



# 2015 Strategic Report

on the EEA Financial Mechanism and the Norwegian  
Financial Mechanism

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**The Government Office of the Slovak Republic as the National  
Focal Point for the FM EEA and the NFM**

Version 1.0

## 1 SUMMARY

From the point of view of implementing the EEA Financial Mechanism and the Norwegian Financial Mechanism, 2015 was a significant year as the implementation period for the projects has been extended. After evaluating all the circumstances, the Government Office decided to request an extension for selected projects under all the programmes implemented, except for the *SK04 Local and Regional Initiatives to Promote Social Inclusion* programme. Based on the currently available information, the implementation of projects within the *SK04 Local and Regional Initiatives to Promote Social Inclusion* programme should be finished by the original deadline, i.e. 30 April 2016.

This strategic report covers the progress in the implementation of both financial mechanisms in Slovakia in 2015. The report consists of five chapters. The second chapter covers the development of selected indicators relevant for the individual programmes. It is impossible to determine the exact influence of the financial mechanisms and the volume of financial means provided on the selected indicators, however, it can be assumed that they did indeed contribute to a positive development. The third chapter presents a brief summary on the current state of the individual programmes. As for the state of implementing the EEA Financial Mechanism, i.e. the implementation of the programmes: *SK02 Adaptation to Climate Change – Prevention of Flood and Drought*, *SK04 Local and Regional Initiatives to Promote Social Inclusion*, and *SK05 Conservation and Revitalisation of Cultural and Natural Heritage & Promotion of Diversity in Culture and Arts within European Cultural Heritage*, it is safe to assume that an extension of the implementation period for this programmes will allow for the successful completion of the programmes. In 2015 and the beginning of 2016, it is not yet possible to correctly evaluate their outcomes and results, however, a more or less smooth course of the implementation can be observed. The implementation of the *SK06 EEA Scholarship Fund Slovakia* has progressed without any serious issues, too.

However, the state of implementing the Norwegian Financial Mechanism, i.e. the *SK07 Green Industry Innovation*, *SK08 Cross-Border Cooperation*, and *SK09 Domestic and Gender-Based Based Violence* is not completely satisfying. In the *SK08 Cross-Border Cooperation* programme, only 44% of the projects have been contracted. The contracting process is very lengthy and complicated mainly due to the situation in Ukraine, which may have a significant impact on the outcomes of the programme. The situation is all the more complicated due to the nature of the factors that prolong and complicate the contracting process over which the programme operator has no control whatsoever. As for the *SK07 Green Industry Innovation*, two more projects have been contracted, however, a rather large amount of money still remains unallocated. Projects within the *SK09 Domestic and Gender-Based Based Violence Programme* have entered the implementation stage and the programme operator decided to reallocate the non-contracted financial means into existing projects. All projects in the programme have been extended.

The fourth chapter covers the most important information on audits, irregularities, monitoring and changes in the framework documents which took place on the national level in 2015. The fifth and final chapter includes a brief overview of summaries and future recommendations, mainly for the following programming period. The Report also includes all obligatory appendices.

As for the strengthening of bilateral relations, 2015 brought significant progress. In July 2015, all bilateral funds – Measure B on the programme level – were open. Several study trips were also organised in order to support bilateral relations. The most important of them were the study trip of more than 30 Slovak high school students and their teachers to Oslo under the *SK02 Adaptation to Climate Change – Flood and Drought Prevention* programme, and the study trip of Norwegian experts to Slovakia under the *SK09 Domestic and Gender-Based Based Violence* programme.

From the point of view of strengthening bilateral relations and publicity, one of the most important events of 2015 was the 6<sup>th</sup> European Border Dialogues Forum Košice – Užhorod, an event held by the

programme operator. The international conference took place in late November 2015 and was attended by more than 50 speakers and 200 participants from all over Europe.

To sum up, it can be stated that the implementation of both financial mechanisms progressed in 2015. As for emerging problems such as the complicated process of public procurement, the unfavourable situation in Ukraine and unallocated financial means in certain programmes, the programme operator is making efforts to solve them or at least minimize their impact in cooperation with both relevant partners and close cooperation with the final recipients.

## 2 IMPACT ASSESSMENT OF FM

### 2.1 Cohesion

Cohesion is one of the two primary goals of the EEA and Norway grants that facilitate the removal of economic and social disparities in the European Economic Area. The result-based management requires the measuring of objectively verifiable indicators. The continuous evaluation of these indicators will allow us to observe whether Slovakia reaches the average values in the EEA. Certain indicators are not observed on the supranational level; however, the analysis of national data allows us to determine whether the situation in Slovakia is improving. Cross-sectorial criteria are a special category as, apart from a few exceptions, it is rather complicated to quantify the benefits of these grants. In this as well as in the following chapters, the qualitative changes which took place in 2015 in some of the parameters will be described.

The Report defines the indicators that are to be monitored throughout the programming period. These indicators are relevant to individual programmes, i.e., the report does not cover indicators that have no impact on the programmes implemented in the Slovak Republic. Indicators which cannot be statistically verified are not being observed either. Their list may be expanded from time to time. The objective of this part of the Strategic Report, however, is not to measure how specific programmes contribute to achieving these indicators. The contribution cannot be quantified in terms of allocation and impacts of EEA grants. The Report aims at analysing society-wide changes and trends in the programme areas. At the same time, it can reasonably be assumed that EEA grants have contributed to bringing about positive changes.

Throughout the implementation period, indicators for the following areas will be monitored:

	Priority sector	Relevant programmes	Indicators
EEA	Climate change and renewable energy	Adaptation to Climate Change – Flood and Drought Prevention	Damage caused by floods
	Civil society	NGO Funds	Sustainability index for civil society organisations
	Human and social development	Local and regional initiatives to promote social inclusion	Persons at risk of poverty and social exclusion in the EEA following social transfers (benefits)
	Conservation and revitalisation of cultural heritage	Conservation and revitalisation of cultural heritage	Current conditions of national cultural heritage
NFM	Green Industry Innovation	Green Industry Innovation	Renewable energy resource proportion in the final energy consumption in the EEA Rate of unemployment in the EEA
	Human and social development	Domestic and gender-Based violence	Number of female victims of the criminal offense of domestic violence
		Cross-Border cooperation with Ukraine	Number of visas issued by representative bodies of the Slovak Republic for the citizens of Ukraine

#### 2.1.1 Climate changes

2015 was a year of preparations for the conference of the contracting parties to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Changes, which was held in Paris in December 2015. It concluded several years of effort to create an ambitious international agreement that could serve as the basis for the successful

solution of the issue of climate changes on the planet. The so-called Paris Agreement includes a plan to limit the increase of the global temperature to less than two degrees centigrade as well as a five-year cycle of evaluating compliance with the obligations of the individual countries pertaining to greenhouse gas emissions. The result of the Paris conference is generally perceived as a breakthrough, however the level of obligation pertaining to the stated objectives and their achievement are the subject of certain doubts. Nevertheless, no one questions the key role of the cities in the fulfilment of the obligations emerging from the Paris Agreement. The attendance of more than 700 city mayors from all around the world at the conference in Paris has confirmed it.

For the signatories of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Changes of the Paris Agreement (the Convention has been signed by 185 countries, including Slovakia), it means the end of dependence on fossil fuels, increase of the energetic effectiveness to 40%, and acceleration of the transition to the use of renewable energy resources. These goals will have to be included in the upcoming European policies and strategies. The current Europe 2020 Strategy (also known as the 20-20 Strategy) covers goals planned up to 2020, which include a decrease in primary energy consumption and greenhouse gas emissions, and a 20% increase in the use of renewable energy resources so that it would constitute a 20% share of total energy consumption. These goals seem demanding, however their achievement would still not be sufficient to fulfil the obligations provided for in the Paris Agreement.

As a foreshadowing of the Paris negotiations, the European Commission proposed a new initiative regarding self-governments. It is basically a merger of two already existing initiatives: the Covenant of Mayors, a global coalition of mayors and city leaders voluntarily making commitments to cut CO<sub>2</sub> emissions, and the Mayors Adapt initiative, which obliges the signatories to take particular steps towards adaptation to the negative impacts of climate changes in their territory. Both initiatives have merged into a single initiative called the Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy.

On the national level the preparation of calls in the individual operational programmes within the structural funds continued. A synergic effect is expected to be created between the *SK02 Adaptation to Climate Change – the Flood and Drought Prevention* programme and the *Environment* programme, as the adaptation to climate changes belongs directly under Investment Priority 1 of Priority Axis 2: *Facilitation of Investments Related to Adaptation to Climate Changes* for which the calls will be published in autumn 2016.

## **Statistics**

The 2015 data were only available for the period from December 2014 to June 2015 at the time of the preparation of this Report. As for floods, the period cannot be perceived as homogenous, neither from the temporal, nor the spatial point of view. The nature of potential flooding is diverse since the period covers the winter, spring and summer seasons. In the winter period, the floods are mainly caused by melting snow, a combination of melting snow and rain, or ice floods caused by the creation of ice barriers. In the summer period, floods are usually caused by long-term or torrential rain.

Based on the Report on the Course and Consequences of the Floods in the Territory of the Slovak Republic from December 2014 to the end of July 2015<sup>1</sup>, in winter of 2014/2015 mainly the first mentioned types of floods took place. The winter period in question belongs among the top five warmest winters since the second half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. The floods in the given time period were caused by melting snow (together with liquid precipitation) and downpours. The floods at the end of January emerged due to an increase in the temperature and major liquid precipitation. The combination

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<sup>1</sup> Zdroj: <http://www.minzp.sk/files/sekcia-vod/povodne-2002-2012-informacie/sprava-priebehu-nasledkoch-povodni-uzemi-sr-obdobi-12.2014-6.2015.pdf>

of the two factors which struck Eastern Slovakia, and the presence of snow mainly at higher altitudes, resulted in an increase in the rising of levels in connection to several water courses in Eastern Slovakia.

May and June had a typical summer nature, but significant long-term precipitation was absent. A typical phenomenon accompanying torrential rains is the variability of precipitation in time and space. Extreme precipitation repeatedly occurred in certain parts of Slovakia (parts of the Prešov and Banská Bystrica regions), whilst other parts suffered from a significant lack of precipitation (South-West). The most significant wave of torrential rain struck the central part of the Považie region, the upper part of the Pohronie region and the High Tatras foothills between 20 and 21 May 2015. Storms were accompanied by frequent electrical discharge, hailstorms, strong gusts, and intense rain occurred. As an example, in some cases an hour rainfall approached almost 50 mm.

On 6 May 2015 the phenomenon known as supercells was observable over the country. The most intense precipitation was recorded in the vicinity of Prešov, where the intensity of rainfall overwhelmed the sewerage capacity, which resulted in flooding several parts of the city. The storm that occurred on 30 May 2015 struck the riversides of Poprad, the upper Topľa and Torysa rivers.

Other floods in the observed period were of a torrential nature. In the city residential areas of Prešov and Veľký Šariš, houses and local roads were flooded by internal waters. The streaming of water down the fields and meadows in the vicinity of residential areas also caused inconveniences in Hybe. Due to intense precipitation, the levels in the water courses rose significantly. Floods occurred also due to the inundation of water from basins and the blockage of sewerage and outlets, or due to areal flushing from the slopes above residential areas.

Torrential rains and hailstorms caused water courses to rise also in the Považská Bystrica and Púchov districts. A number of real estates were flooded, bridges and roads damaged. In some areas, road traffic had to be restricted. Significant problems were caused by blocked road inlets and bridges, which resulted in the surging of water and flooding of adjacent areas.

Intense precipitation of a torrential nature struck the Komárno, Liptovský Mikuláš, Rimavská Sobota, and Krupina districts on 26 May 2015. The primary cause of flooding in this case was not the inundation of water from its basin, but the overwhelming sewerage or areal flooding with water and mud from the fields. Mainly local and regional second and third class roads, public spaces, lots, houses and other buildings were flooded. In Važec (Liptovský Mikuláš district) torrential rains caused the Biely Váh, Mlyničná Voda and the Važec brook water courses to overflow their banks.

The Report on the Course and Consequences of the Floods in the Territory of the Slovak Republic from December 2014 to the end of June 2015 prepared by the Ministry of Environment and Ministry of Interior states the damage caused amounted to EUR3,071,272. Damage to personal property amounted to EUR752,487.74. The largest share of property damage belonged to the municipalities, amounting to more than a third of the total amount of damage (EUR1,252,134).

The main trouble-causing factor in this case was the intensity of torrential rain. It resulted in a massive surface run-off, also often carrying away the upper layer of the soil. In such circumstances a flood is not caused by a river overflowing its banks, but rather by water running down nearby slopes into city residential areas. The dynamics of running water cause the soil and different objects to move and block inlets, thus clogging roads and lots.

Several municipalities have noted cases of inadequate land management in the sloping areas in their vicinities (deforestation, incorrect ploughing technique, unsuitable crop rotation plans, very large number of service roads). Uncovered surfaces often allowed for the flushing of the upper level of the soil and its depositing in residential areas. Therefore, it is not sufficient to focus on flood protection measures in the water courses – it is needed to intensify the flood protection management of the land in general. It is also highly recommended to start solving the problem of illegal dumps nearby water

courses as they cause blockages of sewerage inlets during flooding. The *SK02 Adaptation to Climate Change – Flood and Drought Prevention* programme, which focuses not only on flood protection measures and land management, but also on the sustainable management of rainwater in the residence areas, is expected to help solve the above mentioned issues.

### 2.1.2 The NGO Fund

As in 2014, the EEA FM was the largest financial donor to non-governmental, organisations in Slovakia in 2015 again, with a total allocation exceeding EUR7,400,000.

The current Plenipotentiary for the Development of Civil Society, Martin Giertl, was appointed on 5 November 2011 with effect from 15 November 2014. On 11 February 2015 the Plenipotentiary submitted the Action Plan of the Initiative for Open Governance to the Government of the SR for 2015, approved by the Resolution of the Government of the SR No. 59/2015. In the course of 2015 the implementation of the obligations pertaining to the Action Plan has started.

The Office of Plenipotentiary for the Development of Civil Society has created an evaluation report in cooperation with the relevant public institutions and civil society. It evaluates 34 obligations provided in the Action Plan of the Initiative for Open Governance for 2015. The evaluation report has been created with the active participation of expert work groups members focusing on topics such as open data/transparency, open education and research, open justice, participation and the subsidy schemes module.<sup>2</sup>At the time of preparing this report the evaluation report was being redlined.

According to the USAID (US Agency for International Development) report for 2014<sup>3</sup> (the 2015 data were not available at the time of the preparation of this Report), the number of NGOs increased by 0.1, from 2.8 to 2.9. A decline in sustainability has been explained by the lack of sources suitable for the development of infrastructure. The indicator has reached its peak value so far, which means that the sustainability of civil society organizations has been at its lowest since the observations began in 1998. Based on the report in question, the number of civil society organizations increased from 40,370 in 2013 to 42,750 in 2014 (out of which 38,600 are civic associations).

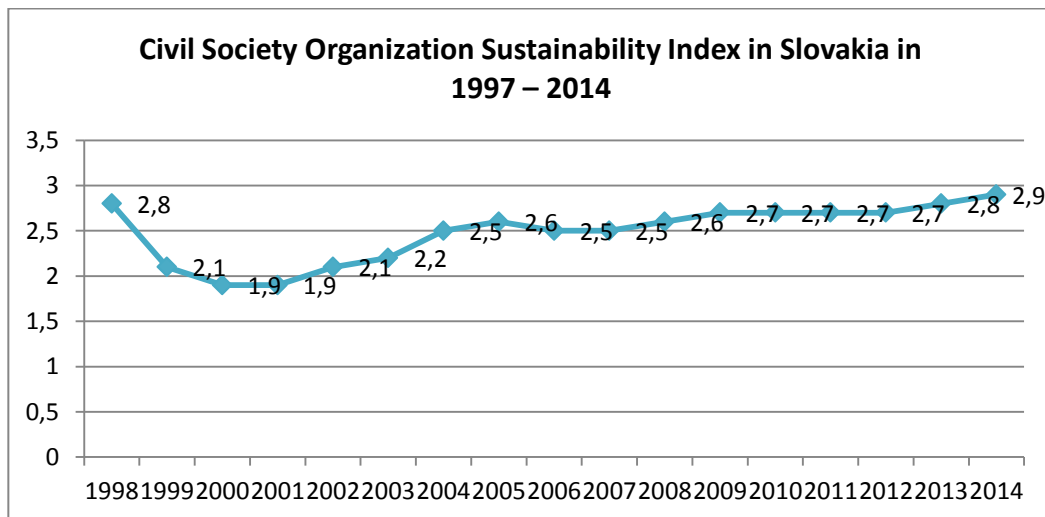


Chart 1: Civil Society Organization Sustainability Index in Slovakia in 1997 – 2014

<sup>2</sup>Source: [http://www.minv.sk/?ros\\_vsetky-spravy&sprava=verejna-diskusia-hodnotiaca-sprava-k-implementacii-akcneho-planu-iniciativy-pre-otvorene-vladnutie-na-rok-2015](http://www.minv.sk/?ros_vsetky-spravy&sprava=verejna-diskusia-hodnotiaca-sprava-k-implementacii-akcneho-planu-iniciativy-pre-otvorene-vladnutie-na-rok-2015)

<sup>3</sup>Source: [https://www.usaid.gov/sites/default/files/documents/1863/EuropeEurasia\\_FY2014\\_CSOSI\\_Report.pdf#page=212](https://www.usaid.gov/sites/default/files/documents/1863/EuropeEurasia_FY2014_CSOSI_Report.pdf#page=212)

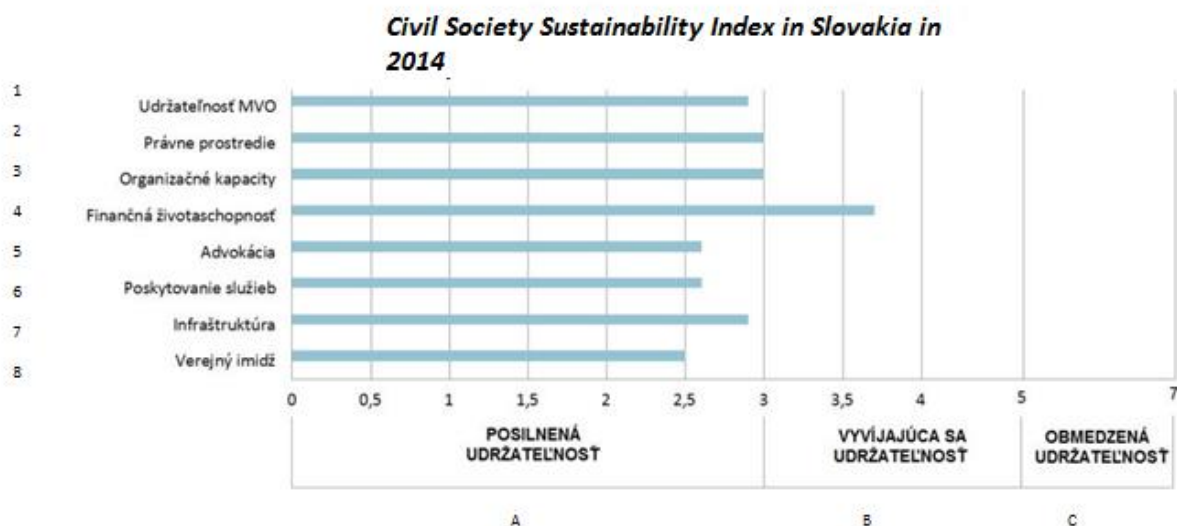


Chart 2: Civil Society Sustainability Index in Slovakia in 2014 (1 – NGO Sustainability; 2 – Legal Environment; 3 – Organisational Capacities; 4 – Financial Viability; 5 – Advocacy; 6 – Service Delivery; 7 – Infrastructure; 8 – Public Image; A – Sustainability Enhancement Possible; B – Developing Sustainability; C – Limited Sustainability)

Partial indicators – the financial viability, sustainability, advocacy, and service offer deteriorated by 0.1 in the course of 2014. It approached the value of 3, i.e. the level at which the strengthened sustainability level borders on the lower developing sustainability level. As for the financial viability indicator, which was at the developing sustainability level also in 2013, has been gradually approaching the value of 5, i.e. the limited sustainability level. As for the partial indicator of infrastructure, the value deteriorated significantly by 0.5 in 2014, i.e. from 2.4 in 2013 to 2.9 in 2014.

### 2.1.3 Local and regional initiatives to promote social inclusion

In 2015, the Slovak Republic witnessed several new development trends in the area of social inclusion and removing regional disparities. The *SK04 Local and Regional Initiatives to Reduce Ethnic Disparities and Promote Social Inclusion* programme covers projects at individual schools in regions with the highest unemployment rates (Banská Bystrica, Prešov and Košice regions). On one hand, the projects encourage intercultural relationships between Roma and other pupils; on the other hand, they contribute to the creation of the Roma identity, which is one of the prerequisites for their full inclusion into majority society. For the sake of the long-term sustainability of the programme, it is very important that the State Pedagogical Institute (the recipient in the pre-defined project) created course books and methodology guidelines for teachers who would like to apply the intercultural teaching approach in schools with mixed Roma and other pupils. Besides that, 46 teachers have been through the innovative training and are prepared to train other adepts who would like to learn how to apply the intercultural teaching approach.

However, due to its limited coverage, the *SK04 Local and Regional Initiatives to Reduce Ethnic Disparities and Promote Social Inclusion* programme cannot bring on any significant economic or social changes, which would reduce disparities on the regional or national levels. This programme can only contribute to change on a local level in several dozen localities. Nevertheless, it is potentially sustainable in other places if they are interested in the above mentioned teaching approach in the future.

The most significant progress was achieved in the area of Structural Funds for the 2014 – 2020 programming period. Projects related to the social inclusion of the poverty-stricken population (mostly the Roma) were allocated EUREUR383millions.



In the 2014 – 2020 programming period projects regarding the fields of social work, pre-primary education, health awareness promotion, and assistance in the settlement and legalization of land on which the Roma settlements are built, as well as the employability of the Roma. The improvement of technical equipment in municipalities with marginalized Roma communities will be supported. The projects will focus on the improvement of housing quality, the increasing of the capacity of kindergartens and community centres, improvement of infrastructure, and last but not least, the support of subjects of social economy in order to improve the employment rate on the local level.

The Office of the Plenipotentiary of the Slovak Republic for Roma Communities (hereinafter referred to as UVSRK) is the recipient of financial aid from the European Social Fund under the *Human Resources* operational programme, Priority Axis 5: Integration of the Marginalized Roma Communities to Implement the Take Away National Project, Stage I; Municipal Community Centres in Locations with Marginalized Roma Communities National Project, Stage I; Monitoring and Evaluation of Policies Focused on the Social Inclusion of the Marginalized Roma Community National Project. These national projects will be implemented within Priority Axis 5: Integration of the Marginalized Roma Communities under the *Human Resources* operational programme funded by the European Social Fund –based on experience from the previous programming period as well as the pilot projects. These confirmed the need to focus on the implementation of successful and necessary programmes in municipalities with the poorest Roma communities as provided in the Atlas of Roma Communities.

The UVSRK successfully enforced the so-called clause for the performance of the contract to be compulsory in public procurement regarding projects implemented under the *Human Resources* OP, which focus on settlement regeneration, social infrastructure and housing support. The clause defines the extent of participation regarding the long-term unemployed.

**Statistics**

The unemployment rate has been decreasing annually (2014 – 13.2%; 2015 – 11.5%; 2016 – 10.3%), however it is mostly of a structural and long-term nature. The low demand for labour force and the small number of job opportunities together with one of the lowest labour force fluctuation rates in the EU results in one of the highest long-term unemployment rates in the EU 28 (10% in comparison to 5.1% in 2013). One of the main reasons for the unfavourable situation in the labour market is low employment among certain groups of the population, including the Roma, and factors which decrease motivation to become employed – the tax system and the social benefits system, the low ability of the public employment service to help the most disadvantaged job candidates, and relatively low domestic geographical labour mobility.

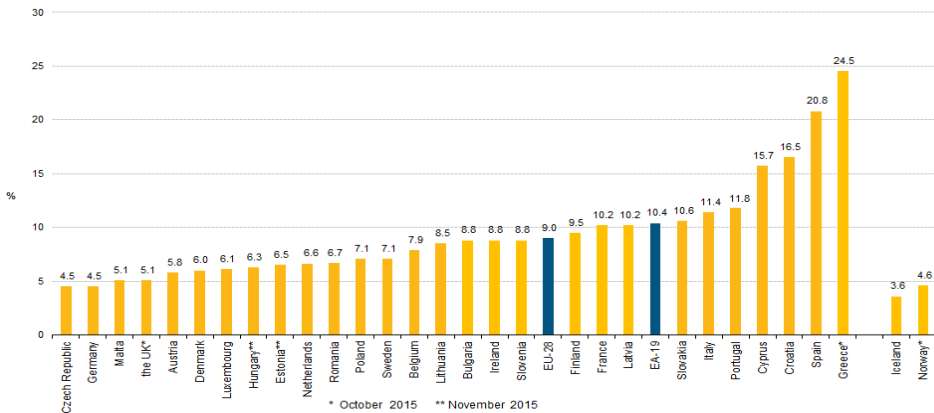


Chart 3: Rate of unemployment in EU countries at the end of 2015<sup>4</sup>

<sup>4</sup> Source: Eurostat

Approximately 60% of the unemployed in Slovakia possess low labour skill qualifications; almost 70% are long-term unemployed (jobless for more than one year). Both numbers rank amongst the 28 EU countries. Despite the fact that the tax burden of the employed population with low income was approximately at the EU average and the general level of social aid in Slovakia is relatively low, factors which demotivate people from finding a job in certain types of low income households still seem to persist.

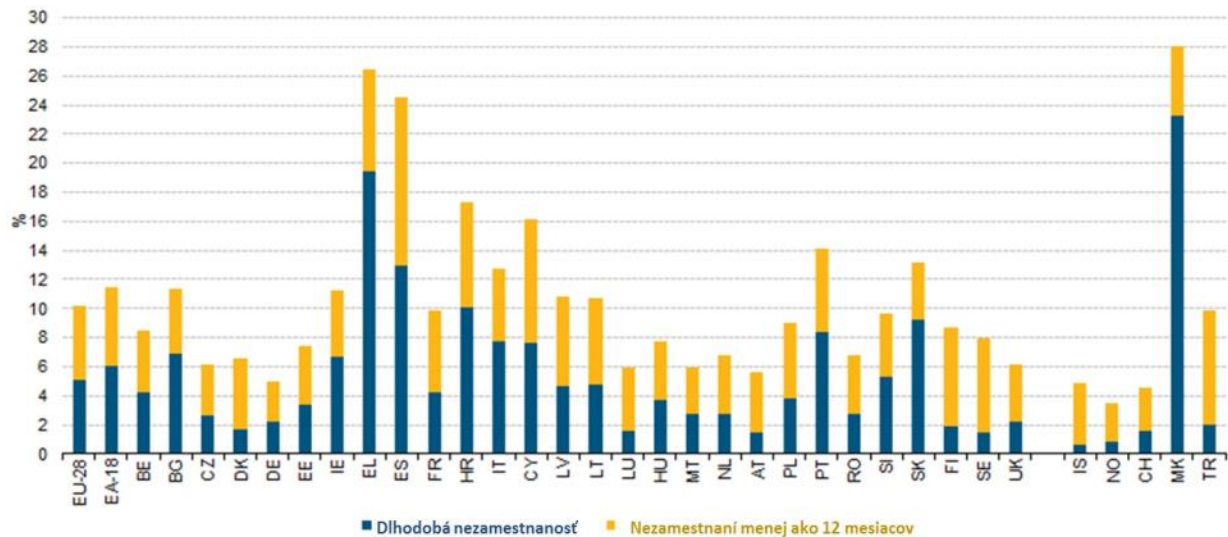
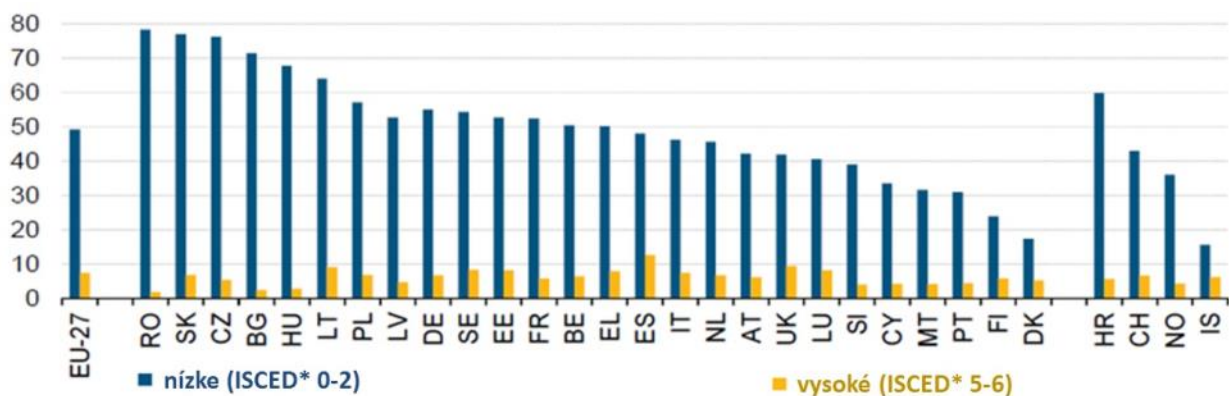


Chart 4: Long-term unemployment rate in the EU countries in 2015<sup>5</sup> (Blue = long-term unemployment; yellow = unemployment for a period shorter than 12 months)

The risk of poverty or social exclusion in Slovakia (19.8%) is generally stable and below the EU average, there are significant disparities in the poverty rates among different regions. Material deprivation remains above the EU average (19.5%) and has recently increased (to 23.4% in 2013). The impact of social benefits on decreasing poverty still remains significantly below the European average (33.7% in Slovakia in comparison to 41.3% in the EU as a whole). This is mainly due to the fact that the social assistance benefits are only partially dependant on the number of children in the household. Moreover, the Government decides on the indexation of benefits by the inflation rate based on their own decision. Slovakia continues to rank 28 among the EU countries (right below Romania) with the strongest correlation between the highest level education of parents in the household and the social situation of their children. In as much as 75% of families with parents with only a basic education children are at risk of poverty and social exclusion.



\*Medzinárodné štandardné členenie vzdelávania (angl.: The International Standard Classification of Education, skrátené ISCED)  
Pozn.: EU-27 – ODHAD EUROSTATU

<sup>5</sup>Source: Eurostat

Chart 5: Children at risk of poverty based on the highest level of education of their parents in EU countries in 2013<sup>6</sup> (Blue = low; yellow = high)

Inequality in education mainly amongst the Roma population slows down the inclusive growth. The rate of school abandonment is low; however, it has increased in recent years mainly amongst the Roma population. The situation is alarming since job candidates lacking high school education are severely disadvantaged in Slovakia, significantly worse than in the EU in general. The share of Roma children in special schools with lower learning demands is unreasonably high. In this case, the SR relies upon the previously mentioned projects from the European structural and investment funds for 2014 – 2020; however, a failure to establish a systematic approach would render the sustainability of the allocated funding unclear.

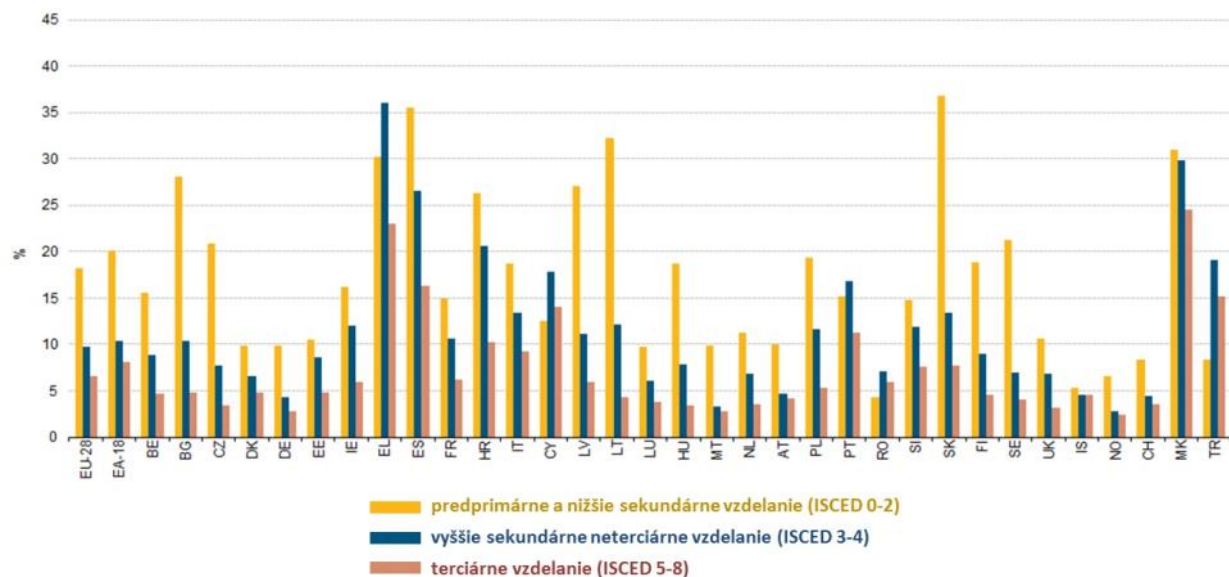


Chart 6: Rate of unemployment according to the level of education<sup>7</sup> (Yellow = pre-primary and lower secondary education, ISCED 0-2; blue = higher secondary education, ISCED 3-4; pink = tertiary education, ISCED 5-8)

## 2.1.4 Conservation and revitalisation of cultural heritage

### Current conditions in cultural heritage conservation

Cultural heritage, whether tangible or not, is an irreplaceable source of information on our past. It is a part of our cultural and national identity, and the direct legacy of our ancestors. The most important part of tangible cultural heritage consists of cultural monuments. In terms of the Constitution of the Slovak Republic, every individual is obliged to protect cultural heritage, including monuments (Article 44, Section 2 of the Constitution of the Slovak Republic). The legal framework for the protection of monuments is provided in Act of the National Council of the Slovak Republic No. 49/2002 on protection of the Monuments Fund and executive ordinance.

Monuments, as a part of our spiritual and material cultural heritage, present a means of tolerance, civil cohesion and understanding between different ethnicities and religious groups. The renovation of monuments and their suitable use contribute to the improvement in the quality of life and the employment rate as it helps to create new job opportunities. As a key component of tourism (mainly

<sup>6</sup>Source: Eurostat, the International Standard Classification of Education (hereinafter referred to as ISCED)

<sup>7</sup>Source: Eurostat

cultural one), the monuments are a source of business activities, but also an important part of the economic development of regions and municipalities in Slovakia.

The number of protected cultural monuments is constantly changing due to the adding of new monuments or dividing of complexes into individual objects, but also due to the cancellation of monument protection when their historical value is lost. Currently, there are 9,893 immovable national cultural heritage units (16,169 historic monuments) and 14,951 movable cultural heritage units (34,197 historic objects) registered in the Central Register of Monuments and Historic Sites of the Monuments Fund; and 28 monument reserves<sup>8</sup>. 5 sites in Slovakia are included on the UNESCO World Heritage List. The State also protects 74 monuments of an extraordinary historic value<sup>9</sup>. The list covers a wide scope of monuments of varying historical and cultural value, nature, state, use, presentation and forms of ownership. The preservation and protection of these values requires enormous social and economic resources.

Chart 1: State of the Monuments Fund as in the Central Records in 2015<sup>10</sup>

State of the Monuments Fund as in the Central Records		
NATION CULTURAL MONUMENTS	(hereinafter referred to as NCM)	PO/PP
<i>Movable NCM</i>	14,951	34,197
Movable NCM included in 2015	74	144
Movable NCM cancelled in 2015	7	9
<i>Immovable NCM</i>	9893	16,169
Immovable NCM included in 2015	31	72
Immovable NCM cancelled in 2015	5	9
<b>STRUCTURAL AND TECHNICAL CONDITIONS OF IMMOVABLE NCM<sup>11</sup></b>		<b>PO</b>
Good		4,897
Sound		6,044
Damaged		3,261
Dilapidated		873
Under reconstruction		722
Other		372
<b>OWNERSHIP FORM OF IMMOVABLE NKP</b>		<b>PO</b>
State		1,541
Municipal self-government		4,256
Church		4,223
Legal entities		1,169
Natural persons		4,579
Other ownership forms (foundations, cooperative ownership, etc.)		305
Unsettled ownership		96
<b>MONUMENT RESERVES</b>		<b>28</b>
Municipal monument reserves (MMR)		17
Technical heritage monument reserves (THMR)		1
Folklore architecture monument reserves (FAMR)		10
<b>MONUMENT ZONES</b>		<b>82</b>

<sup>8</sup> <http://www.pamiatky.sk>

<sup>9</sup> <http://www.pamiatky.sk/sk/page/zoznam-vybranych-narodnych-kulturnych-pamiatok>

<sup>10</sup>Source: The Monuments Board of the Slovak Republic

<sup>11</sup>At the time of preparation of the Report the data were being processed by the Monuments Board of the Slovak Republic

An inseparable part of the SK05 programme is cultural tourism. 2015 was one of the most successful years in terms of tourism in Slovakia. In fact, it was the most successful year since the statistics have been observed (1995). Year-to-year statistics are significantly distorted since in 2014 a big decrease was recorded in comparison to 2013. Nevertheless, it can be said that the 17% and 15%<sup>12</sup> increase in the number of foreign and domestic tourists respectively is really striking in comparison with 2014. A relatively large outflow of Russian tourists has been compensated by an increased number of tourists from different countries.

As for other countries, we would like to point out a relatively large number of Asian tourists, mainly Chinese (100% increase). In the long-term run, the largest number of visitors comes from the Czech Republic (approximately 500,000) and other neighbouring countries. As for non-neighbouring countries, most visitors come from Germany, United Kingdom, Italy and France.

The Slovak EU presidency is expected to have a positive impact on tourism in 2016; however, a negative development cannot be entirely ruled out either. For instance, the number of visitors in London in 2012 was lower during the Olympic Games than during the corresponding period of the previous year. Should the positive effects prevail, 2016 could become the most successful year from the point of view of (cultural) tourism in Slovakia.

The number of visitors from Norway and Iceland also mildly increased in 2015 (6,500 Norwegians and 900 Icelanders). It is estimated that in 2015 about 50 Norwegians and Icelanders visited Slovakia because of the CBC conference and the study trip within the SK09 programme, annual meeting, negotiations of cooperation committees, selection boards, and other similar occasions.

The increased number of visitors was presumably influenced by the long winter, stable summer temperatures, and promotion of the SR abroad through the Slovak Tourist Board, which completed several campaigns. World security may also have contributed. Nevertheless, the largest obstacles for the development of cultural tourism in Slovakia are the lack of infrastructure, complexity, and quality of the services provided. The SK05 programme addresses these components; however, the concentration of several resources is necessary. Also, there is the widespread opinion that the owners and administrators of monuments fail to promote them properly. This issue can be partly improved by a particular project under the CLT03 call which aims to map all the monuments in question through short video documentaries. For a complex and also sustainable renovation of Slovak monuments, it is desirable to take them into consideration when deciding on public investments (the Czech Republic is a great example of good practice). Such horizontal priority for the new programming period would be definitely very beneficial, especially in districts lacking any infrastructure for accommodation, catering and recreational services. At this point, it is important to emphasize that the renovation of the Monuments Fund is currently not included in any of the priority axes of the new structural funds programming period. Therefore, to continue monument renovation with help from FM EEA and NFM in the 2014 – 2015 programming period seems to be not only complementary, but necessary.

There are two factors with significant influence on the conservation of their value: the use of the building and its continuous maintenance. The use of a cultural monument should ideally emerge from its parameters such as original disposition, volume or location in a particular environment. The goal of continuous maintenance is the timely identification of minor defects that could damage its historical value over time. It often results in the increase of the renovation costs and possible loss of value. From the economic perspective, the prevention and basic protection of monuments constitute the most effective use of funds.

The *ProMonumenta Project – Prevention by Maintenance* is a pre-defined project under the SK05 *Conservation and Revitalisation of Cultural and Natural Heritage & Promotion of Diversity in Culture and*

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<sup>12</sup> Source: Slovak Tourist Board

*Arts within the European Cultural Heritage* programme, which effectively helps to achieve this goal. The aim of the project is to establish a system of regular checks of the structural and technical condition of the monuments through examinations by experts who can carry out necessary work, but also inspire the monument owners to do it on their own by awareness raising. The implementation of the project can be considered successful; the project is the flagship of the whole programme.

In the course of 2015, the project succeeded in achieving all its objectives, presenting results and outputs.

Our independent and skilled experts who have been monitoring cultural monuments in three groups distributed evenly from the perspective of geography – Trnava, Banská Štiavnica and Poprad-Spišská Sobota – performed 80 inspections and produced an equivalent number of Technical Reports on Cultural Monuments (TRCM). In the course of January and February 2016 the owners of cultural monuments (CM) will be issued Certificates on CM Condition. These will be accompanied by detailed reports on the condition of buildings in question and include recommendations and instructions on the removal of detected deficiencies. During the inspections the monitoring teams provided owners and administrators with information on the technical condition of the buildings, risks, and causes of damage, as well as recommendations on a suitable form of maintenance. The total number of inspections carried out since 2014 has reached 120; they are three months in advance of the original plan.<sup>13</sup>

The programme operator has concluded an agreement with the donors regarding an extension of the implementation period for the project and a budget increase totalling almost EUR200,000, which will enable inspectors to increase the number of checked monuments by 90 (total of 210).



### 2.1.5 Green Industry Innovation

#### **Use of renewable energy resources in the production of electrical and thermal energy**

Based on the central scenario of the World Energy Outlook (WEO, 2015), energy demand will increase by 37% until 2040, which will also increase the stress on the global energy system. The developments in technology and energy effectiveness are certainly reason for optimism, however, a sustainable political effort is needed to change the course of energy trends. Based on the report, mainly renewable energy resources (RER) will stay, which is positive. Decreasing the costs of RER technologies as well as

<sup>13</sup>Source: Press release by the Monuments Board of the SR (January 2016)



continuous financial support will contribute to the fact that by 2040 almost half of electricity will be produced using them, RER thus overpassing coal as the current leading energy resource used for the production of electrical energy. At the global level, mainly wind energy, closely followed by water and solar technologies, will constitute the main share of electrical energy produced using RER. If the share of wind and solar energy continues to grow globally, their network integration will become more demanding from the technical and market perspectives. The negative effects can be partly eliminated by using energy biomass to produce electrical and thermal energy.

### **Situation in Europe and the EU**

Based on the data available, nine EU member states already passed the 20% RER usage in 2015, thus achieving the goal provided in the Europe 2020 document. Nordic countries lead the chart. In 2015 the share of RER energy in the European net final energy consumption reached more than 16%. In comparison to 2004 in which the first set of data on RER usage was collected, the share of RER has doubled. The share of RER in the energy mix has been growing steadily since 2004. The share of RER in the final energy consumption is one of the main indicators taken into consideration by the Europe 2020 Strategy. Besides other goals, the document counts on the total RER share of 20%. Individual countries can set their own goals, the 20% goal applying to Europe as a whole. Whilst Slovakia undertook to reach a 14% RER share by 2020, the most ambitious countries are Norway and Iceland, which decided to reach 67.5% and 64% respectively. Out of the EU member states, the most ambitious goal has been planned by Sweden (49%). As for medium-term plans, Europe counts on the further support of RER usage even after 2020. The member states made a preliminary agreement that by 2030 Europe as a whole will reach a 27% share of green energy in final total energy consumption.

The RER usage policy continues to depend on the global situation in the energy market. Currently, the gas prices as the most important and trend setting commodity from the global point of view are at their historical minimum. European Energy Exchange (EEX) is the most significant indicator at the European energy stock market, however the data it provides are relatively recent – from 2012. Since July 2012, when the gas price reached almost 29.00 EURxMWh-1a, a gradual decrease can be observed. In the end of 2015, the gas price was just below 17.00 EURxMWh-1. This development is directly related to the gas price for legal entities, which depends on the stock market gas prices. The price fall of energy has therefore been reflected in its end-use price. However, the difference in these prices depends on the delivery point, consumption and the date on which the contract (or its amendment) has been signed. From the perspective of the global markets, we are currently reaching prices from the 1990s and it is quite likely that we will reach prices from 1996. The gas price is directly influenced by the oil price, which are also gradually but continuously falling. BRENT oil was cheaper only in 2009. If the 40 USD/barrel price is broken, the 20 years' lows will be overcome.

Another important factor in energy price-making is the relative stability of gas deliveries to Europe. Transit through Ukraine is currently trouble-free and the presence of a reverse flow across Western Europe calms down the markets. Last but not least, winter was exceptionally warm. Low consumption and large inventory also help decrease stock market gas prices. Just recently few would predict that the 20 EURxMWh-1 level would be exceeded. In November 2015 the gas price fell to approximately 17 EURxMWh-1. The question is how the gas price will develop in near future. If no significant change in the global energy market emerges, it can be expected that the gas price will remain at 17.00 – 18.50 EURxMWh-1. Also, this year's winter can influence the price as it comes late, but still can be cold and long. When we were writing the previous report on breaking historically low prices, no one would predict how much they would fall. Thanks to the relatively stable political and economic situation, warm winter and falling prices of gas, oil and coal, it can be stated that contracting deregulated buyers has been the cheapest in the recent decades.

The electricity price has been falling (apart from a slight fluctuation) in the course of the last year. The biggest fall was recorded in 2015 when the Base Load at PXE halted at 26.00 EURxMWh-1 in the

beginning of 2016. In the final days of 2015 slight fluctuations were recorded; 26.00 – 27.35 EURxMWh-1. The 26.00 EURxMWh-1 limit seems to be very beneficial for our economy. However, it is important to point out that in the Czech Republic or Germany the prices are at 22 EURxMWh-1, which is still far from what we have achieved. To overcome the psychological limit, it is possible to correct the electricity price together with the Czech Republic and Germany, towards 24 EURxMWh-1.

If the prices of fossil fuels decrease significantly, the demand for biomass will decrease moderately; on the other hand, the prices of biomass will also decrease, since the costs of its production, refinement and transport will be lower. However, biomass is currently still an important economic and ecological alternative to fossil fuels in the Slovak Republic. The rate of use for biomass in the heat generation sector has also increased in recent years and it is reasonable to assume that it will become the second most widely used RER after hydroelectric power plants.

The main theme of the SK07 *Green Industry Innovation* programme is the environmentally friendly usage of organic waste and the production of otherwise unusable biomass from agriculturally unused lands suitable for the production of green energy. Using innovative green technology to create environmentally friendly energy resources on the local level together with the synergic effect of waste and agricultural by-products usage, biomass production in unused areas and the biodegradable components of municipal and industrial waste all alleviate the negative impact of the energy production sector on the environment, improves the competitiveness of green entrepreneurship and contributes to the creation of new, green job opportunities.

### **Statistics**

The commitment of the Slovak Republic to increase the share of RER in the gross final consumption of energy to 14% by 2020 has not changed. The objective has been set in accordance with Directive 2009/28/EC on the promotion of the use of energy from renewable sources. It means that the SK07 *Green Industry Innovation* programme can contribute to achieving the objectives set in Directive 2004/8/EC on the promotion of co-generation based on useful heat demand in the internal energy market and Directive 92/62/EC on combined heat and power (CHP), as amended.

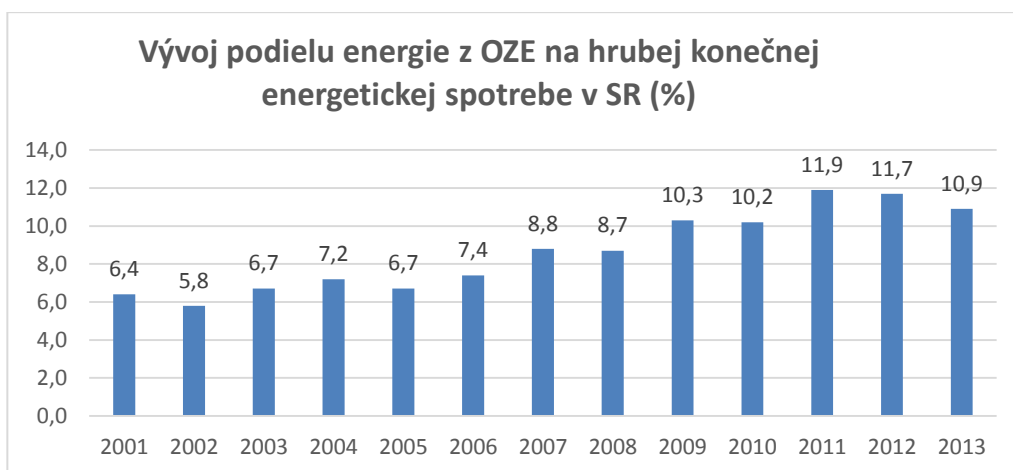


Chart 7: Development in the share of renewable energy resources in the gross final consumption of energy in the SR (%)<sup>14</sup>

As can be seen above (at the time of writing the Report, data from 2014 and 2015 were not available), the share of RER in the gross final consumption of energy in 2013 moderately increased in comparison to 2012. However, in comparison with Norway, the overall share of RES in the gross final consumption

<sup>14</sup>Source: Ministry of Economy of the SR, Statistical Office of the SR



of energy is very small. Several experts believe that Slovakia will achieve the 14% share of RER energy by 2020; however, the process is expected to become challenging mainly in the final years. Currently, the NFP cannot say how the selected projects will contribute to achieving the objective of the SK07 *Green Industry Innovation* programme. The impact analysis of the SK07 *Green Industry Innovation* programme regarding the 14% objective cannot be carried out before the programme is implemented and outputs from the individual projects are available. It will be possible in 2017.

## Unemployment

The Slovak Republic is one of the countries with the highest unemployment rate in the European Union. The SK07 *Green Industry Innovation* programme definitely cannot improve the situation significantly. On the other hand, the programme helps create job opportunities in the most affected regions of the country and in the affected areas of the national economy (for example, agriculture and forestry). The proposed Programme includes investments into new technologies in energy production, logistic centres for transport, the storage and refinement of biomass as well as investments into agricultural and forestry activities related to biomass production.

## Statistics

As seen below (at the time of writing this Report, data for 2015 were not yet available), unemployment is an issue not only for Slovakia, but also for the EEA in general. The average unemployment rate in the EEA (i.e. the unemployment rate calculated as an arithmetic average of the unemployment rates for individual EEA countries in 2014) was 10.2%<sup>15</sup>, which represents a decrease in comparison to 10.7% in 2013.

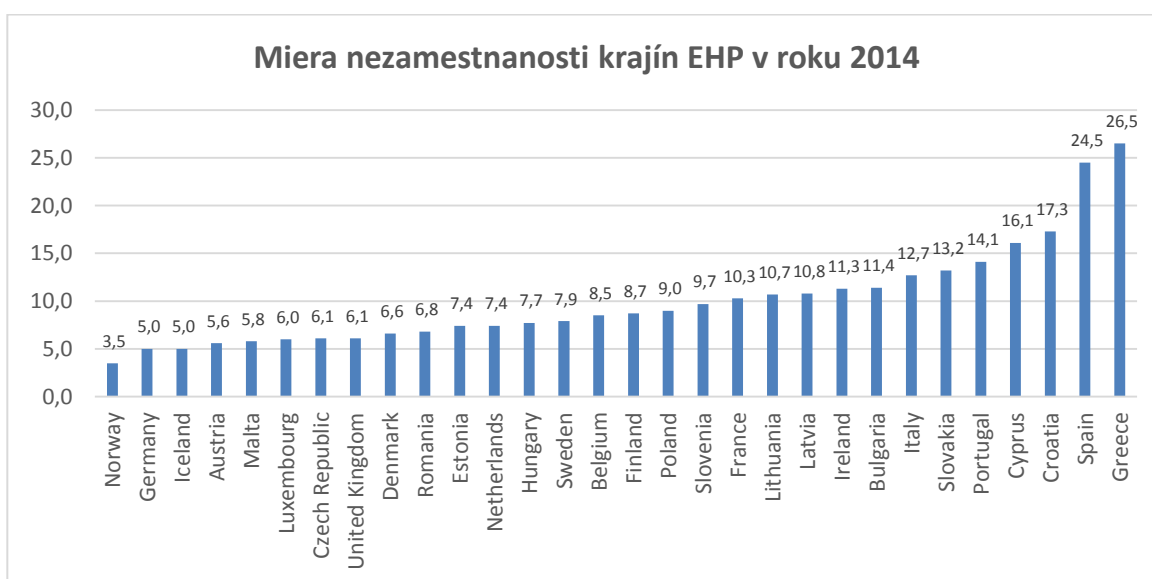


Chart 8: Rate of unemployment in EEA countries in 2014<sup>16</sup>

The impact of the SK07 *Green Industry Innovation* programme is not significant for the reporting period, since its share is relatively small in proportion to the overall number of unemployed citizens of the Slovak Republic and the general situation. Most of the approved projects focus on improving technical solutions whilst their social impact is a matter of support activities. Projects that have been approved and whose funding has started are currently being implemented – their direct impact on the

<sup>15</sup>Switzerland and Lichtenstein were not included in the calculation.

<sup>16</sup>Source: Eurostat

unemployment rate is not visible yet. However, it is important to mention that the programme actually had a very positive impact on employment in the individual municipalities or micro-regions and it is reasonable to assume that the projects implemented will serve as good examples and impulses for the implementation of similar projects in other locations. A partial contribution to the direct creation of job opportunities within the implementation of the support programme is expected in 2016. The important benefit of the programme in the later period can be a positive indirect influence on increasing employment through suppliers and purchaser relations with the beneficiaries of assistance in material need. Also, the members of marginalised groups and Roma communities can potentially become employees, mainly of the supplier companies providing agricultural biomass or dendromass for the production processes.

### 2.1.6 Cross-Border cooperation with Ukraine

The goal of the SK08 *Cross-Border Cooperation* is to remove the barriers of cross-Border cooperation between Slovakia and Ukraine. Cooperation is a tool for decreasing the social and economic lagging of the areas along the external border of the EU, by exchanging know-how, improving conditions at border crossings and cross-Border information flow. The programme also aims to intensify the bilateral cooperation between Slovakia and the Norwegian Kingdom.

#### Programme area development

The programme area covers the Prešov self-governing region (PSGR), the Košice self-governing region (KSGR) and the Zakarpattya region of Ukraine.

The socio-economic situation in both regions in Eastern Slovakia is permanently unfavourable.

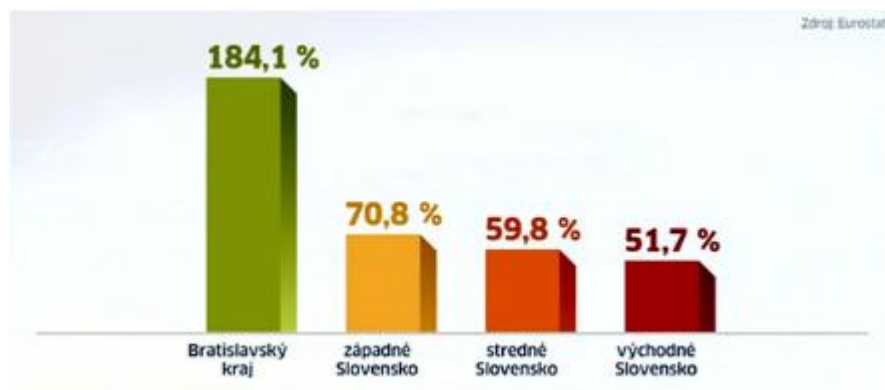


Chart 9: Economic performance of the SR in comparison with the EU average (source: Eurostat); (Green = Bratislava region; yellow = Western Slovakia; orange = Central Slovakia; Red = Eastern Slovakia)

Based on the statistics of the Central Office of Labour, Social Affairs and Family of the SR, **7** out of the **12** least developed districts in Slovakia are located in the Prešov and Košice self-governing regions. Kežmarok, Sabinov, Svidník, Vranov nad Topľou, Rožňava, Sobrance, and Trebišov. Sobrance and Trebišov share their border directly with Ukraine.<sup>17</sup>

As for the unemployment rate, despite certain improvement, it remains at a significantly high level in both regions in comparison to the Slovak average.

<sup>17</sup>Source: [http://www.upsvar.sk/statistiky/zoznam-najmenej-rozvinutych-okresov.html?page\\_id=561733](http://www.upsvar.sk/statistiky/zoznam-najmenej-rozvinutych-okresov.html?page_id=561733)

## Unemployment rate in the individual Slovak regions as of 31 December 2016

Region	Unemployment rate
Bratislava	5.34%
Trnava	6.71%
Trenčín	7.71%
Nitra	9.71%
Žilina	8.86%
Banská Bystrica	14.94%
Prešov	15.50%
Košice	14.39%
<b>The Slovak Republic</b>	<b>10.63%</b>

The partner Zakarpattya region is significantly lagging in its social and economic development in comparison to the neighbouring districts in Slovakia. The border area regions of both countries need new development incentives; cross-Border cooperation is definitely one of them. From the perspective of developing cooperation, the number of Ukrainian citizens applying for visas and the visas issued have both been constantly falling. In 2015 the representative offices of the SR have issued a total of **44,894** visas to Ukrainian citizens (4,763 less than in 2014; almost 50% less than in 2013 when 88,095 visas were issued). It has a direct impact on the number of persons and vehicles crossing the Slovak-Ukrainian border.<sup>18</sup>

### Overview of the number of persons and vehicles that legally crossed the state border categorised according to individual border crossings -- 2014 and 2015

		2014		2015		
		Persons	Vehicles	Persons	Vehicles	
Land border	POZEMNÁ HRANICA	Uoľa	547 216	241 717	522 942	217 750
		Vyšné Nemecké	1 066 852	575 393	1 110 859	520 941
		Maľovské Vojtkovce	12 188	6 365	12 208	6 895
		Veľké Slamenec	157 698	-	175 720	-
		Černa nad Tisou	31 701	7 392	30 900	7 244
Airports	LETISKÁ	letisko Bratislava	779 359	6 891	561 664	7 654
		letisko Poprad	29 141	285	82 874	629
		letisko Košice	209 219	1 529	263 581	2 277
		malé letiská*	22 820	334	32 278	403
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>2 858 192</b>	<b>839 906</b>	<b>3 113 124</b>	<b>763 593</b>	

The trend could be reversed by the introduction of a visa-free regime for Ukrainians, which was an outcome expected from the Eastern Partnership summit in Riga (May 2015); however it was not approved. In December 2015, the European Commission proposed to the EU Council to consider the introduction of the visa-free regime for Ukraine in 2016, but no particular term has been set.

On the supranational level, the **Common Operational Programme ENI-CBC Hungary-Slovakia-Romania-Ukraine 2014 – 2020** is of importance for establishing cross-Border cooperation. The European Commission approved the final version on 17 December 2015.<sup>19</sup> According to the preliminary time schedule, the call for the programme will be published in 2Q of 2016; the start of implementation is

<sup>18</sup> [http://www.minv.sk/swift\\_data/source/policia/hranicna\\_a\\_cudzinecka\\_policia/rocnky/rok\\_2015/2015-rocenska-UHCP-SK.pdf](http://www.minv.sk/swift_data/source/policia/hranicna_a_cudzinecka_policia/rocnky/rok_2015/2015-rocenska-UHCP-SK.pdf)

<sup>19</sup> [http://www.huskroua-cbc.net/uploads/editors/JOP\\_of\\_HUSKROUA%20ENI%20CBC%20Programme\(2\).pdf](http://www.huskroua-cbc.net/uploads/editors/JOP_of_HUSKROUA%20ENI%20CBC%20Programme(2).pdf)

planned for the 2Q of 2017, and the end of implementation is set for 31 December 2022. The ENI CBC HU-SK-UA programme will bring an investment of **EUR 73,952,000** for the border area regions outside the EU to support cross-Border cooperation. There are four topic areas: *support of local culture and conservation of historical heritage; environment protection; climate change mitigation and adaptation; improvement of regional accessibility, development of sustainable and environmentally safe transport and communication networks; common challenges in safety and security*. The contents, time framework and allocation of the **SK08 programme** focus on removing barriers in cross-Border cooperation and facilitating partnerships. It can significantly contribute to the creation of a basis for the continuous synergic effects of CBC at the outer borders of the Schengen area.

New impulses for Slovakian-Ukrainian cooperation have already been brought forward by the 6th European Border Dialogues Forum international conference, which took place in Košice and Uzhorod between 25 and 27 November 2015 (see part 2.2.3).

For the SK08 programme the general situation in Ukraine is very important. In 2015 Ukraine faced security risks, political instability and economic issues. The conflict in the eastern part of the country has been under control since February 2015, except for occasional ceasefire violations on both parts at the end of the year. The implementation of the Minsk agreements from February 2015, which should facilitate not only armistice truce, but also provide a political solution to the situation in the Donsk and Luhansk regions, has been postponed to 2016. The beginning of 2016 has shown that the outbreak of war is possible at any time, which would worsen the already complicated situation in the country.

However, the largest complication would be an unfavourable social and economic development, which could potentially result in a social collapse. Their national economy has deteriorated in all its areas and also regions of the country. Ukraine still remains at risk of state bankruptcy. The World Bank has predicted a 12% fall in the Ukrainian GDP at the end of 2015. The Ukrainian statistical office has reported a 7.2% fall with signs of moderate improvements in the second half of the year. The World Bank expects a moderate growth of their GDP in 2016 (1%). The inflation rate reached 43.3% at the end of 2015, whilst the average inflation rate was 48.5% (to compare, the inflation rate was 24.9% in 2014).<sup>20</sup>

Ukraine is currently reaching the all-time high registered unemployment rate of 9.6%. The World Bank expects a growth of the unemployment rate in 2016 up to 10.5%. Regional data for the Zakarpattya region for 2015 are not available.

The social and economic situation of Ukrainian citizens is also deteriorating due to increasing consumer prices, energy prices and devaluation of Hryvnia. The country is not yet solving the situation of 1.2 million internally relocated people from the regions occupied by separatists, which may also result in social disturbances.

At the end of 2015 the economy began to show signs of stabilisation; however, the political stability deteriorated dramatically. Approval of the new Act on the decentralisation of the state administration and the way tax reform was implemented ignited conflicts in the government coalition, and at the end of 2015 it resulted in a serious political crisis. The Ukrainian government coalition was left by the Fatherland and Radical parties; the ultimate fall of the coalition was facilitated by the withdrawal of the Self-Reliance party. Pursuant to the relevant Act, if the coalition falls apart a new majority must be formed in a month. If it is not possible, the President dismisses the Parliament and calls for early parliamentary elections, which could lead to the further deterioration of the situation, but also to the further postponement of the USD 1.7 billion loan from the International Monetary Fund.

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<sup>20</sup> <http://www.tradingeconomics.com/ukraine>

A worsened situation may negatively influence cross-Border cooperation, however the specific impacts are hard to predict. The further devaluation of the Hrivnyia poses a permanent risk for the grant recipients and their Ukrainian partners, which influences project budgets. Other risks are the instability of the Ukrainian bank system and the changing legislation. Based on the experience gained so far by the programme operator, it seems that Ukraine lacks a governing body familiar with the local legislation, which would be able to follow its changes. We would like to recommend the establishment of such a body if the programme is to continue.

### 2.1.7 Domestic and gender-Based violence

#### Protection and support for victims of domestic and gender-Based violence

Default situation at the end of 2013, i.e. at the start of the SK09 implementation

Based on the monitoring of social services processed by the Institute for Labour and Family Research, it can be stated that there were 52 subjects providing services for female violence victims. 16 of them had the biggest potential to meet the minimum standards of the Council of Europe (MSCE) and become actual specialized subjects for female victims of violence.

In proportion to the number of women in Slovakia, 695 beds, or 278 family places are needed in <sup>21</sup>specialized Women's Safe Houses (hereinafter referred to as WSH). To meet the MSCE<sup>22</sup>, another 184 family places are needed (457 places total).

*Chart 2: The number of recommended, existing and further needed places in WSH for female victims of violence distributed according to the self-governing regions (situation at the end of 2013)<sup>23</sup>*

Region	Number of women in the given higher territorial unit represented in thousands	Recommended number of places according to the MSCE		Number of existing places in WSH		Number of further needed places in WSH	
		Total/Family places		Total/Family places		Total/Family places	
<b>Banská Bystrica self-governing region</b>	340	85	34	50	20	35	14
<b>Bratislava self-governing region</b>	319	80	32	30	12	50	20
<b>Košice self-governing region</b>	406	102	41	28	11	74	30
<b>Nitra self-governing region</b>	355	89	36	19	8	70	28
<b>Prešov Self-Governing Region</b>	422	105	42	11	4	94	38
<b>Trenčín self-governing</b>	303	76	30	34	14	42	17

<sup>21</sup>One family place should cover approximately 1 woman (mother) and 1.5 child = 2.5 persons.

<sup>22</sup>According to the MSCE the recommended number of places in WSH is 1 family place per 10,000 women.

<sup>23</sup>Source: Mgr. Barbora Holubová, Mgr. Jarmila Filadelfiová, PhD: *Monitoring of Social Services for Female Victims of Violence and Their Children from the Perspective of European Standards*. Institute for Labour and Family Research, Bratislava, 2013

region							
Trnava self-governing region	284	71	28	41	16	30	12
Žilina self-governing region	351	88	35	25	10	63	25
<b>TOTAL FOR THE SR</b>	<b>2,780</b>	<b>696</b>	<b>278</b>	<b>238</b>	<b>95</b>	<b>458</b>	<b>184</b>

In five of the self-governing regions (Banská Bystrica, Nitra, Prešov, Trenčín and Trnava) only one subject met the arbitrary standards. 4 and 3 subjects succeeded in Bratislava & Košice and the Žilina regions respectively. The most serious lack of places has been detected in the Prešov, Košice and Nitra self-governing regions.

There were 11 specialized consulting sites meeting the MSCE up to 75% in 2013. In proportion to the number of women in the regions, there is needed a total of 52 specialized consulting sites. It means that in 2013 41 more specialized consulting sites were needed.

### **Contribution of the SK09 Domestic and Gender-Based Violence programme**

Based on the implementation of projects supported by the SK09 *Domestic and Gender-Based Violence* programme, 26 new family places in WSH were created in 2015. The total number of family places after the implementation is completed is 179. The accommodation capacity of the WSH will thus almost double. Another significant contribution of the programme is related to the establishment of consulting sites for domestic and gender-Based violence. In 2015 their number doubled and by the end of the programme, there are plans for tripling.

*Chart 3: The contribution of the SK09 programme for the fulfilment of obligations set by the MSCE<sup>24</sup>*

	2013	2015	Growth represented in %	Objective	Growth represented in %
Number of family places in WSH	95	121	27	179	88%
Number of consulting sites for gender-Based and domestic violence	11	23	209%	32	190%

As we can see, the programme has significantly helped Slovakia in succeeding to meet the MSCE standards. Moreover, WSH and consulting sites have been supported mainly in the regions with the most serious lack of such services (e.g. MyMamy in Prešov and Slniečko in Nitra).

### **Statistics**

The following data illustrate the long-term development in the issue of violence against women in the SR. The development of violent crime over time shows signs of decreasing. Violence against women decreased at an adequate proportion. Sexual violence is showing a significant increase; however, based on the prevalence research, it can be interpreted as a sign of the greater trust of victims in the system, therefore a larger number of reported crimes.

*Chart 4: Overall number of victims and number of female victims (2008 – 2015) of selected violent offences and offences against decency in 2008 – 2015.<sup>25</sup>*

<sup>24</sup>Source: Annual SK09 programme report

	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
<b>Violent crime</b>								
Murders	94	78	82	88	63	78	65	48
Women murdered	24	32	31	31	18	23	19	14
Persons mugged	1217	1078	908	671	764	637	512	435
Women mugged	353	366	307	260	253	203	190	141
Cruelty against closely related persons or dependent persons	497	371	279	343	284	268	222	278
	377	277	207	246	209	184	191	208
<b>Offences against decency</b>								
Rape (women victims only)	152	142	117	150	88	91	87	87
Female victims	152	142	117	150	88	91	87	87
Sexual abuse	387	396	369	542	497	482	533	554
Female victims	333	225	309	437	412	414	466	470
Human trafficking	11	9	9	19	23	11	11	14
Female victims	9	7	4	8	13	5	10	7

A significant positive development can be observed as the number of murdered victims motivated by personal relationship has decreased. See the following table.

Table 5: Murders motivated by personal relationships 2010-2015<sup>26</sup>

	Total	Female victims	Perpetrator	
			Husband	Partner
2010	30	15	4	2
2011	28	10	1	1
2012	20	11	2	1
2013	19	7	2	0
2014	22	11	4	1
2015	14	6	2	0

Source: Statistics of the Presidium of the Police Force

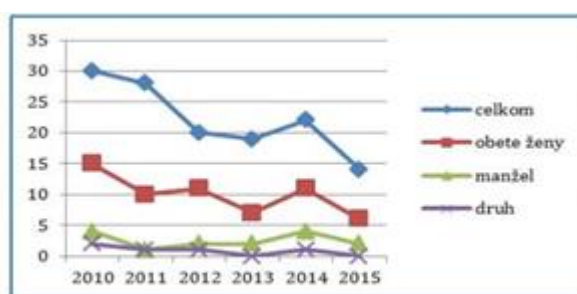


Chart 10: Murders motivated by personal relationships (Blue = total; red = women; green = husband; violet = male partner)

The above-mentioned statistics indicates that the efficiency of protection of women from partnership violence has significantly improved over the last 5 years. **In the international context, the SR has**

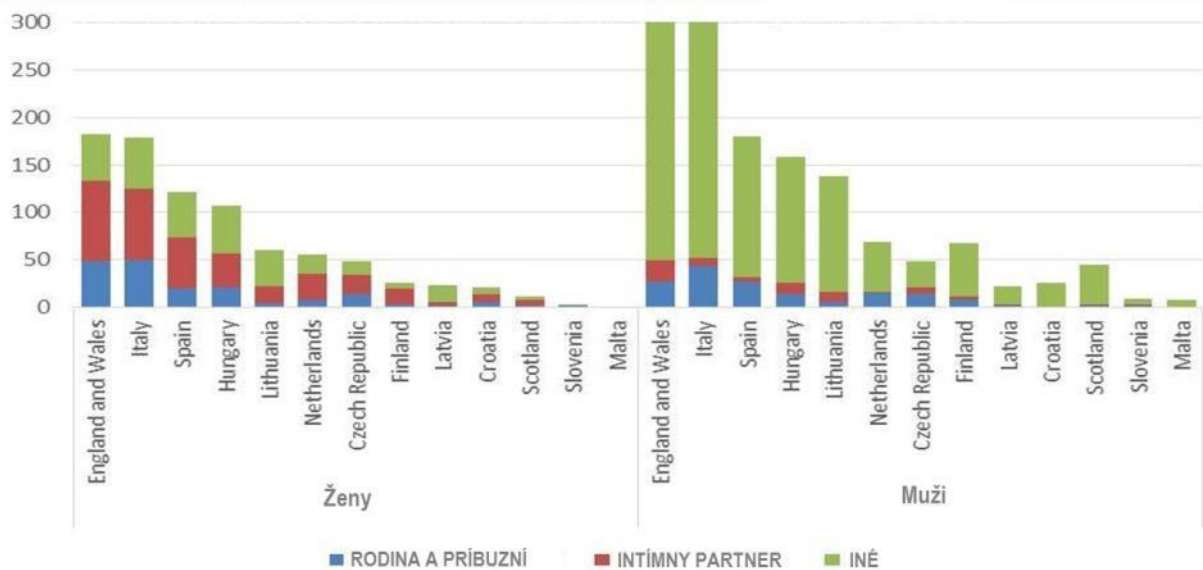
<sup>25</sup>Source: Information System Department of the Presidium of the Police Force

<sup>26</sup>Source: Statistics of the Presidium of the Police Force



become one of the countries with a relatively low number of murder victims in intimate relationships (comparable to Croatia and Finland).

Úmyselné zabitie obeti podľa vzťahu obet'-páchateľ a pohlavia, 2013



Zdroj: Európska komisia

Chart 11: Intentional killing of victims according to the victim – perpetrator, and their genders in 2013 (Blue = family and relatives; red = intimate partner; green = other)

### 2.1.8 Horizontal issues

EEA and Norwegian Grants include the following horizontal priorities:

1. Democracy and good governance
2. Human rights, minorities, vulnerable groups, combating poverty and social exclusion
3. Combating discrimination, racism, xenophobia
4. Gender equality
5. Combating hate speech

#### Democracy and good governance

The National Focal Point paid due attention to the good governance principles across all programme agreements by properly including the principles of transparency, responsibility, efficiency and effectiveness in the wording of individual programme agreements. The programmes are implemented in cooperation not only with relevant ministries, but also with civil society representatives and donor programme partner officials, thus reinforcing the principle of participative democracy.

Another measure contributing to good governance is the obligation to publish contracts in the publicly accessible Central Register of Contracts as a condition for the effectiveness of contracts concluded between government and public institutions as well as third parties. The NFP extended this obligation to also apply to project applicants and their partners, which means that the publishing obligation also applies to contracts concluded with contractors selected through public procurement carried out under individual projects.



The programmes are implemented transparently and openly, exercising zero tolerance in regards to corruption. The good governance principles are included in the project evaluation and selection processes.

The Government Office of the Slovak Republic as the NFP and also the programme operator has established a free anti-corruption hotline where suspected corruption can be reported anonymously. The official website of the financial mechanisms also includes a form through which suspected corruption or abuse regarding the implementation of financial mechanisms can be reported.

In 2015 two instances of suspected corruption were reported, both were thoroughly examined and in neither case suspicion was confirmed. In one case, examination invoked by an anonymous report showed that a different breach of the project agreement occurred and the programme operator decided to decrease the grant amount in question. At the time of preparing the report, the programme operator did not yet have access to the FMO decision on the correctness of the above mentioned step.

### **Human rights, minorities, vulnerable groups, combating poverty and social exclusion**

The NFP is running the *SK04 Local and Regional Initiatives to Reduce National Inequalities and to Promote Social Inclusion* programme.

The second round-table meeting dedicated to Roma ethnic education was held in the Bôrik Hotel in Bratislava on 27 May 2015.

It was attended by more than 30 representatives and recipients of the *SK04 Local and Regional Initiatives to Reduce National Inequalities and to Promote Social Inclusion* programme as well as the representatives of the Financial Mechanism Office, the Embassy of the Kingdom of Norway in Slovakia and the state administration representatives (Ministry of Education, Science, Research and Sports of the Slovak Republic; Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family of the Slovak Republic, Ministry of Economy of the SR, Office of the Plenipotentiary of the Government of the SR for the Roma Communities, representatives of SNIE, and of course, representatives of individual schools.

Discussion topics included: “Supporting of successful completion of high school education by socially disadvantaged students, including the Roma and the subsequent application of their skills in the labour market – mentoring and tutoring” and “Supporting of socially disadvantaged students during their high schools studies and support for future university students”. Recommendations from this discussion and also compliance with recommendations from the previous round of discussions are listed in Appendix 10.

Poverty and social exclusion are also combated by the *SK02 Adaptation to Climate Change – Flood and Drought Prevention* programme. Climate change has an impact on poverty and affects mainly low-income communities.

The *Blue Schools* component provides workshops, seminars and personal meetings to set a good example and improve social capital.

The issues of social exclusion will be combated by the implementation of specific adaptation measures concerning mainly marginalised social groups. The programme facilitates alleviating the unemployment issues in the Horná Nitra and Zemplín regions by providing short-term job opportunities related to the implementation of projects.

The *SK09 Domestic and Gender-Based Violence* programme is focused on combating violence against women and domestic violence and it directly supports the human rights of women as well as the human rights of other potential victims.

## **Human rights, minorities, vulnerable groups, combating poverty and social exclusion**

The SK09 *Domestic and Gender-Based Violence* programme contributes to all areas defined in the title of this subchapter. According to the international concept of human rights, violence against women is considered the violation of human rights and discrimination against women. It is a gender-Based form of violence targeted at women based solely on their sex, which affects them in a disproportional way.

This form of violence results not only in individual problems of abused women and children (e.g. illness triggered by persistent physical and psychical stress, isolation, loss of job and home, poverty), it also reflects on the whole society (expenditure regarding social services, legal consulting, medical treatment for beaten or raped women). Abused women are unable to use their energy, lose their self-confidence and face health risks, which often prevents them from full participation in the life of society. Experts emphasize that female victims of violence are often absent from work and their performance decreases, which negatively influences their income and makes them likely to lose their job, i.e. violence contributes to the feminisation of poverty.

All measures under the SK09 *Domestic and Gender-Based Violence* programme target women with accumulated disadvantages (cultural, social and ethnic minorities; unchallenging social environment; children's homes; dysfunctional families). All measures take into consideration their specific needs and react to specific forms of violence, including institutional violence.

### **Combating discrimination, racism, xenophobia**

SK09 *Domestic and Gender-Based Violence* is the main programme, which promotes zero tolerance of violence against women. The related activities aim to create a more tolerant society that will not accept any forms of violence.

The NFP assumes the combat against discrimination, racism and xenophobia will be supported also by the SK05 *Conservation and Revitalisation of Cultural and Natural Heritage & Promotion of Diversity in Culture and Arts within the European Cultural Heritage* programme. The programme has allocated 5% of its funding to monuments historically related to interculturalism or to those planning activities related to promoting non-discrimination and tolerance or cultural diversity, intercultural dialogue, combating anti-Semitism and promoting the cultural identity of minorities. It resulted in the support for 3 projects focused on Jewish culture promotion. It regards the synagogue in Žilina, the Jewish quarter in Bardejov (listed by UNESCO) and the Jewish cemetery in Topoľa.

Although the SK07 *Green Industry Innovation* programme is focused on technology, the NFP expects it to positively influence the employment of the socially disadvantaged, especially the Roma as the Project can provide them with activities related to the production, refinement and processing of biomass as well as construction work job opportunities. By employing members of socially excluded groups, the non-discrimination principle will be promoted.

The Nižná Polianka project within the SK02 *Adaptation to Climate Change – Floods and Drought Prevention* is also worth mentioning. Approximately 150 socially-disadvantaged persons participated in the implementation of the adaptation measures related to climate change. These participants belong among the long-term unemployed, for many of them it was the first working experience in their lives. The project is implemented in the Bardejov district, which suffers from approx. 20% unemployment rate. The implementation of similar projects often suffer due to high administrative demands regardless of whether they are financed by funds or not. Here we are speaking mainly of employment legislation, tax, levy, and other legal obligations for both employer and their employees.

### **Gender equality**

The potential regarding the strengthening of gender equality principles despite not being enormous is not negligible. The *SK02 Adaptation to Climate Change – Flood and Drought Prevention* and *SK05 Conservation and Revitalisation of Cultural and Natural Heritage & Promotion of Diversity in Culture and Arts within European Cultural Heritage* programmes objectively do not have much potential regarding the issue. However, the *SK03 Democracy and Human Rights*, *SK04 Local and Regional Initiatives to Reduce National Inequalities and to Promote Social Inclusion*, *SK08 Cross-Border Cooperation* and *SK10 Active Citizenship and Inclusion* programmes do as they cover several support areas through which they can promote gender equality principles. Even though the *SK04* programme *does not directly target gender equality*, the programme operator motivated the applicants to promote gender equality and has created procedures that ensure that the project is compliant with gender equality principles. The applicants were required to state how exactly they were planning to exercise these principles. Also, *SK08 Cross-Border Cooperation* contributes to the promotion of gender equality as its principles are included in all related documents and compliance with them is one of the criteria of the evaluation and selection process. Under the *SK03 Democracy and Human Rights* programme<sup>27</sup>, 15 projects targeting gender equality have been supported.

The *SK09 Domestic and Gender-Based Violence* programme contributes to the Gender Equality horizontal priority. Violence against women is a manifestation of the historically unequal distribution of power between men and women. It is one of the crucial social mechanisms based on which women are regarded inferior to men. The Istanbul Convention defines the structural nature of violence against women as one of the crucial social mechanisms based on which women are regarded inferior to men. Both the de iure and de facto implementation of gender equality is the key element on our way to stop violence against women.

The prevention and elimination of violence against women is therefore an essential step in the implementation of gender equality and vice versa, the relationship between the two dialectical. Both factors are interconnected through not only correlation, but also causality. The higher the level of gender equality in a society, the lower the occurrence of violence against women, and the higher the level of its refusal. On the contrary, highly traditional societies tend to tolerate violence against women from their partner as a manifestation of male superiority.

### **Combating hate speech**

The NFP cooperated with the Council of Europe in order to promote tolerance and basic rights. The activities combating hate draw from NGO funds under EEA schemes. In 2014, an online campaign was launched in order to: inform, remove prejudice and myths, promote correct information, search for suitable tools, and attract as many young people as possible, as they are apparently the group most affected.<sup>28</sup>

The EEA and Norway Grants in Slovakia along with all NFPs in recipient countries took part in the “Combating Hate Speech Online” campaigning by publishing information on their website. The campaign aimed at fighting hate speech online was launched on 22 March 2013 and continued in 2014. The NFP decided not to withdraw the information on the campaign published online, to allow for easy backtracking. Moreover, the subject matter remains a hot topic in 2015. Therefore, the content will remain on webpages in 2016 and 2017. It can be found in the primary menu of the [www.eeagrants.sk/www.norwaygrants.sk](http://www.eeagrants.sk/www.norwaygrants.sk) webpages which indicates how important the message is. From the publishing of the message to the end of 2015, the webpage recorded 738 unique visits, with an average time of page stay at 1.5 minute. Based on the data, it can be analytically derived that most users read the full message and the informative effect was achieved.

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<sup>27</sup> SK03 and SK10 programmes are not included in this Report.

<sup>28</sup> <http://beznavisti.sk/o-kampani/>

## 2.2 Bilateral relations

The bilateral aspect of EEA and Norwegian grants implementation is one of the main areas, supported as much as possible at every level of management. All the programmes implemented in the Slovak Republic except for the SK05 *Conservation and Revitalisation of Cultural and Natural Heritage & Promotion of Diversity in Culture and Arts within European Cultural Heritage* programme are run in cooperation with donor programme partners. Most partners are from Norway; however in SK06 Scholarship Fund Slovakia, institutions from Iceland and Liechtenstein are participating, too. In two programmes (SK09 *Domestic and Gender-Based Violence* and SK04 *Local and Regional Initiatives to Reduce National Inequalities and Promote Social Inclusion*) the Council of Europe is the donor partner.

The systematic support is achieved by using special financial tools – Bilateral Funds for the support of bilateral relations between the Slovak Republic and the donor programme partners on the national and programme levels. The Bilateral Fund at the national level is described in detail in Part 3.2.9.

In the reporting period, i.e. 2015, implementation of the A Measure of the Bilateral Funds was completed in all programmes. Thanks to the funds the process of searching for new project partners in donor countries, relationship development and the preparation of project applications were effectively supported.

Under the A Measure, out of the total number of 33 applications for contribution, 26 activities were supported and implemented. 26 activities were carried out; 11 of them were parts of projects submitted and implemented by the donor programme partners. As of December 2015, a total of EUR 67,536 were allocated. The SK08 *Cross-Border Cooperation* programme was the most popular with 16 applications for financial contributions, out of which 12 have been implemented; the provided contributions amounted to EUR 33,489.

In July 2015 the B Measure of Bilateral Funds for the following areas: Adaptation to Climate Change, Conservation and Revitalisation of Cultural and Natural Heritage & Promotion of Diversity in Culture and Arts within European Cultural Heritage, Green Industry Innovation, Cross-Border Cooperation, and Domestic and Gender-Based violence. At the end of 2015, 8 applications for contributions were submitted and the amount reserved for these applications represented EUR 58,417. The announcement will be open until 30 November 2016.

### 2.2.1 Student mobility as an important pillar of bilateral relations

The overall quality of bilateral relations is characterised by various direct and indirect indicators, for example, student mobility. The EEA Grants have been used to fund student mobility both in the previous and current programming period. In spite of this, the grants were extremely popular in the previous period. Every year, Norwegian and Icelandic students are interested in studying medicine in Martin and veterinary medicine in Košice.

The potential of education and student mobility was emphasized during the working visits of the SR Minister of Foreign Affairs, Miroslav Lajčák, in Oslo on 14 – 15 January 2015, and the Permanent Secretary of this Ministry in Reykjavik, Iceland in February 2015.

Minister Lajčák announced that Slovakia was interested in intensifying economic cooperation with Norway in research and innovations, but also the continuation of the well-developed cooperation between our universities. Also, the number of Norwegian students in Slovakia is rising, mainly at the Jessenius Medical Faculty in Martin, where there are currently 600 Norwegian medicine students, which is great news for both countries. He also noted that the cooperation of the Jessenius Medical Faculty with the Oslo and Bjørknes universities currently constitute one of the most important bilateral projects. The topic of donor country students was also discussed during the visit of the Norwegian Minister of

Foreign Affairs, Gunnar Bragi Sveinsson. During his visit in Bratislava in March 2015, he stated that approximately 90 Icelandic students were currently studying at the Jessenius Medical Faculty in Martin, and three students were studying at the University of Veterinary Medicine and Pharmacy in Košice, and these numbers are constantly rising.<sup>29</sup>

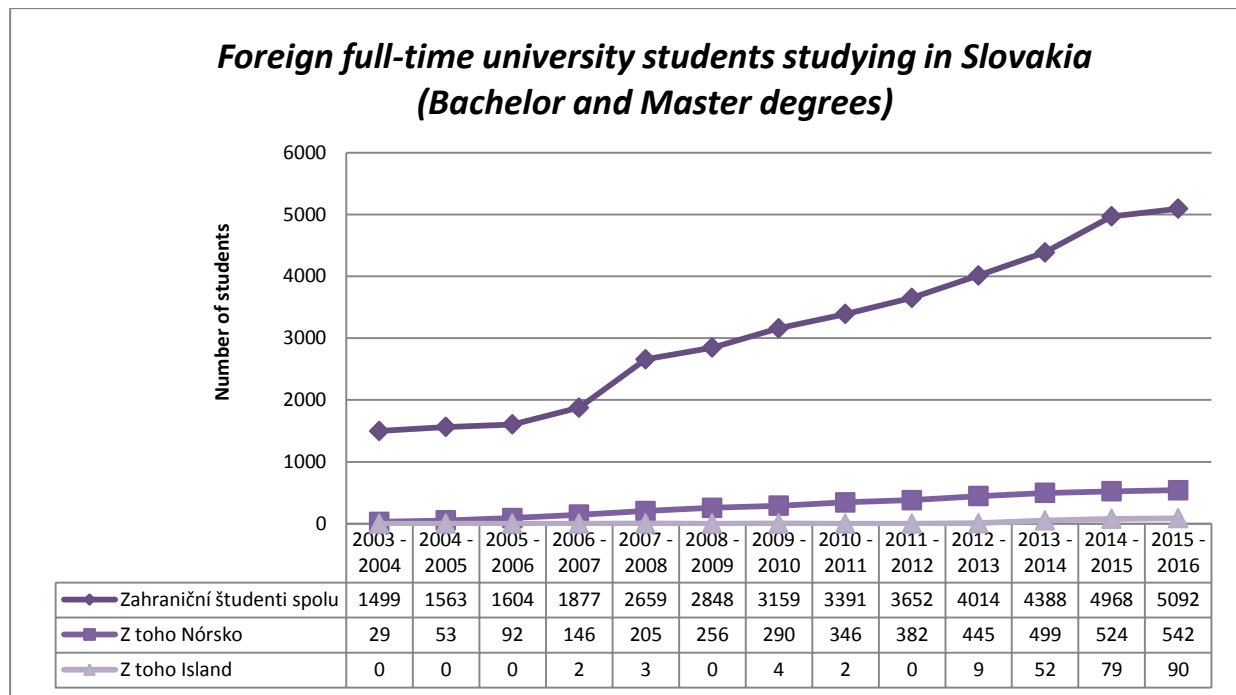


Chart 12: Full-time foreign university students studying in Slovakia (Dark violet = total number of foreign students; medium violet = Norway; light violet = Iceland)

As for the statistics<sup>30</sup>, the number of foreign students in Slovakia has more than tripled since the 2013/2014 academic year. According to the information at our disposal, the total number of Slovak students studying abroad has not been assessed for statistical purposes. According to the figure from 31 October 2014, 542 Norwegian students, 90 Icelandic students and 1 Liechtensteiner student are currently studying at Slovak universities. It should be noted that after Greek (685) and Ukrainian (663) students, Norwegian students constitute the third largest group of full-time foreign students at Slovak universities. Icelandic students rank 13th.

### 2.2.2 Cooperation with donor programme partners (hereinafter referred to as DPP)

Generally, the bilateral relations between the Slovak Republic and the donor states within EEA Grants provide a wide scope of consulting activities, opportunities for the practical application of experience gained as well as strategic assistance by the partner institutions in the related programmes. DPP significantly contribute to programme implementation. They attend the Committees of cooperation on regular basis and participate in the implementation of programmes. The cooperation committees (personal and per rollam) were held 11 times in the reporting period (including the SK06 *Scholarship Fund* programme). As a DPP, the Council of Europe participates in two programmes (SK04 *Local and Regional Initiatives to Reduce National Inequalities and Promote Social Inclusion Programme*, SK09 *Domestic and Gender-Based Violence*).

DPP significantly contributed to seeking and finding potential partner entities and facilitating the conclusion of project partnerships, ensuring the participation of potential partner institutions in

<sup>29</sup>Source: www.mzv.sk, national and local media, internal monitoring

<sup>30</sup> <http://www.uips.sk/prehlady-skol/statisticka-rocenka--vysoke-skoly>

matchmaking seminars, and creating lists of potential partner institutions published along with calls for project applications. DPP also currently cooperate in the evaluation process regarding the submitted applications for contributions pertaining to the currently published call on the opening of the B Measure of the programme bilateral funds.

The donor programme partners actively participated in a majority of events organised under individual programmes in 2015. They actively participated in the organisation of study visits and the Blue Trip Norway 2015 activity. Through the Blue Trip Norway 2015 activity, 20 teachers and 38 high school students travelled to Oslo where they got acquainted with climate change adaptation measures implemented in Norway. The study trip was funded through the SK02 *Adaptation to Climate Change – Floods and Drought Prevention*.



The study trips were very popular among both students and teachers. The following comments were taken from their trip reports:

*“We could see the catching, protection, ingenious use of rainwater and its filtration in our own eyes.” AK, Púchov*

*“I wish we could take care of water the way they do in Norway, because I love nature.” AB, Lučenec*

*“If we all understood the importance of protecting flora and fauna, the world would have never reached its current point. Norway is definitely a good example for us.” DB, Dolne Obdkovce*

*“Norway is so far ahead of us, as a country, culture, and mentality – it is so different from our own.” GLS Zvolen*

*“For example, we learned that Norwegian kids do not eat chocolate during the weekdays, only on weekend.” JG, Nová Dubnica*

Due to the popularity and success of the activity the Government Office of the Slovak Republic decided to continue the activity in Slovakia as well. In June 2015, the Office organised the Blue School Festival in cooperation with the Embassy of the NK in Slovakia. It took place in Piešťany and was attended by approximately 80 primary school pupils from all over Slovakia to play games, have fun and compete. At the festival the participating schools presented their Blue School project activities.

Within the SK09 *Domestic and Gender-Based Violence* programme the programme operator organised a week-long study trip of Norwegian experts in cooperation with the Norwegian Health Directorate. They visited social service centres and Women’s Safe Houses supported through the Norwegian Financial Mechanism. On the last day of the trip a collection of clothes, toys, school supplies, furniture and other objects were given to the representatives of the Centrum Slniečko Nitra and My Mamy organisations. The collection was coordinated by the Government Office of the Slovak Republic in cooperation with the Embassy of the Norwegian Kingdom in Slovakia.



Both Slovak and Norwegian parties evaluated the study trip of the experts as very useful; a follow-up trip is planned for spring of 2016, during which Slovak experts will visit Norway.



The NFP assesses the cooperation between programme operators and individual donor partners as very active and mutually rewarding. All events organised in 2015 also concentrated on the presentation of bilateral dimensions in the implementation of EEA Grants. Such activities contribute to creating positive effects and reflect successful forms of cooperation between Slovak entities and donors responsible for, and participating in the implementation of the programmes.

### 2.2.3 A broader context of bilateral relations in 2015<sup>31</sup>

#### Support bilateral relations on the top level

The bilateral relations between Slovakia and Norway can also be evaluated from the point of view of the number of events and meetings held.

Between January and March 2016 the SR Minister of Foreign and European Affairs, Miroslav Lajčák, visited Norway; the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs (hereinafter referred to as MZVaEZ), Peter Javorčík, visited Iceland, and the Icelandic the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Gunnar Bragi Sveinsson, visited Bratislava. In three months' time, such an accumulation of working visits can be considered extraordinary. It indicates a very good relationship between the countries involved.

The working visit of the Permanent secretary of MZVaEZ, Peter Javorčík, in February 2015 again proved the idea that the bilateral relationship between Slovakia and Iceland provides valuable potential for

<sup>31</sup>Source: [www.mzv.sk](http://www.mzv.sk), [www.norway.sk](http://www.norway.sk), national and local media, internal monitoring

increasing students' mobility and exchanging good practice in the use of geothermal energy. The Permanent Secretary also expressed his appreciation of the Icelandic Marel Food company in the Nitra industrial park. The opening of an exhibition on photographs of Slovakia depicting natural beauty, UNESCO cultural heritage, and well-known Slovak cities in Reykjavik was an added value of the visit.

As for other important examples, the SR Minister of Foreign Affairs, Miroslav Lajčák, visited Oslo on 14 – 15 January 2015. It was the first time the SR Minister of Foreign Affairs and the Deputy Prime Minister visited the Norwegian Kingdom since 2007. Minister Lajčák expressed his appreciation of the high level of the bilateral relationship and close cooperation of both countries within international organisations. He also emphasized that Slovakia welcomed and supported intense bonds between Norway and the EU, since both partners share common values and interests. Norway is an important contributor of the EEA and Norway grants through which mutual relationships are strengthened in very specific ways, visible and tangible for citizens. The Minister also spoke of the successful cooperation in the field of education, mainly the relationship between the Jessenius Faculty of Medicine and the two Norwegian universities – Oslo and Bjørknes. In this context we would also like to mention the celebratory matriculation of Norwegian students of general medicine, which was held in the representative office of the SR in Oslo in November 2015. A Slovak delegation along with Bjørknes Sveinung Lunde, the university principal, was granted an audience at Elsbeth Tronstad, the Permanent Secretary of the Norwegian Minister of EEA and EU Affairs, in the presence of František Kašický, the Slovak Ambassador in Norway. At this visit, the delegation presented the results of the Slovak-Norwegian cooperation, implemented projects and future plans.

Another event that contributed to the excellent bilateral relations was the visit of the Icelandic Minister of Foreign Affairs Gunnar Bragi Sveinsson, who visited Slovakia in March 2015 as the first Icelandic Minister in this position. The Ministers Lajčák and Sveinsson discussed the development in both countries with the focus on the bilateral effort to increase the dynamics and extent of the cooperation. Since the political dialogue with Iceland is already well-established and both countries share common value-related foundations, mainly the strengthening of economic and academic contacts was discussed.

In October 2015 the Ambassador of the NK in Slovakia, Inga Magistad, met with the newly appointed Permanent Secretary of the SR Minister of Foreign Affairs and the plenipotentiary of the SR for the Slovak EU presidency, Ivan Korčok. They discussed the bilateral relations, Slovak EU presidency, financial mechanisms of the EEA and Norway, but also the migration crisis. The Ambassador expressed her interest in active cooperation during the Slovak EU presidency and proposed organising some of the related events with support of the EEA and Norway grants. The offer was welcomed by the Slovak party and the interested of Norway in cooperation was highly appreciated.

The overview of the top level visits can be concluded by the official visit of the Liechtensteiner Minister of Foreign Affairs, Aurelie Frick, who accepted the invitation for an official visit from the SR Minister of Foreign Affairs, Miroslav Lajčák in September 2015. Since the establishment of diplomatic relations between Slovakia and Liechtenstein in December 2009, their development was dynamic. Both Ministers meet on regular basis. Possibilities of further political cooperation in the area of development aid and promotion of Slovak culture in Liechtenstein were discussed, and an interest in the early finalisation and conclusion of agreements on the prevention of double taxation and exchange of tax information was expressed. Minister Lajčák also presented his effort to extend economic cooperation through the exchange of experience in dual education. The same topic was already discussed with the SR Minister of Education, Juraj Draxler. Minister Lajčák thanked Minister Frick for the contribution of Norway in FM EEA. The working visit also included a meeting with the Permanent Secretary of the SR Ministry of Culture, Ivan Sečík, and the Prime Minister, Robert Fico.

### **Common events and initiatives as the pillar of bilateral relations**



Between 12 and 13 January 2015, the International Education Fair took place in Oslo, which was an important event. More than 130 educational institutes, agencies and organisations mainly from Norway, EU member states and North America participated in it and the event was attended by almost 15,000 visitors. Slovakia was represented by the Jessenius Faculty of Medicine of the Comenius University in Martina and the University of Veterinary Medicine and Pharmacy in Košice. Representatives of both universities presented their study programmes and educational projects.

In May 2015 an exposition titled “How Central Europe Helps the World” was opened. The exposition was organised by the Slovak Republic of the currently presiding country of the Central European Cultural Platform in cooperation with the Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland and Austria. During a fortnight, the Norwegian and international public could become acquainted with the way the member states contribute to help countries in humanitarian crises, war or natural disasters. The opening was attended by representatives of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Norway, the Department of Culture of the SR Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs, Slovak Agency for International Development Cooperation, honorary consuls, diplomatic corps, compatriots and their representatives, and Bjørknes University students from Oslo.

Another event organised in the broader context of bilateral relations is Norwegian Day, which took place in November 2015 in Žiar nad Hronom. The event with attendance of over 400 visitors aimed to present Norway and its culture to the public. Children and adults had an opportunity to taste Norwegian cuisine and participate in various activities such as a theatre workshop for children at which they became acquainted with Norwegian fairy tales, but there were also attractions such as an inflatable boat, hockey or a quiz on Norway addressed to primary school pupils. The event was organised by the Embassy of the NK in Slovakia in cooperation with the culture and leisure centres in Žiar nad Hronom.

Another important event was the professional seminar titled “Doing Business in Slovakia”, which was held at the premises of the Chamber of Trade and Industry in Oslo in November 2015. The seminar provided a great opportunity to develop and strengthen the existing bilateral relations between Slovakia and Norway in the areas of economy and trade, stimulate the investment activities of Norwegian companies in Slovakia, but also present the cooperation possibilities in the area of innovations, research and development. The event included presentations on the state support mechanism, the experience of Norwegian and Slovak companies from their mutual cooperation, but also possibilities offered by EEA and Norway grants.

The overview on the bilateral relations can be concluded by the largest event of 2015, the **6<sup>th</sup> European Border Dialogues Forum which took place in Košice and Užhorod from 25 to 27 November 2015**. The conference was opened by top level representatives of Slovakia, Norway and Ukraine: Permanent Secretary of MZVaEZ, Igor Slobodník; Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Norway, Elsbeth Tronstad; and Gennadij Moskal, head of the Zakarpatthya region state administration. The conference was attended by more than 200 participants from all over Europe. Different aspects of the development of cross-Border cooperation were discussed, mainly local and regional as well as economic development, but also cooperation in media and civic society.



The Permanent Secretaries of Slovakia and Norway visited Prešov and Košice to observe the rehabilitation of historical buildings and visited the the My Mamy women’s safe house for victims of domestic violence. The Norwegian Permanent Secretary, accompanied by the Slovak Ambassador in the NK, also visited the University of Veterinary Medicine and Pharmacy in Košice.

#### 2.2.4 Evaluation of bilateral cooperation by four defined types of outcomes

**In terms of the actual scope of cooperation**, institutions from the Donor States are involved to the maximum extent possible in the implementation of EEA Grants at the programme as well as project level. At the project level, they are engaged in the search for possible partnerships under bilateral funds. Bilateral activities can be currently supported by the bilateral funds through the B Measure. The B Measure represents an important pillar of cooperation between recipients and donors, but also applicants currently not implementing individual projects. The existing cooperation has been extended through the next opening of the Bilateral Fund on the national level in 2015.

**In terms of result sharing**, it should be noted that know-how transfers and sharing of experience and knowledge, strategies, ideas and good practices are an integral part of the implementation of the programmes. Support has been launched from the Bilateral Funds programme under the A Measure to achieve results in the implementation of such bilateral processes. Further expansion and support to achieve results in these areas will be ensured through B Measures under the Bilateral Funds programme, as well as the planned launch of a national Bilateral Fund under its individual topic areas/sectors/components. The Bilateral Fund is specifically designed to support a common result sharing by means of study travels, seminars, meetings, workshops and conferences.

**In terms of improved knowledge and common understanding**, it should be noted that all publicity measures are closely linked with the presentation of Donor States and the contributions they provide to Slovakia. The permanent publicity of donors’ tasks and positions in the implementation of programmes,

coupled with the general presentation of bilateral dimension of the EEA Grants, contributes to raising the public knowledge and awareness of this cooperation.

**In terms of wider bilateral effects**, the actual implementation of programmes and projects and the achievement of results in the three foregoing groups are expected to ensure that wider bilateral effects are achieved as well. An increased attention will be paid to achieving this goal during Slovakia's presidency of the EU Council which, according to the National Focal Point's opinion, will commence the implementation of key publicity measures particularly designed to bring about wider bilateral effects through the presentation of programme outcomes with respect to reinforced bilateral relations, a clear identification of donors that have provided financial assistance to achieve relevant outputs, as well as all entities engaged in implementation. Donor states agreed to provide funds amounting to approximately EUR 100,000, which have been allocated for the support of bilateral relations, mainly the organisation of events to be held during the presidency of the Slovak Republic in the EU in the second half of 2016. The bilateral effects are expected to result from the implementation of pre-defined activities under the Bilateral Fund on the national level, which represent strategic activities in the area.

### Brief overview of basic risks in bilateral relations

An insufficient number of partner institutions in the donor states pose one of the highest risks regarding bilateral relations. The risk is present in almost all programmes as well as in the process of implementing the Bilateral Fund on the national level and partially also on the programme bilateral fund level. The applicants are asking the National Focal Point and the Norwegian Embassy to assist them in searching for project partners. All relevant institutions are trying their best to offer cooperation in the search for relevant partner subjects. A relatively large number of tools for supporting bilateral relations can pose a certain risk. Currently, the Bilateral Fund and programme bilateral funds are being implemented. An update of regulations in June 2015 opened the Bilateral Fund also for institutions which are not recipients or partners in the individual implemented projects. The substantive focus of the Fund has also been extended. On one hand, the update extended the practical use of the funds, on the other hand, it changed their content orientation. In the future, the NFP proposes creating a single tool for the support of bilateral relations in which the individual sectors/areas would be categorised internally.

## 3 PROGRAMME PROGRESS

### 3.1 Overview of programme progress

In 2015 the last calls were opened for the 2009 – 2014 programming period (One call for the SK05 *Conservation and Revitalisation of Cultural and Natural Heritage & Promotion of Diversity in Culture and Arts within European Cultural Heritage* programme and one call for the SK06 *Scholarship Fund EEA Slovakia*). During the observed period projects agreement were concluded and in most programmes the operators focused on the actual implementation of the projects. See the list of calls, their status and number of applications received in Chart 6 below.

Chart 6: Overview of applications submitted:

Programme area	Call code	Available allocation	Status	Applications received	Requested project grant
<b>SK02 Adaptation to Climate Change – Flood and Drought Prevention</b>	ACC01	EUR 6,900,000	closed	5	EUR 11,089,664
	ACC02	EUR 4,000,000	closed	4	EUR 7,242,560
	ACC03	EUR 2,723,235	closed	82	EUR 3,094,086
<b>SK04 Local and regional initiatives to promote social inclusion</b>	SI01	EUR 461,177	closed	35	EUR 1,381,185

<b>SK05 Conservation and Revitalisation of Cultural and Natural Heritage &amp; Promotion of Diversity in Culture and Arts within European Cultural Heritage</b>	CLT01	EUR 2,948,943	closed	52	EUR 25,629,759
	CLT02	EUR 2,948,942	closed	13	EUR 7,363,686
	CLT03	EUR 1,405,074	closed	27	EUR 3,488,874
<b>SK06 Scholarship Fund</b>	EEA/EHP-SK06-I-01	EUR 15,228	closed	9	EUR 23,726
	EEA/EHP-SK06-IV-V-01	EUR 814,306	closed	17	EUR 1,525,825
	EEA/EHP-SK06-II-01	EUR 600,000	closed	4	EUR 254,655
	EEA/EHP-SK06-I-02	EUR 17,253.34	closed	18	EUR 45,238
	EEA/EHP-SK06-IV-V-02	EUR 946,314.88	closed	20	EUR 1,607,773.86
<b>SK07 Green Industry Innovation</b>	GII01	EUR 16,064,757	closed	13	EUR 28,132,210
<b>SK08 Cross-Border Cooperation</b>	CBC01	EUR 10,780,999	closed	83	EUR 41,927,012
	CBC02 <sup>32</sup>	EUR 2,752,370	closed	73	EUR 8,666,970
<b>SK09 Domestic and Gender-Based Violence</b>	DGBV01	EUR 4,170,000	closed	15	EUR 2,656,660
	DGV02	EUR 2,430,965	closed	18	EUR 1,584,289
	DGV03	EUR 2,762,953	closed	6	EUR 5,081,632

There was a significant interest in the call for SK05 *Conservation and Revitalisation of Cultural and Natural Heritage & Promotion of Diversity in Culture and Arts within European Cultural Heritage*, the demand exceeded the assigned allocation several times. For detailed information on the results of the call see Part 3.2.4. In February 2015 the last call for the SK06 *Scholarship Fund EEA Slovakia* (published in 2014) was closed and the whole call has been evaluated in the context of the given programming period. For detailed information on the results of the call see Part 3.2.5.

### **Sending estimates of expected payments<sup>33</sup>**

In accordance with the Regulations on the Implementation of the European Economic Area Financial Mechanism 2009 – 2014 (hereinafter referred to as Regulations) the Certifying Authority sent the estimates of expected payments based on the documents provided by the programme operators on 19 February, 20 May, 18 September, and 9 December 2015.

Based on the estimate of expected payments provided by the FMO processed using the DoRIS system in December 2014, for 2015 the total amount of funds drawn was planned to EUR 28,754,883. By the end of 2015 the CA received payments in the total amount of EUR 19,447,114, which represents 67.63% of the estimated expenditure.

<sup>32</sup>Small grant scheme call by the Prešov Self-Governing Region

<sup>33</sup>Source: MINISTRY OF FINANCE OF THE SLOVAK REPUBLIC

Table 7: Estimates of expected payments (hereinafter referred to as EEP) sent to FMO in 2015

Date of sending of EEP through DoRIS	2015	2016	2017
19 February 2015	29,422,342	5,608,762	185,952
20 May 2015	29,422,342	5,728,485	244,489
18 September 2015	29,493,749	5,657,079	244,489
9 December 2015	15,526,396	19,649,036	219,884

## Drawing of funds

### SK01 Technical Assistance Fund & Fund for Bilateral Relations at National Level

In the course of 2015 the CA received 4 interim payments from the FMO within the Technical Assistance Fund and the Bilateral Fund in the total amount of EUR 342,435. These funds were further allocated to individual partners on 11 – 12 March, 30 April, 4 September, and 22 December 2015.

The Certifying Authority approved 4 IFRs related to the SK01 programme with eligible expenditures totalling EUR 245,931 and submitted it to the FMO (the amount was decreased by 6,070 based on the irregularities). The total amount of eligible expenditures approved and submitted to the FMO is EUR 771,896, representing 45.93% of the allocation.

### Programmes SK02 to SK09

Based on <sup>34</sup>28 IFRs approved and submitted to the FMO, the Certifying Authority accepted interim payments for all the programmes (SK02, SK04, SK05, SK06, SK07, SK08 and SK09) in the total amount of EUR 19,104,637, which were subsequently paid to the programme operator in accordance with the Regulations. The total amount of IFRs (SK02 – SK09) granted and submitted to the FMO as eligible expenditures in 2015 was EUR 19,624,335 (the amount was decreased by irregularities and the amount returned from a recipient to the programme operator totalling EUR 375,113).

As for the irregularities identified by the Audit Authority in all programmes (except SK06 EEA Scholarship Fund Slovakia), the FMO decided to decrease the final amount of the submitted expenditures by the amount pertaining to the irregularities found in IFRs submitted in the January – April 2015 period. Therefore, the amount of the interim payment applied for by the programme operator for the September – December 2015 reporting period also decreased. The amounts pertaining to irregularities in programmes: SK04 *Local and Regional Initiatives to Promote Social Inclusion*, SK07 *Green Industry Innovation*, SK08 *Cross-Border Cooperation*, and SK09 *Domestic and Gender-Based Violence* had not been identified during the preparation of the programme proposal and subtracted from the budget line, the FMO returning the IFRs in question to the programme operator to have them reprocessed.

Expenditures incurred by preparation of the programme proposals for the programmes SK02 *Adaptation to Climate Change*, SK04 *Local and Regional Initiatives to Reduce National Inequalities and Promote Social Inclusion*, SK07 *Green Industry Innovation*, and SK09 *Domestic and Gender-Based Violence* were lower than the amount of the first advance payment for the given budget item. The FMO therefore transferred the paid funds, which were not yet recorded in the programme preparation budget item to

<sup>34</sup> This includes IFR No. 2 in the SK06 programme, which was submitted to FMO on 14 November 2014, but the interim payment amounting to EUR 183,402 was transferred to the CA accounts as late as January 2015.



the Project management budget item. The transfer reflected in the IFR submitted for the January – April 2015 reporting period in the B part, “Previous Advance and Interim Payments” column.

In December 2015 a correction from FMO amounting to EUR 42 was received along with Interim Payment No. 7 under the SK08 Cross-Border Cooperation programme (off-budget account of the CO for NFM 2009 – 2014 resources) The correction was provided by FMO in accordance with the Amendment No. 3 of the programme agreement pertaining to funding of the Cross-Border Cooperation programme, which has entered into force in the meantime. Hereby, the “Preparation of the Programme Proposal” budget item has been added, therefore eligible expenditures increased by EUR 487, whilst the eligible expenditures pertaining to the “Programme Management” budget item decreased. The correction of the amount in question (EUR 42) does not represent a correction as provided in Article 12.2 of the Regulations. It is a retention amount that had to be transferred to the NFM 2009-2014 resources account due to adjustments regarding budget items in order to create equal balance. The above-mentioned transfers also have an impact on funding pertaining to previously approved IFRs, therefore the CO decided to transfer the amount in question to the programme operator’s bank accounts under the “Programme Management” budget item in January 2016.

Detailed information on the disbursement of the FM EEA and NFM as of 31 December 2015 is provided in Appendix 9.

## 3.2 Overview of individual programmes

### 3.2.1 SK02 Adaptation to Climate Change - Floods and Drought Prevention

<b>Programme area:</b>	<b>Adaptation to climate change</b>
<b>Programme operator:</b>	The Government Office of the Slovak Republic as the National Focal Point
<b>DPP:</b>	Norway’s Directorate for Civil Protection and Emergency Planning Norwegian Water Resource and Energy Directorate
<b>EEA FM allocation:</b>	EUR 12,463,750
<b>National co-funding:</b>	EUR 2,199,485
<b>Programme progress in 2015:</b>	Implementation

In the reporting period all contracted projects were being implemented. Under the ACC01 call, 3 projects were selected (1 project in the Horná Nitra component, 2 projects in the Zemplín component). Under the ACC02 call – *Healthy Cities*, 2 projects were contracted. Due to the actual course of implementation, two projects from the ACC1 and all projects from the ACC02 have been granted an extension by 30 April 2017 (original deadline: 30 April 2016).

As for the ACC03 small grant scheme – Blue Schools – 5 schools have withdrawn in 2015. In the reporting period 63 projects were being implemented. By the end of 2015, the programme operator has approved 8 final project reports. All projects under this component focus on educational activities, successfully implement pilot climate change adaptation measures and reach high levels of publicity. They will have been completed by the end of April 2016.

The programme operator states that the “Developed Strategies and Climate Adaptation Measures” outcome is definitely being reached. Projects under the Zemplín and Horná Nitra components have already begun taking climate change adaptation measures created within a single project. Another expected Programme outcome, *Increased Capacity to Assess Vulnerability to Climate Change*, should be achieved through the results of implementing specific water-retaining and revitalisation measures as well as flood prevention measures implemented under individual projects in regional and school premises. However, given the number of projects concluded, it is now clear that the objective of

implementing 5,000 instances of concrete water-retaining measures, systems and facilities in the country is unrealistic. The original objective was proposed for a decrease (with regard to the individual objectives of the projects concluded). A realistic number would be approximately 640 instances. The “Increased Awareness of and Education in Climate Change Adaptation” outcome is expected to be accomplished through future results delivered by projects implemented under the Small Grant Scheme (Blue Schools).

In May 2015 Slovak students attending the schools involved in the Blue Schools component travelled to Norway to strengthen bilateral relations. In June, the programme operator organised a follow-up study trip to the Piešťany vicinity attended by 32 pupils and teachers from 8 different high schools (see Part 2.2.2). Cooperation between the donor programme partners has been evaluated as great and beneficial by the programme operator. DPP representatives attended both cooperation committees held in April and October respectively and observed selected projects together.

Concerning current risks, an insufficient inclusion of developed strategies in urban plans, an insufficient number of professional staff capable of preparing the adaptation strategy and implementing the adaptation measures has been reported. Also, there are insufficient data needed for the identification and evaluation of the expected negative impacts on climate change and some of the certification documents are missing. Also there is a risk that pilot technologies pertaining to the planned measures will not be accepted due to legislative obstacles. The main forms of minimising the overall risks are to raise awareness, build capacities and cooperate within professional and multidisciplinary teams composed of experts, academic and research institutions. Another measure could be cooperation with specialized media and the creation of a quality communication strategy that would provide a detailed description of effective communication tools and awareness raising.

In the reporting period, the programme operator identified the need to adjust the indicator pertaining to the programme outcome (a decrease from 79 to 63 in the Blue Schools component, as several schools have withdrawn from the project) and two other indicators pertaining to the programme result.

From the perspective of horizontal issues, the programme helps to increase the sustainability of the environment as well as protecting it through the implementation of inevitable adaptation measures. Based on the available studies, we already know that climate changes mostly affect socially, economically, culturally, or institutionally marginalised people. Access to information and education play a key role. E.g. An Early Warning System could increase their readiness level and ability to take appropriate adaptation measures in the case of summer heat or flood risk.

**3.2.2 SK03 and SK10 – NGO Fund Programmes**

<b>Programme area:</b>	<b>NGO Funds</b>
<b>Programme operators:</b>	The Open Society Foundation Ekopolis Foundation and partners
<b>EEA FM allocation:</b>	EUR 7,400,000
<b>Programme progress:</b>	Implementation

The objective of the programme is to strengthen the development of NGO’s, promote social justice and sustainable development. The programme is designed to support the needs of minorities, judicial reform, environmental activities, etc. Since the programme operator is the Financial Mechanism Office in Brussels, this report does not include detailed information.

### 3.2.3 SK04 Local and Regional Initiatives to Reduce National Inequalities and Promote Social Inclusion programme

<b>Programme area:</b>	<i>Local and Regional Initiatives to Reduce National Inequalities and Promote Social Inclusion</i>
<b>Programme operator:</b>	The Government Office of the Slovak Republic as the National Focal Point
<b>DPP:</b>	The Council of Europe
<b>EEA FM allocation:</b>	EUR 1,000,000
<b>National co-funding:</b>	EUR 176,471
<b>Program progress in 2015:</b>	Project implementation under the small grant scheme and the pre-defined project

In the reporting period, the programme operator continued the implementation of the pre-defined project of the Slovak National Institute for Education (hereinafter referred to as the “SNIE”) under the component “Creating an Accredited Study Programme for Innovative Education for Teaching Staff in Primary Schools to Increase Their Intercultural Competence in the Education of Roma Pupils” and “Small Grants to Support Roma Inclusion and Intercultural Projects at Primary and Secondary Schools”.

In 2015 no new calls were published. Out of 19 contracted projects (including the pre-defined one), only one school in Rožňava withdrew. The remaining 18 projects are being implemented as planned, i.e. all projects due to be completed by 30 April 2016.

As for the pre-defined project, the SNIE was granted an accreditation for the “Intercultural Education in a Primary School with Pupils from Roma Communities” educational programme, which is an important prerequisite for the successful implementation of the project. In July 2015, 46 pedagogical employees of the first stage of primary schools successfully completed accredited education in Roma language and culture. Within the programme a publication on the Roma language, culture and methodology of inclusive education is being prepared, too. Since the actual implementation of the programmes began at the end of 2014, it is currently difficult to evaluate whether all the outcomes and results of the programme will be achieved. Since the projects have been contracted, the outcomes and results are expected to be achieved.

The programme operator requested an adjustment of the programme agreement (Appendices I and II) related to the reallocation of the amount for supplementary activities within the pre-defined project of the SNIE.

The programme operator has also identified three potential risks regarding the programme. The first risk is related to the possibility that teachers who have completed accredited education in the area may stop using the materials and innovative methods of education after the programme is completed. To alleviate the risk, the programme operator must propose a monitoring system that would check how the new educational methods are being applied. The second risk is related to the public consensus according to which the programme should be aimed at areas with a higher concentration of Roma communities. The risk has been alleviated by the selection of schools located in areas with a higher concentration of Roma communities. The third risk relates to financing after the programme is completed and no longer supported. The risk has been alleviated by the careful selection of projects that included sustainability plans at the very beginning and counted on the possibility of requesting further financial means from structural funds, for example.

As for the promotion of projects, 3 events were held in the observed periods. The first workshop in which participants exchanged their experience and discussed challenges was held in May in cooperation with the European Wergeland Centre, Council of Europe and Financial Mechanism Office. The second



event that took place in May was a round table discussion organised by the programme operator. It was the second round table at which the issue of supporting disadvantaged students, including Roma in their successful completion of high school studies and practical application of their education in the market, was discussed. The third event was the Meeting of the Cooperation Committee in November 2015.

### 3.2.4 SK05 Conservation and Revitalisation of Cultural and Natural Heritage & Promotion of Diversity in Culture and Arts within European Cultural Heritage

<b>Programme area:</b>	<b>Conservation and Revitalisation of Cultural and Natural Heritage &amp; Promotion of Diversity in Culture and Arts within European Cultural Heritage</b>
<b>Programme operator:</b>	The Government Office of the Slovak Republic as the National Focal Point
<b>DPP:</b>	-
<b>EEA FM allocation:</b>	EUR 11,922,500
<b>National co-funding:</b>	EUR 2,103,971
<b>Program progress in 2015:</b>	implementation of projects under the CLT01 (rehabilitation of cultural monuments) and CLT02 (increasing accessibility of the cultural heritage for the public) calls and call for the CLT03 small grant scheme.

In February 2015 nine new project agreements were signed at the “Live Monuments II” conference. 6 and 3 projects pertain to CLT01 and CLT02 respectively. Out of 9 newly contracted agreements, 8 were implemented in 2015; one recipient withdrew from the agreement. In the reporting period the implementation of the Pro Monumenta pre-defined project started. At the end of 2015, the second pre-defined project regarding the Rusovce mansion was cancelled. The allocation pertaining to the cancelled project was divided among remaining projects under the CLT01 and CLT02 calls.

In June 2015 the CLT03 call (small grant scheme) aimed at the presentation of current art and culture in their diversity was opened. The call was closed in August 2015. The evaluation was performed during the rest of the year. At the beginning of 2016 the process is expected to enter the selection and contraction stages. The total number of applicants is 27.

The outcomes defined in the programme agreement are being progressively reached. Based on the contracted projects it can be assumed that all outcomes regarding projects under the CLT01 and CLT02 calls will be reached, in some cases they will even exceed the expectations. The programme operator has not identified any complications. The results defined for the small grant scheme and the progress of their achievement cannot be assessed yet. The same applies for the programme outcomes. Outcomes of CLT01 and CLT02 calls are being progressively reached and the programme operator has not identified any complications. As for the small grant scheme projects, their outcomes cannot yet be estimated.

As for bilateral relations, besides the small grant scheme, the programme operator has also opened the A Measure of the Bilateral Fund; one applicant has emerged so far. In July the B Measure of the Bilateral Fund was opened; three application for a contribution were submitted – the B Measure can be evaluated as fairly popular.

As for the risks regarding the programme implementation, the restoration works may take longer than originally expected due to the level of their difficulty. To alleviate the risk, the programme operator and the individual recipients cooperate with experts from the Monuments Fund (supervision, direct consulting). Public procurement poses another risk. To alleviate the risk, the programme operator makes the effort of providing comprehensive information on the preparation of public procurement with the focus on a well-versed agreement and following the conditions and dates provided in it.

Due to a failure to implement the pre-defined project regarding the Rusovce stables and garden, the total allocation of EUR 200,000 was redirected into the Pro Monumenta – Prevention by Maintenance pre-defined project.

### 3.2.5 SK06 Scholarship Fund Slovakia

Programme area	Scholarships
<b>Programme operator</b>	SAIA, n.o.
<b>DPP:</b>	The Icelandic Centre for Research (Iceland) The National Agency for International Education Affairs (Liechtenstein) The National Centre for International Cooperation in Education (Norway)
<b>NFM allocation:</b>	EUR 1,917,500
<b>National co-funding:</b>	EUR 338,382
<b>Program progress in 2015:</b>	Project agreement contracting and project implementation

At the beginning of 2015 projects pertaining to the first call of Measures 4 and 5 – Institutional Cooperation between Universities and High Schools – were contracted. 4 university projects and 5 high school projects started implementation mostly in February 2015. The first of the high school projects was completed in November 2015; the completion of most projects is planned for April 2016.

In February 2015 the Selection Committee for Measure 2 – Mobility Projects in Higher Education, met in Bratislava. All four submitted project applications were recommended for financing. The implementation of the projects in question will mostly start in April 2015 and last until September 2016.

The second and also last call for Measures 4 and 5 was open between 3 March and 11 May 2015. The total numbers of applications was 15 and 5 for universities and high schools respectively. A formal check was performed along with the expert evaluation of the project applications; in June 2015 the Selection Committee met in Bratislava. 12 projects have been contracted (9 university projects, 3 high school projects) and their implementation mostly started in September 2015. These projects are planned to be completed in August 2016.

To conclude the “Increased and Strengthened Institutional Cooperation on all Levels of Education (School Education, University Education, Vocational Education, and Adult Education) Among EEA EFTA and Recipient States” outcomes, they are being reached through the implementation of 21 projects: 13 university projects in cooperation with 9 partner universities in Norway and 1 partner university in Iceland; 8 high school projects with 7 partner schools in Norway and 1 partner school in Iceland. The programme operator expects to reach the planned values of outcome indicators.

The “Increased and Strengthened Institutional Cooperation on all Levels of Education (School Education, University Education, Vocational Education, and Adult Education) Among EEA EFTA and Recipient States” is implemented through 4 university projects in cooperation with 4 partner universities in Norway and 2 partner universities in Iceland and 1 university in Liechtenstein. Due to the contents of the submitted and approved project applications, it is apparent that one of the outcome indicators will not be reached.

At the beginning of 2015, the programme operator requested an adjustment in the programme regarding Article 7.10 of the Regulation on the implementation of FM EEA 2009 – 2014, specifically the reallocation of financial means into the programme operation budget item. The request was declined by the Financial Mechanism Office. The adjustment request aimed at providing a sufficient amount of financial means for enhancing the administrative capacity of the programme operator. The large number of contracted projects pertaining to different measures results in an increased administrative

load regarding the financial and substantial verification of projects, which creates delays and the deadlines provided in the audit trial often have to be postponed. The programme operator plans their activities in advance, taking into consideration the deadlines set by the NFP and FMO in the Regulations. Despite this, certain activities (e.g. administrative and substantial verification of project IFRs, writing monitoring reports, updating of project data in DoRIS) are delayed.

As for programme implementation, there are no significant deviations from the plan.

In the programme, the bilateral relations fund was mainly used for the implementation of Measure 1 – Preparatory Visits and Meetings. In 2015, projects from the second call of Measures 1 were implemented and cleared. 12 representatives from Slovak universities and high schools participated in 9 preparatory visits in Norway and Iceland. Based on these, 8 project applications under Measures 4 and 5 were submitted. The programme operator expects the remaining financial means from the completed projects under Measures 4 and 5 to be reallocated to the fund of bilateral relations in order to be used for the further working meetings of academics and education experts.

### 3.2.6 SK07 Green Industry Innovation programme

<b>Programme area:</b>	<b>Green Industry Innovation</b>
<b>Programme operator:</b>	The Government Office of the Slovak Republic as the National Focal Point
<b>DPP:</b>	Innovation Norway
<b>EEA FM allocation:</b>	EUR 16,073,985
<b>National co-funding:</b>	EUR 2,836,586
<b>Program progress in 2015:</b>	project implementation

2015 was the year of project implementation. 4 projects have been contracted in the previous period, in the reporting period two new projects contracted. The first project agreement was concluded with the Eco Film, s.r.o. company, the other pertaining to the pre-defined projects of a centre for the research of the biomass potential for the end user as well as a national centre for food and agriculture. The two remaining projects (BPS Hontianske Nemce, s.r.o.; Syngas, s.r.o.) whose contraction had been planned before the current reporting period were not contracted in the end. By the end of the reporting period 6 projects were contracted.

Out of these projects, 3 are in the building stage and 3 are working on project documentation and public procurement. In 2015 funding complications emerged in the STAMAP recipient's project. The programme operator stopped its funding and at the end of 2015 requested the recipient to withdraw from the agreement and refund the resources.

The programme operator also requested an extension of the implementation period for 4 projects (original deadline: 30 April 2014, new deadline: 30 April 2017). The request was granted, which should allow for the successful implementation of the projects.

As the implementation started only in 2015 there was not enough time for a significant change to take place regarding the programme outcomes.

As for bilateral relations in 2015, Slovak businessmen travelled to Norway in April, the cooperation committee met in Oslo in June, and a communication workshop was organised by the Financial Mechanism Office and Innovation Norway in Brussels.

In 2015 the programme agreement related to a complement for the pre-defined project was amended (Part 2.1, Point 4 and an adjustment of the funding system).

However, there is still an unallocated amount of EUR 3.5 million, which is difficult to be reallocated due to the financial situation of the banking industry and the previously mentioned legislation change. The reallocation of the amount in question is currently being discussed with the FMO.

The programme operator identified the legislation changes as the main risk and reason why several projects failed to be actually implemented in the past. The projects, which are already in their implementation stage, are not at risk and it is assumed that they will be completed as planned.

### 3.2.7 SK08 Cross-Border cooperation programme

Programme area	Cross-Border Cooperation
Programme operator	The Government Office of the Slovak Republic as the National Focal Point
DPP:	Barents Secretariat, Norway
NFM allocation:	EUR 13,368,547
National co-funding:	EUR 2,359,155
Program progress in 2015:	Contracting

In 2015 there was a significant progress in the implementation of the programme. In March 2015 the programme operator obtained the decision on extending the implementation period until April 2017 and the contracting process began. By the end of the reporting period, 19 project agreements out of 43 approved projects were concluded. The programme operator aims to conclude all projects by the end of April 2016.

As for cross-border cooperation, the programme operator organised the 6<sup>th</sup> European Cross-Border Dialogues (for more information see 2.2.3 Bilateral Relations in 2015 in the broader context).

Due to the delay in concluding the project agreements, the programme operator was not able to evaluate the reaching of the programme outcomes. Based on the projects concluded so far, it can be assumed that all programme indicators will be reached; however, currently there are risks which can influence the process. The programme operator expects the problems resulting in the prolongation of the contracting process on the Ukrainian side (insufficient information and missing documents) to pose risk in the programme implementation itself. Due to the current political situation in Ukraine, the absence of a supervisory body for NFM implementation on the national level, specific legal conditions, and the instability of the banking sector in Ukraine, it is reasonable to assume that the participant will encounter further challenges in 2016.

From the perspective of bilateral relations, cooperation with the Norwegian donor partner (Norwegian Barents Secretariat) is perceived positively mainly regarding the establishing of cooperation between Slovak and Norwegian institutions. Within the support of bilateral relations, the B Measure of the Bilateral Fund was open in July. However, by the end of the reporting period, no recipient applied. It is probably related to the fact that the first projects were contracted at the end of 2015.

In the reporting period three amendments were added to the programme agreement. The first amendment related to the reallocation of financial means from the SK07 *Green Industry Innovation* programme amounting to EUR 762,996 to the Cross-Border Cooperation programme. The second amendment extended the eligibility period of the projects until April 30 2017 (original deadline was 30

April 2016). The third amendment was related to the reallocation of a smaller amount from project management into programme preparation.

### 3.2.8 SK09 Programme Domestic and Gender-Based Violence

<b>Programme area:</b>	<b>Domestic and gender-based violence</b>
<b>Programme operator:</b>	The Government Office of the Slovak Republic as the National Focal Point
<b>DPP:</b>	Norwegian Health Directorate The Council of Europe
<b>EEA FM allocation:</b>	EUR 8,440,000
<b>National co-funding:</b>	EUR 1,489,412
<b>Program progress in 2015:</b>	project implementation

In the reporting period, the Gender Equality Strategy was implemented. The Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family of the Slovak Republic (hereinafter referred to as MPSVaR) started the implementation of the “Family and Work” pre-defined project, which aims at creating a pro-family workplace environment and conditions allowing for the balancing of family and professional life. The goal of the project is to help create flexible forms of work and support the employment of women with small children. MPSVaR also plans to ratify the Istanbul Convention; therefore it has started the process of establishing a Methodological Centre for Domestic and Gender-Based Violence.

In 2015 the programme operator concluded 25 project agreements resulting from the three published calls. In all projects, the programme operator requested an extension of the eligibility period, which was granted by the donors. The project implementation will therefore be extended by April 2017. Thanks to the extension, it can be assumed that all programme indicators will be reached; however the number of projects is smaller than expected, therefore not all target values will probably be reached.

Also, not all allocated resources have been contracted and the remainder amounts to more than EUR 1.5 million. The programme operator is therefore contemplating a request for the reallocation of the resources for complementary activities related to the approved projects. The call for reallocation was published in December 2015; the deadline for submitting applications is February 2016.

As for the promotion of bilateral relations, the programme operator in cooperation with the Norwegian Health Directory organised a study visit to Slovakia (see 2.2.3 Bilateral Relations in 2015 in a broader context). Also, in autumn of 2015, a Women’s Safe House was opened despite the protests of local citizens. At the end of November the facility was visited by the Norwegian Permanent Secretary from the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the NK, Elsbeth Tronstadt, and the Permanent secretary of the Slovak Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Igor Slobodník.

As for risks, mainly the financial sustainability of the projects is in question. Another risk is certain public antagonism against the Istanbul Convention; however it has been alleviated by the adoption of the national strategy for the protection and support of human rights.

### 3.2.9 SK01 Technical Assistance Fund and Bilateral Fund<sup>35</sup>

In the course of 2015 the CA received 4 interim payments from the FMO within the Technical Assistance Fund and the Bilateral Fund in the total amount of EUR 342,435. These funds were further allocated to the individual partners on 11 – 12 March, 30 April, 4 September, and 22 December 2015.

<sup>35</sup>Source: Ministry of Finance of the SR

The Certifying Authority approved 4 IFRs related to the SK01 programme with eligible expenditures totalling EUR 245,931 and submitted it to the FMO (the amount was decreased by 6,070 based on the irregularities). The total amount of eligible expenditures approved and submitted to the FMO is EUR 771,896, representing 45.93% of the allocation.

### Bilateral Fund on the national level

The Bilateral Fund plays a significant role in enhancing bilateral relations. It was again open on the national level in August 2015 with an allocation of EUR 66,500. It provided an opportunity for the interested parties to apply for contributions in three thematic components – Cultural, Social and Environmental. The Bilateral Fund on the national level also provides the opportunity to carry out bilateral activities such as participation in and the organisation of events or study visits, which enhances mutual relationships. Applications for a contribution within individual components can be submitted from 7 August 2014 to 7 January 2015 or until the allocation for the individual thematic component is exhausted.

By the day of closing the Fund, 6 applications had been submitted (Cultural Component – 2, Environmental Component – 0, Social Component – 4).

Table 8: List of project applications<sup>36</sup>

Applicant	Component	Activity <sup>37</sup>	Reserved/approved funds	State as of 31 January 2016
<b>Academy of Performing Arts in Bratislava</b>	KUL	Grieg Day in Bratislava - International Masterclasses, Seminars and Concerts	EUR 9,960	Approved amount: 9,510 EUR
<b>Divadlo bez domova, n.o. ("Homeless Theatre")</b>	KUL	Building of strong strategic partnership and networking for theatre groups of homeless and prisoners	EUR 4,884	Currently undergoing evaluation
<b>Institute of applied psychology at Comenius University</b>	SOC	Study trip to learn Emotion Focused Family Therapy in Norway	EUR 3,230	Approved amount: 3,230 EUR
<b>Raslavice municipality</b>	SOC	Exchange of Slovak and Norwegian knowledge and experience in the provision of services for Roma in the field of education and social inclusion	EUR 5,000	Approved amount: 5,000 EUR
<b>project.velvet, n.o.</b>	SOC	Social entrepreneurship 101	EUR 3,240	Currently undergoing evaluation
<b>Nitra diocese charity</b>	SOC	Transfer of Experiences in Refugee Integration Process	EUR 4,998	Approved amount: 4,998 EUR

A smaller number of applications for contributions in comparison to 2014 can be explained by the fact that requested amounts for individuals were higher and another financial tool for the support of bilateral relations was opened – the B Measure of the Bilateral Fund. The B Measure was opened a week

<sup>36</sup>The NCP's data from 31 January 2015 (as of 31 December 2014, only 4 applications were submitted, out of which 2 were rejected)

<sup>37</sup>Official activities are listed in English only since the applications for a contribution are submitted in English only



after opening the Bilateral Fund of the national level for 2015. By the end of 2015 8 applications had been submitted. After consulting the NFP, several applicants decided to direct their applications to the B Measure. In 2015 a total of EUR 41,964 were cleared within the Bilateral Fund on the national level for 2014.

Currently one pre-defined bilateral activity is being implemented by the Jessenius Faculty of Medicine in Martin (Comenius University in Bratislava) with a total granted allocation of EUR 25,000. The second pre-defined bilateral activity named “Regional Security Integration: Nordic and Visegrad Approaches” implemented by the Institute of European Studies and International Relations of the Faculty of Social and Economic Sciences of Comenius University in Bratislava was completed and cleared in 2015.

## 4 MANAGEMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION

### 4.1 Management and control systems

The management and control system in the Slovak Republic is centralised and unified for all programmes operated by programme operators designated by the National Focal Point. The purpose of centralisation and unification is to eliminate the imminent risk of a failure to draw the funds allocated for the Slovak Republic.

Considering the advanced stage of the 2009 – 2014 programming period several changes related to the implementation framework have been made:

- on 2 February 2015 the IM of NFP was updated to version 2.0. The change was related to another organisational change – opening the department of strategic activities at the EEA and Norway grants office.
- Based on the decision of the director, IM OP version 1.3 was amended by Appendix 32 IM – Control sheet for the wording of the announcement on the opening of the Bilateral Fund – B Measure. The control sheet is Appendix 1 of the decision. Also, Chapter 1 of the Internal Manual, Part D was amended. The implementation procedure provided for the Bilateral Fund – B Measure was substituted for the procedure for the implementation of the Bilateral Fund – B Measure.
- Exception No. 1 was adopted in the Guidelines for the recipient and the partner, in 1.1 a general exception regarding the submission of supporting documentation for the interim project reports from the partners of the donor states
- and on 4 November 2015 Amendment No. 1 was added to the Guidelines for the recipient and partner v.1.1. On 1 November 2015 Act No. 52/2015 amending Act No. 25/2006 on public procurement as amended entered into force. Pursuant to § 6 Letter a) of the amended Act, for recipients who are not public procurers, the financial limit for contracts which are not under or over limit was increased.

The Government Office – Department of EEA and Norway Grants employed three new administrative workers in April 2015. Their main task is the processing of interim project reports.

The Funding and Financial Management System is unified for all programmes under the management of programme administration designated by the Nation Contact Point, under which the Ministry of Finance fulfils the role of the Certifying Authority. In the reporting period, the Certifying Authority issued updates for the following methodological documents:

- Funding and Financial Management System of the Financial Mechanism of the European Economic Area and the Norwegian Financial Mechanism for the 2009 – 2014 programming period, version 1.3 – entered into force on 10 June 2015;
- Guideline No. 1/2012 – U for forms related to the Funding and Financial Management System of the Financial Mechanism of the European Economic Area and the Norwegian Financial Mechanism for the 2009 – 2014 programming period, version 1.3 – entered into force on 15 June 2015;
- Manual No. 1/2013 – M related to records and clearing of VV, IFR/FPR of the EEA/FNM 2009 – 2014 financial mechanisms in the ISUF system, version 1.1, entered into force on 27 March 2015.

Due to organisational changes at the SR Ministry of Finance in 2015 the Department of Technical Assistance has been cancelled. Its employees were transferred under the direct responsibility of the head of the Department of Financial Coordination and Management. The change has no impact on the Funding and Financial Management System FM EEA and NFM and all functions and administrative capacities related to the FM EEA and NFM agenda remaining the same.<sup>38</sup>

## 4.2 Compliance with EU legislation, national legislation and the MoU

All managing documents and approved programmes have been drawn up in compliance with EU legislation, national legislation, as well as the Memorandum of Understanding.

## 4.3 Irregularities

The report contains information on irregularities reported in 2015. As on the day of completion of this Report, irregularities from the fourth quarter of 2015 were not yet reported. To allow for consistency with Appendices 4 and 5 generated by the DoRIS system, these are not included in the following text.

As stated in the relevant Appendices, 23 irregularities on the programme level were reported. All of them were reported in the fourth quarter of 2014 and in the reporting period (2015) they were solved by the FMO. For more detailed information see the Strategic Report by EHP and NFM for 2014.

At the project level 11 irregularities were reported. 5 of them were solved, 6 are still being examined by the FMO. 3 of the solved irregularities had no financial impact, the financial impact of the other two amounted to a total of EUR 44,889. Out of all the examined irregularities, one discrepancy was reported as a suspicion with no estimation of financial impact; two had no financial impact; three irregularities had a financial impact amounting to a total of EUR 7,104.68. Most irregularities (7) were identified in the SK07 *Green Industry Innovation* programme; 2 irregularities were found in the SK04 *Local and Regional Initiatives to Promote Social Inclusion* programme; both SK02 *Adaptation to Climate Change – Flood and Drought Prevention* programme and SK06 *Scholarship Fund Slovakia* contained one discrepancy each.

## 4.4 Audit, Monitoring, Review and Evaluation Audits

### 4.4.1 Audits<sup>39</sup>

#### **Audits**

In order to ensure the independence, objectiveness and unity performance of the audit, pursuant to Article 4.2 of the Regulation on the Implementation of the Norwegian Financial Mechanism of the EEA

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<sup>38</sup>Source: Ministry of Finance of the SR

<sup>39</sup>Source:

2009 – 2014 and Article 4.2 of the Regulation on the Implementation of the Norwegian Financial Mechanism 2009 – 2014 (hereinafter referred to as Regulations on the Implementation of FM EEA and NFM) the recipient countries were allowed to establish audit authorities.

By the Resolution of Government of the SR No. 607/2010 from 13 September 2010 authorised the Audit Authority (hereinafter referred to as AA) to perform audits on programmes funded by the FM EEA and NFM 2009 – 2014. The AA is performing its duties pursuant to Act No. 357/2015 Coll. on financial control and audit as amended (hereinafter referred to as the Act on financial control and audit), which entered into force on 1 January 2016.

### **System audits**

According to Article 4.6 of the Regulations on FM EEA and NFM implementation, the AA is responsible for providing that audits are performed with the objective of verifying the effective functioning of the managing system and the supervision system in FM EEA and NFM. System Audit No. A710 with the main objective of verifying the managing system and the system of supervision in FM EEA and NFM are working correctly. It started on 30 November 2015 and is expected to be completed in the first half of 2016. At the time of preparing this Report, the results of System Audit No. A710 were not yet available; they will be a part of the following Strategic Report on FM EEA and NFM 2009 – 2014.

### **Project audits**

According to Article 4.6 of the Regulations on FM EEA and NFM implementation, the AA is responsible for providing that project audits with the objective of verifying the effective functioning of the managing system and the supervision system in FM EEA and NFM are performed on a suitable sample. Government Audit No. A706 carried out between 25 August 2015 and 22 December 2015 with the objective of verifying the eligibility of expenditures on a selected project sample has identified the following deficiencies:

#### **Random deficiencies amounting to EUR 2630.18:**

- breaking the rules and principles of public procurement:
  - in the contract for the delivery of goods “information and promotion items” – setting of unreasonably short periods for requesting and submitting relevant documents (less than 45 days since the day of sending of the announcement about public procurement ,hereinafter referred to as PP, by the Publications Office of the European Union. Based on this violation of the law on PP the audit group (hereinafter referred to as AG) proposed a financial correction amounting to EUR 148.73<sup>40</sup> (Interim Financial Report No. 6 – SK09).
  - in the contract for the delivery of goods and services “delivery of computing technology, devices and consumables” – setting of an unreasonably short period for potential applicants to obtain relevant documents. Based on this violation of law on PP, the AG proposed a financial correction amounting to EUR 1,266.01<sup>40</sup> (Interim Financial Report No. 4 – SK07). IFR No. 2 – SK08 and IFR No. 6 – SK09).
  - in the contract for the delivery of services “provision of air transportation of individuals on foreign and domestic business trips” – setting of an unreasonably short period for the potential applicants to obtain relevant documents; the period was shortened by 61% in comparison to the period for submitting offers set by the public procurer (46 calendar days). Expenditures related to the PP in question were declared in:
    - verified IFR No. 2 of the SK08 programme. Based on this violation of the law on PP, the AG proposed a financial correction amounting to EUR 474.70<sup>40</sup>.

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<sup>40</sup> Calculated based on the decision of the Committee C (2013) 9527 from 19 December 2013, Point 4, amounting to 25% of the expenditures related to the PP in question.

- verified IFR No. 4 of the SK04 programme. Based on this violation of the law on PP, the AG proposed a financial correction amounting to EUR 178.86<sup>40</sup>.
- violation of financial discipline pursuant to § 31 Section 1 Letter b) of Act No. 523/2004 on the budgetary rules of public administration as amended:
  - ineligible salary expenditures (insufficient supporting documentation) in SK08 amounting to EUR 398.10;
  - drawing of NFM in SK07, SK08, and SK09 for the 20% additional fee related to use of a motor vehicle for business trips beyond the authority amounting to EUR 137.17.

#### System deficiencies:

- insufficient preliminary financial control, which failed to identify any violations of the legislation in relation to expenditures verified in IFRs (SK04 – IFR No. 4, SK05 – IFR No. 3, SK07 – IFR No. 4, SK08 – IFR No. 2, SK09 – IFR No. 6).

#### Non-systemic deficiencies:

- violation of the law on PP in excessive contract “Information and Promotion Items”
  - requiring of a record in professional or trade registers supported by official confirmation from the relevant institution newer than 3 months; failure of complying with the procedure as provided in the law on PP when the requirements were already met; failure to meet the deadline for sending a written notice (on the fact that no applicants or participants were excluded) to the Public Procurement Office (hereinafter referred to as PPO) after the part of the proposals marked as “Criteria” were opened;
  - insufficient verification of expected value of the contract, failure to send a written notice to the PPO as provided in the law on PP;
- failure to include specific requirements in the contracted agreements with suppliers – violation of the rules provided in the current version of guidelines for recipients and project partners;
- discrepancy between the agreement proposal submitted among preliminary documents and the actual framework contract
  - violation of the law on PP;
  - failure to send a written notice on the result of PP in the given deadline – violation of the law on PP.

#### Annual Opinion

Based on the results of government audits conducted within the EEA FM and NFM in 2015, the auditors gave a favourable opinion, i.e. no deficiencies found had a significant impact on the effective functioning of the key areas of the system or authorities. The annual statement was sent to the Financial Mechanism Office along with the annual audit report on 30 December 2015.

#### **4.4.2 Certifications**

In 2015, the Certifying Authority verified the fulfilment of the certification requirements of the submitted interim financial reports pertaining to SK01, SK02, SK04, SK05, SK06, SK07, SK08, and SK09 programmes. In 2015 the verification procedure was carried out once and it was related to the IFR No. 8 on a project pertaining to the SK09 *Domestic and Gender-Based Violence* programme, No. DGV01003 under the name: “Women’s Safe House – a place for a good life without violence”, recipient: Centrum Slniečko, n.o. As of 31 December 2015, the procedure was not yet completed.

#### **4.4.3 Monitoring**

Within the reporting period, no programme monitoring at the NFP level was carried out. This was due to the fact that in 2015 the individual programmes were in such an implementation phase that it would not be effective to carry out the monitoring at the programme level. All programmes except for the SK04

*Local and Regional Initiatives to Reduce National Inequalities and Promote Social Inclusion* have been extended until 30 April 2017. One programme was extended as a whole (SK09 *Domestic and Gender-Based Violence*) and a number of projects have been selected from other programmes. Therefore monitoring at the NFP level will only be performed on the SK04 *Local and Regional Initiatives to Reduce National Inequalities and Promote Social Inclusion* programme; other programmes will be monitored in the course of 2017.

Monitoring at the programme operator level is performed by the KMPG Slovensko spol. s r.o. and Stengl, a.s. companies, which have been authorized by the programme operator as provided in the partial agreement on the delivery of Services No. 1038/2014. Selected projects are monitored at the place of their physical implementation. The list of projects monitored in 2015 is included in Appendix 11.

#### 4.4.4 Monitoring Committee

In 2015, the NFP convened the third session of the Monitoring Committee, the main agenda of which was to approve the Strategic Report for 2014.

### 4.5 Information and Publicity

The year 2015 saw the implementation of key information and publicity measures that significantly contributed to the objectives set out in the communication strategy. The National Focal Point is implementing several communication activities continuously, and the implementation of these measures is based on the principle of effective and speedy communication with the controlled impact on the target groups. By employing this type of communication process, the NFP strives to ensure higher transparency and efficiency in the implementation of the EEA and 2009 – 2014 Norwegian grants.

As for Norway grants, the National Focal Point acts as the programme operator in six programmes. For this reason, most of the measures implemented are listed in detail in the *Annual Reports for the Individual Programmes*. Selected information is summarised and elaborated in this part of the Strategic Report. All important measures relating to information and publicity are coordinated in cooperation with the donor programme partners and the Norwegian embassy in Slovakia.

#### 4.5.1 Key Aspects of the Effective Communication of Grants

The most significant event of 2015 was the 6<sup>th</sup> European Border Dialogues Forum, which took place in Košice and Užhorod from 25 to 27 November 2015. The period of Slovakia's presidency of the EU Council in the second half of 2016 will provide the best potential for presenting the grants, as well as implementation results. The National Focal Point considers this period a significant opportunity with a high information potential and plans to organise a number of events focusing on the publicity of grants and the presentation of bilateral relations between the Slovak Republic and donor states. In compliance with the communication strategy, the National Focal Point also strives to establish and promote the EEA and Norway grants brand, or their slightly altered Slovak versions instead of the names "EEA Financial Mechanism" and "Norwegian Financial Mechanism".

#### 4.5.2 Evaluation of publicity measures

The NFP is the administrator of the website **eeagrants.sk** and **norwaygrants.sk** in cooperation with the IT and e-service department of the Government Office of the Slovak Republic. On a regular basis, the NFP updates a broad spectrum of information published on the websites.

The news on the main (initial) website is generated from the subpages of individual programs, or generated separately (in accordance with the substantive nature of the news itself).

In the course of 2015 (1 January to 31 December 2015) a slight decrease in the visitation rate – compared to that of 2014 – was recorded. From the analytical point of view, this is believed to be caused by the current implementation stage. It is important to point out, that most calls for submitting project applications were opened in 2013; in 2013 record highs were achieved. In 2015, a total of 124,061 page views and 34,951 visits were recorded, with returning visitors accounting for 50.5% and new visitors of the website accounting for 48.5%. The total number of all visitors amounted to 18,615. An average length of stay at the website is 2 minutes and 54 seconds. 88.05% of the visitors come from Slovak servers, 1.75% from Norway, 1.67% from Ukraine, and 1.20% from the Czech Republic. An interesting fact is that as much as 14.6% of all visitors clicked on the “Calls” or “Cultural Heritage” tabs probably because the CLT03 call under the SK05 programme was expected by many. The call focused on supporting diversity in culture and art in the European cultural heritage.

In accordance with the communication strategy, the National Focal Point administers a profile on Facebook under the title “EEA and Norway Grants Slovakia”. The National Focal Point publishes all news and relevant information in sync with the websites programmes under the common profile *Granty EHP a Nórska na Slovensku*.

The most important and high profile event in 2015 with an impact on general society was the 6<sup>th</sup> European Border Dialogues Forum (see 2.2.3 Bilateral Relations in 2015 in a broader context).

In 2015 there were 23 press releases by the Government Office of the Slovak Republic regarding the EEA and Norway grants published at the [www.vlada.gov.sk](http://www.vlada.gov.sk), which is the main website of both Government Office and the Government of the SR itself. The number can be evaluated as fairly high and it successfully attracted media attention on projects and activities related to the grants. The National Focal Point will continue to do its best to promote grants in public and providing all possible information.

Table 9: Overview of the Most Important Events Carried out - Conferences, Info Days, Seminars

Type	Communication Activity	Implementation stage	Deadline/Status
<b>Direct Communication – most important events – basic overview</b>	Blue Trip Norway	SK02 programme	May 2015
	Blue School Festival + seminar	SK02 programme	June 2015
	“Live Monuments II” conference	SK05 programme	February 2015
	Workshop for Roma Programme	SK04 programme	May 2015
	2 <sup>nd</sup> round-table discussion	SK04 programme	May 2015
	Study trip to Slovakia	SK09 programme	June 2015
	6 <sup>th</sup> European Border Dialogues Forum	SK08 programme	November 2015
<b>E-Communication</b>	Eegrants.sk/norwaygrants.sk websites and subpages pertaining to individual programmes	NFP/all programmes	continuously
	Profile on Facebook	NFP/all programmes	continuously
	Direct e-mails sent to institutions	All programmes	continuously
<b>Advisory Services</b>	Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) relating to Calls	NFP/all programmes	continuously
	Applicants’ questions via <a href="mailto:eeagrants@vlada.gov.sk">eeagrants@vlada.gov.sk</a> and <a href="mailto:bilateralnyfond@vlada.gov.sk">bilateralnyfond@vlada.gov.sk</a>	NFP/all programmes + bilateral fund	continuously
	Applicants’ questions via telephone calls	NFP/all programmes	continuously
	Space advertising in the daily PRAVDA	The Bilateral Fund at the national level	21 December 2015
<b>Promotional Items</b>	Small Promotional Items	NFP level SK02 <i>Adaptation to Climate Change - Floods and Drought Prevention</i> SK04 <i>Local and Regional Initiatives</i>	Supply for the 6th EFBD – CBC Forum – November 2015; General supply – March 2015



		<i>to Reduce National Inequalities and to Promote Social Inclusion</i> <i>SK07 Green Industry Innovation</i> <i>SK08 Cross-Border Cooperation</i> <i>SK09 Domestic and Gender-Based Violence</i>	
<b>Press Releases</b>	Press releases in cooperation with the Press and Information Department of the Government Office of the Slovak Republic - The Bilateral Fund at the national level of	NFP	23

Table 10: Qualitative assessment

Criterion	Impact indicator	Output
<b>The degree of general public awareness of the EEA and Norway Grants</b>	% of individuals familiar with the existence, mission and aims of the EEA and Norway Grants	The exact percentage amount is not known
<b>Interest in support from EEA and Norway Grants</b>	Number of project applications under calls closed in 2015 <sup>41</sup>	27 (CLT03)
<b>Success rate of media outputs</b>	Number of positive media outputs	more than 40 (reports, articles, blogs)

Table 11: Quantitative assessment

Criterion	Impact indicator	Output
<b>Conferences, seminars and other events - programme and national levels</b>	Total number	more than 25
<b>Attendance at events (EEA Grants)</b>	Total number	500+ (programme level)
<b>Satisfaction of people attending the events (EEA Grants)</b>	%	The exact percentage rate is not known – feedback based on a sample – maximum satisfaction
<b>Website traffic (EEA Grants)</b>	Number of visits	Special chapter
<b>Publications, materials and brochures</b>	Total number	3
<b>Published reports in all types of media</b>	Total number	more than 50
<b>Communication channels used (EEA and Norway Grants)</b>	Total number	6 main types of the media (web, social network, national and local press, radio, and TV)
<b>Reports, news published on website</b>	Total number	30+
<b>Press conferences</b>	Total number	10+
<b>Journalists attending the events (EEA Grants)</b>	Total number	50+
<b>Citizens addressed through the media (EEA Grants)</b>	Total number	Broad public (it is not possible to indicate the exact figure)
<b>Number of answers to e-mails</b>	Total number	approx. 3000

In 2015, about 60 events (conferences, information days, matchmaking seminars, seminars for applicants, roundtable meetings and conferences) were organised under the EEA and Norway grants. More than 2,000 participants attended the events.

## 4.6 Work Plan

The National Focal Point/programme operator is planning the following activities for 2016:

<sup>41</sup>Applications of bilateral funds at the programme/national level are not included

1. SK05 *Conservation and Revitalisation of Cultural and Natural Heritage & Promotion of Diversity in Culture and Arts within European Cultural Heritage* – conclude programme agreements under the CLT03 small grant scheme.
2. Complete the contracting process in the SK08 *Cross-Border cooperation with Ukraine* programme.
3. Evaluate submitted applications in the call for the reallocation of the remaining resources from projects pertaining to the DGBV01 call; close the project calls, and open a new call for the reallocation of the remaining resources among DGBV02 and DGBV03 calls.
4. The NFP plans to convene a session of the Monitoring Committee in March 2016 in order to approve the Strategic Report for 2015. Further meetings of the Monitoring Committee will be convened in 2016 as required by the implementation of the NFM.
5. Implementation of pre-defined activities under the Bilateral Fund at the national level; especially the pre-defined activities related to Slovak EU presidency.
6. Publish the call on opening the Bilateral Fund on the national level (May 2016)
7. Updating internal regulations as required by the implementation of the FM EEA and NFM
8. Sessions of the Cooperation Committees under SK02 (April 2016), SK04 (second quarter of 2016), SK07 (March 2016), SK08 (second quarter of 2016), SK09 (March 2016) programmes.
9. Convening the annual meeting in November 2014 (preliminary)

In 2016 the CA plans the updating of the following documents:

- Funding and Financial Management System of the Financial Mechanism of the European Economic Area and the Norwegian Financial Mechanism for the 2009 – 2014 programming period, version 1.4

Also a new document is planned on being issued in 2016:

- Guidance for the completion of the Financial Mechanism of the European Economic Area and the Norwegian Financial Mechanism for the 2009 – 2014 programming period, version 1.0

## 5 OVERVIEW OF PROBLEMS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Large delays that occurred at the beginning of the implementation stage still influence the current development in individual programmes. However, the extension of the eligibility period by a year (i.e. 30 April 2017) provides a brand new opportunity to successfully complete most projects in all programmes. The contribution of the programmes will be possible to be evaluated after April 2017.

In the SK08 *Cross-Border cooperation with Ukraine* programme, the programme operator continues to face an extremely prolonged contracting process from the Ukrainian side. Based on the current situation, the programme operator plans to finish contracting by April 2016. It means that there will be 12 months left to implement the projects in question. If problems with public procurement emerge, some of the projects may fail to be completed. The programme operator expects possible complications also in the project implementation stage based on the unstable political situation and bank system in Ukraine, and insufficient familiarity with the Ukrainian legislation and regulations. The programme operator definitely recommends implementing a similar project with Ukraine only if a competent institution accepted by the Ukrainian party is available to perform the duties of the programme operator. Without such an institution and transfer of the programme operator rights and duties it is impossible to guarantee that such a programme will be implemented successfully.

The SK07 *Green Industry Innovation* programme saw the amendment to the Slovak legislation (amendment of Act 309/2009 on the Promotion of Renewable Energy Sources and High-Efficiency Cogeneration). The conditions have been significantly changed and therefore selected implementers

decided to withdraw. Despite the fact that two new projects were contracted in 2016, there is still an unallocated amount of EUR 3.5 million, which is difficult to be reallocated due to the financial situation of the banking industry and the previously mentioned legislation change. The reallocation of the amount in question is currently being discussed with the FMO. In the future, it would be beneficial if such a situation was avoided by removing deadlines for the reallocation of financial means between the programmes of the individual recipient countries.

In the implementation of bilateral funds in 2015 there was a significant progress. An announcement for the B Measure was published and opened for all programmes implemented by the Government Office in the role of the programme operator. However, it is important to state that after a change in the Regulations in summer of 2015, Bilateral Funds – B Measure are opened for all Slovak donor subjects and the international organizations which made these bilateral funds almost identical with the Bilateral Fund on the national level. From the perspective of the Government Office as the programme operator and the NFP it would be more efficient if the financial means for the strengthening of bilateral relations merged into a single fund in the future. We would also like to propose the idea that bilateral relations in all recipient countries and all programmes could be enhanced. A list could be created in which the programmes would be divided based on recipient countries and in these programmes the projects or activities focusing on enhancing bilateral relations could be implemented. The NFP would also like to express their worries regarding the quality of the project partnerships between Slovak recipients and their donor partners. As the practice has shown, neither Norwegian, Icelandic or Liechtensteiner subjects are immune towards speculative partnerships. Slovak applicants sometimes want to find a partner regardless of the price and do not care about the quality or actual benefit of such partnership. We are also facing the situation in which potential partners are overburdened by other projects pertaining also to other grants. In other words, qualified, experienced and suitable subjects from donor countries are often bound by other obligations and have neither time nor motivation to participate in more projects, especially if the project might not even be approved after all. All this creates foundations for speculative partnerships and their number (mainly instances of trying to establish one) is of concern. Therefore we would like to recommend the introduction of a two-round evaluation system; in the first round the appropriateness of the projects and potential for bilateral cooperation will be assessed (if applicable), and in the second round the programme operators and their donor partners would cooperate with the applicants in order to support the projects that have an actual potential for quality bilateral cooperation.

We would also like to recommend the simplification of the rules and introduction of more flat rates. Flat rates for travelling expenditures are definitely very beneficial, therefore we believe that it might be advisable to consider the introduction of a single flat rate for project management (accounting, public procurement, energy, etc.). Each recipient encounters the same types of expenditures in this area, therefore flat rates could be used.

We would also like to recommend a system change in the programme agreements that would allow the programme operator to adjust programme agreements without the need for confirmation from the donor partners or the FMO. The procedure prolongs the process and creates an unnecessary administrative burden for all parties. The changes mainly relate to the reallocation of financial means between bilateral fund measures, programme outcomes, budget chapters, call publishing schedules and so on.

The NFP would like to note that the 2009 – 2014 programming period brought on a number of positive changes, however the Result based management was not fully implemented yet. The NFP assumes that it results also from the transposition of a fairly large number of rules and experience from the structural funds. In the next period, the NFP, as the representative of the SR, would welcome a partial comeback of the 2004 – 2009 policy, which would make the funds primarily a tool for bilateral and political cooperation among Norway, Iceland, Liechtenstein and Slovakia, instead of introducing strict rules

which significantly limit the possibilities for both recipient and donor countries. Also, it would be appropriate if price caps were set for individual indicators based on which the economic efficiency of the projects is evaluated.

## 5.1 Public Procurement

In 2015 the Government Office as the programme operator received 553 instances of public procurement to be checked. Since for contracts up to EUR 20,000 only a sample checking is performed, in the reporting period only 274 contracts were checked. In 73 cases (more than 25%) violations of the law identified were of such severity that public procurement was recommended for repeating or financial correction was requested (if the process was already completed). It should be noted that these 73 cases concern serious violations of the Public Procurement Act. Procedural and administrative errors are subject to reservation only if examined prior to a contract with a supplier, or to the modification of documentation, if examined prior to the call for public procurement. In about 20 cases applicants were suspected of collusion. In comparison to the previous reporting period (2014) 40 instances of suspected collusion were identified. However, this is a positive change resulting from the NFP feedback, as it clearly declared that no such behaviour will be tolerated. The positive development can be partly explained by the fact that contracts up to EUR 20,000 are checked only using the sampling method, and partly by the possibility that applicants have learned their lessons in the past.

Another important factor is the introduction of the Electronic Contracting System (ECS), which increases the transparency of the contracting process and decreases the probability of collusion in public procurement. For a comparison, when the ECS is not used to processing the applications, the average number of applicants is two to three, whilst the average number of applicants for ECS processed contracts is four. The statistics is consistent with the Slovak average<sup>42</sup> Also, if ECS is used to process tenders for common goods and services (i.e. types of goods and services for which the ECS is primarily designed) a larger number of applicants emerges. However, the influence of the ECS on the overall transparency of the contracting process in the grants still remains limited by the following factors:

1. Unwillingness of the public procurers to use the system despite the fact that it is their legal obligation.
2. Unwillingness of potential applicants to register in the ECS.
3. Low reactivity of potential applicants in case a contract is proposed.

Since the ECS is a new system, the NFP assumes that its use will develop dynamically in the near future. Either way, it undoubtedly represents a great improvement in the transparency of the contracting process for common goods, services and construction work.

The analysis showed that it is necessary to continue the supervision of public procurement and promote the basic philosophy and principles of public procurement in the Financial Mechanism of the European Economic Area and the Norwegian Financial Mechanism. This area is one of the priorities of the National Focal Point. Even though no society-wide change will probably be achieved in the short term, the approach to the cancellation and repeating of public procurement adopted by the National Focal Point guarantees that such practices are not tolerated in these financial mechanisms.

The new Act on public procurement will enter into force on 18 April 2016 and change the environment significantly. Here we are speaking of a comprehensive legal solution transposing the EU legislation adopted in 2014, in particular:

1. Regulation of the EU Parliament and the Council 2014/24/EU on public procurement, the so-called "classic regulation";

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<sup>42</sup> [https://www.eks.sk//Content/files/vcislach/EKS\\_STATISTIKY\\_september\\_SK.pdf](https://www.eks.sk//Content/files/vcislach/EKS_STATISTIKY_september_SK.pdf)

2. Regulation of the EU Parliament and the Council 2014/25/EU on procurement performed by subjects operating in the areas of water management, energy, transport, and postal services – the so-called “sector regulation”, and
3. The Regulation of the EU Parliament and the Council 2014/23/EU on the awarding of concessions.

The impact of the new Act cannot be evaluated at the moment because in the past it happened that a discrepancy emerged between the intentions of the legislator and the reality. The new Act integrates brand new, but also older elements, for instance:

- a new, broader and more detailed definition of conflict of interests,
- increasing of limits, in certain cases of an essential nature,
- measures against trading of offers
- new forms of procurement (the so-called innovative partnership),
- adjustment of procurement regarding low value contracts,
- measures against letter box companies, a register of end beneficiaries,
- opportunity to request that at least a part of the contract is implemented by the winner of the tender without any subcontractors.

The changes will probably have an impact on the rules established by the NFP, therefore the NFP will be required to adjust the national rules accordingly.

## 6 APPENDICES

- Appendix 1** Number of applications submitted
- Appendix 2 and 3** Overview of projects implemented with a donor project partner
- Appendix 4** Irregularities at the programme and national levels
- Appendix 5** Irregularities at the project level
- Appendix 6** Monitoring and audit plan for 2016
- Appendix 7** Risk assessment at the national and programme levels
- Appendix 8** Annual Report of the Technical Assistance Fund
- Appendix 9** Disbursement of funds under the NFM
- Appendix 10** Recommendations of the round table discussion on the following topics: “Supporting of Successful Completion of High School Education by Socially Disadvantaged Students, Including the Roma and the Subsequent Application of Their Skills in the Labour Market – Mentoring and Tutoring” and “Supporting of Socially Disadvantaged Students During Their High School Studies and Support for Future University Students” from May 2015; achievement report pertaining to the first round of the discussion on the importance of leisure and extra-curricular activities to achieve the implementation of an inclusive education model within schools with a higher proportion of students from the SDE as the tool and mode of support for students from SDE in their transition to secondary schools and the successful completion of upper secondary education from November 2014.
- Appendix 11** List of monitored projects at the programme operator level in 2015
- Appendix 12** List of abbreviations and programme codes

## Appendix 1 - Strategic report attachment 1<sup>1</sup>

### Applications in Slovakia

Reporting year 2015

#### Calls for Proposals

##### Applications for SK02 Adaption to Climate Change - Flood and Drought Prevention

Calls for proposals	2013			2014			2015			Total		
	Received	Partnership	Projects Contracted	Received	Partnership	Projects Contracted	Received	Partnership	Projects Contracted	Received	Partnership	Projects Contracted
Blue schools	82	13	0	82	10	68	0	0	0	<b>164</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>68</b>
Prosperous Zemplin, Upper Nitra Water for Its People, Healthy Cities	9	8	0	10	9	5	0	0	0	<b>19</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>91</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>92</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>73</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>183</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>73</b>

Open call related outcomes:

- Developed strategies and measures for adapting to a changing climate
- Increased capacity to assess vulnerability to climate change

##### Applications for SK03 Funds for Non-governmental Organisations - Democracy and Human Rights

Calls for proposals	2013			2014			2015			Total		
	Received	Partnership	Projects Contracted	Received	Partnership	Projects Contracted	Received	Partnership	Projects Contracted	Received	Partnership	Projects Contracted
Predefined in MoU									1			<b>1</b>
1. call	166	8	26	0	0	0	0	0	0	<b>166</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>26</b>
2.call	0	0	0	176	11	36	0	0	0	<b>176</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>36</b>
3.call	0	0	0	0	0	0	120	2	23	<b>120</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>23</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>166</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>176</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>120</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>462</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>86</b>

<sup>1</sup> this annex is automatically generated from DORIS, thus the information can be different from actual reality.



Open call related outcomes:

- Active citizenship fostered
- Increased involvement of NGOs in policy and decision-making processes with local, regional and national governments
- Democratic values, including human rights, promoted
- Advocacy and watchdog role developed
- Strengthened capacity of NGOs and an enabling environment for the sector promoted
- Empowerment of vulnerable groups

Predefined project measures:

- Education and training
- Information and awareness raising

#### Applications for SK04 Local and Regional Initiatives to Reduce National Inequalities and to Promote Social Inclusion

Calls for proposals	2013			2014			2015			Total		
	Received	Partnership	Projects Contracted	Received	Partnership	Projects Contracted	Received	Partnership	Projects Contracted	Received	Partnership	Projects Contracted
Predefined in Programme Proposal			1									1
Small Grants for support of Roma inclusion and intercultural projects by primary and secondary schools	35	0	0	35	0	18	0	0	0	70	0	18
<b>Total</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>19</b>

Open call related outcomes:

- Local and regional authorities, as well as private and civil society actors, are developing initiatives to strengthen anti-discriminatory measures for groups vulnerable to social and economic exclusion

Predefined project measures:

- Education and training
- Information and awareness raising

### Applications for SK05 Conservation and Revitalisation of Cultural and Natural Heritage & Promotion of Diversity in Culture and Arts within European Cultural Heritage

Calls for proposals	2013			2014			2015			Total		
	Received	Partnership	Projects Contracted	Received	Partnership	Projects Contracted	Received	Partnership	Projects Contracted	Received	Partnership	Projects Contracted
Predefined in MoU						1						1
Contemporary Arts and Culture	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Safeguard castles and fortifications	0	0	0	15	4	7	0	0	0	15	4	7
Safeguard national cultural heritage monuments							0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>8</b>

Open call related outcomes:

- Cultural heritage restored, renovated and protected
- Cultural heritage made accessible to the public
- Awareness of cultural diversity raised and intercultural dialogue strengthened

Predefined project measures:

- Capacity-building
- Provision of services

### Applications for SK06 EEA Scholarship Programme

Calls for proposals	2014			2015			Total		
	Received	Partnership	Projects Contracted	Received	Partnership	Projects Contracted	Received	Partnership	Projects Contracted
Higher education student and staff mobility	4	4	0	0	0	4	4	4	4
Measure 4 and Measure 5: Call 1	17	17	0	0	0	9	17	17	9
Measure 4 and Measure 5: Call 2	0	0	0	20	20	12	20	20	12
<b>Total</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>25</b>

Open call related outcomes:

- Increased higher education student and staff mobility between Beneficiary and EEA EFTA States
- Increased and strengthened institutional cooperation at all levels of the education sector (school education, higher education, vocational training/education and adult education) between Beneficiary and EEA EFTA States

#### Applications for SK07 Green Industry Innovation

Calls for proposals	2013			2014			2015			Total		
	Received	Partnership	Projects Contracted	Received	Partnership	Projects Contracted	Received	Partnership	Projects Contracted	Received	Partnership	Projects Contracted
Predefined during implementation									1			1
Call for proposals	13	8	0	0	0	4	0	0	0	13	8	4
<b>Total</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>5</b>

Open call related outcomes:

- Increased green job creation and entrepreneurship

Predefined project measures:

- Information and awareness raising
- Infrastructure development and provision of equipment
- Research

#### Applications for SK08 Cross-border Cooperation

Calls for proposals	2013			2014			2015			Total		
	Received	Partnership	Projects Contracted	Received	Partnership	Projects Contracted	Received	Partnership	Projects Contracted	Received	Partnership	Projects Contracted
First Call for Proposals	0	0	0	83	51	0	0	0	14	83	51	14
small grants scheme				73	26	0	0	0	5	73	26	5
<b>Total</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>156</b>	<b>77</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>156</b>	<b>77</b>	<b>19</b>

Open call related outcomes:

- Mitigation of existing barriers to cross-border cooperation

## Applications for SK09 Domestic and Gender-based Violence

Calls for proposals	2013			2014			2015			Total		
	Received	Partnership	Projects Contracted	Received	Partnership	Projects Contracted	Received	Partnership	Projects Contracted	Received	Partnership	Projects Contracted
Predefined in Programme Proposal									1			1
Creation of new services for women at risk of violence and experiencing violence and their children - counselling centres	8	1	0	8	0	4	0	0	0	16	1	4
Creation of women 's shelters	4	2	0	4	3	3	0	0	0	8	5	3
Support of existing Counselling centres for victims of domestic violence DV	3	0	0	3	0	2	0	0	0	6	0	2
Support of existing counselling centres for women at risk of violence and experiencing violence and their children				6	0	0	0	0	6	6	0	6
Support of new and existing counselling centres and services for victims of domestic and gender-based violence (incl. small grants scheme)				18	8	0	0	0	9	18	8	9
<b>Total</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>25</b>

Open call related outcomes:

- Gender-based violence reduced
- Domestic violence reduced

Predefined project measures:

- Education and training
- Information and awareness raising
- Research

**Applications for SK10 Funds for Non-governmental Organisations - Active citizenship and inclusion**

Calls for proposals	2013			2014			2015			Total		
	Received	Partnership	Projects Contracted	Received	Partnership	Projects Contracted	Received	Partnership	Projects Contracted	Received	Partnership	Projects Contracted
Predefined in Programme Proposal			1									1
Active citizenship	49	4	0	49	4	13	0	0	0	198	12	32
Children and youth	23	2	8	23	2	8	0	0	0	230	29	41
Environment and climate change	3	0	2	3	0	2	0	0	0	96	23	15
Pre-defined project - NGO capacity building and networking	11	0	1	11	0	1	0	0	0	22	0	2
Welfare and basic services	61	9	8	61	9	8	0	0	0	122	18	16
<b>Total</b>	<b>334</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>334</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>71</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>668</b>	<b>82</b>	<b>107</b>

Open call related outcomes:

- Active citizenship fostered
- Increased contribution to sustainable development achieved
- Provision of welfare and basic services to defined target groups increased
- Empowerment of vulnerable groups

Predefined project measures:

- Education and training
- Information and awareness raising

## Bilateral Calls for Proposals

### Applications for SK01 Technical assistance to the Beneficiary State & Fund for bilateral relations at national level

Calls for proposals	2015			Total		
	Received	Partnership	Projects Contracted	Received	Partnership	Projects Contracted
Bilateral Fund at National Level	13	13	10	23	23	18
<b>Total</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>18</b>

### Applications for SK03 Funds for Non-governmental Organisations - Democracy and Human Rights

Calls for proposals	2015			2014			2013			Total		
	Received	Partnership	Projects Contracted	Received	Partnership	Projects Contracted	Received	Partnership	Projects Contracted	Received	Partnership	Projects Contracted
Call for Bilateral Fund Grant Applications	0	0	0	19	11	11	8	0	0	35	19	11
<b>Total</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>11</b>

Open call related outcomes:

- Active citizenship fostered
- Increased involvement of NGOs in policy and decision-making processes with local, regional and national governments
- Democratic values, including human rights, promoted
- Advocacy and watchdog role developed
- Strengthened capacity of NGOs and an enabling environment for the sector promoted
- Empowerment of vulnerable groups

Predefined project measures:

- Education and training
- Information and awareness raising

### Applications for SK05 Conservation and Revitalisation of Cultural and Natural Heritage & Promotion of Diversity in Culture and Arts within European Cultural Heritage

Calls for proposals	2015			Total		
	Received	Partnership	Projects Contracted	Received	Partnership	Projects Contracted
Measure B of the Bilateral Funds at Programme Level	3	3	3	3	3	3
<b>Total</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>

Open call related outcomes:

- Cultural heritage restored, renovated and protected
- Cultural heritage made accessible to the public
- Awareness of cultural diversity raised and intercultural dialogue strengthened

Predefined project measures:

- Capacity-building
- Provision of services

### Applications for SK06 EEA Scholarship Programme

Calls for proposals	2015			2014			Total		
	Received	Partnership	Projects Contracted	Received	Partnership	Projects Contracted	Received	Partnership	Projects Contracted
Preparatory visits	11	11	8	7	7	1	27	27	15
<b>Total</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>15</b>

Open call related outcomes:

- Increased higher education student and staff mobility between Beneficiary and EEA EFTA States
- Increased and strengthened institutional cooperation at all levels of the education sector (school education, higher education, vocational training/education and adult education) between Beneficiary and EEA EFTA States



### Applications for SK07 Green Industry Innovation

Calls for proposals	2015			Total		
	Received	Partnership	Projects Contracted	Received	Partnership	Projects Contracted
Call for bilateral project proposals	2	2	0	2	2	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>

Open call related outcomes:

- Increased green job creation and entrepreneurship

Predefined project measures:

- Information and awareness raising
- Infrastructure development and provision of equipment
- Research

### Applications for SK09 Domestic and Gender-based Violence

Calls for proposals	2015			Total		
	Received	Partnership	Projects Contracted	Received	Partnership	Projects Contracted
Measure B of the Bilateral Fund at programme level	4	4	4	4	4	4
<b>Total</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>4</b>

Open call related outcomes:

- Gender-based violence reduced
- Domestic violence reduced

Predefined project measures:

- Education and training
- Information and awareness raising
- Research

## Appendix- Strategic report attachment 2 & 3

### Projects with donor project partners in Slovakia

#### SK02 - Adaption to Climate Change - Flood and Drought Prevention

Project id	Project Name	Pre-defined project	Donor state	Donor project partner	Type of organisation
SK02-0001	Biotechnical innovation in the use of rainwater in Zvolen City	No	Norway	Project Team AS	Small or medium sized enterprise (SME)
SK02-0002	The Reconstruction of ecosystem functioning of the landscape within the upper site the Ondava river catchment area - Ondava for Life	No	Norway	Norwegian Institute of Bioeconomy Research	National agency
SK02-0005	City of Bratislava is preparing to the climate change – the pilot application of the measures in the field of the sustainable rainwater management in urban area	No	Norway	COWi	Micro-enterprise
SK02-0007	Water and climate in our school	No	Norway	International Development Norway AS	Small or medium sized enterprise (SME)
SK02-0008	Preventive measures against floods and drought around the school Bracovce	No	Norway	Norwegian Institute of Bioeconomy Research	National agency
SK02-0009	Let's Return Water to the Nature	No	Norway	International Development Norway AS	Small or medium sized enterprise (SME)
			Iceland	Dalvikurskoli	University, college or other teaching institution, research institute or think-tank
SK02-0010	Adaptable measures to climatic changes around the school situated under Slanec Castle	No	Norway	Norwegian Institute of Bioeconomy Research	National agency
SK02-0014	Let's heal the world	No	Norway	Forestry Extension Institute	Other type of NGO
SK02-0021	We Learn to Understand and to Protect Nature	No	Norway	Stenbraten Aktivitetsskole	Regional or local authority
SK02-0023	Adapting to climate change in the Elementary school Podhorod'	No	Norway	Norwegian Institute of Bioeconomy Research	National agency
SK02-0052	Ecological management of rainwater in the area of the Elementary School of Žofia Bosniaková	No	Norway	International Development Norway AS	Small or medium sized enterprise (SME)
SK02-0066	Let's start think and act in an environmentally friendly way for benefit of everybody	No	Norway	Forestry Extension Institute	Other type of NGO
Projects with donor project partners 12 out of 69 (17.4%)			Planned grant amount for projects with donor project partners € 4,760,821		

**SK03 - Funds for Non-governmental Organisations - Democracy and Human Rights**

Project id	Project Name	Pre-defined project	Donor state	Donor project partner	Type of organisation
SK03-0010	Sered' Testimonies	No	Norway	The Falstad Centre	Other type of NGO
			Norway	The Jewish Museum Trondheim	Other
SK03-0027	My world -my rights	No	Norway	Amnesty International Norway	Other type of NGO
SK03-0058	Heads are helping: Professionals advance public good through pro bono services	No	Norway	Norwegian Bar Association	Professional association
			Norway	Prospera Foundation	Other type of NGO
Projects with donor project partners 3 out of 86 (3.5%)			Planned grant amount for projects with donor project partners € 151,546		

**SK05 - Conservation and Revitalisation of Cultural and Natural Heritage & Promotion of Diversity in Culture and Arts within European Cultural Heritage**

Project id	Project Name	Pre-defined project	Donor state	Donor project partner	Type of organisation
SK05-0001	There is no Castle without Chapel	No	Norway	Norwegian–Slovak Association	Community-based Organization (NGO)
SK05-0003	Pro Monumenta	Yes	Norway	Riksantikvaren Norwegian Directorate for Cultural Heritage	National agency
SK05-0004	Suburbium of Bardejov - rescue, recovery and restoration of the Old Synagogue	No	Norway	Jewish Community of Oslo	Grass root initiative (NGO)
SK05-0005	The Roman Catholic Church of the Assumption of the Virgin Mary - Dominican church in Košice - Restoration of the facade	No	Norway	Monastery of Dominican nuns in Oslo	Faith-based organization (NGO)
SK05-0009	Restoration of New Synagogue/Kunsthalle Žilina	No	Norway	Tou Scene AS	Micro-enterprise
SK05-0012	HraMoKa – restoration baroque halls of Modrý Kameň Castle for a puppet theatre, regional history and creative workshops for children and youth	No	Norway	Kulturproduksjoner	Micro-enterprise
SK05-0022	Pisztory's Palace in Bratislava - restoration of facades and roofs of the palace	No	Norway	The Norwegian Institute for Cultural Heritage Research	University, college or other teaching institution, research institute or think-tank
Projects with donor project partners 7 out of 24 (29.2%)			Planned grant amount for projects with donor project partners € 2,877,580		

**SK06 - EEA Scholarship Programme**

Project id	Project Name	Pre-defined project	Donor state	Donor project partner	Type of organisation
SK06-0001	Modern technologies and modern education	No	Norway	Charlottenlund upper secondary school	University, college or other teaching institution, research institute or think-tank
SK06-0002	Training for Students and Teachers	No	Norway	Asane Upper Secondary school	University, college or other teaching institution, research institute or think-tank
SK06-0003	AiM	No	Norway	Sør-Trøndelag University College	University, college or other teaching institution, research institute or think-tank
SK06-0004	Long live the Forest!	No	Norway	Secondary School in Forestry Sønsterud	University, college or other teaching institution, research institute or think-tank
SK06-0005	BraDraShip	No	Norway	St. Hallvard upper secondary school	University, college or other teaching institution, research institute or think-tank
SK06-0006	Training and education of students in bionanotechnology focused on targeted drug delivery	No	Norway	Norwegian University of Science and Technology	University, college or other teaching institution, research institute or think-tank
SK06-0007	Improving Quality of Higher Education Based on Development of Multilateral Institutional Cooperation	No	Norway	University of Bergen	University, college or other teaching institution, research institute or think-tank
			Iceland	University of Iceland	University, college or other teaching institution, research institute or think-tank
SK06-0008	Cryptography brings security and freedom	No	Norway	University of Bergen	University, college or other teaching institution, research institute or think-tank
SK06-0009	Innovation in Education Through the Development of Key Competences	No	Norway	Fraena upper secondary school	University, college or other teaching institution, research institute or think-tank
SK06-0010	Mobility project of University of Economics in Bratislava	No	Iceland	University of Akureyri	University, college or other teaching institution, research institute or think-tank
			Iceland	University of Iceland	University, college or other teaching institution, research institute or think-tank
SK06-0011	Mobility project of University of Presov	No	Iceland	University of Akureyri	University, college or other teaching institution, research institute or think-tank
			Norway	Buskerud and Vestfold University College	University, college or other teaching institution, research institute or think-tank
			Norway	Queen Maud University College of Early Childhood Education	Other type of NGO
SK06-0012	Mobility project of University of Veterinary Medicine and Pharmacy in Košice	No	Norway	University of Nordland	University, college or other teaching institution, research institute or think-tank
SK06-0013	Mobility project of Slovak University of Technology in Bratislava	No	Norway	Norwegian University of Science and Technology	University, college or other teaching institution, research institute or think-tank
			Liechtenstein	University of Liechtenstein	University, college or other teaching institution, research institute or think-tank
SK06-0014	Strengthening cooperation between UVMP in Košice and UiN in Bodø	No	Norway	University of Nordland	University, college or other teaching institution, research institute or think-tank
SK06-0015	Issues in local development policy in Norway and Slovakia	No	Norway	Sogn og Fjordane University College	University, college or other teaching institution, research institute or think-tank

SK06-0017	Experimental Wooden Climatic Chamber (EWCC)	No	Norway	Bergen School of Architecture / Bergen Arkitekt Skole	Other type of NGO
SK06-0018	Development of Tools for Enhancing the Quality of University Teachers' Scholarship of Teaching and Learning	No	Norway	University of Bergen	University, college or other teaching institution, research institute or think-tank
Projects with donor project partners 17 out of 17 (100.0%)			Planned grant amount for projects with donor project partners € 1,132,853		

**SK07 - Green Industry Innovation**

Project id	Project Name	Pre-defined project	Donor state	Donor project partner	Type of organisation
SK07-0003	Business development and employment growth in the company STAMAP, Ltd., in the field of OZE	No	Norway	International Development Norway AS	Small or medium sized enterprise (SME)
SK07-0004	BIOMASS LOGISTIC CENTER (BLC)	No	Norway	International Development Norway AS	Small or medium sized enterprise (SME)
			Norway	NORWEGIAN FORESTRY GROUP AS	Small or medium sized enterprise (SME)
SK07-0005	The Biogas Station and the Green Logistics Centre Tvrdošín	No	Norway	Norwegian Institute of Bioeconomy Research	National agency
SK07-0006	SINBIO (Sustainable Innovation in Bioenergy)	No	Norway	International Development Norway AS	Small or medium sized enterprise (SME)
			Norway	Norskog	Small or medium sized enterprise (SME)
			Norway	Norwegian Institute of Bioeconomy Research	National agency
SK07-0009	Centre for the Research of Biomass Potential	Yes	Norway	Antec Biogas AS	Small or medium sized enterprise (SME)
			Norway	Norwegian University of Life Sciences	University, college or other teaching institution, research institute or think-tank
			Norway	Tel-Tek	University, college or other teaching institution, research institute or think-tank
Projects with donor project partners 5 out of 6 (83.3%)			Planned grant amount for projects with donor project partners € 11,731,500		

**SK08 - Cross-border Cooperation**

Project id	Project Name	Pre-defined project	Donor state	Donor project partner	Type of organisation
SK08-0001	SOS-Alert Solution - Cross-border cooperation project for enhanced detection and interception of illicit CBRN materials on the Slovakian-Ukrainian border	No	Norway	Norwegian Radiation Protection Authority	National agency
SK08-0002	The Exchange of Partners for Local Employment Development	No	Norway	Bryne secondary school	University, college or other teaching institution, research institute or think-tank
SK08-0003	Ubl'a - Velykyj Bereznyj - Information cross the borders (U-VB-INH)	No	Norway	TRINE HAMRAN MEDIA	Micro-enterprise
SK08-0004	DRUŽBA Slovakia - Ukraine	No	Norway	LUTO Norge	Small or medium sized enterprise (SME)
SK08-0005	Creative workshops and culture without borders	No	Norway	Sør-Trøndelag musikkråd	Other
SK08-0008	Innovative Methods of Education to Promote Partnerships - "InovEduc"	No	Norway	IMSA Knowledge Company AS	Micro-enterprise
SK08-0009	Generation 2020	No	Norway	Basen	Regional or local authority
SK08-0010	Assurance of Sustainable Development within the International Biosphere Reserve Eastern Carpathian through partnerships and networking creation.	No	Norway	Norwegian Institute of Bioeconomy Research	National agency
SK08-0011	Partnership sealed with clay	No	Norway	Dagsenter for fysisk funksjonshemmede	National agency
SK08-0012	ZIP – Zipping and Innovating the Development Planning of the Cross-Border SK-UA Territory	No	Norway	Municipality Sør-Varanger	Regional or local authority
			Norway	Norwegian Institute for Urban and Regional Research (NIBR)	University, college or other teaching institution, research institute or think-tank
SK08-0013	Sharing European integration know-how and CBC experience between Norway and Russia with Ukraine	No	Norway	UiT The Arctic university of Norway, Tromsø University	University, college or other teaching institution, research institute or think-tank
SK08-0014	Sharing know-how for better management of the Schengen Border between Slovakia / Ukraine and Norway / Russia	No	Norway	UiT The Arctic university of Norway, Tromsø University	University, college or other teaching institution, research institute or think-tank
SK08-0015	Nature conservation as opportunity for regional development	No	Norway	BIOFORSK	Other
			Norway	Varanger Peninsula National park	Regional or local authority
Projects with donor project partners 13 out of 19 (68.4%)			Planned grant amount for projects with donor project partners € 4,970,576		



**SK09 - Domestic and Gender-based Violence**

Project id	Project Name	Pre-defined project	Donor state	Donor project partner	Type of organisation
SK09-0005	Safe Women's House MyMamy	No	Norway	The Crisis Center in Glamdal	Regional or local authority
			Norway	The Nora Senter Center Against Violence and Sexual Violence in Eastern Finnmark	Regional or local authority
SK09-0006	Safe women's home - space without violence	No	Norway	Oslo Crisis Centre	Foundation
			Norway	The Crisis Center in Glamdal	Regional or local authority
SK09-0008	Women's Safe House	No	Norway	The Crisis Center in Glamdal	Regional or local authority
SK09-0009	Coordinating Methodical Centre for gender based and domestic violence	Yes	Norway	Norwegian Centre for Violence and Traumatic Stress Studies	University, college or other teaching institution, research institute or think-tank
			France	Council of Europe	International institutions council of Europe
SK09-0011	Bridges	No	Norway	Crisis Centre in Bergen and surrounding municipalities	Service provision organization (NGO)
SK09-0012	Intervention center – program of work with perpetrators of gender-based violence	No	Iceland	Karlar til ábyrgdar (KTÁ)	Other type of NGO
SK09-0013	Peace Centre - improving protection and support services for victims of family violence - CPSS	No	Norway	Indre-Ostfold Crisis Centre IKS	Grass root initiative (NGO)
			Norway	Romerike Crisis Centre	Service provision organization (NGO)
SK09-0014	Shelter for battered women and children Trenčín	No	Norway	International Development Norway AS	Small or medium sized enterprise (SME)
SK09-0022	Crisis centre for mothers and children	No	Norway	SEM - Scandinavia	Other type of NGO
SK09-0024	Slovakia without gender violence	No	Norway	Norasenteret	Community-based Organization (NGO)
Projects with donor project partners 10 out of 25 (40.0%)			Planned grant amount for projects with donor project partners € 5,141,955		

**SK10 - Funds for Non-governmental Organisations - Active citizenship and inclusion**

Project id	Project Name	Pre-defined project	Donor state	Donor project partner	Type of organisation
SK10-0001	Rural Employment - Opportunities and Challenges	No	Norway	The Royal Norwegian Society for Development	Community-based Organization (NGO)
SK10-0009	Nurturing Active Citizenship - Community Centers and Community Action	No	Norway	Kultur og nærmiljøavdeling	Regional or local authority
SK10-0012	Green Footprint	No	Norway	Change the World	Community-based Organization (NGO)
SK10-0013	Garden that teaches	No	Norway	Foundation for Environmental Education, FEE Norway	Foundation
SK10-0019	Zippy's Friends in Slovakia	No	Norway	Organisasjonen Voksne for Barn	Other type of NGO
SK10-0025	Lessons learned from Europe	No	Norway	Agency for Social and Welfare Services, Competence Centre, City of Oslo (CC-ASWS)	Regional or local authority
SK10-0027	ART and the right bunch. The implementation of program ART (aggression replacement training) for children and young people at risk in Slovak republic.	No	Norway	Diakonhjemmet hoegskole, ART senteret	Community-based Organization (NGO)
SK10-0028	DOMEC - Low threshold day centre and Integration centre	No	Norway	Frelsesarmeen (The Salvation Army in Norway)	Faith-based organization (NGO)
SK10-0029	Support of the Institutionalised clients integration into local communities on the example of Banska Bystrica pilot region	No	Norway	NTNU Samfunnsforskning AS	Other type of NGO
SK10-0031	We Are More Independent	No	Norway	Autismeforeningen i Norge - Autism Society Norway	Service provision organization (NGO)
SK10-0036	Increasing participation of municipalities and the public in EIA processes	No	Norway	Norwegian Association of Local and Regional Authorities	Other
SK10-0038	Promoting biodiversity through improved management of conflict situations between large carnivores and humans	No	Norway	Friends of the Earth Norway	Advocacy organization (NGO)
			Norway	IMSA Knowledge Company AS	Micro-enterprise
SK10-0039	Reintroduction of European elk back to the Slovak nature	No	Norway	Norwegian Red Deer Center	Foundation
SK10-0041	Nota Bene / The Baggage Man	No	Norway	Stiftelsen Erlik	Service provision organization (NGO)
SK10-0042	Theatre of the Oppressed	No	Iceland	City of Reykjavik	Regional or local authority
			Iceland	The Reykjavik Academy	Foundation
SK10-0044	BEEsiness - beekeeping as a way of education and social entrepreneurship	No	Norway	ByBi	Service provision organization (NGO)
SK10-0058	No fear to understanding	No	Norway	Al Folkehoyskole og kurscenter for dove	Service provision organization (NGO)
			Norway	Stiftelsen Signo	Service provision organization (NGO)
Projects with donor project partners 17 out of 70 (24.3%)			Planned grant amount for projects with donor project partners € 1,012,767		

### **Slovakia - Summary**

Project grant amount total	€ 75,901,365
Number of projects	335
Number of projects with donor project partners	84
Proportion of projects with donor project partners	25.07 %
Number of programmes *	9
EEA and Norway grants committed	€ 74,269,750

\* Excluding Technical assistance programmes and PA22

## Appendix - Strategic report attachment 4

### Programme and country irregularities in Slovakia as initially reported

Reported by designated entities in or before 2015

#### Irregularities detected at Beneficiary state level

No irregularities have been reported

#### Irregularities detected at Programme level

Irregularity case	Irregularity status	Case opened	Case closed	Irregularity period	Followed up	Initial nature of irregularities	Amount of recovered funds	Grant amount reduced
IR-0108	Closed	25/02/15	25/08/15	2014Q4	2015Q1	deviation from public procurement procedures	469,95 €	399,00 €
IR-0111	Closed	26/02/15	03/11/15	2014Q4	2015Q2	deviation from public procurement procedures	108,00 €	92,00 €
IR-0112	Closed	26/02/15	03/11/15	2014Q4	2015Q2	deviation from public procurement procedures	153,00 €	130,00 €
IR-0113	Closed	26/02/15	03/11/15	2014Q4	2015Q2	deviation from public procurement procedures	180,00 €	153,00 €
IR-0114	Closed	26/02/15	03/11/15	2014Q4	2015Q2	deviation from public procurement procedures	328,11 €	279,00 €
IR-0115	Closed	26/02/15	25/08/15	2014Q4	2015Q1	deviation from public procurement procedures	5 975,60 €	5 079,00 €
IR-0117	Closed	26/02/15	03/11/15	2014Q4	2015Q2	deviation from public procurement procedures	260,96 €	261,00 €
IR-0118	Closed	26/02/15	25/08/15	2014Q4	2015Q1	deviation from public procurement procedures	553,05 €	470,00 €
IR-0119	Closed	26/02/15	03/11/15	2014Q4	2015Q2	deviation from public procurement procedures	178,86 €	152,00 €
IR-0120	Closed	26/02/15	03/11/15	2014Q4	2015Q2	deviation from public procurement procedures	474,70 €	404,00 €
IR-0121	Closed	26/02/15	25/08/15	2014Q4	2015Q1	deviation from public procurement procedures	119,25 €	101,00 €
IR-0122	Closed	26/02/15	03/11/15	2014Q4	2015Q2	deviation from public procurement procedures	88,74 €	75,00 €
IR-0123	Closed	26/02/15	25/08/15	2014Q4	2015Q1	deviation from public procurement procedures	159,36 €	135,00 €
IR-0124	Closed	26/02/15	25/08/15	2014Q4	2015Q1	deviation from public procurement procedures	163,05 €	139,00 €
IR-0125	Closed	26/02/15	03/11/15	2014Q4	2015Q2	deviation from public procurement procedures	163,05 €	139,00 €
IR-0126	Closed	26/02/15	25/08/15	2014Q4	2015Q1	deviation from programme agreement	250,73 €	213,00 €
IR-0127	Closed	26/02/15	03/11/15	2014Q4	2015Q2	deviation from programme agreement	73,90 €	63,00 €
IR-0128	Closed	26/02/15	25/08/15	2014Q4	2015Q1	deviation from programme agreement	107,64 €	92,00 €
IR-0129	Closed	26/02/15	03/11/15	2014Q4	2015Q2	deviation from programme agreement	30,36 €	26,00 €
IR-0130	Closed	27/02/15	03/11/15	2014Q4	2015Q2	deviation from programme agreement	89,41 €	76,00 €

IR-0131	Closed	27/02/15	03/11/15	2014Q4	2015Q2	deviation from programme agreement	122,97 €	105,00 €
IR-0132	Closed	27/02/15	21/12/15	2014Q4	2015Q3	deviation from programme agreement	No financial impact	No financial impact
IR-0133	Closed	27/02/15	21/12/15	2014Q4	2015Q3	deviation from programme agreement	No financial impact	No financial impact
<b>Total</b>							<b>10 050,69 €</b>	<b>8 583,00 €</b>

## Appendix - Strategic report attachment 5

### Project irregularities in Slovakia as initially reported

Reported by designated entities in or before 2015 on project level

Irregularity case	Irregularity status	Case opened	Case closed	Irregularity period	Followed up	Initial nature of irregularities	Amount of recovered funds	Grant amount reduced
IR-0109	Closed	26/02/15	21/12/15	2014Q4	2015Q3	deviation from project contract	8 496,00 €	8 496,00 €
IR-0110	Closed	26/02/15	29/04/15	2014Q4		deviation from project contract	No financial impact	No financial impact
IR-0147	On going	15/04/15		Immediate	2015Q3	fraud/corruption,deviation from project contract	N/A	N/A
IR-0159	Closed	28/05/15	21/12/15	2015Q1	2015Q3	deviation from public procurement procedures	36 420,00 €	89 723,00 €
IR-0207	On going	27/08/15		2015Q2	2015Q3	deviation from public procurement procedures	2 737,50 €	4 654,00 €
IR-0208	Closed	27/08/15	10/09/15	2015Q2		deviation from project contract	No financial impact	No financial impact
IR-0209	Closed	27/08/15	12/01/16	2015Q2	2015Q3	deviation from project contract	No financial impact	No financial impact
IR-0243	On going	23/11/15		Immediate		deviation from programme agreement	No financial impact	No financial impact
IR-0256	On going	30/11/15		2015Q3		deviation from public procurement procedures	3 600,00 €	3 600,00 €
IR-0257	On going	30/11/15		2015Q3		deviation from project contract	767,18 €	1 703,00 €
IR-0258	On going	30/11/15		2015Q3		deviation from project contract	No financial impact	No financial impact
<b>Total</b>							<b>52 020,68 €</b>	<b>108 176,00 €</b>

**Risk assessment at the national and programme levels**

<b>Objective<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>Risk description</b>	<b>Probability<sup>2</sup></b>	<b>Consequences<sup>3</sup></b>	<b>Amelioration planned/carried out</b>
Cohesion:	Insufficient time to complete (mainly NFM) projects/programmes	2	2	
Bilateral objective:	Insufficient number of partners in donor states during implementation of the Bilateral Fund at the national level, SK06 <i>Scholarship Fund</i> programme	2	3	In the next programming period it is recommended to create a list of potential partner institutions and allocate them among recipient countries.
Operation related issues:	Insufficient administrative capacity	3	3	Due to the demanding nature of project report processing, NCP-OP is planning to expand its capacity in the first quarter of 2015
	Legislation changes	2	3	Close cooperation with experts.

<sup>1</sup>Risks can be categorized into three groups based on their nature. They relate to cohesive outcomes, bilateral outcomes, and operation.

<sup>2</sup>Each risk description must be correctly categorized (cohesive outputs -- programme outputs, bilateral outcomes, or operation). 4 = almost certain (75 – 90% probability ); 3 = probable (50 – 74%); 2 = possible (25 – 49%); 1 = unlikely (1 -24%)

<sup>3</sup>Assessment of consequences of a failure to produce the desired outcome: 4 = serious; 3 = significant; 2 = mild; 1 = insignificant.



**Risk assessment at the programme level<sup>4</sup>**

Programme	Objective <sup>5</sup>	Risk description	Probability <sup>6</sup>	Consequences <sup>7</sup>	Amelioration planned/carried out
<i>SK02 Adaptation to Climate Change - Floods and Drought Prevention programme</i>	Cohesion (programme) outcome:				
	Adaptation to climate change – strategies and measures developed	Shortage of relevant data needed to identify and evaluate expected negative impact of climate change	2	3	Relevant data will be obtained through cooperation with experts, universities, other work group members and participants. The consequence has been recategorized to level 3 as without relevant data, preparation of quality strategies will be very difficult.
		Ineffective inclusion of the strategy into urban planning	2	2	The risk will be decreased by participation of all parties and their administration at all levels.
		Failure to obtain permissions necessary to implement adaptation measures – special measures, e.g. EIA	2	3	Risk will be decreased by a suitable time schedule and high quality solutions.
	Increased capacity – risk assessment of climate change	Lack of knowledge and experience with evaluations of the given nature	1	1	Experience and expert knowledge on how to evaluate risks related to the measures in cities will be obtained through exchange between participants, platform, external consulting companies and other professional activities.
		Pilot technologies for planned measures will not be accepted due to legislative or administrative obstacles	1	1	Risk will be decreased by a suitable time schedule and high quality solutions.
		Various issues regarding the	1	1	The risk can be decreased by involving

<sup>5</sup>Risks can be categorized into three groups based on their nature. They relate to cohesive outcomes, bilateral outcomes, and operation.

<sup>6</sup>Each risk description must be correctly categorized (cohesive outputs -- programme outputs, bilateral outcomes, or operation). 4 = almost certain (75 – 90% probability); 3 = probable (50 – 74%); 2 = possible (25 – 49%); 1 = unlikely (1 -24%)

<sup>7</sup>Assessment of consequences of a failure to produce the desired outcome: 4 = serious; 3 = significant; 2 = mild; 1 = insignificant.

		measurement of key results of the implemented measures			relevant professional or research institutes.
	Adaptation to climate change – awareness raising	Insufficient attendance at seminars and workshops	1	1	Risk will be decreased through cooperation with specialized media to promote the events. A detailed description of communication and information sharing must be included in the communication strategy.
		Insufficient quality of educational materials for pupils and students	1	1	The risk can be decreased through cooperation with already existing networks such as “Green School” and other experts in the field.
		Insufficient attendance at international conferences	1	1	The risk can be decreased through cooperation with research institutes.
	Bilateral outcome:				
		The number of bilateral articles written by partners from both recipient and donor countries and published in international periodicals is insufficient.	1	1	Strengthening cooperation based on an agreement with Norwegian partners.
		The number of replicated projects (or their outcomes) implemented by other organisations in the same or a different country	1	1	Replicated projects will be supported through the communication strategies pertaining to individual projects.
<i>SK04 Local and Regional Initiatives to Promote Social Inclusion programme</i>					
	Local and regional authorities, as well as private and civil society participants, are developing initiatives to strengthen anti-discriminatory measures for groups vulnerable to social and economic exclusion is measured against several indicators	It is not clear whether the recipient in the pre-defined project II will be able to meet accreditation requirements for innovative learning	1	1	If the attempt to obtain accreditation fails, the Ministry of Education will have to remake the Programme Agreement (change innovative education to an actualising one). The risk is not relevant, accreditation was granted in 2014.
	Bilateral outcome:				
		The number of replicated projects (or their outcomes)	1	1	The programme operator will organise a workshop for the representatives of the

		implemented by other organisations in the same or a different country			donor partner, the European Wergelan Centre (Norway), recipients and other NGOs in order to establish future cooperation. The workshop will be held in the 2 <sup>nd</sup> quarter of 2015.
	Operation related issues:				
		Insufficient time for programme implementation if not going exactly as planned	1	1	The indicators have been changed to level 1. Currently it is unlikely that the programme will not go on as planned.
<i>SK05 Conservation and Revitalisation of Cultural and Natural Heritage &amp; Promotion of Diversity in Culture and Arts within European Cultural Heritage programme</i>	Cohesion (programme) outcome:				
	Bilateral outcome:				
		Number of project partner agreements in the receiving civic society in private and public sectors	2	1	Strengthening cooperation based on an agreement with Norwegian partners
	Operation related issues:				
		A sufficient level of expertise in NCM rehabilitation must be provided. If relevant expert opinions during evaluation of projects are missing along with representatives of the Monuments Board of the Slovak Republic (or at least its regional office), the level of expertise may be insufficient.	2	1	A sufficient level of expertise in NCM rehabilitation has been provided by submitting relevant expert opinions on NCM rehabilitation (issued by regional Monuments Board offices) along with the projects. Monuments Board representatives (state or regional) were present in the evaluation committee which examined not only the projects, but also completeness of the expert opinions submitted. They will also participate in monitoring of NCM rehabilitation.  The indicator has therefore been changed to level 1.
<i>SK07 Green Industry Innovation programme</i>					

	Operation related issues:				
	Increased number of job opportunities and business development	Facilitating the use of state-of-art technologies to decrease environmental, technical and safety risks Programme indicators can be at sufficient level, however, using outdated technology may have negative impact on another area.	2	2	Programme allocation and project size allow for use of best technology available thus decreasing the above mentioned risk.  A detailed evaluation focused on technology is recommended to be created for the project. At this stage of implementation, it is not possible to evaluate the risk as technology has not yet been purchased in all projects.
		There is a risk that programme outcomes will not be freely accessible due to understandable reasons.	2	3	The adjacent territory through which the access road leads was settled by easement in the relevant register. The condition was provided in the project agreement proposal – the applicant was supposed to facilitate road access to the project outcomes.
SK08 Cross-border cooperation with Ukraine programme	Cohesion (programme) outcome:				
	Removal of existing barriers of cross-border cooperation	The target value can be at risk due to unstable political situation in Ukraine	3	3	Currently, the risk cannot be alleviated as it is not under control of the programme operator. It remains unknown how the situation in Ukraine will develop. The NCP requested an extension of its eligibility period until 30 April 2017. The decision pertaining to the modification was not available on 31 December 2014. Donors granted the request in March 2015. Within the modification, a reallocation of financial means pertaining to the SK07 <i>Green Industry Innovation</i> was requested due to high demand from the applicants.
	Bilateral outcome:				
	Number of partners (institutions) participating in the network/cross-border cooperation	Cooperation is at risk due to the unstable political situation in Ukraine.	3	3	Currently, the risk cannot be alleviated as it is not under control of the programme operator. It remains unknown how the situation in Ukraine will develop. If needed, the programme operator will consult

					programme adjustments with donors.
	Operation related issues:				
		If the programme operator cannot be considered a relevant organisation operating in the programme area, cooperation of competent authorities must be facilitated.	2	3	The risk cannot be alleviated significantly, as in the Slovak-Ukrainian relations there are several grey zones and their development can be hardly predicted at the moment. If needed, the programme operator will consult programme adjustments with donors.
		Risk: Due to illegal actions regarding public procurement, the number of potential applicants decreased.	2	3	Before conclusion, each agreement is checked by the programme operator. Special attention needs to be paid to the process of public procurement.
		Insufficient time for programme implementation if not going exactly as planned	4	4	A request for extension of the eligibility period was submitted. As of 31 December 2015, the decision was not yet available.
		The programme operator will check whether the programme implementer will be able to co-finance the project.	2	2	Special attention needs to be paid to the fact whether the partner can co-finance the project. Therefore, bank account statements as well as loan commitments issued by the banks must be submitted before the projects are granted. Also, it is important not to forget that laws, regulations, and experience on the other side of the border can significantly differ from our own. Therefore, an independent company in Ukraine needs to be selected for supervision.
		Unavailability of money transferred to banks was reported on several occasions, which can result in delay in project implementation. The possibility of confiscation of monetary deposits is also a risk.	2	2	If the risks prove as immediate, it is recommended to focus on project activity on the Slovak territory. However, Ukrainian experts participating in the activities may experience problems with working permissions. An intervention of the Ministry of Interior of the SR may be needed in order to simplify the issuing process.
		Inconsistent legislations may pose a risk.	2	2	The inconsistency between the legislations may be solved by cooperation of relevant Ministries and other authorities.

<i>SK09 Domestic and Gender-based Violence</i>	Cohesion (programme) outcome:				
	Support of existing and creation of new services aimed at women at risk of violence and their children – Safe Women’s Houses, crisis intervention centres, consulting centres in whole Slovakia; facilities meeting the minimum European standards and reflecting both human and legal approach to specific needs of the target group; focus on women with accumulated disadvantages (ethnicity, nationality, health, age...)	Not many applications meeting the quality requirements have been submitted.	1	2	Several applications have been returned to FMO for modification. Sadly, a negative answer was received regarding obligatory co-financing by the NGO sector. Obligatory co-financing by the NGO sector as well as required guarantees could have an impact on the low interest in the project and the small number of applicants. As of 31 December 2014, based on the number of applications and the conditions of the call, the project can be evaluated as satisfactory. However, applications were not submitted for expert evaluation by 31 December 2014.
	Operation related issues:				
		Insufficient time for programme implementation if not going exactly as planned	3	3	An extension of eligibility period until 30 April 2017 will probably be requested mainly for investment projects.
		The programme operator will check whether the programme implementer will be able to co-finance the project.	3	3	Special attention needs to be paid to the fact whether the partner can co-finance the project. However, applicants are mostly NGOs with limited resources. Due to this fact, the programme operator proposed a change in the programme agreement, however, it was not accepted by the donors. Indicator values are therefore increased.
		The sustainability of financing presents a risk.	2	3	Legislative and political changes in the area of gender-based violence are an important part of the programme.

## **ANNUAL REPORT ON IMPLEMENTATION OF THE TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE FUND**

### **1. Overview of the most important activities in 2016**

#### **A) Overview of the main activities of the National Focal Point (NFP) in 2015**

The activities of the National Focal Point in 2015 were primarily related to the NFP's responsibility for achieving the objectives of the 2009-2014 EEA Financial Mechanism.

On 26 January 2015 the first training course in public procurement for the administrator of the scholarship fund – Slovak Academic and Information Agency – took place.

On 23 March 2015, the Monitoring Committee held its fourth meeting to review the progress in attaining the objectives of the EEA and Norway, as well as to examine the outcomes in the implementation of the programmes. The Strategic Report on the implementation of both financial instruments for 2014, approved at the annual meeting in November 2015, were submitted by the NFP to the FMO. In September, the annual budget for TA for 2016 and later in the course of 2015 also three interim financial reports have been submitted by the NFP to the FMO.

The Memorandum of Understanding on the implementation of the EEA Financial Mechanism in Annex B specifies programmes which should address specific problems of minority groups, including Roma. In this connection and upon the request of the Financial Mechanism Committee, on 27 May 2015, the NFP held the second round-table consultation meeting in the presence of institutions concerned with improving the situation of the Roma in Slovakia.

The NFP attended the meetings held by the Cooperation Committee and participated in the Selection Committees pertaining to individual programmes.

Throughout 2015, the NFP played an important role in raising awareness of both financial mechanisms within the 2009 – 2014 programming period by providing information about both the funds. During the entire period, the NFP ran a website containing information on all programmes, bilateral cooperation with donor states, calls, meetings, workshops, seminars, and all relevant issues and documents. A purchase of informational and promotional brochures was conducted in order to raise public awareness of the FM EEA and NFM.

NFP employees attended negotiations with donor states regarding performing NFP duties in the 2009 – 2014 programming period, meetings, and workshops organised by the NFP in cooperation with the Financial Mechanism Committee: Communication workshop in Prague in April, "Development trends in tackling corruption, money laundering, and legalisation of income from criminal activity in Europe" in Prague in October. They also attended meetings and conferences which focused on exchange of experience (meeting of representatives of all programme operators of scholarship funds, FMO, NFP in Trondheim in June. NFP organised a meeting of the V4 countries regarding implementation of FM EEA and NFM 2009-2014 in Bratislava in December 2015.

#### **B) Overview of the main activities of CA in 2015**

In the reporting period, the Certifying Authority processed and submitted estimates of expected expenditures to the FMO (4 times a year; by 20 February, 20 May, 20 September, and 10 December). It also facilitated co-financing of the FM EEA/NFM as far as the public administration budget allowed. The Certifying Authority also performed verification and approving of the statements of expenditure



and interim financial reports pertaining to SK01, SK02, SK04, SK05, SK06, SK07, SK08, and SK09 programmes. It verified and approved statements of expenditure and IFRs in SK01, SK02, SK04, SK05, SK06, SK07, SK08 and SK09 programmes, and sent certified IFRs pertaining to these programmes to the FMO.

Another duty performed by the Certifying Authority was the implementation of financial flows (receiving funds from the EEA and NFM from the budgets of the donor states through the FMO to the CA's accounts and transferring them to the accounts of the respective programme operators). It also provided methodological guidance for the individual authorities regarding the financial management of FM EEA and NFM, and updated the relevant methodological documents.

### C) Overview of the main activities of the AA in 2015:

In 2015 the eligible expenditures of the Audit Authority requested through the Technical Assistance included mainly salary expenditures which were incurred by the government audits performed. Eligible salary expenditures pertained to finishing of three government audits: audit of operations (government audit No. A631), and two compliance audits (government audits No. A677 and A578). Between August and December 2015 the government audit No. A706 (audit of operations) was also carried out. In November 2015 the government audit No. A710 (system audit) started and will continue throughout 2016. AA employees (Section of audit and control of the Ministry of Finance of the SR) and employees of the Financial Control Administration from Zvolen and Košice offices, as well as other cooperating authorities participated in performing of the audits in 2015. Performing of government audits incurred eligible travelling expenditures related to working visits.

As for methodological activities, planning and reporting which incurred the salary expenditures in question, the AA created the Annual Auditor Report for FM EEA and NFM 2009 – 2014 which covers the period between 1 July 2014 and 30 June 2015. It also provided other methodological activities for the FM EEA and NFM 2009 – 2014. The eligible expenditures of the AA also include salary expenditures for the responsible AA employee who performed tasks pertaining to the project management and other duties related to drawing funds from the Technical Assistance as provided in the Agreement between the Government Office of the SR and the Ministry of Finance of the SR No. 300/2012 from 22 June 2012. Further eligible expenditures of the AA in 2015 were related to translation of a number of documents pertaining to the AA activity, e.g. government audit report, annual control report, list of control questions.

## 2. Disbursement of funds

### A) Disbursement of funds at the NFP level

#### Implementation of the TA budget for 2015 (actual expenditure vs. planned expenditure) from the perspective of the NFP

For 2015, the NFP planned to draw funds in the amount of **EUR 208,930** (EUR 177,591 net of 15% of national co-funding). The eligible expenditures incurred by the NFP in 2015 in connection with the discharge of its functions under the EEA FM and NFM amounted to EUR **148,619 EUR** (EUR 126,326 EUR net of 15 percent national co-funding). The funds actually drawn represented 71.13% of the total budget planned.

	Budget for 2015 incl. 15% co-financing	Budget for 2015 net of 15% co-financing	Expenditures for 2015 incl. 15% co-financing	Expenditures for 2015 net of 15% co-financing

I Additional management systems (salary costs)	136,205	115,775	138,398	117,638
II Monitoring Committee, annual meetings and other meetings	4,525	3,846	2,972	2,526
III Working meetings and conferences 9,700	8,700	7,395	5,912	5,025
IV Promotional and information activities	12,800	10,880	493	419
V Audits	0	0	0	0
VI On-the-spot verifications	21,500	18,275	844	717
VII Reviews and evaluations 20,000	25,200	21,420	0	0
VIII VIII Implementation of the FM 2004-2009	0	0	0	0
<b>Total expenditure for 2014</b>	<b>208,930</b>	<b>177,591</b>	<b>148,619</b>	<b>126,325</b>

### Disbursement from the TA fund under the EEA FM/NFM 2009 – 2014 as of 31 December 2015

Pursuant to the Agreement on the disbursement of funds under the Technical Assistance Fund and the Bilateral Relations Fund at the national level, the funds allocated for the NFP represent EUR 954,412 (EUR 811,250 net of 15 percent of the national co-funding). As of 31 December 2014, the total amount of EUR 852,230 (EUR 724,395 net of 15 percent national co-funding) had been credited to the NFP's account. Therefore, the cumulative amount of the funds paid represented 89.29% of the total TA budget approved for the NFP as of 31 December 2014. Since the beginning of the implementation of the FM EEA/NFM 2009-2014, the eligible expenditure incurred by the NFP in the List of Accounting represented EUR 714,867 (EUR 607,637 net of 15 percent of national co-funding) as of 31 December 2014. The cumulative amount of eligible expenditure incurred by the NFP in List of Accounting represented 74.90% of the total TA budget approved for the NFP as of 31 December 2014.

	Allocation incl. 15% co-financing	Funds paid (in EUR)	% of funds paid	Expenditure submitted in Accounting List* (in EUR)	% of expenditure incurred
<b>National Focal Point (NFP)</b>	954,412	852,230	89.29%	714,867	74.90%

In EUR

	Allocation net of 15% co-financing	Funds paid (in EUR)	% of funds paid	Expenditure submitted in Accounting List* (in EUR)	% of expenditure incurred
<b>National Focal Point (NFP)</b>	811,250	724,395	89.29%	607,637	74.90%

In EUR

*\*eligible expenditures for 2015 including expenditures pertaining to the period between September and December 2015 which were sent along with IFR No. 12 in January 2016.*

### Planned expenditure

The total estimated amount of the NFP's budget for 2016 is EUR 188,442 (EUR 160,176 net of 15% national co-funding).

	Budget for 2016 incl. 15% co-financing (in EUR)	Budget for 2016 net of 15% co-financing (in EUR)
I Additional management systems (salary costs)	115,712	98,355
II Monitoring Committee, annual meetings and other meetings	7,150	6,078
III Working meetings and conferences 9,700	2,100	1,785
IV Promotional and information activities	16,600	14,110
V Audits	0	0
VI On-the-spot verifications	21,500	18,275
VII Reviews and evaluations 20,000	25,380	21,573
VIII VIII Implementation of the FM 2004-2009	0	0
<b>Total expenditure for 2016</b>	<b>188,442</b>	<b>160,176</b>

The National Focal Point does not expect any changes during the year compared to the budget provided in September 2015.

## B) Disbursement of funds at the CA level

### Implementation of the budget for 2015

	Budget for 2015 (net of national co-financing) (in EUR)	Total expenditure for 2015 in Accounting List* in EUR (net of national co-financing)*
I Additional management systems (salary costs, costs of ISUF)	30,328.00	21,514.00
III Working meetings and conferences 1,105.00	0.00	337.00
<b>Total expenditure for 2015</b>	<b>31,433.00</b>	<b>21,851.00</b>

in EUR

\*eligible expenditures for 2015 including expenditures pertaining to the period between September and December 2015 which were sent along with IFR No. 12 in January 2016.

Under Item I Additional management systems, the incurred expenditures covered the eligible salary expenditures of CA employees involved in the implementation of the EEA FM/NFM. According to the actual figures for 2015, 12 eligible employees were reimbursed per month on average. Reported through the actual % rate, in March, May, and June 2015 two employees from the Department of payment administration were reimbursed at the average rate of 66.66 %. Throughout the rest of 2015, 1 employee reported through the actual % rate was reimbursed with the average salary cost reimbursement rate of 76.66 %. Other eligible CA employees were reimbursed based on the allocation criterion at the average salary cost reimbursement rate of 0.62 %.

As for the Item III Working visits and conferences two domestic working trips were organised (originally 2 working trips abroad were planned).

### Disbursement from the TA fund under the EEA FM/NFM 2009 – 2014 as of 31 December 2015

	Net allocation (in EUR)	Funds paid (in EUR)	% of funds paid	Incurred expenditure (in EUR)	% of expenditure incurred
<b>CA</b>	200,000.00	135,650.00	67.83%	136,806.00	68.40%

in EUR (net of national co-financing)

*\*the table includes incurred expenditures as well as eligible expenditures of the CA for the period of September - December 2015, which were included in the materials for IFR no. 12 sent in January 2016. The expenditures amounted to 7,020.00 (net of national co-financing), i.e. the sum of funds cleared as of 31 December 2015 was EUR 129,786.00.*

### Expenditure planned in 2016

	Budget for 2016 (net of national co-financing) (in EUR)
I Additional management systems (salary costs, costs of ISUF)	25,432.00
III Working meetings and conferences	1,105.00
<b>Total expenditure for 2016</b>	<b>26,537.00</b>

in EUR

Under Item I Additional management systems, the planned expenditures include eligible salary expenditures amounting to EUR 22,032 in 2016. This amount represents an estimate of the eligible salary costs of 11 employees, in which case the reimbursement for 2 employees will be reported on the basis of the actual % rate (50% on average), whereas the allocation criterion (some 0.60%) will be applied to 9 employees.

Item I Additional management systems of the budget also includes expenditures related to the development, support and change of requests regarding the accounting system for the EEA FM/NFM 2009 – 2014, in the amount of EUR 3,400.

Under Item III Costs related to two business trips abroad planned are estimated at EUR 1,105.00 in 2016.

### C) Disbursement of funds at the AA level

For 2015 the total budget of the AA represented EUR 35,000.00 (EUR 29,750.00 net of 15% national co-financing). Total eligible expenditures represented EUR 62,741.36; they exceeded the planned budget by 79%. Actual eligible expenditures incurred to the AA and the Financial Control Administration offices in Zvolen and Košice related to salary expenditures represented EUR 57,238.55 including the national co-financing. Expenditures amounting to EUR 4,550.41 were incurred by translation of the relevant documents of the AA into English. Further expenditures amounting to EUR 952.40 were incurred by working trips related to government audits. Pursuant to the Agreement between the Government Office of the SR and the Ministry of Finance of the SR No. 300/2012 from 22 June 2012, the total amount allocated for the AA represents EUR 235,294.00. As of 31 December 2015, the total amount transferred to the AA account through advance payments represented EUR 734.00. Since the beginning of the project activities eligible expenditures related to AA activity amounted to EUR 113,374.78. Out of the total amount, AA expenditures represented EUR 48,128.25; Financial Control Administration Košice expenditures represented EUR 42,939.53, and Financial Control Administration Zvolen expenditures represented EUR 22,307.00. The proportion of all incurred eligible expenses in the total approved budget of the Technical Assistance for the AA represented 48.18% on 31 December 2015.

## 3. Public procurement

In 2015 no significant instance of public procurement occurred. After a market survey, lunch for the participants of the Bilateral Committee was procured with the expenditure incurred amounting to EUR 367.40 (supplier: DAZUN, s.r.o). As for promotion, business cards were procured with the expenditure of EUR 51.30 (supplier: Plotbase, s.r.o.).

## Appendix 9 Disbursement of funds under the FM EEA and NFM as of 31 December 2015

Programme code	Net allocation		Funds received from the FMO by the CA	% of funds received from the FMO by the CA	% of funds from the CA paid to the PO			% of funds paid	Expenditure approved and submitted by the CA to the FMO in IFRs			% of expenditure approved and submitted
	Donors	Slovak state budget			Donors	Slovak state budget	Total		Donors	Slovak state budget	Total	
SK01	767,000	101,510	563,523	73.47%	563,523	79,824	643,347	74.07%	365,888	62,085	427,973	49.28%
FTA	575,250	101,510	452,348	78.64%	452,348	79,824	532,172	78.64%	351,882	62,085	413,967	61.17%
BF	191,750	0	111,175	57.98%	111,175	0	111,175	57.98%	14,006	0	14,006	7.30%
SK02	12,463,750	2,199,485	7,718,740	61.93%	7,718,740	1,362,131	9,080,871	61.93%	3,991,878	704,452	4,696,330	32.03%
SK04	1,000,000	176,471	964,115	96.41%	964,115	170,138	1,134,253	96.41%	624,288	110,168	734,456	62.43%
SK05	11,922,500	2,103,971	7,971,209	66.86%	7,971,209	1,406,684	9,377,893	66.86%	4,346,576	767,045	5,113,621	36.46%
SK06	1,917,500	338,382	1,766,318	92.12%	1,766,318	311,702	2,078,020	92.12%	897,891	158,453	1,056,344	46.83%
<b>Total for FM EEA</b>	<b>28,070,750</b>	<b>4,919,819</b>	<b>18,983,905</b>	<b>67.63%</b>	<b>18,983,905</b>	<b>3,330,479</b>	<b>22,314,384</b>	<b>67.64%</b>	<b>10,226,521</b>	<b>1,802,203</b>	<b>12,028,724</b>	<b>36.46%</b>
SK01	913,468	112,240	634,943	69.51%	634,943	88,259	723,202	70.51%	406,008	68,661	474,669	46.28%
FTA	636,000	112,240	500,120	78.64%	500,120	88,259	588,379	78.64%	389,031	68,661	457,692	61.17%
BF	277,468	0	134,823	48.59%	134,823	0	134,823	48.59%	16,977	0	16,977	6.12%
SK07	16,073,985	2,836,586	12,653,767	78.72%	12,653,767	2,233,018	14,886,785	78.72%	5,018,489	885,614	5,904,103	31.22%
SK08	13,368,547	2,359,155	7,583,156	56.72%	7,583,114	1,338,196	8,921,310	56.72%	920,036	162,360	1,082,396	6.88%
SK09	8,440,000	1,489,412	7,017,334	83.14%	7,017,334	1,238,352	8,255,686	83.14%	2,063,103	364,076	2,427,179	24.44%
<b>Total for NFM</b>	<b>38,796,000</b>	<b>6,797,393</b>	<b>27,889,200</b>	<b>71.89%</b>	<b>27,889,158</b>	<b>4,897,825</b>	<b>32,786,983</b>	<b>71.91%</b>	<b>8,407,636</b>	<b>1,480,711</b>	<b>9,888,347</b>	<b>21.69%</b>
<b>Total for FM EEA and NFM</b>	<b>66,866,750</b>	<b>11,717,212</b>	<b>46,873,105</b>	<b>70.10%</b>	<b>46,873,063</b>	<b>8,228,304</b>	<b>55,101,367</b>	<b>70.12%</b>	<b>18,634,157</b>	<b>3,282,914</b>	<b>21,917,071</b>	<b>27.89%</b>
	<b>78,583,962</b>	<b>46,873,105</b>			<b>55,101,367</b>				<b>21,917,071</b>			

Currency: EUR  
Source: Ministry of Finance of

**Conclusions of the first Round table discussion of experts in the context of the Programme SK04 of FM EEA and NFM**

(Hotel Bôrik, Bratislava, November 12 - 2014)

**1. Set equitable funding of private secondary schools teaching the Romani language and culture.**

a) Increase financing of normative per student from 88% up to 100% because these schools cannot collect fees from parents coming mainly from socially disadvantaged backgrounds.

*Stage of solution: Ministry of Education (MoE) claims that private secondary schools are financed the same way as state high schools, including the amount of normative per student. Financing is based on current legislation and the approved state educational programs.*

b) If a dormitory is part of this school, set equitable funding to the amount that MoE subsidizes the operation of dormitories by special schools.

*Stage of solution: MoE claims that costs covering the accommodation of secondary school pupils in school dormitories are financed from shared taxes of higher regional units. This is an original competence of higher regional units. The method of financing and the amount of the subsidy on boarder falls within the scope of higher regional units, not the ministry.*

c) Ensure the realization of Activity 2.6.3. (Access to the allowance for pupils from the socially disadvantaged backgrounds and subsidies for school supplies, meals and motivation scholarship) and measure 3.2 (Elaborate analysis of the contribution of private secondary schools teaching children from socially disadvantaged backgrounds) within the governmentally approved Revised National Action Plan for the Decade of Roma Inclusion 2005-2015.

Responsibility: representatives of secondary schools in question, MoE, MoLSAaF

*Stage of solution: MoE is willing to discuss the issue of provision of allowance for pupils from socially disadvantaged backgrounds at 8-year grammar schools. Provision of subsidies for school supplies and meals is in the competence of MoLSAaF.*

*MoE claims that there is a final report of the experimental verification of the Romani language and Romani culture curriculum in these schools. It was elaborated by the National Institute for Education.*

**2. Activate the operating of the working group on inclusive education as a platform of representatives of NGOs, state agencies, municipalities and academic sphere to design the policies towards implementation of inclusive education in the Slovak republic.**

Responsibility: representatives of NGOs, MoE, Office of the Plenipotentiary for Roma Communities (OPRC)

*Stage of solution: MoE and OPRC consider for such platform the thematic working group for revision of the action plans of the Strategy for Roma integration up to 2020 under the auspices of OPRC.*

**3. In cooperation with OPRC arrange a meeting of representatives of private secondary schools teaching the Romani language and culture with the Director General of the Universities section Mr. Plavcan and with the chairman of the Accreditation Commission Mr. professor Fisera. The meeting should address issues related to uncompleted process of accreditation of graduate study of the Romani language and culture as a field that could be studied in combination with another subject at pedagogical faculties in Slovakia.**

## **Appendix 10 Conclusion of the Round table discussion**

Responsibility: representatives of secondary schools in question

**Stage of solution:** *A meeting has already taken place and the communication between the parties is underway.*

**4. As part of the legal institute of temporary affirmative action create a scholarship mechanism for the study of supplementary teacher training courses for applicants fluent in Romani. The aim is to increase the number of Roma applicants for the position of teaching assistant.**

Responsibility: MoE

**Stage of solution:** MoE claims that, education to supplement qualification pre-requisites in order to acquire pedagogical eligibility provides:

- a) for pedagogical employees with tertiary degrees – colleges and universities in supplementary teacher training courses (charged)
- b) for pedagogical employees with secondary education completed by GCE examination and higher professional education completed by degree examination – secondary professional schools to the extent of relevant training programs of post-secondary qualification studies (free at state schools)



**Conclusions of the 2nd Round table discussion in the context of the Programme SK04 funded by the EEA Financial Mechanism 2009-2014**

(Hotel Bôrik, Bratislava, May 27 - 2015)

**TOPIC: “Forms of support directed at socially disadvantaged pupils, including Roma, for a successful completion of secondary education (ISCED 3) and subsequent integration into the labor market.”**

1. Based on the identified need for closer communication and cooperation between government agencies and workers in the field with a direct impact on students from socially disadvantaged backgrounds, including Roma, we suggest to consider the possibility of creating an umbrella departmental working group on this issue composed of key ministries, non-governmental organizations and elementary and secondary schools with Roma language and cultural studies in their curriculum.
2. We suggest to consider the possibility to extend the project PRINED at the secondary level of education (ISCED3), focusing on the use of professional staff, in particular social pedagogue.
3. Under the *Activity 2.6.3 of the Revised National Action Plan for the Decade of Roma Inclusion 2011-2015* consider the possibility of creating so-called "Financial inclusive package". Students from socially disadvantaged backgrounds, including Roma, studying at secondary schools ISCED 2 and ISCED 3 (8-year grammar schools), will be eligible to obtain to the existing social-motivational scholarship additional “inclusive financial package” assigned to the school and school dormitory to cover costs connected with food, travel, accommodation, health care and teaching aids.
4. Consider the possibility of offering training for educational advisors in elementary and secondary schools aimed at sensitizing the advisory activity in relation to the choice of next educational pathways and types of career of pupils and students from socially disadvantaged backgrounds, including Roma.
5. With regard to positive results of tutoring and mentoring programs at some elementary and secondary schools, we suggest to consider the possibility of creating a state funding scheme for these programs for students from socially

## **Appendix 10 Conclusion of the Round table discussion**

disadvantaged backgrounds, including Roma. We suggest that the NGOs can participate in its preparation and implementation. We recommend opening the possibility of applying for support to students in vocational fields of study.

6. We suggest identifying funding opportunities of investment costs (especially material and technical equipment) for secondary schools through the Integrated Regional Operational Programme under the auspices of the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development of the Slovak Republic.

Appendix 11 List of monitored projects at the programme operator level in 2015

<b>Period 01-04/2015</b>				
<b>Number</b>	<b>Programme</b>	<b>Project number</b>	<b>Project name</b>	<b>Grant in EUR</b>
1.	SK09 <i>Domestic and Gender-Based Violence</i>	DGV01003	<i>"Women's Safe House – a place for a good life without violence"</i>	331,298
2.	SK09 <i>Domestic and Gender-Based Violence</i>	DGV01005	Progresfem consulting site	54,058
3.	SK09 <i>Domestic and Gender-Based Violence</i>	DGV01006	HANA consulting site in Spišská Nová Ves	57,855
4.	SK09 <i>Domestic and Gender-Based Violence</i>	DGV01009	Providing new services for women at risk of violence and their children in the Liptov region	39,525
5.	<i>SK05 Conservation and Revitalisation of Cultural and Natural Heritage &amp; Promotion of Diversity in Culture and Arts within European Cultural Heritage programme</i>	CLT99001	ProMonumenta – Prevention by Maintenance	952,056
6.	SK02 <i>Adaptation to Climate Change - Floods and Drought Prevention</i>	ACC01002	Rehabilitation of ecosystem functions of the upper part of the Ondava river – ONDAVA FOR LIFE	1,429,477
7.	SK02 <i>Adaptation to Climate Change – Floods and Drought Prevention</i>	ACC03015	TREENVI – implementation of flood prevention measures of a private grammar school	39,315
8.	SK02 <i>Adaptation to Climate Change –</i>	ACC03019	Multifunctional centre for education	40,000

Appendix 11 List of monitored projects at the programme operator level in 2015

	<i>Floods and Drought Prevention</i>			
9.	<i>SK02 Adaptation to Climate Change – Floods and Drought Prevention</i>	ACC03020	The “Máme vodu v suchu” (“Our water is safe”) project – prevention from floods and drought in the school yards of the Margecany primary school and kindergarten	39,995
<b>Period 05-08/2015</b>				
10.	<i>SK05 Conservation and Revitalisation of Cultural and Natural Heritage &amp; Promotion of Diversity in Culture and Arts within European Cultural Heritage programme</i>	CLT1006	Restoration of the New Synagogue/Kunsthalle in Žilina	328,743
11.	<i>SK05 Conservation and Revitalisation of Cultural and Natural Heritage &amp; Promotion of Diversity in Culture and Arts within European Cultural Heritage programme</i>	CLT2006	“Bez kaplnky nie je hrad” (“There’s no castle without chapel”)	443,717
12.	<i>SK02 Adaptation to Climate Change – Floods and Drought Prevention</i>	ACC02002	Biotechnological innovation in use of rainwater in Zvolen	1,010,000
13.	<i>SK02 Adaptation to Climate Change – Floods and Drought Prevention</i>	ACC03006	“Modrá škola – naša škola” (“Blue school – our school”)	38,350
14.	<i>SK02 Adaptation to Climate Change – Floods and Drought Prevention</i>	ACC03008	A MODERN SCHOOL	37,670
15.	<i>SK02 Adaptation to Climate Change – Floods and Drought Prevention</i>	ACC03021	Learning to understand and protect nature	34,285

Appendix 11 List of monitored projects at the programme operator level in 2015

16.	SK02 <i>Adaptation to Climate Change – Floods and Drought Prevention</i>	ACC03022	Implementation of measurements regarding adaptation to climate change at the H. Selye Hungarian Grammar school in Komárno	39,956
17.	SK09 Domestic and Gender-Based Violence	DGV01012	Raising awareness of domestic violence and identification of victims in specific target groups	39,525
18.	SK09 <i>Domestic and Gender-Based Violence</i>	DGV01007	Creation and operation of new consulting centres for women and children victims of gender-based violence	65,055
19.	SK09 <i>Domestic and Gender-Based Violence</i>	DGV01011	Consulting services for victims of domestic violence focused on children, young adults, disadvantaged groups and prevention	67,122
20.	SK09 <i>Domestic and Gender-Based Violence</i>	DGV01004	WOMEN'S SAFE HOUSE	565,201
21.	SK09 <i>Domestic and Gender-Based Violence</i>	DGV01002	MyMamy Women's safe house (MyMamy WSH)	608,751
<b>Period 09-12/2015</b>				
22.	SK02 <i>Adaptation to Climate Change – Floods and Drought Prevention</i>	ACC02003	Bratislava prepares for climate change	2,836,994
23.	SK02 <i>Adaptation to Climate Change – Floods and Drought Prevention</i>	ACC01001	Upper Nitra riverside – flood and drought Prevention	3,199,824
24.	SK02 <i>Adaptation to Climate Change – Floods and Drought Prevention</i>	ACC01003	Zemplín – flood and drought prevention	2,270,513
25.	SK05 <i>Conservation and Revitalisation of Cultural and Natural Heritage &amp; Promotion</i>	CLT01005	Protecting of cultural heritage for future	512,539

Appendix 11 List of monitored projects at the programme operator level in 2015

	<i>of Diversity in Culture and Arts within European Cultural Heritage programme</i>		generations	
26.	<i>SK05 Conservation and Revitalisation of Cultural and Natural Heritage &amp; Promotion of Diversity in Culture and Arts within European Cultural Heritage programme</i>	CLT01009	Partial renovation of the Benedictine monastery in Hronský Beňadik in order to open it for public & completion of the tourist infrastructure	508,690
27.	<i>SK05 Conservation and Revitalisation of Cultural and Natural Heritage &amp; Promotion of Diversity in Culture and Arts within European Cultural Heritage programme</i>	CLT01004	Rehabilitation of wooden temples, improvement of infrastructure pertaining to the Icon Cycloroute	280,479
28.	<i>SK05 Conservation and Revitalisation of Cultural and Natural Heritage &amp; Promotion of Diversity in Culture and Arts within European Cultural Heritage programme</i>	CLT01003	The Matthew Tower – St. Elisabeth Cathedral	266,228
29.	<i>SK07 Green Industry Innovation</i>	GII01001	SINBIO (Sustainable Innovation in Bioenergy)	441,764
30.	<i>SK07 Green Industry Innovation</i>	GII01004	Biomass logistic centre	4,940,994
31.	<i>SK07 Green Industry Innovation</i>	GII01006	Biogas plant and green logistic centre in Tvrdošín	3,377,927
32.	<i>SK09 Domestic and Gender-Based Violence</i>	DGVPP001	Methodological Centre for Domestic and Gender-based Violence	1,289,795

**Abbreviations and programme numbers**

CA	Certifying Authority
DPP	Donor programme partner
EU	European Union
FM	Financial mechanism
ESF	European Social Fund
ESIF	European Structural and Investment Funds
EEA	European Economic Area
FM EEA	Financial mechanism of the European Economic Area
MC	Monitoring Committee
MV SR	Ministry of Interior of the Slovak Republic
NGO	Non-governmental organisation
MRK 2	Inclusive Model for Pre-primary Education
NFM	Norwegian Financial Mechanism
NK	Norwegian Kingdom
NCP	National contact point
AA	Audit authority
OP	Operational programme
DFI	Direct foreign investments
SK01	Technical Assistance to the Beneficiary State & Fund for Bilateral Relations at the National Level Programme
SK02	Adaptation to Climate Change -- Floods and Drought Prevention
SK03	The NGO Fund
SK04	Local and Regional Initiatives to Reduce National Inequalities and to Promote the Social Inclusion Programme
SK05	Conservation and Revitalisation of Cultural and Natural Heritage & Promotion of Diversity in Culture and Arts within European Cultural Heritage programme
SK06	SK06 EEA Scholarship Fund Slovakia
SK07	Green Industry Innovation
SK08	Cross-Border Cooperation
SK09	Domestic and gender-based violence
SK10	The NGO Fund
FMO	Financial Mechanism Office
UVSRK	The Office of the Plenipotentiary of the SR
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
TRCM	Technical Reports on Cultural Monuments
MMR	Municipal monument reserves
THMR	Technical heritage monument reserves
FAMR	Folklore architecture monument reserves
NCM	National cultural monument
RER	Renewable energy resources
PSGR	Prešov self-governing region
KSGR	Košice self-governing region

WSH	Women's Safe House
MSCE	Minimum standards of the Council of Europe
MZVaEZ	Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs (of the SR)