

ANNUAL PROGRAMME REPORT

FM14-21

Slovakia

SK-DOMESTIC Domestic and Gender-based Violence

2020

A. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Year 2020 was the year of general election for Slovakia and it was the year of worldwide COVID-19 pandemic. There was a new government established in Slovakia which resulted in changes within the Government Direction. The pandemic negatively impacted gender equality and in particular combatting and eliminating violence against women.

The programme area Work-life Balance of the Domestic and gender-based violence programme is implemented through the Outcome 1 *Understanding of gender equality increased* supported by a Small grant scheme call for proposals and 1 pre-defined project "Her Story". The Small Grant Scheme call DGV01 was launched on 18th July 2019 with the aim to support organizations promoting equality between women and men and work life balance. Within two rounds closure there were 11 project applications submitted in the total amount of 1 914 122 Euro. Total allocation for the call DGV01 is 1 440 000 Euro. After the evaluation process 10 project applications were reviewed by the Selection Committee. Over two meetings the Selection Committee decided to recommend 9 project applications for support, fully awarding all available funds.

Within the 11 project applications submitted there were 2 donor project partners from Norway involved. Both projects with the donor project partner were recommended for support by the Selection Committee.

A decision on support of the project applications has not been issued by the Programme Operator, yet. Discussions regarding support of these projects have been held at the national level with the Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family of the SR as the Programme Partner and as the relevant public institution in charge of policy area on gender equality and domestic and gender-based violence in Slovakia. The Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family of the SR has expressed its preference to move funds from the work-life balance area to the area of domestic and gender-based violence in order to focus on crisis intervention for women and children victims of violence.

Intensive discussions at the national level with the Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family of the SR have been held. In December, the Programme Operator presented a proposal of potential programme modification to the Financial Mechanism Office in order to agree what could be possible to modify.

The pre-defined project DGVPP001 "*HER STORY*" supporting the Outcome 1 focuses on combating the impact of gender stereotypes and inequalities on society through education and awareness-raising has been planned to be implemented by the Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family of the SR. Its eligibility of costs started in August 2019 and the project contract was signed in February 2020. However, the project has not started its implementation. The start of the project implementation was affected by the COVID-19

pandemic, which broke out on a large scale in Slovakia in March 2020, and limitations at the Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family of the SR. The project implementation is now a subject to the discussion.

The pre-defined project DGVPP002 *“Improving the victim-oriented approach – a tool enhancing the capacity to fight violence against women and domestic violence”* contributing to the Outcome 3 is planned to be implemented by the Institute for Labour and Family research. This pre-defined project continues and strengthens the work of the Coordinating Methodical Centre to develop, implement and coordinate a comprehensive national policy on preventing and combating domestic and gender-based violence. The signing of the project contract depends on the results of the discussions about potential programme modification.

The calls on services for victims of domestic and gender-based violence (DGV02 and DGV03) are prepared for further steps. The DGV02 Open call was subject to the Cooperation Committee meeting held per-rolam from May to October 2020. All received comments were incorporated into the text and annexes and the DGV02 Open call on support of existing women’s shelters and counselling centres could be submitted to the National Focal Point for approval. The call text and other annexes of the call DGV03 on expanding and enhancing services for victims of domestic and gender-based violence is being finalized by the Programme Operator.

The DGV04 Open call on providing services to specific target group is under preparation. This Call is focused on specialised services to vulnerable groups such as victims of rape, sexual violence, victims with addictions etc. This also includes establishment of a sexual assault unit based on the Norwegian example. During the preliminary discussion with the Cooperation Committee members it has been proposed by the Programme Operator to split the allocation of this Call into two components: pre-defined project focused on the transfer of know-how between Norway and Slovakia in the field of Sexual Assault Units, to make sure that at least one project of this kind will be implemented, and an open call for specialised services (such as organisations working with drug addicts, or focused on work with perpetrators etc.).

They all agreed with the further elaboration of the modification proposal which will be further discussed.

In 2020 there were planned a few information events, including bilateral initiatives. Unfortunately, due to ongoing COVID-19 pandemic the events had to be cancelled. One of such events was a Synergy Network meeting for the area of gender equality and domestic and gender-based violence, which has been postponed indefinitely. The bilateral initiatives are also affected by the discussions on further programme continuation.

The Programme Operator appreciated a lot a cooperation with the Donor Programme Partner, Council of Europe and the Financial Mechanism Office, especially in current situation regarding the further continuation of the programme.

B. PERFORMANCE

1. Programme context

Year 2020 was the year of general election for Slovakia and it was the year of worldwide COVID-19 pandemic. The pandemic negatively impacted gender equality and in particular combating and eliminating violence against women. The pandemic has revealed a number of striking

deficiencies in the system of women protection and underlined other challenges in the area of gender equality, such as life-work balance and economic situation of women.

The general election took place on 29th February 2020^[1]¹ The incoming government included equality between women and men in its Government Program Declaration,^[2]² in particular it references enforcing measures that would effectively lead to decrease gender inequalities as well as including the fight against domestic violence. ^[3]³ Secondly it is the National Reform Program of Slovak Republic for 2020 that reflects government goals to establish measures that aim at achieving gender equality.^[4]⁴

The National Gender Equality Strategy and its Gender Equality Action Plan^[5]⁵ were prepared in the second half of 2020 by the Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family of the SR (hereinafter referred to as "the MLSAF"). At the time of writing, the Strategy and its Action Plan was in the legislative process required for the adoption by the government. The documents are human rights based, building upon EU Gender Equality Strategy and reflect the recommendations of UN Committees. When adopted, these two documents will bind Slovakia to adopting positive measures aimed at achieving gender equality. ^[6]⁶ The National Gender Equality Strategy and its Gender Equality Action Plan is a framework Strategic document that incorporates also Roma women. The targeting is aimed generally at all women. The national Strategy for Roma equality inclusion and participation also takes account the dire situation of Roma women. There is overlap as well as complementarity between these two documents. While Roma women will benefit from general adoption of positive measures aimed at gender equality they will moreover be participants and beneficiaries of explicitly targeted measures of the Action plans envisioned in the Roma national Strategy 2030 currently in preparation.

Slovakia currently does not have a National Action Plan on prevention and elimination of the violence against women, as the last one was valid up to 2019. Although some preparation work has been done in the second half of 2020 the National Action Plan has not been submitted for consultation with the relevant stakeholders including non-governmental organizations, yet.

MLSAF supports work-life balance and the participation of mothers in labour market by the National Project in Gender Equality at Workplace that is being coordinated by the Department on Gender Equality.^[7]⁷ To increase and support the employment of mothers, the Central Office of Labour, Social Affairs and Family runs an additional national project which aims to support work-life balance and to increase the employment of mothers.^[8]⁸ Furthermore in 2020, the

parental allowance was raised to monthly payment of 280 Euro per child (370 Euro per child for parents who were employed before parental leave).^[9]⁹

The corona crisis exacerbated the issues related to violence against women, combating domestic violence and violence against women has therefore remained a priority on the political agenda. The pandemic has revealed the emergency state of support services for women and girls, i.e. the network of social services for women victims of domestic violence is inadequate, the number of places is limited and women escaping from violence are placed on waiting lists. The sustainability of facilities is undermined by the lack of systemic financing^[10]¹⁰, furthermore facilities often lack sufficient financial resources to operate with satisfactory standards. The recent attack in a women's shelter where a woman victim was attacked by an unspecified man^[11]¹¹ highlighted this assertion. All providers must be able to meet the required minimum standards. Sustainability of specialised providers must be supported, but adequate specialisation of all providers sufficient to meet the minimum criteria must be maintained.

Slovak Republic has yet to establish a systemic way of financing women's safe houses. ^[12]¹² The Minister of labour, social affairs and family established a working group with the sole aim of establishing a stable and sufficient financing mechanism for adequate and timely crisis intervention. As an *ad hoc* financial injection, the Prime minister set aside 3 million Eur to support the work of organisations that help victims of domestic violence and ensure their functioning in 2021. Moreover, the Ministry of Justice of the SR is in the process of finalising the amendment to the Victims of Crimes Act.^[13]¹³ The amendment is aiming to support the work of intervention centres offering crisis assistance to victims of domestic violence in cases when police had expelled the perpetrator. It also aims at bringing closer cooperation between the centres and the police.

Due to COVID-19, the access to safe housing was restricted. Women were required to render a confirmation of being COVID-19 negative.^[14]¹⁴ The situation was solved when the MLSAF provided free antigen tests.^[15]¹⁵ The counselling services are practically inaccessible resp. provided by telephone or digital technology only. Women have difficult access to the authorities and are in the proceedings before them without the support of counsellors.

The Coordination Methodical Centre (hereinafter referred to as "the CMC") monitored the accessibility of the support services and reported on the situation here: <https://www.zastavmenasilie.gov.sk/news/data-potvr dili-ze-nasilie-na-zenach-pocas-koronakrizy-vyrazne-stuplo/>. Further detailed report on the impact of the COVID19 on women experiencing violence is in progress, with a more detailed focus on the situation of women beyond the availability and accessibility of the support services.

Less attention was given to the fact that women were disproportionately affected also when it came to their economic situation. The economic situation of women has also deteriorated. As a result, many have given up the possibility of leaving the abuser, and the number of women returning to the abuser is increasing. The exhaustion of women is also increased by the fact that in Slovakia schools are practically closed for almost a year and women are also burdened with the obligation to help children with their distance education. Furthermore, their already unequal share of domestic responsibilities has increased. The economic situation was influenced not only by the pandemic itself but also the general restrictions. Women are over represented when it comes to working in fields with low pay and low financial security.^[16] Women also reported so-called “time poverty”.^[17] Women have been responsible for three times more invisible and unpaid work than men. The closure of schools and kindergartens forced women to make radical changes in a way they used their time.^[18]

There are currently no data being specifically collected about Roma women. However, Roma Strategy 2030 currently in the legislative process envisions a number of indicators as well as measures aimed at alleviating the situation. European Union Survey on income and living conditions relating to marginalized Roma communities aims to bring better understanding of the situation of Roma households in comparison to average household. A lot is expected from new EU indicators that are adopted in the new Roma Strategy 2030 that will highlight the data of some indicators in gender breakdown.

In the course of the year, there were various attempts to amend the Act on Pregnancy Termination, none of them successful.^[19] These attempts were subject to a close public scrutiny, were both highly criticised and praised, sparking and intense public debate on the reproductive rights of women.

Due to the COVID-19, the year 2020 was a year of challenge for achieving gender equality and in particular defeating violence against women. The pandemic revealed a number of striking insufficiencies in the system of women’s protection and underlined other challenges in the area of gender equality.

[1] The Guardian, 'Slovakia president appoints centre-right coalition government' (*Reuters*, 21 March 2020) <<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2020/mar/21/slovakia-president-appoints-centre-right-coalition-government>> accessed 1 January 2021

[2] 'Programové vyhlásenie vlády Slovenskej republiky', approved by National Council of the Slovak Republic on 30 April 2020, page 17 <<https://www.nrsr.sk/web/Default.aspx?sid=zakony/zakon&ZakZborID=13&CisObdobia=8&CPT=68>> accessed 21 December 2020

[3] For instance, the Government committed itself to realise politics that will lead to decrease inequalities between women and men, elimination discrimination against women, increase parental allowance and care allowance contribution, bolster flexible working arrangements, instituting paternal leave after the birth of a child, closing the

gender pay gap between women and men and removing discrimination of women in pensions, and more. The Government also committed itself to continue and strengthen the fight against violence against women and domestic violence.

[4] The Program reflects specific recommendations of the EU Council and is in line with the above mentioned Government Program Declaration. It specifies, *inter alia*, that the second biggest priority of Slovak Republic is the labour market and the labour market participation of mothers with young children. It is available at <https://www.mfsr.sk/sk/financie/institut-financnej-politiky/strategicke-materialy/narodny-program-reforiem/narodny-program-reforiem.html>.

[5] The draft of Gender Equality Strategy and Gender Equality Action plan is now open to public consultation ('LP/2020/668 Celoštátna stratégia rovnosti žien a mužov a rovnosti príležitostí v Slovenskej republike na roky 2020-2025 a Akčný plán rovnosti žien a mužov a rovnosti príležitostí na roky 2020-2025' (*Slovlex*, 28 December 2020) <<https://www.slov-lex.sk/legislativne-procesy/SK/LP/2020/668>> accessed 1 January 2021

[6] The Action Plan on combatting and eliminating gender based violence is still in the process of making with the plan of being adopted within the first months of 2021. It is being prepared by the Department of Gender Equality in cooperation with various NGO's working in the field of gender based violence as well as CMC. It will also reflect the inconsistencies that were highlighted by the COVID-19 crisis, such as inadequate number of shelters for victims and underfinancing of helping organisations.

[7] 'Gender Equality at Workplace', (*mpsvr*) <<https://www.employment.gov.sk/sk/ministerstvo/projekty/narodny-projekt-rodova-rovnost-pracovisku/tlacove-spravy/rodova-rovnost-pracovisku.html>> accessed 1 January 2021

[8] The project aims to support employers that allow persons from targeted group to return to labour market by creating flexible working arrangements. Central Office of Labour, Social Affairs and Family, 'Národný projekt: Zosúladenie rodinného a pracovného života' (*upsvr*, 2 September 2019) https://www.upsvr.gov.sk/narodne-projekty-oznamenia-o-moznosti-predkladania-ziadosti-o-poskytnutie-financneho-prispevku/narodny-projekt-zosuladenie-rodinneho-a-pracovneho-zivota.html?page_id=928628 accessed 21 December 2020

[9] The original amount was 220,70 Eur for everyone. It is intended to at least partially reimburse the payment for childcare services. The official information leaflet available at https://www.upsvr.gov.sk/buxus/docs/SSVaR/OSSD/Informacia_k_RP_od_01_01_2020.pdf.

[10] Zuzana Gabrižová, 'Slovensko si necháva financovať služby pre obe domáceho násillia eurofondami' / (*euractiv*, 22 June 2020) <<https://euractiv.sk/section/socialna-politika/news/slovensko-si-nechava-financovat-sluzby-pre-obe-domaceho-nasilie-eurofondami>> accessed 21 December 2020

[11] Martin Belej, 'Opitý muž v Humennom pobodal ženu, skončila v nemocnici' (*sme*, 25 December 2020) <<https://homyzemplin.korzar.sme.sk/c/22561996/opity-muz-v-humennom-pobodal-zenu-skoncila-v-nemocnici.html>> accessed 21 December 2020

[12] 'SÚ NA DNE! Premiéra Matoviča PROSIA O POMOC, ale reakcia neprichádza! Čo je za tým?' (*pluska*, 2 October 2020) <https://www1.pluska.sk/spravy/z-domova/su-dne-prosia-premiera-matovica-pomoc-ale-reakcia-neprichadza-co-je-tym>> accessed 1 January 2021

[13] TREND, 'Novela zákona o obetiach trestných činov je pripravená, tvrdí prezidentka', (*trend*, 18 September 2020) < <https://www.trend.sk/spravy/novela-zakona-obetiach-trestnych-cinov-je-pripravena-tvrdi-prezidentka>> accessed 1 January 2021

[14] Women victims were supposed to pay for the test themselves, the commercial price being approximately 70 Euros. This was not an official state set requirement, it was established by the institutions themselves to protect their staff and their clients. This requirement presented an unexpected barrier financial as well as organisational, especially if they had children (negative test was required for each person that would be entering the shelter).

[15] 'Vláda poskytne na testovanie bezdomovcov antigénové testy' (*sme*, 28 October 2020) <https://domov.sme.sk/c/22520596/celoplosne-testovanie-bezdomovci-krajniak-koronavirus.html> accessed 1 January 2021. The article speaks of mostly of homeless people, but it also notes, that houses of crisis intervention that are women shelters received free antigene tests.

[16] Andrej Kuruc, *Rodová rovnosť a ekonomický dopad pandémie*. <<https://www.totojerovnost.eu/index.php/2020/06/09/rodova-rovnost-a-ekonomicky-dopad/>> accessed 21 December 2020

[17] Andrej Kuruc, Veronika Valkovičová, Jana Jablonická-Zezulová, *Prieskum životnej situácie počas pandémie COVID-19*. Inštitút pre výskum práce a rodiny 2020, page 31. <https://www.totojerovnost.eu/downloads/Prieskum_zivotnej_situacie_pocas_pandemie_COVID19.pdf> accessed 21 December 2020.

[18] *Ibid*, page 27. Due to household chores and caring responsibilities women had to work outside of standard working hours (42,1%) and had trouble concentrating due to family responsibilities (30,6%). Two times more women than men helped their children with studying performed caring responsibilities during a day for kids that were previously in school or pre school facilities.

[19] SME 'Potraty sa sprisňovať' nebudú, Záborskej novela neprešla (*sme*, 20 October 2020) <https://domov.sme.sk/c/22515040/zaborskej-novela-nepresla-potraty-sa-nesprisnia.html> accessed 1 January 2021

2. Results

Outcome 1: Understanding of gender equality increased

Description and analysis of results

The Outcome 1 is implemented by way of a pre-defined project and the small grant scheme focused on capacity-building of organisations working in the field of gender equality and work-life balance.

The Open call DGV01 (Small Grant Scheme) was launched on 18th July 2019 with the aim to support organizations promoting equality between women and men and work life balance. Total allocation for the Open call DGV01 is 1 440 000 Euro. Within the first round closure there were 8 project applications submitted in the total amount of 1 445 616 Euro. After the evaluation process 7 project applications out of 8 project applications submitted were reviewed by the Selection Committee and recommended for support to the Programme Operator (hereinafter referred to as "the PO"). One project application was rejected for not obtaining the minimum amount of points required. The Selection Committee meeting related to the 1st round closure was held on 8th January 2020 and 7 project applications recommended for support are in the amount of 1 265 111 Euro.

The second round of the DGV01 Open call was closed on 31st March 2020. Three project applications in the total amount of 468 506 Euro were submitted to the Programme Operator. The Selection Committee meeting on the second round of the DGV01 Open call was held on 27th May 2020. The Selection Committee decided to recommend 2 project applications for support in reduced project grant and 1 project application was recommended for the reserve list.

By supporting 7 project applications submitted within the first round and 2 project applications submitted within the second round the allocation of 1 440 000 Euro would be fully committed.

Two out of 11 project applications include 2 donor project partners from Norway. Both projects with the donor project partner were recommended for support by the Selection Committee.

A decision on support of the project applications has not been issued by the Programme Operator, yet. Discussions regarding support of these projects have been held at the national level with the MLSAF as the Programme Partner and as the relevant public institution in charge of policy area on gender equality and domestic and gender-based violence in Slovakia. The Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family of the SR has expressed its preference to move funds from the work-life balance area to the area of domestic and gender-based violence in order to focus on crisis intervention for women and children victims of violence.

In December 2020, the Programme Operator presented a proposal to the Financial Mechanism Office on potential specific changes to the programme. Depending on the further process according to the Regulation on implementation of the Norwegian Financial Mechanism, the outcome may affect the implementation (of some aspects) of the programme. The project contracts of the DGV01 call's project applications shall be concluded right after the discussions have been closed and based on their results.

Pre-defined projects

Under the Outcome 1 the pre-defined project (hereinafter referred to as "the PDP") DGVPP001 "HER STORY" is planned to be implemented by the MLSAF. The project aims to combat the impact of gender stereotypes and inequalities in society through education and awareness-raising. It should strengthen the capacity of teachers on gender mainstreaming in education and increase the knowledge among young people on gender equality and women's rights. After a positive assessment of the PDP by the PO, the eligibility period of the project started in August 2019. The project contract was concluded in February 2020. The implementation of the project has not started yet. The Programme Operator agrees with the proposal not to implement this PDP. The Project Promoter (MLSAF) has lost the full commitment necessary to implement the Project as required by Article 5.6.1.u. of the Regulations.

Outcome 2: Victims of domestic and gender-based violence protected and supported

Description and analysis of results

None of the planned Open calls (DGV02, DGV03, DGV04) under the Outcome 2 have been launched, yet.

The Programme Operator elaborated the call text, selection criteria and other annexes of the DGV02 Open call with the aim to preserve services for victims of domestic and gender-based violence. The DGV02 Open call was subject to the Cooperation Committee meeting held per-rolam from May to October 2020. All received comments were incorporated into the text and annexes and the DGV02 Open call could be submitted to the National Focal Point for approval.

The call text and other annexes of the call DGV03 on expanding and enhancing services for victims of domestic and gender-based violence is being finalized by the Programme Operator.

The DGV04 Open call on providing services to specific target group is under preparation. This Call is focused on specialised services to vulnerable groups such as victims of rape, sexual violence, victims with addictions etc. This call also includes establishment of a sexual assault unit in Slovakia based on the Norwegian example. During the discussions with the CC members it has been proposed by the PO to split the allocation of this Call to two components:

1. pre-defined project with the allocation of 500 000 Euro focused on the transfer of know-how between Norway and Slovakia in the field of Sexual Assault Units, to make sure that at least one project of this kind will be implemented,
2. an open call for specialised services (such as organisations working with drug addicts, or focused on work with perpetrators etc.).

The CC members agreed with the further elaboration of the Programme Operator's proposal which will be a subject to the CC meeting in 2021.

In 2020 discussions were held at the national level with the MLSAF on further continuation of the Programme. Discussions are still continuing. The MLSAF is interested in reallocation and increase in the allocation set for this outcome and support of women's shelters and counselling centres. The PO will continue with the further steps needed for launching the calls following conclusion of the discussions, based on the results.

Pre-defined projects

There are no predefined projects within the Outcome 2. The Programme Operator has considered a programme modification related to the proposed predefined project on establishment a Sexual Assault Unit in Slovakia based on the Norwegian example with a Norwegian Project Partner.

Outcome 3: Response systems to victims of domestic and gender-based violence improved

Description and analysis of results

No Open call will contribute to the Outcome 3.

Pre-defined projects

Two pre-defined projects were planned to be implemented under this outcome in line with the Programme Agreement.

The DGVPP002 (PDP2) "Improving the victim-oriented approach – a tool enhancing the capacity to fight violence against women and domestic violence" will be implemented by the Project Promoter Institute for Labour and Family Research. After a positive assessment of the PDP by the PO, the eligibility period of the project started in March 2020. The project contract has been elaborated and will be completed following conclusion of the discussion on programme continuation. The Project Promoter of the DGVPP002 has confirmed that they are interested in taking over some of the originally planned activities within the PDP3. Which activities will be implemented by the PDP2 are still being discussed. A Programme Agreement modification will be prepared by the PO after conclusion of the discussion.

The third Predefined project "Awareness raising and enhancement of the capacity to fight violence against women in Slovakia in line with Council of Europe standards" (PDP3) was planned to be implemented by the IPO – the Council of Europe. Due to contractual challenges the Council of Europe withdrew from implementation of the predefined project, but has been actively working with the PDP2 to implement key activities under the project.

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

Analysis of bilateral relations and achievements

The Programme Operator launched the Open Call DGVBFB01 for bilateral relations for establishing and development of the partnership - Support of organizations promoting equality between women and men and work life balance on the 4th of June 2019. The Call was aimed at entities, which have been planning to apply for a grant within the Call DGV01 on support of organizations promoting equality between women and men and work life balance. The total allocation of the call was 10 000 Euro.

Within the call 6 grant applications for bilateral initiatives were received. 3 of the total 6 grant applications received were approved with the total allocation of 5 377 Euro. The Open call DGVBFB01 has been closed. Unspent funds will be reallocated based on the Cooperation Committee's agreement. Two of the beneficiaries have been involved in the project applications submitted under the call DGV01 and one of them might be supported.

A bilateral initiative DGVBFBPI-01 with the title "CMC meeting with the donor partner of the predefined project and active participation at the 3rd European Conference on Domestic Violence" was implemented in September 2019. The main aim of this bilateral initiative was the meeting of the CMC and its donor project partner - Norwegian Centre for Violence and Traumatic Stress Studies in Oslo to discuss outstanding issues of the prepared predefined project DGVPP002. The initiative was successful and the partners agreed on the particular involvement of the Norwegian partner in the predefined project. At the same time the CMC also actively participated in the 3rd European Conference on Domestic Violence in Oslo, Norway. The bilateral initiative DGVBFBPI-01 was completed and financially settled at the beginning of 2020.

On 6th November 2019 the Programme Operator submitted the Expression of Interest for the Domestic and Gender-based Violence Programme to request additional funding from the Bilateral Fund (aside of the funds allocated within the Memorandum of Understanding) in the amount of 90 000 Euro. This amount covers pre-defined initiatives to be implemented by the PO (55 000 Euro) and via Open call (35 000 Euro).

The Programme Operator on 18th February 2020 submitted another Expression of Interest for the Domestic and Gender-based Violence Programme to request additional funding from the Bilateral Fund (aside from the funds allocated within the Memorandum of Understanding) in the amount of 60 000 Euro. This Expression of Interest covers the funds for the Bilateral call DGVBFB04 on establishing and development of the partnership to the DGV04 Open call supporting the specialization of services targeted at vulnerable groups, such as victims with addictions, victims of sexual abuse, as well as perpetrators of violence. Beside these funds the mentioned amount will be allocated for the costs of organization of Synergy Network against gender based and domestic violence meeting in Bratislava and costs needed to establish cooperation with the WHO – European Office. The Expression of Interest was approved in March 2020. The bilateral initiatives have been a lot of affected by the situation and restrictions caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. The Synergy network meeting has been postponed indefinitely.

The bilateral initiatives are also affected by the discussions regarding the programme continuation. The PO will continue with the bilateral initiatives following conclusion of the discussions, based on the results.

Cooperation with the Donor Programme Partner

The Domestic and gender-based violence Programme has one Donor Programme Partner – the Norwegian Directorate of Health. The DPP is a member of the Cooperation Committee (hereinafter referred to as "the CC") and a member of the Selection Committee with voting rights.

In 2020 the Programme Operator organized 3 Cooperation Committee Meetings, one about the Programme status, including bilateral relations and initiatives and further steps, one on the review of the Annual Programme Report 2019 and one related to the call DGV02. The Selection Committee meetings took place twice in connection with the DGV01 call. The DPP was actively involved in the meeting, as well as in nomination of the evaluation experts for project applications evaluation in cooperation with the IPO. Besides the CC meetings there were also working meetings related to the situation in Programme. The PO very much appreciated the involvement of the DPP, as well as the IPO and the FMO in this regard. The PO feels their support and the cooperation could not be better.

The Programme Operator very much appreciates this continued excellent cooperation with the DPP. It is a continuation of successful cooperation from the previous implementation phase of the Norwegian Financial Mechanism 2009-2014.

3. Implementation

Compliance with Programme Agreement conditions

Based on the Memorandum of Understanding on the implementation of the Norwegian Financial mechanism 2014 – 2021 the programme was built on the results achieved by the SK09 programme under the Norwegian Financial Mechanism 2009-2014, with the aim of providing systematic support to victims of domestic and gender-based violence in line with the Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence. The calls are planned to contribute to the provision of quality services by public entities as well as NGOs for victims of domestic and gender-based violence, especially vulnerable groups, including children, primarily through the support to shelters and counselling services. Measures originally planned to be implemented under this programme have addressed broader gender equality issues, e.g. through education and awareness raising, institutional support and capacity development for women's and equality organisations including NGOs, targeted measures and services for work-life balance as well as the specific needs of vulnerable groups such as Roma. A part of the activities to be implemented under the gender equality component within all the projects are focused directly on Roma pupils. Involvement of schools with high representation of Roma pupils and students into the project activities has been a mandatory element. Particular focus to the situation of Roma women has been required within the call. The intention of the Programme Operator is to keep all the aspects of special concern stated in the Memorandum.

The maximum level of funding available from the total eligible expenditure of the programme for infrastructure (hard measures) has been identified in the concept note. It is 30% of funding available from the total eligible expenditure of the programme. Support to the CMC, building on the pre-defined project implemented under the SK09 programme (2009-2014) by the MLSAF, was agreed as the pre-defined project DGVPP002.

The MLSAF as the relevant public institution in the Slovak Republic in charge of the policy area in domestic and gender-based violence, including gender equality, is actively involved in the preparation and implementation of the programme. The MLSAF is a member of the Cooperation Committee, as well as a member of the Selection Committee with voting rights. The MLSAF is the official Programme Partner stated in the Programme Agreement. The CMC is also a member of the Cooperation Committee and Selection Committee (with voting rights).

Within the Programme Agreement there has been an agreed ambition that shelters and counselling services for victims of domestic and gender-based violence that receive funding under this programme will be operational for at least five years after the Programme Operator's approval of the project completion report. The PO has been reflecting this ambition in the calls, as well as a need to adhere the principles of the Istanbul Convention (even though the Istanbul Convention in itself has been refused by the parliament of the Slovak Republic; however the principles focused on enhancement of the situation of victims of violence and strengthening the fight against violence are welcome and the Slovak Republic fully supports it), including a victims-oriented, evidence-based approach to combating domestic and gender-based violence in accordance with the principles of gender equality, in line with the overall objective of the programme.

The use of the funds for bilateral relations allocated to the programme is always agreed upon in the Cooperation Committee. This task is included in the Rules of Procedure of the Cooperation Committee.

General conditions are included in Annex 7 - Agreement conditions.

Cooperation with International Partner Organisations (IPOs)

The Council of Europe is an IPO within the Programme.

The IPO is a member of the Cooperation Committee and a member of the Selection Committee with voting rights.

In 2020 the IPO actively participated in the three Cooperation Committee meetings (aimed at the programme implementation status, Annual Programme Report 2019's review and review of the DGV02 call and the bilateral call DGVBF02) and two Selection Committee meetings, including the working group meetings on the remaining Calls in the programme, as well as online exchanges regarding programme implementation. In cooperation with the DPP the IPO was actively involved in nomination of the evaluation experts for project applications evaluation. The PO very much appreciated the involvement of the IPO, as well as the DPP and the FMO in this regard. The IPO with its extensive knowledge and experience within Domestic and Gender-based Violence is a significant help in the implementation.

C. LEARNING

1. Monitoring

There has been only one project contract signed during 2020 (DGVPP01) and its on-site monitoring was planned during the 4Q 2020. Due to ongoing pandemic of COVID-19 and based on the fact that the PDP has not been implemented, the on-site monitoring has not been carried out.

The monitoring plan is attached. It will be updated based on the results of the discussion on the continuation of the Programme. Right after the discussion has been closed, based on the results the PO will carry out a monitoring on the project applications of the DGV01 call recommended for support by the Selection Committee and their ability to implement the projects and what the range of implementation is possible in connection with the results of the discussions and the time of decision, as there is a considerable delay in approval of the project applications and the eligibility period is limited, including monitoring on the impact of delay caused by uncertain situation and COVID-19.

2. Evaluation

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

3. Lessons learned

In 2020 the implementation of the Domestic and Gender-based Violence programme was affected by two factors. Primary it was the pandemic situation where some of the meetings have been cancelled (meeting with the social services providers connected with the call DGV02; Synergy network meeting etc.) and many of them had to be held on-line. The Selection Committee for the 2nd round of the DGV01 Open call was held on-line and also discussion on further continuation of the programme had to be done on-line. As the pandemic is still persisting, the Programme Operator needs to move the processes into the on-line space to be more effective within the Programme implementation.

The second factor affecting the Programme in 2020 there were the changes within the Government Direction. It is connected with the election in Slovakia, but also with the COVID-19 pandemic. The PO is intensively in touch with the MLSAF in order to move the Programme forward. The situation is critical. There is not enough time for implementation. The Programme Operator is working on the Programme implementation and the documents needed even though the results of the discussion are hardly predictable. The PO needs to be ready and flexible for immediate continuation of the Programme implementation under agreed conditions.

To be in touch with the DPP, IPO and FMO and to consult the situation at any time and under any conditions (appropriate/inappropriate) is a basic precondition for effective solution.

D. ANNEXES

1. Updated results (indicator achievements)
2. Communication
3. Overview of contracted projects
4. Risk management
5. Monitoring plan

6. Evaluation report

7. List of individual mobilities

Annex 1: Updated results (indicator achievements)

Objective: Domestic and gender-based violence prevented and victims protected and assisted								
Outcome 1: Understanding of gender equality increased								
Indicator	Unit of measurement	Baseline	Achievements until end of previous reporting period	Achievements until end of December 2020			Target	Comment
				Numerator	Denominator	Value		
Share of population (targeted by awareness-raising activities) favourable to gender equality	Percentage	TBD, Survey to be conducted after launching the small grant scheme call	-	-	-	-	(+15%)	The PDP1 has not been implemented. No other project contracts have been concluded.
<i>Gender</i>								
<i>Female</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Male</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Not specified</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Share of population (targeted by awareness-raising activities) that reject gender stereotyping	Percentage	TBD, Survey to be conducted after launching the small grant scheme call	-	-	-	-	(+15%)	The PDP1 has not been implemented. No other project contracts have been concluded.
Share of students (in targeted schools) favourable to gender equality	Percentage	TBD, Survey to be conducted after launching the small grant scheme call	-	-	-	-	(+20%)	The PDP1 has not been implemented. No other project contracts have been concluded.
<i>Gender</i>								
<i>Female</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Male</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Not specified</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

Share of students (in targeted schools) rejecting gender stereotyping	Percentage	TBD, Survey to be conducted after launching the small grant scheme call	-	0	0	-	(+15%)	The PDP1 has not been implemented. No other project contracts have been concluded.
Output 1.1: Measures targeting education and awareness-raising activities in the field of gender equality implemented								
Indicator	Unit of measurement	Baseline	Achievements until end of previous reporting period	Achievements until end of December 2020			Target	Comment
				Numerator	Denominator	Value		
Number of awareness-raising campaigns promoting gender equality	Number	0	0 (IFR 2020)	-	-	0	10	no projects contracted in 2020 contributing to this indicator
Number of institutions active in the field of gender equality supported	Number	0	0 (IFR 2020)	-	-	0	10	no projects contracted in 2020 contributing to this indicator
Number of schools from marginalised Roma communities to which lectures specifically focused on gender equality have been provided	Number	0	0 (IFR 2020)	-	-	0	25	no projects contracted in 2020 contributing to this indicator
Number of schools provided with lectures focused on gender equality	Number	0	0 (IFR 2020)	-	-	0	79	no projects contracted in 2020 contributing to this indicator
Number of specialised educational materials developed	Number	0	0 (IFR 2020)	-	-	0	4	PDP1 has been contracted, but the implementation is on hold
Outcome 2: Victims of domestic and gender-based violence protected and supported								
Indicator	Unit of measurement	Baseline	Achievements until end of previous reporting period	Achievements until end of December 2020			Target	Comment
				Numerator	Denominator	Value		

Number of beneficiaries of services provided	Number	0	0 (APR 2019)	-	-	-	700	no projects contracted in 2020 contributing to this indicator
<i>Gender</i>								
<i>Female</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Male</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Not specified</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Share of supported counselling centres meeting CoE standards	Percentage	TBD, tbd	-	-	-	-	(+20%)	no projects contracted in 2020 contributing to this indicator
Output 2.1: Services for victims of domestic and gender-based violence preserved								
Indicator	Unit of measurement	Baseline	Achievements until end of previous reporting period	Achievements until end of December 2020			Target	Comment
				Numerator	Denominator	Value		
Number of awareness raising and educational campaigns implemented by the centres and shelters	Number	0	0 (IFR 2020)	-	-	0	10	no projects contracted in 2020 contributing to this indicator
Number of existing counselling centres supported	Number	0	0 (IFR 2020)	-	-	0	35	no projects contracted in 2020 contributing to this indicator
Number of existing places in shelters supported	Number	0	0 (IFR 2020)	-	-	0	200	no projects contracted in 2020 contributing to this indicator
Number of service providers running or participating in a consortium with public institutions at local level	Number	0	0 (IFR 2020)	-	-	0	43	no projects contracted in 2020 contributing to this indicator
Output 2.2: Services for victims of domestic and gender-based expanded or enhanced								
Indicator	Unit of measurement	Baseline	Achievements until end of previous	Achievements until end of December 2020			Target	Comment

			reporting period					
Number of counselling centres established or specialised to meet the required standards	Number	0	0 (IFR 2020)	-	-	0	15	no projects contracted in 2020 contributing to this indicator
Number of places in shelters created or specialised to meet the required standards	Number	0	0 (IFR 2020)	-	-	0	50	no projects contracted in 2020 contributing to this indicator
Number of shelters and counselling centres enhanced in terms of children needs	Number	0	0 (IFR 2020)	-	-	0	43	no projects contracted in 2020 contributing to this indicator
Output 2.3: Services to specific target groups provided								
Indicator	Unit of measurement	Baseline	Achievements until end of previous reporting period	Achievements until end of December 2020			Target	Comment
				Numerator	Denominator	Value		
Number of counselling centres supported, providing services to specific target groups, such as victims or rape, victims with addictions	Number	0	0 (IFR 2020)	-	-	0	2	no projects contracted in 2020 contributing to this indicator
Number of counselling centres working with perpetrators	Number	0	0 (IFR 2020)	-	-	0	1	no projects contracted in 2020 contributing to this indicator
Number of pilot projects on sexual assaults units implemented, transferring best practice from Norway	Number	0	0 (IFR 2020)	-	-	0	2	no projects contracted in 2020 contributing to this indicator
Outcome 3: Response systems to victims of domestic and gender-based violence improved								
Indicator	Unit of measurement	Baseline	Achievements until end of previous reporting period	Achievements until end of December 2020			Target	Comment
				Numerator	Denominator	Value		

Annual number of cases of gender-based and domestic violence officially reported	Annual number	708	708 (APR 2019)	-	-	-	800	no projects contracted in 2020 contributing to this indicator
<i>Gender</i>								
<i>Female</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Male</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Not specified</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Level of satisfaction of institutions and organisations involved in the response systems with the effectiveness of the response system	Scale 1-10	TBD, Baseline survey to be conducted at the beginning of the PDPs' implementation.	-	Reported 2022			(+2)	-
Output 3.1: Coordination and methodological teams established								
Indicator	Unit of measurement	Baseline	Achievements until end of previous reporting period	Achievements until end of December 2020			Target	Comment
				Numerator	Denominator	Value		
Number of regional coordination and methodological teams established	Number	0	0 (IFR 2020)	-	-	0	7	PDP2 has not been contracted yet
Output 3.2: Institutions in the field of DGBV trained								
Indicator	Unit of measurement	Baseline	Achievements until end of previous reporting period	Achievements until end of December 2020			Target	Comment
				Numerator	Denominator	Value		
In-depth analyses carried out	Binary	No	No (IFR 2020)	-	-	No	Yes	PDP2 has not been contracted yet
Number of CoE HELP training courses translated and adapted to Slovakia	Number	0	0 (IFR 2020)	-	-	0	1	ongoing discussion on taking over some activities from the PDP3

Number of lectures and consultations provided to supporting professions	Number	0	0 (IFR 2020)	-	-	0	47	PDP2 has not been contracted yet
Number of professional staff trained	Number	0	0 (IFR 2020)	-	-	-	150	PDP2 has not been contracted yet
<i>Gender</i>								
<i>Female</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Male</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Not specified</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Roma</i>								
<i>Roma</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Not specified</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Number of standards for institutions active in the field of Domestic and Gender Based Violence elaborated in cooperation with the IPO in place	Number	0	0 (IFR 2020)	-	-	0	1	PDP2 has not been contracted yet
Output 3.3: Specialised police teams created								
Indicator	Unit of measurement	Baseline	Achievements until end of previous reporting period	Achievements until end of December 2020			Target	Comment
				Numerator	Denominator	Value		
Number of specialised police teams created	Number	0	0 (IFR 2020)	-	-	0	10	PDP2 has not been contracted yet
Output 3.4: Police facilities upgraded to cater for sensitivity to victims of domestic and gender-based violence								
Indicator	Unit of measurement	Baseline	Achievements until end of previous reporting period	Achievements until end of December 2020			Target	Comment
				Numerator	Denominator	Value		
Number of rooms in police stations customized to the needs of victims of domestic and gender-based violence	Number	0	0 (IFR 2020)	-	-	0	8	PDP2 has not been contracted yet
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 2020			Target	Comment
				Numerator	Denominator	Value		
Level of satisfaction with the partnership	Scale 1-7	TBD, Survey shall be conducted by the FMO	1 (APR 2019)	-	-	-	4.50, Target is ≥4.5, and an increase on the baseline value	No projects contracted
<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	TBD, Survey shall be conducted by the FMO	1 (APR 2019)	-	-	-	4.50, Target is ≥4.5, and an increase on the baseline value	No projects contracted
<i>State type</i>								
<i>Beneficiary State</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Donor State</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Not specified</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Number of best practices transferred from Norway to Slovakia	Number	1, One best practice was transferred during FM09-14.	1 (APR 2019)	-	-	-	3, Net number of practices transferred during FM14-21 will be 2.	No projects contracted

Share of cooperating organisations that apply the knowledge acquired from bilateral partnership	Percentage	N/A	-	-	-	-	50.00 %, Target is minimum 50 %	No projects contracted
<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 2020			Target	Comment
				Numerator	Denominator	Value		
Number of projects involving cooperation with a donor project partner	Number	0	0 (IFR 2020)	-	-	-	4	No projects contracted
<i>Donor State</i>								
<i>Norway</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Iceland</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Liechtenstein</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Not specified</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Number of staff from beneficiary states in exchanges focused on children victims of violence	Number	0	0 (IFR 2020)	-	-	-	4	No projects contracted
<i>Donor State</i>								
<i>Norway</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Iceland</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Liechtenstein</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Not specified</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Gender</i>								
<i>Female</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Male</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

<i>Not specified</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Type of exchange</i>								
<i>Online</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Physical</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Number of staff from beneficiary states in exchanges or secondments focused on the establishment of sexual assault units	Number	0	0 (IFR 2020)	-	-	-	4	No projects contracted
<i>Donor State</i>								
<i>Norway</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Iceland</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Liechtenstein</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Not specified</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Gender</i>								
<i>Female</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Male</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Not specified</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Type of exchange</i>								
<i>Online</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Physical</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Number of staff from donor states in exchanges focused on children victims of violence	Number	0	0 (IFR 2020)	-	-	-	2	No projects contracted
<i>Donor State</i>								
<i>Norway</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Iceland</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Liechtenstein</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Not specified</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Gender</i>								
<i>Female</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Male</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Not specified</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

<i>Type of exchange</i>								
<i>Online</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Physical</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Number of staff from donor states in exchanges or secondments focused on the establishment of sexual assault units	Number	0	0 (IFR 2020)	-	-	-	2	No projects contracted
<i>Donor State</i>								
<i>Norway</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Iceland</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Liechtenstein</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Not specified</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Gender</i>								
<i>Female</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Male</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Not specified</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Type of exchange</i>								
<i>Online</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Physical</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Number of workshops on sharing experience on providing services to minorities	Number	0	0 (IFR 2020)	-	-	0	2	No projects contracted

Annex 2: Communication summary

a. Visibility of the Grants and the donors

The Communication plan of the Domestic and Gender-based violence programme has been elaborated. In 2020 it was not necessary to update the approved Communication plan. The Programme Operator communicates its dissemination and publicity activities with the National Focal Point and Royal Norwegian Embassy to Slovakia and the Press Department of the Ministry of Investments, Regional Development and Informatization of the Slovak Republic.

In 2020 no communication events were realized due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The meeting with the social service providers to the DGV02 call was planned, unfortunately it was cancelled at the last minute. The situation with the Synergy Network meeting and the session on violence and sexual violence was almost the same, the events were postponed.

There is also a website www.eegrants.sk where all the up to date programme information is published in Slovak and English language.

For indicators set in the Communication plan and their actual values see table below:

Indicator	value (2019)	Actual value	Target value
Number of reports and articles or reportages about the Programme in all types of media (national, regional and local)	6	7	15
Visiting rate of the Programme subpage under the websites www.eegrants.sk / www.norwaygrants.sk	56 232	53 427	50 000
Number of seminars, conferences and other events carried out	2	2	10
Number of information publications/leaflets	0	0	5

b. Communication with the National Focal Point

The Programme Operator is a member of the communication network of the National Focal Point. The Programme Operator closely cooperates and coordinates its activities with the National Focal Point and the Royal Norwegian Embassy to Slovakia to ensure that actual, clear and detailed information on the Programme is provided for all target groups. The communication between the Programme Operator and the National Focal Point is nearly on the daily basis depending on the issue that is to be discussed. The NFP is also an observer in the Cooperation Committee therefore it is aware of any proposals or changes that are to be discussed/implemented. Annex 2 of this APR is also submitted to the Strategic Actions Unit of EEA and Norway Grants for comments and discussion.

c. Website and social media

The Domestic and gender-based violence Programme webpage is a subpage of the national single web page for both FMs, managed by the NFP, hyperlinking via both addresses www.eeagrants.sk and www.norwaygrants.sk.

From the technical point of view, all information (for example about Calls or News) are automatically hyper-linked to main webpages generating this kind of information about all Calls or News under programmes implemented. This is why the PO can provide only general values of visits for main websites www.eeagrants.sk and www.norwaygrants.sk. Generally, in 2020 there were 53 427 visits recorded on the website www.eeagrants.sk / www.norwaygrants.sk including 20,4 % returning visitors (recorded according to unique IP addresses) and 79,6 % new web visitors. In terms of methodology and statistics it is not relevant information value if the Programme Operator provides real number of visitors and other relevant numbers only in relation to visiting of programme sub-webpage.

The webpage is being operated in national language (Slovak) and in English. The NFP administers a profile on Facebook under the title “Granty EHP a Nórska na Slovensku”, where all major information of the Programme is published (in accordance to the internal rules of the PO/NFP’s organization).

With regards to the DGV Programme content the Communication Strategy focuses on the local and regional media as well as the national media and by all types of media (press, radio, TV, social media, website). The particular media is communicated in the co-operation with the PR Department and Press Department of the Ministry of Investments, Regional Development and Informatization of the Slovak Republic and the press news for each communication activity is prepared ad-hoc. Altogether 6 news (4 in English version) were published on the website www.eeagrants.sk and on Facebook page “Granty EHP a Nórska na Slovensku“ regarding the Domestic and Gender-based violence programme in 2020, namely on currently applicable per diems, the remaining allocation within the DGV01 Open call, the summary after closing the DGV01 Open call and change of the PO and NFP of EEA and Norway Grants from the Government Office of the SR to the Ministry of Investments, Regional Development and Informatization of the SR. The 2 news published only in Slovak were devoted to the planned meeting with the service providers for victims of domestic and gender-based violence regarding the open call DGV02 and its cancellation due the COVID-19.

The Programme Operator considers social media to be a very useful and appropriate tool, thanks to which the PO can reach our target groups with the necessary information very quickly and effectively.

d. Best practice examples

N/A

Only one pre-defined project was contracted in 2020. The project has not started its implementation. There are no examples of best practice at this point. More information shall be provided in the next APR.

e. Multimedia

N/A

Within 2020 there were no videos or interviews published regarding the Domestic and Gender-based Violence programme.

Annex 3: Overview of contracted projects

Outcome	Projects	#	# of donor project partners	Amount contracted	% of outcome budget contracted
Outcome 1: Understanding of gender equality increased	Pre-defined	1	0	€ 360,000	20.00 %
	Contracted through open calls	0	0	€ 0	0.00 %
	Contracted through small grants scheme	0	0	€ 0	0.00 %
	Total Outcome 1	1	0	€ 360,000	20.00 %
Outcome 2: Victims of domestic and gender-based violence protected and supported	Pre-defined	0	0	€ 0	0.00 %
	Contracted through open calls	0	0	€ 0	0.00 %
	Contracted through small grants scheme	0	0	€ 0	0.00 %
	Total Outcome 2	0	0	€ 0	0.00 %
Outcome 3: Response systems to victims of domestic and gender-based violence improved	Pre-defined	0	0	€ 0	0.00 %
	Contracted through open calls	0	0	€ 0	0.00 %
	Contracted through small grants scheme	0	0	€ 0	0.00 %
	Total Outcome 3	0	0	€ 0	0.00 %
Programme	Total	1	0	€ 360,000	3.74 %

Annex 4: Risk management

Programmatic risks						
Risk description	Risk related to	Likelihood	Consequence	Risk score	Response type	Risk N/A
Low interest in DVG04 Open call related to the output indicator - Services to specific target groups provided	Reducing social and economic disparities	3	3	3.00	Mitigate	No
	Description of planned response	The PO plans to organise a discussion (as part of the opening conference of the DGVP002 predefined project) where the PO will inform the participants on the SAU topic by answering any possible questions and by passing a good practise on from with the real life cases from Norway. The PO would like to secure the participation of the Slovak Gynecology and Obstetrics Society. By analysing the outputs of this discussion the PO will elaborate an action plan.				
	Description of actual response	This risk links with the indicator - Number of pilot projects on sexual assaults units (hereinafter referred to as "the SAU") implemented, transferring best practise from Norway. To mitigate the risk, the PO within the observed period communicated with the CMC (responsible for the SAU methodology) and the DPP (providing good practice from projects implemented in Estonia).				
	Planned future response	The PO plans to submit an amendment to the Programme Agreement to separate the pilot project on sexual assault units and transform it into a pre-defined project. Other 2 indicators would remain without changes as a subject to the call. This proposal would significantly decrease the risk level.				
Overlapping of funding in both programme areas	Reducing social and economic disparities	2	3	2.45	Mitigate	No
	Description of planned response	The allocations to the different outcomes as well as the conditions for applying for grant need to be re-evaluated after the calls from the ESF are completed and projects are approved.				

	Description of actual response	The allocations to the different outcomes as well as the conditions for applying for grant need to be re-evaluated after the calls from the ESF are completed and projects are approved.				
	Planned future response	It seems that the implementation of the projects from ESF is finishing. The organizations are waiting for the Norway Grants. They prefer to implement the projects with the Norway grants. They have better experience with the Norway Grants, it is more appropriate to the area they are active and challenges they need to solve. The situation in the area is critical.				
Opposition to the standards of the Istanbul Convention by conservative groups in society	Reducing social and economic disparities	3	4	3.46	Accept	No
	Description of planned response	Projects implemented under the component WLB shall support networking for awareness-raising on gender equality and tackling the discussion on “gender ideology”. Also the canceled predefined project originally implemented by the Council of Europe shall complement the Slovak authorities’ efforts towards ratification of the convention will be partly implemented by the project promoter of the PDP2.				
	Description of actual response	In 2020 none of the projects within the component work-life balance (WLB) was contracted. In 2020 an election was held in February. In February the Parliament of the SR rejected the ratification of the Istanbul Convention. The representatives of the MLSAF declares they are for support of equality between women and men, as well as their support for fight against violence against women. They would like to strengthen the women’s shelters and counselling centres more, as their situation is now critical.				
	Planned future response	There are discussions about the programme continuation. The Programme Operator seeks the possibilities to implement the programme to be acceptable for all the groups active in the field of victims support provision. The PO is in close touch with the both groups.				
Resistance from established service providers to monitoring activities and the setting of required standards	Reducing social and economic disparities	2	2	2.00	Mitigate	No

	Description of planned response	By creating the next Open calls leading service providers shall be involved in the setting of the required standards.				
	Description of actual response	The leading services providers have been involved in the setting of the required standards.				
	Planned future response	To be in touch with the social services providers and CMC and to listen to them with addressing the relevant requirements and recommendations. The Programme Operator seeks the possibilities to implement the programme to be acceptable for the organizations active in the field of victims support provision. The PO is in close touch with them and the basic direction is communicated with them.				
	Reducing social and economic disparities	3	3	3.00	Mitigate	No
Limited capacity of the Norwegian organisation active in the field	Description of planned response	Cooperation with the DPP by finding potential Norwegian partners, communication with the potential Norwegian partners, organizing activities to attract the Norwegian organizations.				
	Description of actual response	Cooperation with the DPP. Communication with the potential Norwegian partners from the very beginning of the programme implementation. Organizing of activities to attract the Norwegian organizations.				
	Planned future response	There is a critical situation in the programme. No other calls have been launched. It might happen that the Norwegian entities are already involved in other projects of other countries. The intensive cooperation with the DPP and using the bilateral fund for the cooperation will be needed. COVID-19 also worsens the situation, however a bilateral call on on-line activities may be a solution.				
Operational risks						

Risk description	Risk related to	Likelihood	Consequence	Risk score	Response type	Risk N/A
Capacity of Project Promoters to comply with the procedures for verifying expenditure	Reducing social and economic disparities	2	2	2.00	Mitigate	No
	Description of planned response	Alignment of procedures between ESF and this Programme and cooperation with self-governing regions on data sharing.				
	Description of actual response	Alignment of procedures between ESF and this Programme and cooperation with self-governing regions on data sharing. The procedures of the PO have reflected the legislative requirements. Based on the information available the PO prepares the documentation to be applicant/project promoters friendly.				
	Planned future response	To continue with applicants/project promoters friendly approach, if implementation frame enables it. The PO is in direct touch with the potential applicants and is aware of the complication within the other funds structure. If possible, the PO avoids the requirements which are not necessary.				
Lack of knowledge and experience in organisations included in the expanded network of providers and the possible misconception of notions (indicators, methodology of calculations, conditions etc.)	Reducing social and economic disparities	3	2	2.45	Mitigate	No
	Description of planned response	The Programme shall not support newly established institutions if there is no previous history in providing social services. The presence of a guarantor is required in case existing service providers are diversifying into this area. In addition the notions shall be clearly defined and communicated with the project promoters and their partners. These arrangements were used by creation of the call text in 2019 and will be used within the next launched calls.				

	Description of actual response	The Programme shall not support newly established institutions if there is no previous history in providing social services. The presence of a guarantor is required in case existing service providers are diversifying into this area. In addition, the notions shall be clearly defined and communicated with the project promoters and their partners. These arrangements were used by creation of the call text in 2019, 2020 and will be used within the next launched calls.				
	Planned future response	The Programme shall not support newly established institutions if there is no previous history in providing social services. The presence of a guarantor is required in case existing service providers are diversifying into this area. In addition, the notions shall be clearly defined and communicated with the project promoters and their partners. These arrangements were used by creation of the call text in 2019, 2020 and will be used within the next launched calls.				
	Reducing social and economic disparities	2	2	2.00	Mitigate	No
Inconsistencies and distrust in the cooperation of non-government sector and public institutions	Description of planned response	Coordination of activities via CMC by involving actors from both sectors – non-governmental and public. Cooperation of NGOs and public sector can be proposed as condition for their project’s support. Information activities towards the relevant stakeholders and the activities aimed at mutual cooperation and engagement between public organisations and NGOs active in the field shall be held (information days took place in 2019 in will be also held within launching the next calls).				
	Description of actual response	Coordination of activities via CMC by involving actors from both sectors – non-governmental and public. Cooperation of NGOs and public sector can be proposed as condition for their project’s support. Information activities towards the relevant stakeholders and the activities aimed at mutual cooperation and engagement between public organisations and NGOs active in the field shall be held (information days took place in 2019 in will be also held within launching the next calls).				
	Planned future response	Coordination of activities via CMC by involving actors from both sectors – non-governmental and public. Cooperation of NGOs and public sector can be proposed as condition for their project’s support. Information activities towards the relevant stakeholders and the activities				

		aimed at mutual cooperation and engagement between public organisations and NGOs active in the field shall be held (information days took place in 2019 in will be also held within launching the next calls).				
Sustainability of services provision after the implementation of the Programme	Reducing social and economic disparities	3	4	3.46	Transfer/Share	No
	Description of planned response	An in-depth analysis of the whole sector shall be carried out and the Self-Governing Regions and the MLSAF should work together on ensuring enough funding for the sustainability of the whole network. The PO shall pressurise in order to set up the system of financing for sustainability of services provision (within the prepared calls to be launched).				
	Description of actual response	The PO proposed an in-depth analysis of the whole sector that should be carried out and the Self-Governing Regions and the MLSAF should work together on ensuring enough funding for the sustainability of the whole network. The PO should apply pressure in order to set up the system of financing for sustainability of services provision.				
	Planned future response	An in-depth analysis of the whole sector shall be carried out and the Self-Governing Regions and the MLSAF should work together on ensuring enough funding for the sustainability of the whole network. The PO shall apply pressure in order to set up the system of financing for sustainability of services provision (within the prepared calls to be launched).				
Delay in launching the open calls focused to reach the Outcome 2 and its expected programme results	Reducing social and economic disparities	3	3	3.00	Mitigate	No
	Description of planned response	As the planned completion date shall not exceed 31. December 2023 the PO will secure launching of the calls at the earliest in order to secure the longest possible implementation phase of the projects.				

	Description of actual response	As the potential applicants had been supported from the ESF since, the delay in launching the open call was seen as a positive to avoid double funding and possible lack of capacity on the side of the applicants. The NFM should provide smooth continuation of support after spending the ESF grants. However, now the situation is critical as the calls have not been launched and the continuation is uncertain. The PO does their best to continue with the Programme and is in touch with MLSAF, DPP, IPO and the FMO.				
	Planned future response	The PO is working on the documents to the calls to be ready to immediately launch the call after conclusion of positive discussions regarding programme continuation.				
Delay in the Programme implementation and the COVID-19 impact	Both objectives	3	4	3.46	Accept	No
	Description of planned response	There is a significant delay in the programme implementation. It is necessary to agree on the further continuation. Day to day the situation is worse. The agreement on the further continuation needs to be reached soon. The PO is fluently working on the programme and the documents in order to be ready to immediately proceed with the programme matters following the conclusion of the discussions, based on the results.				
Overall risk of the programme						
		Likelihood	Consequence	Risk score		
OVERALL RISK OF THE PROGRAMME		3	4	3.46		

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