

ANNUAL PROGRAMME REPORT

FM14-21

Slovakia

SK-LOCALDEV Local Development, Poverty Reduction and Roma Inclusion

2021

A. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In 2021, the development in Slovak Republic was mostly affected by the Covid-19 pandemic, which had impact on every aspect of social and economic life in Slovakia. All regions of the Slovak Republic were impacted, and this was also reflected in the GDP growth rate.

The same three regions are again at the bottom of unemployment rate ranking: Prešov Region (10.72%), the Košice Region (10.01%) and the Banská Bystrica Region (8.91%). Overall unemployment rate for Slovakia, though, slightly decreased to 6.79%. There are still huge region differences and disparities between western and eastern part of the country. It is not only economic issues and high unemployment rates that the least developed districts are struggling with. Poor infrastructure, social exclusion of marginalized communities, quality of primary and secondary education etc. are other areas that need to be worked on. In order to promote social inclusion and combat poverty, particularly among marginalized communities, it is necessary to improve access, including infrastructure, to social, educational, cultural and recreational services, including sports, taking into account the specific needs of persons with disabilities, children and the elderly citizens. All mentioned areas are supported by the Local Development and Roma Inclusion Programme under the Norway Grants.

The component of Local development is implemented through nine projects approved under the call LDI01, which aim is to enhance access of vulnerable children and youth in disadvantaged areas to a broader range of extra-curricular activities to improve their personal development and provide them with skills increasing their chances to succeed in society in the least development districts.

The projects just started their implementation in autumn 2021. They were in preparation phase of the implementation, dealing mainly with setting up the project team, concluding the partnership agreements, webpage of the project development and public procurement processes. The relevant project promoters involving towns in the project such as Moldava nad Bodvou (LDI01005) *The Space Connects Us – Multifunctional centre in Moldava nad Bodvou to bring together children and young people from minority with the majority* have already started with collecting of information and data for elaboration of Concept of Youth Work Development. Within the project LDI01008 *Unity through Diversity* of the project promoter Municipality Prakovce the activity Body development – a sport for everyone focused on Olympic sport sledding was implemented in cooperation with the couch of Olympians in sledding (LUGE team Helcmanovce). 230 children from attending the primary schools in Prakovce and Mníšek nad Hnilcom were participated in the activity.

The component of Roma inclusion is implemented through the calls LDI02 and LDI03. The selection process of the call LDI02 was closed on the 13th August 2021, selection process of the call LDI03 was closed on 30th September 2021. Altogether 13 projects are going to be implemented.

As the projects just started their implementation or are about to start, the reported values of the outcomes and outputs' indicators are low or zero. However, based on the project applications approved the target values of the indicators should be achieved or overachieved. It seems that expectations of the Programme Operator were low.

Within the pre-defined project LDIPP001 “Innovative education of teachers to increase their intercultural competences in the education process of Roma pupils” of the project promoter National Institute for Education the analysis of school legislative documents and educational programs dealing with the education of Roma pupils were translated into the content of school management education. Through the online format 45 participants successfully completed the management education with certificate.

National Institute for Education also conducted a training for teachers with the intention to provide them specific preparation for the state language exam in the Romani language. The training was intended for future teachers of Romani language, teachers who teach Romani language and teachers who teach in schools with pupils from Roma communities. The training enables participants to increase and develop their linguistic competences in Romani language.

In October 2021 a unique educational event SLOVAK ACADEMY: "A DEMOCRATIC AND INCLUSIVE SCHOOL ENVIRONMENT FOR ALL", which was developed with expertise of the European Wergeland Centre, was held. The Academy contributes to the teachers' development, to support them when it comes to implementing changes and building partnerships among schools. The educational event showed that schools and teachers were willing to teach in a modern, interesting way and to involve both pupils and parents in the educational process, so that they become active co-creators of a democratic and inclusive school environment for all pupils in the school.

The bilateral component of the Programme is considered successful. Even though there are no donor programme partner in the Programme, besides to the predefined project totally 15 projects are going to be implemented in cooperation with the Norwegian partner within the calls.

B. PERFORMANCE

1. Programme context

The development in Slovak Republic in 2021 was mostly affected by a main factor, which had impact on every aspect of social and economic life in Slovakia. This factor was the Covid-19 pandemic. All regions of the Slovak Republic were impacted, and this was also reflected in the GDP growth rate.

Pandemic had a huge impact on economic life and state budget, too. The Ministry of Finance of the SR is expecting a state budget deficit of 8.8% of GDP instead of the originally projected 7.4%. State budget for 2022 has already been approved by the government and the deficit is projected to be 4.94% of GDP.^[11]

For the past two years, it was Bratislava region that has made the most significant progress, while other regions lag far behind, despite there is some progress in these regions, too. These regional disparities are usually caused by geographical distance from markets, lack of educated labour force, insufficient progress in structural reforms and underdevelopment of local

economies. Since 2000 the Slovak Republic belongs to OECD countries that struggle with the largest increase of regional disparities.

The Ministry of Investment, Regional Development and Informatization of the Slovak Republic (hereinafter referred to as "MIRDI") is responsible for coordination of regional development policies preparation. In 2021, MIRDI prepared the last Report on the National Regional Development Strategy implementation in 2020. The report contains an evaluation of the updated national strategy implementation on the basis of set indicators, as well as data from the reports on fulfilling the priorities and objectives of the updated national strategy for 2020 by higher territorial units (self-governing regions). Based on the evaluation from 2020 and from previous years, it is clear that most of the objectives set in 2014 have not been achieved at national level.

Having a look at the unemployment rate statistics from the previous year, we could see that the unemployment rate was highest in Prešov Region (11.39%), Košice Region (10.55%) and Banská Bystrica Region (9.83%). These rates continued to exceed the average registered unemployment rate in the Slovak Republic, which was 7.57%. Situation hasn't changed much throughout 2021. By the end of October 2021 we could see the same three regions again at the bottom of unemployment rate ranking: Prešov Region (10.72%), the Košice Region (10.01%) and the Banská Bystrica Region (8.91%). Overall unemployment rate for Slovakia, though, slightly decreased to 6.79%. Compared to Bratislava region (4.61%), Trenčín region (4.34%) and Trnava region (4.27%), we can see there are still huge region differences and disparities between western and eastern part of the country. When we compare more developed western regions and less developed eastern ones, the unemployment rate is higher in the Eastern part of Slovakia.

MIRDI manages the least developed districts' support program, which provides special support for regions suffering from high unemployment and low economic performance. Though, it is not only economic issues and high unemployment rates that these least developed districts are struggling with. Poor infrastructure, social exclusion of marginalized communities, quality of primary and secondary education etc. are other areas that need to be worked on. In order to promote social inclusion and combat poverty, particularly among marginalized communities, it is necessary to improve access, including infrastructure, to social, educational, cultural and recreational services, including sports, taking into account the specific needs of persons with disabilities, children and the elderly citizens.

In order to mitigate and reduce these regional gaps, the government of Slovakia has passed the Law on the support for the least developed districts (Act No. 336/2015 Coll.). Initially the support was provided to 12 out of all districts of Slovakia with the highest unemployment rate. By the end of 2020, there were 20 districts that were meeting the definition of the least developed districts. It is of no surprise that majority of these least developed districts is located in the Eastern part of Slovakia.

To unleash the potential of these lagging districts and their local communities, bottom-up developmental approach has been adopted. Districts will form Governance Committees, members of which are leaders of local government, businesses, the NGO sector, schools as well as other relevant stakeholders. Districts Offices in cooperation with experts will be

preparing plans for the development of the districts, i.e. Action Development Plan. These Development Plans then identify specific goals of lagging regions and propose ways how to achieve them. The Governance Committees will then closely cooperate with MIRDI.

The aim of these Development Plans is to support, in particular, projects with higher added value for employment and for the development of the least developed district, usually in course of next five years. These plans contain specific activities correlating to real and justified needs in the region. They will also be evaluated on an annual basis by the Governance Committee. In course of 2022-2028, more than 67.4 mil. € will be allocated for 19 least developed districts in the form of regional support/ funding. All these fundings and the whole financial support is to contribute to development of regional economy and local economies of subregions - improving cooperation of local economic development actors in several areas, support for creating new job opportunities, increase of opportunities in regional labor market mainly through competence development system and social economy, improving promotion and sales of local products, mainly by generating local and regional demand, improving the transport connection of the territory, improving the availability of social housing.

At the beginning of 2021, the Government of the Slovak Republic approved the Development vision and strategy of Slovakia till 2030. It is a long-term strategy for sustainable development of the Slovak Republic - Slovakia 2030, which replaced the national strategy of Slovak Republic regional development. The new Development vision and strategy of Slovakia till 2030 acts as a national strategic reference framework of the Slovak Republic for the new programming period after 2020. At the same time it is a basic implementation tool of 2030 Agenda in the Slovak Republic. Development vision and strategy of Slovakia till 2030 is based on a participatory process of defining the starting points for regional and territorial development of the Slovak Republic until 2030, with the participation of representatives from public administration and local governments.

One of the reforms planned by MIRDI in the field of regional development in 2022 is the new Law on development. The new law, based on an integrated and partnership approach, will remove the fragmentation of the legislative or institutional framework. The law will be a tool for the implementation of Development vision and strategy of Slovakia till 2030, and at the same time it defines the financial framework. MIRDI already allocated and provided these districts with over 6.3 mil. € in 2021 (annual priorities for 2021 and their updates; and annual priorities for 2022). This sum consisted of so called regional support/funding that has been provided to different subjects (municipalities, NGOs and civic organizations, small and medium enterprises). Additional 7 mil. € has flown into municipalities in these regions, in form of different calls for projects focused on tourism development, improving transport and technical infrastructure, or implementing measures on protection and enhancement of environment. Almost 12,5 mil. € from Norway Grants are going to regional development, focused mainly on children and youth, including Roma communities.

Roma inclusion in the context of political and legislative developments in Slovakia in 2021.

Strategy for equality, inclusion and Roma participation until 2030.

The year 2021 was crucial for the further direction of the socio-economic inclusion of the Roma in Slovakia. This year, key documents were produced at national and EU level. In April, the Government of the Slovak Republic approved the Strategy for Equality, Inclusion and Roma Participation until 2030^[2] (hereinafter referred to as “the Strategy”) by Resolution no. 181/2021 of 7 April 2021^[3]. The Strategy is not only the most important document for national policymaking but also the so-called basic condition for use of new EU structural funds in the period 2021-2027^[4].

The Strategy focuses on areas similar to those covered in the previous strategy, namely education, employment, housing, health and the fight against anti-Roma racism and participation. The Strategy brings much more ambitious goals than the previous one, also with the definition of relevant indicators. These have also been defined in the light of the European Strategic Framework for Roma Equality, Inclusion and Participation, published by the European Commission on 7 October 2020.

In 2021, action plans were prepared with a participatory approach for individual strategic areas, which contain individual activities, management, financial coverage and indicators. The approval of the action plans by the Government of the Slovak Republic is expected in March 2022. The willingness of individual ministries and other state and public administration bodies to actively propose measures to improve the socio-economic situation of the Roma and allocate the relevant funds remains a persistent problem. The Office of the Plenipotentiary of the Government of the Slovak Republic for Roma Communities (hereinafter referred to as “the Plenipotentiary Office”) is only the coordinator of the creation of the Strategy and cannot interfere in the approval of individual activities proposed by individual ministries.

New programming period ESIF 2021 – 2027.

Roma inclusion is one of the key priorities for drawing the Structural Funds for the new programming period, both from ERDF and ESF + resources. During 2021, the preparation of interventions and texts in the Partnership Agreement and in the operational program took place. For this purpose, the draft Operational Program Slovakia set aside a separate priority “Active inclusion of Roma communities” within the policy objective 4 - A more social Europe.

The approach will combine both ESF+ and ERDF resources within this separate priority in Programme Slovakia. A comprehensive approach in addressing outstanding challenges in selected marginalized Roma communities (hereinafter referred to as “MRC”) localities will link soft measures and hard investments defined in Roma Strategy and its action plans in order to achieve expected results and targets.

Special attention will be paid to the support of non-governmental organizations, especially in the area of support for Roma youth, administrative capacities of Roma and pro-Roma NGOs, gender equality and projects aimed at combating anti-Roma racism.

In addition to the specific priority, interventions in favour of Roma communities will also be implemented across policy objectives 2 (water and sanitation), 3 (roads and pavements) and 5 (better local governance).

As of December 2021, technical negotiations between the Slovak Republic and the European Commission were still ongoing, including the relevant financial allocations for individual interventions. These should be significantly higher than in the previous period.

Specific focus on children and youth from Roma communities.

In 2021, legislation came into force introducing compulsory pre-primary education from the age of 5. This fundamental change is perceived as one of the most important in recent years. Quality pre-primary education is a key preparation for children from the MRC for their successful education in primary schools. However, according to the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights from 2016, only about 34% of Roma children in Slovakia attended kindergartens, compared to 77% of children from the entire population from 4 years of age to the age of compulsory schooling^[5].

The introduction of compulsory school attendance was accompanied by practical problems, mainly due to capacity reasons, when not all local governments were prepared to increase the number of children attending kindergartens. Some have therefore introduced crisis solutions, such as afternoon education in primary schools or in community centres.

We will be able to objectively evaluate the effects of the introduction of compulsory kindergarten in Slovakia only after 2022. However, as far as the policy of early childhood care and education is concerned (children from 0 to 7 years of age), there is still a lack of clear concept in Slovakia.

Challenges and opportunities.

In 2022 and in the following years, it is necessary to pay increased attention especially to the area of discrimination and work not only with the Roma communities but also with the non-Roma majority, especially at the local level.

There is still a reluctance on the part of some municipalities (either mayors or local councils) to invest in Roma inclusion. This aspect may be more pronounced in 2022, as it is the year of local elections. This includes the reluctance to respect 3D principles (desegregation, destigmatization and deghettoisation) and these manifestations are still a common norm (e. g. construction of infrastructure in Roma settlements or hours set aside for Roma and non-Roma for activities in various facilities, etc.). More attention should be paid to support the design, testing and implementation of mechanisms mitigating the most common reasons behind municipality representatives' unwillingness to engage in the inclusion of MRCs.

The Plenipotentiary Office has the potential to monitor activities in other countries and international organizations - to inspire and establish cooperation at the international level and to cooperate in solving the problems of the Roma minority. Examples from abroad can be not

only a very good inspiration, but often also a tool that can be used directly in Slovak conditions without the need for pilot testing. There is also a space for cooperation with the Kingdom of Norway in this respect and its experience in the inclusion of marginalized communities and people in poverty.

[1] <https://www.mfsr.sk/sk/media/tlacove-spravy/vlada-schvalila-rozpocet-rok-2022.html>

[2] Strategy for Equality, Inclusion and Roma Participation until 2030,
https://www.romovia.vlada.gov.sk/site/assets/files/1113/strategia_2030.pdf?csrt=4360516539617719462

[3] Government of the Slovak Republic, Resolution no. 181/2021 of 7 April 2021,
<https://rokovania.gov.sk/RVL/Resolution/19150/1>

[4] COMMUNICATION FROM THE COMMISSION TO THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND THE COUNCIL A Union of Equality: EU Roma strategic framework for equality, inclusion and participation,
https://ec.europa.eu/info/sites/default/files/eu_roma_strategic_framework_for_equality_inclusion_and_participation_for_2020_-_2030_0.pdf

[5] Fundamental Rights Report 2016, FRA, European Commission,
https://fra.europa.eu/sites/default/files/fra_uploads/fra-2016-fundamental-rights-report-2016-2_en.pdf

2. Programme results

Outcome 1: Social and economic development of the least developed districts strengthened

Description and analysis of results

Within the Outcome 1 of the programme there is only call LDI01 being implemented.

In 2021 the selection process of the call LDI01 was carried out. Ten of twenty project applications submitted were recommended by the Selection Committee for support to the Programme Operator. Finally, project contracts for 9 projects in amount of 6 075 933 € were concluded, as one of the project promoters with the approved grant decided not to implement its project. The total call LDI01 allocation 7 700 000 € has not been committed, as no projects were recommended by the Selection Committee on the reserve list. The reason was the poor quality of the project applications submitted or inappropriate way to implement the main ambition of the Programme and the call - to enhance access of vulnerable children and youth in disadvantaged areas to a broader range of extra-curricular activities to improve their personal development and provide them with skills increasing their chances to succeed in society.

Projects supported under this Call contribute to Programme Outcome defined as “Social and economic development of the least developed districts strengthened”. The projects just started their implementation in autumn 2021. They were in preparation phase of the implementation, dealing mainly with setting up the project team, concluding the partnership agreements, webpage of the project development and public procurement processes. Many of them have already held the Launching Conference of the Project, the most in online format. The relevant project promoters involving towns in the project such as Moldava nad Bodvou (LDI01005) *The Space Connects Us – Multifunctional centre in Moldava nad Bodvou to bring*

together children and young people from minority with the majority have already started with collecting of information and data for elaboration of Concept of Youth Work Development.

Due to Covid-19 situation the most of the events planned to be held at the beginning of the projects were postpone to 2022 and schedule of individual activities and events were being prepared, as well as selection of lecturers and specific content of education.

Within the project LDI01010 Development of physical and mental abilities of children and youth in the municipality of Kružlová, as a part of the primary school's Kružlová extracurricular activities, training courses were held to support employment. Within the project, a set of lectures connected with a historical interpretation of hate speech and radicalization took place, as well.

Within the project LDI01008 Unity through Diversity of the project promoter Municipality Prakovce the activity Body development – a sport for everyone focused on Olympic sport sledding was implemented in cooperation with the couch of Olympians in sledding (LUGE team Helcmanovce). 230 children from attending the primary schools in Prakovce and Mníšek nad Hnilcom were participated in the activity.

As the projects just started their implementation, the reported values of the Outcome 1 indicators are low or zero. However, based on the project applications approved the target values of all three indicators *Number of jobs created, Number of municipalities with increased capacity to offer multiple extracurricular activities to children and youth* and *Number of people at risk of poverty using services provided by the supported youth centres (disaggregated by gender, age, Roma)* should be overachieved.

It seems that expectations of the Programme Operator were low. It could be connected that the Programme Operator expected a different kind of projects. The Programme Operator expected involvement of the district towns (as the key players in the regional development) in the projects as the project promoters and more strategic projects in order to foster the sustainability of the deliverables and expand the possibilities of fund raising for activities related to local development. Most of the successful project promoters are the smaller municipalities. The idea of the multifunctional youth centre was a broad concept defined as the whole structure of centres working with children and youth with a clear and coherent vision of working with children and youth on a given territory. It can be seen that the concept of multifunctional centre for youth was difficult to grasp by the applicants. They are not used to such cooperation of the centres and their focus is on building renovation. Notwithstanding the Programme Operator sees this as a start point and believes that at the end of the projects implementation there will be progress in people's thinking for further cooperation and perception of the centre as a structure/network of cooperating organizations with aim of local/regional development.

This affects the output indicator *Number of multifunctional youth centres established or supported*, for which some of the project promoters indicate a higher number than one in the project applications.

As regards the outputs indicators the situation is similar as for the outcome's indicators, with a few exceptions, and they should be overachieved at the end of implementation. The target

value of the following indicators *Number of multifunctional youth centres established or supported* and *Number of projects implemented in multi-level and/or multistakeholder local partnerships* would not be achieved, because not enough projects were approved for support. The uncommitted funds were proposed to be reallocated into other calls and the target values of connected indicators decreased.

Pre-defined project(s)

There are no predefined projects within the Outcome 1.

Outcome 2: Social inclusion of marginalized Roma communities enhanced

Description and analysis of results

Within the Outcome 2 of the programme there are call LDI02 and call LDI03 being implemented.

The call LDI02 was closed on 15th January 2021 and was aimed to support community-based interventions in or for the direct benefit of marginalised Roma communities using an integrated approach, i.e. linking multiple interventions to improve their status and opportunities in the fields of education, employment, health, housing or non-discrimination. The total call LDI02 allocation was 6 000 000 €. Within the call, 32 project applications were submitted to the Programme Operator in amount of 21 429 134 €. Within the selection process the Selection Committee during its two meetings in summer 2021 recommended 6 projects for support to the Programme Operator and 9 projects on the reserve list (for the last one a review of the Selection Committee will be needed, if there are funds available). Six projects were approved for grant award in amount of 5 268 668 €. The process of project contracts concluding is in progress. The project contracts for 4 projects were concluded at the end of 2021. The rest will be concluded at the beginning of 2022.

The call LDI03 was closed on 1st March 2021 and was aimed to support capacity-building of smaller local organizations through the implementation of grassroots initiatives and the replication and enhancement of proven good practices in the field of local development and the social inclusion of marginalized Roma communities in fields of Health, Education, Employment, Housing, and Non-discrimination, with primary focus on Non-discrimination. The call LDI03 allocation was 1 247 059 € and 20 project applications were submitted in amount of 3 710 996 €. Seven projects were recommended for support by the Selection Committee to the Programme Operator and 1 project on the reserve list. The Programme Operator approved all seven projects for grant in amount of 1 116 312 €. The process of project contracts concluding is in progress. The project contracts for 2 projects were concluded at the end of 2021. The rest will be concluded at the beginning of 2022.

The projects supported under these two calls contribute to the Programme Outcome defined as "Social inclusion of marginalized Roma communities enhanced". As the projects have just concluded the project contracts, they will just start to achieve the outputs and indicators. Based on the successful project applications the target values of the indicators should be achieved.

Pre-defined project(s)

There are no predefined projects within the Outcome 2.

Outcome 3: Capacity of schools for inclusive education enhanced

Description and analysis of results

No Open call will contribute to the Outcome 3.

Pre-defined project(s)

Within the Outcome 3 of the programme there is only Pre-defined Project LDIPP001 named “Innovative education of teachers to increase their intercultural competences in the education process of Roma pupils” of the project promoter National Institute for Education being implemented.

In 2021, the analysis of school legislative documents and educational programs dealing with the education of Roma pupils were translated into the content of school management education. Through the online format 45 participants successfully completed the education with certificate.

National Institute for Education conducted a training for teachers with the intention to provide them specific preparation for the state language exam in the Romani language from 26 November to 28 November 2021.

The training was intended for future teachers of Romani language, teachers who teach Romani language and teachers who teach in schools with pupils from Roma communities. The training enables participants to increase and develop their linguistic competences in Romani language. Graduates of the training will acquire the competences to be able to use the Romani language specifically in various areas of work with Romani communities, especially in the field of education of pupils from excluded Roma localities, where Romani is the dominant language. The training will last at least one school year. The anticipated training completion date is planned for May 2022.

Ten school teams met in Bratislava in October 2021 to participate in a unique educational event SLOVAK ACADEMY: "A DEMOCRATIC AND INCLUSIVE SCHOOL ENVIRONMENT FOR ALL".

The programme of the SLOVAK ACADEMY was developed with expertise of the European Wergeland Centre. The Academy contributes to the teachers’ development, to support them when it comes to implementing changes and building partnerships among schools. The educational event showed that schools and teachers were willing to teach in a modern, interesting way and to involve both pupils and parents in the educational process, so that they become active co-creators of a democratic and inclusive school environment for all pupils in the school.

National Institute for Education regularly organizes the meetings with experts for the Romani language, Romani culture, and intercultural education.

Due to the development of the epidemiological situation, the international workshops were postponed to 2022/2023. Negotiations with the project partner take place in a distance form - electronically by e-mail, by telephone and through online meetings.

The project fluently contributes to the outcomes and outputs achievement, even though some of the activities are postponed or transferred to online environment.

For Outcome 3 indicator *Number of educational institutions that have implementing curricula on Romani language or culture* (Baseline – 80, Target – 105), the achieved value is 86. Six primary schools were included in the list of educational institutions. The final version of the list will be published on the project website after completion of the project.

The current value of indicator *Number of schools applying inclusive education models* (Baseline – 17, Target – 60) is 33. Schools provide lessons model and demonstrations of learning activities or action plans.

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

Analysis of bilateral relations and achievements

The bilateral component of the Programme is considered successful. Even though there are no donor programme partner in the Programme, totally 15 projects are going to be implemented in cooperation with the Norwegian partner. The predefined project of National Institute for Education is also implemented in cooperation with European Wergeland Centre. The bilateral activities are planned in a later stage.

In Memorandum of Understanding for the Norwegian Financial Mechanism 2014 – 2021 75 000 € were allocated to the Local Development and Inclusion Programme from the Funds for Bilateral Relations. The funds were planned to be used for the bilateral calls for search and establishing of partnerships for the main calls of the Programme. Due to unsuitable situation and restrictions affecting travelling due to Covid-19 the bilateral calls for LDI02 and LDI03 calls were not launched. Using of the bilateral funds will be a subject to the Cooperation Committee discussion at the beginning of 2022.

3. Implementation

Cooperation with International Partner Organisations (IPOs)

Within the programme, the Programme Operator cooperates with the Council of Europe. During 2021 the Cooperation Committee meeting was held twice per rollam – at the beginning of 2021 the purpose to review the Annual Programme Report 2020 and at the end of 2021 focused on uncommitted funds reallocation. The Council of Europe is also an observer at the Selection Committee and provided the Programme Operator with valuable comments and international expert's point of view on the project applications. In general, the cooperation with IPO is considered very good and smooth.

C. LEARNING

1. Monitorings carried out

The on-site/digital monitoring of the pre-defined project LDIPP001 was postponed to due to ongoing pandemic of Covid-19. The main reason was a curfew in most of 2021 and working in regime of home office at the Programme Operator, as well as at the Project Promoter's office, which is not appropriate for such kind of monitoring. The attention was therefore given to the regular monitoring through the project interim reports, including regular communication such as e-mails and phone calls.

In 2022 the on-site monitoring for the predefined project and project from all three calls based on the sample is planned. The monitoring plan for 2022 is attached.

2. Evaluations carried out

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

3. Lessons learned from monitoring, evaluation and implementation

The ongoing pandemic has proved that on-line meetings and events are appropriate, if the situation does not allow meeting in person or if it is urgent to meet; on the other hand if it is just on-line the people are replete and it is not so efficient as needed. Long-term situation with only online events is more demanding about creativity; mostly how to attract the people and their attention if they participate. Travel reduction saves time, as well as the environment. However, personal contact is necessary and it is needed to find a balanced way.

The Programme Operator considers year 2021 successful. The changes and pandemic situation did not have a significant impact on the implementation of the programme. However, the project implementation phase can be more affected and monitoring of the activities will be important.

D. ANNEXES

1. Updated achievements in the results framework
2. Communication summary
3. Overview of contracted projects
4. Risk management
5. Monitoring plan

6. Evaluation report

7. Agreement conditions

Annex 1: Updated achievements in the results framework

Objective: Strengthened social and economic cohesion								
Outcome 1: Social and economic development of the least developed districts strengthened								
Indicator	Unit of measurement	Baseline	Achievements until end of previous reporting period	Achievements until end of December 2021			Target	Comment
				Numerator	Denominator	Value		
Number of jobs created	Cumulative number	0	-	-	-	3	20	The projects are at the beginning of implementation. So far the jobs related to the project management have been created (LDI01010). Creation of about 30 jobs is expected based on the project applications approved.
<i>Gender</i>								
<i>Female</i>	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
<i>Male</i>	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-
<i>Not specified</i>	-	-	-	-	-	0	-	-
<i>Age</i>								
<i>Children and youth (0-17)</i>	-	-	-	-	-	0	-	-
<i>Young adults (18-29)</i>	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
<i>Adults (30-64)</i>	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-
<i>Elderly (65+)</i>	-	-	-	-	-	0	-	-
<i>Not specified</i>	-	-	-	-	-	0	-	-
Number of municipalities with increased capacity to offer multiple extracurricular activities to children and youth	Cumulative number	0	-	-	-	0	10	The projects are at the beginning of implementation. 24 municipalities are involved in the projects and they are working on increasing in their capacities.

Number of people at risk of poverty using services provided by the supported youth centres	Cumulative number	0	0 (IFR 2021)	-	-	272	1,500	The projects are at the beginning of implementation. About 6 000 people at risk of poverty should use the services of youth centres.
<i>Gender</i>								
<i>Female</i>	-	-	-	-	-	158	-	-
<i>Male</i>	-	-	-	-	-	114	-	-
<i>Not specified</i>	-	-	-	-	-	0	-	-
<i>Age</i>								
<i>Children and youth (0-17)</i>	-	-	-	-	-	272	-	-
<i>Young adults (18-29)</i>	-	-	-	-	-	0	-	-
<i>Adults (30-64)</i>	-	-	-	-	-	0	-	-
<i>Elderly (65+)</i>	-	-	-	-	-	0	-	-
<i>Not specified</i>	-	-	-	-	-	0	-	-
<i>Roma</i>								
<i>Roma</i>	-	-	-	-	-	179	-	-
<i>Not specified</i>	-	-	-	-	-	93	-	-
Output 1.1: Services and infrastructure for children and youth provided								
Indicator	Unit of measurement	Baseline	Achievements until end of previous reporting period	Achievements until end of December 2021			Target	Comment
				Numerator	Denominator	Value		
Number of multifunctional youth centres established or supported	Cumulative number	0	0 (IFR 2021)	-	-	0	10	The projects are at the beginning of implementation, preparation phase started. 9 projects with multifunctional youth centre are supported. The uncommitted funds were proposed to be reallocated and target values of connected indicators decreased.

Number of legal entities involved in the projects	Cumulative number	0	0 (IFR 2021)	-	-	12	30	Based on the data provided by the project promoters – 12 legal entities have already been involved into the project. LDI01004, LDI01008, LDI01010. About 70 legal entities should be involved in the project as project partners and cooperating organizations.
Number of projects implemented in multi-level and/or multi-stakeholder local partnerships	Cumulative number	0	0 (IFR 2021)	-	-	3	10	All 9 projects should be implemented in multi-level and/or multi-stakeholder partnerships. 3 of them reported start of such partnerships – LDI01005, LDI01008 and LDI01010.
Number of field social workers and/or Roma mediators cooperating with the Youth Centres	Cumulative number	0	0 (IFR 2021)	-	-	0	20	33 social workers and/or Roma mediators should cooperate with Youth Centres based on project applications' information.
Average increase of time (in hours per week) the centre is open for children and youth	Average	0	-	-	-	0	8	It is expected that the centres will be open by about 25 hours longer per week in average.
Outcome 2: Social inclusion of marginalized Roma communities enhanced								
Indicator	Unit of measurement	Baseline	Achievements until end of previous reporting period	Achievements until end of December 2021			Target	Comment
				Numerator	Denominator	Value		
Share of majority population in intervention area accepting Roma	Percentage	TBD, TBD	-	0	0	-	(+25%)	Process of project contracts concluding is in progress. The first project contracts were concluded at the end of 2021.

Number of Roma people using supported services	Cumulative number	0	-	-	-	0	3,000	Process of project contracts concluding is in progress. The first project contracts were concluded at the end of 2021.
<i>Gender</i>								
<i>Female</i>	-	-	-	-	-	0	-	-
<i>Male</i>	-	-	-	-	-	0	-	-
<i>Not specified</i>	-	-	-	-	-	0	-	-
<i>Age</i>								
<i>Children and youth (0-17)</i>	-	-	-	-	-	0	-	-
<i>Young adults (18-29)</i>	-	-	-	-	-	0	-	-
<i>Adults (30-64)</i>	-	-	-	-	-	0	-	-
<i>Elderly (65+)</i>	-	-	-	-	-	0	-	-
<i>Not specified</i>	-	-	-	-	-	0	-	-
Share of people living in the marginalised Roma communities in project intervention area receiving services	Percentage	N/A	-	0	0	-	20.00 %	Process of project contracts concluding is in progress. The first project contracts were concluded at the end of 2021.
Output 2.1: Services to Marginalised Roma Communities provided								
Indicator	Unit of measurement	Baseline	Achievements until end of previous reporting period	Achievements until end of December 2021			Target	Comment
				Numerator	Denominator	Value		
Number of projects applying an integrated approach (i.e. addressing more than one thematic area of intervention among health, education, employment, housing and non-discrimination components)	Cumulative number	0	0 (IFR 2021)	-	-	0	12	Process of project contracts concluding is in progress. The first project contracts were concluded at the end of 2021.
Number of joint activities between Roma and non-Roma	Cumulative number	0	0 (IFR 2021)	-	-	0	24	Process of project contracts concluding is in progress. The first project contracts were concluded at the end of 2021.

Number of marginalised Roma communities with investments into public infrastructure reducing disparities between Roma and non-Roma	Cumulative number	0	0 (IFR 2021)	-	-	0	4	Process of project contracts concluding is in progress. The first project contracts were concluded at the end of 2021.
Number of Roma people working in the centres	Cumulative number	0	0 (IFR 2021)	-	-	0	24	Process of project contracts concluding is in progress. The first project contracts were concluded at the end of 2021.
Number of marginalized Roma communities provided with services	Cumulative number	0	0 (IFR 2021)	-	-	0	12	Process of project contracts concluding is in progress. The first project contracts were concluded at the end of 2021.
Output 2.2: Capacities of organisations active in the social inclusion of marginalised Roma communities increased								
Indicator	Unit of measurement	Baseline	Achievements until end of previous reporting period	Achievements until end of December 2021			Target	Comment
				Numerator	Denominator	Value		
Number of entities / actors active in the social inclusion of marginalised Roma communities supported	Cumulative number	0	0 (IFR 2021)	-	-	0	20	Process of project contracts concluding is in progress. The first project contracts were concluded at the end of 2021.
Number of good practices replicated in marginalised Roma communities	Cumulative number	0	0 (IFR 2021)	-	-	0	10	Process of project contracts concluding is in progress. The first project contracts were concluded at the end of 2021.
Number of multi-stakeholder partnerships established or supported	Cumulative number	0	0 (IFR 2021)	-	-	0	10	Process of project contracts concluding is in progress. The first project contracts were concluded at the end of 2021.
Outcome 3: Capacity of schools for inclusive education enhanced								
Indicator	Unit of measurement	Baseline	Achievements until end of previous	Achievements until end of December 2021			Target	Comment
				Numerator	Denominator	Value		

			reporting period					
Number of educational institutions that have implementing curricula on Romani language or culture	Cumulative number	80	-	-	-	86	105	LDIPP001 – the list of educational institutions is updated regularly
Number of schools applying inclusive education models	Cumulative number	17	-	-	-	33	60	LDIPP001 – based on the submitted documentation on lessons model and examples of other educational activities, preferably action plan.
Output 3.1: Children and youth with a Roma background empowered								
Indicator	Unit of measurement	Baseline	Achievements until end of previous reporting period	Achievements until end of December 2021			Target	Comment
				Numerator	Denominator	Value		
Number of textbooks and methodological materials integrating Roma history and language for teaching staff and pupils of primary and secondary schools distributed	Cumulative number	0	0 (IFR 2021)	-	-	0	11,500	The author teams have prepared working versions of teaching materials, which will be tested in schools in 2021/2022.
Number of kindergarten, primary and secondary teachers working with Roma children trained in innovative education practices	Cumulative number	0	0 (IFR 2021)	-	-	0	80	Launching of the call for applications for training was postponed to January 2022.
<i>Gender</i>								
<i>Female</i>	-	-	-	-	-	0	-	-
<i>Male</i>	-	-	-	-	-	0	-	-
<i>Not specified</i>	-	-	-	-	-	0	-	-
<i>Roma</i>								
<i>Roma</i>	-	-	-	-	-	0	-	-
<i>Not specified</i>	-	-	-	-	-	0	-	-

Number of school administration/management staff working with Roma children trained in innovative education practices	Cumulative number	0	0 (IFR 2021)	-	-	45	80	45 certificates issued. Further calls for training applications was launched in October 2021.
<i>Gender</i>								
<i>Female</i>	-	-	-	-	-	0	-	-
<i>Male</i>	-	-	-	-	-	0	-	-
<i>Not specified</i>	-	-	-	-	-	45	-	-
<i>Roma</i>								
<i>Roma</i>	-	-	-	-	-	0	-	-
<i>Not specified</i>	-	-	-	-	-	45	-	-
Number of Romani language teacher candidates prepared for the state language examination	Cumulative number	0	0 (IFR 2021)	-	-	0	10	The training will be finished in May 2022. There were 20 candidates applied for the training.
<i>Gender</i>								
<i>Female</i>	-	-	-	-	-	0	-	-
<i>Male</i>	-	-	-	-	-	0	-	-
<i>Not specified</i>	-	-	-	-	-	0	-	-
<i>Roma</i>								
<i>Roma</i>	-	-	-	-	-	0	-	-
<i>Not specified</i>	-	-	-	-	-	0	-	-
Number of multipliers/trainers trained in Education for democratic citizenship (EDC) and Human rights education (HRE)	Cumulative number	0	10 (IFR 2021)	-	-	10	10	10 issued certificates - general education. The training will continue at an advanced level.
<i>Gender</i>								
<i>Female</i>	-	-	-	-	-	0	-	-
<i>Male</i>	-	-	-	-	-	0	-	-
<i>Not specified</i>	-	-	-	-	-	10	-	-
<i>Roma</i>								
<i>Roma</i>	-	-	-	-	-	0	-	-
<i>Not specified</i>	-	-	-	-	-	10	-	-

Number of professional staff trained in Education for democratic Citizenship (EDC) and Human Rights education (HRE)	Cumulative number	0	0 (IFR 2021)	-	-	0	60	30 participants are admitted to the educational event of the Slovak Academy.
<i>Gender</i>								
<i>Female</i>	-	-	-	-	-	0	-	-
<i>Male</i>	-	-	-	-	-	0	-	-
<i>Not specified</i>	-	-	-	-	-	0	-	-
<i>Roma</i>								
<i>Roma</i>	-	-	-	-	-	0	-	-
<i>Not specified</i>	-	-	-	-	-	0	-	-
Bilateral Outcome: Enhanced collaboration between beneficiary and donor state entities involved in the programme								
Indicator	Unit of measurement	Baseline	Achievements until end of previous reporting period	Achievements until end of December 2021			Target	Comment
				Numerator	Denominator	Value		
Level of trust between cooperating entities in Beneficiary States and Donor States	Scale 1-7	TBD, Survey to be carried out by the FMO.	-	-	-	-	4.50, Target is ≥4.5, and an increase on the baseline value	There are no results to report due to insufficient number of completed projects
<i>State type</i>								
<i>Beneficiary State</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Donor State</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Not specified</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Level of satisfaction with the partnership	Scale 1-7	TBD, Survey to be carried	-	-	-	-	4.50, Target is ≥4.5, and an increase	There are no results to report due to insufficient number of completed projects

		out by the FMO.					on the baseline value	
<i>State type</i>								
<i>Beneficiary State</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Donor State</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Not specified</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Share of cooperating organisations that apply the knowledge acquired from bilateral partnership	Percentage	N/A	-	-	-	-	50.00 %, Target is minimum 50 %	There are no results to report due to insufficient number of completed projects
<i>State type</i>								
<i>Beneficiary State</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Donor State</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Not specified</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Bilateral Output 1: Cooperation between Donor and Beneficiary State entities supported								
Indicator	Unit of measurement	Baseline	Achievements until end of previous reporting period	Achievements until end of December 2021			Target	Comment
				Numerator	Denominator	Value		
Number of projects involving cooperation with a donor project partner	Cumulative number	0	1 (IFR 2021)	-	-	12	4	based on the concluded project contracts
<i>Donor State</i>								
<i>Norway</i>	-	-	-	-	-	12	-	-
<i>Iceland</i>	-	-	-	-	-	0	-	-
<i>Liechtenstein</i>	-	-	-	-	-	0	-	-
<i>Not specified</i>	-	-	-	-	-	0	-	-
Number of pedagogical staff participating in the "Oslo" Study visit	Cumulative number	0	0 (IFR 2021)	-	-	0	60	Due to the pandemic situation, study visits were postponed to 2022, 2023.
<i>Gender</i>								
<i>Female</i>	-	-	-	-	-	0	-	-

<i>Male</i>	-	-	-	-	-	0	-	-
<i>Not specified</i>	-	-	-	-	-	0	-	-
<i>Roma</i>								
<i>Roma</i>	-	-	-	-	-	0	-	-
<i>Not specified</i>	-	-	-	-	-	0	-	-

Annex 2: Communication summary

1. Best practice examples

The National Institute for Education is the Project Promoter of the pre-defined project LDIPP001 "Innovative Education for Teachers to Increase Their Intercultural Competences in the Educational Process of Roma Pupils" well-known as "Together with Roma We Will Achieve More".

The main objective of the project is to support the systemic implementation of the Romani language and literature teaching at all levels of education within school educational programmes in schools with pupils from Roma communities, the promotion of intercultural education and democratic and inclusive school environment.

The project's activities are aimed at:

- creating publications on the Romani language and literature, culture and history of the Roma;
- preparing and conducting innovative education for pre-primary, primary, lower and upper secondary school teachers in areas of Romani language, culture and history, innovative educational methods, education and training on human rights and democratic citizenship;
- preparing and conducting innovative education for school management;
- conducting conferences and workshops;
- creating methodological (educational) platform which will provide outputs of this project, and of projects carried out by the National Institute for Education in the previous period;
- publishing teaching materials.

The pre-defined project started their implementation in 2020 and is implemented in cooperation with European Wergeland Centre.

Within the project the content of school management education was created, 45 participants successfully completed it (online). Professional consultations with experts in the Romani language are carried out on a regular basis and the contents of educational trainings are consulted with lecturers.

Working versions of Romani-Slovak readers for the 3rd and 4th year of primary schools, the textbook "Amari romaňi čhib" for the intermediate, including a workbook, were also prepared. The methodology for the historical reading book - Searching for the Past of the Roma has been developed, and language proofreading is in progress. Methodology for the History of the Roma - the author of this methodology is preparing a concept that will include work procedures and framework structure. Romani-Slovak and Slovak-Romani dictionary. The book Rules of Romani Spelling is being prepared.

2. Best bilateral cooperation examples

Irrelevant so far

3. The programme in a nutshell

What is the added value of this programme?	The programme contribute to fostering local development and to reducing poverty, with a strong focus on vulnerable groups at high risk of exclusion, such as Roma. It implement cost-efficient and sustainable measures that integrate education, housing, employment and health components.					
Include up to two quotes about this programme. Please include the name, last name and title of the person.	Quote 1					
	<i>The long-standing problems of marginalized communities have exacerbated the economic and social consequences of the coronation crisis. I am pleased that we can fund a number of projects that really help these people on the ground, support the development of their education and skills so that they can better apply in the labour market, and also help them to combat discrimination.</i>					
	Author	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th style="background-color: #e0e0e0;">Name</th> <th style="background-color: #e0e0e0;">Title</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Veronika Remišová</td> <td>Minister of Investments, Regional Development and Informatization of the Slovak Republic</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Name	Title	Veronika Remišová	Minister of Investments, Regional Development and Informatization of the Slovak Republic
	Name	Title				
Veronika Remišová	Minister of Investments, Regional Development and Informatization of the Slovak Republic					
Quote 2						
<i>Addressing social issues in marginalized Roma communities requires a special approach as well as close cooperation with local governments, NGOs and other actors. Our goal is to contribute to strengthening local development and to eliminating discrimination and poverty in the most socially vulnerable sections of the population. Almost € 18 million has been earmarked for such activities from Norwegian grants managed by my department.</i>						
Author	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th style="background-color: #e0e0e0;">Name</th> <th style="background-color: #e0e0e0;">Title</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Veronika Remišová</td> <td>Minister of Investments, Regional Development and Informatization of the Slovak Republic</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Name	Title	Veronika Remišová	Minister of Investments, Regional Development and Informatization of the Slovak Republic	
Name	Title					
Veronika Remišová	Minister of Investments, Regional Development and Informatization of the Slovak Republic					

4. Visibility of the Grants and the Donors

The Programme Operator proceeds in line with the Communication plan for the programme Local development, poverty reduction and Roma inclusion. The Programme Operator will consider a need of document's update in connection with programme progress and communication requirements. It is also necessary to take requirements of the on-line period into account. The Programme Operator 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 Programme Operator communicates statistical evaluation of the calls, the results of the calls and projects supported with public. The Programme Operator also published a complex list of the submitted applications and their results.

5. Media coverage

Example 1

Coverage	Type	National
Description	The National Institute for Education (hereinafter also NIE) is the project promoter of the pre-defined project "Innovative Education for Teachers to Increase Their Intercultural Competences in the Educational Process of Roma Pupils" well-known as "Together with Roma We Will Achieve More".	
Relevant links	Together with Roma We Will Achieve More II - ŠPÚ (statpedu.sk)	

Example 2

Coverage	Type	National
Description	<p>Conference to the project "Snina - a city of equal opportunities for all"</p> <p>The main goal of the conference was to present the project itself, project partners and cooperating participating organizations to the invited guests, professional and general public. Due to the current pandemic situation, the conference was held in both physical and online form in accordance with anti-pandemic measures. The conference was open to the general public via an online broadcast on the Facebook page of the city of Snina.</p>	
Relevant links	Úvodná konferencia k projektu „Snina – mesto rovnakých príležitostí pre všetkých“ - Oficiálna stránka mesta Snina	

Example 3

Coverage	Type	National
Description	Five projects aimed at improving health, housing, education and employment in marginalized Roma communities, but also combating discrimination, have received support from Norwegian grants. These are grants totalling EUR 4.3 million from the second call (LDI02) of the "Local Development and Inclusion" programme, managed by the Ministry of Investment, Regional Development and Informatization of the Slovak Republic.	
Relevant links	https://www.mirri.gov.sk/aktuality/cko/vicepremierka-remisova-pat-projektov-na-zlepsenie-zivota-romskych-komunit-si-rozdeli-granty-43-miliona-eur/	

6. Website and social media

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

Link to programme website

https://www.eeagrants.sk/en/							
Total number of page views in the reporting year		Change, compared to last year (in absolute numbers)		Total number of unique visitors in the reporting year		Change, compared to last year (in absolute numbers)	
57565		4138		26659		1174	
Specific link or handle for the account	Posts published in the reporting year	Total likes in the reporting year	Total comments in the reporting year	Total shares/Retweets etc. in the reporting year	Followers gained since programme launch		
Facebook	https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100069358563242						
	13	151	25	40	0		

6.b. Results of website and social media activities

Activities on social media in the programme Local Development and Inclusion for the year 2021 were focused on announcements of online opening conferences, information seminars and Call closures and openings. There have been posted Call closures of LDI02 and LDI03, results of LDI01 and a repetitive informative post about the Training of teachers in connection with their preparation for the state language exam in the Romani language held by the State Pedagogical Institute. Programme Local development and inclusion has earned on a Facebook number of posts (13), likes (151), shares or retweets (40) and had a significant reach of posts (7045) to individuals. The most commented or liked post was the one presenting a short video of a predefined project called Innovative Education in order to increase their intercultural competencies in the educational process of Roma students.

Other important promo activities were opening project conferences and an informative seminar about a launching a Call. An informative seminar was held online in January presenting the Call LDI03. Opening conferences were presented in October and November in the present form at municipal offices and manor house of Snina or in an online form.

7. Visuals

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

Annex 3: Overview of contracted projects

Outcome	Projects	#	# of donor project partners	Amount contracted	% of outcome budget contracted
Outcome 1: Social and economic development of the least developed districts strengthened	Pre-defined	0	0	€ 0	0.00 %
	Contracted through open calls	9	6	€ 6,075,933	78.91 %
	Contracted through small grants scheme	0	0	€ 0	0.00 %
	Total Outcome 1	9	6	€ 6,075,933	78.91 %
Outcome 2: Social inclusion of marginalized Roma communities enhanced	Pre-defined	0	0	€ 0	0.00 %
	Contracted through open calls	4	3	€ 3,319,063	45.80 %
	Contracted through small grants scheme	2	1	€ 297,456	4.10 %
	Total Outcome 2	6	4	€ 3,616,519	49.90 %
Outcome 3: Capacity of schools for inclusive education enhanced	Pre-defined	1	1	€ 1,300,000	100.00 %
	Contracted through open calls	0	0	€ 0	0.00 %
	Contracted through small grants scheme	0	0	€ 0	0.00 %
	Total Outcome 3	1	1	€ 1,300,000	100.00 %
Programme	Total	16	9	€ 10,992,452	67.66 %

Annex 4: Risk management

Programmatic risks						
Risk description	Risk related to	Likelihood	Consequence	Risk score	Response type	Validity
Sustainability and cost-effectiveness of implemented measures	Reducing social and economic disparities	2	3	2.45	Mitigate	
	Description of planned response	The first call LDI01 was closed on 30th of November 2020. The first project contracts are expected in the 3rd quarter of 2021. After concluding the selection process the sustainability and cost-effectiveness measures will be a subject of the Programme Operator monitoring.				
	Description of actual response	All LDI calls were concluded in 2021. By the end of the year, 15 project contracts out of 22 had been concluded. The projects started their implementation. The sustainability and cost-effectiveness measures were a subject to the experts evaluation and the Selection Committee review.				
	Planned future response	The Programme Operator will monitor the measures implemented.				
Lack of commitment of Project Promoters	Reducing social and economic disparities	2	3	2.45	Mitigate	
	Description of planned response	The PO will monitor the implementation of the projects supported through on site/digital monitoring, project interim reports, phone calls and e-mails. In case there is a need of further support the PO will initiate involvement of the guarantor to the project implementation who will take auspices over the Project, oversee the quality of services provided, contribute to the Strategy of working with children and youth and report his or her finding to the PO. ,				

	Description of actual response	The project contracts were concluded in the period of August – September 2021 and at the end of 2021.				
	Planned future response	The Programme Operator will monitor the implementation of the projects supported through on site/digital monitoring, project interim reports, phone calls and e-mails. In case there is a need of further support the Programme Operator will initiate involvement of the guarantor to the project implementation who will take auspices over the Project, oversee the quality of services provided, contribute to the Strategy of working with children and youth and report his or her finding to the Programme Operator.				
Lack of interest and/or motivation of end beneficiaries to participate on project activities.	Reducing social and economic disparities	2	2	2.00	Accept	
	Description of planned response	The PO will monitor the project implementation and communicate about the challenges regarding the interest and motivation of the beneficiaries. In case of need a special workshop regarding this will be organize specified to the needs of target group.				
	Description of actual response	The project contracts were concluded in the period of August – September 2021 and at the end of 2021.				
	Planned future response	The Programme Operator will monitor the project implementation and communicate about the challenges regarding the interest and motivation of the beneficiaries. In case of need a special workshop regarding this will be organize specified to the needs of target group.				
Lack of project application submitted due to the large support of the ESIF	Reducing social and economic disparities	2	2	2.00	Mitigate	

	Description of planned response	Taking recent situation regarding Covid-19 and uncertain future into account if there are not enough project applications submitted within a call the PO will propose to transfer the funds to another calls with high interest. As regards the calls focused on Roma component we expect high interest.				
	Description of actual response	Nine project contracts were concluded. The uncommitted fund were proposed to be reallocated to the call in Roma component.				
	Planned future response	To conclude the project contracts for the projects on reserve list.				
Operational risks						
Risk description	Risk related to	Likelihood	Consequence	Risk score	Response type	Validity
Misconception of notions (indicators, methodology of calculations, conditions etc.)	Reducing social and economic disparities	2	2	2.00	Mitigate	
	Description of planned response	To be in touch with the applicant, project promoters, to organize Information Days, webinars, and if needed, to issue or add a Guideline to define the notions				
	Description of actual response	The Programme Operator is in touch with the project promoters and will provide them with guidance. There is Guidelines published, which includes definitions of notions. Most frequent questions asked are published with their answers on the programme website.				
	Planned future response	To be in touch with the project promoters, to organize webinars, if needed and to provide them with guidance.				
Delays in schedule such as delays of construction works	Reducing social and	3	3	3.00	Mitigate	

due to weather conditions, problems with the supplier, delays in public procurement etc.	economic disparities					
	Description of planned response	The PO will be monitoring the milestones of the each project, as well as the impact of the Covid-19 situation on the implementation. The PO will monitor public procurement and their timeline by a responsible person. Milestones are subject to the PO's verification within the project interim reports. The PO accepts delays caused by force majeure. The planned timeline of postponed activities is required to be submitted by the project promoters and measures with the particular steps to mitigate the delay.				
	Description of actual response	The project contracts were concluded in the period of August – September 2021 and at the end of 2021.				
	Planned future response	The Programme Operator will monitor public procurement and their timeline by a responsible person. Milestones are subject to the Programme Operator 's verification within the project interim reports. The Programme Operator accepts delays caused by force majeure. The planned timeline of postponed activities is required to be submitted by the project promoters and measures with the particular steps to mitigate the delay.				
Covid-19 impact on the Programme implementation and potential delay	Reducing social and economic disparities	2	3	2.45	Mitigate	
	Description of planned response	-				
	Description of actual response	Due to Covid-19 situation the most of the events planned to be held at the beginning of the projects were postpone to 2022 and schedule of individual activities and events were being prepared, as well as selection of lecturers and specific content of education.				
	Planned future response	The Programme Operator accepts delays caused by force majeure. The planned timeline of postponed activities is required to be submitted by the project promoters and measures with the particular steps to mitigate the delay.				

Overall risk of the programme				
	Likelihood	Consequence	Risk score	
OVERALL RISK OF THE PROGRAMME	2	3	2.45	

Annex 5: Monitoring plan

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

Annex 6: Evaluation report

Not Available

Annex 7: Agreement conditions

General	
Condition	Fulfilled status
<p>1. The maximum level of funding available from the total eligible expenditure of the programme for infrastructure (hard measures) shall be 60%.</p>	<p>Is condition fulfilled? - N/A Comment</p> <p>This condition is going to be fulfilled as all three calls and the 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.</p>
<p>2. The National Focal Point shall ensure that the Programme Operator ensures that project promoters:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Keep any buildings purchased, constructed, renovated or reconstructed under the project in their ownership for a period of at least 5 years following the completion of the project and continue to use such buildings for the benefit of the overall objectives of the project for the same period; • Keep any buildings purchased, constructed, renovated or reconstructed under the project properly insured against losses such as fire, theft and other normally insurable incidents both during project implementation and for at least 5 years following the completion of the project; and • Set aside appropriate resources for the maintenance of any buildings purchased, constructed, renovated or reconstructed under the project for at least 5 years 	<p>Is condition fulfilled? - N/A Comment</p> <p>This condition applies to all the projects to be supported with the infrastructure (investments) measures. The Programme Operator included relevant conditions in the Project Contract signed and to be signed and shall also follow it during the whole implementation of the Programme.</p>

<p>following the completion of the project. The specific means for implementation of this obligation shall be specified in the project contract.</p>	
<p>3. For the outcome 2 indicator “Share of majority population in the intervention area accepting Roma”, where the baseline value is “to be determined” (TBD), the National Focal Point shall ensure that the Programme Operator submits to the FMO the baseline value, together with a description of the data collection method used, no later than six months after the finalisation of the selection of projects under the call for proposals within this outcome. The updated baseline value shall be agreed upon through a modification of the programme agreement.</p>	<p>Is condition fulfilled? - No Comment</p> <p>The condition is connected with the calls LD102 and LD103. Some of the project contracts have already been concluded and some of them are going to be concluded at the beginning of 2022.</p> <p>In both calls, there was a notice: <i>Within all projects, surveys shall be conducted at the beginning and at the end of the project, in order to identify the following baseline and target values: • “Share of majority population in intervention area accepting Roma” Project Promoters shall follow instructions of the Programme Operator in this regard.</i></p>