

Press release

Spain, Norway, Iceland and Liechtenstein boost technological cooperation in energy and environment

- The General Secretary for Science, Technology and Innovation, María Luisa Poncela, and the Norwegian Ambassador to Spain, Johan Christopher Vibe, have inaugurated today the event *Promoting Bilateral Cooperation through the EEA Grants 2009-2014*, which brought together over 300 representatives of companies and organizations in Spain, Norway, Iceland and Liechtenstein in the energy and environmental fields.
- During this event, Elisa Robles, General Director of the Centre for Industrial Technological Development (CDTI), has released the results of the Spanish participation in the first call of the program of Science and Technology in Environment and Climate Change, co-financed by the Financial Mechanism of the European Economic Area (EEA-Grants) and CDTI.

February 17, 2014. The event *Promoting Bilateral Cooperation through the EEA Grants 2009-2014*, has gathered today more than 300 representatives of companies from Spain, Norway, Iceland and Liechtenstein related energy and environmental fields.

The General Secretary for Science, Technology and Innovation, María Luisa Poncela, and the Norwegian Ambassador to Spain, Johan Christopher Vibe, have highlighted the important role of the Financial Mechanism of the European Economic Area (EEA-Grants) as it funds the development of technology projects in areas such as energy efficiency, renewable energy, climate change and environmental technologies, all of great social interest.

In addition, these funds have the dual purpose of strengthening bilateral relations between the three donor countries: Norway, Iceland and Liechtenstein and Spain and thus enable participating institutions to be more competitive through the development and application of very novel technologies in these areas.

During her speech, Elisa Robles, General Director of the Centre for Industrial Technological Development has announced the results of the first call of the program of Science and Technology in Environment and Climate Change, which is funded by the EEA Grants and CDTI.

In this call 97 R&D projects, with a total budget of EUR 77 million, were approved. Of the total, CDTI has granted loans by more than 60 million. Of these, 11 million were contributed by donor countries.

It is important to highlight that of these 97 projects approved, 42 are developed in cooperation with institutions from donor countries. This high share is due to the great collaboration between CDTI, as Programme Operator of the Science and Technology Environment and Climate Change Programme, and Innovation Norway as a donor programme partner.

Given the great success that this program has had on our country, the second call was opened last 10th of February and it will remain opened until 10th of April of this year. On this occasion, the CDTI will manage more than 32 million euros, of which over 5 come from EEA-Grants funds. To finance the approved projects, the CDTI complements these funds with more than 27 million euros through repayable loans to an interest rate of one-year Euribor +0.1 percentage points, set the date of the approval of the aid.