Project Summary

Project Background
The 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 are solely targeted 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, organisations and businesses across Central and Southern Europe can apply for grants to initiate and implement projects in the public benefit.

Main Objective
The objective of this assignment was to evaluate all support provided by Norway Grants to the implementation of the Schengen agreement, and to the judiciary. In this context, 57 grants were awarded to projects in Poland, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Estonia, Czech Republic, and Slovakia related to:
(1) improvement of prison facilities;
(2) border control;
(3) mobile control units;
(4) police capacity building; and
(5) police information communication systems.

Activities
The evaluation consisted of (a) an overview of all support in this area through the 57 awarded grants and (b) an in-depth analysis of 14 projects in Poland, Latvia, and Lithuania.
In this context, the assignment included the following activities:
(1) Information collection from different sources, and using different methods (in-depth interviews, surveys, reports, field visits to Poland, Latvia, and Lithuania; etc.)
(2) Analysis of the information;
(3) Comparisons between beneficiary states, and with other instruments;
(4) Conclusions and
(5) Recommendations and communication of the results to relevant parties

Implementing Features
The Evaluation was carried out according to OECD/DAC criteria.

Services Provided
- Evaluation of 57 grants (in-depth evaluation of 14 projects) according to OECD DAC criteria