

ANNUAL PROGRAMME REPORT

FM14-21

Slovakia

SK-GOVERNANCE Cross-border Cooperation / Good Governance, Accountable
Institutions, Transparency

2021

A. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The main objective of the programme “Cross-border Cooperation/Good governance, Accountable Institutions, Transparency” is to improve the integrity and accountability of the public administration. The programme comprises of two programme areas - Good governance, accountable institutions and transparency and Effectiveness and efficiency of the judicial system and strengthening rule of law.

The programme area Good governance, accountable institutions and transparency is being implemented through one Open call and three pre-defined projects. Altogether five projects are being implemented within the call GGC01 in amount of 2 500 000 € and three of them are being implemented in partnership with a donor project partner from Norway. Within the project GGC01008 implemented by Agency for the support of regional development Košice two significant results were accomplished in 2021. Document *Adaptation strategy for climate change* was completed by various experts, so it is now possible to define *adaptation measures* helpful for Ukrainian project partners to develop adaptation strategy for climate change in Transcarpathian region. Moreover, a comprehensive study named “*Our river Roňava*” was created in 2021, which is an important step in the creation of the Revitalization Plan for Roňava river basin that has been endangering property and lives of inhabitants due to frequent floods lately. Within the project GGC01009 implemented by the University of Pavol Jozef Šafárik in Košice two university textbooks named “*Good Governance Manual for Future Experts in Public Sector Institutions*” and „*Good Governance Practice Examples for Future Experts in Public Sector Institutions*“ were finalized in 2021 as well as two joint workshops for Ukrainian students were realized.

The first pre-defined project GGCPP001 with the Project Promoter the Government Office of the Slovak Republic named “Improving Integrity of the Public Administration/IIPA”. In 2021, the publication named “*Integrity Review*” was prepared in the cooperation of the project partner OECD. Its main purpose is to propose recommendations and build capacity on modernising the Slovak Republic’s integrity system. The second pre-defined project GGCPP003 with the Public Procurement Office as the Project Promoter is named “Responsible public procurement”. In 2021, the first introductory training based on MEAT criteria for beginners was prepared and in cooperation with the project partner OECD, the Project Promoter prepared and published the analysis “*Strengthening value for money in the procurement system of Slovak Republic*” in English and in Slovak language. Both projects’ implementation is going very well, there are neither any significant delays, nor other issues within the projects. Almost no results within the third pre-defined project GGCPP004 with the Ministry of Interior of the Slovak Republic as the Project Promoter is named “TRIGLAV – Strengthen the fight against CBRN threats at the Slovak-Ukrainian border” is caused by the fact that the last Ukrainian partner to sign the partnership agreement explicitly expressed a disinterest in further participation of this pre-defined project in autumn 2021 and withdrew from its implementation.

The programme area Effectiveness and efficiency of the judicial system and strengthening rule of law is being implemented through one pre-defined project. The pre-defined project GGCPP002 with the Project Promoter Ministry of Justice of the Slovak Republic is named “Enhancing the efficiency of the justice system through the protection/empowerment of

victims and vulnerable parties". The project implementation is going well; however, it has been slowed down by the need for a change in the project requested by the Project Promoter regarding eight courts involved in the project to be project partners.

A lesson learned is connected mainly with the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic that proved digital unpreparedness, not only within the programme, but also in the functioning of the Programme Operator. In 2021 the development in the programme areas was mostly affected by two factors – COVID-19 and preparation of several reforms within Slovak legal system.

Regarding the publicity and information about the programme, the Programme Operator proceeds in line with approved communication plan for the programme and did not identify the need to update this document in 2021. Within 2021 the main programme publicity information was connected with the bilateral calls launching. Also promotional videos were made for a pre-defined project GGCPP002 and for all five projects within GGC01 call. Approximately 2-minute-long videos give a short overview of the projects, their focus, goals and aims, key activities, cooperation with project partners, as well as expected results.

Bilateral Outcome *Enhanced collaboration between beneficiary and donor state entities involved in the programme* is being fulfilled through three projects within GGC01 call and a pre-defined project GGCPP004 in cooperation with a donor project partner from Norway. Altogether four out of nine projects within the programme are being implemented in trilateral partnerships between Slovakia, Ukraine and Norway. A very good example of a bilateral cooperation is project GGC01005 and the cooperation Ministry of Interior of the Slovak Republic and their Norwegian project partner Åpenhet AS. The partner actively participated in all project meetings, is involved in most project activities, was also part of the organizational team of the opening conference and last, but not least participated in person in all 6 workshops that took place in Slovakia in 2021.

B. PERFORMANCE

1. Programme context

The social and economic life in Slovakia during 2021 was massively affected by the continuing COVID-19 pandemic and following measures implemented to resolve related problems and to set up solutions for anticipated challenges of the near future.

The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on economic life and the state budget in 2021^[1] was significant. As of December 2021, the year's estimated deficit of the state budget is 7 % GDP, which is an improvement compared to the Government's older estimates of 7,9 % GDP. The unemployment rate at the end of December 2021 was 6,64 %, the lowest rate since May 2020^[2].

Throughout two years, the continuous pandemic has massively affected social and economic functioning of European Union member states including Slovakia, but it was also considered as opportunity to stimulate and quicken necessary and beneficial changes in several different areas. The European Union launched the Recovery and Resilience Facility, which allowed member states to propose their own recovery and resilience plans. The Recovery and

Resilience Facility is performance - based. The reforms and investments were broken up into smaller milestones and targets, each plan sets out the reforms and investments to be implemented by end of 2026. Each plan should effectively address challenges identified by European Union between 2019 and 2020, particularly the country-specific recommendations, but it should also reflect on needs and preferences identified by member states. It should also advance the green and digital transitions and help the member states' economies and societies becoming more resilient.[3]

Slovakia's recovery and resilience plan was approved by the Government in April 2021 and by the EU Economic and Financial Affairs Council in July 2021. The plan will be funded by €6.3 billion in grants.

The recovery and resilience plan is a strong tool in proportions as never seen before for pursuing reforms in Slovakia, but other reforms are in process of preparation as well. A committee for designing improvements of the self-government system was established at the Ministry of Interior of the SR. Joint project "Delivering Good Governance in Slovakia" among the Ministry of Interior of the SR, the European Commission and the Centre of Expertise for Good Governance of the Council of Europe for improvement of self-government system on both local and regional level continued in its second phase. The first outcomes were approved by the programme board and project output documents were very well received by professionals, the academia and by representatives of self-government associations. The outcomes of the first phase of the project contain specific proposals for strengthening the local self-government, suggestions for further decentralisation, proposals based on experiencing similar challenging processes as well as recommendations for improvement of the system of competencies or system of training in local self-government.[4]

The cross-border cooperation between Slovakia and states bordering Slovakia and their self-government units continued mostly on working level, the implementation of bilateral cooperation programmes continued with minor changes. The official meetings of inter-governmental commissions for cross-border cooperation were postponed due to bad pandemic situation and Government changes based on election (in the Czech Republic). Further development and deepening of bilateral relations between Slovakia and Ukraine was prepared, approval in the form of a Government resolution is planned for 2022. The potential establishment of joint European association of local governments between Slovakia and Ukraine is being discussed.

The COVID-19 pandemic has also had a huge impact on everyday life of people. The attitudes of people on many questions have been undergoing constant changes, the trust in the Government, anti-pandemic measures, scientific community and credibility of the media has been challenged. Compared to other countries, the willingness to get the COVID-19 vaccine in Slovakia was low[5]. The Slovak Academy of Sciences in cooperation with researching and communication specialists launched the project "How are you, Slovakia?" which, through regular and continuous opinion polls, maps the changing attitudes of people towards important social issues such as vaccination support. This project helps the public, media and public institutions to understand people's motivations for their behaviour[6].

[1] <https://www.rrz.sk/rozpocetny-semafor-2021-11/>

[2]<https://www.employment.gov.sk/sk/uvodna-stranka/informacie-media/aktuality/nezamestnanost-klesa-dalsi-mesiac.html>

[3] https://ec.europa.eu/info/business-economy-euro/recovery-coronavirus/recovery-and-resilience-facility_en

[4] https://minv.sk/?Vystupy_z_projektu_s_RE_Zabezpecenie_dobrej_spravy_veci_verejnych_na_Slovensku

[5] <https://ourworldindata.org/covid-vaccinations>

[6] <https://www.akosamateslovensko.sk/o-projekte/>

2. Programme results

Outcome 1: Integrity of public administration improved

Description and analysis of results

Within the Outcome 1 of the programme there is only a pre-defined project GGCPP001 being implemented. Outcome 1 indicator *Annual number of detected corruption cases registered by the Ministry of Interior* achieved the annual target value which was set on 500 cases, and the actual value reported based on the Ministry of Interior of the SR's records in the third Project Interim Report (hereinafter referred to as "PIR") of the predefined project (hereinafter referred to as "PDP") reached 500 cases. Outcome 1 indicator *Control of Corruption indicator score (CCI - World Bank)* overachieved the target value which was set on 65, and the actual value reported in the PIR based on the CCI World bank's records reached 66,34. It is a value from 2020 report published in 2021, as report for 2021 will be published in 2022. This overachievement may be caused due to actual political situation in Slovakia in 2021 and an increase of prosecution of the corruption cases in Slovakia. The target value of the Outcome 1 indicator *Corruption perception index score (Transparency International)* was not achieved. The target value was set on 49 and the actual value reported in the PIR based on the Transparency International's records is 52/100. It is a value from 2021 report published in 2022. In comparison with last year, there is a significant improvement as Slovakia ranked 60th with the score 49/100. However, it is still an underachievement in comparison with the target value that may be caused by the murder of the investigative journalist and his fiancé in 2018, and several corruption cases scandals. As regards output 1.1 indicators *Measures to improve integrity of public administration implemented*, in 2021 one more capacity building workshop was organized, policies of 5 line ministries in the field of integrity of public administration were coordinated and 92 more public servants were lectured on ethical conduct. The cumulative numbers can be found in the Annex I. All so-far achieved actual values of the indicators contribute to the programme objective – integrity and accountability of public administration improved and the output should be achieved at the end of the programme implementation.

Pre-defined project

Within the Outcome 1 of the programme there is one pre-defined project GGCPP001 named *"Improving Integrity of the Public Administration/IIPA"* being implemented by the Government Office of the Slovak Republic. COVID-19 pandemic has brought a challenge into the project activities and because of this, some of the project activities have been postponed by several weeks. In 2021, Project Promoter realized number of virtual missions with the project partner

OECD focused on the preparation of publication „Integrity Review” within the Activity no. 1. The publication should be submitted in March 2022 and the Project Promoter was preparing this event in the last couple of months of 2021. The main purpose of the publication of the Integrity review is to propose recommendations and to build capacity on modernising the Slovak Republic’s integrity system. As the Integrity Review also includes a section dedicated to behavioural insights, the Project Promoter realized number of meetings with the representatives of the Police Academy, the Civil Service Council and the Stop Corruption Foundation for the purpose of cooperation on this analysis. On 30th September 2021, the first meeting of the working group for the establishment integrity principles in the public administration of the Slovak Republic took place. Afterwards, the discussion document based on the conclusions of the working group was prepared. The aim of the focus on the behavioural insights is to facilitate ethical decision-making by public officials through innovative policies.

Outcome 2: Quality of the judicial system improved

Description and analysis of results

Within the Outcome 2 of the programme there is only a pre-defined project GGCPP002 being implemented. Based on the data from PIR, Output 2.2 indicator *Number of inter-ministerial meetings promoting cooperation on the protection of the rights of the victim* reached the actual value 12. Inter-ministerial meetings strengthen the cooperation between the various state bodies as well as proper dissemination the knowledge among them. Achieved actual value contributes to the programme objective – integrity and accountability of public administration improved. The actual value for other indicators are zero. The basis for starting the tangible contribution to the improvement of the quality of the judicial system lies in refurbishing of courts, which is planned to start in 2022. Based on the regular communication with the Project Promoter, the PO supposes that outcome indicators will be reached by the end of the project’s implementation as most preparatory works for activities within the PDP were being prepared in 2021 and most of them will be implemented in 2022.

Pre-defined project

Within the Outcome 2 of the programme there is one pre-defined project GGCPP002 named *“Effectiveness and Efficiency of the Judicial System, Strengthening Rule of Law”* being implemented by the Ministry of Justice of the Slovak Republic. The new Judicial map of Slovak courts was discussed in the parliament in the first half of 2021, but has not been approved yet. The Norwegian National Courts Administrations will co-implement the activity no. 3 – a field visit to Norway involving judges and prosecutors from Slovakia for the purpose of transfer of best practice in the area of preventing secondary victimization and repeated victimization. The Norwegian National Courts Administration was supposed to realize two field visits, but due to COVID-19 it was not possible for them to implement them both in 2022 given their obligations in other projects as well. The bilateral partnership agreement with this partner was signed on 13th August 2021 and activity will be financed through the Bilateral Fund on the programme level from the funds within the Expression of Interest approved in 2020. The field trip for judges

and prosecutors will take place in 2022. The second field trip will be organized by another organization, that is being chosen as the discussion with various organisations took place during 2021. On 16th August 2021 an Addendum no. 4 to the Programme Agreement was signed regarding the change of the position of the courts involved in the project to be project partners. The partnership agreements are going to be concluded early in 2022 after the budget for particular court (partner) is finalised. During last months of 2021 materials for the media campaign were developed and will serve to increase awareness and publicity about the rights of victims and to create an accessible source of information for the general public and experts. At the same time, the preparation of information materials (namely brochure and leaflet - *I am a victim of a crime*) in the Slovak language was finalized and will be produced in several language versions as well (English and Hungarian language). In Q4 2021, external experts were contacted and started to create an educational programme for mediators and judges and an educational programme for judges and prosecutors within the Activity no. 2 and Activity no. 5 in order to improve knowledge about the treatment of victims.

Outcome 3: Slovak-Ukrainian institutional cooperation enhanced

Description and analysis of results

Within the Outcome 3 of the programme there is a pre-defined project GGCPP004 being implemented. As regards the projects within GGC01, their implementation started at the beginning of 2021.

As regards the achievement of the indicators, baseline value for the Outcome 3 indicator *Level of (self-reported) knowledge among Ukrainian participants involved in cooperation with SK (on issues related to procurement, justice, etc.) targeted by projects' activities* will be determined based on the results of a survey carried out by all the project promoters within GGC01 call and the project promoter of the pre-defined project GGCPP004. The PO has submitted the baseline value calculated based on the data received from all the projects within GGC01 – based on these results the potential values is estimated about level 5. The final baseline value will be submitted to the FMO in 2022, once the PO receives the data from the pre-defined project GGCPP004. This is preceded by the signing of the partnership agreement, which is supposed early in 2022. It can be said that the baseline value is higher than estimated at the beginning of the programme preparation. There are valid doubts about the target value meeting at the end of the programme implementation, as the achieved value should be the maximum, level 10. The Programme Operator (hereinafter referred to as “the PO”) is of the opinion, that the target value should be adjusted based on the final baseline value to reflect the factual situation.

The target value for Outcome 3 indicator *Number of cooperation partnerships remaining between Slovak and Ukrainian Line Ministries at completion of the programme* is set on 5 and the total planned target value in the contracted projects is 3. As both calls under the programme are already closed and no further calls are planned, the final target value is not supposed to be higher than 3 and the target value for this Outcome 3 indicator will not be achieved within the programme. This underachievement may be caused by the fact that within the GGC01 call only one project promoter is the ministry - the Ministry of Interior of the Slovak Republic in the project GGC01005. The interministerial cross-border cooperation is

demanding. It requires long-term formal intergovernmental agreements and usually it is connected with complex policies. It is not an appropriate subject for the open call of the programme's nature. The actual value reported is zero.

All the Output 3.1 indicators are supposed to be overachieved at the end of projects' implementation when comparing the target values set in the Annex I to the PA and the total the target values set in project applications of the contracted projects. The target value for the indicator *Number of best practices transferred in the field of transparency from Slovakia to Ukraine* is set on 10 and the actual value in the Project Interim Reports is 0. Zero figure is caused by the fact that the activities connected with the transfer of best practices are to be realized in the second half of the projects' implementation, therefore in 2022. The target value for the indicator *Number of people attending joint workshops organised between Slovak and Ukrainian public sector entities* is set on 500 and based on the project contracts the potential achieved value at the end of the programme implementation should be 1 775. This indicator will most probably be overachieved, that is caused mainly the target values of two projects being implemented GGC01005 by the Ministry of Interior of the SR and GGC01006 being implemented by the Association of Cities and Towns of Slovakia – together 1410 people is planning to attend joint workshops organized within these projects. The actual value reported in the PIRs based on the attendance sheets is 392, which is appropriate to the phase in which the programme is. Joint workshops for two out of five projects are planned to take place in 2022. The target value for the indicator *Number of secondments from Ukraine to Slovakia* is set on 20 and based on values in the project contracts, the potential achieved value at the end of the programme implementation should be 62. The actual value reported in PIRs is 0. Zero figure is caused by the ongoing pandemic of COVID-19. According to the discussions with the Project Promoters, all the planned secondments should be realized mainly in summer months of 2022 and 2023, when based on the experience with COVID-19 pandemic, the conditions for these type of activities are much better than during other months of the year. This indicator should be overachieved at the end of the implementation of the programme because the target value within the project GGC01007 is set on the value of 40 secondments – the Programme Operator did not expect such a high value when determining target value for this indicator. The pre-defined project and projects within GGC01 call contribute to the programme objective – integrity and accountability of public administration improved. Within the project GGC01007 implemented by the Municipality of Košice an information brochure named “*A dozen examples of good practice*” was finalized in 2021 in three languages: Slovak, English and Ukrainian. The brochure provides an overview of 12 examples of good practice of social and green entrepreneurship within the participating cities Košice, Kharkiv, Uzhhorod and Kirkenes that have been identified as the best by the international expert group^[1]. Within the project GGC01008 implemented by Agency for the support of regional development Košice two significant results were accomplished in 2021. An *Adaptation strategy for climate change* was completed by pedologist, forester, geologist and climatologist and based on these findings, it is now possible to define *adaptation measures* within the next steps of the project, which aim is to reduce sensitivity and increase adaptive capacity. This methodology will help Ukrainian project partners to develop an adaptation strategy for climate change in Transcarpathian region. Furthermore, a comprehensive study named “*Our River Roňava*” was created in 2021, which is an important step in the creation of the Revitalization Plan for Roňava river basin, which is endangering property and lives of inhabitants due to frequent floods for a long time – flood condition state was declared 27 times. Within the project GGC01009 implemented by

the University of Pavol Jozef Šafárik in Košice two university textbooks named “*Good Governance Manual for Future Experts in Public Sector Institutions*” and „*Good Governance Practice Examples for Future Experts in Public Sector Institutions*” were finalized in 2021 as well as two joint workshops for Ukrainian students were realized.

[1] https://ceea-cooperation.com/docs/CEEA_12P_HQ.pdf

Pre-defined project

Within the Outcome 3 of the programme there is one pre-defined project GGCPP004 named “*TRIGLAV- Strengthen the fight against CBRN threats at the Slovakian-Ukrainian border*” being implemented by the Ministry of Interior of the Slovak Republic.

The project has started only with the activities for which particular involvement of the project partners is not necessary. Within Activity no. 1 named *Implementation of the Joint Operational Concept in practice*, the Project Promoter started the preparation of an analysis of the current state of internal management acts in this area for the Slovak Republic. The Project Promoter has also started preparing an analysis of the current state of internal management acts in the field of CBRN security and cross-border flow of information. Within the specialized workplace of the Police Corps and the expert manager of CBRN security and protection issues, a team of staff was assigned to participate in the processing of the analysis - especially in obtaining relevant information from all interested state institutions. The situation has been caused by the fact that one of the Ukrainian project partner – National Police of Ukraine – has not signed the partnership agreement, the text of which has been agreed in advance. In summer 2021 potential cancelling of the project was considered by the PO, if there is not any progress regarding the project and partnership agreement. In autumn 2021, the PO was informed that the National Police of Ukraine explicitly expressed their disinterest in further participation of this pre-defined project, as CBRN threats will not be their agenda in the future. Based on the assurance and interest of all the parties involved in the project, taking into consideration that the National Police of Ukraine intends, within its organizational structure, to completely abolish the workplace specialized in combating crime related to hazardous CBRN materials, the PO provisionally agreed with the project modification and asked for the programme modification in this regard. The programme modification was approved by the donors on 7 December 2021. The partnership agreement with the remaining four project partners is expected to be signed at the beginning of 2022. The launching conference will take place shortly after the signature of the partnership agreement and it will also launch other common activities. Based on the communication with the Project Promoter, there should not be short- or medium-term consequences of this delay. The Project Promoter with its partners are able to ensure all the activities needed for achievement of the results and their indicators.

The Project Promoter has already prepared the questionnaire to carry out a survey regarding the indicator Level of (self-reported) knowledge among Ukrainian participants involved in cooperation with SK (on issues related to procurement, justice, etc.) targeted by projects’ activities as soon as possible.

Outcome 4: Increased application of the Value for Money principle in public procurement

Description and analysis of results

Within the Outcome 4 of the programme there is only a pre-defined project GGCPP003 being implemented. The pre-defined project contributes to the programme objective – integrity and accountability of public administration improved. Based on the Project Promoter's records the actual values of two Outcome 4 indicators *Average number of bidders in public procurements* and *Share of public procurements using MEAT criteria* in 2021 are underachieved, i.e. lower than the baseline values, but higher than in 2020. This decrease has been caused by the consequences of COVID-19 pandemic. The contracting parties have been trying to procure goods as soon as possible, in disregard of quality. Since the start of the pandemic, the Public Procurement Office has observed decrease of general macro - indexes of the public procurement in Slovakia. At the moment, taking the ongoing pandemic into account and not being able to predict its duration, it is difficult to suppose if and how this situation will affect reaching the target values of outcome indicators. The activities contributing to the increased application of the Value for Money principle in public procurement started to be implemented within the project in 2021, the current numbers are higher, but an increase is expected in 2022 during which more activities within the project shall be implemented.

Pre-defined project

Within the Outcome 4 of the programme there is one pre-defined project GGCPP003 named *"Responsible public procurement"* being implemented by the Public Procurement Office. There are neither any delays nor issues within the project and the implementation is going very well. In 2021, the Project Promoter launched the *Interviews with experts'* section on project website in order to discuss with public procurement experts about their views on the application of MEAT criteria in Slovakia. Moreover, the experts also shared their own experience and advice on how to constantly improve in the field of public procurement. In cooperation with the project partner OECD, the Project Promoter published the analysis *"Strengthening value for money in the procurement system of Slovak Republic"* in English and in Slovak language. At the end of the year, the Project Promoter prepared the first introductory training on the basis of MEAT criteria for beginners, which took place on 15th December 2021. The content was devoted to the presentation of the results of the analysis of the use and application of MEAT criteria in Slovakia and the basic information that contracting authorities need to know about MEAT criteria together with an explanation of formulas and also part of the training devoted to practical examples. Even though the increase in application of the Value for Money principle in public procurement has been affected by the COVID-19 situation in 2020 and 2021 and shows lower numbers, the project has just finalised the tools for its improvement. They are on good way to use them in practice and to achieve the target value within the next years of the project implementation.

Bilateral Outcome: Enhanced collaboration between beneficiary and donor state entities involved in the programme

Analysis of bilateral relations and achievements

Four out of nine projects, namely GGCPP004, GGC01005, GGC01006, GGC01007, are being implemented in trilateral partnerships between Slovakia, Ukraine and Norway. Therefore, the Bilateral output 1 indicator *Share of projects implemented in trilateral partnerships between Slovakia, Ukraine and the Donor States* was overachieved by reaching 44.44 % in comparison with the target value 33.30 % and the indicator *Number of projects involving cooperation with a donor project partner (disaggregated by Donor State)* achieved its target value, i.e. 4 projects are being implemented with the project partners from Norway.

Within the project GGC01005 implemented by the Ministry of Interior of the Slovak Republic, Norwegian project partner - Åpenhet AS - has been very active throughout 2021. From the start of the project, the representatives of Åpenhet AS actively participated in all project meetings (even separate meetings of the research team), are planning and are individually involved in most of the activities. They were part of the organizational team of the opening conference - not only as a technical/administrative assistance, but also as an agenda-setter and active participant at the event itself. Åpenhet AS pro-actively approached also the implementation of the Activity 1 named *Thematical seminars and manuals* and participated in person in the first 6 workshops that were held in Slovakia. They took a role of the ice breakers, shared Norwegian experience in specific areas. Even after the workshops, this partner is in touch with experts and participants in order to create Manuals (as the outcome of the workshops). Within the project GGC01007 implemented by the Municipality of Košice an information brochure named "*A dozen examples of good practice*" was finalized in 2021 in three languages: Slovak, English and Ukrainian in cooperation with the Norwegian project partner – NORCE – Norwegian research Centre AS. The brochure provides an overview of 12 examples of good practice of social and green entrepreneurship within the participating cities Košice, Kharkiv, Uzhhorod and Kirkenes that have been identified as the best by the international expert group. Each of the participating cities is striving to respond to the challenges of today and to deliver the best solutions to ensure sustainability. Climate change, demographic change, growing social disparities and other global trends require local action that will deliver the desired results - a sustainable city for the best possible life for its citizens. These examples can therefore serve as an inspiration for other cities and municipalities^[1].

Within the bilateral fund at the programme level, two bilateral calls were launched in 2021:

call GGCBF02 aimed at strengthening of bilateral relations, the improvement of cooperation, common knowledge and understanding between Slovakia and donor states in the area of transparency, good governance and accountable institutions focused primarily on digital cooperation – on 30th September 2021 with allocation 30,000 euro. The call is open until 30th September 2022; call GGCBF03 aimed at people-to-people initiatives in the Slovak-Ukrainian border region contributing to strengthening trilateral cooperation among donor states, Slovakia and Ukraine – on 30th December 2021 with allocation 76 287,19 euro. The call is open until 30th December 2022.

For both calls, the system of First in-First out is used. It means they will be open by the deadline or until total allocation is used. The calls were launched at the end of 2021, when the situation with COVID-19 was worsening. It is the reason why no grant applications have been submitted to the PO yet. In 2022, the PO's intention is to focus on bilateral cooperation propagation in

cooperation with the donor project partner Norwegian Barents Secretariat (hereinafter referred to as “the DPP”).

The overall cooperation, day-to-day communication as well as communication through the Cooperation Committee with the DPP – the Norwegian Barents Secretariat – is very good.

Three Cooperation Committee Meetings (hereinafter referred to as “CCM”) took place in 2021, all of them via *per rollam* procedure with the participation of representatives from the DPP, IPO, FMO, NFP and the Royal Norwegian Embassy to Slovakia.

The first CCM took place in January – February 2021 by per-rollam procedure during which Annual Programme Report 2020 was discussed and commented on. The next CCM were focused on bilateral calls text and selection criteria, including selection procedure review. The DPP was proactive during advising on selection criteria and the texts for bilateral calls GGCBF02 and GGCBF03. The quality and attraction for the potential applicant of the call was improved. Within 2022 at least two CCM are planned. One regarding the review of the Annual Programme Report 2021 to be held per rollam and one dedicated to the Programme implementation status, which will be held in person or on-line.

[1] https://ceea-cooperation.com/docs/CEEA_12P_HQ.pdf

3. Implementation

Cooperation with International Partner Organisations (IPOs)

Within the programme Good Governance and Cross-border Cooperation the PO cooperates with the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD). OECD is also a project partner to two of the pre-defined projects GGCPP001 and GGCPP003. The PO is satisfied with the communication and contribution of the OECD to the implementation of the Programme. The OECD is also an active member of the Cooperation Committee. During the Cooperation Committee Meeting regarding the bilateral fund call GGCBF03, the OECD shared helpful comments. The OECD representative is also an assessor for the applications to be received within bilateral fund call GGCBF02, as the call is aimed at the area of transparency, good governance and accountable institutions.

C. LEARNING

1. Monitorings carried out

Although it was planned to carry out the on-site monitoring/digital monitoring of all the pre-defined projects in the Q2/Q3 of 2021, due to ongoing pandemic of COVID-19 the PO postponed the on-site monitoring of the pre-defined projects to 2022. The main reason was a curfew in most of 2021 and working in regime of home office at the PO, as well as Project Promoters and project partners, which is not appropriate for such kind of monitoring. The attention was therefore given to the regular monitoring through the project interim reports. Within the project interim reports a monitoring on COVID -19 impact was included and

meeting of the milestones have been observed. In case of milestones, postponing information about reasons and new plan was required. Most of the activities such as launching conference and other events have been moved to online regime or postponed to 2022 and 2023. The PO has been in touch with project promoters via phone and e-mails regarding if there are any significant delays caused by the ongoing pandemic of COVID-19 or other unexpected reasons. The main risk has been identified within the predefined project GGCPP004 connected with the partnership agreement and one of the Ukrainian partner. More intensive communication with the Project Promoter on regular basis has been taken as measure to eliminate the risk. As well as formal and informal discussion with the Ukrainian side has been held at diplomatic and "other" level by the Project Promoter. Finally, the project and programme modification have been necessary.

In 2022 the on-site monitoring for all predefined projects and three projects within GGC01 call are planned. The monitoring plan is attached.

2. Evaluations carried out

Not applicable as the evaluation of the programme has not been carried out yet.

3. Lessons learned from monitoring, evaluation and implementation

Within last years' lessons learned being connected mainly with the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. A digital unpreparedness have been proved, not only within the programme implementation, but also in the functioning of the PO as an organization. Since the PO was delimited to the Ministry of Investments, Regional Development and Informatization of the SR, online programme for official approving of documents within the ministry is used that widely simplifies the processes, mainly in period of curfew and home office regimes. The ongoing pandemic has also proved that on-line meetings and events are appropriate, if the situation does not allow to meet or if it is urgent to meet; on the other hand if it is just on-line, the people are replete and it is not so efficient as needed. Long-term situation with only online events is more demanding about creativity; mostly how to attract the people and their attention if they participate. Travel reduction saves time, as well as the environment. However, personal contact is necessary and it is needed to find a balanced way.

Considering the programme modifications requiring addendums to the programme agreement that were necessary so far (e.g. changes connected with the PDP and partners or funds reallocation between the calls) the PO is of the opinion that the programme agreement should be more flexible. It means the programme agreement should include procedures, which enable e.g. reallocation among the calls without need to conclude an addendum or to consider if all the changes of the programme agreement text requires conclusion of the addendum. This is also connected with the indicators for which the baseline value is not known at the Programme Agreement conclusion. As regards the target value for such indicators, the PO is of the opinion that it should be possible to modify the target value stated in the Programme Agreement based on the baseline value, because it can show significantly different position as it was supposed by the PO or not, to state the target value without knowing the baseline value.

COVID-19 pandemic has caused slight delays in the projects' implementation, but according to the review of the projects the implementation is going relatively well and all the projects

are expected to implement all projects' activities until 30th April 2024, including the GGCPP004 in which the time risk is the highest.

D. ANNEXES

- 1. Updated achievements in the results framework**
- 2. Communication summary**
- 3. Overview of contracted projects**
- 4. Risk management**
- 5. Monitoring plan**
- 6. Evaluation report**
- 7. Agreement conditions**

Annex 1: Updated achievements in the results framework

Objective: Integrity and accountability of public administration improved								
Outcome 1: Integrity of public administration improved								
Indicator	Unit of measurement	Baseline	Achievements until end of previous reporting period	Achievements until end of December 2021			Target	Comment
				Numerator	Denominator	Value		
Control of Corruption indicator score (CCI - World Bank)	Cumulative number	63.50	66.35 (APR 2020)	-	-	66.35	65	CCI - World Bank report 2020. The report for the year 2021 is not available yet.
Corruption perception index score (Transparency International)	Cumulative number	54	59 (APR 2020)	-	-	52	49	According to Transparency International CPI for the year 2021, Slovakia ranked on the 56th place with 52 points out of 100
Annual number of detected corruption cases registered by the Ministry of Interior	Annual number	357	587 (APR 2020)	-	-	500	500	Data provided by the Ministry of Interior of the Slovak republic for the year 2020. Usually data for the previous year is available in in Q1 of the following year so data from 2021 will be available at the beginning of 2022.
Output 1.1: Measures to improve integrity of public administration implemented								
Indicator	Unit of measurement	Baseline	Achievements until end of previous reporting period	Achievements until end of December 2021			Target	Comment
				Numerator	Denominator	Value		
Number of capacity building workshops organised	Cumulative number	0	1 (IFR 2021)	-	-	2	3	In 2021, one capacity building workshop was organized.

Number of line ministries whose policies in the field of integrity of public administration are coordinated	Cumulative number	0	5 (IFR 2021)	-	-	5	5	For example policies of Ministry of Interior of the SR, Ministry of Justice of the SR or Ministry of Education, Science are coordinated in the field of integrity of public administration.
Number of public servants lectured on ethical conduct	Cumulative number	0	90 (IFR 2021)	-	-	182	350	Altogether 92 public servants were lectured on ethical conduct in 2021.
<i>Gender</i>								
<i>Female</i>	-	-	-	-	-	103	-	-
<i>Male</i>	-	-	-	-	-	79	-	-
<i>Not specified</i>	-	-	-	-	-	0	-	-
Public Integrity Review conducted	Binary	No	No (IFR 2021)	-	-	No	Yes	Public Integrity Review was finalized by the end of 2021 and will be officially presented during Integrity Review Event in March 2022.
Set of standards to measure the integrity of public administration developed	Binary	No	No (IFR 2021)	-	-	No	Yes	The Project Promoter plans to start preparing the standards in the second half of 2022.
Outcome 2: Quality of the judicial system improved								
Indicator	Unit of measurement	Baseline	Achievements until end of previous reporting period	Achievements until end of December 2021			Target	Comment
				Numerator	Denominator	Value		
Number of beneficiaries of services provided or improved	Cumulative number	0	0 (IFR 2021)	-	-	0	360	Measuring this indicator will be possible after the court premises are refurbished.
Number of family law cases prosecuted by the courts which are supported by the programme	Cumulative number	0	0 (APR 2020)	-	-	0	120	Measuring this indicator will be possible after the court premises are refurbished.

Number of professionals trained who self-report increased competence and capacity for working with victims of crimes and protection of minors	Cumulative number	N/A	-	Reported 2022, 2024			180	-
Output 2.1: Quality of family law prosecution improved								
Indicator	Unit of measurement	Baseline	Achievements until end of previous reporting period	Achievements until end of December 2021			Target	Comment
				Numerator	Denominator	Value		
Number of court premises refurbished	Cumulative number	0	0 (IFR 2021)	-	-	0	8	Reconstruction works will start in 2022.
Number of educational programmes for mediators and judges developed	Cumulative number	0	0 (IFR 2021)	-	-	0	1	Educational programmes for mediators and judges started to be prepared at the end of 2021 and will be finalized and used in trainings in 2022.
Output 2.2: Access to the justice for the victims improved								
Indicator	Unit of measurement	Baseline	Achievements until end of previous reporting period	Achievements until end of December 2021			Target	Comment
				Numerator	Denominator	Value		
Number of educational programmes for judges and prosecutors, focused on improving handling victims	Cumulative number	0	0 (IFR 2021)	-	-	0	2	Educational programmes for judges and prosecutors started to be prepared at the end of 2021 and will be finalized and used in trainings in 2022.
Number of enforcement officers trained	Cumulative number	0	0 (IFR 2021)	-	-	0	36	Training will take place in 2022 after the educational programmes are finalized.
Number of inter-ministerial meetings promoting cooperation on the protection of the rights of the victim	Cumulative number	0	7 (IFR 2021)	-	-	12	30	In 2021, 6 inter-ministerial meetings promoting cooperation on the protection

								of the rights of the victim took place, specifically on 26.05.2021 (face-to-face), 8.9.2021 (on-line), 27.09.2021 (face-to-face), 5.-6.10.2021 (face-to-face), 14.10.2021 (face-to-face), 18.10.2021 (on-line).
Outcome 3: Slovak-Ukrainian institutional cooperation enhanced								
Indicator	Unit of measurement	Baseline	Achievements until end of previous reporting period	Achievements until end of December 2021			Target	Comment
				Numerator	Denominator	Value		
Level of (self-reported) knowledge among Ukrainian participants involved in cooperation with SK (on issues related to procurement, justice, etc.) targeted by projects' activities	Scale 1-10	TBD	-	-	-	-	(+100%)	Based on the results of the 5 projects being implemented under the call, the potential baseline value is 5. The result of the predefined project will be known in 2022. The target value can be reported at the end of the projects implementation.
Number of cooperation partnerships remaining between Slovak and Ukrainian Line Ministries at completion of the programme	Cumulative number	0	0 (APR 2020)	-	-	0	5	The target value 5 will not be reached, as the target value in the projects within GGC01 is set at 3. At the moment zero values were reported within projects. It is expected the change in the second half of the projects' implementation
Output 3.1: Measures fostering Slovak-Ukrainian cooperation implemented								
Indicator	Unit of measurement	Baseline	Achievements until end of	Achievements until end of December 2021			Target	Comment

			previous reporting period	Numerator	Denominator	Value		
Number of best practices transferred in the field of transparency from Slovakia to Ukraine	Cumulative number	0	0 (IFR 2021)	-	-	0	10	Transfers of the best practices to Ukraine are in preparation phase. Finalization of the most transfers is expected at the end of projects implementation. Increase is expected in 2023.
Number of people attending joint workshops organised between Slovak and Ukrainian public sector entities	Cumulative number	0	0 (IFR 2021)	-	-	392	500	Based on the project promoters' records – attendance sheets.
<i>Gender</i>								
<i>Female</i>	-	-	-	-	-	228	-	-
<i>Male</i>	-	-	-	-	-	164	-	-
<i>Not specified</i>	-	-	-	-	-	0	-	-
Number of secondments from Ukraine to Slovakia	Cumulative number	0	0 (IFR 2021)	-	-	0	20	The projects within GGC01 call started their implementation in January 2021. Given the ongoing pandemic of COVID-19 and the travel restrictions, all of the secondments that were to take place in 2021 were moved to 2022.
Output 3.2: Measures fostering Slovak-Ukrainian-Norwegian institutional cooperation related to CBRN (chemical, biological, radioactive, nuclear) safety								
Indicator	Unit of measurement	Baseline	Achievements until end of previous reporting period	Achievements until end of December 2021			Target	Comment
				Numerator	Denominator	Value		
CBRN defence education and training systems for Security Forces of Ukraine established	Binary	No	No (IFR 2021)	-	-	No	Yes	The implementation of the project's activities is postponed due to solving the partnership agreement. Preparation

									activities not required participation of the partners have been started.
Number of assessments of the current status of Internal Acts in the field of CBRN safety and cross-border flow of information	Cumulative number	0	0 (IFR 2021)	-	-	0	2		There was a change in project – project partner National Police of Ukraine refused to sign the partnership agreement and withdrew from project. Results of the project are expected in 2022.
Number of exercises of Slovak security forces with international observation	Cumulative number	0	0 (IFR 2021)	-	-	0	1		There was a change in project – project partner National Police of Ukraine refused to sign the partnership agreement and withdrew from project. Results of the project are expected in 2022.
Number of international exercises conducted	Cumulative number	0	0 (IFR 2021)	-	-	0	1		There was a change in project – project partner National Police of Ukraine refused to sign the partnership agreement and withdrew from project. Results of the project are expected in 2022.
Number of private sector representatives trained on handling illicit CBRN materials	Cumulative number	0	0 (IFR 2021)	-	-	0	45		There was a change in project – project partner National Police of Ukraine refused to sign the partnership agreement and withdrew from project. Results of the project are expected in 2022.
<i>Gender</i>									
<i>Female</i>	-	-	-	-	-	0	-	-	-
<i>Male</i>	-	-	-	-	-	0	-	-	-

<i>Not specified</i>	-	-	-	-	-	0	-	-
Number of Slovak police specialists educated and trained	Cumulative number	0	0 (IFR 2021)	-	-	0	160	There was a change in project – project partner National Police of Ukraine refused to sign the partnership agreement and withdrew from project. Results of the project are expected in 2022.
<i>Gender</i>								
<i>Female</i>	-	-	-	-	-	0	-	-
<i>Male</i>	-	-	-	-	-	0	-	-
<i>Not specified</i>	-	-	-	-	-	0	-	-
Number of Ukrainian Security Forces specialists educated and trained	Cumulative number	0	0 (IFR 2021)	-	-	0	100	There was a change in project – project partner National Police of Ukraine refused to sign the partnership agreement and withdrew from project. Results of the project are expected in 2022.
<i>Gender</i>								
<i>Female</i>	-	-	-	-	-	0	-	-
<i>Male</i>	-	-	-	-	-	0	-	-
<i>Not specified</i>	-	-	-	-	-	0	-	-
Outcome 4: Increased application of the Value for Money principle in public procurement								
Indicator	Unit of measurement	Baseline	Achievements until end of previous reporting period	Achievements until end of December 2021			Target	Comment
				Numerator	Denominator	Value		
Average annual number of bidders in public procurements	Annual number	3.60	2.92 (APR 2020)	-	-	3.35	4	In 2021,214 direct negotiations procedures were issued in Slovakia and 140 of them were issued with target of procuring goods or services-influenced.In

									this procedure it's common to negotiate with only one candidate/bidder, which affects the indicator.
Number of cases in which the pre-tender market consultations have been used	Cumulative number	0	0 (IFR 2021)	-	-	1	50		Due to COVID-19, the team participated on only one market consultation in 2021. The project promoter is considering changing the strategy in this area, so in 2022 it is expected higher number of cases in which the pre-tender market consultations will be used
Share of public procurements using MEAT criteria	Percentage	20.00 %	9.39 % (APR 2020)	9	107	8.41 %	40.00 %		During the COVID – 19 pandemic situation, contracting authorities prefer using of lowest costs criterion (time aspect) instead of MEAT (quality aspect).
Output 4.1: MEAT ("Most Economically Advantageous Tenders") criteria applied									
Indicator	Unit of measurement	Baseline	Achievements until end of previous reporting period	Achievements until end of December 2021			Target	Comment	
				Numerator	Denominator	Value			
Number of professional chambers and institutions involved in the preparation of the standards/templates	Cumulative number	0	0 (IFR 2021)	-	-	0	3	Indicator is linked to the preparation of methodology so this implementation will begin in 2022.	
Number of standards/templates for the application of MEAT criteria developed	Cumulative number	0	0 (IFR 2021)	-	-	0	6	The implementation of this indicator will start in 2022	
Number of workshops for the biggest Contracting Authorities on MEAT criteria	Cumulative number	0	0 (IFR 2021)	-	-	0	6	Training process began at the end of 2021 and in 2022/2023	

								there is in plan to fulfil this indicator.
Bilateral Outcome: Enhanced collaboration between beneficiary and donor state entities involved in the programme								
Indicator	Unit of measurement	Baseline	Achievements until end of previous reporting period	Achievements until end of December 2021			Target	Comment
				Numerator	Denominator	Value		
Level of satisfaction with the partnership	Scale 1-7	6.63	-	-	-	-	≥4.5, and an increase on the baseline	Measured by the FMO
<i>State type</i>								
<i>Beneficiary State</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Donor State</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Not specified</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Level of trust between cooperating entities in Beneficiary States and Donor States	Scale 1-7	6.75	-	-	-	-	≥4.5, and an increase on the baseline	Measured by the FMO
<i>State type</i>								
<i>Beneficiary State</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Donor State</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Not specified</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Share of cooperating organisations that apply the knowledge acquired from bilateral partnership	Percentage	N/A	-	-	-	-	≥50%	There is not enough data to determine the value for 2021 based on the feedback from FMO
<i>State type</i>								
<i>Beneficiary State</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Donor State</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

<i>Not specified</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Bilateral Output 1: Cooperation between Donor and Beneficiary State entities supported								
Indicator	Unit of measurement	Baseline	Achievements until end of previous reporting period	Achievements until end of December 2021			Target	Comment
				Numerator	Denominator	Value		
Number of projects involving cooperation with a donor project partner	Cumulative number	0	4 (IFR 2021)	-	-	4	4	PdP of the Ministry of Interior of the SR – GGCPP004. Within the Open call GGC01 project GGC01005, GGC01006 and GGC01007. Altogether 4 projects involve cooperation with Norwegian project partner
<i>Donor State</i>								
<i>Norway</i>	-	-	-	-	-	4	-	-
<i>Iceland</i>	-	-	-	-	-	0	-	-
<i>Liechtenstein</i>	-	-	-	-	-	0	-	-
<i>Not specified</i>	-	-	-	-	-	0	-	-
Number of staff from the beneficiary country participating in study visits to Norway	Cumulative number	0	0 (IFR 2021)	-	-	0	36	Study visits are supposed to take place 2022 and 2023
Share of projects implemented in trilateral partnerships between Slovakia, Ukraine and the Donor States	Percentage	0.00 %	44.44 (IFR 2021)	4	9	44.44 %	33.30 %	4 projects out of 9 (pre-defined project GGCPP004 and 3 projects within GGC01 call) are implemented in the trilateral partnerships between Slovakia, Ukraine and the Donor States.

Annex 2: Communication summary

1. Best practice examples

Within the pre-defined project of the Public Procurement Office GGCPP003 in cooperation with the project partner OECD, the Project Promoter published the analysis "*Strengthening value for money in the procurement system of Slovak Republic*" in English and in Slovak language and also prepared the first introductory training on the basis of MEAT criteria for beginners, which took place on 15th December 2021.

Within the project GGC01006 being implemented by the Association of Towns and Communities of Slovakia, a series of joint workshops organised between Slovak and Ukrainian public sector entities took place in 2021 and 241 people attended them.

Within the pre-defined project GGCPP001 being implemented by the Government Office of the Slovak Republic, 92 more public servants were lectured on ethical conduct and one more capacity building workshops was organised in 2021.

Within the pre-defined project GGCPP002 being implemented by the Ministry of Justice of the Slovak Republic, 6 more inter-ministerial meetings promoting cooperation on the protection of the rights of the victim were organized in 2021.

Project GGC01007 truly stands out in terms of impact and results within the programme. Within the project GGC01007 implemented by the Municipality of Košice an information brochure named "*A dozen examples of good practice*" was finalized in 2021 in three languages: Slovak, English and Ukrainian in cooperation with the Norwegian project partner – NORCE – Norwegian research Centre AS. The brochure provides an overview of 12 examples of good practice of social and green entrepreneurship within the participating cities Košice, Kharkiv, Uzhhorod and Kirkenes that have been identified as the best by the international expert group. Each of the participating cities is striving to respond to the challenges of today and to deliver the best solutions to ensure sustainability. Climate change, demographic change, growing social disparities and other global trends require local action that will deliver the desired results - a sustainable city for the best possible life for its citizens. These examples can therefore serve as inspiration for other cities and municipalities^[1].

[1] https://ceea-cooperation.com/docs/CEEA_12P_HQ.pdf

2. Best bilateral cooperation examples

Within the programme there are altogether 4 projects being implemented in partnerships with Norwegian project partners. Projects within GGC01 started their implementation at the beginning of 2021. Based on the feedback from the Project Promoters, all of them are satisfied with the level of cooperation with their Norwegian project partners. However, only very few activities were actually implemented during this stage of projects implementation with the Norwegian partners so it is too soon to determine best example of bilateral cooperation –one is listed below. The Programme Operator expects more results in 2022, therefore more examples of bilateral cooperation.

Within the project GGC01005 implemented by the Ministry of Interior of the Slovak Republic, Norwegian project partner Åpenhet AS has been very active throughout 2021. From the start of the project, the representatives of Åpenhet AS actively participated in all project meetings (even separate meetings of the research team), are planning and are individually involved in most of the activities. They were part of the organizational team of the opening conference - not only as a technical/administrative assistance, but also as an agenda-setter and active participant at the event itself. Åpenhet AS pro-actively approached also the implementation of the Activity 1 named *Thematical seminars and manuals* and participated in person at the first 6 workshops that were held in Slovakia. They took a role of the ice breakers, shared Norwegian experience in specific areas. Even after the workshops, this partner is in touch with experts and participates at creation of Manuals (as the outcome of the workshops).

3. The programme in a nutshell

<p>What is the added value of this programme?</p>	<p>Programme Good Governance and Cross-border cooperation improves integrity and accountability of public administration both in Slovakia and Ukraine by the implementation of projects aimed at integrity of public administration, responsible public procurement, efficiency of the justice system through the protection/empowerment of victims and vulnerable parties, strengthening the fight against CBRN threats at the Slovak-Ukrainian border, strengthening international cooperation and cooperation in applying the principles of Good Governance or preparing the border regions of Ukraine and Slovakia for expected climate change.</p>													
<p>Include up to two quotes about this programme. Please include the name, last name and title of the person.</p>	<p>Quote 1</p> <p>We recommend to apply for grants within EEA and Norway grants, as it is a perfect opportunity to make contact with the subjects from third states. (Programme Operator's comment: states outside European Economic Area)</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="499 1335 1396 1458"> <thead> <tr> <th data-bbox="499 1335 627 1379"></th> <th data-bbox="627 1335 850 1379">Name</th> <th data-bbox="850 1335 1396 1379">Title</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td data-bbox="499 1379 627 1458">Author</td> <td data-bbox="627 1379 850 1458">Milada Bucseková</td> <td data-bbox="850 1379 1396 1458">representative of the project promoter GGC01005</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Quote 2</p> <p>Implementation of the programme on the cross-border cooperation with Ukraine within the EEA and Norway grants is a significant contribution to improve the situation in east Slovakia and transcarpathian Ukraine.</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="499 1626 1396 1738"> <thead> <tr> <th data-bbox="499 1626 627 1671"></th> <th data-bbox="627 1626 850 1671">Name</th> <th data-bbox="850 1626 1396 1671">Title</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td data-bbox="499 1671 627 1738">Author</td> <td data-bbox="627 1671 850 1738">Jaroslav Tešliar</td> <td data-bbox="850 1671 1396 1738">representative of the project promoter GGC01008</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>			Name	Title	Author	Milada Bucseková	representative of the project promoter GGC01005		Name	Title	Author	Jaroslav Tešliar	representative of the project promoter GGC01008
	Name	Title												
Author	Milada Bucseková	representative of the project promoter GGC01005												
	Name	Title												
Author	Jaroslav Tešliar	representative of the project promoter GGC01008												

4. Visibility of the Grants and the Donors

The PO proceeds in line with the Communication plan for the programme Good governance and Cross-border cooperation. The PO will consider a need of document's update in connection with programme progress and communication requirements. It is also necessary to take requirements of the on-line period into account. The PO communicates its dissemination and publicity activities with Royal Norwegian Embassy to Slovakia and the Press

Department of the Ministry of Investments, Regional Development and Informatization of the Slovak Republic. Through the web site www.eeagrants.sk and Facebook profile <https://www.facebook.com/EEANorwayGrants/> the PO communicates with general public and besides the basic information presents the programme activities and results. Information about the programme and projects implemented are published, including the presentation videos.

Within 2021, the main programme publicity information was connected with the bilateral calls launching. Promotional videos were made for a pre-defined project GGCP002 and for all five projects within GGC01 call. The videos will be made public in 2022, so all the projects will be presented this way, as well. Approximately 2-minute-long videos give the general public a short overview of the projects, their focus, goals and aims, key activities, cooperation with project partners as well as expected results.

5. Media coverage

Example 1

Coverage	Type	National
Description	Article about the start of the project GGC01006 implemented by the Association of Cities and Towns of Slovakia. Mr. Michal Kaliňák, the speaker for the Project Promoter introduces the project and says that the aim of the project is to raise awareness of the potential of Slovak-Ukrainian territorial cooperation in the interest of its current and future support from the national and European level	
Relevant links	https://domov.sme.sk/c/22631891/zmos-rozbieha-projekt-spoluprace-medzi-samospravami-zo-slovenska-a-ukrajiny.html	

Example 2

Coverage	Type	Regional
Description	An article regarding the start of the project GGC01006. According to Mr. Kaliňák, the project monitors the transfer of experience with reform and modernization processes in the local self-government. It also observes the provision of public services based on the experience of Norway and the V4 countries in order to promote European standards and good, transparent and accountable governance in Ukraine.	
Relevant links	https://www.teraz.sk/spravy/zmos-rozbieha-projekt-spoluprace-medzi/539739-clanok.html	

Example 3

Coverage	Type	National
Description	"The process of transformation and cohesion is beginning at the regional level. Cross-border cooperation will contribute to a stable, secure and	

	prosperous Ukraine". This was stated by the State Secretary of the Ministry of Diplomacy, Ingrid Brock on the project GGC01006 that is being implemented by the Association of Cities and Towns of Slovakia. "We are aware that the situation in Ukraine is difficult at the moment, but that does not discourage us. On the contrary, it motivates us to be more active and in solidarity. Europe is not only about economic benefits and prosperity, but also about solidarity and a willingness to share experiences" the Secretary of State said. At the same time, Brocková emphasized that a stable, safe and prosperous Ukraine is not only in the interests of Slovakia, but of the whole of Europe.
Relevant links	https://www.webnoviny.sk/cezhranicna-spolupraca-podla-brockovej-prispeje-k-stabilnej-bezpecnej-a-prosperujucej-ukrajine/

Example 4

Coverage	Type	National
Description	A discussion in the Ukrainian radio on start and aim of the project GGC01008 named Climate Change Adaptation Strategy and Mitigation Steps for SK – UA crossborder region (CLIMADAM) that is being implemented by Agency for the support of the regional development Košice	
Relevant links	https://www.rtvsk.sk/radio/archiv/1559/1560841	

Example 5

Coverage	Type	National
Description	An article in the online newspaper regarding the project GGC01008. The cross-border project CLIMADAM, which is being launched by the Košice self-governing region (KSK) together with the Transcarpathian region of Ukraine, is aimed at protecting the environment and mitigating the negative consequences of climate change. KSK Chairman Rastislav Trnka stated that climate change is a global phenomenon, which, however, can also be influenced from the regional level. "We started CMIMADAM project that will last for three years. We will focus on issues of sustainable transport, as well as measures aimed at mitigating the negative effects of climate change. We consider the Transcarpathian region to be a reliable partner with whom we can share our know-how", said Trnka.	
Relevant links	https://www.dobrenoviny.sk/c/198660/kosicky-kraj-so-zakarpatskom-realizuje-projekt-na-ochranu-zivotneho-prostredia	

6. Website and social media

6.a. Links to the programme website and social media accounts

Link to programme website

https://www.eegrants.sk/en/					
Total number of page views in the reporting year		Change in number of (page views) compared to the previous year		Total number of unique visitors in the reporting year	
Change in number of (page visitors) compared to the previous year					
57565		4138		26659	
1174					
Specific link or handle for the account	Posts published in the reporting year	Total likes in the reporting year	Total comments in the reporting year	Total shares/Retweets etc. in the reporting year	Followers gained since programme launch
Facebook	https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100069358563242				
	7	71	3	15	0

6.b. Results of website and social media activities

In 2021, activities on social media in the programme GGC were the most active at the beginning of the year. Videos were created for the projects as a part of the promo campaign “Grants in a cube 2021”, uploaded on YouTube, posted on Facebook and the official website. Programme has earned on a Facebook number of posts (7), likes (71), shares or retweets (15) and had a significant reach of posts (3606) to individuals. The most commented or liked posts were those from the video campaigns. Other important promo activities were project promoters meetings with partners and opening conferences for each project respectively, holding online from January until May. In the second half of the year, starting in June, a series of online workshops started, such as "Innovative solutions in the provision of public services at the local level - examples of good practice" GGC01006, "Ecologically and Socially Responsible and Innovative Cities" GGC01007, "Adaptation of Ukrainian students in Slovakia" GGC01009, “Public Integrity and Good Public Administration Examples in EU” GGC01009, „Education and training in local self-government“ GGC01006, and finishing in December with introductory training "Basics of MEAT criteria for beginners" GGCPP003.

7. Visuals

EEA and Norway Grants media library (ealibrary.org) will be a subject to PO’s priority in 2022. The results will be shared in the next years.

Annex 3: Overview of contracted projects

Outcome	Projects	#	# of donor project partners	Amount contracted	% of outcome budget contracted
Outcome 1: Integrity of public administration improved	Pre-defined	1	0	€ 1,500,000	100.00 %
	Contracted through open calls	0	0	€ 0	0.00 %
	Contracted through small grants scheme	0	0	€ 0	0.00 %
	Total Outcome 1	1	0	€ 1,500,000	100.00 %
Outcome 2: Quality of the judicial system improved	Pre-defined	1	0	€ 1,200,000	100.00 %
	Contracted through open calls	0	0	€ 0	0.00 %
	Contracted through small grants scheme	0	0	€ 0	0.00 %
	Total Outcome 2	1	0	€ 1,200,000	100.00 %
Outcome 3: Slovak-Ukrainian institutional cooperation enhanced	Pre-defined	1	1	€ 2,500,000	50.00 %
	Contracted through open calls	5	3	€ 2,500,000	50.00 %
	Contracted through small grants scheme	0	0	€ 0	0.00 %
	Total Outcome 3	6	4	€ 5,000,000	100.00 %
Outcome 4: Increased application of the Value for Money principle in public procurement	Pre-defined	1	0	€ 1,500,000	100.00 %
	Contracted through open calls	0	0	€ 0	0.00 %
	Contracted through small grants scheme	0	0	€ 0	0.00 %
	Total Outcome 4	1	0	€ 1,500,000	100.00 %
Programme	Total	9	4	€ 9,200,000	100.00 %

Annex 4: Risk management

Programmatic risks						
Risk description	Risk related to	Likelihood	Consequence	Risk score	Response type	Validity
Results achieved may not be very visible since the perception of judiciary system is low	Reducing social and economic disparities	2	2	2.00	Mitigate	
	Description of planned response	Promotion of the achieved results on the websites and in the media, organizing workshops (involving organisations that monitor these issues as guests) in order to disseminate results and information.				
	Description of actual response	The website was finished in 2021, where all the achieved results and news are shared in order to disseminate the accomplishments of the project.				
	Planned future response	Promotion of the achieved results on the websites and in the media, organizing workshops (involving organisations that monitor these issues as guests) in order to disseminate results and information.				
Difficulties in concluding financial partnerships with public institutions in Ukraine due to legislation (centralization in Ukraine)	Reducing social and economic disparities	3	3	3.00	Accept	
	Description of planned response	Altogether in 6 projects there are 13 Ukrainian project partners. There are 3 projects where the Ukrainian partner is from public sector and is participating on the budget. The PO will regularly interact with the project promoters to see if there are any issues in these projects.				
	Description of actual response	The project GGCPP004 has chosen a project partner in Ukraine, a NGO through which they are able to accept the grant for all the project partners in Ukraine. As regards the projects within GGC01 call, all partnership agreements with the Ukrainian partners were signed. In two cases, the project partners had to				

		create a new project bank account in the Ukrainian state bank,so they could receive the advance payment in €. In this cases, the addendum to the partnership agreement were signed (addendums to the PC too).				
	Planned future response	Altogether in 6 projects there are 12 Ukrainian project partners. There are 3 projects where the Ukrainian partner is from public sector and is participating on the budget. The PO will regularly interact with the project promoters to see if there are any issues in these projects.				
Issues connected with financial flows to Ukrainian institutions	Reducing social and economic disparities	3	2	2.45	Accept	
	Description of planned response	This risk solely depends on the state system and the PO is not able to affect national procedures set by Ukraine. The risk has to be accepted.				
	Description of actual response	This risk solely depends on the state system and the PO is not able to affect national procedures set by Ukraine. In 2021 the changes in the Ukrainian national system were solved by changing in accounts, which was accepted by all parties.				
	Planned future response	This risk solely depends on the state system and the PO is not able to affect national procedures set by Ukraine. The risk has to be accepted.				
Low interest of Ukrainian partners in the programme	Reducing social and economic disparities	2	3	2.45	Mitigate	
	Description of planned response	Under GGC01 call 5 project contracts were signed in Q4 2020 and a project contract for GGCPP004 was signed in Q2 2020. Each project has a mandatory Ukrainian partner. Some of the projects also have 2 or even more Ukrainian partners. Within 6 projects under the Outcome 3, there are altogether 14 Ukrainian project partners. The Programme Operator will regularly communicate with the Project Promoters in order to secure functioning and stable partnerships.				

	Description of actual response	Each project within GGC01 call has a mandatory Ukrainian partner. Some of the projects also have 2 or even more Ukrainian partners. Within 6 projects under the Outcome 3, there are altogether 12 Ukrainian project partners and all the partnership agreements are already signed.				
	Planned future response	Within 6 projects under the Outcome 3, there are altogether 12 Ukrainian project partners and all the partnership agreements are already signed. The Programme Operator will regularly communicate with the Project Promoters in order to secure functioning and stable partnerships.				
Operational risks						
Risk description	Risk related to	Likelihood	Consequence	Risk score	Response type	Validity
Judges not interested in specialized trainings	Reducing social and economic disparities	2	2	2.00	Mitigate	
	Description of planned response	Raising attractiveness of specialized trainings provided (skilled and reputable experts in the field as lecturers). If needed, it will be set up based on the results why there is no interest.				
	Description of actual response	In 2021 no specialized trainings were realized, but the Project Promoter started their preparation and did not have problem with the interest of judges for the trainings.				
	Planned future response	Raising attractiveness of specialized trainings provided (skilled and reputable experts in the field as lecturers). If needed, it will be set up based on the results why there is no interest.				
Complications caused by unawareness of legislation and inability to keep up with the amendments of	Reducing social and economic disparities	3	3	3.00	Mitigate	

the legislation of other states	Description of planned response	The PO will be willing to approve the changes in budget wherever possible if the Ukrainian partners prefer the proof of expenditure by the way of the reports by an independent auditor during the projects' implementation.				
	Description of actual response	The PO did encourage the UA partners to choose the submission of proof of expenditure by the way of the reports by an independent auditor and most of them has chosen this way of proof of expenditure.				
	Planned future response	The PO will be willing to approve the changes in budget wherever possible if the Ukrainian partners prefer the proof of expenditure by the way of the reports by an independent auditor during the projects' implementation.				
Frequent changes of representatives in state and regional administration	Reducing social and economic disparities	3	2	2.45	Accept	
	Description of planned response	Implementation monitoring with the specific focus on Ukrainian side and requesting of submission of measures to be taken if the project is delayed .				
	Description of actual response	The PO cannot influence this risk.				
	Planned future response	Implementation monitoring with the specific focus on Ukrainian side and requesting of submission of measures to be taken if the project is delayed.				
Time constraints in the projects implementation	Reducing social and economic disparities	3	3	3.00	Mitigate	

	Description of planned response	The circulation of documentation is prolonged when there are partners from other countries involved. Documentation translation requires a lot of time as well. This has to be taken cognisance of from the very beginning by the PO and project promoters and partners. As regards the COVID-19 pandemic, the PO will continue helping the Project Promoters to implement the projects best possible way given the circumstances.				
	Description of actual response	Originally, time constraints in the projects implementation were only connected with the project partners from other countries. At the moment, slight delays are caused by ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. The PO regularly communicates with the Project Promoters in order to mitigate the consequences of the pandemic on the projects' implementation.				
	Planned future response	The circulation of documentation is prolonged when there are partners from other countries involved. Documentation translation requires a lot of time as well. This has to be taken cognisance of from the very beginning by the PO and project promoters and partners. As regards the COVID-19 pandemic, the PO will continue helping the Project Promoters to implement the projects best possible way given the circumstances.				
Ongoing pandemic of COVID-19 and connected delays in projects	Reducing social and economic disparities	2	2	2.00	Mitigate	New
	Description of planned response	The PO will check on project promoters regularly during the project interim reports verification, via phone or email and will be helpful to maintain smooth project implementation within the programme.				
Overall risk of the programme						
		Likelihood	Consequence	Risk score		
OVERALL RISK OF THE PROGRAMME		3	2	2.45		

Annex 5: Monitoring plan

Please note this Annex is uploaded separately and is not visible in this document. Please download and print separately if needed.

Annex 6: Evaluation report

Not Available

Annex 7: Agreement conditions

General	
Condition	Fulfilled status
<p>1. The maximum level of funding available from the total eligible expenditure of the programme for infrastructure (hard measures) shall be 30%.</p>	<p>Is condition fulfilled? - N/A Comment</p> <p>This condition is going to be fulfilled as all the five projects within the GGC01 call and all the four pre-defined projects altogether did not exceed the maximum level of funding for infrastructure set in the Annex I to the Programme Agreement. The Programme Operator shall follow this condition during the whole implementation of the Programme as well.</p>
<p>3. The National Focal Point shall ensure that the Programme Operator ensures that project promoters:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Keep any buildings purchased, constructed, renovated or reconstructed under the project in their ownership for a period of at least 5 years following the completion of the project and continue to use such buildings for the benefit of the overall objectives of the project for the same period; • Keep any buildings purchased, constructed, renovated or reconstructed under the project properly insured against losses such as fire, theft and other normally insurable incidents both during project implementation and for at least 5 years following the completion of the project; and • Set aside appropriate resources for the maintenance of any buildings purchased, constructed, renovated or reconstructed under the project for at least 5 years 	<p>Is condition fulfilled? - N/A Comment</p> <p>This condition applies to the pre-defined project of the Ministry of Justice of the Slovak Republic. The Programme Operator included the condition in the signed project contact and shall also follow it during the whole implementation of the Programme.</p>

<p>following the completion of the project. The specific means for implementation of this obligation shall be specified in the project contract</p>	
<p>4. For the outcome 3 indicator “Level of (self-reported) knowledge among Ukrainian participants involved in cooperation with SK (on issues related to procurement, justice, etc.)” targeted by projects’ activities, where the baseline value is “to be determined” (TBD), the Programme Operator shall submit to the FMO for approval the baseline value, together with a description of the data collection method used, no later than 6 months after the finalisation of the selection of projects under Open call and the Call of the Small Grant Scheme. The updated baseline value shall be agreed upon through a modification of the programme agreement.</p>	<p>Is condition fulfilled? - No Comment</p> <p>In each project involving the cooperation with Ukraine, it is mandatory for the Project Promoter to conduct a survey in order to determine the level of knowledge (self-reported) between Ukrainian participants involved in the cooperation with Slovakia on issues related to procurement, justice, etc. This survey was realized by all five Project Promoters within the GGC01 call at the beginning of the project (i.e. before the implementation of the activities for strengthening Slovak-Ukrainian institutional cooperation) and will be realized at the end of the project (i.e. after the implementation of the activities for strengthening Slovak-Ukrainian institutional cooperation) pursuant to the instruction of the Programme Operator. All five Project Promoters provided the Programme Operator with the baseline value and supporting data (mainly in Slovak) and the Programme Operator submitted the baseline value to the FMO, but without the data from the pre-defined project GGCPP004, as the partnership agreement with the partners was not signed at the time.</p> <p>The FMO will be informed about the updated final baseline in 2022.</p> <p>All the project contracts concluded within GGC01 and a project contract for the pre-defined project GGCPP004 include the condition for the Project Promoters to realize the survey for determination of the baseline value of the above-mentioned outcome 3 indicator.</p>