

The Summary of the Minutes

6th Annual Meeting of the EEA and Norway Grants 2009-2014

Date:

28th November 2016

Venue:

Government Office of the Slovak Republic, Námestie Slobody 1, Bratislava

Agenda:

11:00 – 11:15	Opening remarks
11:15 – 11:45	Status of implementation EEA FM and NFM
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Overall status of the EEA FM and overall status of the NFM • Programmes (including presentation, discussion and approval of Strategic Report 2015 on the EEA Financial Mechanism and the Norwegian Financial Mechanism and the updated Strategic Report)
11:45 – 11:55	Financial progress achieved in 2016 (presented by the Ministry of Finance - Certifying Authority)
11:55 – 12:05	Status of the implementation of the bilateral funds
12:05 – 12:15	Closing Remarks

General

The 6th Annual Meeting was aimed at examining the progress achieved over the year 2016, discussing the Strategic Report 2015, the updated Strategic Report 2015 and further steps to be taken in the upcoming period of the implementation of the EEA and Norway Grants in Slovakia.

Summary

Opening

A short welcoming and opening speech was made by the representative of the Focal Point. In the introduction, representative of Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs appreciated that the programmes are being implemented and it is expected that all programmes will be fully finalized till 30 April 2017.

Status of implementation of the EEA FM and NFM

The status of implementation of all programmes was shortly presented by the NFP. All projects have already been contracted. There will not be any further calls or new projects. All projects (approx. 60) under the SGSs within programme SK02 (Adaptation to Climate Change – Flood and Drought Prevention) were completed by 30 April 2016 and another 20 SGSs projects under the program SK04 (Local and Regional Initiatives to Reduce National Inequalities and to Promote Social Inclusion) were completed as well by 30 April 2016. The PO is currently processing the final project reports. Most of these reports have already been approved by the PO. The whole programme SK04 (Local and Regional Initiatives to Reduce National Inequalities and to Promote Social Inclusion) will be completed very soon.

Altogether, 182 projects were contracted under the six programmes operated by the Government Office of the Slovak Republic as the Programme Operator. Out of 182 projects 9 have been terminated. These projects did not start at all. Out of 182 projects already 86 were completed.

Under the programmes SK02 (Adaptation to Climate Change – Flood and Drought Prevention), SK04 (Local and Regional Initiatives to Reduce National Inequalities and to Promote Social Inclusion), SK05 (Conservation and Revitalisation of Cultural and Natural Heritage & Promotion of Diversity in Culture and Arts within European Cultural Heritage) and SK07 (Green Industry Innovation) the percentages of contracting are almost 90% for every mentioned programme.

Within SK08 (Cross-border Cooperation) and SK09 (Domestic and Gender-based Violence), the Programme Operator followed procedures according to article 6.9 of the Regulation which allows contracting additional funds to already contracted projects. Overall, 85.3 % has been contracted; this figure might rise after additional funds will be allocated to the existing projects.

The majority of projects will be done in 2017 so the Programme Operator will have the final figure rather late in 2017 as there is a significant delay in the implementation from the beginning. The delay at the beginning of implementation is crucial problem in the implementation and react if any project is in trouble is therefore limited.

Financial progress achieved in 2016

Representative of Certifying Authority (Ministry of Finance of the SR) informed that the percentage of disbursement of financial sources from the CA to the PO is almost 80 % and the percentage of approved and submitted expenses is almost 56 %. Generally, the situation is better than it was in November 2015 (the disbursement increased by 13% and the percentage of submitted expenses increased above 27 %). Year 2016 is the best in drawdown in all programmes.

Status of the implementation of the bilateral funds

Bilateral Fund at the National level:

The participants were informed about the last announcement, which was published in August 2016. On 30th November 2016, the allocations of all components will be joint into one allocation (as of 28th November, the expected of this joint allocation will be 73 222 EUR). From savings, the NFP will reallocate 16,000 EUR on 30th of November 2016. All predefined activities for the calendar year 2016, several of which are related to the Slovakian EU-Presidency, are running smoothly.

Bilateral Fund at the Program Level:

The highest interest is under Programme SK05 (Conservation and Revitalisation of Cultural and Natural Heritage & Promotion of Diversity in Culture and Arts within European Cultural Heritage) and the lowest interest is under Programme SK08 (Cross-bored Cooperation). Already 50 % of the total allocation of all bilateral funds at the program level was disbursed.

Conclusions

- The Donors approved the Strategic Report for 2015 and its update.
- The results of the controls done in period 09-12/2016 under SK08 - Cross Border Program will be sent to the FMO