



# 2016 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 EEA FM and the NFM  
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## 1 SUMMARY

2016 can be described as the most intense year in terms of implementing the EEA FM and NFM 2009 – 2014 programming period. The implementation period for almost all implemented programmes (except for SK04 “Local and Regional Initiatives to Reduce National Inequalities and to Promote Social Inclusion”) were prolonged until 30 April 2017, which provided all beneficiaries with the opportunity to implement all contracted projects that were late due to complications related to public procurement, or those which were assigned additional financial means.

Within the SK04 “Local and Regional Initiatives to Reduce National Inequalities and to Promote Social Inclusion” programme, whose implementation has been prolonged by 30 April 2017, substantive and financial completion was reached in almost all projects; the expected project outcome represented by the fact that “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” was achieved.

This Strategic Report covers the progress in the implementation of both the financial mechanisms in Slovakia in 2016. 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 impact of the financial mechanisms and the volume of financial means provided in 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. Based on the available data, it is assumed that most expected outcomes will be successfully achieved. The only exception is represented by the SK09 “Domestic and Gender-based Violence” programme due to the fact that the number of contracted projects is lower than expected; therefore, it is not objectively possible to accomplish all outcomes. However, not all of them will be possible to accomplish due to overestimating certain indicators.

The fourth chapter covers the most important information on audits, irregularities, monitoring and changes to the framework documents which took place at the national level in 2016. The fifth and final chapter includes a brief overview of summaries and future recommendations, mainly for the following programming period as well as a separate part dealing with public procurement. The Report also includes all obligatory appendices.

In the reporting period, the calls focusing on strengthening bilateral relationships remained open. In summer of 2016, the Bilateral Fund on the national level was opened with an allocation of €105,000 and activities were performed also under Measure B of the Bilateral Fund on the programme level. The most important of them were the study trip of representatives of SK09 “Domestic and Gender-based Violence” to Norway and the study trip of the donor partners within the SK07 “Green Industry Innovation” to Slovakia.

A significant event in terms of bilateral relationships was the Slovak Presidency in the EU Council in the second half of 2016. Within the Slovak Presidency, several events partly funded by the EEA and Norway Grants as well as the Bilateral Fund on the national level were held in Slovakia as the pre-defined bilateral activity with a budget of €100,000.

Also important, Slovakia was the second beneficiary country who signed the Memorandums of Understanding regarding the implementation of the next (third) period of financial mechanisms in Slovakia in November 2016. Thus, the foundation for the implementation of the next programming period for 2014 – 2021 was laid.

As can be seen, 2016 was one of the most important years in terms of implementing financial mechanisms for 2009 – 2014, as the highest absorption of funds occurred and many projects were completed physically, and in some cases also administratively. However, the overall evaluation of implementation will only be possible after 30 April 2017 or after all administrative matters and programmes are completed.

## 2 IMPACT ASSESSMENT

### 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 EEA. 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 EEA average values. 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, qualitative changes which took place in 2016 in some of the parameters will be described.

The Report aims at analysing society-wide changes and trends in the programme areas, therefore the Report defines the indicators monitored in the course of the whole programming period. The NFP provides only indicators relevant for individual programmes. Indicators which cannot be statistically verified are not being observed either. 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 the allocation and impacts of EEA Grants. 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:

Table 1:

	Priority sector	Relevant programmes	Indicators
EHP	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 Reduce National Inequalities and 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

Climate changes as one of the most significant future challenges also resonated in 2016.

In September 2016, almost a year after the 22<sup>nd</sup> Conference of the Parties (COP 21) to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change took place, the representatives of towns and cities, local self-governments, academic institutions, private sector and civil society met at the world conference and summit titled “Climate chance – Climate Actors World Summit” in Nantes, France. A declaration on strengthening specific measures for narrowing the differences between the current commitments and

the objectives of the Paris Agreement of 2015 was accepted at the event. The 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 the compliance with the obligations of the individual countries pertaining to greenhouse gas emissions. The Nantes summit aimed to compare the current state with the commitments provided in the Paris Agreement and feedback on the possibilities and data collection performed by local and regional self-governments.

According to the Nantes Declaration, a common approach involving all participants in the area of climate and development is necessary. The need for suitable financial support mainly in developing countries was emphasized as well as the importance of readiness in helping to evaluate the commitments presented by the individual signatory countries to the Paris Agreement in 2018.

The Paris Agreement entered into force in November 2016 on the international level when more than 55 countries finally met the requirements; these countries produce 55% global greenhouse gas emissions.

In November 2016 the 22<sup>nd</sup> Conference of the Parties (COP 21) to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change was held in Marrakech. The most important outcome of the Convention included strengthening activities related to fulfilling the obligations set out in the Paris Agreement. Again, the Convention proved that it is necessary for the governmental institutions to cooperate with other parties in order to adapt to the climate changes and decrease CO<sub>2</sub> emissions. In Marrakech, the State Secretary of the Ministry of Environment of the SR Norbert Kurilla expressed the wish to enter the dialogue with Slovak cities in order to fulfil the national obligations.

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 – Flood and Drought Prevention* programme and the *Environment* programme, as the adaptation to climate changes belongs directly under Investment Priority 1 of Priority Axis, the facilitation of investments related to adaptation to climate changes. In autumn 2016 the conditions regarding calls related to flood protection were formulated in cooperation with the expert work group. Their announcement is expected in spring 2017.

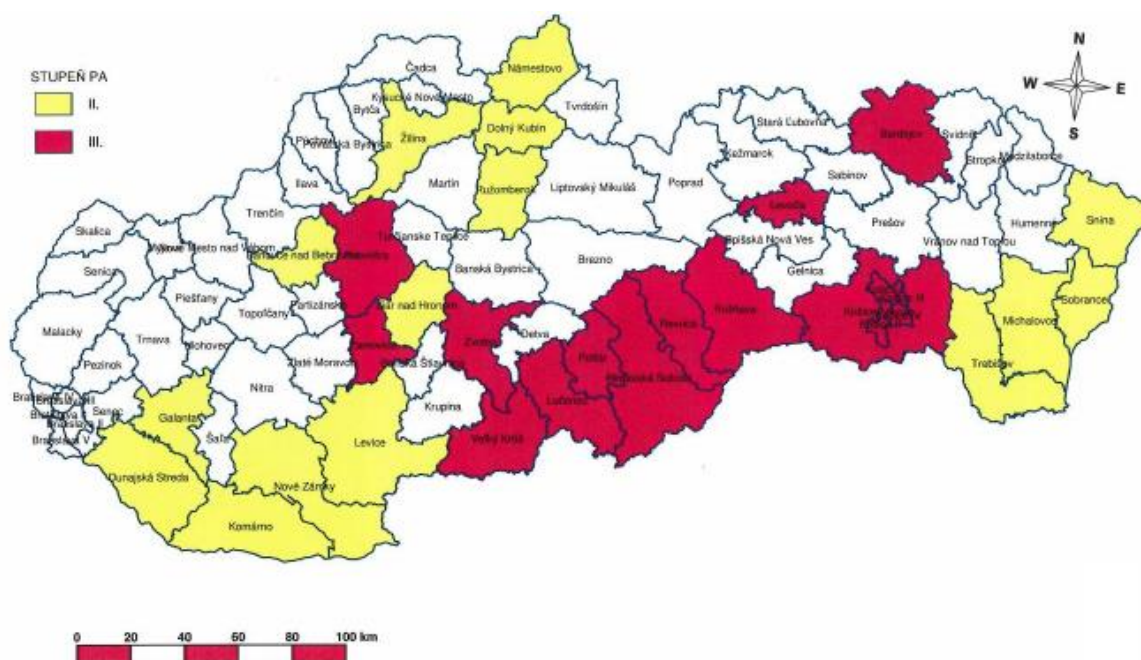
## **Statistics**

The 2016 data were only available for the period from January 2016 to June 2016 at the time of preparing this Report. The main causes of flood situations in the period between January and June 2016 included massive atmospheric precipitation and high air temperatures during the flood situation that occurred in February. The flood situation had the biggest impact on the catchments of the Slaná and Ipeľ Rivers; it was extraordinary since it occurred in winter (February) but the precipitation only took liquid form. There was almost no snow in the vicinity of the Slaná and Ipeľ Rivers catchments. From the hydrological point of view, the most significant culminations occurred on 10 and 11 February 2016 in the Slaná River catchment in its tributaries – the Turiec and Muráň Rivers. In the upper section of the Danube River massive precipitation as well as a significant rise of temperature occurred in February 2016. Consequently, the flux levels of the Danube and Váh Rivers rose significantly.

Due to massive precipitation, agricultural lands in lower areas were locally flooded. Further important factors which influenced the flood situation included subnormal values pertaining to the amount of sunshine, minimum evaporation, a season without vegetation, and high saturation of the catchments. Despite the fact that the main cause of flood situations were massive precipitations, their transformation into run-off was also influenced by different climatic factors, mainly the temporal and spatial distribution of precipitation; in winter also the form of precipitation, amount of snow, and ground freezing. Further causes included intense local torrential rains, which caused massive surface

run-off. Consequently, the flood was not caused by water rising above the riverbank – it ran off the slopes above the residential areas of the affected municipalities.

Picture 1 The map of flood activity degrees according to counties (Source: Slovak Water-Management Enterprise, state-owned enterprise; Report on the Course and Consequences of Floods, p. 11)



Degrees of flood activity: yellow = II; red = III

The course of floods was often negatively influenced by the methods of land-use and crop selection inappropriate for areas where surface run-off occurs as well as illegal dumps in the vicinity of watercourses and even on their riverbanks that caused blockages of water-discharge profiles.

## 2.1.2 NGO Fund

The Plenipotentiary for the Development of the Civil Society, Martin Giertl submitted the Action Plan regarding the Concept of Civil Society Development in Slovakia for 2016 – 2018 in May 2016 for the interdepartmental for comments. By the end of the reporting period, i.e. 31 December 2016, the material has not been submitted to the Government (it was submitted and approved at the meeting of the Government on 1 March 2016 under the name Action Plan on the Concept of Civil Society Development in Slovakia for 2017 – 2018. The main objective of the Action Plan 2017 – 2018 is to enhance the development of civil society in Slovakia, open governance principles and improve the good governance of the society as well as sustainable development. The fundamental priorities of the submitted Action Plan include:

- development of participative democracy and cooperation between the public administration and the civil society,
- education towards volunteering,
- defending public interests,
- research into the social and economic benefits provided by the non-profit sector and the development of trends in civil society in Slovakia,
- defining of generally advantageous activities,



- support of non-governmental non-profit organisations (hereinafter referred to as NGNPO),
- simplification of the administrative requirements for NGNPO in the process of allocation of public resources, support of individual donorship and multi-source financing of NGNPO,
- medialisation of important topics and initiatives of civil society.<sup>1</sup>

According to the USAID Report for 2015<sup>2</sup> (at the moment of preparing this report data for 2016 were not yet available), the overall sustainability index of civil society remained at 2.9 – identical to the previous year. The Report explains the stagnation in sustainability as a result of the conflict in Ukraine, migration crisis, and also the Referendum aiming to ban same sex couples from marriage and adoption, and prohibit sexual education in schools. These topics polarised society, which contributed to the radicalisation of both media and society.

According to the Report, the number of civil society organisations rose from 42,750 in 2014 to 45,172 in 2015 (40,920 of these are civic associations).

Chart 1: Civil Society Organisation Sustainability Index in Slovakia 2000 – 2015

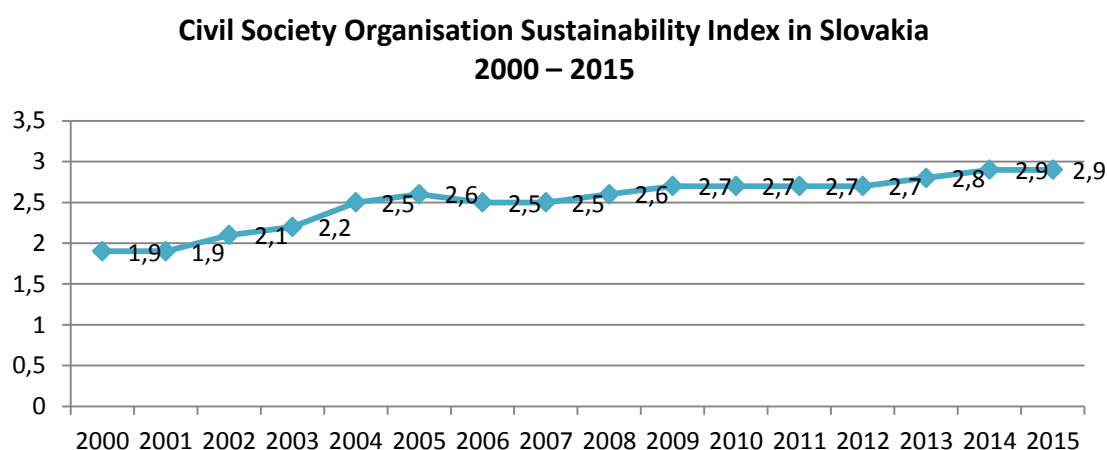
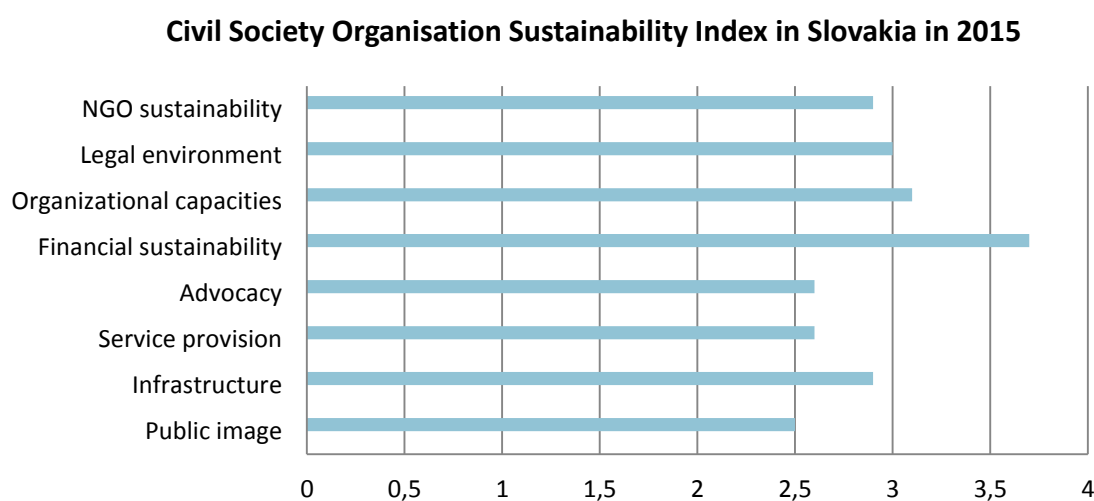


Chart 2: Civil Society Organisation Sustainability Index in Slovakia in 2015



<sup>1</sup> Source: [://www.minv.sk/?ros\\_vsetky-spravy&sprava=schvaleny-akcny-plan-koncepcie-rozvoja-obcianskej-spolocnosti-na-slovensku-na-roky-2017-2018](http://www.minv.sk/?ros_vsetky-spravy&sprava=schvaleny-akcny-plan-koncepcie-rozvoja-obcianskej-spolocnosti-na-slovensku-na-roky-2017-2018)

<sup>2</sup> Source: [https://www.usaid.gov/sites/default/files/documents/1861/Europe\\_Eurasia\\_CSOSIReport\\_2015\\_Update8-29-16.pdf](https://www.usaid.gov/sites/default/files/documents/1861/Europe_Eurasia_CSOSIReport_2015_Update8-29-16.pdf)

All partial indicators except for organisational capacities remained the same as in 2014. Employees of several NGOs were transformed into volunteers during this period; larger organisations seem to deal with this decrease in organisational capacities more successfully thanks to better strategic planning. Due to organisational reasons tasks are accumulated, thus increasing the workload.

### **2.1.3 Local and Regional Initiatives to Reduce National Inequalities and to Promote Social Inclusion**

Due to insufficient coverage, the SK04 “Local and Regional Initiatives to Reduce National Inequalities and to Promote the Social Inclusion” Programme is unable to bring major outcomes in the area of removing economic and social disparities, thus strengthening the economic and social cohesion at the national and regional levels. The programme can contribute to reaching the goals only in a small geographically limited area. However, its sustainability potential is high, as it can be extended to further locations which would be interested in an educational approach.

From the general point of view, the SR took a significant step forward in the area of social inclusion and removing regional disparities in terms of implementing systemic measures and adapting programmes and projects from European structural and investment funds for 2014 – 2020.

Due to relatively low employment and high unemployment, certain groups of citizens such as workers with low labour skill qualification, young workers, marginalised Roma, and mothers with small children, remained very vulnerable. Unemployment was high mainly in the central and Eastern parts of the country. In 2016 the long-term unemployment rate (> 12 months) was one of the highest in the EU (9.3% in comparison to 5.1% in the EU28).

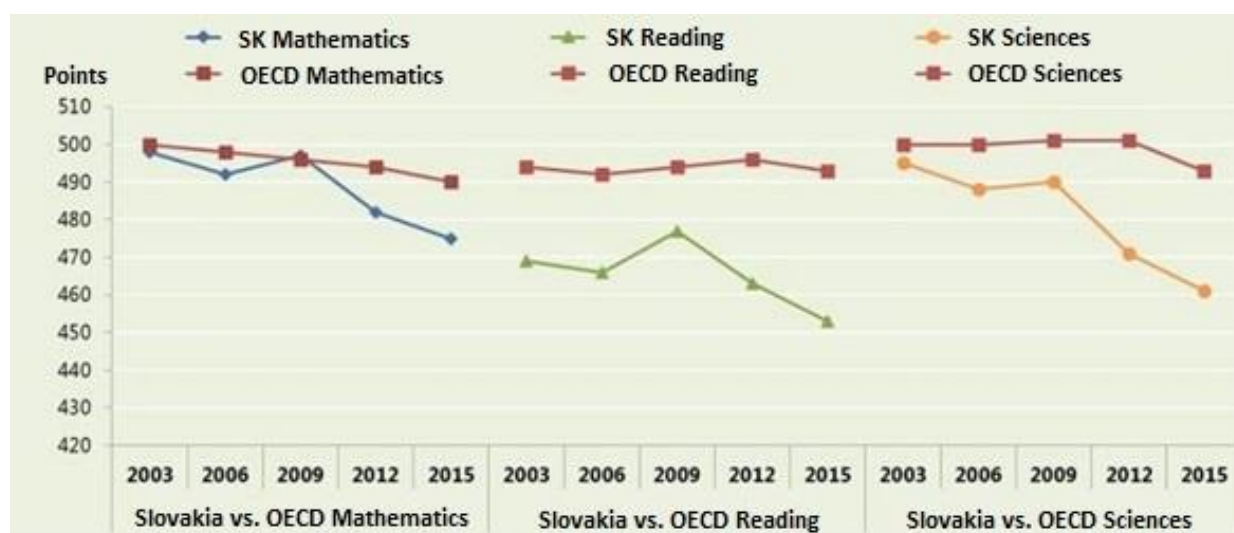
One of the measures to improve the situation was the introduction of Act No. 336/2015 on support of the least developed counties, which began to be fully implemented in practice in 2016. The Act presupposes that local initiatives are supported along with incentives for common procedures taken by municipalities within a county, which should be combined with measures at the level of the higher territorial unit and the central level. In terms of support, conditions for counties eligible for a special advantageous regimen and support tools have been specified. An eligible county is defined as follows: its unemployment rate calculated based on the available number of job seekers registered with the Central Office of Labour, Social Affairs, and Family was higher than 1.6 times the average unemployment rate during the previous nine calendar quarters out of twelve consecutive calendar quarters. Special support for the least developed counties is also provided based on action plans approved by the Government of the SR. Each action plan pertaining to one of the least developed counties is specific due to the fact that the reasons for the economic lagging of the given county are diverse and each of them needs a specific solution. The first Action Plan to be approved (10 February 2016) was that of Kežmarok. It became a binding 5-year development plan and will serve as a basis for intense cooperation between the Government, higher-territorial unit, county, towns and cities. Its objective is to decrease unemployment and support the creation of approx. 2,000 jobs by 2020. The plan presupposes a total budget of at least €52 mil. ; €8 mil. will come from private sources, €44 mil. will come from public sources. By the end of 2016 the Government approved action plans for all the least developed counties – Lučenec, Poltár, Revúca, Rimavská Sobota, Veľký Krtíš, Sabinov, Svidník, Vranov nad Topľou, Rožňava, Sobrance and Trebišov.

In the area of structural funds, the Office of the Plenipotentiary of the Government of the SR for Roma Communities (hereinafter referred to as UVSRK), together with the Ministry of Interior of the SR began implementation of the infrastructural and “soft” projects with the aim of increasing the inclusion of marginalised Roma communities. “Hard” projects include the building and renovation of community centres (€15 mil.) and pre-school facilities (€50 mil.). Consequently in 2016 the preparation of calls for “soft” national projects, i. e. field social work (€30 mil.) and community work (€27 mil.), which are to be

implemented in 150 towns and cities with the highest segregation index or based on their development level started.

Besides the positive development programmes, in 2016 the PISA testing results were announced; this testing takes place every three years in OECD countries. These results were even worse than three years ago and the SR ranked below the OECD average. Approximately 540,000 students from 72 countries all around the world participated in PISA testing. 6,350 Slovak students participated in testing representing 292 Slovak schools including vocational and grammar schools.

Chart 2: Institute for Educational Policy



Natural sciences constituted the main area of testing. Slovak students scored an average of 461 points while the OECD average was 493 points. The score is 8 points lower than three years ago. The OECD average worsened by 10 points.

According to the latest PISA testing, the average mathematical literacy score in the OECD was 490 while Slovak students scored 475. In comparison to the previous testing, Slovak students scored six points less, which is considered a comparable result.

Slovak students scored 453 points in the reading literacy testing. The score is worse than the OECD average, which is 493 points.

The results of Slovak students are influenced by their social and economic background. According to the experts from the National Institute for Certified Educational Measurements, the SR still belongs among countries with a relatively high influence of the social and economic background on the school performance of students. It is alarming that in 2015/2016 the disparity between the results of different social and economic groups decreased. The results of disadvantaged students did not improve, on the contrary – the results of other students worsened and converged with those of the disadvantaged ones.

Picture 3 Literacy in natural sciences, mathematics and reading; Source: OECD, PISA 2015 Database

## Snapshot of performance in science, reading and mathematics

Countries/economies with a mean performance/share of top performers <b>above</b> the OECD average Countries/economies with a share of low achievers <b>below</b> the OECD average								
Countries/economies with a mean performance/share of top performers <b>not significantly different</b> from the OECD average								
Countries/economies with a mean performance/share of top performers <b>below</b> the OECD average Countries/economies with a share of low achievers <b>above</b> the OECD average								
	Science		Reading		Mathematics		Science, reading and mathematics	
	Mean score in PISA 2015	Average three-year trend	Mean score in PISA 2015	Average three-year trend	Mean score in PISA 2015	Average three-year trend	Share of top performers in at least one subject (Level 5 or 6)	Share of low achievers in all three subjects (below Level 2)
	Mean	Score dif.	Mean	Score dif.	Mean	Score dif.	%	%
OECD average	493	-1	493	-1	490	-1	15.3	13.0
Singapore	556	7	535	5	564	1	39.1	4.8
Japan	538	3	516	-2	532	1	25.8	5.6
Estonia	534	2	519	9	520	2	20.4	4.7
Chinese Taipei	532	0	497	1	542	0	29.9	8.3
Finland	531	-11	526	-5	511	-10	21.4	6.3
Macao (China)	529	6	509	11	544	5	23.9	3.5
Canada	528	-2	527	1	516	-4	22.7	5.9
Viet Nam	525	-4	487	-21	495	-17	12.0	4.5
Hong Kong (China)	523	-5	527	-3	548	1	29.3	4.5
B-S-J-G (China)	518	m	494	m	531	m	27.7	10.9
Korea	516	-2	517	-11	524	-3	25.6	7.7
New Zealand	513	-7	509	-6	495	-8	20.5	10.6
Slovenia	513	-2	505	11	510	2	18.1	8.2
Australia	510	-6	503	-6	494	-8	18.4	11.1
United Kingdom	509	-1	498	2	492	-1	16.9	10.1
Germany	509	-2	509	6	506	2	19.2	9.8
Netherlands	509	-5	503	-3	512	-6	20.0	10.9
Switzerland	506	-2	492	-4	521	-1	22.2	10.1
Ireland	503	0	521	13	504	0	15.5	6.8
Belgium	502	-3	499	-4	507	-5	19.7	12.7
Denmark	502	2	500	3	511	-2	14.9	7.5
Poland	501	3	506	3	504	5	15.8	8.3
Portugal	501	8	498	4	492	7	15.6	10.7
Norway	498	3	513	5	502	1	17.6	8.9
United States	496	2	497	-1	470	-2	13.3	13.6
Austria	495	-5	485	-5	497	-2	16.2	13.5
France	495	0	499	2	493	-4	18.4	14.8
Sweden	493	-4	500	1	494	-5	16.7	11.4
Czech Republic	493	-5	487	5	492	-6	14.0	13.7
Spain	493	2	496	7	486	1	10.9	10.3
Latvia	490	1	488	2	482	0	8.3	10.5
Russia	487	3	495	17	494	6	13.0	7.7
Luxembourg	483	0	481	5	486	-2	14.1	17.0
Italy	481	2	485	0	490	7	13.5	12.2
Hungary	477	-9	470	-12	477	-4	10.3	18.5
Lithuania	475	-3	472	2	478	-2	9.5	15.3
Croatia	475	-5	487	5	464	0	9.3	14.5
CABA (Argentina)	475	51	475	46	456	38	7.5	14.5
Iceland	473	-7	482	-9	488	-7	13.2	13.2
Israel	467	5	479	2	470	10	13.9	20.2
Malta	465	2	447	3	479	9	15.3	21.9
Slovak Republic	461	-10	453	-12	475	-6	9.7	20.1
Greece	455	-6	467	-8	454	1	6.8	20.7
Chile	447	2	459	5	423	4	3.3	23.3
Bulgaria	446	4	432	1	441	9	6.9	29.6
United Arab Emirates	437	-12	434	-8	427	-7	5.8	31.3
Uruguay	435	1	437	5	418	-3	3.6	30.8
Romania	435	6	434	4	444	10	4.3	24.3
Cyprus <sup>1</sup>	433	-5	443	-6	437	-3	5.6	26.1
Moldova	428	9	416	17	420	13	2.8	30.1
Albania	427	18	405	10	413	18	2.0	31.1
Turkey	425	2	428	-18	420	2	1.6	31.2
Trinidad and Tobago	425	7	427	5	417	2	4.2	32.9
Thailand	421	2	409	-6	415	1	1.7	35.8
Costa Rica	420	-7	427	-9	400	-6	0.9	33.0
Qatar	418	21	402	15	402	26	3.4	42.0
Colombia	416	8	425	6	390	5	1.2	38.2
Mexico	416	2	423	-1	408	5	0.6	33.8
Montenegro	411	1	427	10	418	6	2.5	33.0
Georgia	411	23	401	16	404	15	2.6	36.3
Jordan	409	-5	408	2	380	-1	0.6	35.7
Indonesia	403	3	397	-2	386	4	0.8	42.3
Brazil	401	3	407	-2	377	6	2.2	44.1
Peru	397	14	398	14	387	10	0.6	46.7
Lebanon	386	m	347	m	396	m	2.5	50.7
Tunisia	386	0	361	-21	367	4	0.6	57.3
FYROM	384	m	352	m	371	m	1.0	52.2
Kosovo	378	m	347	m	362	m	0.0	60.4
Algeria	376	m	350	m	360	m	0.1	61.1
Dominican Republic	332	m	358	m	328	m	0.1	70.7

1. Note by Turkey: The information in this document with reference to "Cyprus" relates to the southern part of the Island. There is no single authority representing both Turkish and Greek Cypriot people on the Island. Turkey recognises the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus (TRNC). Until a lasting and equitable solution is found within the context of the United Nations, Turkey shall preserve its position concerning the "Cyprus issue".

Note by all the European Union Member States of the OECD and the European Union: The Republic of Cyprus is recognised by all members of the United Nations with the exception of Turkey. The information in this document relates to the area under the effective control of the Government of the Republic of Cyprus.

Notes: Values that are statistically significant are marked in bold.

The average trend is reported for the longest available period since PISA 2006 for science, PISA 2009 for reading, and PISA 2003 for mathematics.

Countries and economies are ranked in descending order of the mean science score in PISA 2015.

Source: OECD, PISA 2015 Database, Tables I.2.4a, I.2.6, I.2.7, I.4.4a and I.5.4a.



#### 2.1.4 Conservation and revitalisation of cultural heritage

The number of immovable national cultural monuments listed in the Central Register of Monuments and Historic Sites rose from 9,893 in 2015 to 9,918 in 2016. In the course of 2016, 31 new national cultural monuments were listed and 3 removed from the list.

The most frequent reason for listing new monuments was extending the list of protected buildings by new categories (e. g. industrial heritage) and more recent periods (1950s) as well as more detailed territorial topography. The most frequent reason to remove the monuments from list was the physical extinction of the monument and complete and irreparable extinction of their monument value.

The number of removed monuments (3) in 2016 was not high; however, if this trend was to continue over 10 years it would amount to a significant part of our heritage (since 1951, 2,766 monuments have been removed from the list). The evaluation of the structural and technical condition of the monuments in 2016 showed no significant deviations in comparison to previous periods. There were moderate changes in each category, the overall condition worsening moderately, and the number of renovated monuments decreasing. This was caused by the insufficient national funding of monument renovation through the “Obnovme svoj dom” (“Let’s Renovate Our House”) programme, which was commented on in multiple strategic materials (e. g. Concept for Cultural Heritage Protection). There is no funding for monument renovation through structural funds, specifically the Regional operational programme in the current period either. This insufficiency is obvious and the condition of monuments is declining. The SK05 “Conservation and Revitalisation of Cultural and Natural Heritage & Promotion of Diversity in Culture and Arts within European Cultural Heritage” programme is the only significant source of funding for monument renovation. Despite the high quality of monument renovation under this programme, the number of renovated objects is limited and given the total number of monuments of Slovakia, the programme cannot significantly influence the statistics on structural and technical condition. However, the synergic effect of the programme can be observed in specifically supported categories such as Jewish cultural heritage – several synagogues have been renovated and repurposed for cultural activities.

Another category positively affected by this synergy are castle ruins. As for the geographical distribution of monuments renovated under SK05 “Conservation and Revitalisation of Cultural and Natural Heritage & Promotion of Diversity in Culture and Arts within European Cultural Heritage” they are concentrated into specific locations (Žilina, Košice, Bratislava), where the public intensely uses the monuments for cultural activities. On one hand, it is harder for remote and economically less developed regions to provide funding for the renovation of cultural heritage; on the other hand, they are unable to use them in a way that would facilitate their sustainability. The Pro Monumenta project has not affected the structural and technical conditions of immovable monuments in a significant way either; approx. 80 interventions certainly have improved conditions; however, the diagnosed damage requires a specific financial scheme in order for the owners to implement necessary measures. The statistical data pertaining to the project do not apply to the whole Monuments Fund as they only relate to selected monuments. Interestingly, diagnostic reports pertaining to Pro Monumenta indicate damage in approx. 62% of monitored monuments. The reason may be that a detailed examination reveals hidden insufficiencies that are not visible at first sight. The positive effect of the Pro Monumenta project is obvious in the expert diagnostics, based on which investments are allocated for parts of the structures which are in the most critical condition, which increases the effectiveness of the renovation process. During field research, project inspectors found out that incorrect technologies (costly, yet ineffective or downright damaging) have been used in several cases (mostly regeneration, dehumidification, drainage and reinforcement of foundations).

Personal discussions with owners and practical demonstrations of interventions can also be considered a positive result of the project – these are often more effective than administrative communication with regional Monuments Boards.

Table 2: State of the Monuments Fund in the central database in 2015<sup>3</sup>

State of the Monuments Fund in the central database		
NATIONAL CULTURAL MONUMENTS	National cultural	MO/MI
<i>Movable NCM</i>	15,043	34,478
Movable NCMs registered in 2016	101	176
Cancelled NCMs in 2016	3	3
<i>Immovable NCMs</i>	9,918	16,383
Immovable NCMs registered in 2016	45	111
Immovable NCMs cancelled in 2016	16	19
STRUCTURAL AND TECHNICAL CONDITIONS OF IMMOVABLE NCMS <sup>[1]</sup>		MO
Good		4,880
Sound		6,183
Damaged		3,291
Dilapidated		921
Under reconstruction		717
Other		286
OWNERSHIP FORM OF NCMS		MO
State		1,536
Municipal self-government		4,340
Churches		4,265
Legal entities		1,191
Natural persons		4,618
Other forms of ownership (foundations, cooperatives, etc.)		309
Unsettled ownership		124
MONUMENT RESERVES		28
City monument reserves (CMR)		17
Technical heritage monument reserves (THMR)		1
Folklore architecture monument reserves (FAMR)		10
MONUMENT RESERVES		81

### 2.1.5 Green Industry Innovation

#### Usage of renewable energy resources in generating heat and electricity

In terms of renewable energy resources (RER) usage, nine EU member states exceeded 20% in 2016, thus reaching the 2020 objective. Scandinavian countries lead the way, Slovakia falling behind the EU average. In 2016, the proportion of energy generated by RER in the net final energy consumption stagnated in the EU at 17%. In comparison to 2004 (first data on RER usage), the share doubled. The RER proportion in the energy mix was continually rising from 2004. The RER proportion in the end-use energy consumption is one of the main indicators used in the Europe 2020 Strategy. The document also counts on the total RER proportion of 20%; however, individual member states have their own objectives and the 20% objective applies to Europe as a whole. Slovakia undertook to achieve the 14% RER proportion by 2020; the most ambitious countries are Norway and Iceland, which are planning to achieve 67.5% and 64% respectively. As for the EU member states, the most ambitious plan is that of Sweden: 49%. As for positives in the medium-term run, Europe plans to support RER usage also after 2020. The member states made a preliminary agreement that Europe as a whole will achieve 27% green energy proportion in the final energy consumption by 2030.

The RER usage policy continues to depend on the global situation in the energy commodities market. Currently, the price of gas as the most important and trendsetting energy commodity is at the historical minimum or slightly rising again. Despite the fact that the European Energy Exchange (EEX) index is

<sup>3</sup> Source: Monuments Board of the Slovak Republic

<sup>[1]</sup> At the moment of preparing this Report these data were being processed by the Monuments Board of the Slovak Republic

perceived as the most important indicator in the European energy stock market, the oldest relevant data accessible pertain to 2012. In July 2012 gas prices reached 29.00/EURxMWh<sup>-1</sup>, then fell to 17.00/EURxMWh<sup>-1</sup> at the end of 2015. In 2016 it rose by 2.58%, which is considered insignificant. This development directly affects the price of energy for legal entities, which depends upon the stock market gas prices. Relatively low gas price therefore reflected also in its end-use price. However, the difference between prices in individual cases varies according to the delivery point, consumption, and also the date of signing the agreement or its supplement. From the perspective of world markets, we are currently at the same level as in the 1990s and quite probably, prices will reach the 1996 level. Gas prices are directly affected by oil prices, which have been gradually falling. BRENT oil was cheaper only in 2009.

Another important factor affecting the pricing of energy commodities is the relative peaceful gas supply to Europe. The transit through Ukraine was smooth in 2016 and the existence of reverse flow across Western Europe calmed down the markets. Low consumption in proportion to the large stock also helped decrease stock market gas prices. However, the World Bank expects gas and oil prices to increase globally to 25% in 2017, since the demand for these commodities has been gradually rising, but their extraction is slowing down following an agreement among most productive producers. The prices are also affected by last winter, which was extraordinarily cold and its duration may break the record. In the last report, we explained that the prices of energy commodities were at their historical minimums; however, the trends can easily change the other way around in future reports. Thanks to the relatively stable political and economic situation, the nature of previous winter periods as well as falling prices of gas, oil and coal, it can be stated that contracting deregulated purchasers was at the cheapest in 2016 in the last decades.

Stable or slightly rising prices for fossil fuels will increase the demand for biomass and there will also be opportunities to decrease biomass prices. Biomass is currently an important economic and ecological alternative to fossil fuels in the Slovak Republic. The rate of biomass usage 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 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 at the local level together with the synergic effect of waste and agricultural by-product 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.

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 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.

However, in comparison to Norway, the overall portion of RER in the gross final consumption of energy is very small. Many experts (although not all of them) believe that Slovakia will achieve the 14% portion of RER energy by 2020; however, the process is expected to become challenging mainly in the final years.

### **Unemployment**

The Slovak Republic is one of the countries with the highest unemployment rate in the European Union. The 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, storage and refinement of biomass as well as investments into agricultural and forestry activities related to biomass production. From this point of view, the programme is very beneficial and its continuation is essential.

### **Statistics**

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) was 9.6% in December 2016, which represents a decrease in comparison to 8.2% in 2015.

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. The activities under approved projects are aimed mostly at improving technological solutions while the social impact of these activities is merely of a supplementary nature. 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.

#### **2.1.6 Cross-border cooperation with Ukraine**

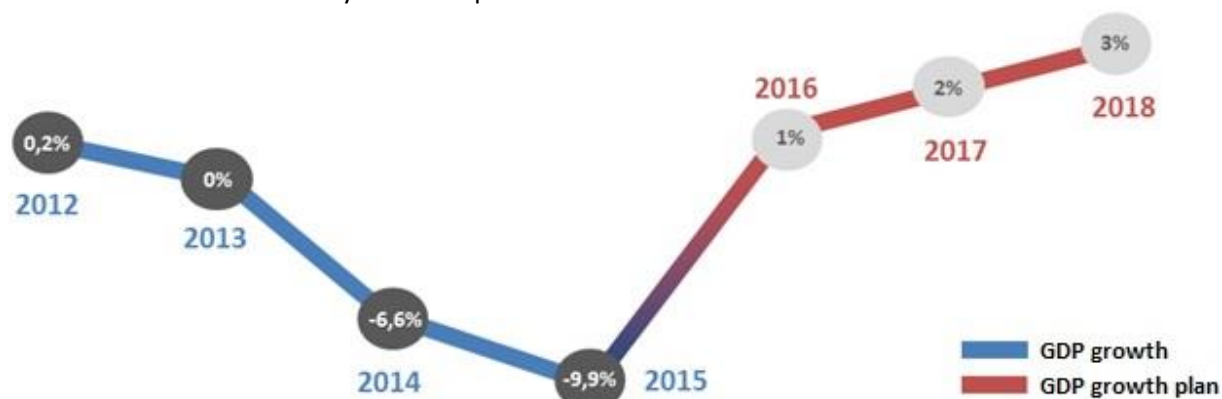
The cross-border cooperation programme between Slovakia and Ukraine aims at supporting cross-border cooperation between Eastern Slovakia and the Zakarpattya region of Ukraine in order to remove barriers for cross-border cooperation, thus contributing to decreasing the social and economic disparities in these regions. The SK08 “Cross-Border Cooperation” programme is extremely important because it is currently the only source of funding for cross-border cooperation. The new 2014 – 2020 programming period has entered the second year of implementation in 2016; however, the European Neighbourhood Instrument (ENI) has not yet begun.

From the perspective of the internal political situation, Ukraine faced military confrontation at its Eastern border with Russia in 2016. It had to urgently deal with the intrastate migration of displaced persons from the areas affected by the military conflict into other regions of Ukraine, including Zakarpattya. Thanks to the active effort of the governmental structures and aid provided by international partners and civil society activists, several significant measures to combat corruption have been taken. Ukraine clearly made a step towards European integration. Preparations for introducing a visa free regime between Ukraine and the EU began and it is safe to assume that the regime will be introduced in 2017.

The Ukrainian economy is weakened by the military conflict and inflation is reaching two-digit values. Its GDP kept falling from 2013; however, in 2016 the situation finally improved and the GDP started to slowly rise. It forecasts a gradual consolidation, since almost the entire Ukrainian economy depended mainly on Russia until 2013. The shift of orientation to the West and other countries took place relatively quickly.



Chart 3 – Ukrainian economy – as of September 2016



Source: [www.worldbank.org/Ukraine](http://www.worldbank.org/Ukraine) (own graphic representation)

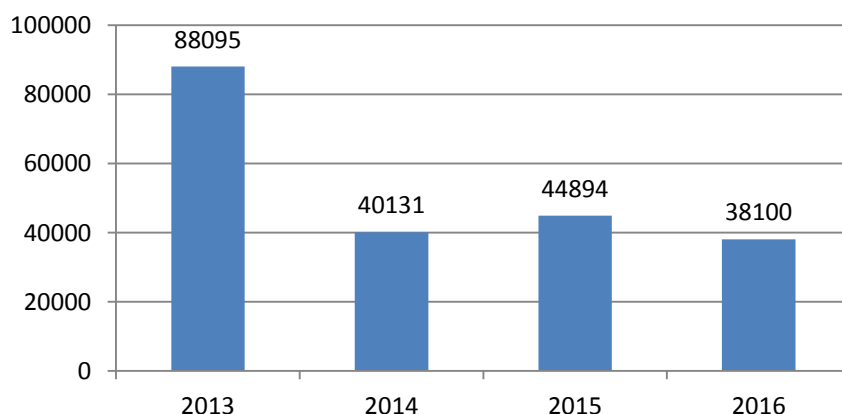
Public administration is changing across different sectors. Changes are mostly related to decreasing the influence of oligarchs on the public administration authorities based on the model implemented in the EU in compliance with European standards and the Ukraine–European Union Association Agreement. The decentralisation process distributing power to lower levels of administration and self-governance is taking place.

Despite the above mentioned facts regarding the situation in Ukraine, projects supported by the SK08 “Cross-Border Cooperation” programme are still being implemented and all of them are expected to be completed by 30 April 2017. The implementation of these projects will significantly improve the cross-border cooperation. It is highly desirable mainly in the Prešov and Košice regions, since Ukraine as our Eastern neighbour is gradually consolidating and it can become an important economic partner of Slovakia. Eastern Slovakia currently represents the outer border of the EU; after approximating of Ukraine to Europe, this region could become the heart of Europe, which would improve the living conditions of both Slovak and Ukrainian citizens.

## Statistics

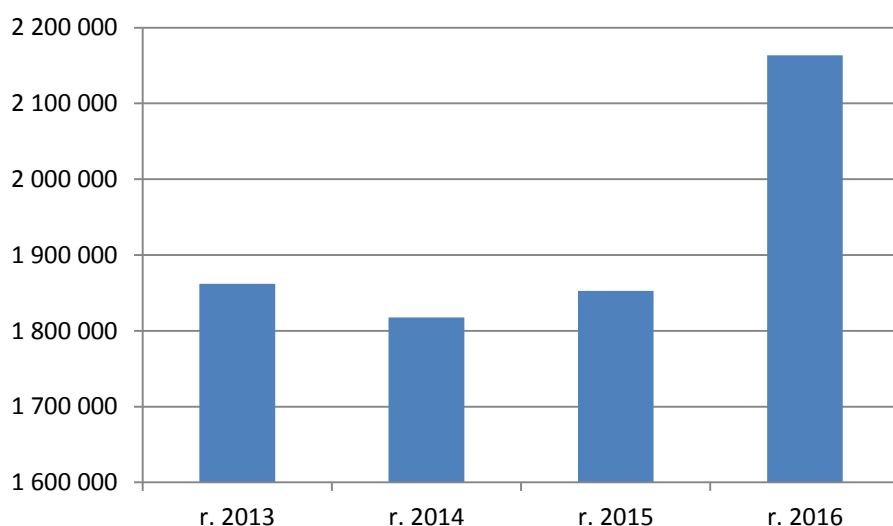
The Consulate General of the SR in Uzhhorod and the representative office of the SR in Kiev issued a total of 38,100 Schengen visas to Ukrainian citizens in 2016, which is consistent with the declining trend: the number of visas was 44,894; 40,131; and 88,095 in 2015, 2014, and 2013 respectively. However, the number of visas granted is distorted due to liberalisation and changes in the visa regime, which began to be implemented in 2013. It directly affects the falling number of persons and vehicles that crossed the Slovak-Ukrainian border.

Chart 4 a) The number of Schengen visas granted to Ukrainian citizens in 2013 – 2016



Therefore, it is safer to use the data on the number of persons who have crossed the Slovak-Ukrainian border of the Border and Alien Police. In the chart it can be seen that in 2016 the number of persons rose, which may be a result of the more intense cross-border cooperation, security situation in Ukraine, student mobility, and also increased demand for a workforce mainly in the areas of construction, healthcare and IT services in 2016.

Chart 4 b) The number of persons who have legally crossed the border.



### 2.1.7 Domestic and gender-based violence

In recent years, the Government of the SR and specifically the Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family of the Slovak Republic has paid increased attention to the prevention and elimination of violence against women and domestic violence, and the Norway Grants significantly contributed to the development by funding the key activities in this area.

In November 2013, the Government of the SR adopted the *National Action Plan for the Prevention and Elimination of Violence against Women for 2014 – 2019* (hereinafter referred to as NAP), which addresses the systemic establishment of institutional support for the victims of violence against women and domestic violence. The implementation areas of the NAP include: enhancing of the legal and strategic frameworks, aid and accessible support services, methodology and standards, education for helping professions, primary prevention, monitoring, research, and addressing violence against women in workplaces. The NAP also states 63 specific tasks along with responsible institutions, sources of funding, indicators, and deadlines. The Norway Grants represent an important source of funding in the area of support services, education, research and prevention of gender-based violence.

An important event that significantly contributes to achieving the objectives set by the NAP is also the establishment of the **Coordinating-Methodological Centre for Domestic and Gender-based Violence** (hereinafter referred to as CMC) in compliance with the Article 10 of the Istanbul Convention. The project is funded by Norway Grants and co-financed by the budget of the SR under the SK09 “Domestic and Gender-Based Violence programme”. The main objective of the Centre is to create, implement and coordinate a complex nation-wide policy in the area. In the CMC a team of experts was created in order to coordinate and supervise the implementation of the systemic prevention and intervention to support the victims and provide services in the area of violence against women and domestic violence.

Another important step was the establishment of a free helpline (0800 212 212), which provides advice to women at risk of violence. Since July 2016 the helpline has been a part of the CMC and it is funded by the SK09 “Domestic and Gender-Based Violence” programme.

Despite the fact that these services are hardly available in all regions to a satisfying extent, it is a big step towards improving help and protection for victims of domestic violence. The Norway Grants have significantly contributed to the building of infrastructure and improving the quality of services. Based on the implementation of projects supported by SK09 “Domestic and Gender-Based Violence”, the total number of family places is expected to reach 179 upon completion. An even more obvious benefit of the programme can be observed in the number of consulting centres for gender-based and domestic violence, which doubled by 2016; upon completion of the programme, their number is expected to triple in the SR. The programme is going to push the SR towards reaching the minimum standards set by the Council of Europe. Besides, safe women shelters and consulting centres have been supported mainly in regions that lacked this kind of service the most (e. g. MyMamy in Prešov and Slniečko in Nitra).

Table 3 Contribution of the SK09 Domestic and Gender-Based Violence programme and meeting the MSCE

	2013	2016	% increase	Objective	% increase
<b>Number of family places in Safe Women Shelters (SWS)</b>	95	140	47%	177	<b>88%</b>
<b>Number of consulting centres for gender-based and domestic violence</b>	11	23	109%	32	<b>190%</b>

Source: Annual report on SK09 “Domestic and Gender-based Violence”

Law enforcement authorities and the Police pay an increased attention to domestic violence, reflected in the increased number of prosecutions. The CMC began close cooperation with the Presidium of the Police Force and the result is a new methodology for police officers regarding the intervention in domestic violence as well as educational guidelines (in cooperation with the Council of Europe).

## Statistics

The following data illustrate the long-term development in the area of violence against women in the SR. From the temporal perspective, a general decline in violent crime in the SR is observable, which also includes a decline in violence against women. On the other hand, increasingly more crimes related to sexual and partner violence are being reported; based on the prevalent research, it can be interpreted as a result of the increased trust of the victims in the system, which also increases the number of reported and addressed crimes. A significantly positive development can be observed in the fall of the number of murders of women committed by their partner. The statistics indicate that the effectiveness of protecting women from partner violence has improved over the last five years.

Chart 4 Overall number of victims and number of female victims (2010 – 2016) of selected violent offences and offences against decency in relation to domestic and partner violence

Year	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
<b>Crimes resulting in death</b>							
Total	138	141	95	125	104	85	89
- female victims	42	43	30	33	28	24	26
Femicide – partner violence	11	5	4	3	6	5	6
<b>Violent crimes</b>							
Partner violence against women	<b>651</b>	<b>544</b>	<b>514</b>	<b>431</b>	<b>434</b>	<b>471</b>	<b>708</b>
<b>Crimes against human dignity</b>							
Sexual violence against women	<b>426</b>	<b>639</b>	<b>500</b>	<b>505</b>	<b>547</b>	<b>557</b>	<b>543</b>
Human trafficking	9	19	23	11	15	14	20

- female victims	4	8	13	5	10	7	8
<b>Partner violence total</b>	<b>676</b>	<b>558</b>	<b>522</b>	<b>440</b>	<b>451</b>	<b>480</b>	<b>723</b>
Domestic violence total	1,332	1,222	1,115	958	955	1,072	1,454
<b>Number of all reported crimes committed by the victim's partner</b>	<b>854</b>	<b>732</b>	<b>670</b>	<b>602</b>	<b>583</b>	<b>593</b>	<b>886</b>

Source: Presidium of the Police Force

As for the benefits of the SK09 “Domestic and Gender-Based Violence” programme for addressing gender-based and domestic violence, the programme significantly improved the sustainability and funding of services for victims, e. g. the nation-wide helpline. By establishing and supporting the CMC the coordination of the prevention and elimination of domestic and gender-based violence was improved.

### 2.1.8 Horizontal issues

EEA and Norway 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 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. The National Focal Point paid due attention to 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.

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

Suspected corruption can be anonymously reported through the free-of-charge anti-corruption line. The official website of financial mechanisms also provides a form through which suspected corruption or the misuse of these mechanisms can be reported anonymously.

In 2016 two instances of suspected corruption were reported. One of them is currently under investigation, the other was of general nature and was not confirmed in the context of EEA and Norway Grants.

## **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” and SK09 “Domestic and Gender-based Violence” programmes.

The priority of SK04 was to provide human and expert resources for quality intercultural educational programmes in the Roma language to a larger extent as well as support for primary and high schools interested in inclusive education through intercultural education. All programme activities are designed to enhance social inclusion through intercultural education, the Roma language as well as culture and cooperation between schools and families.

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. The main objectives in this programme area are enhancing capacities pertaining to services for women at risk or experiencing violence as well as other victims of domestic violence (Safe Women Shelters, consulting centres); the introduction of a systematic approach and coordination of activities that address the victims of violence in all regions of Slovakia as well as education for workers in relevant fields, and last but not least, the creation of preventive strategies in cooperation media, schools and the public.

The promotion of human rights, minorities and vulnerable groups was also supported by SK03 “Democracy and Human Rights”<sup>4</sup>, which focused on the development of cooperation between civil society, public, and private sectors through partnerships. The cross-sectional priority of the programme was to develop the capacities of NGOs and improve their reputation in the society. The SK10 “Active Citizenship and Inclusion” programme also focused on supporting NGOs in the area of participative democracy, the removal of social disparities, poverty and exclusion, support for children and youth, environment protection and social services.

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

The programme that has the biggest impact on actual development in the area is SK09 “Domestic and Gender-based Violence”, whose objective is to promote zero tolerance of violence against women. Several study trips were organised under this programme in order to gain experience in the area of addressing domestic violence, whose victims are most frequently women, but also violence against the most vulnerable and socially excluded groups, and of course, men. Implementing the know-how into the activity of Slovak institutions can greatly help combat discrimination and racism.

SK05 “Conservation and Revitalisation of Cultural and Natural Heritage & Promotion of Diversity in Culture and Arts within European Cultural Heritage” also helps to combat discrimination, racism and xenophobia. It has allocated 5% of its funding to the 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 of 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. Rosenfeld’s Palace in Žilina and Pistry Palace in Bratislava can also be mentioned in the context of Jewish history in Slovakia.

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<sup>4</sup> The SK03 “Democracy and Human Rights” and SK10 “Active Citizenship and Inclusion” programmes are not a subject of this Report.

## Gender equality

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” cover several support areas through which they can promote gender equality principles.

As for the “gender equality” horizontal priority, the SK09 “Domestic and Gender-based Violence” programme is the most beneficial one. Although the programme is not directly focused on gender equality, it significantly contributes to it as the programme operator encourages the beneficiaries to implement the principles of gender equality. The objectives of the programme was to create a coordinated, systematic and sustainable strategy for the effective support for women experiencing violence and other victims of domestic violence; improve the quality of help provided; increase the regional and financial accessibility of effective, free and gender-sensitive service for female violence victims and victims of domestic violence; and improve the education of experts in the area.

## Combating hate speech

In 2014, an online campaign was launched in order to inform, remove prejudice and myths, and promote correct information. Search for suitable tools and attract as many young people as possible, as they are apparently the group most affected. The campaign is still running and in 2016 it addressed the issue of interactive forms of hate speech.<sup>5</sup>

The NFP cooperated with the Council of Europe in order to promote tolerance and basic rights. Combating hate speech is funded by NGO Funds under EEA Grants. The SK10 “Active Citizenship and Inclusion” programme aims to support projects with a broader social impact by attenuating oral and written hate speech, extremism, racism, anti-Semitism and xenophobia.

The NFP decided not to withdraw the information on the “Combating Hate Speech on-line” campaign published online in order for them to remain traceable. Moreover, the subject matter is considered timeless. It will remain online also in 2017. The information is located in the main menu of the [www.eeagrants.sk/www.norwaygrants.skwebsites](http://www.eeagrants.sk/www.norwaygrants.skwebsites) due to its importance.

## 2.2 Bilateral relations

The bilateral aspect of the EEA and Norway 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. The donor programme partners are mainly Norwegian institutions, but the SK06 “Scholarship Fund” also includes institutions from Iceland and Lichtenstein. The donor partner of the SK09 “Domestic and Gender-based Violence” and SK04 “Local and Regional Initiatives to Reduce National Inequalities and to Promote Social Inclusion” programmes is the Council of Europe. The systematic support is achieved by using special financial tools – the Bilateral Funds for the support of bilateral relations between the Slovak Republic and the donor programme partners at the national and programme levels. The Bilateral Fund at the national level is described in detail in 3.3.

Implementation Measures A of the Bilateral Funds pertaining to the programmes were completed in 2015. Thanks to these measures, 26 bilateral activities have been carried out.

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<sup>5</sup> <http://beznenavisti.sk/o-kampani/>

In 2015, Measure B of Bilateral Funds for 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 programmes was opened. At the end of 2016, 46 applications for contributions were submitted and the amount reserved for this purpose was €421,401. Measure B has been extended by 30 June 2017.

### 2.2.1 Slovak Presidency in the EU Council in the context of bilateral relationships

A significant event in terms of bilateral relationships was the Slovak Presidency in the EU Council in the second half of 2016. It was one of the most important events in foreign affairs in the history of independent Slovakia and also one of the most demanding tasks for the country resulting from its membership in the EU.

The SK Presidency in the Council of Europe was an important political challenge, but also a unique opportunity to promote Slovak diplomacy, expertise, management skills, and Slovakia itself, including the EEA and Norway Grants.

Within the Slovak Presidency, several events partly funded by the EEA and Norway Grants as well as the Bilateral Fund on the national level were held in Slovakia as a pre-defined bilateral activity with a budget of almost €100,000. These events comprised:

- The “GLOBSEC Tatra Summit Conference 2016” international conference, which was one of the key Presidency events addressing the issue of European integration. It was organized under the auspices of the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the SR – Miroslav Lajčák. Discussion panels dealt with economic and currency union, common budget, energy sector and digitalisation. As for the ministerial panel, ministers of foreign affairs from the SR and Western Balkans discussed current security and integrational challenges in the region.
- The “Transition to the Green Economy” international conference was held at the beginning of September 2016 and it was the flagship event of the Ministry of Environment of the SR. The conference provided an opportunity for expert discussion on the key questions regarding funding in the area. It also included accompanying activities focused on innovative solutions and approaches developed in Slovakia, other European countries and international organisations.
- The “Improved Waste Management – an Integral Part on the Transition to a Circular Economy” conference was held in Bratislava in November 2016. It focused on challenges and perspectives regarding the shift from waste disposal towards waste management in the V4 countries in line with the EU approach, innovations, and related opportunities emerging in the area of entrepreneurship as well as possible cooperation with the Kingdom of Norway. Besides the Norwegian experts, the conference was also attended by representatives of Ministries, entrepreneurs and the non-profit sector of the V4 countries – Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland, and Slovakia.
- The “Work-life Balance in a Changing Society” international conference was held under the auspices of the Minister of Labour, Social Affairs and Family of the SR in September 2016. The main objective of the conference was to address the urgent need to harmonize work, family and personal life with the changing models of work organisation and new trends in the labour market as well as other related challenges.
- In 2017, the series of these important SK Presidency events will be closed by the “*Empowerment of Roma Youth as a Driving Force behind Change*” international conference, which will focus on the key role of Roma youth in the integration process of the whole community.

During the Presidency, a Norwegian expert in power engineering was posted to the SR to operate at the Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs of the SR. It was also funded by the Bilateral Fund at the national level.

The SK Presidency resulted in signing the announcement of three European institutions regarding the legislative priorities for 2017. The common announcement was signed on 14 December 2016 by the President of the European Parliament – Martin Schulz, the holder of the rotating Presidency – Róbert Fico, and the President of the European Commission – Jean-Claude Juncker. Jean-Claude Juncker stated that the announcement was a milestone in the way the EU can achieve better and quicker outcomes in facing our common challenges. In Europe where there's a will there's a way.<sup>6</sup>

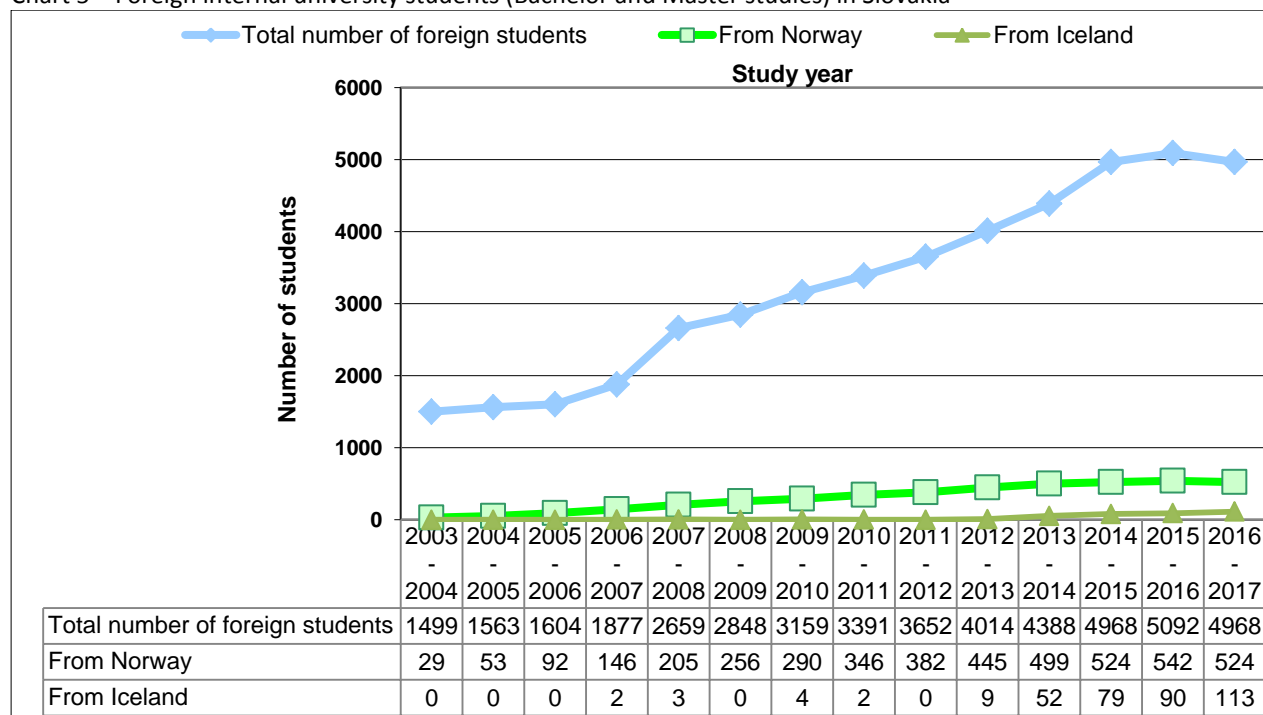
## 2.2.2 Student mobility as an important pillar of bilateral relationships

The overall quality of bilateral relationships 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. Norwegian and Icelandic students are especially interested in studying medicine at the Jessenius Faculty of Medicine in Martin and veterinary medicine in Košice.

Norwegian students undergo a long-term preparation before embarking on medical studies. In March and May 2016 the entrance exams to the Jessenius Faculty of Medicine supervised by an exam committee were held at the Representative Office in Oslo. Currently, more than 550 students come from Norway and 100 from Iceland. Further interviews took place at Bjørknes College in Oslo, which cooperates with the Martin faculty. For successful candidates a celebratory immatriculation was held in September 2016 in Martin and it was attended by the Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary in the Kingdom of Norway and the Republic of Iceland – František Kašický. On this occasion, university workers and students, including two students from Norway and Iceland, were awarded.

Cooperation with the University of Veterinary Medicine and Pharmacy in Košice is also fruitful. Entrance exams for Norwegian and Icelandic students were held in the Representative Office in Oslo in June. Currently, 120 Norwegian students are studying veterinary medicine in Slovakia, based on the cooperation of Košice University with the University in Bodø as well as more than 10 Icelandic students.

Chart 5 – Foreign internal university students (Bachelor and Master studies) in Slovakia



<sup>6</sup> [www.europa.eu](http://www.europa.eu)



The number of foreign<sup>7</sup> 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 is not assessed for statistical purposes. According to the figure from 31 October 2016, 558 Norwegian students, 113 Icelandic students and 1 Liechtensteiner student are currently studying at Slovak universities. It is significant that after Ukrainian students (663), Norwegian students constitute the second largest group of internal foreign students enrolled in Bachelor and Master degree programmes at Slovak universities. Icelandic students rank 11<sup>th</sup>. Interestingly, the proportion of Norwegian and Icelandic students amount for 13% of the total number of foreign students.

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

Generally, the bilateral relations between the Slovak Republic and the donor states within the EEA Grants provide a wide scope of consulting activities, opportunities for the practical application of the 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 a regular basis and participate in the implementation of the programmes. During the reporting period, the personal and per rollam meetings of the Cooperation Committee were held. As a DPP, the Council of Europe participates in two programmes (SK04 “Local and Regional Initiatives to Reduce National Inequalities and to Promote the Social Inclusion”, and SK09 “Domestic and Gender-based Violence”).

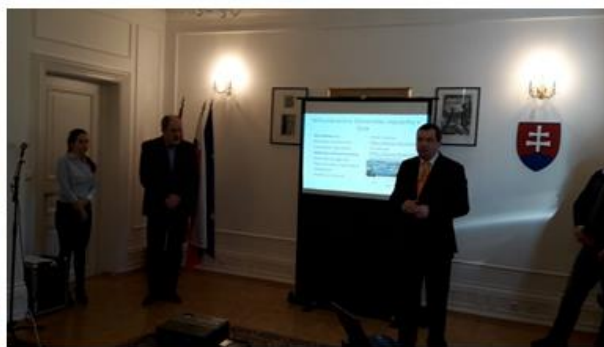
DPP significantly contributed to seeking and finding potential partner entities and facilitating the conclusion of project partnerships, ensuring the participation of potential partner institutions in matchmaking seminars, and creating lists of potential partner institutions that were published along with calls for project applications. DPP currently cooperates in the process of evaluating submitted applications for contributions under the published call on opening the Measure B Bilateral Funds.

In 2016, donor programme partners actively participated in a majority of events organised under individual programmes. They actively cooperated e. g. in organising study trips under the SK09 “Domestic and Gender-Based Violence” and SK07 “Green Industry Innovation” programmes.

The first trip took place in April 2016 and it was organised by the Government Office of the SR in close cooperation with the DPP – Norwegian Directorate of Health. The participants included 22 representatives from consulting centres and Women’s Safe Houses from Slovakia implementing the projects in the aforementioned programme as well as two representatives of the Coordinating-Methodological Centre for Gender-Based Violence established under the Minister of Labour, Social Affairs and Family of the SR and the Institute for Labour and Family Research. The delegates visited the Norwegian Directorate for Health and attended a lecture titled “Prevalence of Violence in Norway” given by Ole Kristian Hjemdal from the Norwegian Centre for Violence and Traumatic Stress Studies as well as a lecture given by the representatives of the Norwegian Ministry of Justice. In the Children’s House the participants became acquainted with the procedures pertaining to sexual abuse cases of children from 3 to 18 years reported to the Police. The trip also included a visit to the Women’s Safe House in Oslo and Sexual Assault Casualty Unit – the first one in Europe. The study trip represented one of the largest bilateral activities carried out in 2016 and it was evaluated as very effective. It also followed the study trip of Norwegian experts to Slovakia in 2015.

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<sup>7</sup> [http://www.cvtisr.sk/cvti-sr-vedecka-kniznica/informacie-o-skolstve/statistiky/statisticka-rocenka-publikacia/statisticka-rocenka-vysoke-skoly.html?page\\_id=9596](http://www.cvtisr.sk/cvti-sr-vedecka-kniznica/informacie-o-skolstve/statistiky/statisticka-rocenka-publikacia/statisticka-rocenka-vysoke-skoly.html?page_id=9596)



Another important study trip, entitled the “Bioenergy Study Tour”, was taken in November 2016. 13 Norwegian experts, including entrepreneurs, academics and researchers, participated in the expert conference and visited the sites of key projects implemented under the programme.



The NFP assesses the cooperation between Programme Operators (PO) and individual donor partners as very active and mutually rewarding. All events organised in 2016 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.

## 2.2.4 A broader context of bilateral relations in 2016<sup>8</sup>

### Support of bilateral relationships at the highest 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 at the highest level and the bilateral meetings.

In April 2016 the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the SR and the Kingdom of Norway (hereinafter NK) – Miroslav Lajčák and Børge Brende, met at a bilateral meeting in order to discuss the upcoming SK Presidency in the Council of Europe. Both of them expressed an outcome in the form of enhancing and extending the bilateral cooperation. “Our discussion confirmed that Norway and Slovakia indeed are close partners and allies and it makes me feel good,” said Minister Lajčák following the meeting. He also claimed that the “specific connection between Slovakia and Norway is represented by the Norway Funds, thanks to which various projects in Slovak cities are supported as well as hundreds of Norwegian students studying at universities in Martin and Košice. This is a very powerful human factor and a bridge for building contacts between our citizens, too.” Another important meeting took place in April 2016 – the Norwegian Minister of European Affairs Elisabeth Aspaker met with Minister Lajčák and State Secretary Ivan Korčok. Minister Aspaker also visited Slovakia in relation to the SK Presidency and also the finishing negotiations on EEA FM and NFM. Slovakia and Norway also agreed on cooperating in the organisation of five events to be held in Slovakia during the SK Presidency, which they also successfully did. The intensity of relationships between Norway and Slovakia can also be observed in the fact that two weeks after Minister Aspaker’s visit, the head of Norwegian diplomacy – Børge Brende, also visited Slovakia.

Another important state visit took place in August 2016 when Erna Solberg – the Norwegian Prime Minister visited Bratislava. It follows the tradition of Norwegian Prime Ministers who always visit the country currently presiding the EU. During her visit, Prime Minister Solberg met with the Slovak Prime Minister Róbert Fico and the Chairman of the National Council of the SR, Andrej Danko. “Norway is an important economic partner for us, not only in business but also in the area of direct foreign investments, science and research, development and innovations and of course, cooperation among universities,” said Andrej Danko. He also expressed his gratitude for the support provided by the EEA and Norway Grants. The Norwegian Prime Minister accompanied by the Slovak Ambassador in Norway, František Kašický, also visited the TOMRA company and Brána do života (“Gate to Life”) civic association.

The key event that took place in 2016 was the signing of the Memorandums of Understanding regarding the implementation of the EEA FM and NFM on 28 November in Bratislava. Memorandums were signed by the Minister of Foreign and European Affairs of the SR, Miroslav Lajčák, and the Minister of Foreign and European Affairs of the NK, Elisabeth Aspaker, in the presence of a number of important guests from both countries. “Slovakia is traditionally the leader in negotiations about Memorandums regarding financial mechanisms among the 15 beneficiary countries. This year, we were the second country to confirm interest in drawing funds provided by Norway, Iceland and Liechtenstein,” said Minister Lajčák.

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<sup>8</sup> Sources: [www.mzv.sk](http://www.mzv.sk), [www.norway.sk](http://www.norway.sk), national and local media, internal monitoring





Excellent bilateral relationships include Iceland, which can be observed through the number and quality of events, e. g. sacral music organ concerts of the Slovak artist – organ player Stanislav Šurin. Eliza Reid, the wife of the Icelandic President, accepted the invitation to the concerts and the Ambassador František Kašický acquainted her with Slovak realia. The concerts were attended not only by the Icelandic and international public, but also ambassadors and diplomats as well as Slovaks living in Iceland.

In November 2015 Ambassador František Kašický met with the new President of the Republic of Iceland, Guðni Th. Jóhannesson. They discussed the cooperation between Slovakia and Iceland, running SK Presidency in the Council of Europe, economic cooperation and the educational project for Icelandic students represented by the opportunity to study general or veterinary medicine in Slovakia.

Another important component of bilateral relationships is the relationship with Liechtenstein. Despite having started diplomatic relationships only seven years ago, the bilateral political and economic relationship is dynamically developing. It was stated by the Minister of Foreign and European Affairs of the SR Miroslav Lajčák following the meeting in Vaduz. The Minister visited the Principality of Liechtenstein based on the invitation of Minister Aurélie Frick in March 2016. Besides political discussions, the Slovak Minister was also one of the keynote speakers at the conference held by the Liechtenstein Institute on Self-Determination. The Institute also operates at Princeton University in the USA. Minister Lajčák was also accepted by Hans Adam II the Prince of Liechtenstein during his visit to Vaduz. Regarding the negotiations with the Liechtensteiner Minister of Foreign Affairs, the Slovak Minister expressed his appreciation of the political contacts and business activities between the SR and

Liechtenstein. Currently, there are five Liechtensteiner companies operating in Slovakia and Minister Lajčák expressed interest in further investors.

### Common events and initiatives as a pillar of bilateral relationships

An important event held in February 2016 was the International Education Fair in Oslo. More than 130 educational institutions, agencies and organisations from Norway, the EU and North America attended the fair. Slovakia was represented by the Jessenius Faculty of Medicine of Comenius University in Martin and the University of Veterinary Medicine and Pharmacy in Košice. Representatives of both universities presented the interested participants with information on the offered study programmes and educational projects implemented so far.

Another example of a significant initiative is the opening of the V4 exhibit project in the premises of the Czech Embassy in Oslo in April 2016 attended by the Norwegian State Secretary Elsbeth Tronstad. The opening event that introduced the exhibit was prepared by the Representative Office of the SR in Oslo in cooperation with the Embassies of Slovakia, Hungary and Poland. The event was attended by the Honorary Consul Zuzana Opavská, president of the Friends of Slovakia society Ján Zima, representatives of the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, diplomatic corps, V4 representatives and other guests.

In April 2016, almost forty Slovak teachers and employees of the SNIE were accepted in the Representative Office of the SR in Oslo. Teachers, most of whom work in schools with the major proportion of Roma pupils, visited the Nansen Centre for Peace and Dialogue in Lillehammer and attended lectures on intercultural competencies in the educational process of Roma pupils. The SNIE implemented the pre-defined project titled “Innovative Education for Primary School Teachers in Order to Increase Their Intercultural Competencies in the Educational Process of Roma Pupils” within the SK04 “Social Inclusion” programme.

Another important event in 2016 in the area of bilateral relationships was the expert seminar titled “Trade and Investment Opportunities in Scandinavia”, which took place in June in Bratislava. The seminar was organised by the Proexport SARIO Academy and the participants learned about the most effective ways of entering the market and also received specific recommendations regarding business negotiations with Scandinavian partners (Denmark, Norway and Sweden).

The general overview of bilateral relationships can be completed by the important events supported by the Bilateral Fund at the national level as well as Bilateral Funds pertaining to the individual programmes: “Edward Grieg Day in Bratislava”; “Norwegian Days” attended by the renowned Norwegian violinist Eldbjørg Hemsing, organized by the Academy of Performing Arts in Bratislava, or the “Slovak-Czech Regional Academy” bilateral activity organised by the SNIE.

### 2.2.5 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. A number of projects has also been implemented in cooperation with donor institutions. At the project level, participation was enhanced by the support of matchmaking within the Bilateral Funds (Measure A). Currently, the Measure B Bilateral Funds are opened in order to support bilateral activities. Measure B represents an important pillar of cooperation between the donors and the beneficiaries as well as applicants interested in the implementation of individual projects. The Bilateral Fund at the national level (opened in August 2016), of course, played a significant role in enhancing bilateral relations in 2016. In this context, the NFP states that in comparison to the previous reporting period, the number of partnerships between Slovak beneficiaries and foreign donors increased extremely; however the quality still needs to improve. From the quantitative point of view, the NFP considers the number of

partnerships satisfying. The upcoming period will require the more long-term planning of partnerships, the support of strategic partnership and increase the participation of the DPP.

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. Further expansion and support to achieve results in these areas will be ensured through Measures B under the Bilateral Funds as well as the National Bilateral Fund along with its individual components aimed at different sectors. The National Bilateral Fund is specifically designed to support a common result sharing by means of study travels, seminars, meetings, workshops and conferences. It has a specific management system characterised by increased convenience and flexibility.

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 contributions they provide to Slovakia. The permanent publicity of donors' tasks and positions in the implementation of programmes, coupled with the general presentation of the bilateral dimension of the EEA Grants, contributes to raising 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. In the reporting period, specific attention was paid to achieving the objectives during the SK Presidency in the Council of Europe. Approximately €140,000 from the Bilateral Fund at the national level have been allocated to support the selected events related to the SK Presidency and the posting of the Norwegian expert in the second half of 2016 with the aim of enhancing bilateral relationships. The broader bilateral effects are expected to result from the implementation of the strategic pre-defined activities under the Bilateral Fund at the national level.

### 3 PROGRAMME PROGRESS

#### 3.1 Overview of programme progress

In 2016 no new calls pertaining to the 2009 – 2014 programming period were open. During the reporting period the individual projects were being implemented. The overview of projects contracted and the number of applications received can be found in Table 5 below.

Table 5: The overview of contracted projects

Programme area	Call code	Available allocation	Status	The number of contracted projects as of 31 December 2016	Contracted project grant
<b>SK02 Adaptation to Climate Change – Flood and Drought Prevention</b>	ACC01	EUR 6,900,000	closed	3	€6,899,814
	ACC02	EUR 4,000,000	closed	2	€3,821,120
	ACC03	€2,723,235	closed	61	€2,306,056
<b>SK04 Local and Regional Initiatives to Reduce National Inequalities and to Promote Social Inclusion</b>	SI01	€461,177	closed	17	€665,583
<b>SK05 Conservation and Revitalisation of Cultural and Natural Heritage &amp; Promotion of Diversity in Culture and</b>	CLT01	€2,948,943	closed	13	€6,223,705
	CLT02	€2,948,942	closed	9	€4,467,125

<b>Arts within European Cultural Heritage</b>	CLT03	€1,405,074	closed	11	€1,405,074
<b>SK06 Scholarship Fund</b>	EEA/EHP-SK06-I-01	€15,228	closed	6	€14,556.40
	EEA/EHP-SK06-IV-V-01	€814,306	closed	9	€767,260.61
	EEA/EHP-SK06-II-01	€600,000	closed	4	€243,600.5
	EEA/EHP-SK06-I-02	€17,253.34	closed	9	€16,953.9
	EEA/EHP-SK06-IV-V-02	€946,314.88	closed	12	€945,375.92
<b>SK07 Green Industry Innovation</b>	GII01	€16,064,757	closed	5	€13,052,027.94
<b>SK08 Cross-Border Cooperation</b>	CBC01	€10,780,999	closed	22	€10,505,774.25
	CBC02 <sup>9</sup>	€2,752,370	closed	16	€1,807,878
<b>SK09 Domestic and Gender-based Violence</b>	DGBV01	€4,170,000	closed	9	€1,910,720
	DGV02	€2,430,965	closed	6	€1,385,199.80
	DGV03	€2,762,953	closed	9	€2,382,109

Under SK08 “Cross-Border Cooperation” and SK09 “Domestic and Gender-Based Violence”, calls for the allocation of additional funding were open in order to allocate the funds yet unallocated to the existing projects. The additional funding was provided only for activities contributing to the objectives of the already allocated projects.

Table 6: Overview of calls closed in 2016

Programme		Area	State	Applications received	Number of supported projects	Approved funding
SK08 Cross-Border Cooperation	First call	Outcome 1	closed	7	7	€903,416
		Outcome 2	closed	0	0	0
		Outcome 3	closed	0	0	0
		Outcome 4	closed	4	4	€361,558
	Second call for the Small Grants Scheme	Outcome 1	closed	5	As at 31 December 2016  The meeting of the selection board has not taken place	N/A

<sup>9</sup> Small grant scheme call implemented by the Prešov Self-Governing Region

					yet (it took place in January 2017)	
		Outcome 2	closed	0	As at 31 December 2016  The meeting of the selection board has not taken place yet (it took place in January 2017)	N/A
		Outcome 3	closed	1	As at 31 December 2016  The meeting of the selection board has not taken place yet (it took place in January 2017)	N/A
		Outcome 4	closed	2	As at 31 December 2016  The meeting of the selection board has not taken place yet (it took place in January 2017)	N/A
<b>SK09 Domestic and Gender-based Violence</b>	First call	Measure 1	closed	3	3	€458,246
		Measure 2	closed	4	2	€64,060
		Measure 3	closed	9	7	€92,824
	Second call	Measure 1	closed	0	0	€0
		Measure 2	closed	6	3	€71,342
		Measure 3	closed	1	1	€65,599
		Measure 4	closed	5	4	€363,665



### **Sending of estimates of expected payments<sup>10</sup>**

The Certifying Authority sent the estimates of expected payments to the Financial Mechanism Office (FMO) in compliance with the Regulations on the implementation of the European Economic Area Financial Mechanism 2009 – 2014 (hereinafter referred to as “Regulations”) and based on the documents provided by POs in the following terms: 19 February 2016; 17 May 2016; 19 September 2016; 9 December 2016.

Based on the estimates of expected payments submitted by the FMO through the DoRIS system in December 2015, the drawing of funds amounting to the total of €19,649,036 was planned for 2016. As of 31 December 2016, the Certifying Authority received payments from the FMO in the total amount of €10,808,300 for 2016, which represented 55.01% of the estimated expenditure.

- Estimates of expected payments sent to the FMO in 2016

Date of sending of the EEP through DoRIS	2016	2017
19 February 2016	€19,671,738	€321,906
17 May 2016	€19,497,830	€495,815
19 September 2016	€19,497,830	€495,815
9 December 2016	€14,568,327	€5,414,850

### **Drawing of funds**

#### **SK01 Technical Assistance Fund & Bilateral Fund**

In 2016, the Certifying Authority accepted €298,650 from the FMO under the Technical Assistance and Bilateral Funds in 3 interim payments. These funds were further allocated to the individual partners on 26 April; 25 August and 22 December 2016.

The Certifying Authority approved 3 IFRs related to the SK01 programme with eligible expenditures totalling €296,487 (donor resources) reduced by the amount of irregularities amounting to €2,985 and submitted it to the FMO. The total amount of eligible expenditures approved and submitted to the FMO is €1,068,383 (donor resources), representing 63.58% of the allocation.

#### **Programmes SK02 to SK09**

Based on 21 IFRs approved and submitted to the FMO, the Certifying Authority accepted interim payments for SK02, SK04, SK05, SK06, SK07, SK08 and SK09 programmes in the total amount of €10,509,650, which were subsequently paid to the PO in accordance with the Regulations. Based on the IFRs for programmes SK02 – SK09 the Certifying Authority approved and submitted the eligible expenditures amounting to a total of €21,519,235 (all resources) to the FMO in the course of 2016. This sum was reduced by the amount of irregularities and funding returned by the beneficiaries to the Pos, which amounted to the total of €209,931.

The detailed disbursement of funds from the EEA FM and NFM for 2009 – 2014 as of 31 December 2016 can be found in Appendix 9.

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<sup>10</sup> Source: MF SR – CA

## 3.2 Overview of individual programmes

### 3.2.1 SK02 Adaptation to Climate Change – Flood and Drought Prevention

<b>Programme area:</b>	<b>Adaptation to climate change</b>
<b>Programme Operator (PO)</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>	€12,463,750
<b>National co-funding</b>	€2,199,485
<b>Programme progress in 2015</b>	Implementation and completion of projects

In the reporting period all contracted projects were being implemented under the programme; no new calls were open or agreements signed.

Under the ACC01 call it was "The Reconstruction of Ecosystem Functioning of the Landscape within the Upper Site of the Ondava River Catchment Area", in which all project outcomes and results have been accomplished. The final report on the project was approved and the financial closing took place in January 2017.

Under the ACC03 specified for the small grant scheme and Blue Schools, all projects were closed as of 30 April 2016. 41 out of all final reports on projects have been approved and the respective projects have been financially closed.

The indicators were achieved only up to a certain extent, therefore the PO requested an adjustment in cases where the indicators were impossible to achieve. The indicators in question are listed in the annual programme report for 2016.

As for the programme outcomes, the PO states that the programme outcome pertaining to the "Developed Strategies and Measures to Adapt to the Changing Climate" project will be accomplished. As for the Zemplín and Horná Nitra component, all strategies were prepared and Bratislava was even finishing its action plan in 2016.

Another expected Programme outcome, "Increased Capacity to Assess Vulnerability to Climate Change", will be accomplished.

However, due to the number of contracted projects the indicator pertaining to the "Number of concrete water-retaining measures, systems and constructions in the country" set to 50,000 was impossible to achieve, and therefore it was decreased to 640 measures.

The final outcome of the "Increased Awareness of and Education in Climate Change Adaptation" is still expected to be delivered by projects implemented under the "Blue Schools" component. In all these projects the beneficiaries raised awareness and educated the public on the climate changes and also integrated the measures to adapt climate changes into their structures.

In the reporting period the cooperation with the DPPs continued at the Cooperation Committee meetings and during on-site visits.

In the area of bilateral relationships, the PO opened Measure B of the Bilateral Fund in 2015; in 2016 the PO extended the possibility of applying for a contribution by June 2017. So far, 6 applications for contributions have been approved in a total amount of more than €50,000.

From the perspective of horizontal issues, the programme helps increase the sustainability of the environment, as well as protects it through the implementation of inevitable adaptation measures.

Climate change mostly affects people who are socially, economically, culturally or institutionally marginalised and suffer from a lack of drinking water and sewage systems. The soft solutions represented by education and awareness raising can improve their situation.

### 3.2.2 SK03 and SK10 NGO Fund

<b>Programme area:</b>	<b>NGO Funds</b>
<b>Programme Operators (PO)</b>	The Open Society Foundation Ekopolis Foundation and partners
<b>EEA FM allocation</b>	€7,400,000
<b>Programme progress:</b>	Closing of projects and programmes

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 to Promote Social Inclusion

<b>Programme area:</b>	<b>Local and Regional Initiatives to Reduce National Inequalities and to Promote the Social Inclusion</b>
<b>Programme Operator (PO)</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>	€1,000,000
<b>National co-funding</b>	€176,471
<b>Program progress in 2016</b>	Closing of programmes pertaining to the Small Grant Scheme and implementation of the pre-defined activity

In the reporting period, the PO continued the implementation of the pre-defined project of 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".

In April 2016 the implementation of projects pertained to the call for the "Small grants to support Roma inclusion and intercultural projects at primary and secondary schools" component. Out of the total of 19 contracted projects, 18 were implemented. In the reporting period, 16 of them were completed. The PO considers the outcomes to be accomplished.

Following the closing of the Small Grant Scheme, the PO organised a final conference in Bardejov attended by the representatives of the DPP – the Council of Europe, Kingdom of Norway, Financial Mechanism Office, Ministry of Education of the SR, representatives of the pre-defined project and of course, beneficiaries and teachers from the primary and secondary schools.



Within programme the final meeting of the Cooperation Committee was held. In 2016 no changes were made to the programme agreement and due to the development stage of the programme, none are planned.

As for the risk assessment, the PO believes that the teachers who absolved the accredited education might stop using the relevant materials and innovative educational methods after the programme is over. To alleviate the risk, the PO proposes developing a monitoring system that would check compliance with the new educational methods. Another risk is related to funding after the programme is completed. The risk is alleviated by the strict selection of projects required to provide a detailed sustainability plan in the project application and the possibility of applying for further funding from the structural funds, for example

### 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 (PO)</b>	The Government Office of the Slovak Republic as the National Focal Point
<b>DPP:</b>	-
<b>EEA FM allocation</b>	€11,922,500
<b>National co-funding</b>	€2,103,971
<b>Program progress in 2015:</b>	implementation of projects from calls CLT01 (reconstruction of national cultural monuments) and CLT02 (projects increasing the accessibility of the cultural heritage for the public) as well as the small grant scheme (CLT03)

Under CLT01 and CLT02, 14 projects were contracted in 2014; further 9 projects were contracted in 2015 during the “Live Monuments II” conference. In the course of implementation 3 beneficiaries withdrew from the projects. Specifically they were: CLT02009 in 2015 (Zborov municipality – Reconstruction of Zborov Castle, €599,639), CLT01007 (Sered’ – Structural changes to the mansion and revitalisation of the castle park in the city with the aim of increasing its cultural and tourist potential, €512,817) and CLT01008 (St. Charles Borromeo Seminary – Reconstruction of the Church of St. Anthony of Padua in Košice – Franciscan monastery – €651,970) in 2016. The total number of implemented projects was therefore 20.

In 2015, the CLT03 call was open under the Small Grant Scheme during the reporting period, 11 new projects contracted under the CLT03 call.

Simultaneously, the implementation of the Pro Monumenta pre-defined project was running.

The results specified in the programme agreement will be accomplished. Based on the contracted projects it is safe to assume that all outcomes pertaining to calls CLT01 and CLT02 will be accomplished and in some cases even exceeded. The PO has not identified any deviations from the plan. The results defined for the Small Grant Scheme and their accomplishment cannot yet be evaluated.

The same applies for the programme outcomes. The CLT01, CLT02 and CLT03 outcomes are being gradually accomplished and the PO has not identified any problem.

The programme contributes to the solution of horizontal issues through the presentation of the diversity of the nation cultural heritage and promotion of multicultural understanding, tolerance, cultural dialogue, minority rights and combating anti-Semitism.

In the area of bilateral relationships, the PO opened Measure B of the Bilateral Fund in 2015; in 2016 the PO extended the possibility of applying for a contribution by June 2017. The total of 15 applications for contributions have been supported so far. The interest in the SK05 programme remains high.

The main risk is represented by the temporal aspect, since the restoration works are more demanding than expected. The cold winter also affected the speed of work. However, all projects are still expected to be successfully completed. An important measure will be protecting the restored monuments from vandals.

### 3.2.5 SK06 EEA Scholarship Fund Slovakia

Programme area	Scholarships
<b>Programme Operator (PO)</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>	€1,917,500
<b>National co-funding</b>	€338,382
<b>Program progress in 2015:</b>	Implementation and completion of projects

In the reporting period all contracted projects were completed and the PO expects all outcomes to be accomplished.

The implementation of the projects from the first call (Measures 4 and 5) was completed in April 2016. High school projects focused on the development of student and teacher competences, up-to-date educational methods, getting to know the culture and history of Slovakia and Norway; university projects focused on the didactics of Mathematics, Biophysics and Cryptography.

The implementation of the projects from the second call (Measures 4 and 5) was completed in August 2016. In terms of topics, high school projects focused on the environment, culture and language skills; university projects focused on a variety of academic fields such as political science, arts, education of social workers and teachers.

Projects from the third call (Measure 2 – Mobility Projects in Higher Education) were also completed. Their implementation lasted 16 to 18 months and took place mainly in the 2015/2016 academic year. Mobilities were popular mainly in social and behavioural (political science, economics, education), technological (engineering, architecture) and natural sciences (biology).

In general the “Increased and strengthened institutional cooperation on all levels of education (school education, university education, vocational education, and adult education) among EEA EFTA and beneficiary states” outcome is being accomplished through the implementation of 21 projects – 13 university projects with 9 partners in Norway and 1 in Iceland, and 8 high school projects with 7 partners in Norway and 1 partner in Iceland. The expected outcome indicators were achieved.

The “Increased and strengthened institutional cooperation on all levels of education (school education, university education, vocational education, and adult education) among EEA EFTA” is accomplished through the implementation of 4 projects of Slovak universities with 4 Norwegian, 2 Icelandic and 1 Liechtensteiner partners. The expected outcome indicators were achieved.

In the reporting period, 2 meetings of the Cooperation Committee were held and attended by all representatives of the DPP.

In November, the PO requested a change in the programme agreement regarding the reallocation of the non-contracted financial means for the purpose of bilateral cooperation. The request was approved by the FMO at the end of the year.

The PO considered the insufficient funding for programme management to be the biggest risk. The programme proved to be administratively too demanding; however, the PO could not hire further employees, which resulted in a mild delay in certain administrative activities.

In 2016 the NFP verified and approved 3 interim reports (IR) on the programme – IR 5, IR 6 and IR 7; IR 7 was verified on-site.

### 3.2.6 SK07 Green Industry Innovation

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

In 2016 the programme area focused on the implementation of 5 contracted projects. The GII01005 STAMAP, s. r. o. – Development of entrepreneurship and increasing employment in the area of RER project was finished prematurely and due to suspected criminal activity all documents pertaining to the project were submitted to the competent authorities for investigation. Moreover, in the GII01003 ECO FILM, s.r.o. GREEN INNOVATION KALOŠA project, the PO identified no progress, therefore the withdrawal from the project agreement was requested along with returning the advance payment due to the violation of financial discipline by the beneficiary. The implementation of the pre-defined GIIPP001The Centre for the Research of Biomass Potential project of the National Agricultural and Food Centre continued. In 2016 public procurement was carried out, laboratory equipment supplied and two projects already in the construction stage.

The GII01006 VSV GROUP, s.r.o. Biogas plant and Tvrdošín green logistic centre was successfully implemented and the financial closing is currently taking place. The PO still expects the defined programme outcomes to be accomplished.

As for the bilateral relationships, a study trip was organized by the Innovation Norway DPP between November and December, which was the final result of the successful cooperation between them and

the PO. Within the Bilateral Fund programme, the PO received 7 applications for contributions, out of which 5 were supported.

As for the risk assessment, the sustainability and guaranteed income are at risk due to the frequent legislative changes. The risk is out of the PO's control; however, the projects running in 2016 are considered sustainable enough. Another risk is represented by the public procurement process, which is constantly being misconducted. The PO has set strict criteria regarding the control of public procurement, which will help reduce the risk resulting from its inappropriate execution.

### 3.2.7 SK08 Cross-border Cooperation

Programme area	Cross-Border Cooperation
<b>Programme Operator (PO)</b>	The Government Office of the Slovak Republic as the National Focal Point
<b>DPP:</b>	Barents Secretariat, Norway
<b>NFM allocation</b>	€13,368,547
<b>National co-funding</b>	€2,359,155
<b>Program progress in 2015:</b>	Implementation

In 2016 there was significant progress in the programme. During the reporting period all projects were contracted and the implementation of 38 projects (16 contracted under the Small Grant Scheme) started. However, despite the great interest of the applicants in the published calls, not all allocation was contracted, therefore the PO published two more calls for additional resources, which are described in detail in the Table 6 above. Within the first call, there were 11 applicants and the Selection Committee decided to support all of them. Within the second call under the Small Grant Scheme, there are 8 new projects and the Selection Committee will decide on this matter in January 2017.

Based on the actual number of projects contracted, the PO states that not all programme outcomes can be accomplished due to the insufficient number of applications. Mainly, the outcomes number 2 and 3. Regarding outcomes 1 "Creation of new and support of existing partnerships/networks" and 4 "Improvement of cross-border information flow", the PO states that the relevant indicators will be achieved. Concerning "Enhancing the exchange of know-how, good practice and experience with Norway" and "Improving the conditions at the border crossings", it can be assumed that the outcomes will not be fully achieved. On the programme level, the PO does not expect the outcomes to be fully accomplished either.

Through the outcome focusing on removing the barriers in the cross-border cooperation programme, the programme contributes to the promotion of tolerance and multicultural understanding.

In terms of bilateral activities, a bilateral activity titled "Herkules na kolesách (Hercules on Wheels) in which more than 60 young Slovaks, Ukrainians and Norwegians participated, was carried out. The activity contributed to common activities and its goal was to promote tourism in one of the poorest regions.





The programme keeps encountering administrative, financial and budget-related risks resulting from the unstable political and economic situation in Ukraine. The uncertain situation regarding banks and constantly changing Ukrainian legislation represented a risk in terms of the project implementation in 2016. However, these risks are not under control of the PO. Regarding the implementation, the lack of national authority that would coordinate the NFM in Ukraine is obvious.

### 3.2.8 SK09 Domestic and Gender-based Violence

<b>Programme area:</b>	<b>Domestic and gender-based violence</b>
<b>Programme Operator (PO)</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>	€8,440,000
<b>National co-funding</b>	€1,489,412
<b>Program progress in 2015:</b>	project implementation

In the reporting period the PO closed the first call for the allocation of the available financial means for the support of additional project activities. 7 out of 9 applications were approved. In the course of 2016, the second call was published; 12 beneficiaries applied and the PO supported 7 projects. Despite the effort of the PO, €877,237 were left unallocated and they were transferred into the Bilateral Fund for pre-defined activities.

Due to the fact that the PO had to publish the call for the reallocation of additional funding, not all outcomes are expected to be accomplished. The reasons include the insufficient number of contracted projects and the overestimation of certain indicators. On the other hand, in the implementation of the “Coordinating-Methodological Centre for Domestic and Gender-based Violence” pre-defined project, all outcomes are expected to be accomplished. In terms of programme outcomes, the PO cannot evaluate all indicators, but the majority of them has already been achieved.

In terms of bilateral relationships, the PO organized a study trip in cooperation with the DPPs – Norwegian Health Directorate of Health and the Council of Europe. It was a major bilateral activity (as explained before), through which selected beneficiaries could go on a study trip and visit several important institutions operating in the area of domestic violence.





At the end of the year, the PO requested the reallocation of available financial means and in 2017 Supplement No. 3 will be added to the programme agreement.

The possible risks include the failure to ratify the Istanbul Convention and gender equality; however, the PO believes it would not currently affect the programme outcomes.

### 3.3 Bilateral Fund at the national level

Bilateral relationships were significantly enhanced by reopening the Bilateral Fund at the national level for 2016 with the allocation of €105,000 in July. It followed the effective drawing from the Bilateral Fund and its strategic use in the previous years. 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 provided an opportunity to carry out bilateral activities such as participation in and the organisation of events or study visits, which significantly enhance bilateral relationships. As for the innovative elements in the management and setting of the Fund itself, the amount of the maximum contribution was increased, thus providing an opportunity to support more complex “mini projects” with special regard for achieving visible results in the support of bilateral relationships.

The period for the submitting of applications was also extended (in 2014 and 2015 it was six months); currently the period lasts 15.5 months. Applications for individual components can be submitted from 14 July 2014 to 31 October 2015 or until the allocation for the individual thematic component is sufficient. As of 30 November 2016 the allocations for individual thematic components have been cancelled and transferred into a common allocation for all of them. As of 30 November 2016, means amounting to €16,000 (saved within the allocation for the NP Fund administration) were reallocated for the call. A list of frequently asked questions regarding the Fund implementation was published.

A total of four applications were submitted under the call for 2016 – 1, 1 and 2 applications for cultural, social and environmental components respectively. Two applications were approved and two are being evaluating at the moment of writing this report. The total amount of reserved means at the end of 2016 is €47,128.

Table 7: List of project applications submitted in 2016

Applicant	Component	Activity <sup>11</sup>	Reserved/approved funds	State as at 31 January 2016
<b>National Forest Centre – Institute for Forest Consulting and Education</b>	ENV	11th European Forest Pedagogics Congress 2016 Bio-economy and Forest pedagogics – a great chance for Education for Sustainable Development (ESD)	€3,178	Approved amount: €3,176
<b>SNIE</b>	SOC	The Slovak and Czech Regional Academy	€20,000	Approved amount: €20,000
<b>MY MAMY</b>	SOC	Working visit of MyMamy NGO for preparation of "Children" and "Post-Trauma" manuals	€8,600	Currently undergoing evaluation
<b>PRERAG</b>	KUL	Freedom in Cartoons	€15,350	Currently undergoing evaluation

<sup>11</sup> The official names of activities are listed in English only due to the fact that they are submitted in English

The smaller number of submitted applications for contributions was caused by the fact that the Bilateral Funds are open simultaneously. In terms of other processes implemented under the Bilateral Fund at the national level; in 2016 all bilateral activities from the call for 2014 were completed and accounted in the total amount of €43,252.06 (10 implemented bilateral activities). As for the call for 2015, the physical implementation of all six bilateral activities was completed, the accounting process still running in one activity. The current amount of accounted financial means is €18,605.82; the expected accounted amount under the last open bilateral activity is €8,200.

The key element of the Bilateral Fund is the implementation of pre-defined activities with a significant strategic potential in terms of enhancing bilateral relationships. The pre-defined activities implemented in 2014 – 2016 were physically and financially closed. The activity carried out by Comenius University in Bratislava titled “V4-NORDIC” was closed and accounted in 2015 in the amount of €9,053.48. Other activity carried out by the Jessenius Faculty of Medicine in Martin titled “INCOME” was closed and accounted in 2016 in the amount of €23,118.47.

In 2016, the implementation of further bilateral activities began:

Table 8: The list of pre-defined activities carried out in 2016 – 2017

Applicant	Component	Activity <sup>12</sup>	Reserved/approved funds	State as at 31 January 2016
Košice city		The legacy of Björnsterne Björnson – the fighter for the rights of the Slovak people	€35,000.00	Currently being implemented; completion expected on 30 August 2017
State Geological Institute of Dionýz Štúr		Slovak and Icelandic geothermal cooperation	€19,871.76	Currently being implemented; completion expected on 1 August 2017
University of Veterinary Medicine and Pharmacy in Košice		The impact of the global changes on the environment and human and animal health	€25,000.00	Currently being implemented; completion expected on 1 August 2017
Embassy of the Norwegian Kingdom in Slovakia		Activities under the EEA and Norway Grants during the SK Presidency in the Council of Europe in 2016	€99,836.74	Currently being implemented; completion expected on 31 May 2017
Embassy of the Norwegian Kingdom in Slovakia		The secondment of the Norwegian expert during the SK Presidency in the second half of 2016	€40,475.00	Physical implementation completed as of 31 December 2016

Upon the request of the Embassy of the Norwegian Kingdom in Slovakia, adjustments regarding the following areas were made: Fund Setting, Rules of Procedure, Committee for the Bilateral Fund on the national level and the statute of the Committee itself.

In the reporting period one session of the Committee for the Bilateral Fund at the national level was held on 28 November 2016. Due to technical and temporal reasons, it was connected with the Annual Meeting within the EEA FM and NFM 2009 – 2014. The session focused on the current state of implementation of the Bilateral Fund at the national level as well as the planned steps regarding the cancellation of the allocation for individual components and related reallocations.

## 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 POs 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.

<sup>12</sup> The official names of activities are listed in English only due to the fact that they are submitted in English

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

- As of 1 August 2016, Version 2.2 of the IM NFP entered into force. The change was related to the integration of CA Directive No. 1/16-U on finishing of EEA FM and NFM aid for the 2009 – 2014 programming period and new rules regarding the administrative financial control.
- As of 22 January 2016, Version 1.4 of the IM PO entered into force. The change was related to:
  - the transposition of Decision No. 1 of the head manager on the changes to the Internal Manual, Version 1.3.
  - the transposition of Decision No. 2 of the head manager on the changes to the Internal Manual, Version 1.3.
  - the transposition of Instruction No. 1/2014 of the director of the department of the EEA and Norway Grants on assessing the criteria regarding administrative compliance within CBC01 and following calls,
  - the transposition of Instruction No. 1/2015 of the director of the Department for the EEA and Norway Grants on the unified procedure of documentation submitting to the Department for the Supervision of Public Procurement
  - the adjustment of the name of the Department for the Supervision of Public Procurement due to an organisational change that entered into force on 1 January 2016
  - the adjustment of the procedures regarding on-site verification following a finding of the certification verification
  - supplementing of specific procedures regarding the activation of the security mechanism following a finding of the certification verification
  - supplementing of instructions for cooperating departments in order to increase the complexity of information
- As of 16 May 2016, Version 1.5 of the IM PO entered into force. The change was related to:
  - the transposition of Decision No. 1 of the head manager on the changes to the Internal Manual, Version 1.4.
  - the transposition of Decision No. 2 of the head manager on the changes to the Internal Manual, Version 1.4.
  - the integration of new provisions regarding administrative financial control, on-site financial control and basic financial control
- As of 1 August 2016, Version 1.6 of the IM PO entered into force. The change was related to the integration of CA Directive No. 1/2016-U on the finishing of EEA FM and NFM aid for the 2009 – 2014 programming period.
- As of 22 July 2016, Version 2.0 of the Guide for Project Beneficiary and Partner entered into force.
  - The Guide was extended by an exception for the CLT03 call, based on which the beneficiaries do not have to submit an Author's Agreement request to the PO. Related changes can be found in Chapter 15.2.5.
  - Exception No. 1 simplifying the procedure of reporting the expenditure by the partners from the donor countries was transposed into the Guide. Based on practical experience the system regarding foreign partners' accounting was also simplified. With the agreement of the PO, partners no longer have to establish separate accounts if their existing account allows for analytical record keeping and it is a non-fixed account with the common interest rate. Related changes can be found in Chapters 15.11 and 19.3.
  - The Guider was also extended by the provisions regarding management expenditure limits and their relation to the eligible expenditure actually incurred. Related changes can be found in Chapter 15.10.
  - The Guide clarifies the possibilities of increasing unit prices. The previous provision was unclear and allowed for different interpretations. If interpreted literally, it denied the

need for flexible project management, therefore the unit prices and amounts of goods were increased, emphasizing the principle of economic effectiveness explicitly incorporated in the Tracking of Project Changes unless such changes affect the project in a significant way. In other words, unless these changes increase the Budget Chapter by more than 15%, they are considered approved along with the relevant interim project report. Certain changes that previously required the agreement of the PO will now be the subject of the Tracking of Object Changes. Related changes can be found in Chapter 14.4.

- The Appendix 10 – Table for verification of interest conflict and offer coordination will be added. It will be a compulsory part of the documentation pertaining to public procurement provided by the beneficiaries in case the expected contract value exceeds €20,000 (except for contracts closed by means of the Electronic Contracting System, ECS).
- In relation to contracting through the ECS, the NFP recommends the public procurers not to check the box stating that the contract is funded by the EU. The EEA and FMN mechanisms are not considered EU funds and the law on the contribution provided by the European Structural and Investment Funds does not apply to it. More can be found in Chapter 7.5.
- The changes in the control mechanism reflect the implementation of the new law on the financial control and internal audit. Moreover, the control of public procurement before its announcement (the end of the eligibility period) is no longer applicable in the case of public authorities. However, the obligation of the PO to announce public procurement still applies. As for other entities, the control of public procurement before its announcement is optional.
- In Appendix No. 1 the limits regarding the total price for gross wage were adjusted since they had not been adjusted since the first issue of the Guide, and also because the levies in agreements outside permanent employment were increased.
- The terms and conditions regarding interests were also adjusted. Only the part pertaining to the proportion of the state budget of the SR has to be transferred (amounting to 15% from the project grant). Changes can be found in part 19.2 Interests. The interest transfer system could not be changed completely, i. e. it was not possible to introduce flat rates or exempt the yield even if it was minimal.
- A general exception for Ukrainian partners was introduced regarding co-funding transfers and expenditure payments. Related changes can be found in Chapters 11.4 (Co-financing Projects from One's Own Resources) and 15.12 (Expenditure Payment). The exception was also extended to other than public entities. If the project agreement allows for it, the partner does not have to transfer the co-funding to the account provided in the project agreement; they can transfer it to the account from which they transfer expenditure payments.
- The Guide was adjusted according to the changes resulting from the adoption of new Act No. 343/2015 on Public Procurement (hereinafter referred to as the new AoPP), related changes can be found in Chapter 7 of the Guide.

Between 1 January 2016 and 31 December 2016 the CA issued an update 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, entered into force on 1 July 2017;
- Directive No. 1/2012-U on forms used within 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 1.4, entered into force on 1 July 2017;

CA also issued the following document:

Directive No. 1/2016-U on forms used within the Funding and Financial Management System of the EEA FM and the NFM for the 2009 – 2014 programming period, Version 1.0, entered into force on 1 July 2017;<sup>13</sup>

## 4.2 Compliance with Regulations

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 reports include information on irregularities in 2016. At the moment of writing this report, the irregularities for 4Q of 2016 have not yet been reported; in order to maintain consistency with Appendices 4 and 5 generated by the DoRIS system, they will be included in the following text.

On the programme level, 29 new irregularities were reported. In the reported period, 18 of them were solved, one is being verified, and 10 have not yet been solved. The irregularities from the previous period covered in the follow-up report were closed in 2016.

The most frequent causes of irregularities at the programme level were the failure of complying with the provisions in the programme agreement and problems related to public procurement; in one case fraud was suspected.

On the project level, 11 new irregularities were reported in 2016, 4 of them solved. 5 irregularities have not yet been solved and 2 of them are being verified. Out of the 12 reported irregularities from the previous period covered in the follow-up report, 7 have been solved and 5 are being solved.

The most frequent causes of irregularities at the programme level were the failure of complying with the provisions in the programme agreement and problems related to public procurement.

## 4.4 Audit, Monitoring, Review and Evaluation

### 4.4.1 Audits<sup>14</sup>

#### Governmental audit

In order to ensure independent, objective and unified audit performance, beneficiary countries were required to establish respective Audit Authorities pursuant to Article 4.2 of the Regulation on the Implementation of the EEA FM 2009 – 2014 and Article 4.2 of the Regulation on the Implementation of the FNM 2009 – 2014 (hereinafter referred to as “Directives on the Implementation of EEA FM and NFM”).

The Resolution of the Government of the SR No. 607/2010 of 13 September 2010 authorized the Ministry of Finance of the Slovak Republic (hereinafter referred to as “MFSR”) to act as the Audit Authority (hereinafter referred to as “AA”) for programmes funded by the EEA FM and NFM 2009 –

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<sup>13</sup> Source: MFSR

<sup>14</sup> Source: MFSR

2014. The AA shall perform all relevant activities pursuant to Act No. 357/2015 Coll. on Financial Control and Audit as amended (hereinafter referred to as “Act on Financial Control and Audit”), which entered into force on 1 January 2016<sup>15</sup>. AA tasks shall be performed by the Department of Audit and Control of the MFSR in cooperation with the relevant authorities.

### **System audits**

Pursuant to Article 4.6 of the Regulations on the Implementation of the EEA FM and NFM, the AA is obliged to ensure that audits are performed with the aim of verifying the effectiveness of the management and control system within the FM EEA and NFM.

Between November 2015 and May 2016 the AA, together with other competent bodies, performed system audit No. A710 in order to ensure that the management and control system within the EEA FM and NFM is effective. The following overview summarizes the most significant deficiencies:

Financial deficiencies amounting to €8,300:

- insufficient first degree control of public procurement (hereinafter referred to as PP) at the PO level – the recipient of the references to be submitted was not stated properly, thus breaching the Act on Public Procurement. By setting this condition, the public procurer prevented foreign applicants from bidding for the contract.

Systemic deficiencies:

- the failure of the PO to inform the Small Grant Scheme administrator (hereinafter referred to as SGSA) on the changes to the system of financing and financial management,
- failure to incorporate the verification procedure regarding expenditures declared by the programme implementers under Measure 1 and their compliance with the PP, and the failure to inform the beneficiaries on their obligation to comply with it (identified at the PO),
- the failure to ensure the transparency and accessibility of documents by the PO (missing signatures and dates on the assessment forms),
- the failure to provide the minimum operational period after the completion of the project in the call and the project agreement pursuant to the Regulations on the Implementation of the EEA FM and NFM (identified at the PO),
- identified at the SGSA:
  - Failure to follow the procedure:
    - for submitting measures aimed at removing deficiencies and their causes based on the inspections and audits performed at the competent department, and the failure to determine the personal competence for the positions in the SGSA organisational structure in the SGSA Internal Manual (hereinafter referred to as IM),
    - for processing and submitting the payment of the final balance, and the failure to incorporate the procedure to ensure the transparency and accessibility of documents and the audit trail pursuant to the Regulations on the Implementation of the EEA FM and NFM, and the Agreement on the Transfer of Competence of the PO into the SGSA IM,
  - the form of the report on identified irregularities was not listed as an appendix to the IM SGSA,
  - the form of the PP control list pertaining was not filled in.

Due to the identified deficiencies, the AA issued the following statement on the effectiveness of the management and control system:

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<sup>15</sup> The Act on Financial Control and Audit cancelled Act No. 502/2001 Coll. on Financial Control and Internal Audit as amended.



The EEA FM and NFM management system is functioning; however, certain improvements are necessary (degree of certainty – 2).

### **Project audits**

Pursuant to Article 4.6 of the Regulations on the Implementation of the EEA FM and NFM, the AA is obliged to ensure that audits are performed with the aim of verifying the effectiveness of the management and control system within the EEA FM and NFM and they are performed on a random sample.

Internal audit No. 7/2016 performed by the Department for Internal Audit of the MFSR in September 2016<sup>16</sup> verified the eligibility of expenditures drawn from the EEA FM and NFM sources on a selected sample. The objective of the audit was to ensure that the declared expenditures were in compliance with the Regulations on the Implementation of the EEA FM and NFM, state legislation and the authorising decision.

The internal audit identified no deficiencies.

Governmental Audit No. A808 performed by the AA in cooperation with competent authorities between October and December 2016 in order to verify the eligibility of expenditures on the selected sample of operations identified the following deficiencies:

Non-systemic deficiencies (identified at the PO):

- the failure to meet the deadline for verifying the eligibility of the project application/applicant under the EEA FM and NFM in compliance with the IM PO,
- the failure to comply with the IM PO and the evaluation guide for assigning project applications to evaluators – the applications were not evaluated by the assigned evaluators,
- the failure to comply with the evaluation guide in filling in the evaluation form by the evaluator – missing verbal justification of the number of points assigned,
- the failure to archive the documentation in compliance with the IM PO, thus breaching the obligations provided in the IM PO,
- the failure to meet the deadline for transferring the first advance payment to the beneficiary pursuant to the project agreement,

### **Annual Opinion**

Based on the results of audits conducted within the EEA FM and NFM in 2016, the auditors gave an unqualified favourable opinion, i.e. no deficiencies found had a significant impact on the effective functioning of the key areas of the management and supervisory system of the EEA FM and NFM. The annual opinion was submitted to the Financial Mechanism Office along with the annual audit report on 29 December 2016.

#### **4.4.2 Verifying of certification**

In the course of 2016, the CA verified meeting of requirements for the certification of the submitted IFRs in the following programmes: SK01 “Technical Assistance to the Beneficiary State & Fund for Bilateral Relations at National Level”, 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

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<sup>16</sup> In order to maintain independence, the AA requested the Department for Internal Audit of the MFSR to perform an internal audit on the selected sample of operations under the EEA FM and NFM pursuant to Article 4.6 of the Regulations on the Implementation of the EEA FM and NFM.

Culture and Arts within European Cultural Heritage“, SK06 “EEA Scholarship Fund Slovakia, SK07 “Green Industry Innovation, SK08 “Cross-Border Cooperation“, and SK09 “Domestic and Gender-based Violence”.

In 2016, 1 certification verification was performed after approving the IFR 9 on a project under the SK05 “Conservation and Revitalisation of Cultural and Natural Heritage & Promotion of Diversity in Culture and Arts within European Cultural Heritage”: CLT01001 “The Suburb of Bardejov – Salvage, Rehabilitation and Restoration of the Old Synagogue”; beneficiary: Central Union of Jewish Religious Communities in the SR 5 deficiencies were identified, 3 serious, 3 medium. As of 31 December 2016, 3 findings are solved and 2 (No. 3 and 4) are being solved. The CA identified a breaching of the principles of the PP pursuant to Section 9, Paragraph 3 of the Act on Public Procurement. A 5% financial correction was proposed for a low value contract expenditures pertaining to the “External Financial Management – Suburb of Bardejov – Salvage, Rehabilitation and Restoration of the Old Synagogue” in order to record a deficiency amounting to 5% of the drawn funds.

The management costs were also verified. No deficiencies were found.

#### **4.4.3 Monitoring**

Within the reporting period, no programme monitoring at the NFP level was carried out. Monitoring at the NFP level is planned for 2017.

Monitoring at the PO level is carried out on behalf of the PO by the KMPG Slovensko, spol. s. r. o. and Stengl, a. s. companies based on a partial agreement on the provision of services No. 1038/2014. Monitoring is carried out on-site on selected projects. The list of monitored projects in 2016 is included in Appendix 10.

Based on an agreement with the donors, the evaluation on the NFP level will only include the SK05 “Conservation and Revitalisation of Cultural and Natural Heritage & Promotion of Diversity in Culture and Arts within European Cultural Heritage” programme in 2017.

#### **4.4.4 Monitoring Committee**

In 2016, the NFP convened the third session of the Monitoring Committee, the main agenda of which was to approve the Strategic Report for 2015.

### **4.5 Information and Publicity**

2016 saw the implementation of key information and publicity measures that significantly contributed to the objectives set out in the communication strategy. The NFP 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 Norway Grants in 2009 – 2014.

In the area of EEA and Norway Grants, the NFP acts as the PO 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. Emphasizing the tasks for the donor states in the implementation represents the communication basis.

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

In 2016, the strategic interest in the communication of grants focused on:

- organisation of events with extraordinary potential in the area of information and awareness (e.g. Hercules on Wheels, study trips);
- communication activities related to the SK Presidency in the Council of Europe;
- complex and controlled communication through the systematic publishing of a variety of information, press releases and reports, taking into consideration the effect of multiplication;
- constant effort to promote the EEA and Norway Grants brand emphasizing the donors and their position in the implementation.

The most important communication event in 2016 was Hercules on Wheels – an event held under the SK08 “Cross-Border Cooperation” in August. The Government Office of the SR issued two press releases, several articles were published at [eeagrants.sk](http://eeagrants.sk), one at [eeagrants.org](http://eeagrants.org) and a number of articles at different regional websites, social networks as well as in the local, regional and national press.

Oleksander Petik, the deputy governor of the Zakarpattya region in Ukraine, summarized the event for the commercial JOJ TV as follows: “I do not want young people to see the world through tank periscopes and gunfire, I want them to ride bicycles and look in to the camera, or even better – each others’ eyes.”

A number of other activities can also be mentioned such as the study trip to Norway in April 2016 under the SK09 Domestic and Gender-based Violence programme organised by the Government Office of the SR as the PO, in which representatives of the consulting centres and Women’s Safe Houses in Slovakia, who are implementing the projects, there participated as well as two representatives of the Coordinating-Methodological Centre at the Minister of Labour, Social Affairs and Family of the SR and PO representatives.

The EEA and Norway Grants were also referred to during the visits of the Norwegian representatives and during the SK Presidency. These meetings are described in detail in the Bilateral Relations chapter. The NFP used this period as 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.

During the SK Presidency, a Norwegian expert in power engineering was posted to the SR to operate at the Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs of the SR. It was also funded by the Bilateral Fund at the national level.

Signing of the Memorandums of Understanding in the implementation of the EEA FM and NFM 2014 – 2021, which took place in November 2016, was also an important high-profile communication event.

In the course of 2016, the Government Office issued a total of 25 press releases and news (the main website of the Government Office), the highest number so far. These press releases were further published by different national, local and regional information portals and media, thus providing a great multiplication effect. In this context, it is necessary to mention, that besides primary communication channels (the Internet, Facebook, press releases and press conferences) used by the NFP to present the grants directly, in 2016 the indirect – secondary communication flow was increased through the involvement of national and regional information portals.

The amount of press releases and news can be classified as significant and effectively attracting media attention to projects and activities carried out within the grants. The NFP will continue to put maximum effort into public presentation and providing information to the public.

In compliance with the communication strategy, the NFP also strives to establish and promote the EEA and Norway Grants brand instead of the EEA Financial Mechanism and the Norwegian Financial Mechanism.

Awareness and publicity are integral elements of individual projects, activities and events within the grants.

#### 4.5.2 Evaluation of the publicity measures

The NFP is the administrator of the [eeagrants.sk](http://eeagrants.sk) and [norwaygrants.sk](http://norwaygrants.sk) websites 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 2016 (1 January to 31 December 2014) a slight decrease in the visitation rate – compared to that of 2015 – was recorded. From the analytical point of view, this was caused by the current implementation stage of projects. However, it is important to mention that most of the calls were published in the previous years, during which record visitation rates were recorded; these were not exceeded in 2014 or 2015. On the other hand, publishing certain partial information such as the updated announcement on opening of Measure B of the Bilateral Funds and extending the period for submitting applications for contributions, attracted attention and right after sending direct emails, the visitation rate of the relevant subpage reached record values.

In 2016, a total of 121,142 page views and 34,321 visits were recorded, with returning visitors accounting for 45.20% and new visitors of the website accounting for 54.80%. Interestingly, the number of returning visitors fell by almost 5% in proportion to the number of new visitors. The total number of all visitors and returning visitors amounted to 18,791 and 15,530 respectively. The average length of stay on the website was 2 minutes and 58 seconds. 85.45% of the visitors came from Slovak servers, 1.83% from Norway, 3.13% from Ukraine. The number of visits from Ukrainian servers increased almost by 100% over the last year (584 vs. 1,073).

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 also on Facebook under the common “EEA and Norway Grants in Slovakia”. The NFP also publishes and shares a number of articles, blogs, and other relevant information.

On 27 June 2016 an advertisement regarding Measure B of the Bilateral Fund was published in the Pravda daily. The NFP also sends direct e-mails to the key institutions based on the Sectors in Slovakia (universities, higher territorial units, regional centres, NGOs, etc.), which is highly effective. In relation to the opening of the Bilateral Fund at the national level, direct e-mails were sent on 18 October 2016. Moreover, in relation to their opening on the programme level, e-mails were sent on 1 July 2016 and in relation to the extension of the application period, also on 10 November 2016. Direct e-mails within the programmes were primarily sent to all beneficiaries and their partners. This communication activity proved very efficient in the past, resulting in a number of telephone calls and e-mails from the potential applicants, most of whom confirmed that they were contacting us based on direct e-mails.

Table 9: Overview of the most significant publicity measures

Type of measure	Communication Activity	Implementation Stage	Deadline / Status
	Herkules na kolesách (Hercules on Wheels)	SK08	August 2016
	Final programme conference	SK04	June 2016
	Study trip to Norway	SK09	April 2016
	Study trip to Slovakia	SK07	November 2016
<b>E-Communication</b>	Website eeagrants.sk/norwaygrants.sk and subpages of 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 eeagrants@vlada.gov.sk and bilateralnyfond@vlada.gov.sk	NFP/all programmes + bilateral fund	continuously
	Applicants' questions via telephone calls	NFP/all programmes	continuously
	Space advertising in the daily PRAVDA	Bilateral Funds at the programme level	27 June 2016
<b>Promotional Items</b>	Small Promotional Items	NFP level SK02 Adaptation to Climate Change - Floods and Drought Prevention SK04 Local and Regional Initiatives to Reduce National Inequalities and to Promote Social Inclusion SK07 Green Industry Innovation SK08 Cross-Border Cooperation SK09 Domestic and Gender-based Violence	in the course of 2016, promotional items were distributed from the current stock, new delivery is prepared in relation to the final programme conferences
<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	NFP	25

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 projects implemented	173 project under these programmes; 37 approved activities within the Bilateral Fund – Measure B; 26 implemented bilateral activities within the Bilateral Fund – Measure B; 16 implemented activities within the Bilateral Fund on the national level (2014 – 2015); 8 implemented activities within the Bilateral Fund on the national level (by the end of 2016);
<b>Success rate of media outputs</b>	Number of positive media outputs	more than 70 (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>Website traffic (EEA and Norway Grants)</b>	Number of visits	in text

<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 own website</b>	Total number	30+
<b>Press conferences</b>	Total number	15+ (national, programme/project levels)
<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. 3,000

In 2016, about 100 events (conferences, information days, seminars for applicants, roundtable meetings and discussions) were organised under the EEA and Norway Grants.

## 4.6 Work Plan

The National Focal Point/Programme Operator is planning the following activities for 2017:

1. The NFP plans to convene a session of the Monitoring Committee in March 2017 in order to approve the Strategic Report for 2016. Further meetings of the Monitoring Committee will be convened in 2017 as required by the implementation of the NFM.
2. Implementation of pre-defined activities under the Bilateral Fund at the national level, mainly the “Impact of the global changes on the environment and human and animal health” implemented by the University of Veterinary Medicine and Pharmacy in Košice.
3. Updating internal regulations as required by the implementation of the EEA FM and NFM
4. Convening the annual meeting in November 2017 (Preliminary).
5. The NFP plans to perform monitoring and evaluation in the SK05 “Conservation and Revitalisation of Cultural and Natural Heritage & Promotion of Diversity in Culture and Arts within European Cultural Heritage” programme.

In 2017 the CA plans to continue verifying whether the certification conditions have been met by the submitted IFRs in the running programmes, including at least one certification verification, the processing for estimates of expected payments, facilitation of financial flows and CA accounting. In 2017, the CA plans to focus mostly on the finishing programming period, including methodological support in the area of financial management<sup>17</sup>.

### Plan of Audit Authority (AA) activities for 2017

In 2017, the AA plans to perform one system audit, one audit of operations focused on project verification at the beneficiaries of the EEA FM and NFM in 2009 – 2014. As a part of methodological, planning and reporting activities, the AA plans to issue the 2009 – 2014 EEA FM and NFM Annual Audit Report for the period between 1 July 2016 and 31 June 2017 as of 31 December 2017. The planned audit activities will be performed by the AA in cooperation with its cooperating body – the Internal Audit Unit. Expenditures incurred by the AA tasks for the EEA FM and NFM 2009 – 2014 will be reimbursed up to the amount of the available technical assistance means allocated to the AA.

<sup>17</sup> Source: Ministry of Finance of the SR



## 5 OVERVIEW OF PROBLEMS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

By the end of 2016, the biggest implementation-related issues were caused mainly by delays at the beginning of the implementation period. This risk increases with the approaching end of the implementation period. Unfavourable weather in winter and spring may also complicate the final implementation stage. The PO control over this risk is very limited; the only way is to monitor individual projects and closely cooperate with the project implementers. Project monitoring as well as intense contact with the project implementers characterised 2016 and the PO plans to continue these activities also in 2017.

Based on the current implementation stage, the following can be recommended for the following period: prepared programmes could be accompanied by a limited number of calls that would be published right at the beginning of the implementation. A more intense training for the project implementers is desirable regarding the requirements provided in the Guide for the Project Beneficiary and Partner, which could remove certain deficiencies related to public procurement and IFR submitting.

Within the SK08 “Cross-Border Cooperation with Ukraine” the PO contracted the financial means after a rather complicated and lengthy process in 2016 and the implementation started. At the end of 2016, first monitoring and control visits at the Ukrainian partners took place. As of 31 December 2016, the records on these meetings were not yet complete; however, we would like to recommend that in terms of cross-border cooperation in the future with the obligatory financial participation of the Ukrainian partners, the programme should only be implemented in cooperation with a selected and accepted Ukrainian party, which would act on the behalf of and possess the rights of a PO. Without appointing such institutions and transferring rights to it, a successful programme implementation cannot be guaranteed.

In terms of the implementation of Bilateral Funds in 2016, it is necessary to refer to the statement in the previous Strategic Report, according to which Measure B of the Bilateral Funds are open for all Slovak and donor legal entities and international organisations after the change to the Regulation in summer of 2015, which approximated these funds to the Bilateral Fund on the national level.

From the point of the Government Office of the SR as the PO and the NFP, it can be stated that the donors adjusted the implementation of Bilateral Funds in the new programming period into one Bilateral Fund; however, since the process of consideration is currently taking place, as of 31 December 2016 it is not possible to estimate the ultimate effectiveness of the new implementation system in terms of the bilateral relationships enhancement. Their support should be more organised and broader in comparison to the present ad-hoc approach.

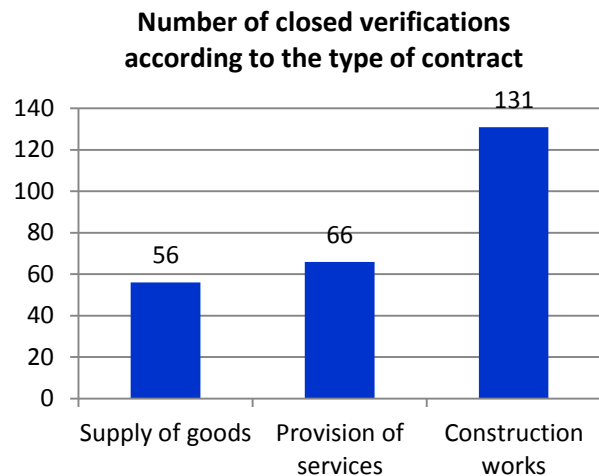
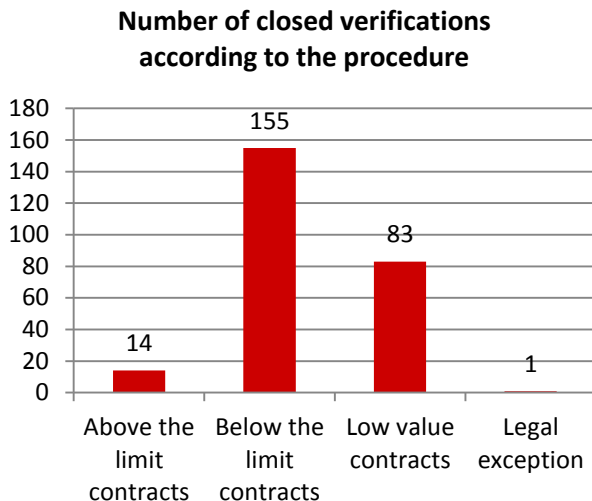
### 5.1 A Separate Chapter on Public Procurement

In 2016, the PO received 303<sup>18</sup> request for the verification of public procurement. In 2016, the Department for the Supervision of Public Procurement at the Government Office of the SR closed 253<sup>19</sup> requests for the verification of public procurement submitted by the Department for the EEA and Norway Grants, which included ex ante verifications – before publishing the call, ex post – after public procurement, and also before signing the contracts, after signing them and after adding supplements to them. Out of the total number of requests, the following were closed: 14 above-the-threshold contracts, 155 below-the-threshold contract, 83 low value contracts. 1 opinion on the exception from the Act on Public Procurement was issued. 56, 66 and 131 verifications related to contracts on supply of goods, service provision and construction works respectively.

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<sup>18</sup> Based on the records on public procurement of the EEA and Norway Grants

<sup>19</sup> Based on the records on public procurement of the Department for the Supervision of Public Procurement



In 70 cases, serious breaches of the Act on Public Procurement and the Guide for the Project Beneficiary and Partner were identified, which (could have) affected the process and result of public procurement.

The verification of public procurements identified the following deficiencies, which (could have) affected the process and result of public procurement:

- The participation conditions were discriminatory and unreasonable and did not relate to the subject of the contract.
- The requirements regarding the personal position, technical and professional competence, etc., were not met in terms of the given subject of contract.
- Specifications of subjects of contracts were incomplete, therefore the received bids were not comparable.
- Descriptions of the subjects of contracts referred to specific Slovak standards without adding “or an equivalent” or listed specific manufacturers, brands and types of goods without adding “or an equivalent”.
- The subjects of contracts were not defined clearly, completely and impartially.
- The bids did not meet the requirements related to the subject of contract or it was never proved.
- The period for submitting requests for bidding documentation was shorter than 50% of the period for submitting of the price offers.
- The procurer failed to properly publish the information on the bids for the low value contract exceeding €20,000 and verify the collusion among bidders; the bidding period was shorter than provided in the Guide for the Project Beneficiary and Partner.
- Low value contracts were not closed in accordance with the Guide for the Project Beneficiary and Partner.
- The direct negotiation procedure regarding the website was not justified as the public procurer referred to exclusive rights, but in fact, it was possible to close the contract in a different manner, too.
- Closing of contracts breached the Act on Public Procurement – subjects of contracts closed through the ECS were commonly accessible in the market in terms of the relevant legal definition.
- Determining the estimated contract value was not documented properly, thus failing to follow the correct procedures in public procurement.
- The beneficiaries published incomplete bidding documentation or relevant explanation in their profiles.
- Breaching of the public procurement principles was identified.

- Information in the individual bids indicated suspected collusion among the bidders or a conflict of interests.

The most frequent deficiencies that did not affect the process and result of public procurement included:

- Specific requirements regarding the supplier agreements were not incorporated in the agreements as provided in the Guide for the Project Beneficiary and Partner.
- The public procurers failed to notify the beneficiaries, thus failing to incorporate the 5% reserve into the price in case of construction works, as provided in the Guide for the Project Beneficiary and Partner.
- Incomplete documentation, missing parts related to the estimated contract value or common market availability tests.
- The beneficiaries failed to collect at least three comparable bids as provided in the Guide for the Project Beneficiary and Partner or the evidence on publishing the call for at least three interested parties was missing.
- Affidavits on non-disclosure from the employees who prepared the bidding documents were missing.
- The beneficiaries failed to publish the information regarding the evaluation of bids in their profile on the website of the Office for Public Procurement.

At the beginning of 2016, the new Act on Financial Control and Audit entered into force, introducing a rather demanding administrative obligation regarding the verification of financial control, which also applies to the verification of public procurement.

The new Act on Financial Control and Audit introduced the obligation of creating a proposal of administrative financial control report for every verification for public procurement to which the beneficiary/project partner is eligible to submit written complaints. Complaints evaluated as justified will be taken into consideration in the report on administrative financial control of public procurement, which will be subsequently sent to the beneficiary/project partner. The report will include recommendations or measures to remove the identified deficiencies as well as the deadline by which the list of measures taken to remove the identified deficiencies and their causes is to be submitted.

This legal provision has significantly prolonged the whole process of the public procurement verification from receiving documentation by the beneficiary to sending the result to the beneficiary or the project partner.

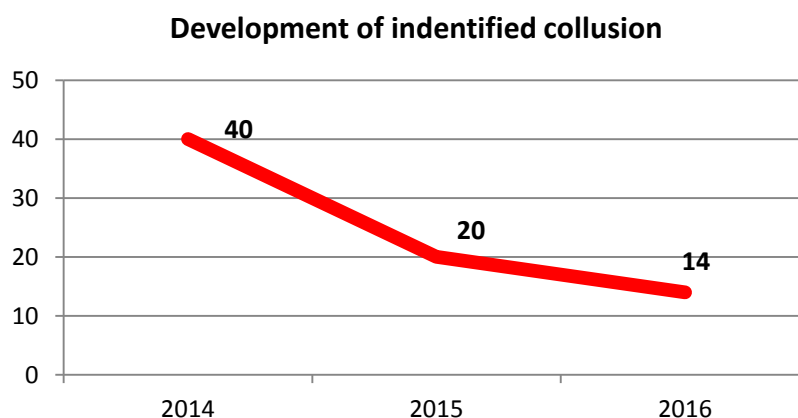
In the second half of 2016, the Department for the Supervision of Public Procurement of the Government Office of the SR extended their staff by two more public procurement inspectors, increasing their number to five. This step was taken due to the fact that the projects were extended by 30 April 2017 and at the time, a significant number of public procurements was still yet to be carried out, including those pertaining to construction works that had to be verified. Another reason was the new Act on Financial Control and Audit, which significantly increased the administrative intensity of public procurement. By hiring more public procurement inspectors the high quality of verification procedures pertaining to public procurement was maintained, and despite the increased administrative intensity, the whole verification process for public procurement, from sending the documentation to the Department for the Supervision of Public Procurement to the final result even reduced by 5 working days (18 in November) on average in comparison to March 2016 (23 days).

In April 2016 the new Act on Public Procurement entered into force increasing the threshold for low value contracts for all procurers and mainly for those not a part of state administration or self-government.

Based on this the Guide for the Project Beneficiary and Partner was extended by the procedures regarding the low value contracts, mainly below and above €20,000. For low value contracts below €20,000 the principle of proportionality was applied, taking into consideration that the contract value is too low to attract the interest of entities from other EU member states, therefore the beneficiary can select the supplier on their own as long as they comply with the principle of economy. Moreover, it is necessary to prove that the procurement subject is supplied by a trustworthy supplier who needs to prove they are authorized to supply this subject, and they have successfully supplied this subject under at least two comparable contracts along with accounting documents; the supplier must not be listed in the blacklist of the electronic marketplace and banned from participating in public procurement.

For low value contracts above €20,000, the beneficiary must submit the same documents as in the previous case; however, their obligation to publish the information on the call for contract to the potential bidders.

In order to prevent collusion in public procurement, the Guide for the Project Beneficiary and Partner now provides that in the case of contracts above €20,000, in each public procurement the beneficiary is obliged to submit a filled-in appendix in which possible collusion is examined in detail. This tool clearly informs the beneficiary that the EEA FM and NFM will not tolerate any agreements and connections restricting economic competition. It significantly reduced the occurrence of collusion in public procurement in 2016. 40, 20 and 14 instances of suspected collusion were identified in 2014, 2015 and 2016 respectively. This proves that the measures taken against collusion are effective.



Based on this, it is evident, that the close supervision of public procurement is one of the main priorities of the Government Office of the SR, which will not tolerate manipulation in public procurement, collusion and serious breaching of the Act on Public Procurement that have or may have an impact on the public procurement result.

## 6 APPENDICES

<b>Appendix 1</b>	Number of applications submitted
<b>Appendix 2 and 3</b>	Overview of projects implemented with a donor project partner
<b>Appendix 4</b>	Irregularities at the programme and national levels
<b>Appendix 5</b>	Irregularities at the project level
<b>Appendix 6</b>	Plan of governmental audits for 2017
<b>Appendix 7</b>	Risk assessment at the national and programme levels
<b>Appendix 8</b>	Annual Report of the Technical Assistance Fund
<b>Appendix 9</b>	Disbursement of funds under the NFM
<b>Appendix 10</b>	The list of monitored projects at the Programme Operator level in 2016
<b>Appendix 11</b>	List of abbreviations

## Annex - Strategic report attachment 1

16-Feb-17

### Applications in Slovakia

Reporting year 2016

Supported export format word, excel and .pdf

### Calls for Proposals

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

	2013			2014			2015			2016			Total		
Calls for proposals	Received	Partnership	Projects Contracted	Received	Partnership	Projects Contracted	Received	Partnership	Projects Contracted	Received	Partnership	Projects Contracted	Received	Partnership	Projects Contracted
1 Prosperous Zemplin, Upper Nitra Water for Its People, Healthy Cities	9	8	0	10	9	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	19	17	5
2 Blue schools	82	13	0	82	10	68	0	0	0	0	0	0	164	23	68
<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>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

	2013			2014			2015			2016			Total		
Calls for proposals	Received	Partnership	Projects Contracted	Received	Partnership	Projects Contracted	Received	Partnership	Projects Contracted	Received	Partnership	Projects Contracted	Received	Partnership	Projects Contracted
1 1. call	166	8	26	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	166	8	26
2 2.call	0	0	0	176	11	36	0	0	0	0	0	0	176	11	36
3 3.call	0	0	0	0	0	0	120	2	23	0	0	0	120	2	23
<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>23</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>462</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>85</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

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

	2013			2014			2015			2016			Total		
<b>Calls for proposals</b>	<b>Received</b>	<b>Partnership</b>	<b>Projects Contracted</b>	<b>Received</b>	<b>Partnership</b>	<b>Projects Contracted</b>	<b>Received</b>	<b>Partnership</b>	<b>Projects Contracted</b>	<b>Received</b>	<b>Partnership</b>	<b>Projects Contracted</b>	<b>Received</b>	<b>Partnership</b>	<b>Projects Contracted</b>
Predefined in Programme Proposal			1												1
1 Small Grants for support of Roma inclusion and intercultural projects by primary and secondary schools	35	0	0	0	0	18	0	0	0	0	0	0	35	0	18
<b>Total</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>35</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**

	2013			2014			2015			2016			Total		
Calls for proposals	Received	Partnership	Projects Contracted	Received	Partnership	Projects Contracted	Received	Partnership	Projects Contracted	Received	Partnership	Projects Contracted	Received	Partnership	Projects Contracted
Predefined in MoU						1									1
1 Contemporary Arts and Culture	0	0	0	0	0	0	27	27	0	0	0	11	27	27	11
2 Safeguard castles and fortifications	0	0	0	15	4	7	0	0	3	0	0	0	15	4	10
3 Safeguard national cultural heritage monuments							0	0	6	0	0	0	0	0	6
<b>Total</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>28</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**

	2014			2015			2016			Total		
Calls for proposals	Received	Partnership	Projects Contracted	Received	Partnership	Projects Contracted	Received	Partnership	Projects Contracted	Received	Partnership	Projects Contracted
1 Higher education student and staff mobility	4	4	0	0	0	4	0	0	0	4	4	4
3 Measure 4 and Measure 5: Call 1	17	17	0	0	0	9	0	0	0	17	17	9
4 Measure 4 and Measure 5: Call 2	0	0	0	20	20	12	0	0	0	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>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</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

	2013			2014			2015			2016			Total		
Calls for proposals	Received	Partnership	Projects Contracted	Received	Partnership	Projects Contracted	Received	Partnership	Projects Contracted	Received	Partnership	Projects Contracted	Received	Partnership	Projects Contracted
Predefined during implementation									1						1
2 Call for proposals	13	8	0	0	0	4	0	0	0	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>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</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

	2013			2014			2015			2016			Total		
Calls for proposals	Received	Partnership	Projects Contracted	Received	Partnership	Projects Contracted	Received	Partnership	Projects Contracted	Received	Partnership	Projects Contracted	Received	Partnership	Projects Contracted
1 First Call for Proposals	0	0	0	83	51	0	0	0	14	0	0	8	83	51	22
2 small grants scheme				73	26	0	0	0	5	0	0	11	73	26	16
<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>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>156</b>	<b>77</b>	<b>38</b>

Open call related outcomes:

- Mitigation of existing barriers to cross-border cooperation

# Applications for SK09 Domestic and Gender-based Violence

	2013			2014			2015			2016			Total		
Calls for proposals	Received	Partnership	Projects Contracted	Received	Partnership	Projects Contracted	Received	Partnership	Projects Contracted	Received	Partnership	Projects Contracted	Received	Partnership	Projects Contracted
Predefined in Programme Proposal									1						1
1 Creation of women's shelters	4	2	0	4	3	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	8	5	3
2 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	0	0	0	16	1	4
3 Support of existing Counselling centres for victims of domestic violence DV	3	0	0	3	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	6	0	2
5 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	0	0	0	18	8	9
6 Support of existing counselling centres for women at risk of violence and experiencing violence and their children				6	0	0	0	0	6	0	0	0	6	0	6
<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>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</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**

	2013			2014			2015			2016			Total		
Calls for proposals	Received	Partnership	Projects Contracted	Received	Partnership	Projects Contracted	Received	Partnership	Projects Contracted	Received	Partnership	Projects Contracted	Received	Partnership	Projects Contracted
Predefined in Programme Proposal			1												1
1 Active citizenship	50	2	9	50	2	10	0	0	0	0	0	0	100	4	19
10 Environment and climate change	4	1	0	4	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	8	2	2
11 Children and youth	24	1	0	24	1	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	48	2	4
12 Environment and climate change	17	6	0	17	6	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	34	12	3
13 Children and youth	43	15	0	43	3	13	0	0	0	0	0	0	86	18	13
3 Environment and climate change	3	0	2	3	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	6	0	4
4 Children and youth	25	2	4	25	3	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	50	5	8
5 Pre-defined project - NGO capacity building and networking	11	0	1	11	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	22	0	2
6 Environment and climate change	24	4	3	24	5	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	48	9	6
7 Welfare and basic services	61	9	8	61	9	8	0	0	0	0	0	0	122	18	16
8 Children and youth	23	2	8	23	2	8	0	0	0	0	0	0	46	4	16
9 Active citizenship	49	4	0	49	4	13	0	0	0	0	0	0	98	8	13
<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>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

				Total		
Calls for proposals	Received	Partnership	Projects Contracted	Received	Partnership	Projects Contracted
Bilateral Fund at National Level	7	7	6	25	25	19
<b>Total</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>19</b>

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

	2016			2015			2014			2013			Total		
Calls for proposals	Received	Partnership	Projects Contracted	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	0	0	0	19	11	11	8	0	0	35	19	11
<b>Total</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</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

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

	2016			2015			Total		
Calls for proposals	Received	Partnership	Projects Contracted	Received	Partnership	Projects Contracted	Received	Partnership	Projects Contracted
Measure B of the Bilateral Funds at Programme Level	15	15	12	3	3	3	18	18	15
<b>Total</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>15</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

	2016			2015			2014			Total		
Calls for proposals	Received	Partnership	Projects Contracted	Received	Partnership	Projects Contracted	Received	Partnership	Projects Contracted	Received	Partnership	Projects Contracted
Preparatory visits	0	0	0	11	11	8	7	7	1	27	27	15
<b>Total</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</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

	2016			2015			Total		
Calls for proposals	Received	Partnership	Projects Contracted	Received	Partnership	Projects Contracted	Received	Partnership	Projects Contracted
Call for bilateral project proposals	5	5	3	2	2	2	7	7	5
<b>Total</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>7</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 SK09 Domestic and Gender-based Violence

	2016			2015			Total		
Calls for proposals	Received	Partnership	Projects Contracted	Received	Partnership	Projects Contracted	Received	Partnership	Projects Contracted
Measure B of the Bilateral Fund at programme level	2	2	2	4	4	4	6	6	6
<b>Total</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>6</b>

Open call related outcomes:

- Gender-based violence reduced
- Domestic violence reduced

Predefined project measures:

- Education and training
- Information and awareness raising
- Research

## Annex - Strategic report attachment 2 & 3

Prepared on 16-Feb-17

### Projects with donor project partners in Slovakia

Supported export format word, excel and .pdf

#### 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 € 4,747,328		

#### 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
SK03-0022	TransFúzia - capacity building of trans* organisation	No	Norway	LLH Oslo and Akershus	Other type of NGO
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 4 out of 86 (4.7%)			Planned grant amount for projects with donor project partners € 200,966		

**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
SK05-0025	Who says I am an outsider?	No	Norway	Fargespill	Foundation
			Iceland	Iceland Music Export IMX	Other
			Iceland	The Icelandic Film Centre	Regional or local authority
SK05-0026	Overcoming Borders - Culture, way to mutual understanding	No	Norway	Scenekunst Østfold	Regional or local authority
SK05-0027	Communication of Art - Art of Communication	No	Norway	Lista Lighthouse Gallery	Regional or local authority
SK05-0028	Phutedro Øre	No	Norway	Kitchen Orchestra	Foundation
			Norway	Tou Scene AS	Micro-enterprise
SK05-0029	Art, collections and data across borders	No	Norway	The National Museum of Art, Architecture and Design	National agency
SK05-0030	The Good Market - The Light of the City	No	Norway	Transnational Arts Production	Other type of NGO
SK05-0032	FOTOROMA - Raising awareness of the cultural diversity of the Roma and the development of intercultural dialogue through photos	No	Norway	Kulturbyrået Mesén AS	University, college or other teaching institution, research institute or think-tank
SK05-0033	Fresh Air: Recent trends in music, cinema, theater and media art	No	Norway	Borealis	Other type of NGO
			Norway	Piksel Produksjoner Ltd.	Micro-enterprise
SK05-0034	A question of will	No	Norway	Kunsthall Trondheim / Trondheim kommune	Regional or local authority
SK05-0035	Movies and photos about cultural heritage	No	Norway	American College of Norway	Foundation
			Norway	Oslo Fotokunstscole	University, college or other teaching institution, research institute or

				think-tank
Projects with donor project partners 17 out of 34 (50.0%)			Planned grant amount for projects with donor project partners € 4,335,688	

#### 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
SK06-0016	Modern Teaching Methods in Alpine Ecology	No	Norway	Telemark 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
SK06-0019	Partnership against geohazards - PARAGEO	No	Iceland	University of Iceland	University, college or other teaching institution, research institute or think-tank
SK06-0020	LIVING MEMORY_DIGITAL FUTURE	No	Norway	University Collge of Southeast Norway (former Telemark University College) M4	University, college or other teaching institution, research institute or think-tank
SK06-0021	Democratic Governance and Differentiation in Europe	No	Norway	University of Oslo	University, college or other teaching institution, research institute or think-tank
SK06-0022	Social services in education of social workers in Slovakia and Norway	No	Norway	Lillehammer University College	University, college or other teaching institution, research institute or think-tank
SK06-0023	Play!	No	Norway	Løkenåsen school	University, college or other teaching institution, research institute or think-tank
SK06-0024	Improving environmental awareness of students	No	Iceland	Fjölbrautaskóli Vesturlands	University, college or other teaching institution, research institute or think-tank
SK06-0025	Understand me	No	Norway	Molde upper secondary school	University, college or other teaching institution, research institute or think-tank
Projects with donor project partners 25 out of 25 (100.0%)			Planned grant amount for projects with donor project partners € 1,662,804		

**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 Berezhnyj - 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	NIBIO	Other
			Norway	Varanger Peninsula National park	Regional or local authority
SK08-0020	European Mobility Week (ETM) - Carpathian network	No	Norway	A and A Borhaug	Micro-enterprise
SK08-0025	Culture and art - Way to a mutual knowledge of Slovakia and Ukraine	No	Norway	Embla keramikk, Oslo	Other type of NGO
SK08-0031	Ekodolina/Ekocelo (Ecovillage)	No	Norway	International Development Norway AS	Micro-enterprise
SK08-0033	International Youth Sport Partnership	No	Norway	Finnmark Idrettskrets	National agency
SK08-0034	Forest for society – Forest without barriers (FOR SOC)	No	Norway	Forestry Extension Institute	Other type of NGO
SK08-0035	Carpathian Portal.	No	Norway	International Development Norway AS	Small or medium sized enterprise (SME)
SK08-0036	ANTIC - Advanced networking through International Co-operation)	No	Norway	A and A Borhaug	Micro-enterprise

SK08-0037	SK-INFO-UA Innovative information products of cross-border cooperation	No	Norway	UiT - The Arctic University of Norway	University, college or other teaching institution, research institute or think-tank
SK08-0038	We have close to each other	No	Norway	Ceragon Networks AS	Large enterprise
SK08-0039	Analysis and assessment of the state of the environment in the SK-UA cross-border area to ensure the sustainability of the area	No	Norway	International Development Norway AS	Small or medium sized enterprise (SME)
SK08-0040	International cooperation in the field of rescue human health and life in accidents and natural disasters (ICHH)	No	Norway	Nordic Gems	Service provision organization (NGO)
SK08-0041	Information provision and implementation of innovative approaches to cross-border cooperation between Slovakia and Ukraine	No	Norway	Local authorities of the region Finnmark	Regional or local authority
Projects with donor project partners 25 out of 41 (61.0%)			Planned grant amount for projects with donor project partners € 8,172,526		

#### 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 € 5,486,546		

#### 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 hogskole, 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	€ 83,630,019
Number of projects	375
Number of projects with donor project partners	115
Proportion of projects with donor project partners	30.67 %
Number of programmes *	9
EEA and Norway grants committed	€ 74,269,750

\* Excluding Technical assistance programmes and PA22

**Annex - Strategic report attachment 4**  
**Programme and country irregularities in Slovakia as initially reported**  
 Reported by designated entities in or before 2016

Prepared 16-Feb-17

Supported export format  
 word and excel

**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€
IR-0111	Closed	26/02/15	03/11/15	2014Q4	2015Q2	deviation from public procurement procedures	108€	92€
IR-0112	Closed	26/02/15	03/11/15	2014Q4	2015Q2	deviation from public procurement procedures	153€	130€
IR-0113	Closed	26/02/15	03/11/15	2014Q4	2015Q2	deviation from public procurement procedures	180€	153€
IR-0114	Closed	26/02/15	03/11/15	2014Q4	2015Q2	deviation from public procurement procedures	328.11€	279€
IR-0115	Closed	26/02/15	25/08/15	2014Q4	2015Q1	deviation from public procurement procedures	5975.60€	5079€
IR-0117	Closed	26/02/15	03/11/15	2014Q4	2015Q2	deviation from public procurement procedures	260.96€	261€
IR-0118	Closed	26/02/15	25/08/15	2014Q4	2015Q1	deviation from public procurement procedures	553.05€	470€
IR-0119	Closed	26/02/15	03/11/15	2014Q4	2015Q2	deviation from public procurement procedures	178.86€	152€
IR-0120	Closed	26/02/15	03/11/15	2014Q4	2015Q2	deviation from public procurement procedures	474.70€	404€
IR-0121	Closed	26/02/15	25/08/15	2014Q4	2015Q1	deviation from public procurement procedures	119.25€	101€
IR-0122	Closed	26/02/15	03/11/15	2014Q4	2015Q2	deviation from public procurement procedures	88.74€	75€
IR-0123	Closed	26/02/15	25/08/15	2014Q4	2015Q1	deviation from public procurement procedures	159.36€	135€
IR-0124	Closed	26/02/15	25/08/15	2014Q4	2015Q1	deviation from public procurement procedures	163.05€	139€
IR-0125	Closed	26/02/15	03/11/15	2014Q4	2015Q2	deviation from public procurement procedures	163.05€	139€
IR-0126	Closed	26/02/15	25/08/15	2014Q4	2015Q1	deviation from programme agreement	250.75€	213€
IR-0127	Closed	26/02/15	03/11/15	2014Q4	2015Q2	deviation from programme agreement	73.90€	63€
IR-0128	Closed	26/02/15	25/08/15	2014Q4	2015Q1	deviation from programme agreement	107.64€	92€
IR-0129	Closed	26/02/15	03/11/15	2014Q4	2015Q2	deviation from programme agreement	30.36€	26€
IR-0130	Closed	27/02/15	03/11/15	2014Q4	2015Q2	deviation from programme agreement	89.41€	76€

IR-0131	Closed	27/02/15	03/11/15	2014Q4	2015Q2	deviation from programme agreement	122.97€	105€
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
IR-0383	Closed	31/05/16	21/11/16	2016Q1	2016Q2	deviation from public procurement procedures	148.73€	126€
IR-0386	Closed	31/05/16	21/11/16	2016Q1	2016Q2	deviation from public procurement procedures	599.08€	509€
IR-0391	On going	31/05/16		2016Q1	2016Q3	deviation from public procurement procedures	599.08€	509€
IR-0396	Closed	31/05/16	21/11/16	2016Q1	2016Q2	deviation from public procurement procedures	67.85€	58€
IR-0397	On going	31/05/16		2016Q1	2016Q3	deviation from public procurement procedures	26.61€	23€
IR-0398	Closed	31/05/16	27/06/16	2016Q1		deviation from public procurement procedures	398.10€	338€
IR-0426	On going	11/07/16		Immediate		fraud/corruption	1990.60€	1692€
IR-0468	Closed	24/08/16	13/10/16	2016Q2		deviation from project contract	No financial impact	No financial impact
IR-0469	On going	24/08/16		2016Q2	2016Q3	deviation from programme agreement	No financial impact	No financial impact
IR-0470	Closed	24/08/16	13/10/16	2016Q2		deviation from programme agreement	No financial impact	No financial impact
IR-0471	Closed	24/08/16	13/10/16	2016Q2		deviation from programme agreement	No financial impact	No financial impact
IR-0472	Closed	24/08/16	13/10/16	2016Q2		deviation from programme agreement	No financial impact	No financial impact
IR-0474	Closed	24/08/16	21/11/16	2016Q2		deviation from public procurement procedures	101.67€	86€
IR-0475	On going	24/08/16		2016Q2	2016Q3	deviation from public procurement procedures	997.46€	848€
IR-0476	Closed	24/08/16	21/11/16	2016Q2		deviation from public procurement procedures	160.61€	137€
IR-0477	On going	24/08/16		2016Q2	2016Q3	deviation from public procurement procedures	461.66€	392€
IR-0478	Closed	24/08/16	21/11/16	2016Q2		deviation from public procurement procedures	773.22€	657 €
IR-0479	On going	24/08/16		2016Q2	2016Q3	deviation from public procurement procedures	3385.65€	2 878 €
IR-0480	Closed	24/08/16	21/11/16	2016Q2		deviation from public procurement procedures	1893.31€	1 609 €
IR-0481	On going	24/08/16		2016Q2	2016Q3	deviation from public procurement procedures	1291.46€	1098 €
IR-0482	Closed	24/08/16	21/11/16	2016Q2		deviation from public procurement procedures	1 005.11€	854€
IR-0483	On going	24/08/16		2016Q2	2016Q3	deviation from public procurement procedures	1 291.46€	1098 €
IR-0484	Closed	24/08/16	21/11/16	2016Q2		deviation from public procurement procedures	1227.44€	1043 €
IR-0485	On going	24/08/16		2016Q2	2016Q3	deviation from public procurement procedures	78.75€	67€

IR-0486	Closed	24/08/16	21/11/16	2016Q2		deviation from public procurement procedures	43.76€	37€
IR-0487	Closed	24/08/16	21/11/16	2016Q2		deviation from public procurement procedures	75.61€	64€
IR-0488	Closed	24/08/16	21/11/16	2016Q2		deviation from public procurement procedures	87.50€	74€
IR-0489	Closed	24/08/16	21/11/16	2016Q2		deviation from public procurement procedures	105€	89€
IR-0558	In Review	30/11/16		2016Q3		deviation from programme agreement	No financial impact	No financial impact
<b>Total</b>							<b>25,568.95€</b>	<b>18,382€</b>

\* Please insert the amount of financial corrections made in the tables above and delete this text.

**Annex - Strategic report attachment 5**  
**Project irregularities in Slovakia as initially reported**  
Reported by designated entities in or before 2016 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	2016Q3	fraud/corruption,deviation from project contract	Progress	Progress
IR-0159	Closed	28/05/15	21/12/15	2015Q1	2015Q3	deviation from public procurement procedures	30,957.00 €	89,723.00 €
IR-0207	On going	27/08/15		2015Q2	2016Q3	deviation from public procurement procedures	5,475.00 €	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	Closed	23/11/15	05/07/16	Immediate	2016Q1	deviation from programme agreement	No financial impact	No financial impact
IR-0256	On going	30/11/15		2015Q3	2016Q3	deviation from public procurement procedures	3,600.00 €	3,600.00 €
IR-0257	On going	30/11/15		2015Q3	2016Q3	deviation from project contract	1,703.00 €	1,703.00 €
IR-0258	On going	30/11/15		2015Q3	2016Q3	deviation from project contract	No financial impact	No financial impact
IR-0322	Closed	26/02/16	04/07/16	2015Q4		deviation from public procurement procedures	2,350.00 €	2,350.00 €
IR-0376	Closed	31/05/16	20/10/16	2016Q1	2016Q2	deviation from public procurement procedures	323.00 €	323.00 €
IR-0379	Closed	31/05/16	24/08/16	2016Q1	2016Q2	deviation from public procurement procedures	326.00 €	326.00 €
IR-0399	Closed	31/05/16	27/06/16	2016Q1		deviation from project contract	No financial impact	No financial impact
IR-0461	Closed	23/08/16	20/10/16	2016Q2		deviation from public procurement procedures	47,318.00 €	47,318.00 €
IR-0462	On going	23/08/16		2016Q2	2016Q3	deviation from project contract	36 €	36 €
IR-0463	On going	23/08/16		2016Q2	2016Q3	deviation from project contract	7 €	7 €
IR-0466	On going	24/08/16		2016Q2	2016Q3	deviation from public procurement procedures	15,874.00 €	15,874.00 €
IR-0467	On going	24/08/16		2016Q2	2016Q3	deviation from project contract	1,014.00 €	1,014.00 €
IR-0473	On going	24/08/16		2016Q2	2016Q3	deviation from project contract	1,735.00 €	1,735.00 €
IR-0559	In Review	30/11/16		2016Q3		deviation from project contract	No financial impact	No financial impact
IR-0560	In Review	30/11/16		2016Q3		deviation from public procurement procedures	5,997.00 €	5,997.00 €
<b>Total</b>							<b>15,356.00 €</b>	<b>15,356.00 €</b>

Government audit plan for 2017<sup>1</sup>

Financial mechanism	Audit	Year 2017											
		01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	09	10	11	12
EEA FM and NFM	Audit of system												
	Project audit												

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<sup>1</sup> Source: Ministry of Finance of the Slovak Republic

### Risk assessment at the national level

Type of objective <sup>1</sup>	Risk description	Probability <sup>2</sup>	Consequence <sup>3</sup>	Planned/implemented impact alleviation
Cohesion:	Failure to accomplish certain results/programme outcomes	2	2	Monitoring of projects/programmes, intense contact with programme implementers
Bilateral objective:	Lack of partners in the donor states in the implementation of projects	2	3	In the next programming period, it is desirable to consider creating a list of possible partner institutions and their division among beneficiary countries
Operational problems:	Insufficient administrative capacity	2	2	NFP as the PO extended its capacities in 2015 in order to accommodate the demand for the administrative processing of interim reports on projects

<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, N/A - irrelevant.



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

Programme	Type of objective <sup>5</sup>	Risk description	Probability <sup>6</sup>	Consequence <sup>7</sup>	Planned/implemented impact alleviation
SK02 Adaptation to Climate Change - Floods and Drought Prevention	Cohesion (programme) outcome:				
	Developed strategies and measures to adapt to the climate changes	Missing legislation and standards pertaining to the sustainable management of rain water	1	3	Successful discussion and consulting with relevant representatives
		The process and implementation of public procurement	1	3	Improvement of public procurement
		The failure to obtain the permit necessary to implement the adaptation measures, e. g. special permits such as EIA	1	3	Suitable schedule and high quality of the proposed solution will alleviate the risk
	Increased Capacity to Assess Vulnerability to Climate Change	Lack of experience with the detailed assessment of risks and vulnerabilities	1	1	Exchange of experience with beneficiaries working on the issues related to the adaptation and vulnerability assessment
		Pilot technologies for the planned measures will not be adopted due to legislative and administrative obstacles	1	1	Suitable schedule and high quality of the proposed solution will alleviate the risk
	Raising awareness and providing education in the area of adaptation to climate change	The seminars and workshops aimed at awareness-raising are not attended by a sufficient number of participants	1	2	The communication strategy should include specific tools for effective communication and disseminating of information
		Insufficient quality of educational materials for students and pupils	1	1	Cooperation with the already existing networks such as "Green School" and other experts in education to alleviate the risk
		Insufficient level of participation in the international conferences	1	2	Cooperation with research institutions will provide correct approach and relevant speeches

<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, N/A - irrelevant.

	Bilateral outcome:				
		the number of (bilateral) articles written in cooperation between employees from both the beneficiary and donor countries published in national or international publications will not be sufficient	3	2	Enhancing cooperation based on an agreement with the Norwegian partners
		The number of replications of the common projects (or their outcomes) by other organisations elsewhere	3	2	Project replications will be supported through the communication strategies of the relevant projects
SK04 Local and Regional Initiatives to Reduce National Inequalities and to Promote the Social Inclusion Programme					
	Operational problems:	The teachers who completed the accredited education will stop using the relevant materials and innovative educational methods after the programme is over	3	1	A monitoring system needs to be developed by the PO in order to supervise it
		Sustainability after the funding is no longer available	2	1	The risk is alleviated by the strict selection of projects required to provide a detailed sustainability plan in the project application and the possibility to apply for further funding from the structural funds for example
SK05 Conservation and Revitalisation of Cultural and Natural Heritage & Promotion of Diversity in Culture and Arts within European Cultural Heritage	Cohesion (programme) outcome:				
	Bilateral outcome:				
		The number of project partner agreements in the receiving civil society of the private and	1	1	Enhancing cooperation based on an agreement with the Norwegian partners

		public sectors			
	Operational problems:				
		The level of expertise in the area of NCM reconstruction needs to be improved (if relevant expert opinions were not available in processing the project or a competent representative of the (Regional) Monuments Board of the SR was not present, the level of expertise might be insufficient)	2	3	The level of expertise in the area of NCM reconstruction will be achieved by submitting relevant expert opinions (issued by the competent Regional Monuments Board in the stage when projects are submitted). It was also facilitated by direct participation of the (Regional) Monuments Board representative in the evaluation committee. They evaluated not only the submitted projects, but also the complexity of the submitted expert opinions.
SK07 Green Industry Innovation	Operational problems:				
		Sustainability and guaranteed income which are at risk due to the frequent legislative changes	1	1	The PO considers the projects running in 2016 sustainable enough
		Risks related to public procurement	1	1	The PO has set strict criteria regarding the control of public procurement which help reduce the risk resulting from its inappropriate execution
SK08 Cross-Border Cooperation with Ukraine	Cohesion (programme) outcome:				
	Reducing of existing barriers for cross-border cooperation	The target value of indicators will not be achieved	4	1	An insufficient number of applications for contributions were submitted in reaction to the open calls despite an additional call to reallocate the unallocated funding
	Operational problems:				
		Programme management and expertise	3	2	Insufficient familiarity with the Ukrainian system of institutions negatively influences the ability to implement the projects The PO is trying to eliminate this risk through cooperation with the Embassy of Ukraine in Slovakia.
		Public procurement	2	2	The PO needs to apply stricter procedures regarding the verification of public procurement than provided in the

					Regulation. Compliance with Articles 7.16 (1) and (4)
		Development over time	2	2	There is a risk that certain projects will not be completed by the end of the eligibility period.
		Co-financing	1	1	The beneficiary is obliged to transfer their own means assigned to co-financing at the moment when they receive the advance payment from the Operator A Measure in the form of retention amounting to 10% at the final payment. If the beneficiary has not transferred their part of co-financing, the PO can withdraw their funding or refuse to reimburse the costs.
		Risk related to sustainability of funding	1	2	NGO beneficiaries find it hard to facilitate the sustainability of projects. In the future there will be more funding sources such as the ENI Programme or the Global Fund for Regional Cooperation.
		The risk lies within the possible lack of compliance with the legislation	1	2	The possible lack of compliance with legislation could be reduced by the fact that the PO cooperates with the relevant Ministries and other authorities
SK09 Domestic and Gender-based Violence	Cohesion (programme) outcome:				
		Programme outcomes will not be accomplished	4	1	Not enough applicants applied under the calls However, the objective of the programme in the form of accessible services is being accomplished
	Operational problems:				
		Insufficient time for implementation in case it does not go exactly as planned	2	2	The PO facilitates the completion of the projects after the eligibility period by providing further funding from their own sources
		Co-financing	1	1	The beneficiary is obliged to transfer their own means assigned to co-financing at the moment when they receive the advance payment from the Operator A Measure in form of retention amounting to 10% at the final payment. If the beneficiary has not

					transferred their part of co-financing, the PO can withdraw their funding or refuse to reimburse the costs.
		Risk related to sustainability of funding	2	3	Beneficiaries may find it hard to facilitate the sustainability of projects. In the future there will be more funding sources for the Human Resources operational programme.

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

### **1. Overview of the main events in 2016:**

#### **A) Overview of the main activities of the NFP in 2016**

The activities of the National Focal Point in 2016 were primarily based on NFP's responsibility for achieving the objectives of the 2009 – 2014 EEA Financial Mechanism.

On 4 March 2016, the Monitoring Committee held its fifth meeting to review progress in attaining the objectives of the EEA and Norway, as well as to examine the outputs in the implementation of the programmes. The Strategic Reports on the implementation of both financial instruments for 2015 was approved at the annual meeting in November 2016. In September, the NFP submitted to the FMO the annual budget for TA for 2017 and in the course of 2016, also a further three interim financial reports.

Between 19 and 21 May 2016 the NFP organised training in cooperation with CA and AA in order to exchange experience in management and supervision procedures under the EEA FM and NFM as well as structural fund/cohesion fund in the Ružiná Recreational and Training Centre of the Slovak Water-Management Enterprise.

The NFP attended the meetings of the Cooperation Committee as well as in the Selection Committees within the individual programmes.

On 28 November 2016 the Sixth Annual Meeting within the Implementation of EEA FM and NFM 2009 – 2014 was held in Bratislava.

Throughout 2016, the NFP played an important role in raising awareness of both financial mechanisms within the 2009 – 2014 programming period by providing information on both of these funds. During the entire period, the NFP ran a website containing information about all programmes, bilateral cooperation with donor states, including information on calls, meetings, workshops, seminars and all relevant issues and documents. A purchase of informational and promotional brochures was conducted in order to raise awareness of the public with regard to EEA FM and NFM.

The NFP employees attended meetings with donor states to discuss their tasks in the 2009 – 2014 programming period, including workshops organised by the NFP in cooperation with the Financial Mechanism Committee (seminar on the Scholarship Fund in Bergen in 2016, seminar on publicity and communication in Riga in 2016) and various conferences. The NFP attended the working session of the V4 representatives on the implementation of the EEA FM and NFM in 2009 – 2014 in Warsaw in 2016.

#### **B) Overview of the main activities of the Audit Authority (AA) in 2016**

As for claims pertaining to 2016, in terms of eligible expenditure, the AA claimed mainly salary expenditures incurred by the performance of governmental audits. The eligible salary expenditures related to finishing works under governmental audit No. A706 (audit of operations). Governmental Audits No. A710 (system audit) and A808 (audit of operations) were also performed. Employees of the AA (Department of Audit and Control of the MFSR) and the Internal Audit Unit (IAU) participated in the audits; the latter authority was established on 1 January 2016 and has since cooperated with

the AA. Within the performance of the governmental audits, the IAU employees were required to carry out business trips which incurred eligible expenditures.

As a part of its methodological, planning and reporting activities, the AA prepared the 2009 – 2014 EEA FM and NFM Annual Audit Report for the period between 1 July 2015 and 31 June 2016 and carried out related methodological activities.

Another eligible expenditure was incurred by the translation of the annual control report into English and further travel expenditures were related to the participation of the AA employees in the “Audit Authority Workshop” held in Brussels.

### C) Overview of the main activities of the Certifying Authority (CA)

In the course of 2016, the CA carried out mainly the following activities:

- processing and submitting of estimates of expected expenditure to the FMO 4 times a year (by 20 February, 20 May, 20 September and 10 December);
- co-financing of EEA FM/NFM from the public administration budget;
- verification of the fulfilment of conditions for the certification of the submitted interim financial reports under the programmes: SK01, SK02, SK04, SK05, SK06, SK07, SK08, SK09;
- verification and approving of the statements of expenditure and interim financial reports (IFRs) under the programmes: SK01, SK02, SK04, SK05, SK06, SK07, SK08, SK09
- sending of certified IFRs under the programmes: SK01, SK02, SK04, SK05, SK06, SK07, SK08, SK09 to the FMO
- implementation of financial flows (receiving funds from the EEA FM 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);
- methodological guidance for the individual bodies involved in the financial management of EEA FM and NFM
- accounting for the AA;
- coordinating and performing of tasks related to the ISUF fund accounting system.

## 2. Disbursement of funds

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

**Implementation of the TA budget for 2016 (actual expenditure vs. planned expenditure) from the perspective of the NFP**

For 2016, the NFP planned to draw funds in the amount of **€188,442** (€160,176 net of 15% national co-financing). The eligible expenditure incurred by the NFP in 2016 in connection with the discharge of its functions under the EEA FM and NFM amounted to **€112,268 EUR** (€95,428 net of 15% national co-financing). The funds actually drawn represented 59.58% of the total budget planned.

	Budget for 2016 incl. 15% co-financing	Budget for 2016 net of 15% co-financing	Expenditure for 2016 incl. 15% co-financing	Expenditure for 2016 net of 15% co-financing
I Additional management systems (salary expenditures)	115,712	98,355	104,394	88,735
II Monitoring Committee, annual meetings and other meetings	7,150	6,078	807	686



III Working meetings and conferences	2,100	1,785	6,610	5,619
IV Promotional and informational activities	16,600	14,110	1,600	1,360
V Audits	0	0	0	0
VI On-the-spot verifications	21,500	18,275	-1,143	-972
VII Reviews and evaluations	25,380	21,573	0	0
VIII Implementation of the FM 2004 – 2009	0	0	0	0
<b>Total expenditure for 2016</b>	<b>188,442</b>	<b>160,176</b>	<b>112,268</b>	<b>95,428</b>

#### Disbursement from the TA fund under the EEA FM/NFM 2009 – 2014 as of 31 December 2016

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 €954,412 (€811,250 net of 15% national co-financing). As of 31 December 2016, the total amount of EUR 949,869 (EUR 807,388 net of 15% national co-financing) had been credited to the NFP's account. Therefore, the cumulative amount of the funds paid represented 99.52% of the total TA budget approved for the NFP as of 31 December 2016. Since the beginning of the implementation of the EEA FM/NFM 2009 – 2014, the eligible expenditure incurred by the NFP in the Accounting Sheet represented €826,853 (€702,825 net of 15% national co-financing) as of 31 December 2016. The cumulative amount of eligible expenditure incurred by the NFP in the Accounting Sheet represented 86.63% of the total TA budget approved for the NFP.

	Allocation incl. 15% co-financing	Funds paid (in €)	% of funds paid	Expenditure submitted in Accounting List (in €)	% of expenditure incurred
<b>NFP</b>	954,412	949,869	99.52%	826,853	86.63%

In €

	Allocation net of 15% co-financing	Funds paid (in €)	% of funds paid	Expenditure submitted in Accounting List (in €)	% of expenditure incurred
<b>NFP</b>	811,250	807,388	99.52%	702,825	86.63%

In €

*\*eligible expenditures for the period of 2016 including expenditures from September to December 2016, which were included in the materials for IFR No. 15 sent in January 2017.*

#### Planned expenditure

The total estimated amount of the NFP's budget for 2017 is €122,800 (€104,380 net of 15% national co-financing).

	Budget for 2017 incl. 15% co-financing (in €)	Budget for 2017 net of 15% co-financing (in €)
I Additional management systems (salary expenditures)	50,000	42,500
II Monitoring Committee, annual meetings and other meetings	4,000	3,400

III Working meetings and conferences	1,000	850
IV Promotional and informational activities	5,000	4,250
V Audits	0	0
VI On-the-spot verifications	15,000	12,750
VII Reviews and evaluations	47,800	40,630
VIII Implementation of the FM 2004 – 2009	0	0
<b>Total expenditure for 2017</b>	<b>122,800</b>	<b>104,380</b>

The National Focal Point does not expect any changes during the year compared to the budget sent in September 2016.

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

The total budget for eligible activities in 2016 was €56,500.00 (€48,025.00 net of 15% national co-financing). The total eligible expenditures in 2016 represented €96,784.74, exceeding the planned budget by 71%. Actual eligible expenditures incurred to the AA and IAU in 2016 were related to salary expenditures representing €94,989.89, including the national co-financing. Expenditures amounting to €353.28 were incurred by translation of the annual control report into English. Further expenditures amounting to €1,441.57 were incurred by the business trips of AA and IAU employees.

Pursuant to the Agreement between the Government Office of the SR and the MFSR No. 300/2012 of 22 June 2012, the total amount allocated for the AA represents €235,294.00. As of 31 December 2016, the total amount transferred to the AA account through advance payments and two reimbursements represented €192,259.00. Since the beginning of the project activities eligible expenditures related to AA activity amounted to €210,159.52 as of 31 December 2016. AA expenditures amounted to €64,313.89; expenditures for financial control reports amounted to €68,107.49, and IAU expenditures amounted to €77,738.14. The proportion of all incurred eligible expenses in the total approved budget of the Technical Assistance for the AA represented 89.32% as of 31 December 2016.

The total budget for eligible activities in 2017 was estimated at €66,030.00 (€56,126.00 net of 15% national co-financing), the rest of which can be drawn from the TA. Based on the actual expenditure of the AA, the amount of €25,134.00 (€21,363.90 net of 15% national co-financing) is still to be drawn in 2016. The rest of these means will be used mainly to perform the system audit and audit of operations at the beneficiaries of the EEA FM and NFM 2009 – 2014 which will incur salary and travel expenditures for the AA and IAU.

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

Implementation of the budget for 2016

	Budget for 2016 (net of national co-financing)	Total expenditure for 2016 in Accounting Sheet* (net of national co-financing)*
I Additional management systems (salary costs, costs of ISUF)	25,432.00	17,039.00
III Working meetings and conferences	€1,105.00	1,535.00
<b>Total expenditure for 2016</b>	<b>26,537.00</b>	<b>18,574.00</b>

in €

*\*eligible expenditures for the period of 2016, including expenditures from September to December 2016, which were included in the materials for IFR No. 15 sent in January 2017.*

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 2016, 16 eligible employees were reimbursed a month on average. 1 CA employee reported through the actual % rate was reimbursed with the average salary costs reimbursement rate of 90.89%. Other eligible AA employees were reimbursed based on the allocation criterion determining the salary cost reimbursement rate at 0.53%.

Under Item III *Working Meetings and Conferences* 2 foreign business trips took place in 2016.

Disbursement from the TA fund under the EEA FM/NFM 2009 – 2014 as of 31 December 2016

	Net allocation	Funds paid	% of funds paid	Incurred expenditure	% of expenditure incurred
CA	200,000.00	155,274.00	77.64%	155,380.00	77.69%

in EUR (net of national co-financing)

*\*the table includes incurred expenditures as well as eligible expenditures for the period of September – December 2016, which were included in the materials for IFR No. 15 sent in January 2017. The expenditures amounted to €6,362.00 (net of national co-financing), i.e. the sum of funds cleared as of 31 December 2016 was €149,018.00.*

Expenditure planned in 2017

	Budget for 2017 (net of national co-financing)
I Additional management systems (salary costs, costs of ISUF)	22,644.00
III Working meetings and conferences	€1,105.00
<b>Total expenditure for 2017</b>	<b>23,749.00</b>

in €

Under Item I *Additional Management Systems*, the planned expenditures include eligible salary expenditures amounting to €22,644 in 2017. This amount represents an estimate of the eligible salary costs of 15 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 (approx. 0.50%) will be applied to 13 employees.

Under Item III *Costs related to two business trips abroad planned* are estimated at €1,105.00 in 2017.

### 3. Public procurement

In 2016 no significant public procurement was executed.

### 4. Plan of activities for 2017

The plan of NFP, CA and AA activities can be found in the main report in Part 4.6.



## Disbursement of funds under the FM EEA and NFM as of 31 December 2016

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	
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
SK01	767 000	101 510	697 073	90,88%	697 073	94 376	791 449	91,13%	502 765	81 964	584 729	67,33%
- FTA	575 250	101 510	534 800	92,97%	534 800	94 376	629 176	92,97%	464 516	81 964	546 480	80,75%
- BF	191 750	0	162 273	84,63%	162 273	0	162 273	84,63%	38 249	0	38 249	19,95%
SK02	12 463 750	2 199 485	12 406 111	99,54%	12 406 111	2 189 314	14 595 425	99,54%	5 134 219	906 041	6 040 260	41,19%
SK04	1 000 000	176 471	990 026	99,00%	990 026	174 710	1 164 736	99,00%	867 287	153 050	1 020 337	86,73%
SK05	11 922 500	2 103 971	11 859 936	99,48%	11 859 936	2 092 929	13 952 865	99,48%	7 729 478	1 364 027	9 093 505	64,83%
SK06	1 917 500	338 382	1 888 332	98,48%	1 888 332	333 233	2 221 565	98,48%	1 584 755	279 664	1 864 419	82,65%
<b>Total for EEA FM</b>	<b>28 070 750</b>	<b>4 919 819</b>	<b>27 841 478</b>	<b>99,18%</b>	<b>27 841 478</b>	<b>4 884 562</b>	<b>32 726 040</b>	<b>99,20%</b>	<b>15 818 504</b>	<b>2 784 746</b>	<b>18 603 250</b>	<b>56,39%</b>
SK01	913 468	112 240	800 043	87,58%	800 043	104 345	904 388	88,17%	565 618	90 635	656 253	63,98%
- FTA	636 000	112 240	591 281	92,97%	591 281	104 345	695 626	92,97%	513 561	90 635	604 196	80,75%
- BF	277 468	0	208 762	75,24%	208 762	0	208 762	75,24%	52 057	0	52 057	18,76%
SK07	16 073 985	2 836 586	12 662 895	78,78%	12 662 895	2 234 628	14 897 523	78,78%	10 762 915	1 899 338	12 662 253	66,96%
SK08	13 368 547	2 359 155	8 509 655	63,65%	8 509 655	1 501 704	10 011 359	63,65%	4 755 409	839 191	5 594 600	35,57%
SK09	8 440 000	1 489 412	7 867 334	93,21%	7 867 334	1 388 352	9 255 686	93,21%	5 319 546	938 744	6 258 290	63,03%
<b>Total for NFM</b>	<b>38 796 000</b>	<b>6 797 393</b>	<b>29 839 927</b>	<b>76,91%</b>	<b>29 839 927</b>	<b>5 229 029</b>	<b>35 068 956</b>	<b>76,92%</b>	<b>21 403 488</b>	<b>3 767 908</b>	<b>25 171 396</b>	<b>55,21%</b>
<b>Total for EEA FM and NFM</b>	<b>66 866 750</b>	<b>11 717 212</b>	<b>57 681 405</b>	<b>86,26%</b>	<b>57 681 405</b>	<b>10 113 591</b>	<b>67 794 996</b>	<b>86,27%</b>	<b>37 221 992</b>	<b>6 552 654</b>	<b>43 774 646</b>	<b>55,70%</b>
Currency: EUR		<b>78 583 962</b>	<b>57 681 405</b>		<b>67 794 996</b>				<b>43 774 646</b>			

Source: Ministry of Finance of the SR



**Appendix 10 List of monitored projects at the programme operator level in 2016**

**Period 1 -4/2016**

<b>No.</b>	<b>Programme code</b>	<b>Project number</b>	<b>Name of project promoter</b>	<b>Project name</b>	<b>Grant in EUR</b>
1	SK09	DGV01003	Slniecko Center	Safe women's home - space without violence	331 298
2	SK08	CBC01002	DRUŽBA SLOVENSKO - UKRAJINA, n.o.	DRUŽBA Slovakia - Ukraine	873 779
3	SK08	CBC01008	Pan-European University	Innovative Methods of Education to Promote Partnerships - "InovEduc"	575 486
4	SK05	CLT01001	Central Union of Jewish Religious Communities in Slovakia	Suburbium of Bardejov - rescue, recovery and restoration of the Old Synagogue	522 203
5	SK05	CLT02007	Železiarne Podbrezová, a.s.	Ľupča Castle - restoration of Upper Courtyard	358 278
6	SK05	CLT02001	City of Žilina	Reconstruction of dormant cultural monument Rosenfeld's palace in Žilina for strengthening the cultural potential of the region	695 204
7	SK02	ACC01002	Municipality of Nižná Polianka	The Reconstruction of ecosystem functioning of the landscape within the upper site the Ondava river catchment area - Ondava for Life	1 429 477

**Period 5 - 8/2016**

No.	Programme code	Project number	Name of project promoter	Project name	Grant in EUR
1	SK02	ACC02002	City of Zvolen	Biotechnical innovation in the use of rainwater in Zvolen City	1 010 000
2		ACC03001	Elementary School with Kindergarten Záriečie	Water and climate in our school	37 629
3		ACC03003	Elementary school Rudina	Let's Return Water to the Nature	38 494
4		ACC03055	Secondary Professional School Kysucke Nove Mesto	Blue School in Kysuca Region	39 384
5		ACC03050	Elementary School Budkovce 355	"Drop" - Water Cycle and Preparation of Community Arboretum	37 607
6		ACC03028	Elementary School with Kindergarten Župkov	Modernization of curricula on issues of storm water management in the Elementary School with Kindergarten Župkov	39 500
7		ACC03056	Grammar School, 905 1. May Street, Púchov	Extension of provision and implementation of measures for the use of rainwater at a Grammar School	39 553
8		ACC03035	King Svatopluk Elementary School with Kindergarten Šintava	Revitalizing and Saving the Planet	40 000
9		ACC03034	Elementary School with Kindergarten Hontianske Nemce 77	Modern use of rainwater at the Elementary School with Kindergarten in Hontianske Nemce	37 240
10		ACC03054	Elementary School Bytča	Living water	39 580
11	SK05	CLT01002	The Dominican convent	The Roman Catholic Church of the Assumption of the Virgin Mary - Dominican church in Košice - Restoration of the facade	391 649
12		CLT1013	Village of Dunajský Klátov	Watermill Dunajský Klátov - Reconstruction	280 479
13		CLT02010	The Roman Catholic Church, bishopric Nitra	Improvement of tourism Infrastructure making the National Cultural Monument - Nitra Castle - accessible, including the restoration of this monument	697 814
14	SK07	GII01006	VSV GROUP, s.r.o.	The Biogas Station and the Green Logistics Centre Tvrdošín	1 289 795 €
15		GII01005	STAMAP, ltd	Business development and employment growth in the company STAMAP, Ltd., in the field of OZE	1 579 484
16	SK08	CBC01013	National Forest Centre	Forest for society – Forest without barriers (FOR SOC)	703 389
17		CBC01014	Research Centre of the Slovak Foreign Policy Association, n.o.	Sharing European integration know-how and CBC experience between Norway and Russia with Ukraine	354 119
18		CBC01010	Agency for the Support of Regional Development Košice	ZIP – Zipping and Innovating the Development Planning of the Cross-Border SK-UA Territory	398 773
19		CBC01006	ANNOGALLERY	Partnership sealed with clay	229 410
20	SK09	DGV02003	Civic association Help for Children in Danger	Common goals	202 869
21		DGV03009	Union of Mother Centres	Women to women	102 405
22		DGV03006	Social service center KA	Bridges	59 168
23		DGV02001	Košice Self-governing Region	Improving Quality of Counselling for Women Experiencing Gender Based Violence in Intimate Relationships in Kosice Self-governing Region	290 728
24		DGV03011	Victim support Slovakia	Improving the scope, quality and availability of counselling services for victims of domestic violence in the regions of Slovakia	113 506

**Period 9 - 12/2016**

No.	Programme code	Project number	Name of project promoter	Project name	Grant in EUR
1	SK02	ACC01001	Slovak Water Management Company, branch of Piešťany	Upper Nitra Basin - Measures for Floods and Droughts Prevention	3 199 824
2		ACC01003	Slovak Water Management Company, branch of Košice	Zemplin - floods and droughts prevention - ZEMPASS	2 270 513
3		ACC02003	Bratislava City	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	2 821 120
4	SK05	CLT02002	Slovak National Museum	HraMoKa – restoration baroque halls of Modrý Kameň Castle for a puppet theatre, regional history and creative workshops for children and youth	511 125
5		CLT02003	City of Trebišov	Revitalization of Parič Castle (RePar)	668 026
6		CLT02004	Bratislava City	National Cultural Monument Castle Devin – Access for the Public to the Upper Castle	339 770
7		CLT02005	Village of Štiavnické Bane	Bastion reconstruction and "Maximilian Hell" exhibition establishment – Štiavnické Bane	280 288
8		CLT02008	City of Považská Bystrica	Restoring National Cultural Monument Považský Castle	457 184
9		CLT01007	Town Sered'	Construction modifications of the mansion and revitalization of the castle park in Sered' to increase cultural and tourist potential of the city	512 817
10		CLT01008	Seminary of St. Charles Borromeo	Restoration of the Church of St. Anthony of Padua in Kosice - Franciscan Monastery	651 817
11		CLT01010	State Theater Košice	Restoring National Cultural Monument - historical building of the State Theater in Košice in multicultural and multinational environment	500 000
12		CLT01011	City District Bratislava - Staré Mesto	Pisztory's Palace in Bratislava - restoration of facades and roofs of the palace	548 428
13		CLT01012	Civic Association Our Smolenice	Revitalization of the fort MOLPIR	290 217
14		CLT03011	MIRAFILM	Cultural Heritage films and photographs	198 973
15		CLT03005	Slovak National Gallery	Art, collections and data across borders	92 412
16		CLT03003	Milan Šimečka Foundation	Engaging Socially Disadvantaged Groups Into Cultural Life In Slovakia	134 977
17		CLTPP001	Monument Board of SR	Pro Monumenta	1 152 056
18	SK07	GII01001	Intech Slovakia, s.r.o.	SINBIO (Sustainable Innovation in Bioenergy)	4 940 994
19		GII01003	Eco Film, ltd	Green innovations Kaloša	1 749 775
20		GII01004	BIOPEL, Jsc.	BIOMASS LOGISTIC CENTER (BLC)	3 377 927
21		GIIPP001	National Food and Agricultural Centre	Centre for the Research of Biomass Potential	2 500 000
22	SK08	CBC01004	Spiš Gallery o. z.	Culture and arts - the way to a mutual understanding of Slovakia and Ukraine	286 619
23		CBC01016	Ministry of Interior of the Slovak Republic	SOS-Alert Solution - Cross-border cooperation project for enhanced detection and interception of illicit CBRN materials on the Slovakian-Ukrainian border	971 848
24		CBC01011	Karpatská nadácia	Generation 2020/ Generácia 2020/ Генерація 2020	297 088
25		CBC01012	State Nature Conservation of the Slovak Republic	Nature conservation as opportunity for regional development	756 849
26		CBC01017	Ministry of Interior of the Slovak Republic	Improving technical and educational capacity to accelerate the handling process for common Slovakia-Ukraine border	829 780
27		CBC01018	Research Centre of the Slovak Foreign Policy Association, n.o.	Sharing know-how for better management of the Schengen Border between Slovakia / Ukraine and Norway / Russia	619 454



28		CBC01021	University of ss. Cyril and Method in Trnava	Communication to the Prosperity Slovakia - Ukraine Border Region (COPESU)	454 538
29		CBC01024	Košice Self-Govering Region	Travelling puppets	440 934
30		CBC01023	ALMA - center regeneration and protection of folk architecture and traditions of region Gemer	ANTIC - (advanced networking through international co-operation)	410 902
31		CBC02/PSK-I/049	University of Presov in Presov	The image of eastern Slovakia in Transcarpathian Ukraine and Transcarpathian region in eastern Slovakia in the 17th-20th centuries	114 440
32	SK09	DGVPP001	Ministry of labour, social affairs and family of the Slovak Republic	Coordinating Methodical Centre for gender based and domestic violence	2 000 000
33		DGV03008	Non-profit organization BUDÚCNOSŤ	Counseling center for people at risk of violence specifically targeted for violence in the context of addiction	54 360
34		DGV03007	Social services centre ANIMA	To live without Fear	85 257
35		DGV02005	Alliance of Women in Slovakia	Intervention center – program of work with perpetrators of gender-based violence	188 377
36		DGV02006	Civic association PRIMA	Female on the street	52 956
37		DGV02002	Civic organisation MyMamy (WeMothers)	Slovakia without gender violence	406 405

**Abbreviations and programme numbers**

AA	Audit Authority
AoPP	Act No. 343/2015 on Public Procurement
CA	Certifying Authority
CMC	Coordinating-Methodological Centre for Domestic and Gender-based Violence
CMR	City monument reserve
DPP	Donor programme partners
ECS	Electronic Contracting System
EEP	Estimate of expected payment
EIA	Environmental impact assessment
ENI	European Neighbourhood Instrument
FAMR	Folklore architecture monument reserve
FMO	Financial Mechanisms Office
IAU	Internal Audit Unit
IFR	Interim financial report
IM	Internal Manual
MF SR	CA Ministry of Finance of the SR as the Certifying Authority
MFSR	Ministry of Finance of the SR
MI	Monument item
MO	Monument object
MSCE	Minimum standards of the Council of Europe
NAP	National Action Plan for the Prevention and Elimination of Violence against Women for 2014 – 2019
NCM	National cultural monuments
NFP	National Focal Point
NFM	Norwegian Financial Mechanism
NK	Kingdom of Norway
PISA	Programme for International Student Assessment
PO	Programme Operator
PP	Public Procurement
RER	Renewable energy resources
SGSA	Small Grant Scheme administrator
SK Presidency	Slovak Presidency in the Council of Europe
SNIE	Slovak National Institute for Education
SWS	Safe women shelter
TA	Technical assistance
THMR	Technical heritage monument reserve