

ANNUAL PROGRAMME REPORT

FM14-21

Slovakia

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

2022

A. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

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 2022. Due to ongoing war in Ukraine and a completely changed situation in Uzhgorod, original transport model created in 2021 had to be modified to new situation – increase of inhabitants and transfer of the industry from the east of Ukraine to the west. Moreover, the transport model was presented to the responsible authorities of the city of Uzhgorod and the Zakarpattia region during the Round table meeting which took place on 8th August 2022 in Uzhgorod. Within the activity named *Comprehensive study of “Our river Roňava”*, the analytical part of the strategy was completed and water retention measures in the Roňava basin were proposed and are currently verified by field research in two micro-basins of the river Roňava.

Within the pre-defined project GGCPP001 public Integrity Review of the Slovak Republic was finalized by OECD and was officially handed over to the representative of the Government Office of the Slovak Republic during public event in March 2022. In June 2022, the Anti-Corruption Programme of the Government Office of the Slovak Republic was updated, considering the OECD recommendations from the publication on the Integrity Review of the Slovak Republic". Within the pre-defined project GGCPP003, in cooperation with the project partner OECD, the Project Promoter published a strategy to promote the use of MEAT criteria, a major methodology called Basics of MEAT criteria for beginners^[1] and two documents on examples of good practice. Moreover, 9 training sessions on the basics of MEAT criteria theory and 2 training sessions on analysing decisions from PPO practice were organized as well. Within GGCPP004, first activities started in summer 2022 as the partnership agreement with all the project partners (Ukrainian and Norwegian) was signed in March 2022 and due to war in Ukraine was delivered to the PO in May 2022. Despite the initial unfavourable situation due to war in Ukraine, several project workshops have been implemented and project partners started preparing an extensive analysis of the legislation and internal acts of the involved security forces in order to identify any shortcomings and differences in the cross-border information exchange in the field of CBRN security.

The programme area Effectiveness and efficiency of the judicial system and strengthening rule of law is being implemented through one pre-defined project GGCPP002. In Q4 2022, reconstruction works started at eight partner courts with the aim of creating special monitoring and interrogation rooms enabling interaction between minors in a friendlier environment, which should positively affect minors, including their participation in court proceedings. In May 2022, the first study trip to Norway with the cooperation of Norwegian National Courts Administrations aimed at prevention of secondary and repeated victimization in court proceedings for judges and prosecutors was realized.

A lesson learned is connected with the ongoing war in Ukraine and in its first months significantly complicated the implementation of projects with Ukrainian partners. Project Promoters (GGC01 call) revised their projects budget and helped their Ukrainian partners through humanitarian aid in the amount of 287,539 euro. This initiative was met with gratitude and appreciation from Ukrainian partners. It has shown the importance of relationships in harsh situation like this, as the relationships between partners grew stronger and strengthened even more than anticipated.

Regarding the publicity and information about the programme, the promotional videos were made for a pre-defined project GGCPP001, GGCPP003 and GGCPP004. 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 3 projects within GGC01 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.

Taken into account the ongoing war in Ukraine, implementation of people-to-people initiatives within GGCBF03 call dedicated to people-to-people initiatives in the Slovak-Ukrainian border region contributing to strengthen the trilateral cooperation among donor states, Slovakia and Ukraine is not considered appropriate. As Ukraine is now in unprecedented humanitarian crisis, the potential applicants will focus on far more important issues Ukraine is facing now and will face in the future. In this regard, the process of cancellation of call and reallocation of its allocation to the bilateral fund call GGCBF02 started – this will be finalized in Q1 2023.

[1]
https://zodpovednevo.uvo.gov.sk/fileadmin/zodpovednevo/dokumenty/projektove_en/Basics_of_MEAT_criteria_for_begginers.pdf

B. PERFORMANCE

1. Programme progress and results

Objectives

The pre-defined project and projects within GGC01 call contribute to the programme objective – integrity and accountability of public administration improved. This is being achieved by the cooperation between public administration in Slovakia, Ukraine and Norway within the projects such as exchange of best practices between public institutions, fellowships of Ukrainian participants in Slovakia, language courses, mutual meetings, trainings and workshops, creation of joint politics, analysis, strategies, methodologies and education and training programmes. By the implementation of these types of activities, programme contributes also to reduced social and economic disparities and strengthened bilateral cooperation.

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' was determined and its value is 5.63. In November 2022, PO submitted the baseline value calculated based on the data received from all the projects within GGC01 and the pre-defined project GGCPP004. The target value will be changed as a technical modification to the value 10 as agreed with the Financial Mechanism Office, as the baseline value is above 5 and the target value was originally set as +100% and therefore is impossible to reach (would be out of range).

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 going to be higher than 3 and therefore the target value for this Outcome 3 indicator will not be achieved at the end of the programme implementation. 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 inter-ministerial cross-border cooperation is demanding and requires long-term formal intergovernmental agreements and is usually

connected with complex policies. It is not an appropriate subject for the open call of the programme's nature. The actual value reported is one. Within the project GGC01007 the project partner – the city of Kharkov – cooperates with the Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs of the Slovak Republic, the Ministry of Economy of the Slovak Republic and the Ministry of Strategic Industry of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine.

One of the biggest challenges that social and economic life in Slovakia faced during 2022 were impacts of the Russian invasion to Ukraine. Cooperation with Ukraine was a long-term priority in many areas and one of the milestones of this cooperation was the approval of the resolution No. 17 from 12th January 2022 by the Government of the Slovak Republic.^[1] It was a proposal for further development and cooperation between the Slovak Republic and Ukraine and it contained support for reforms and cooperation in the implementation of the association agreement in areas such as climate policies, financial cooperation and fighting against fraud, social policies and labor relations, integrated border management and many others. It also contained proposal for streamlining the activities of intergovernmental joint commissions and development of cross-border cooperation at the regional level through the establishment of the European Association of Territorial Cooperation (EZÚS). Due to Russian invasion to Ukraine, all these plans had to be revisited and postponed for now. The planned meeting of the Slovak – Ukrainian Intergovernmental Commission on Cross-border Cooperation was also postponed to 2023. The cooperation between the Slovak Republic and Ukraine transformed and during 2022 was mainly focused on the cooperation in the areas of humanitarian, defense and military support.

The war in Ukraine also had an impact on Slovak society and the protection of democracy has become an increasingly important topic. Hybrid threats and high level of trust in conspiracy theories are considered one of the biggest threats to democracy. Available data on public opinion shows that Slovak population is in a particularly vulnerable situation due to high penetration of conspiratorial narratives – approximately one in two (50%) citizens of Slovakia follow some form of conspiracy theories^[2]. Slovakia has recently adopted a comprehensive public policy – Action Plan on Countering Hybrid Threats which addresses the issue of spreading disinformation in a complex manner. The cooperation in this field on international level will be necessary, and initiatives on this matter from European Commission (f. e. Digital Services Act and the self-regulatory Code of Practice on Disinformation) and OECD (Global Forum and Ministerial meeting dedicated to “Building trust and reinforcing democracy” in Luxemburg) showed, that only in cooperation with other countries combating threats to democracy will be effective.

[1] <https://rokovania.gov.sk/RVL/Material/26824/1>

[2] <https://www.globsec.org/sites/default/files/2022-05/GLOBSEC-Trends-2022.pdf>

Outcome 1: Integrity of public administration improved

Within the Outcome 1 of the programme there is a pre-defined project GGCPP001 named “Improving Integrity of the Public Administration/IIPA” being implemented by the Government Office of the Slovak Republic. Outcome 1 indicator Annual number of detected corruption cases

registered by the Ministry of Interior of the Slovak Republic achieved the annual target value which was set on 500 cases, and the actual value reported based on the Ministry of Interior of the Slovak Republic's records reached 469 cases, which is lower number than in 2021. In 2022, Outcome 1 indicator Control of Corruption indicator score (CCI - World Bank) underachieved the target value which was set on 65 and the actual value reported based on the CCI World Bank's records reached 62,02. It is a value from 2021 report published in 2022, as report for 2022 will be published in 2023. These underachievements may be caused due to actual political situation in Slovakia in 2022, which was quite turbulent; at the end of 2022 the current government has ended and new elections are supposed to be in 2023. 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 based on the Transparency International's records is 52/100. It is a value from 2022 report published in 2023. In comparison with last year, there is a significant improvement as Slovakia ranked 60th with the score 49/100 Public Integrity Review of the Slovak Republic was finalized by OECD and was officially handed over to the representative of the Government Office of the Slovak Republic during public event in March 2022. In June 2022, the Anti-Corruption Programme of the Government Office of the Slovak Republic was updated, considering the OECD recommendations from the publication "OECD Integrity Review of the Slovak Republic". In cooperation with the project partner - OECD, the Corruption Prevention Department held a workshop on behavioural insights in September 2022 with the participation of OECD representatives and anti-corruption coordinators at the premises of the Government Office of the Slovak Republic. Moreover, document named "Integrity Principles" was created and submitted in November 2022 for inter-ministerial comments. In the same month, an amendment to the Whistleblower Protection Act was approved at a meeting of the Government of the Slovak Republic, sent to the National Council of the Slovak Republic for the first reading.

As regards output 1.1 indicators Measures to improve integrity of public administration implemented, in 2022, policies of 5 line ministries in the field of integrity of public administration were coordinated – for example policies of Ministry of Interior of the Slovak Republic, Ministry of Justice of the SR or Ministry of Education, Science, Research and Sport of the Slovak Republic. 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.

Outcome 2: Quality of the judicial system improved

Within the Outcome 2 of the programme there is a 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. In Q4 2022, reconstruction works started at eight partner courts with the aim of creating special monitoring and interrogation rooms enabling interaction between minors in a friendlier environment, which should positively affect minors, including their participation in court proceedings. In May 2022, the first study trip to Norway with the cooperation of Norwegian National Courts Administrations aimed at prevention of secondary and repeated victimization in court proceedings for judges and prosecutors was realized. However, due to war in Ukraine, it was not possible for as many prosecutors to attend the trip as it was originally planned – in the end 6 instead of 8 were able to travel to Norway (two judges travelled instead of them). The project promoter struggles to find another Norwegian institution to help them carry out second field trip to Norway, as the Norwegian National Courts Administrations is unfortunately not able to organize second study trip due to delays caused by the COVID-19 pandemic in their own institution.

Also, work on educational programs for judges, prosecutors and mediators continued in 2022, as the pilot trainings on the topics "*Special approach to minors in court proceedings*" and

"Improving skills in dealing with victims with an emphasis on particularly vulnerable victims and the application of their rights throughout the judicial process" were realized. Moreover, documentation on media campaign was completed and will serve to raise awareness and publicity about the rights of victims and to create an accessible source of information for the general public and experts too. At the same time, informational materials - brochures and leaflets - *I am a victim of a crime* - were prepared in languages (EN and HU).

In field of improvement of the judiciary system, postponing the new map of courts in the Slovak Republic to June 2023, when the new system will take effect, was approved by the National Council of the Slovak Republic. Postponing of its implementation was proposed by the Minister of Justice with the intention of better preparation of practical aspects of the new system.^[1]

[1] <https://www.justice.gov.sk/tlacovespravy/tlacova-sprava-3745/>

Outcome 3: Slovak-Ukrainian institutional cooperation enhanced

Within the Outcome 3 there is one pre-defined project GGCPP004 and five projects under the call GGC01 are being implemented.

All Output 3.1 indicators will be overachieved by the end of programme when comparing the target values set in the Annex I to the Programme Agreement. 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 achieved is 11 – for example best practices to Ukraine the field of IT technology in border control processes and detection of human trafficking at the external border (GGC01005) and in the area of civic participation at regional level (GGC01006). The target value for the indicator Number of people attending joint workshops organised between Slovak and Ukrainian public sector entities is set on 500. The actual value based on the attendance sheets is 1 222. The GGC01006 has contributed to this overachievement the most – the main reason is that during pandemic, all workshops were realized online. The target value for the indicator Number of secondments from Ukraine to Slovakia is set on 20 and the contracted value is 62. The actual value of secondments reported is 14 – within GGC01005 were aimed at border and customs service and within GGC01007 aimed at transparency and openness of public institutions. Lower figure is caused by the ongoing war in Ukraine and the inability for Ukrainians participate in secondments – this is the indicator influenced by the war in Ukraine the most. Fulfilling of this indicator improved in Q3 2022 as it started to be possible for Ukrainian men to travel on approved exceptions granted by the Ukrainian security forces. All remaining planned secondments should be realized in 2023. In case it would not be possible to realize all planned secondments due to worsened situation in Ukraine, the Project Promoters are preparing alternative scenario for using the grants contributing to the objective, outcome and outputs of the projects. If the situation doesn't get worse in Ukraine, 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. Long-term secondments (e.g. 6-month secondments) were expected.

Within the project GGC01008 implemented by Agency for the support of regional development Košice two significant results were accomplished in 2022. Due to ongoing war in Ukraine and a completely changed situation in Uzhgorod, original transport model created in 2021 had to be modified to new situation – increase of inhabitants and transfer of the industry from the east of Ukraine to the west. Moreover, the transport model was presented to the responsible authorities

of the city of Uzhgorod and the Zakarpattia region which took place on 8th August 2022 in Uzhgorod. Also, the analytical part of the strategy was completed and water retention measures in the Roňava basin were proposed.

The pre-defined project GGCPP004 started its activities in summer 2022. Several project workshops have been implemented, and project partners started preparing an extensive analysis of the legislation and internal acts of the involved security forces in order to identify any shortcomings and differences in the cross-border information exchange in the field of CBRN security. The project partners also began to deal with the main project activity – development and formalization of an effective CBRN education and training system. The opening conference was postponed to January 2023 due to worsening of the situation in Ukraine at the end of 2022 and inability of project partners to travel to Slovakia.

Due to a significant delay in the implementation of the project activities, the Project Promoter will not be able to implement all planned activities and the budget will be decreased approximately by 360,000 euro, which are proposed to be reallocated from the Programme.

In the first months, the war in Ukraine significantly complicated the implementation of projects – the situation was changing from day to day and nobody could predict what the following days and weeks would bring. The situation got better in Q3/Q4 2022, as both project promoters and Ukrainian partners found best ways how to cooperate and implement project activities despite the difficult circumstances.

Shortly after the war began, Project Promoters from projects under GGC01 call revised their projects budget and helped their Ukrainian partners through humanitarian aid in the amount of 287,539 euro. This initiative was met with gratitude and much appreciation from Ukrainian partners. It has shown the importance of relationships in harsh situation like this, as the relationships between partners grew stronger and strengthened even more than anticipated.

The war in Ukraine was also identified as a new programme risk and respective annex was updated.

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

Within the Outcome 4 of the programme there is a pre-defined project GGCPP003 named “Responsible public procurement” being implemented by the Public Procurement Office. 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 2022 are underachieved, i.e. lower than the baseline values, but higher than in 2021. This decrease has been caused by the consequences of COVID-19 pandemic and ongoing war in Ukraine. 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 pandemic and ongoing war in Ukraine 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. Activities contributing to the increased application of the Value for Money principle in public procurement continued to be implemented within the project in 2022, the current numbers are higher, but an increase is expected in 2023 during which more activities within the project shall be implemented.

The process of the reduction of the project grant by 50,000 euro due to the savings in the project started at the end of 2022 and shall be finalized in Q1 2023. This amount is proposed to be reallocated from the programme.

There are neither any delays nor issues within the project and the implementation is going very well. In cooperation with the project partner OECD, the Project Promoter published a strategy to promote the use of MEAT criteria, a major methodology called Basics of MEAT criteria for beginners and two documents on examples of good practice. Moreover, 9 training sessions on the basics of MEAT criteria theory and 2 training sessions on analysing decisions from Public Procurement Office practice were organized as well. 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 – 2022 and ongoing war in Ukraine and shows lower numbers, the project has finalised the tools for its improvement and started to use them in practice. They are on good way to further 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

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 helpful and active and the Project Promoter is very satisfied with the way how the cooperation with this partner works. 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, namely creation of 4 manuals, organisation of 6 workshops.

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 2022, 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 2022 by per-rollam procedure during which Annual Programme Report 2021 was discussed and commented on.

The next CCM was focused on humanitarian aid to Ukrainian partners in projects and how to address possible threat of war on the implementation of project activities – it was a joint meeting with Joint Commission for Bilateral Fund.

Taken into account the ongoing war in Ukraine that started in February 2022, implementation of people-to-people initiatives within GGCBF03 call that is dedicated to people-to-people initiatives in the Slovak-Ukrainian border region contributing to strengthen the trilateral cooperation among donor states, Slovakia and Ukraine, is not consider appropriate. As Ukraine is now in unprecedented humanitarian crisis, the potential applicants will focus on far more important issues Ukraine is facing now and will face in the future. Until today, no applications were received in GGCBF02 and GGCBF03 calls.

In this regard, the Cooperation Committee Meeting was held in April 2022 in order to agree on cancellation of this call and reallocation of its allocation to the bilateral fund call GGCBF02. The

members of the CC agreed with the proposal and suggested a few changes for GGCBF02 call – change of main focus from online activities to in-person activities.

The Joint Commission for Bilateral Fund approved the changes in December 2022. The cancellation of GGCBF03 call and re-launch of the updated GGCBF02 call will be in Q1 2023.

C. MONITORING AND EVALUATION

1. Monitorings carried out

All projects under the programme were monitored in 2022. There were three changes in the monitoring plan. First one was caused by the ongoing war in Ukraine and an increased risk in all GGC01 projects – risk monitoring was also carried out for projects GGC01007 and GGC01009 that were not originally planned. Second change was decision not to carry out results monitoring for GGCPP001 in Q4 as the compliance monitoring for this project was finished in October 2022 and the Programme Operator did not find it effective to carry out another monitoring so soon after finishing the first one. Third one was caused by war in Ukraine – for all projects under Outcome 3 risk monitoring was carried out instead of compliance and results monitorings that were originally planned for some projects.

Compliance monitoring was carried out for two pre-defined projects – GGCPP001 and GGCPP003. As regards the findings, the Project Promoter of the pre-defined project GGCPP001 was recommended to expand the project team with an experienced project manager, who would be in charge of the entire project implementation, planning of individual activities, financial planning, verification of progress with respect to the schedule and regular evaluation of risks associated with implementation as the project management does not function as it should and also to increase the awareness about the project and its results. There were neither any findings, nor any recommendation for GGCPP003.

For the rest of the projects, risk monitoring was carried out mainly because of the ongoing war in Ukraine (projects within GGC01) or delays in the project implementation (GGCPP002 and GGCPP004). There were no findings or recommendation for projects GGC01005 and GGC01009. The PO set a following measure for projects GGC01006, GGC01007 and GGC01008: to prepare an analysis of the current state of project activities with a timetable, taking into account the reality of implementation by 30 April 2024 and alternative scenarios for the continuation of project activities while preserving the goal and essence of the project in the event that the situation does not improve and it is not possible to continue activities as planned.

In 2023, results monitoring are planned for altogether 4 projects and risk monitoring for 2 pre-defined projects. The monitoring plan is attached.

2. Evaluations carried out

Not applicable. The evaluation of the programme is not planned by the Programme Operator, as the evaluation will be carried out by the National Focal Point.

D. ANNEXES

1. Results achieved
2. Communication summary
3. Project summary and call details
4. Risk management
5. Monitoring plan
6. Evaluation report
7. Agreement conditions

Annex 1: Results achieved

Objective: Integrity and accountability of public administration improved								
Outcome 1: Integrity of public administration improved								
Indicator	Unit of measurement	Baseline value	Previous achievement value	Achievements until end of December 2022			Target value	Comment
				Numerator	Denominator	Achievement value		
Control of Corruption indicator score (CCI - World Bank)	Annual number	63.50	66.35 (APR 2021)	-	-	62.02	65	CCI - World Bank report 2021. The report for the year 2022 is not available yet.
Corruption perception index score (Transparency International)	Annual number	51	52 (APR 2021)	-	-	53	56	According to Transparency International CPI for the year 2022, Slovakia ranked on the 49th place with 53 points out of 100
Annual number of detected corruption cases registered by the Ministry of Interior	Annual number	357	500 (APR 2021)	-	-	469	500	Data provided by the Ministry of Interior of the Slovak Republic for the year 2021. Usually data for the previous year is available in Q1 of the following year so data from 2022 will be available at the beginning of 2022.
Output 1.1: Measures to improve integrity of public administration implemented								
Indicator	Unit of measurement	Baseline value	Previous achievement value	Achievements until end of December 2022			Target value	Comment
				Numerator	Denominator	Achievement value		
Number of capacity building workshops organised	Cumulative number	0	2 (IFR 2022)	-	-	2	3	There is no change in comparison with the value in 2021. Last capacity building workshop will be organised in 2023.

Number of line ministries whose policies in the field of integrity of public administration are coordinated	Cumulative number	0	5 (IFR 2022)	-	-	5	5	For example policies of Ministry of Interior of the Slovak Republic, Ministry of Justice of the Slovak Republic or Ministry of Education, Science, Research and Sport of the Slovak Republic are coordinated in the field of integrity of public administration.
Number of public servants lectured on ethical conduct	Cumulative number	0	182 (IFR 2022)	-	-	182	350	None public servants were lectured on ethical conduct. The Project Promoter plans to continue with lectures in 2023.
<i>Gender</i>								
<i>Female</i>	-	-	103	-	-	103	-	-
<i>Male</i>	-	-	79	-	-	79	-	-
<i>Not specified</i>	-	-	0	-	-	0	-	-
Public Integrity Review conducted	Binary	No	Yes (IFR 2022)	-	-	Yes	Yes	Public Integrity Review was finalized and officially presented during an event in March 2022.
Set of standards to measure the integrity of public administration developed	Binary	No	No (IFR 2022)	-	-	No	Yes	The Project Promoter started preparations of the standards in 2022, however, those are not finalized yet.
Outcome 2: Quality of the judicial system improved								
Indicator	Unit of measurement	Baseline value	Previous achievement value	Achievements until end of December 2022			Target value	Comment
				Numerator	Denominator	Achievement value		
Number of beneficiaries of services provided or improved	Cumulative number	0	0 (IFR 2022)	-	-	0	360	Measuring this indicator will be possible after the

								court premises are refurbished (plan is Q1 2023)
Number of family law cases prosecuted by the courts which are supported by the programme	Cumulative number	0	0 (APR 2021)	-	-	0	120	Measuring this indicator will be possible after the court premises are refurbished (plan is Q1 2023)
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	-	-	-	48	180	In 2022, 48 professionals who were trained reported increased competence and capacity for working with victims of crimes and protection of minors
Output 2.1: Quality of family law prosecution improved								
Indicator	Unit of measurement	Baseline value	Previous achievement value	Achievements until end of December 2022			Target value	Comment
				Numerator	Denominator	Achievement value		
Number of court premises refurbished	Cumulative number	0	0 (IFR 2022)	-	-	0	8	Reconstruction works started at the end of 2022 and are planned to be finished in Q1 2023
Number of educational programmes for mediators and judges developed	Cumulative number	0	0 (IFR 2022)	-	-	1	1	In 2022, educational programme for mediators and judges was developed
Output 2.2: Access to the justice for the victims improved								
Indicator	Unit of measurement	Baseline value	Previous achievement value	Achievements until end of December 2022			Target value	Comment
				Numerator	Denominator	Achievement value		
Number of educational programmes for judges and prosecutors, focused on improving handling victims	Cumulative number	0	0 (IFR 2022)	-	-	1	2	In 2022, one educational programme for judges and prosecutors was developed

Number of enforcement officers trained	Cumulative number	0	0 (IFR 2022)	-	-	17	36	In 2022, 17 enforcement officers were trained
Number of inter-ministerial meetings promoting cooperation on the protection of the rights of the victim	Cumulative number	0	15 (IFR 2022)	-	-	15	30	In 2022, 3 inter-ministerial meetings promoting cooperation on the protection of the rights of the victim took place, specifically on 14.02.2022 (online), 15.02.2022 (face-to-face) and 17.02.2022 (face-to-face).
Outcome 3: Slovak-Ukrainian institutional cooperation enhanced								
Indicator	Unit of measurement	Baseline value	Previous achievement value	Achievements until end of December 2022			Target value	Comment
				Numerator	Denominator	Achievement 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	5.63	-	-	-	5.63	10, The target is +100% from baseline (plus one hundred percent and not plus one hundred percentage points), but capped at the maximum of 10.	This value is the baseline value that was submitted to the FMO in November 2022
Number of cooperation partnerships remaining between Slovak and Ukrainian Line	Cumulative number	0	0 (APR 2021)	-	-	1	5	Within the project GGC01007 the city of Kharkov cooperates with

Ministries at completion of the programme								the Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs of the Slovak Republic, the Ministry of Economy of the Slovak Republic and the Ministry of Strategic Industry of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine. However, the target value 5 will not be reached, as the target value in the projects within GGC01 is set at 3.
Output 3.1: Measures fostering Slovak-Ukrainian cooperation implemented								
Indicator	Unit of measurement	Baseline value	Previous achievement value	Achievements until end of December 2022			Target value	Comment
				Numerator	Denominator	Achievement value		
Number of best practices transferred in the field of transparency from Slovakia to Ukraine	Cumulative number	0	3 (IFR 2022)	-	-	11	10	In 2022, altogether 11 best practices were transferred in the field of transparency from Slovakia to Ukraine within projects GGC01005, GGC01006, GGC01008 and GGC01009.
Number of people attending joint workshops organised between Slovak and Ukrainian public sector entities	Cumulative number	0	840 (IFR 2022)	-	-	1,222	500	Based on the project promoters' records – attendance sheets.
<i>Gender</i>								
<i>Female</i>	-	-	507	-	-	693	-	-
<i>Male</i>	-	-	333	-	-	529	-	-
<i>Not specified</i>	-	-	0	-	-	0	-	-
Number of secondments from Ukraine to Slovakia	Cumulative number	0	0 (IFR 2022)	-	-	14	20	In 2022, altogether 14 secondments were realized from Ukraine to

								Slovakia within projects GGC01005 and GGC01007. The rest of secondments is planned mostly for 2023.
Output 3.2: Measures fostering Slovak-Ukrainian-Norwegian institutional cooperation related to CBRN (chemical, biological, radioactive, nuclear) safety								
Indicator	Unit of measurement	Baseline value	Previous achievement value	Achievements until end of December 2022			Target value	Comment
				Numerator	Denominator	Achievement value		
CBRN defence education and training systems for Security Forces of Ukraine established	Binary	No	No (IFR 2022)	-	-	No	Yes	The partnership agreement is effective since May 2022 and the first project activities took place in summer 2022. More results are expected in 2023.
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 2022)	-	-	0	2	The partnership agreement is effective since May 2022 and the first project activities took place in summer 2022. More results are expected in 2023.
Number of exercises of Slovak security forces with international observation	Cumulative number	0	0 (IFR 2022)	-	-	0	1	The partnership agreement is effective since May 2022 and the first project activities took place in summer 2022. More results are expected in 2023.
Number of international exercises conducted	Cumulative number	0	0 (IFR 2022)	-	-	0	1	The partnership agreement is effective since May 2022 and the first project activities took place in summer 2022.

								More results are expected in 2023.
Number of private sector representatives trained on handling illicit CBRN materials	Cumulative number	0	0 (IFR 2022)	-	-	0	45	The partnership agreement is effective since May 2022 and the first project activities took place in summer 2022. More results are expected in 2023.
<i>Gender</i>								
<i>Female</i>	-	-	0	-	-	0	-	-
<i>Male</i>	-	-	0	-	-	0	-	-
<i>Not specified</i>	-	-	0	-	-	0	-	-
Number of Slovak police specialists educated and trained	Cumulative number	0	0 (IFR 2022)	-	-	0	160	The partnership agreement is effective since May 2022 and the first project activities took place in summer 2022. More results are expected in 2023
<i>Gender</i>								
<i>Female</i>	-	-	0	-	-	0	-	-
<i>Male</i>	-	-	0	-	-	0	-	-
<i>Not specified</i>	-	-	0	-	-	0	-	-
Number of Ukrainian Security Forces specialists educated and trained	Cumulative number	0	0 (IFR 2022)	-	-	0	100	The partnership agreement is effective since May 2022 and the first project activities took place in summer 2022. More results are expected in 2023
<i>Gender</i>								
<i>Female</i>	-	-	0	-	-	0	-	-
<i>Male</i>	-	-	0	-	-	0	-	-
<i>Not specified</i>	-	-	0	-	-	0	-	-

Outcome 4: Increased application of the Value for Money principle in public procurement								
Indicator	Unit of measurement	Baseline value	Previous achievement value	Achievements until end of December 2022			Target value	Comment
				Numerator	Denominator	Achievement value		
Average annual number of bidders in public procurements	Annual number	3.60	3.35 (APR 2021)	-	-	3.07	4	In 2022, 727 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	3.04 (IFR 2022)	-	-	22	50	In 2022, the team in 22 market consultation.
Share of public procurements using MEAT criteria	Percentage	20.00 %	8.41 % (APR 2021)	727	10,094	7.20 %	40.00 %	During the COVID – 19 pandemic situation and ongoing war in Ukraine 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 value	Previous achievement value	Achievements until end of December 2022			Target value	Comment
				Numerator	Denominator	Achievement value		
Number of professional chambers and institutions involved in the preparation of the standards/templates	Cumulative number	0	0 (IFR 2022)	-	-	0	3	Indicator is linked to the preparation of methodology so fulfilment

								of this indicator is expected in 2023
Number of standards/templates for the application of MEAT criteria developed	Cumulative number	0	0 (IFR 2022)	-	-	1	6	In June 2022, the project team in cooperation with the project partner OECD issued and published the project output "Basics of MEAT criteria for beginners". It is a document that is the first and basic methodology that contains the legal definition of the criteria for evaluating offers, especially the MEAT criteria, their advantages and positive aspects of the application, or the basic elements that make up the MEAT criteria as a whole
Number of workshops for the biggest Contracting Authorities on MEAT criteria	Cumulative number	0	1 (IFR 2022)	-	-	2	6	The Project Promoter organized 2 workshops for the biggest CA on MEAT criteria
Bilateral Outcome: Enhanced collaboration between beneficiary and donor state entities involved in the programme								
Indicator	Unit of measurement	Baseline value	Previous achievement value	Achievements until end of December 2022			Target value	Comment
				Numerator	Denominator	Achievement value		
Level of satisfaction with the partnership	Scale 1-7	6.63	-	-	-	6.63	≥4.5, and an increase on the baseline	-

Level of trust between cooperating entities in Beneficiary States and Donor States	Scale 1-7	6.75	-	-	-	6.75	≥4.5, and an increase on the baseline	-
Share of cooperating organisations that apply the knowledge acquired from bilateral partnership	Percentage	N/A	-	0	0	-	≥50%	-
Bilateral Output 1: Cooperation between Donor and Beneficiary State entities supported								
Indicator	Unit of measurement	Baseline value	Previous achievement value	Achievements until end of December 2022			Target value	Comment
				Numerator	Denominator	Achievement value		
Number of projects involving cooperation with a donor project partner	Cumulative number	0	4 (IFR 2022)	-	-	4	4	PdP of the Ministry of Interior of the Slovak Republic – GGCPP004. Within the Open call GGC01 project GGC01005, GGC01006 and GGC01007. Altogether 4 projects involve cooperation with Norwegian project partner
Number of staff from the beneficiary country participating in study visits to Norway	Cumulative number	0	18 (IFR 2022)	-	-	17	36	First study visit in Norway took place in May 2022 within the project GGCPP002. By typing mistake, IFR stated number 18, but number 17 is correct
Share of projects implemented in trilateral partnerships between Slovakia, Ukraine and the Donor States	Percentage	0.00 %	44.44 % (IFR 2022)	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.
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Annex 2: Communication summary

1. Best projects

Within the programme there are altogether 4 projects being implemented in partnerships with Norwegian project partners. Based on the feedback from the Project Promoters, all of them are satisfied with the level of cooperation with their Norwegian project partners. Within the project GGC01005 implemented by the Ministry of Interior of the Slovak Republic, cooperation with Norwegian project partner Åpenhet AS has been very appreciated by the Project Promoter – the partner is very active, communication is very smooth and was very helpful also with the transfer of best practices to Ukraine the field of IT technology in border control processes and customs control process, current trends in the detection of irregular documents, detection of human trafficking at the external border, current trends in the training of a service dog to detect the illegal import of goods, current trends in the detection of illegal import and export of funds. Another example is pre-defined project GGCPP003 aimed at promoting the principle of value for money in public procurement, in particular through the convergence and visibility of methods such as the MEAT criteria and preparatory market consultations. This project is being implemented in cooperation with the project partner – the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) – that is very helpful and active. In 2022, a strategy to promote the use of MEAT criteria was published, a major methodology called Basics of MEAT criteria for beginners and two documents on examples of good practice was created and published. Moreover, 9 training sessions on the basics of MEAT criteria theory and 2 training sessions on analysing decisions from Public Procurement Office practice were organized as well.

2. Visibility of the Grants and the Donors

2.a. Communication activities

The PO proceeds in line with the Communication plan for the programme Good governance and Cross-border cooperation. 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 2022, there was no major programme publicity information, apart from the information that GGCBF03 will be cancelled and the GGCBF02 will be updated in 2023. Promotional videos were made for a pre-defined project GGCPP001, GGCPP003 and GGCPP004. The videos for all projects were made public in 2022. 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.

2.b. Project stories

Webpage <https://www.eegrants.sk/en/programs/good-governance-and-cross-border-cooperation/projects/> contains the comprehensive information about all projects including the information of nutshell, project description, photo gallery and the video about the project. Activities on social media, precisely the Facebook page, in the programme GGC focused on presenting individual projects, either their conferences or other events and news. Overall, the programme GGC has earned on Facebook a number of posts (10), likes (20), and shares (2) and had a significant reach of posts (1297) to individuals. The most liked post (12), and at the same time, the post with the most reach to people (2,400) was connected to the visit of the Slovakian-Ukraine border related to the project Safe and Inclusive Border between Slovakia and Ukraine realized by the Ministry of Interior of the Slovak Republic. In 2022, The Facebook page also offered a short video series presenting individual projects within the Good Governance and Cross-border Cooperation Programme.

3. Media coverage

Please add links to examples of local, regional, or national media coverage of the programme.

<https://www.mirri.gov.sk/aktuality/granty-ehp/vicepremierka-remisova-vraciame-krasu-zilinskemu-domu-umenia-fatra-na-obnovu-ikonickej-pamiatky-ide-1-million-eur/index.html>

<https://www.mirri.gov.sk/aktuality/granty-ehp/vicepremierka-remisova-v-norsku-mame-zaujem-aby-sme-z-grantov-ehp-a-norska-mohli-financovat-aj-riesenia-na-podporu-odolnosti-nasej-krajiny-a-spolocnosti-voci-vonkajsim-hrozbam/index.html>

<https://www.mirri.gov.sk/aktuality/granty-ehp/vicepremierka-remisova-na-humanitarnu-pomoc-nasim-ukrajinskym-partnerom-presuvame-statisice-eur-z-grantov-ehp-a-norska/index.html>

4. Website and social media

Link to programme website		Total number of page views in the reporting year	
https://www.eegrants.sk/en/		171543	
	Link or account handle	Number of posts published in the reporting year	Number of followers
Facebook	https://www.facebook.com/EEANorwayGrants/	10	1661

5. Visuals

EEA and Norway Grants media library (eealibrary.org) will be completed by the multimedia assets of the Good Governance and Cross-border Cooperation Programme projects after obtaining official permissions and legal copyrights for the photo gallery and the video materials for the projects under the programme.

Pre-defined projects:

<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLYoKgE1yAl3YakNRPQy539fMrU-g50W6t>

GGC01 projects:

https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLYoKgE1yAl3aazm2CwmGEYcBdj_nf8Auc

Annex 3: Overview of contracted projects

1. Project summary

	Number	Total Grant	Amount budgeted to dpps (estimate)
Total number of projects contracted	9	€ 9,200,000	€ 865,586
Number of pre-defined projects contracted	4	€ 6,700,000	€ 500,000
Number of projects with a donor project partner	4	€ 4,318,825	€ 865,586
Number of projects with a donor project partner Norway	4	€ 4,318,825	€ 865,586
Number of projects with a donor project partner Iceland	0	€ 0	€ 0
Number of projects with a donor project partner Liechtenstein	0	€ 0	€ 0

2. Call details

Call title	Outcome(s)	Call amount	Submission deadline	Number of applications received	Grant amount applied for	Grant demand %	Number of applications approved for funding	Grant amount awarded	Number of projects contracted	Amount contracted
Bilateral call GGCBF02 in the area of transparency, good governance and responsible public institutions aimed primarily at digital cooperation		€ 30,000	30/09/2022							€ 0
Bilateral call GGCBF03 dedicated to people-to-people initiatives in the Slovak-Ukrainian border region contributing to strengthening trilateral cooperation among donor states, Slovakia and Ukraine		€ 76,287	30/12/2022							€ 0
GGC01 - Open call for proposals on fostering Institutional cross-border cooperation with Ukraine	Outcome 3	€ 2,500,000	31/01/2020	11	€ 5,829,205	233.17 %	5	€ 2,500,000	5	€ 2,500,000

GGC02 - Small grants scheme - call for proposals on fostering institutional cross-border cooperation with Ukraine	Outcome 3	€ 0	15/01/2020	1	€ 166,202	0.00 %	0	€ 0	0	€ 0
GGCBF01 - Open call for bilateral relations - establishing and developing partnerships with potential donor partners		€ 25,000		1	€ 3,901	15.60 %	1	€ 3,826	1	€ 0
Open call GGCBF01 for bilateral relations for establishing and developing partnerships		€ 25,000	29/11/2019	1	€ 3,901	15.60 %	0	€ 0		€ 0

Annex 4: Risk management

Risk description	Likelihood (1-4)	Consequence (1-4)	Risk score	Planned response in 2023
Results achieved may not be very visible since the perception of judiciary system is low	2 medium low	2 medium low	2.00	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.
Issues connected with financial flows to Ukrainian institutions	3 medium high	2 medium low	2.45	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	2 medium low	3 medium high	2.45	Within 6 projects under the Outcome 3, there are altogether 12 Ukrainian project partners and all partnership agreements are already signed. The Programme Operator will regularly communicate with the Project Promoters in order to secure functioning and stable partnerships.
Judges not interested in specialized trainings	2 medium low	2 medium low	2.00	Raising attractivity 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 the legislation of other states	3 medium high	3 medium high	3.00	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	3 medium high	2 medium low	2.45	The PO cannot influence this risk.
Time constraints in the projects implementation	3 medium high	3 medium high	3.00	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 COVID-19 pandemic and ongoing war in Ukraine. The PO

				regularly communicates with the Project Promoters in order to mitigate the consequences of the war in Ukraine on the projects' implementation.
Ongoing pandemic of COVID-19 and connected delays in projects	2 medium low	2 medium low	2.00	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.
War in Ukraine	3 medium high	3 medium high	3.00	The PO will regularly communicate with the Project Promoters in order to mitigate the risk on the implementation of the projects and their results. If planned activities are not able to be implemented due to current situation in Ukraine, the Project Promoters will submit a request for a change in the projects to the PO.
Overall risk of not absorbing most financing and achieving most targets (1-4):			2.00	

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

Description	Type	Tracking	Fulfilled	Date of fulfilment	Description of measures taken
1. The maximum level of funding available from the total eligible expenditure of the programme for infrastructure (hard measures) shall be 30%.	General	Continuously tracking	N/A		This condition is going to be fulfilled as all five projects within the GGC01 call and all four pre-defined projects altogether do 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.
2. For pre-defined project no. 1 (numbering under Section 5.1 of Annex II to the Programme Agreement), the National Focal Point shall ensure that the Programme Operator ensures that the appraisal foreseen in Article 6.5.3 of the Regulation is externalised and carried out by a legal entity independent of and unrelated to the Programme Operator.	General	One-time fulfilment	Yes	05/09/2020	The condition was fulfilled.
3. The National Focal Point shall ensure that the Programme Operator ensures that project promoters: • 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	General	Continuously tracking	N/A		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>overall objectives of the project for the same period;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 following the completion of the project. The specific means for implementation of this obligation shall be specified in the project contract 					
<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>General</p>	<p>One-time fulfilment</p>	<p>No</p>		<p>Fulfilled. 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 and GGCPP004 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</p>

				<p>strengthening Slovak-Ukrainian institutional cooperation) pursuant to the instruction of the Programme Operator. All six 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 on 7th November 2022 – the baseline value for this indicator is set at 5.63.</p> <p>All 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>
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