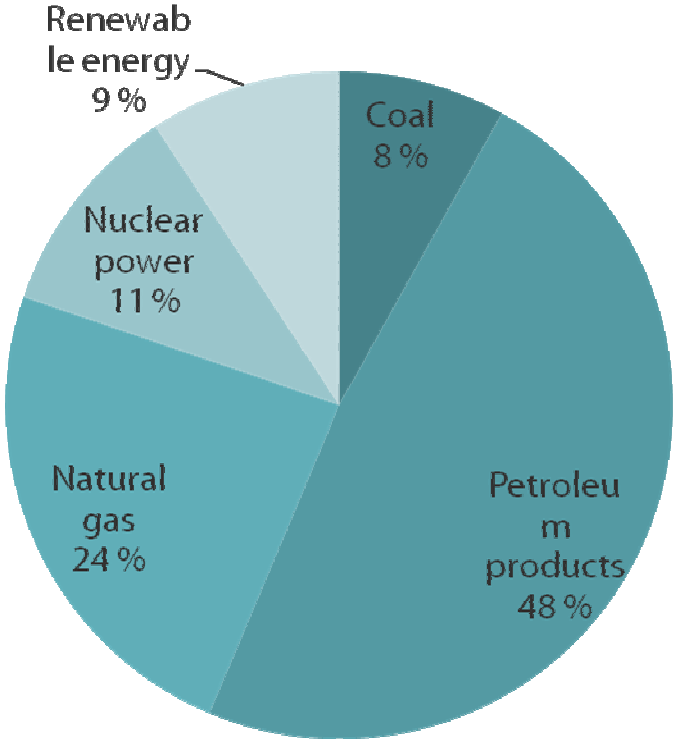
More information

- www.mfa.no
- www.norway.info
- www.eu-norway.org
- www.efta.int
- visitnorway.com

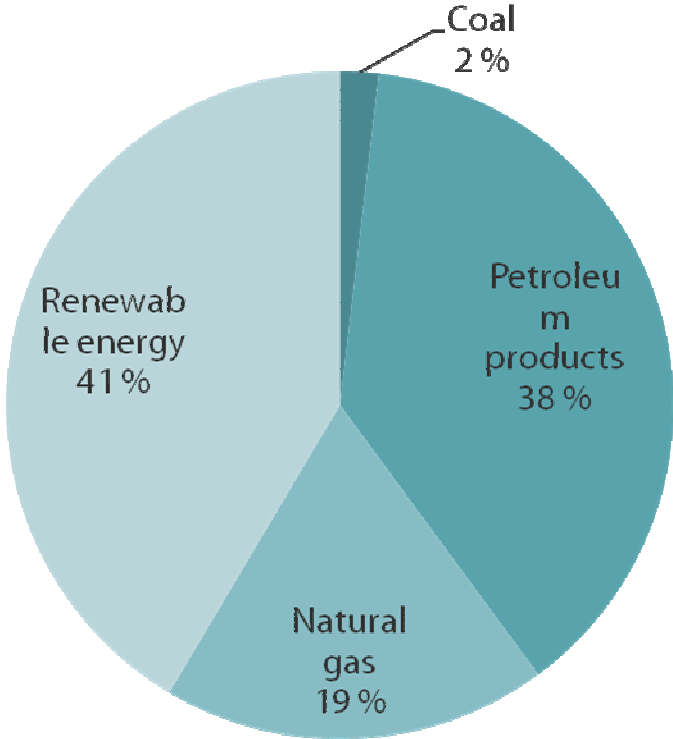


Primary energy consumption

Spain

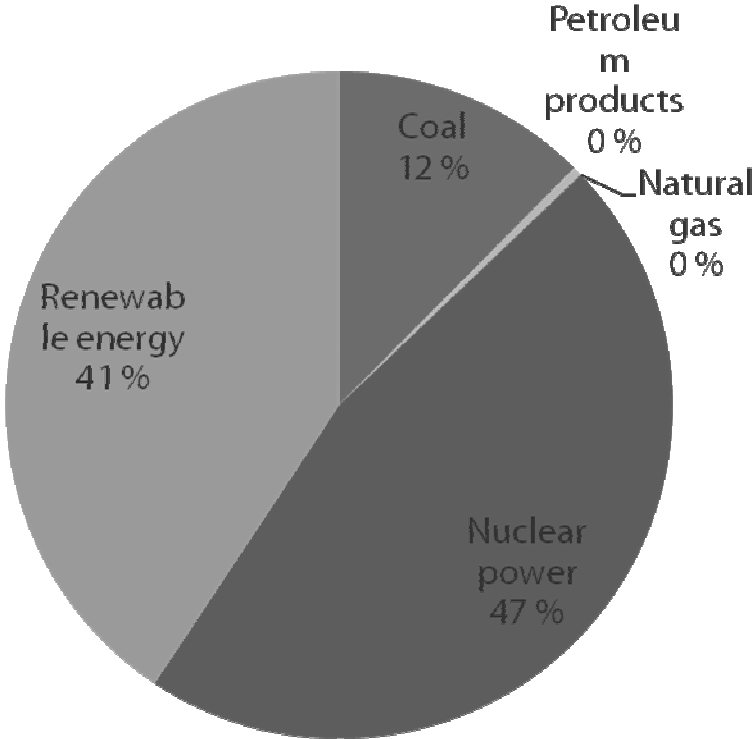


Norway

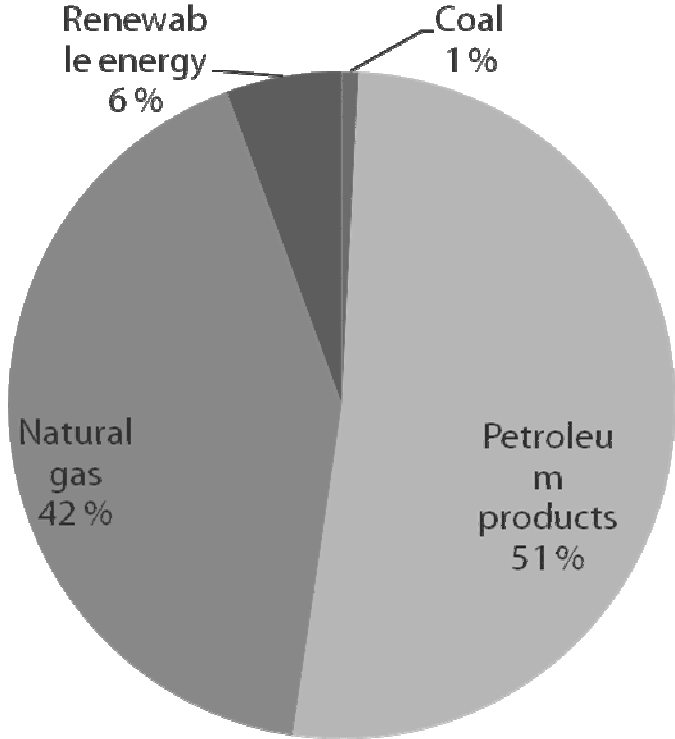


Primary energy production

Spain

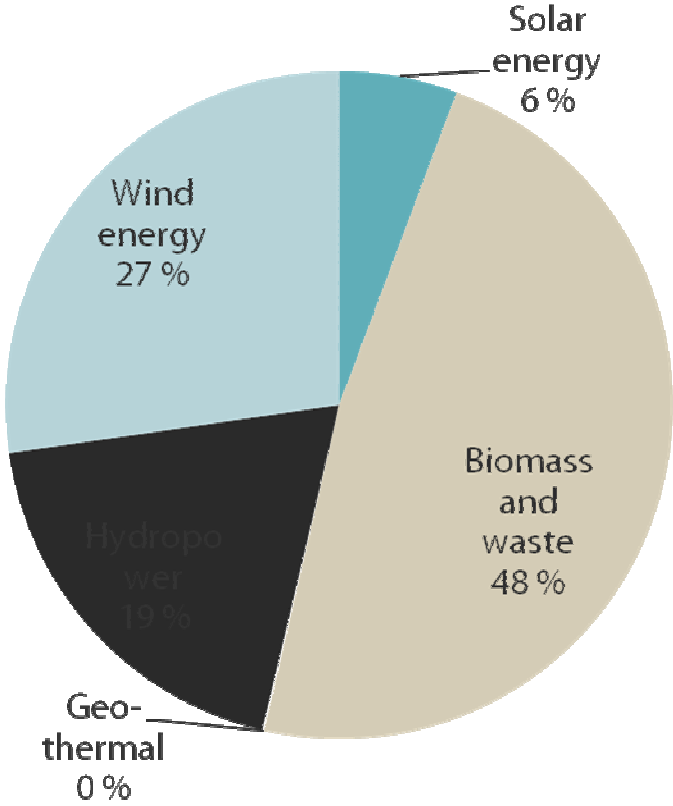


Norway

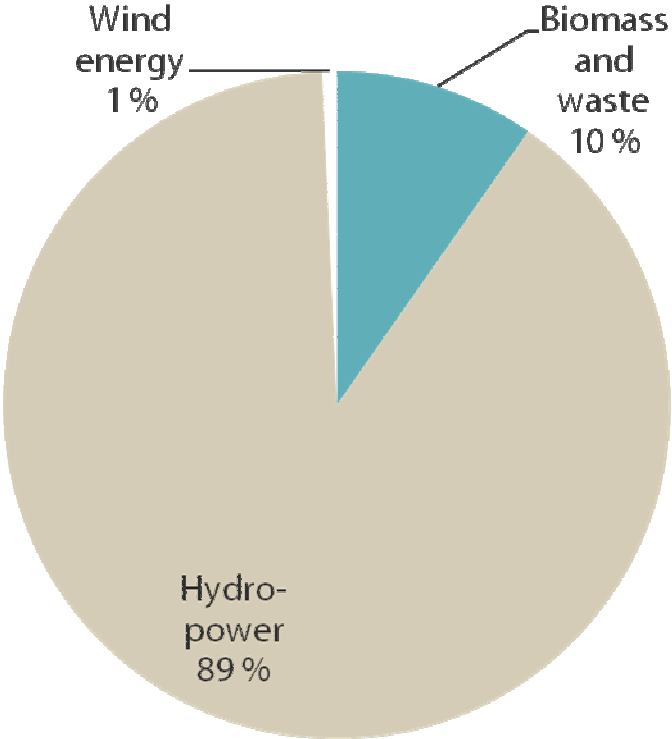


Renewable energy production

Spain



Norway



Bilateral cooperation





More information about the EEA Grants

- Royal Norwegian Embassy: www.noruega.es
- Financial Mechanism Office: www.eeagrants.org
- Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs: www.mfa.no
- Information from the Government and the Ministries: www.government.no



The question about EU membership in Norway

- First application for EU membership submitted in 1962. De Gaulle veto.
- Second application in 1969, followed by a referendum in 1972. Majority rejects membership (53.5 %)
- The EEA Agreement signed in 1992.
- EU membership application autumn 1992, followed by a referendum in 1994. Majority against membership (52.2 %)
- Today: majority against EU membership, but not against the EU
- A research-based review of the EEA Agreement in order to facilitate a knowledge-based debate about Norway's European policy
- Conclusions of this review in December 2011
- Government white paper in 2012.

Some challenges

- Not part of the EU's final decision-making process
- Cross-sectoral EU processes and programmes
- Norwegian review of the EEA Agreement in 2010–11
- Icelandic membership negotiations with the EU
- Fish exports and duties
- Financial challenges – the Euro

