



Ministry of Finance of the Republic of Estonia



Completion report

European Economic Area Financial Mechanism 2004-2009

Estonia

National Focal Point
Tallinn
2012

European Economic Area Financial Mechanism 2004-2009
Completion Report

List of abbreviations

EE	Foundation Enterprise Estonia
EEA FM	European Economic Area Financial Mechanism
ESF	Estonian Science Foundation
EU	The European Union
FMC	Financial Mechanism Committee
FMO	Financial Mechanism Office
IB	Intermediate Body
NFM	Norwegian Financial Mechanism
NFP	National Focal Point
OEF	Open Estonia Foundation
PCR	Project Completion Report
PIR	Project Interim Report
PP	Project Promoter
TA	Technical Assistance

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Executive Summary

The completion report gives general overview of the implementation of the European Economic Area Financial Mechanism 2004-2009 in Estonia.

In Estonia 11 individual projects financed from the European Economic Area Financial Mechanism were implemented. 7 projects were financed only from European Economic Area Financial Mechanism 2004-2009; 4 projects from both EEA Financial Mechanism and Norwegian Financial Mechanism. Both FMs funded also the technical assistance project and all three block grants – Transfer of Knowledge Block Grant, Fund for Non-Governmental Organisations and Strengthening of Local and Regional Development Block Grant.

All the projects and the block grants helped to achieve the general objective of the European Economic Area Financial Mechanism i.e. to contribute to the reduction of social and economic disparities in the European Economic Area. In addition to that the projects and the block grants have contributed to achieving several Estonian specific objectives in all the priority areas.

In general the implementation ran smoothly and all the important deadlines set within the financial mechanisms were met. All the applications were submitted for donors' assessment and approval by the end of January 2009 and all the funds available for Estonia were committed by the commitment deadline at the end of April 2009. Although it was a challenging task for all involved parties, none of the individual projects nor the block grants asked for the prolongation of the eligibility period. As a result by the end of April 2011, i.e. by the end of eligibility and implementation period all the projects and block grants declared having successfully completed all implementing activities.

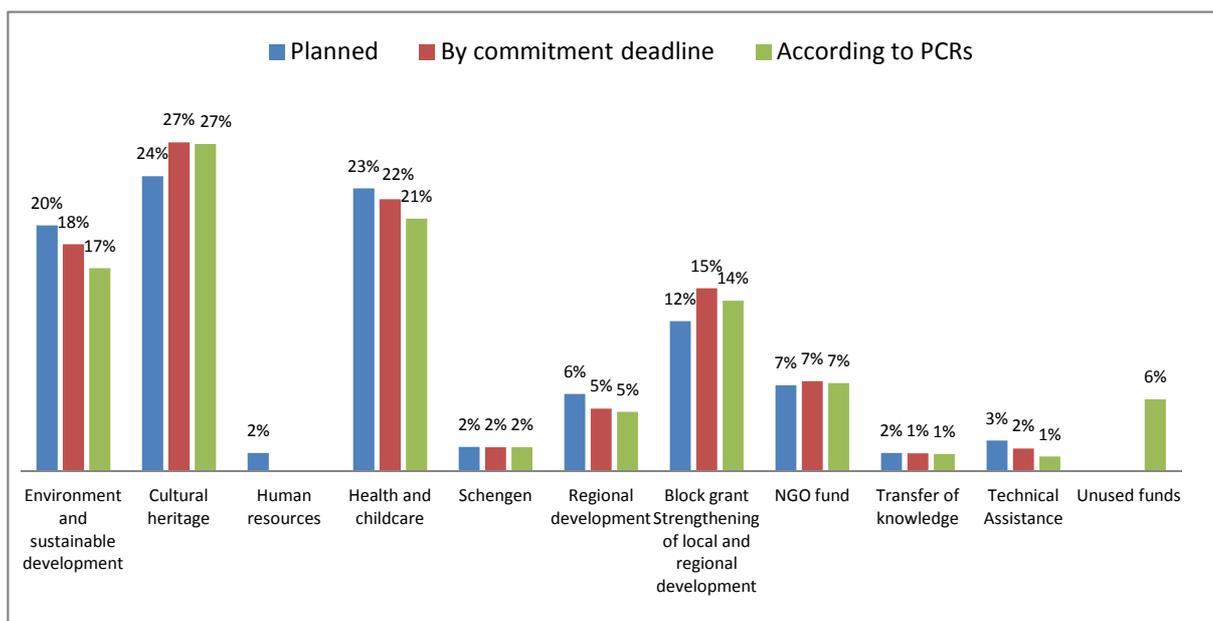
The only prolongation of the eligibility period was asked for the technical assistance project implemented by the National Focal Point. Respective eligibility period was extended until the end of the year 2011 as many administrative activities for example an intensive control of last interim reports and completion reports continued also after projects' and block grants' completion. It also helped to successfully meet the next deadline i.e. all the interim reports were submitted to the Financial Mechanism Office by the end of October 2011. All project completion reports were submitted by February 2012 and approved **by X? April? 2012.**

This completion report is approved by the Monitoring Committee on **XX. April 2012.**

1. Financial progress

By the commitment deadline 100% of the total funds made available for distribution for Estonia from EEA FM were committed. According to the PCRs 91.4% of the funds available for distribution were used, i.e. committed funds in the amount of EUR 0.8 million were not used.

The distribution between priority areas (including Norwegian FM) by commitment deadline and according to the PCRs in comparison to the planned distribution can be seen in the following chart:



According to the PCRs the commitment of EEA FM amounts to EUR 8.7 million, the disbursements have been made in the same amount¹. See details about commitments and disbursements in the priority area and PP level in Annex I.

All the PCRs have been approved, except for block grant EE0007 and NGO fund EE0014². All the amounts retained for project completion by the Financial Mechanism Office have been received and transferred to the Project Promoters, except for the NGO fund in the amount of EUR 6 181.

There were five debit notes issued which were related to the irregularities. Total amount of the debit notes was EUR 5 744 which all have been reimbursed to the FMO. The percentage of used funds from the total funds available for distribution decreased to 91.3% due to debit notes related to the irregularities and unused funds. See details about irregularities in Annex II.

¹ The disbursements do not include the prepayments made to the block grants EE0007, EE0014 and EE0015 which were not used and transferred back to the FMO.

² Approval of the PCRs is dependent on the FMO decisions on the irregularity cases in the sub-projects.

2. Individual projects

Seven individual projects approved by the Donors of the European Economic Area FM and all four projects financed from both FMs were implemented by the end of eligibility period.

The list of all individual projects results is provided in Annex III.

The only open call in Estonia for individual projects was launched in June, 2006 with the applications' submission deadline at the end of August, 2006. Altogether 309 applications were submitted by the given date and the available open call amount was over applied for about 12 times. Internal and donors' side appraisal took together longer than a year and the implementation of individual projects started mainly in 2008.

The first individual project of FMs "Renovation of the northern wing of the Rogosi manor" was completed in December 2009. By January 2010 6 more projects were finished. More than half of projects were completed within 2011. Altogether 15 projects were completed in 2011, whereas 10 of them were completed only by the end of April 2011 at the end of the implementation and eligibility period. All individual projects' completion reports were submitted to FMO by January 2012 and approved by Financial Mechanism Committee and Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs by March 2012.

The aim of the FMs has been to reduce the social and economic disparities. However it's hard to assess the exact impact especially in numbers whereas the wide range of projects belong to different priority areas and the projects' speciality is different even within the same priority area. On the other hand every project in general fulfilled the project's aim and project's indicators and reduced the social and economic disparities within the project speciality. The set objectives are fulfilled in general and only small postpones in work schedules had to be overcome.

The implementation of the financial mechanisms has been a success. As an example, more than ten buildings as schools and hospitals were renovated, not only improving energy efficiency, but also substantially improving the environment for patients and pupils, and education and health personnel. Estonia has used the EEA and Norway Grants to turn nine old manor houses into modern educational and cultural centres as part of the national strategy to preserve these historic buildings and use them to revitalise the local communities.

The recent economic recession slightly and positively influenced the implementation of individual projects. The reduction of the overall price levels in the Estonian construction market left a gap between the planned budget for the initial activities and their actual cost based on the public tender. Therefore some projects succeeded to amend or do more activities to fulfil the overall objectives. At the same time, during the actual construction or restoration process a need for modifications in works occurred in order to guarantee the result of high quality and according to the national heritage protection requirements. It is very common that during the restoration works new circumstances occur that could not be foreseen before. The modifications have been supplied with amendment decisions of FMO. In some cases the implementation of a project was completed with lower expenses than budgeted and the grant remained partly unused in the end of the implementation period.

Managerial set-up in Intermediate Bodies didn't change throughout the implementation period. There were five ministries acting as an Intermediate Body i.e. body responsible for the priority area of individual projects of the Norwegian FM. The list of Intermediate Bodies is as follows: The Ministry of the Environment, The Ministry of

Culture, The Ministry of Social Affairs, The Ministry of Economic Affairs and Communications. The Project Promoters are listed in Annex III. The projects hired or named project managers, therefore project management were ran smoothly.

The cooperation between intermediate bodies, project promoters and National Focal Point was very good. All intermediate bodies established an everyday communication with project promoters via phone, e-mail and official letters, and carried out on the spot checks during project implementation period. In addition for example once per year The Ministry of the Environment organized a seminar for PPs of the respective priority area to discuss arisen common problematic topics. During the on the spot checks of priority area Cultural Heritage photos were taken as proof of evidence. The restoration and construction works of manor houses were carried out under the supervision of an architect, a heritage conservation specialist and an owner's representative.

2.1 Protection of the environment and Promotion of sustainable development

In priority area 1 “Protection of the environment” and priority area 2 “Promotion of sustainable development” there were three individual projects financed only from European Economic Area FM and two projects financed from both FM’s. The Ministry of the Environment - Foreign Financing Department (line departments had an assisting role) - acted as an Intermediate Body being responsible for the priority areas 1 and 2. The project promoters were Tartu University, other state authorities and private companies.

All projects helped to fulfil the Estonian Environmental Strategy 2030 (EES 2030), a strategy for developing the sphere of the environment. EES 2030 serves as the basis for the preparation and revision of all sector-specific development plans within the sphere of the environment.

2.1.1 Reuse of solid combustible waste in Cement Rotary Kilns of Kunda Nordic Cement (EE0019) was carried out by Kunda Nordic Tsement Ltd. The project contributed to the reduction of the amount of waste in landfills in Estonia and the use of oil shale in cement production. The objective of the project was to facilitate sustainable use of energy resources, recovery of wastes and decrease of pollution (CO₂) load to the living environment. The project budget was reduced during the project implementation due to the recession and a cheaper technological solution was worked out. Planned activities were carried out and the results were achieved regardless of the reduced budget.

2.1.2 Estonian biodiversity database and information network supporting Natura 2000 (EE0018) was carried out by Tartu University. The biodiversity database is available now (<http://elurikkus.ut.ee/>). An almost complete overview on Estonian species can now be used for biodiversity conservation measures. The development of biodiversity data bases and ensuring better access to environmental information is relevant in the context of the EU Birds Directive and Habitats Directive, and, in particular, for supporting the development of the Natura 2000 network, keeping in focus the measures for reducing the biodiversity loss in each country.

2.1.3 Emission of nitrous oxide and methane from Estonian agricultural landscapes - variation among various ecosystems and possible mitigation strategies (EE0012) was carried out by Tartu University too. As a result there is better understanding of the land-use based greenhouse gases’ emissions that help to implement policies to reduce GHG. Increasing emission of GHG is the main anthropogenic factor of climate change. The soil-based emissions of two important GHGs - nitrous oxide (N₂O) and methane (CH₄)

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- were unknown earlier. In Estonia, like in most countries, the land use change factor underestimates emission of these gases.

The project EE0012 contributed to the implementation of the Water Framework Directive (via the climate change impact on the quality of Estonian water bodies), Nitrate Directive (via the fertilization policy of agricultural fields), EU Common Agricultural Practice (via the influence of agricultural policy on the intensity on land use), EU Natura network (via the potential of Natura 2000 areas as possible energy biomass production sites), Directive 2001/77/EC on promotion of the electricity produced from the renewable energy source in the internal electricity market (via the potential use of abandoned agricultural areas on peat and hydric soils for energy biomass production).

2.1.4 Estonian Mires Inventory completion for maintaining biodiversity (EE0045) was carried out by the NGO Estonian Fund for Nature. Although the project implementation period was shorter than initially planned the number of objects' inventories during the project was larger than expected. Therefore also the number of database objects was exceeded. The database is actively used by the Estonian Nature Info System and the Natura 2000.

2.1.5 Reduction of Greenhouse Gas Emissions through the Adoption of Renewable Biofuels in the Boiler House of Lihula Soojus (EE0040) was carried out by Lihula Soojus LLC. The result of the project is the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions through the adoption of renewable biofuels in the boiler house of Lihula Soojus. The introduction of herbaceous biofuels and wood chips at Lihula Soojus OÜ boiler house has allowed Lihula to take advantage of locally available biofuels, cut down the emissions of CO₂ and help the Matsalu Wetland to preserve its natural environment.

2.2 Conservation of European cultural heritage

In the priority area Conservation of European cultural heritage there were two individual projects financed from European Economic Area FM. The Ministry of Culture - Department of Cultural Heritage and the Department of Budget and Economic Analysis - acted as an Intermediate Body being responsible for the individual projects of the priority area 3.

The general goal of priority area 3 was to preserve Estonian architectural heritage, thereby increasing the quality of education and improving the local living environment. The strategic direction was the renovation of historical cultural heritage in order to relieve the area's weaknesses and use its possibilities. The results are of historical, architectural as well as socio-economic nature.

Both two EEA FM projects in the priority area 3 "Conservation of European cultural heritage" are connected with manor schools. Targeting the financial mechanisms to the manor schools provided the maximum and most noticeable impact in the cultural heritage sector of Estonia. Supporting conservation works in manor schools is entirely in accordance with the state's policy in the cultural heritage sector - the national programme "Schools in Old Manors – preservation of the historic manor ensembles and renovation of the manors according to modern educational requirements". The EEA FM enabled to carry out the works in two manor schools all at once.

2.2.1 The restoration of Laupa manor school (EE0036) was carried out by Laupa Municipality. The manor complex will mainly be used as a school but also as a cultural centre.

2.2.2 Koigi manor school as an upholder of architectural and cultural heritage (EE0037) was carried out by Koigi Municipality. The manor complex will mainly be used as a school but also as a local community's centre.

2.3 Health and childcare

The priority area 5 "Health and childcare" includes two EEA FM projects and one project financed from both FMs. The Ministry of Social Affairs - Foreign Financing Unit of the Finance and Property Management Department - acted as an Intermediate Body being responsible for the priority area 5 of individual projects of the FM.

All the projects fulfil the objective of improving the learning and development environment for children with special needs and follow the Social Welfare Concept of Estonia and the UN Strategy to Guarantee the Rights of the Child also complementing to the National Welfare Program for Children and People with Special Needs (2004-2006).

2.3.1 Enlarging SOS Children's village (EE0026) was carried out by ASBL SOS-Children's Village Association of Estonia. Three SOS family type houses were built nearby Põltsamaa City, the target of which is to accommodate children who have been deprived from parental care, including children with disabilities. SOS houses were built, taking into account special needs for disabled children (bathrooms, doorsteps). A kindergarten and a school are within walking distance.

2.3.2 Renovation of the buildings of Lahmuse School for children with special needs (EE0046) was carried out by Lahmuse School - a state school. The renovation and adaptation of the buildings have significantly improved the children's preparedness to cope with life and diversified the girls' handicraft skills, while a modern student home provides a safer and more balanced learning environment for children with special needs. There were some delays and lack of good co-operation between project manager, Puurmani Municipality and Ministry of Social Affairs. All the disparities were solved and had no negative impact to the project results.

2.3.3 Improvement of the training and development environment for girls and rural youths needing special educational conditions (EE0038) was promoted by Kaagvere School - a state school. The result of the project is improved training and development environment for girls who are in need of special education conditions. The target was to enhance socialisation and integration capacity of young offenders into the Estonian society in Kaagvere Special School.

2.4 Regional policy and cross-border activities

The priority area 7 "Regional policy and cross-border activities" includes one project financed from both FMs. The Ministry of Economic Affairs and Communications - Foreign Cooperation Projects Division of the Foreign Funding Department - acted as an Intermediate Body being responsible for the priority area 7 of individual projects of the FM.

2.4.1 Estonian Public Transport Information System - PTIS (EE0035) was carried out by Estonian Road Administration. The project significantly improved the service quality of public transport through better information distribution and better supervision. Project EE0035 fulfils the objectives of improving the public transportation (PT) such as stopping the decline in PT use and PT convenience and improving the system effectiveness. Besides that, the project helped to fulfil the objectives of the Public Transport Development Programme for 2006-2010, the main objective of which was to

stop the process of decreasing proportion of PT usage to maintain it on a higher level than 30% of passenger turnover. Also activities to popularize public transportation through different media campaigns were undertaken. This positive trend is due to the fact that all citizens of different county municipalities use PTIS and the informative system is regularly updated by county municipalities. Thanks to the large number of PTIS users, the amount of counties covered by the system is bigger than the target, because the Trip Planner Info System covers all of the counties of Estonia. Besides that, it covers the intercity lines, train lines, ferry lines and also gives you an overview of city lines in the 8 biggest cities in Estonia and therefore we can say that the target groups are all Estonian citizens and tourists.

3. Block Grants

3.1 Strengthening of Local and Regional Development Block Grant

The Intermediate Body for the Strengthening of Local and Regional Development Block Grant was the Ministry of the Interior. The Intermediary for the Block Grant was a state foundation Enterprise Estonia.

The general objective of the Regional Development Block Grant was to contribute to the sustainable and balanced development of the regions of Estonia.

The applying process was carried out in two rounds. The deadline for the first open call was in June 2008 and of the second open call in April 2009. Totally 112 applications were submitted, out of which 57 applications were financed.

The Strengthening of Local and Regional Development Block Grant was a good complement to the measures co-financed by the Structural Funds. While the Structural Funds were mainly used to support investments in infrastructure, the Regional Development Block Grant focused on supporting various studies, strategies, development plans and territorial plans.

One of the bottlenecks of regional development in Estonia is the capacity of local government units to co-operate in developing common public services. Ministry of the Interior appreciates that the Regional Development Block Grant enabled to fund 8 projects in this field, among them a study that delved into the options of better public transport management in Harju and Lääne County, as well as a study that expanded upon improving the cooperation capacity and developing common public services within the capital region.

14 of the supported projects were dedicated to drawing common development plans, strategies, statutory plans or thematic plans of several local government units. Considering the current high level of unemployment of the time of implementation, it is positive that six projects were aimed at stimulating local employment and reduction of long-term unemployment.

One of the aims of the Ministry of the Interior in the field of civic society development is to stimulate contracting public services to non-profit organizations. One of the funded studies delved into the possibilities of public service delivery by non-profit organizations in the most populous county in Estonia, Harju County. Another study examined the opportunities to improve the co-operation of four Setu municipalities in South-East of Estonia in the fields of youth work and services for the elderly people.

Another important issue in Estonia is the administrative capacity of smaller local government units and the issues of administrative reform consequently. Therefore it is positive that it was possible to support six projects, which helped to prepare municipal

mergers. In the framework of the projects, the possibilities of 16 municipalities to merge were examined.

The Block Grant offered a good opportunity for local governments, the associations of local government units and the county governments to raise their competence and co-operation capacity. The Ministry of the Interior is pleased to note that nine projects were dedicated to organizing seminars, study visits and common projects in this field, in some cases including co-operation with Norwegian municipalities.

3.2 Fund for Non-Governmental Organisations

In April 2007 the Open Estonia Foundation as the winner of the public procurement was approved as the Intermediary for the Fund for Non-Governmental Organisations. OEF is a non-governmental not-for-profit foundation that was established in April 1990 with the mission to create conditions for the development of an open society in Estonia.

The NGO Fund's application prepared by the OEF was approved by the donors on in June, 2007.

First open call of the NGO Fund was launched at the end of 2007, with a deadline for the first call for proposals in January, 2008. Altogether six open calls were organised during the implementation period. The number of submitted project proposals was 947 and 190 projects were supported.

The fund set-up foresaw evaluating small and large projects separately, setting different requirements for both of the measures. It was justified as the NGO sector needed support for both - organisation-centred smaller initiatives as well as larger network activities, differing for the scope as well as for the need for resources. In the planning period interest for small-scale projects was rated higher, but in open calls the interest towards bigger support became higher than planned. On one hand many proposals submitted as large-scale projects could have qualified better as small-scale, on the other hand it also shows the development of the sector – more organisations were capable of undertaking bigger projects with stronger influence.

In spite of tight schedules, interactive communication between the Intermediary and the target group was set as a priority. After launching the fund, information seminars were held in all counties, which was a success as projects were submitted from different regions of the country and grants were regionally divided. In the seminars methods of group-work and discussions were used in order to support applicants with setting up effective capacity building projects and addressing the needs of the organisation or the field of work of the NGO in the best possible way. Unsuccessful applicants were encouraged to work on with their ideas and re-submit revised applications. There were several good examples when suggestions of experts were taken into account and proposals were developed into effective activity plans with realistic objectives and well-set indicators during the period between the open calls.

Grants were available for initiatives of civil society in three priority fields: i) democracy and civil society development; ii) environment and sustainable development; iii) social integration and local development. Priority fields were agreed as a result of open discussions with beneficiaries, and thus reflected the needs and opinion of the NGO sector in Estonia at that particular period. The priority fields were in line with the objectives of the financial mechanisms to support social and economic cohesion.

Additionally one horizontal area was introduced – i.e. capacity building of civil society organisations for addressing issues concerning growth of professionalism in the third sector, transparency and accountability of organisations, practices and skills of

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advocacy, participation and involvement, etc. Projects supported in all three priority fields should have an effect on capacity building of the project promoter.

The list of supported activities became quite long ranging from strategic planning and human resource development in a particular organisation to network and cooperation development and research activities. The fund addressed a broad scope of NGOs' needs and a large number of organisations were eligible for applying. Thus, due to the wide focus of the fund the applications' assessing and decision making process turned out to be more complicated and more time consuming than initially expected.

Numerous important processes in the NGO sector got a start from supported projects. Several advocacy networks became stronger and more visible e.g. in the fields of HIV, children day-care, child protection, patients' rights, environment protection. New knowledge was widely spread e.g. about sustainable consuming, participatory planning, social partnership, service development possibilities for community organisations, etc. On organisational level schemes for involving volunteers, strategic and financial planning, membership involvement etc were introduced or improved. New methods were tested and introduced e.g. a developmental program for NGOs involving business sector and universities as well as another training program for enterprises for more environmental friendly choices, etc.

Objective indicators of the NGO Fund were set for three main themes: better institutional capacity of NGOs, increased visibility and legitimacy of organisations, financial support delivered to NGOs for capacity building. Most of the indicators were targeted reasonably and the results met the expectations on completion of the implementation of the NGO Fund. The biggest discrepancies between targets and results were in indicators set for creating new jobs in the NGO sector and for delivering public services to NGOs. Although the sub-projects had a periodic effect on employment in the NGO sector, not many sustainable positions were created. Reasons behind the discrepancies may be that the fund application and indicators based on the public consultations referring to civil society's ambitions rather than professional in-depth research. On the other hand the fund was set-up in a situation of constantly rising market when it was easier also for the third sector to find additional funds for more ambitious plans. However, already the implementation period partly coincided with the financial crisis and it may have influenced the results of the fund.

Partnerships with organisations from donor countries were not set as a requirement for applicants, however partnerships were strongly favoured. The Intermediary organised the launch of the fund as a matchmaking event for Estonian and Norwegian NGOs, the opportunity of assistance in finding a partner was widely promoted in open call seminars, a banner leading to a database of possible partners was published on a dedicated website. However, there were only seven sub-projects supported, which were carried out with a Norwegian partner. Wider co-operation with donor countries' organisations and also co-operation with local organisations could give a good impulse for the development of the third sector. In further similar funds co-operation between several institutions within a sub-project could even be more strongly encouraged.

Lesson learned from the 2004-2009 period show that active and daily communication with project promoters help to solve misunderstandings and problems effectively and in time as only in three sub-projects out of 190 irregularities were discovered. (For more detailed information please see Annex II).

Secondly, for better planning and assessing the results of the fund in general level the focus of the fund should be narrower. Although concentrating on fewer priorities, some of the civil society's needs may not be addressed. It could help to focus more on the

general objective of the fund and support sub-projects with greatest potential for acquiring desired impact. Narrower focus could make also the applications' evaluation process more transparent and assessment of the fund results easier.

Additionally, it should be mentioned that experience sharing meetings between donors' side organisations and intermediaries of all the other beneficiary states turned out to be very useful and were very much appreciated by the OEF.

3.3 Transfer of Knowledge Block Grant

The Intermediate Body of the Transfer of Knowledge Block Grant was the Ministry of Education and Research and the Intermediary was a state established foundation Estonian Science Foundation. The block grant was implemented by the ESF smoothly and successfully.

The only open call of the block grant was launched in November, 2007 with a deadline in January, 2008. 31 eligible applications were received. Each application was evaluated by two foreign experts. The Council of the ESF decided to finance 10 sub-projects in March, 2008. The most successful university in applying for grants was the Tartu University. Research institutions from Norway were involved in nine projects, two projects had co-operation with Icelandic research institutions. In addition researchers from other countries, for example Finland, Sweden and Russia were involved.

The Transfer of Knowledge Block Grant has considerably contributed to fulfilling an important goal of Estonian Research and Development and Innovation Strategy (2007-2013) "Knowledge-based Estonia". This strategy directs to broader and more intensive international cooperation between research institutions.

The evidence of the success of cooperation between Estonian and partner researchers within the Block Grant is expressed by several novel and significant research results, especially in environmental and health sciences. Also, many articles were published in high-level international scientific journals, including articles written together with sub-project partners.

In the framework of the block grant sub-projects, several international conferences, seminars and workshops were organised, giving an opportunity to both scientists and also degree students to participate more actively in international scientific network. The sub-projects enabled for degree students also to work in partners' labs, participate in fieldworks and join the methodological trainings and work guided by foreign mentors. Several master and doctoral theses were defended in the frames of sub-projects.

One of the sub-projects supported directly further participation in the European 7th Framework Programme and also many other sub-projects have been a good basis for continuous international cooperation.

The final scientific conference to present the results of the sub-projects and to sum up the Transfer of Knowledge Block Grant was organized in March, 2011 in Tallinn.

4. Public awareness

During the implementation process the publicity was mainly provided by PPs and Intermediaries advised by the IBs or NFP when needed.

Press releases on opening ceremonies and other important events were active in the final stage of the implementation period. There were several conferences, opening events and articles and interviews regarding the projects in the local publications as well as in

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nation-wide media with the aim of raising public awareness of the goals of their projects and the source of financing. (Annex IV).

According to publicity plans the projects of reconstruction works installed commemorative plaques. Many PPs added information about the FM to their existing webpage or launched a project specific webpage. Depending on projects' aims many PPs organised different seminars and workshops. In several cases the introductory leaflets and information booklets were published.

Several opening events of project objects depending on the projects and on the publicity plans took place. For instance the opening ceremonies of manor schools were held (Puurmani, Kõpu, Kaagvere, Väätsa) in spring 2011. These events to appreciate gratitude were organised by the project promoters and the members of municipality, pupils and all project parties participated. There was an international conference in the project EE0045 "Estonian Mires Inventory completion for maintaining biodiversity". In September, 2010 project EE0016 had the conference of „Baltic Public Health Conference 2010 – Accomplishments and Challenges“ that was held with more than 160 participants from 12 countries. This was the first conference after 10 years on public health in Baltic States.

The block grants' intermediaries organised information seminars throughout the open calls for potential applicants and also the sub-project signings were organised as information days for advising grant recipients already on next steps. Different mailing lists and journals were used for reaching specific target groups. At the end of the implementation period festive closure events were held.

The NFP administrated and updated the official webpage of the FMs in Estonia www.eeagrants.fin.ee. It gave general information about the implementing process, grant decisions and when reasonable referred to the web pages where more detailed information could be found for instance to Intermediaries' webpages. Also several IBs express on their own webpage information about the FMs from the priority area's point of view.

Besides that the NFP produced promotional materials with the logos of the FMs such as pens, calendars and posters in order to raise awareness and for remembering the visuals of the FMs.

5. Legal issues

5.1 Legal base

Legal base for implementing the FMs in Estonia is assured by the Ratification Act of the Memoranda of Understanding dated March 22nd, 2006, the Government Regulation No 137 "Rules and Procedures for Application for, Use of, Supervision over and Assessment of the Results of the Resources of the Financial Mechanism of the European Economic Area and the Norwegian Financial Mechanism" dated June 14th, 2006, the Government Regulation No 278 "Recovery and Reimbursement of Grants and Rules and Procedures for Reporting on Irregularities in Awarding and Using the Grants" dated December 22nd, 2006 and the Government Order No 696 "Appointment of Authorities Arranging the Use of the Resources of the Financial Mechanism of the European Economic Area and the Norwegian Financial Mechanism" dated December 7th, 2006.

5.2 State aid

Regional aid was granted in the frames of EEA FM for Lihula Soojus LLC project “Reduction of greenhouse gas emissions through the adoption of renewable biofuels in the boiler house of Lihula Soojus” and for Kunda Nordic Tsement Ltd project “Reuse of solid combustible waste in cement rotary kilns”. The information about above mentioned projects is in the Register of State Aid and De Minimis Aid. The register is established according to the Regulation No. 7 of the Government of the Republic of 8 January 2009. The function of the register is to ensure that data regarding beneficiaries and aid granted to them is accessible to persons and agencies. The register was updated on a regularly bases. The state aid reports were prepared by NFP and were addressed to EC every year.

5.3 Procurements

Procurement procedures were provided according to the Public Procurement Act of Estonia, which is harmonised with the EU legislation. If public procurement was not required by the Public Procurement Act, comparable offers within reasonable limit were asked from different companies to ensure the best price and quality. The ruling principle in procurement of goods and services was “seeking value for money” and all the PPs were expected to follow at least the latter principle. Besides the project implementation reports, the overview of the procurements was given in the project completion reports.

6. Audit and monitoring

Auditing the management and control systems of the administration of the FMs and executing project audits on a sample basis was the responsibility of the Financial Control Department of Ministry of Finance (the Auditing Authority). According to the Regulation no 137 of the Government of the Republic of Estonia dated July 14th, 2006, the Auditing Authority audits the management and control systems of the administration of the projects if needed. The projects financed from the Norwegian and EEA financial mechanisms were audited on the sample basis. In compliance with the Government Regulation No 137 audits could also be carried out by the internal auditors of the IBs.

The following project audits were carried out:

- Auditing Authority carried out the audit of the project no EE0031 “The preservation and expansion of the potential uses of the Olustvere manor complex as an architectural monument”. One significant finding was made in the report. The finding was related to a deficiency in carrying out the public procurement by Olustvere School of Service and Rural Economics. The Project promoter did not control all the qualification criteria stated in the tender documents. FMO requested for a financial correction of 5% of the contract involved in the irregularity, as suggested by the Focal Point.
- The Internal Audit Department of The Ministry of Social Affairs carried out audits of the following projects:
 - EE0016 “Capacity building for disease surveillance and health monitoring in Estonia”,
 - EE0033 “Construction of handicraft workshops of Tartu Maarja School” and
 - EE0025 “Extension of the stadium complex of Haapsalu town to provide children with new sporting possibilities”. The audit of EE0025 was completed in January, 2010, but it was not pointed out in the last annual report.

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All projects were in compliance on all material aspects.

- The Internal Audit Department of the Ministry of Economic Affairs and Communications carried out an independent project- and system audit of the project EE0039 during the 1st half of 2010. The audit ensured that the project was carried out as described in the Grant Agreement and according to the audit report the grant awarded was used for its intended purpose. All the relevant legislation was followed. The project was in compliance on all material aspects.
- The Ministry of Finance carried out an audit of the project EE0035 in the 4th quarter of 2011. According to the audit report the Project Promoter declared in the project interim report 3 taxes on vacation pay as eligible although the vacation pay was non-eligible. The Project Promoter, Estonian Road Administration, agreed in the audit report that the mentioned amount is non-eligible. The irregularity occurred due to an accounting error. Otherwise the Auditing Authority was in the opinion that the project implementation and project implementation plan were in compliance on all material aspects.
- The Ministry of Finance carried out an audit of the project EE0031 in 2010. An irregularity of the Norwegian FM individual project occurred as the Project Promoter did not follow the correct procurement procedure. The infringement was found unintentional. The debit note was sent by the FMO. Otherwise the Auditing Authority was in the opinion that the project implementation and project implementation plan were in compliance on all material aspects.
- NGO Fund The Auditing Authority carried out an audit of the management and control systems of the Intermediary Open Estonia Foundation during August 2008 to November 2008. As a result of the audit, the Auditing Authority was in the opinion that the management and control systems of the Intermediary were in compliance on all material aspects.

Auditing Authority initially planned to carry out an audit of the management and control system of the Intermediary Estonian Science Foundation in the second half of 2010. As there were no high risks involved with the intermediary, the audit was withdrawn from the plan.

Project audits (sample checks on expenditure) were carried out on the basis of annual audit plan compiled according to the risk assessment methodology in cooperation with IBs. The audits were conducted in accordance with Standards of The Institute of Internal Auditors (IIA) and in conformity with the national auditing manuals (“The Manual of Sample Check on Expenditure” and “The Procedures on Auditing of the Financial Control Department of the Ministry of Finance”).

According to FMO’s external monitoring plans the following external monitoring reviews were carried out:

- The external monitoring was conducted for the project EE0044 by Ramboll monitoring company in November 2009. No major findings were made. The monitoring agent’s recommendation to focus on effective exchange of information between the activities in the project was followed.
- The external monitoring was conducted for the project EE0011 by Pitija Consulting Ltd monitoring company in November 2009. The monitoring agent’s recommendation to the project board was to review the way the ESTMAR project and its outputs were being presented, both to the scientific community

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and the general public, in order to maximise their engagement with the activities and outcomes. The recommendation was followed.

- The external monitoring was conducted for the project EE0020 by monitoring company Cross Czech in May-June 2009. The monitoring report stated that the project had been implemented successfully. Based on the findings of the documentation study, monitoring visit and consensus meeting of the monitoring team, no remedial actions were required.
- The external monitoring was conducted for EE0007 Regional Development Block Grant by monitoring company Inbas GmbH in August 2009. No major findings were made.
- The external monitoring and ex-post monitoring were conducted for the project EE0052 by Inbas in September 2010 and July 2011. There were some significant and insignificant findings during the first monitoring, on which the recommendations to the Intermediary were made. Recommendations were taken into account by the Intermediary.

7. Cross cutting issues

The principles of sustainable development, gender equality and good governance were followed upon implementation of the projects, several of which are inseparably interrelated.

7.1 Sustainable development

Social: During the implementation period, the projects were not directly involved with social dialogue. However, the pure fact that such an amount of finances were directed to the manor schools for example, gave out a positive signal that life in the countryside and our national heritage is respected and valued.

Environmental: As under priority areas number 1 and 2 all projects were environmental protection projects, the projects' activities were fully targeted to environmental issues. The projects promoted nature protection, environmental awareness and education for sustainable development. In addition to that, all extracted material from the construction sites and any waste that occurred during (re)construction works were handled in line with the Waste Act of Estonia. Besides that, the project EE0035 promoted a more environmentally friendly alternative to the use of passenger cars on roads with heavy traffic and in city areas.

Economic: Sustainable and economical use of natural resources was promoted. Also, the best available technology was sought for when it came to equipment or information systems, which helped to use the equipment for a longer time without updating and also to make better and more reasoned decisions. For example, in the case of project EE0035, the development of PTIS provided remarkably better preconditions for equal treatment of carriers and fair competition and making knowledge-based decisions regarding the organisation of public transportation, offering the users of public transport service countrywide and reliable data.

The sustainability of the project activities and results was supported by agreements signed between different partners whose contribution was necessary for achieving and guaranteeing the sustainability and further development of project results.

The development of Estonia is sustainable when the growth of the welfare of people, coherence of society and balance with the surrounding environment is ensured. All this was promoted through the FM's projects.

7.2 Gender equality

All the PPs were oriented towards gender equality and were striving for equal treatment of men and women in the project implementation process whenever and wherever it was possible. In implementing projects, there was no discrimination to be included in the project teams based on gender, race and religion. The jobs didn't set gender preferences in any manner. All received job applications were considered on equal basis and the salaries of female applicants were at the same level as of male applicants and were based on participants' competence and professional merits. Also the used equipment was in compliance with the requirements of EU safety and best available technique principles and suitable to be worked with by the representatives of both genders.

Results of the projects are equally available for use for all the inhabitants of Estonia and also for the tourists that come to Estonia. Moreover, the development of the PTIS provides better preconditions for all inhabitant groups' participation in the society. Improving the conditions of the use of PT will favour better equal possibilities and equal accessibility for the inhabitants to the convenient means of PT.

7.3 Good governance

The projects were planned in accordance with all elements of good governance, highlighted by the Donor. These elements were: accountability, transparency, participation, equality, rule of law, capacity and competence, and responsiveness to people's needs.

Upon implementation of the projects, the Constitution of Estonia, other legislation of Estonia and contracts with state authorities and international agreements were followed. For example, the financial transactions associated with the projects were concluded in compliance with the Accounting Act, the generally accepted accounting principles and the requirements set by the FMs – transparency of transactions, compliance with laws, auditing according to requirements and preservation of documents. All public procurements were carried out according to the Public Procurement Act. Upon conducting the public procurements and implementing the projects, the principles of equal treatment of tenderers and transparency were complied with and the potential conflicts of interest were avoided.

To ensure best monitoring of the project activities, the IBs provided a thorough set of regulations and procedures, which both the PPs and IBs followed during the implementation of projects.

Participation and equality principles were supported by the rights of all participating members to express their doubts and supports towards any kind of methodological, management or implementation problems. Due to the activities of steering committees it was easy to reach the balance between rights and responsibilities of all the partners. In particular the projects could not alter rights and interests of any partner and any third party.

8. Bilateral Cooperation

The following projects had a partnership statement:

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- The project **Emission of nitrous oxide and methane from Estonian agricultural landscapes** partner was Bioforsk. The cooperation under partnership was very good. Still there were some administrative difficulties - financial rules of the programme to be followed by the Norwegian partner.
- Although project **Estonian biodiversity data base and information network supporting Natura 2000** did not establish any formal bilateral contacts, it benefitted expert level co-operation with Dr. Jogeir Stokland, Oslo University, on data base development and on communication of data base skills. The expert level exchange of information and knowledge could be considered as bonus in the evaluation process of project.

Annexes

- I. Commitments and disbursements
- II. Irregularities
- III. List of individual project results
- IV. List of public awareness events

Annex I. Commitments and disbursements

Priority Areas 1 and 2	By commitment and decommitment deadlines			According to PCR				Donors						Final eligible cost		
	Total eligible cost	Committed		Total eligible cost	Committed		% from planned	Total reimbursements made				Debit note				
		Norway	EEA		Norway	EEA		Norway	EEA	Total	%	Norway	EEA	Total	Norway	EEA
	Total	10 481 576	3 596 278	2 082 104	8 837 328	3 380 186	1 697 809	84,3%	3 380 186	1 697 809	5 077 995	100%	0	5 712	8 830 466	3 380 186
EE0010	792 000	673 200	-	670 081	569 569	-	84,6%	569 569	-	569 569	100%	-	-	670 081	569 569	-
EE0011	646 398	549 438	-	587 008	498 957	-	90,8%	498 957	-	498 957	100%	-	-	587 008	498 957	-
EE0012	520 000	221 000	221 000	508 045	215 919	215 919	97,7%	215 919	215 919	431 838	100%	-	-	508 045	215 919	215 919
EE0018	540 600	-	449 995	538 980	-	448 647	99,7%	-	448 647	448 647	100%	-	5 712	532 118	-	442 935
EE0019	3 714 464	-	837 240	2 082 711	-	469 443	56,1%	-	469 443	469 443	100%	-	-	2 082 711	-	469 443
EE0034	2 454 728	1 431 597	-	2 714 949	1 431 597	-	110,6%	1 431 597	-	1 431 597	100%	-	-	2 714 949	1 431 597	-
EE0040	757 099	-	378 550	756 736	-	378 368	100,0%	-	378 368	378 368	100%	-	-	756 736	-	378 368
EE0044	618 500	525 725	-	563 191	478 712	-	91,1%	478 712	-	478 712	100%	-	-	563 191	478 712	-
EE0045	437 787	195 318	195 319	415 627	185 432	185 432	94,9%	185 432	185 432	370 864	100%	-	-	415 627	185 432	185 432

Priority Area 3	By commitment and decommitment deadlines			According to PCR				Donors						Final eligible cost		
	Total eligible cost	Committed		Total eligible cost	Committed		% from planned	Total reimbursements made				Debit note				
		Norway	EEA		Norway	EEA		Norway	EEA	Total	%	Norway	EEA	Total	Norway	EEA
	Total	9 696 131	6 157 293	2 069 812	9 683 308	6 115 784	2 069 065	99,9%	6 115 784	2 069 065	8 184 849	100%	3 466	0	9 679 217	6 112 318
EE0023	567 464	477 634	-	602 694	477 596	-	106,2%	477 596	-	477 596	100%	-	-	602 694	477 596	-
EE0028	1 089 627	926 183	-	1 084 074	921 463	-	99,5%	921 463	-	921 463	100%	-	-	1 084 074	921 463	-
EE0029	1 361 328	1 157 129	-	1 362 962	1 157 129	-	100,1%	1 157 129	-	1 157 129	100%	-	-	1 362 962	1 157 129	-
EE0031	1 425 933	1 212 043	-	1 425 933	1 212 043	-	100,0%	1 212 043	-	1 212 043	100%	2 505	-	1 422 986	1 209 538	-
EE0032	638 286	542 543	-	638 114	542 397	-	100,0%	542 397	-	542 397	100%	-	-	638 114	542 397	-
EE0036	1 305 662	-	1 109 813	1 305 669	-	1 109 813	100,0%	-	1 109 813	1 109 813	100%	-	-	1 305 669	-	1 109 813
EE0037	1 129 411	-	959 999	1 128 532	-	959 252	99,9%	-	959 252	959 252	100%	-	-	1 128 532	-	959 252
EE0047	1 178 852	1 002 024	-	1 137 874	967 193	-	96,5%	967 193	-	967 193	100%	-	-	1 137 874	967 193	-
EE0049	999 568	839 737	-	997 456	837 963	-	99,8%	837 963	-	837 963	100%	961	-	996 312	837 002	0

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Priority Area 5	By commitment and decommitment deadline			According to PCR				Donors								
	Total eligible cost	Committed		Total eligible cost	Committed		% from planned	Total reimbursements made				Debit note				
		Norway	EEA		Norway	EEA		Norway	EEA	Total	%	Norway	EEA	Total	Norway	EEA
Total	8 444 868	5 153 930	1 649 345	7 872 204	4 826 149	1 488 598	93,2%	4 826 149	1 488 598	6 314 747	100%	12 146	0	7 855 873	4 814 003	1 488 598
EE0016	936 700	769 312	-	887 161	728 626	-	94,7%	728 626	-	728 626	100%	8 756	-	876 500	719 870	-
EE0021	1 345 518	1 143 690	-	1 324 291	1 125 647	-	98,4%	1 125 647	-	1 125 647	100%	-	-	1 324 291	1 125 647	-
EE0024	620 726	372 436	-	621 917	371 844	-	100,2%	371 844	-	371 844	100%	3 390	-	616 247	368 454	-
EE0025	948 785	613 959	-	948 526	613 791	-	100,0%	613 791	-	613 791	100%	-	-	948 526	613 791	-
EE0026	605 460	298 492	216 149	607 382	298 492	216 149	100,3%	298 492	216 149	514 641	100%	-	-	607 382	298 492	216 149
EE0033	948 091	805 877	-	941 184	800 006	-	99,3%	800 006	-	800 006	100%	-	-	941 184	800 006	-
EE0038	561 434	-	477 219	561 125	-	476 956	99,9%	-	476 956	476 956	100%	-	-	561 125	-	476 956
EE0046	1 124 679	-	955 977	935 874	-	795 493	83,2%	-	795 493	795 493	100%	-	-	935 874	-	795 493
EE0048	965 190	820 122	-	965 177	820 111	-	100,0%	820 111	-	820 111	100%	-	-	965 177	820 111	-
EE0052	388 285	330 042	-	79 567	67 632	-	20,5%	67 632	-	67 632	100%	-	-	79 567	67 632	-

Priority Area 6	By commitment and decommitment deadlines			According to PCR				Donors								
	Total eligible cost	Committed		Total eligible cost	Committed		% from planned	Total reimbursements made				Debit note				
		Norway	EEA		Norway	EEA		Norway	EEA	Total	%	Norway	EEA	Total	Norway	EEA
Total	712 672	605 771	-	711 162	604 488	-	99,8%	604 488	-	604 488	100%	-	-	711 162	604 488	-
EE0020	712 672	605 771	-	711 162	604 488	-	99,8%	604 488	-	604 488	100%	-	-	711 162	604 488	-

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Priority Area 7	By commitment and decommitment deadlines			According to PCR				Donors						Final eligible cost		
	Total eligible cost	Committed		Total eligible cost	Committed		% from planned	Total reimbursements made				Debit note				
		Norway	EEA		Norway	EEA		Norway	EEA	Total	%	Norway	EEA	Total	Norway	EEA
Total	2 156 300	1 403 846	165 625	2 052 974	1 334 836	155 107	95,2%	1 334 851	155 092	1 489 943	100%	207	32	2 052 664	1 334 629	155 075
EE0035	1 616 010	1 079 672	165 625	1 513 238	1 010 994	155 107	93,6%	1 011 009	155 092	1 166 101	100%	207	32	1 512 928	1 010 787	155 075
EE0039	540 290	324 174	-	539 736	323 842	-	99,9%	323 842	-	323 842	100%	-	-	539 736	323 842	-

Block Grants	By commitment and decommitment deadlines			According to PCR				Donors						Final eligible cost		
	Total eligible cost	Committed		Total eligible cost	Committed		% from planned	Total reimbursements made				Debit note				
		Norway	EEA		Norway	EEA		Norway	EEA	Total	%	Norway	EEA	Total	Norway	EEA
Total	7 640 102	4 018 020	3 276 945	7 245 830	3 801 714	3 110 861	94,8%	3 838 377	3 147 100	6 985 477	101%	36 663	36 239	7 245 830	3 801 714	3 110 861
EE0007	4 633 004	2 660 631	1 919 557	4 319 029	2 480 322	1 789 470	93,2%	2 481 845	1 790 569	4 272 414	100%	1 523	1 099	4 319 029	2 480 322	1 789 470
EE0014	2 472 637	1 130 243	1 130 242	2 414 355	1 103 602	1 103 601	97,6%	1 130 243	1 130 242	2 260 485	102%	26 641	26 641	2 414 355	1 103 602	1 103 601
EE0015	534 461	227 146	227 146	512 446	217 790	217 790	95,9%	226 289	226 289	452 578	104%	8 499	8 499	512 446	217 790	217 790

Technical Assistance	By commitment and decommitment deadlines			According to PCR				Donors						Final eligible cost		
	Total eligible cost	Committed		Total eligible cost	Committed		% from planned	Total reimbursements made				Debit note				
		Norway	EEA		Norway	EEA		Norway	EEA	Total	%	Norway	EEA	Total	Norway	EEA
EE0006	676 678	287 588	287 588	436 961	185 709	185 708	64,6%	185 709	185 708	371 417	100%	-	-	436 961	185 709	185 708

Annex II. Irregularities

Priority area	Project	Number of the irregularity report	Brief description of the irregularity	Amounts reimbursed or to be reimbursed to FMO		
				Norway	EEA	Total
Environment and sustainable development	EE0018	N/A	The Project Promoter made transfers between budget headings above the 15% threshold without prior approval. The amount exceeding the threshold was reimbursed to FMO. Case closed.	-	5 712	5 712
				Total	-	5 712
Cultural heritage	EE0031	EE-11	Public procurement act was infringed. 5% of the contract value was found non-eligible and corresponding amount was reimbursed to FMO. Case closed.	2 505	-	2 505
	EE0049	N/A	Planned non-eligible costs declared in PIR as eligible by mistake. Non-eligible amount was reimbursed to FMO. Case closed.	961	-	961
	Total			3 466	-	3 466
Health and childcare	EE0021	EE-5	Public procurement act was infringed. The eligible cost of the contract value was decreased by 5% and corresponding amount was not paid to the Project Promoter. Case closed.	-	-	-
	EE0024	EE-10	Public procurement act was infringed. The eligible cost of the contract value was decreased by 5% and corresponding amount was not paid to the Project Promoter. FMO decided that the contract value should have been decreased by 25%. Non-eligible amount (20%) was reimbursed to FMO. Case closed.	3 390	-	3 390
	EE0027	EE-4	The Project Promoter could not implement the project according to the rules of the financial mechanisms. The project was decommitted. No payments were made. Case closed.	-	-	-
	EE0016	N/A	The Project Promoter has made transfers between activities above the 15% threshold and increased the management costs without prior approval. The amount exceeding the threshold and the management costs was reimbursed to FMO. Case closed.	8 756	-	8 756
	Total			12 146	-	12 146

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Regional development	EE0035	N/A	Taxes on vacation allowance were declared in the PIR as eligible by mistake. Non-eligible amount was reimbursed to FMO. Case closed.	207	32	239
	Total			207	32	239
Block grant "Strengthening of local and regional development"	EE0007/ Sub-project	EE-12	The Intermediary found some costs in the final report non-eligible, mainly costs incurred in the previous reporting periods and costs related to painting works and the corresponding amount was not paid to the sub-project promoter. The sub-project promoter has filed a claim against the Intermediary.	-	-	-
	Total			-	-	-
NGO fund	EE0014/ Sub-project	EE-6	The grant was not used according to the terms set in the implementation agreement and the budget was overestimated. The budget was decreased, the amount corresponding to non-eligible activities was paid back to the Intermediary. Case closed.	-	-	-
	EE0014/ Sub-project	EE-8	The advance payment was made to the sub-project promoter, but they did not have enough co-financing to start the project. The prepayment was not paid back to the Intermediary by the deadline. Finally the sub-project promoter paid back all the prepayment received. Case closed.	-	-	-
	EE0014/ Sub-project	EE-9	The grant was used for non-eligible expenses. The Intermediary requested that the sub-project promoter pays back the funds used for non-eligible expenses together with unused advance payment. The sub-project promoter did not do it. The Intermediary filed a claim and won. The Intermediary has received only EUR 6.86 from the claim.	4 822	4 822	9 644
	Total			4 822	4 822	9 644
TOTAL				20 641	10 566	31 207

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Annex III. List of individual projects' results

FM	Project number	Project Promoter	Project title	Duration	Project results
N/E EA	EE0012	University of Tartu	Emission of nitrous oxide and methane from Estonian agricultural landscapes	Sep 07 – Mar 11	The most important outcome of the project EE0012 was a significant enrichment of our knowledge in the field of GHG formation in various environmental conditions. The most practical importance are the estimations of CH ₄ and N ₂ O emissions from most of soil and land cover types of rural landscapes. This is the first nation-wide approach to estimate land-use-based CH ₄ and N ₂ O emissions with such resolution.
EEA	EE0018	University of Tartu	Estonian biodiversity data base and information network supporting Natura 2000	Jan 08-Dec 10	The biodiversity database is available now (http://elurikkus.ut.ee/). Almost complete overview on Estonian species can be used for biodiversity conservation measures. Development of biodiversity data bases and ensuring better access to environmental information is relevant in the context of the EU Birds Directive and Habitats Directive, and, in particular, for supporting the development of Natura 2000 network, keeping in focus the measures for reducing the biodiversity loss in each country.
EEA	EE0019	Kunda Nordic Tsement	Reuse of Solid Combustible Waste in Cement Rotary Kilns of Kunda Nordic Tsement	Nov 07-Mar 10	The Project contributed to the reduction of the amount of waste in landfills in Estonia and the use of oil shale in cement production. The objective of the project was to facilitate sustainable use of energy resources, recovery of wastes and decrease of pollution (CO ₂) load to living environment. The project promoter was Kunda Nordic Tsement. During the project implementation project budget was reduced due to the recession and cheaper technological solution was worked out. Planned activities were carried out and result were achieved regardless of the reduced budget.
EEA	EE0040	Lihula Soojus Ltd	Reduction of Greenhouse Gas Emissions through the Adoption of Renewable Biofuels in the Boiler House of Lihula Soojus	Nov 07 – Oct 09	The result of the project is the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions through the adoption of renewable biofuels in the boiler house of OÜ Lihula Soojus. The introduction of herbaceous biofuels and wood chips at Lihula Soojus OÜ boiler house has allowed Lihula to take advantage of the locally available biofuels, cut down the emissions and help Matsalu Wetland to preserve its natural environment.

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N/E EA	EE0045	Estonian Fund of Nature	Estonian mires inventory completion for maintaining biodiversity	Dec.08- Apr.11	The inventory of 8000 mires in Estonia which have not been studied in detail yet, including all mires remaining to be inventorized in Natura sites. The project was relevant as it had a clear and preventive outcome – one component of the project consists of compilation of recommendations to management plans concerning the methods and amounts of use of natural resources (acceptable from the natural values and nature conservation viewpoint) in the future, thus enabling to optimize the use of wetland resources. To conclude, as a result of the project, Ministry of the Environment has now the data for 13901 mires, complemented database for the mires, proposals for the protection of the mires. The project is relevant for protection of the environment and promotion of sustainable development.
EEA	EE0036	Laupa Municipality	The restauration of Laupa manor school	Feb 08 – Oct 10	The manor complex will mainly be used as the school but also as the cultural center. Laupa manor house remains in use as a public school.
EEA	EE0037	Koigi Municipality	Koigi manor school as an upholder of architectural and cultural heritage	Jan 08 – Jan10	The manor complex will mainly be used as the school but also as the local communities center. The project fulfilled its main purpose to renovate the Koigi manor house so that it remains in use as a public school.
N/E EA	EE0026	ASBL SOS-Children's Village Association of Estonia	Enlarging SOS Children's village	Feb 08 – March 10	In new SOS houses in Põltsamaa there are places for 6 children in each of the 3 houses. In all houses there are families with foster-parents. SOS Children's Village has now 15 family houses for children without parental care. The principles of the system are in line with the Social Welfare Concept of Estonia and complement the national policy under which the children's homes are reorganised in Estonia and turned into family type housing units for 6-8 children living in one home under the supervision of "a mother and a father" or social workers.
EEA	EE0046	Lahmuse School	Renovation of the buildings of Lahmuse School for children with special needs	Oct 08 – Apr 11	The renovation and adaptation of the buildings have significantly improved the children's preparedness to cope with life and diversifies the girls' handicraft skills, while a modern student home provides safer and more balanced learning environment for children with special needs. Additionally the finished project has created conditions for preserving and exposing the historically valuable building complex to the public. When we think of the renovated buildings the surrounding park and the diversity of activities offered in the manor complex then Lahmuse has

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					got a unique potential becoming one of the most exciting attractions in Viljandi county.
EEA	EE0038	Kaagvere Special School	Improvement of the training and development environment for girls and rural youths needing special educational conditions	Nov 07 – Apr 11	Creative activities are used as a tool to enhance the social capability and self control of young offenders. Positive atmosphere and broader spectrum of activities raise the self-esteem of pupils who attend Kaagvere Special School, social skills of pupils are improved and support the children on their further educational path and / or life decisions. The possibilities of complementary educational activities (creative activities) have positive effect not only to the Kaagvere school but also to the Melliste kindergarten-elementary school and inhabitants of the local municipality. The Creative Chambers are open to both the local male and female genders. The renovated buildings under heritage protection have contributed to the improvement of local environment and community
N/EEA	EE0035	Estonian Road Administration	Development of Estonian Public Transport Information System (PTIS)	Jan 08 – Apr 11	PTIS has significantly improved the service quality of PT through better information distribution and better supervision. All county municipalities use PTIS and update it regularly. The Trip Planner Info System covers all of the counties of Estonia. Besides that it covers the intercity lines, train lines, ferry lines and also it gives you an overview of city lines in the 8 biggest cities in Estonia. Therefore PTIS promotes the use of public transport among Estonian citizens and tourists.

Annex IV. List of public awareness events

1. Priority areas “Protection of the environment” and “Promotion of sustainable development”

The project results of all projects of priority area 1 and 2 were presented at the Norwegian and EEA FM Environmental conference in Tallinn on May 12, 2011.

EE0045

Several press releases and interviews in national and local newspapers, radio, TV, project webpage <http://www.elfond.ee/en/what-we-do/wetlands/estonian-mires-inventory-completion-for-maintaining-biodiversity>

The international conference "Mires and Wilderness" was held in Tartu on 18-20 April 2011 for 125 participants. Materials of the conference are available at web-site www.elfond.ee.

EE0012

During the project several scientific papers were elaborated and published in the scientific journal. The project website is www.hot.ee/kasvuhooonegaasid. During the project implementation period the following participants defended their PhD thesis using the project data: Martin Maddison (in 2008), Kaido Soosaar and Jaan Pärn (2010).

Results of the project were presented at a conference in Venice (Italy), 4-8.10.2010, at a conference in Qingdao (China) 12-18.10.2010 and at a conference in London, 27.02-03.03.2011. The project conclusion conference was held in Tartu on 18.03.2011.

EE0018

The online database was made public (<http://elurikkus.ut.ee>). Also a new version of the user manual of the project input module was launched in Estonian and English. The database was promoted at national seminars and at an international seminar attended by Norwegian experts as consultants. Under the umbrella of the UN Year of Biodiversity, the data base was promoted in a national ecology conference, seminars to teachers and in the aforementioned article.

2. Priority area “Conservation of European cultural heritage”

The website of the Ministry of Culture provides the list of projects supported by the Norwegian and EEA Financial Mechanisms. The PPs followed their publicity plans. All sites have billboards with information about the PPs, conservation companies, supervisors and donors. Several articles were published in the newspapers and opening events were held in manor schools.

3. Priority area “Health and childcare”

Project promoters published press releases in newspapers and news portals, therefore the goals of their projects and source of financing was introduced. Also webpages and newspaper articles were published to introduce the projects. Representatives of the Ministry of Social Affairs participated in information events organised by project promoters.

EE0026

The opening ceremony of the 3 family houses of the SOS Children’s Village in Põltsamaa took place on 1st of June 2010 (International Children’s Day). The event was covered in Estonian national TV news and national newspapers.

EE0038

The opening ceremony of Clay Chamber, Straw Chamber and Information Chamber took place on April 30, 2011.

EE0046

The opening ceremony of the renovated creamery, smithy and administrator's houses was held on September 30, 2011.

5. Priority area “Regional policy and cross-border activities”

EE0035

The PTIS is available at the project homepage: www.peatus.ee. The project webpage <http://www.mnt.ee/atp/?id=41694> - the info is updated regularly, the documents linked with the project are available on the webpage.

Several newspaper articles about the project were published.