

OPEN CALL FOR PROPOSALS
LOCAL DEVELOPMENT, POVERTY REDUCTION AND ROMA INCLUSION
(SK- LOCAL DEVELOPMENT)
 Norway Grants 2014 – 2021
SLOVAKIA

1. BASIC DATA AND CONDITIONS

The programme seeks to strengthen social and economic cohesion in Slovakia. The aim of the call is to support projects enhancing 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. Supported projects shall create multifunctional youth centres¹ in the Least Developed Districts². Youth centre shall mean any institution (schools, school facilities, leisure-time centres, sports clubs, libraries, health centres and even less institutionalised types of centres) working with children and youth. The applicant (usually a municipality) should have a clear and coherent vision of working with children and youth on a given territory, thus in every supported project, wider range of measures, activities, centres and institutions working with children and youth is expected. This vision, or strategy, does not necessarily need to be materialised in an official document, yet it has to be sufficiently described in the Project Application and shall respect the needs of the community. Special attention must be paid to vulnerable children and youth at high risk of exclusion, such as Roma.

Call launching:	15 July 2020
Call closure:	30 October 2020, 23:59 CET
Call number:	LDI01
Programme outcome(s):	Social and economic development of the least developed districts strengthened
Programme output(s):	Services and infrastructure for children and youth provided
Maximum grant to be applied for:	EUR 1,000,000
Minimum grant to be applied for:	EUR 200,000
Co-financing:	For public sector entities, co-financing is not required
Total allocation:	EUR 7,700,000
Announced by:	Government Office of the Slovak Republic
Eligible applicants:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Self-governing regions of Banská Bystrica, Košice, Prešov and their budgetary and allowance organisations, • Municipalities located in the Least Developed Districts and their budgetary and allowance organisations, • State administration bodies.

¹ For definition see Chapter 2

² For the purpose of this Call, Least Developed Districts are those districts that were listed on the List of the Least Developed Districts issued in the quarter in which the Project Application was submitted. They are also listed on the website <https://www.nro.vicpremier.gov.sk/>.

	Applicants shall have at least two different project partners among those listed as Eligible partners
Eligible partners:	<p>Mandatory partners: Entities established as a legal person in the Slovak Republic, (at least two different kinds from the list):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • State budgetary and contributory organizations established in accordance with Act No. 523/2004 Coll. on Budget Rules of the Public Service; • Municipalities in accordance with Act No. 369/1990 Coll. on Municipal Administration • Higher territorial units and offices of self-governing regions in accordance with Act No. 302/2001 Coll. on self-government of higher territorial units • NGOs or other legal forms running a community centre³ or centre working with children and youth <p>Other partners in addition to 2 project partners from the list above in accordance with Article 7.2.2 of the Regulation, i.e.: Any public or private entity, commercial or non-commercial, as well as non-governmental organisations established as a legal person either in Norway, Beneficiary States⁴ or a country outside the European Economic Area that has a common border with the respective Beneficiary State⁵, or any international organisation or body or agency thereof, actively involved in, and effectively contributing to, the implementation of a project.</p>
Further conditions:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The multifunctional youth centre is defined as the whole structure/network of centres working with children and youth involved in the project. Establishment or support of such multifunctional youth centre within the project is mandatory. 2. The Least Developed Districts must benefit from all project activities. 3. Cooperation of multifunctional Youth centres with at least 2 field social workers⁶ and/or Roma mediators⁷ is mandatory. 4. If a town is involved in the implementation of the project, the project application shall include activities related to the elaboration, implementation, updating and evaluation of the Concept of Youth Work Development of towns involved in the project in accordance with the Act No. 282/2008 on the support of youth work. The concept can be developed before the project application is submitted or later in the

³ Community centre established based on the Act No. 448/2008 Coll. on Social Services and on change and amendment of the Act No. 455/1991 Coll.

⁴ For the full list of the Beneficiary States consult the document Agreement on the Norwegian Financial Mechanism 2014-2021

https://eur-lex.europa.eu/resource.html?uri=cellar:02eed2b7-da51-11e5-8fea-01aa75ed71a1.0011.02/DOC_3&format=PDF

⁵ Ukraine

⁶ The qualification requirements for performance of activities of social worker are specified by the Act No. 219/2014 Coll. on Social Work and on the Conditions for the Performance of Certain Professional Activities in the Field of Social Affairs and the Family and on Change and Amendment to Certain Acts.

⁷ Roma mediator is a professional involved in the process of harmonizing of communication between the Roma Community and public administration/municipality. These can be professional mediators, social workers, field social workers/community workers, Roma health assistants, members of the local civic patrol services, etc.

	<p>further development of the project.</p> <p>5. The mandatory attachments to the Grant Application are:</p> <p>a) the Budget;</p> <p>b) Partnership Statement, Letter of Intent or other similar document proving the interest of the applicant and its partners to jointly implement the Project, signed by the mandatory partners;</p> <p>c) Questionnaire (including the Sustainability Plan).</p> <p>6. Costs on infrastructure (hard measures)⁸ must not exceed 70% of the total eligible costs of the project.</p> <p>7. Projects shall be implemented in line with applicable state aid rules.</p>
Funding source(s):	Norway Grants and State Budget of the Slovak Republic

2. EXPECTATIONS AND RESULTS FRAMEWORK

The main ambition of this Call is to support projects focused on social and economic development of the least developed districts through supporting services and infrastructure for children and youth.

The supported projects shall implement **cost-efficient** and **sustainable** measures. Therefore, projects should primarily be based on already existing and trusted centres. Costs on infrastructure, if any, should primarily be focused on smaller scale repairs and reconstruction of already existing premises rather than construction of new premises or large reconstruction of existing premises.

The supported Projects should integrate measures from the areas of education, employment, health, housing and non-discrimination, as appropriate according to local needs.

For the purpose of this call, a multifunctional youth centre is defined as the whole structure of centres working with children and youth involved in the project. A project may include collaborations of one big centre and several smaller centres, of smaller centres only, of centres in several municipalities, etc. The multifunctional youth centre is a broad concept, encompassing all institutions, formal and informal, working with children and youth on the given territory (e.g. kindergartens, schools, art schools, city sports halls, leisure time centres, and vocational training centres etc.). When defining the service portfolio of the centres, the needs of the local youth at risk shall be taken into consideration.

Projects supported under this Programme contribute to the Programme Objective defined as *“Strengthened social and economic cohesion”*. Projects supported under this Call contribute to Programme Outcome defined as *“Social and economic development of the least developed districts strengthened”* and one Programme Output defined as *“Services and infrastructure for children and youth provided”*.

In the Application Form, applicants are obliged to set baseline and target values for the following Programme Indicators⁹:

- Number of municipalities with increased capacity to offer multiple extracurricular activities to children and youth

⁸ For the purposes of the Programme the infrastructure (hard measures) are defined as any activities that require a building permit/a building announcement or purchase of buildings or estates.

⁹ The definitions of the indicators are stated in the Guideline for applicants.

- Number of jobs created¹⁰ (disaggregated by gender, age)
- Number of people at risk of poverty using services provided by the supported youth centres¹¹ (disaggregated by gender, age, Roma)
- Number of multifunctional youth centres established or supported. At least one multifunctional youth centre has to be established or supported within each project.
- Number of legal entities involved in the projects. At least 3 legal entities have to be involved in each project.
- Number of projects implemented in multi-level and/or multi-stakeholder local partnerships¹². Each project has to be implemented in multi-level and/or multi-stakeholder local partnerships.
- Number of field social workers and/or Roma mediators cooperating with the Youth Centres. At least two field social workers and/or Roma mediators have to be involved in cooperation with the multifunctional Youth Centre.
- Average increase of time (in hours per week) the centre is open for children and youth. Each multifunctional Youth Centre has to increase its time the centre is open for children and youth at least by 3 hours per week. However, it is recommended to increase the time by 8 hours.

No baseline values are required for output indicators, as all of them should automatically be set to zero.

The full results framework of the programme is listed in the Annex I to the Programme Agreement for financing the Programme "Local development, Poverty Reduction and Roma Inclusion" concluded between Slovakia and Norway and published at www.eeagrants.sk.

3. SELECTION CRITERIA AND PRIORITISED PROJECTS

Priority shall be given to:

- Projects implementing **cost efficient** and **sustainable** measures,
- Projects with more diverse structure of measures (areas) and stakeholders,
- Projects the content of which has been consulted with local stakeholders, follow up or build up on the already existing initiatives and are in line with local community needs and aligned with the Action plan of the respective district,
- Projects in bigger municipalities where the outreach towards children and youth is higher,
- Projects involving municipalities or settlements identified in the Atlas of Roma Communities 2019¹³, preferably including bridging activities for Roma and non-Roma people,
- Projects implemented in partnership with entities from Norway,

¹⁰ During the project implementation, the indicator will be reported by gender and age

¹¹ During the project implementation, the indicator will be reported by gender, age and Roma

¹² Multilevel means partnership between various levels of public administration (national, regional, local). Multi-stakeholder means partnership between organizations from different sector (public sector, civil society sector, private sector etc.).

¹³ <https://www.minv.sk/?atlas-romskych-komunit-2019&subor=353673>

- Projects that includes multi-level and multi-stakeholders cooperation.

At least one project will be supported in each of the self-governing regions where the Least Developed Districts are located (Banská Bystrica, Prešov and Košice)¹⁴.

It is highly unlikely that one project will meet all the priorities of this Programme. It is also highly recommended **not to try** artificially to meet all of them; otherwise, the project will be very hard to implement. For the success of the whole Programme, it is important that some projects contribute to certain priorities and other projects contribute to different ones.

Selection criteria, reflecting the above mentioned priorities, have been published along with the Call.

4. ELIGIBLE ACTIVITIES

The multifunctional Youth centres are supposed to promote and contribute to a healthy physical and mental development of children and youth by enabling them to stay in a comfortable and healthy environment, to offset the differences between unequal material and psychological conditions in families, to help children from dysfunctional families or families from socially disadvantaged environment, and thus help them shape healthy, rich and desirable social relationships. Providing the same opportunity and not distinguishing between Roma and non Roma children is the main factor of social inclusion, since bringing all children and youth together in leisure activities is the best way how to break barriers between them.

The project grant can be used for the following purposes and activities **in the area of local development**, including more concrete examples of eligible activities:

- 1) activities related to social and economic development in specific geographic areas, such as:
 - arts and culture education
 - sport and physical activities
- 2) interventions to increase job prospect, such as: educational and vocational trainings and courses, creative and language courses, courses and trainings specifically focused on the regional needs, e.g. construction, manufacture, tourism etc. Strengthening of competencies of children and youth for the purpose of their personal development (necessary for all areas of life) such as critical thinking, cooperation, communication, creativity, etc.
- 3) Activities focused on improvement/expansion of infrastructure for youth work at the community level.
- 4) Anti-discriminatory activities focusing on groups vulnerable to social and economic exclusion, such as:
 - activities countering hate speech, radicalisation and extremism, incl. social media
 - protecting children from online hoaxes, cyber-bullying, sexual abuse, domestic violence
 - activities promoting understanding of social inclusion in general

¹⁴ Provided that the project application will fulfil all the formal compliance criteria, eligibility criteria; and will receive a minimum points in average required within the content related criteria.

- working with information, understanding information, identifying suspicious sources of data
 - other activities specifically focused on children and youth at risk
- 5) Activities related to early childhood education and care systems, such as:
- support of kindergartens
 - support of community social services
 - health care educational activities
 - early intervention for children, especially children from a socially disadvantaged environment
- 6) Activities related to prevention of early school-leaving, such as:
- summer schools for underachieving pupils
 - extra lessons after schools for underachieving pupils
 - simultaneous work with teachers and counselling service for parents and pupils
 - provision of snacks and basic school supplies (paper, pens)

All centres must offer affordable/free/inclusive (non-segregated) access to the centre for target group, while it is recommended to, whenever possible, offer paid access to general public in evening hours to foster the sustainability of the centres.

At least one centre under each project shall create space for civil society premises/activities for youth at risk, and enter into bilateral activities on multifunctional youth centres, organised by the Programme Operator and the Council of Europe, such as workshops and conferences on sharing experience and good practise.

All supported projects shall enter into compulsory networking (regular exchange), organised by the Programme Operator, with multifunctional youth centres supported under other projects funded by the Programme.

5. ELIGIBLE EXPENDITURES

Except for the so-called “excluded expenditures” listed in Article 8.7 of the Regulation on the Implementation of the Norwegian Financial Mechanism 2014-2021 („the Regulation “), all types of expenditures may be eligible, provided that they meet the conditions listed in this Call and in Article 8.2, 8.3 and 8.5 of the Regulation.

Unless a later date is provided in the project contract, expenditures are eligible as of the date on which the Programme Operator decides to award the project grant. The Programme Operator shall in the same decision fix the final date of eligibility which shall be no later than either one year after the scheduled completion of the project or the date referred to in paragraph 3 Article 8.13 (currently 30 April 2024) of the Regulation, whichever is earlier.

The inclusion of an expenditure item in a project budget approved by the Programme Operator cannot be considered as a prerequisite of its eligibility.

Costs on infrastructure must not exceed 70% of the Total Eligible Costs of the Project.

For the purpose of this Call, equipment¹⁵ shall be considered costs of non-current (long-term) tangible and intangible assets according to the applicable accounting standards of the country where the applicant and/or project partner is established and according to generally accepted accounting principles.

Project partners from Norway and other eligible project partners apart the project partners from Slovakia may opt to submit proof of expenditure by way of an independent audit report. It is highly recommended that project partners from Norway or Beneficiary States indeed opt to use this possibility and that they indicate the costs related to these audits into the Budget. For further information, see Article 8.12 of the Regulation.

6. RECOMMENDED MILESTONES AND TIMEFRAME

The Programme Operator highly recommends that the projects comply with the following timeframe:

Event/Milestone	Expected date
Call closure	October 2020
Project Contract signed	September 2021
Project activities started	October 2021, no later than after completing the construction works, if relevant
Public Procurement for construction works launched, if relevant	November 2021
Public Procurement for construction works completed, if relevant	March 2022
Construction works started, if relevant	May 2022
Construction works completed, if relevant	November 2022
Financing of the running costs of the multifunctional youth centre from the grants completed	April 2023
Multifunctional Youth centre operation from the own sources – project completed	April 2024

As indicated in the table above, the entire selection process will last approximately 10 - 11 months.

In order to foster the sustainability principle, the Programme shall cover running costs of the multifunctional Youth Centres for a maximum of 18 months. The Final Project Report will only be approved in case the centres have been operational for another 12 months from the applicants' own resources. The centres must stay operational for at least 3 years (in case there were no investments into land or real estate or there was no exception for the equipment) or 5 years following the approval of the Final Project Report.

It is crucial to limit the amount of time needed for the construction works, especially in cases the activities cannot be started before the construction works are completed.

¹⁵ Where new or second hand equipment is purchased, only the portion of the depreciation corresponding to the duration of the project and the rate of actual use for the purposes of the project may be considered eligible expenditure. The entire purchase price of that equipment may only be eligible in case the PO determines that the equipment is an integral and necessary component for achieving the outcomes of the project by way of exception from the rule.

7. PARTNERSHIP

Partner is a legal entity actively involved in, and effectively contributing to, the implementation of a project. It shares with the applicant a common economic or social goal which is to be realised through the implementation of the project.

It is mandatory to have at least two different project partners among those listed as mandatory Eligible partners - Entities established as a legal person in the Slovak Republic (at least two different kinds from the list):

- state budgetary and contributory organisations established in accordance with Act. No. 523/2004 on Budget Rules of the Public service;
- municipalities in accordance with Act. No 369/1990 Coll. On Municipal Administration.
- Higher territorial units and offices of self-governing regions in accordance with Act. No. 302/2001 on self-government of higher territorial units
- NGOs or other legal forms running a community centre³ working with children and youth.

If this condition is not met, the application shall be automatically rejected.

Entities established by the applicant or its partner as their budgetary or contributory organisations, or in a similar relation, should not be involved in the project as partners. However, it is highly advisable that these institutions are listed in the project as cooperating entities. In this case, it is essential that the related expenditure borne by the applicant or its partner that do not represent the **final** use of public resources (such as re-granting in the form of subventions/donations or other transfers) must be supported by receipted invoices or alternatively by accounting documents of equivalent probative value declaring the **final use** of public resources.

An example of suitable partnership is a situation in which the applicant is a municipality, one of the centres is a school, another one is a NGO running a leisure time centre or summer camps and another centre is an amateur sports club. An example of a poor partnership is a situation in which the partner provides services for the applicant. This, in fact, is not a partnership within the meaning of this Call; this would be a business relation. Project partners are expected to actively contribute to the development of the project application, and this as well as their role in the project should be very clearly reflected and elaborated in the project application.

In a working partnership, the Partner has its own budget and activities he is responsible to meet. However, it is very important to realise that the applicant is responsible for all commitments and irregularities of the partner in relation to the Programme Operator.

Partnership statement, letter of intent or other similar documents proving the partner's interest in participating in the project shall be submitted along with the Project Application. The document should be signed and submitted as a scanned version.

After the Project Application is approved, draft **partnership agreement** shall be submitted. The partnership agreement shall be drafted in line with the point 7.7 of the Regulation. The draft agreement is subject to the Programme Operator's screening before it is concluded. **It is neither necessary nor recommended to enter into partnership agreement before the Project is approved!**

Signed partnership statement, letter of intent or other similar document shall be seen as sufficient expression of interest of the applicant and its partner to jointly implement the project.

The number of partners receiving support under the Project is limited to 4. Other entities involved in the project can be mentioned in the Project Application as cooperating entities.

Partnership with Donor entities

One of the two main objectives of the Norway Grants is to strengthen the cooperation with the Norwegian entities. Partnership projects with organisations from Norway are strongly encouraged. Under this call, any public or private entity, for profit or not-for-profit, as well as non-governmental organisations established as legal entities in Norway, are eligible to apply as donor project partners.

Project partners from Norway shall be actively involved in the development of the project and effectively contribute to its implementation. The eligible activities in cooperation with the project partner from Norway within the project are e.g. skills sharing, examples of good practise and know-how transfer, joint workshops, study trips, studies and data collection in the area of local development and children and youth support contributing to the project objective, outcome and outputs achievement.

To facilitate the identification and establishment of partnerships between Slovak and Norwegian entities, the Programme Operator plans to open for the possibility to apply for a grant. These activities will be able to be funded under the Programme Bilateral Fund, which will provide small grants up to **2,500 EUR**, covering mainly the related travel costs.

Please, be aware that:

1. It is necessary to apply for these funds before the expenses have been incurred.
2. The grants will be disbursed in the form of reimbursement.

When searching for a suitable partner in Norway, the applicants may use one of the following tools:

1. Sending an inquiry with short description of the project to eeagrants@vlada.gov.sk. Such request will be shared with the Royal Norwegian Embassy to Slovakia.
2. Direct contact with entities listed on the List of potential partners, published at [directlink](#)¹⁶.

Further information will be able to be found in the **Call for bilateral activities** to be published at www.eeagrants.sk¹⁷.

8. SPECIAL PROVISION RELATED TO BUILDINGS

Upon the signature of the Project Contract, the Project Promoters will be obliged to, if relevant:

¹⁶ It is recommended to complete the Norwegian partners search form provided in the call Annexes if you contact the identified potential partners or the Programme Operator.

¹⁷ The call for bilateral activities will be launched only if there are suitable conditions for travelling. Please follow the Programme Operator's web page www.eeagrants.sk for the information.

- Keep any buildings purchased, constructed, renovated or reconstructed under the project in their ownership for a period of at least 5 years following the approval of the Final Project Report 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 approval of the Final Project Report; and
- Set aside appropriate resources for the maintenance of any buildings purchased, constructed, renovated or reconstructed under the project for at least 5 years following the approval of the Final Project Report. The specific means for implementation of this obligation shall be specified in the project contract.

Buildings that are constructed, reconstructed or renovated from the Project Grant, cannot be sold, rented, or mortgaged within five years of the completion of the project, or longer if stipulated in the Project Contract (i.e. at least within five years since the approval of the Final Project Report). Further details can be found in Article 8.6 of the Regulation.

It is highly recommended that the buildings that is to be reconstructed is **owned** (or in case of public property **operated**) by the **Applicant or Project Partner**. It is also possible to support reconstruction of buildings rented by the Applicant or Project Partner, however, these projects will be significantly disfavoured, and special provisions may be imposed by the Programme Operator to mitigate the related risk.

After careful consideration, the Programme Operator has decided not to request construction permits as mandatory attachments to the Project Application. However, a valid construction permit, if relevant, will be an advantage within the selection process.

9. SELECTION PROCEDURES

The project evaluation and award of grants shall be in accordance with Article 7.4 of the Regulation.

The Programme Operator shall be responsible for project evaluation and for the award of grants.

The Programme Operator shall review the Project Applications for compliance with administrative and eligibility criteria. Applicants whose Project Applications are rejected at this stage shall be informed and given a reasonable time to appeal that decision.

Each Project Application that meets the administrative and eligibility criteria shall be reviewed by two experts: one of these experts shall be appointed by the Programme Operator and the other shall be appointed by the IPO. The experts shall be impartial and independent of the Programme Operator and the Selection Committee.

The experts shall separately score the project according to the selection criteria published with the call for proposals. For the purposes of ranking the projects, the average of the scores awarded by the experts shall be used.

If the difference between the scores given by the two experts is more than 30% of the higher score, a third expert shall be commissioned by the Programme Operator to score the project independently. In such cases the average score of the two closest scores shall be used for the ranking of the projects.

The Programme Operator shall establish a Selection Committee that shall recommend the projects to be funded. The Selection Committee shall consist of at least 3 persons possessing the relevant expertise. At least three of them shall be external to the Programme Operator and the International Programme Organisation (IPO). The IPO, the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the National Focal Point shall be invited to participate in the meetings of the Selection Committee as observers.

The Programme Operator shall provide the Selection Committee with a list of the ranked projects. The Selection Committee shall review the ranked list of projects. It may modify the ranking of the projects in justified cases. The Selection Committee can mainly give priority to the projects enabling to achieve the target values of the indicators, to cover the certain geographical regions lagging behind; and clearly defined less privileged target groups. The justification for the modifications shall be detailed in the minutes of the meeting of the Selection Committee. If such a modification results in a project's rejection, the affected applicant shall be informed in writing about the justification for the modification. The Selection Committee shall submit the list of recommended projects to the Programme Operator.

The Programme Operator shall verify that the selection process has been conducted in accordance with the Regulation and that the recommendations from the Selection Committee comply with the rules and objectives of the programme. Following such verification, the Programme Operator shall, based on the recommendation of the Selection Committee, make a decision on which projects shall be supported. Prior to making such decision, an on the spot visit may be carried out by the Programme Operator when construction works or purchase of special equipment are foreseen in the project. If, in exceptional cases, the Programme Operator modifies the decision of the Selection Committee or suggests modification of the project, it shall inform the Selection Committee and the applicants affected and provide them with a justification.

The Programme Operator shall notify the applicants about the result of the selection process within a reasonable time and publish the results.

10. FINANCING AND REPORTING

Payments of the project grant shall take the form of advance payment, interim payments and a final payment. The level of advance payment to projects shall be set out in the project contract. The maximum level of advance payment shall be linked to the project budget and duration¹⁸ as follows:

Project implementation duration ¹⁹	Advance payment	1 st Interim payment	2 nd Interim payment	3 rd Interim payment	4 th Interim payment	Final payment ²⁰
Less than 24 months	20%	40%	35%	-	-	5%

The advance payment shall be paid following the signature of the project contract. Subsequent payments shall be paid after the approval of project interim reports. The final payment shall be paid after approval of the final report.

An advance payment, if any, of a percentage of the total grant amount shall be paid within 15 working days from the submission of a request or within the period set in the project contract. The interim payments shall be paid within 1 month after the approval of project interim reports.

The contribution from the programme to the running costs of the “multifunctional youth centres” will be limited to 18 months after which the Project Promoters will be obliged to ensure that the centres will be operational for at least 12 more months for the Final Project Report to be approved.

The approval of project interim and final reports shall take place within 3 months from the submission of the required information.

Upon approval of the final project report a final balance payment shall be made within 1 month.

11. STATE AID

The Programme Operator shall, in line with Article 8.16 of the Regulation, ensure that any public support under the Norwegian Financial Mechanism 2014-2021 complies with the procedural and substantive state aid rules applicable at the time when the public support is granted. Based on an overall assessment of the measures to be implemented within the call, these are of purely local nature and as such are not liable to affect trade between Member States, irrespective of the legal form of the applicant. As a result, there is no need to examine the other cumulative conditions for

¹⁸ The period referred to the payments scheme is related to the financing from the Local Development, Poverty Reduction and Roma Inclusion Programme, excluding the 12 month period during which “multifunctional youth centre” needs to be kept operational with applicant’s own resources.

¹⁹ The project contract may set suspensive conditions related to advance, interim and/or final payments. In justified cases, at the Programme Operator’s discretion, a project promoter may receive extraordinary payments to ensure sufficient funds for the projects during the implementation so as to avoid any liquidity problems, provided that the Programme Operator has sufficient capacity to proceed with these payments.

²⁰ Retention may be applied at the end of the implementation or pro rata from each advance payment and interim payments.

the existence of State aid within the meaning of Article 107(1) TFEU, provided that conditions listed in the template of the Questionnaire attached to this Call are met.

The Programme Operator may, prior to the award of the grant, request information similar to those listed in Annexes 1 to 3 of the [Methodological Guidance on Cases not Subject to State Aid](#) Rules, issued by the Antimonopoly Office of the Slovak Republic.

For more information, the applicant may consult the documents published by the Antimonopoly Office of the SR at <https://www.antimon.gov.sk/metodicke-usmernenia/>.

Before approving a project application the Programme Operator will carry out a state aid test.

12. PROJECT APPLICATION SUBMISSION AND EVALUATION

Project Applications shall be prepared in English and submitted electronically via the web application accessible at [directlink](#) until the date and time of the call closure specified in Chapter 1 of this Call (Basic data and conditions). The Application Form can be found at [directlink](#) and the user guide at [directlink](#).

The following mandatory attachments shall be submitted along with Project Application:

1. Budget (template is attached to this Call);
2. Questionnaire, including Sustainability Plan (template is attached to this Call);
3. Partnership statement, letter of intent or other similar documents proving the interest of at least two mandatory partners in participating on the implementation of the project. The document should be signed and submitted as a scanned version.

The date and time of the submission of the Project Application is identical to the date on and time of its receipt by the server of the Government Office of the Slovak Republic.

The Project Application does not need to be signed. Signature shall be required prior to the conclusion of the Project Contract.

The Project Application and the Budget should be submitted as XLS or XLSX files. Other annexes should be submitted as PDF files to prevent accidental loss of data.

The size of an attachment must not exceed 2MB!

Four optional attachments may be submitted along with the Project Application.

13. FURTHER INFORMATION

Please note that all applicants are required to disclose any consultant involved in the preparation of the Project Application in the Project Application Form.

There is no legal entitlement to the Project Grant.

Before and during preparation of a Project Application the applicant is strongly advised to comply with the following documents, as amended:

- Guideline for Applicants
- Guideline for Project Promoters and Project Partners
- Project contract template

Further recommended documents are:

- Programme Agreement for the financing of the Programme “Local Development, Poverty Reduction and Roma Inclusion”;
- Regulation on the implementation of the Norwegian Financial Mechanism 2014 – 2021;
- Guidelines, instructions and other documents published by the Financial Mechanism Office, National Focal Point and Ministry of Finance of the SR (Certifying Authority).

These documents are published on the websites www.eeagrants.sk / www.norwaygrants.sk and/or www.eeagrants.org. The Programme Operator may also introduce the FAQ section, if relevant.

Link to the website of the National Focal Point with information on how to submit complaint is here: [complaints](#).

The Programme Operator can be contacted for queries by:

- e-mail: eeagrants@vlada.gov.sk (the request needs to be linked to the call – by call code LDI01; questions received by e-mail will be responded within 10 days);
- phone: +421-2-209 25 516.

14. CALL ANNEXES

1. Application Form
2. Budget template
3. Questionnaire (incl. the Sustainability Plan)
4. Selection Criteria
5. Selection Committee Statute and Rules of Procedures
6. Norwegian partners search form (not binding)