Project Summary

Project Background
The European Economic Area (EEA) Grants and the Norway Grants represent the contribution of Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway towards European cohesion efforts. Over a five-year period until April 2009, the three EEA EFTA countries are making available €1.307 billion to reduce economic and social disparities in the enlarged EEA. The Norway Grants solely target at the new EU member states since 2004, while the EEA Grants also include the EU member states Portugal, Greece and Spain. Norway contributes with around 97% of the funding. In this context, a wide range of public authorities and institutions, organizations and businesses across Central and Southern Europe can apply for grants to initiate and implement projects in the public benefit.

Main Objective
The main objective of this framework agreement is to serve as a control function to the Financial Mechanism Office (FMO) to assess the design, implementation and results of ongoing and completed projects, block grants and funds/programmes on the level of final beneficiaries and to determine whether the financing provided is corresponding to the results achieved. Furthermore, this systematic and objective assessment has a learning function for the donors and beneficiary states.

Activities
Reviews and Evaluations are conducted in the following priority sectors
- Environment,
- Sustainable development,
- Cultural heritage,
- Human resources,
- Health and childcare,
- Schengen acquis,
- Regional policy and cross border activities,
- Acquis communautaire,
- Academic research

“Reviews” are an assessment of the performance and results of an intervention and “evaluations” are to be considered for a more comprehensive and in-depths assessment with stricter criteria’s for independence and use of methodologies.

Implementing Features
Reviews and Evaluations are carried out according to OECD/DAC criteria for evaluating development assistance.

Services Provided
- Reviews and Evaluations

\[1\] Gross amount, including Norwegian support to Bulgaria and Romania