

OPEN CALL FOR BILATERAL RELATIONS for establishing and development of the partnership

ON IMPROVEMENT OF THE QUALITY OF SERVICES SO THAT THEY MEET THE REQUIRED STANDARDS¹, INCLUDING SPECIFIC SERVICES FOR CHILDREN

VICTIMS

EEA and Norway Grants 2014 – 2021

SLOVAKIA

1. BASIC DATA AND CONDITIONS

The purpose of this call is to set-up a very flexible and easy tool facilitating visits and meetings of the Slovak applicants with their potential project partners from Norway.

This call is relevant for entities planning to apply under the **Call DGV03** on improvement of the quality of services so that they meet the required standards¹, including specific services for children victims that has been launched by the Ministry of Investments, Regional Development and Informatization of the SR under the Domestic and Gender-based Violence Programme. For further information about the Call DGV03, please visit [directlinkhere](#).

Call launching:	16 August 2021
Call closure²:	24 September 2021, 23:59 CET or until its total allocation is used
Call number:	DGVBF03
Maximum grant to be applied for:	EUR 2,500
Minimum grant to be applied for:	N/A
Co-financing:	No co-financing is requested by the applicants under this Call
Total allocation:	EUR 18,623
Announced by:	Ministry of Investments, Regional Development and Informatization of the Slovak Republic
Eligible applicants and partners:	Eligible applicants: Legal entities established as a legal person in the Slovak Republic, which are registered in the social services providers register or accredited providers of social services in the Slovak Republic according to the Act No. 305/2005 Coll. ³ on the Socio-legal Protection of the Child and on Social Guardianship or Act No. 448/2008 Coll. on Social Services and

¹ The standards are set in the Council of Europe document 'Combating violence against women: minimum standards for support services' and are adapted to Slovakia by the Coordinating Methodical Centre (the required standards are hereinafter referred to as **European Standards**).

² In case the conditions are not suitable for travelling the Programme Operator reserves the right to terminate the call before the call closure

³ Collection of Acts

	<p>on change and amendment of the Act No. 455/1991 Coll., or Act No. 274/2017 Coll. on Victims of crime, which do not meet the required standards¹ yet, provided that they have a project partner meeting the required standards^{1,4}</p> <p>Or</p> <p>Legal entities established as a legal person in the Slovak Republic which are registered and accredited providers of social services in the Slovak Republic according to Act No. 448/2008 Coll. on Social Services and on change and amendment of the Act No. 455/1991 Coll. or accredited according to Act No. 305/2005 Coll. on the Socio-legal Protection of the Child and on Social Guardianship, or accredited according to the Act No. 274/2017 Coll. on Victims of crime, which meet the required standards^{1,4}.</p> <p>or</p> <p>all legal entities established in Norway.</p> <p>Applicants from Slovakia must have at least one partner from Norway meeting the above definition and vice versa.</p>
<p>Further conditions:</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The implementation of the initiative must be completed within 5 days, including 2 days for the journey and no later than 02 November 2021 2. Expenditures of up to 3 persons can be reimbursed. 3. Participation-related document(s), such as invitation, exchange of e-mails shall be submitted along with the Grant Application. An agreed agenda of the initiative shall be submitted together with the Grant Application. 4. Documentation of exchange of communication with a counselling centre or women's shelter meeting the required standards^{1,4} established as a legal entity in Slovakia confirming their intention/interest to cooperate and to be a partner within the Call DGV03, if the applicant or one of the potential partner is not such an organization, shall be submitted along with the Grant Application, in case of Slovak applicant or Partner - Legal entities established as a legal person in the Slovak Republic, which are registered in the social services providers register or accredited providers of social services in the Slovak Republic according to the Act No. 305/2005 Coll. on the Socio-legal Protection of the Child and on Social Guardianship or Act No. 448/2008 Coll. on Social Services and on change and amendment of the Act No. 455/1991 Coll., or Act No. 274/2017 Coll. on Victims of crime, which do not meet the required standards¹ yet.
<p>Funding source(s):</p>	<p>Fund for Bilateral Relations under the EEA and Norway Grants</p>

⁴ An informative list of social service providers meeting the required European standards is listed in Annex 3 of this call

2. ELIGIBLE ACTIVITIES

The call is aimed at facilitating partnership through visits and meetings between Slovak and Norwegian entities carried out in order to jointly prepare a project application that can later be submitted under the Call DGV03 on improvement of the quality of services so that they meet the required standards¹, including specific services for children victims.

Partner shall be understood as a legal person 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 that project.

3. ELIGIBLE EXPENDITURES⁵

Eligible expenditures are those related to the search for partners for Norwegian partnership projects prior to or during the preparation of a project application, development of such partnerships and the preparation of an application for a Norwegian partnership project.

Only the following types of expenditures can be eligible:

- a) travel costs;
- b) per-diem expenses/subsistence allowances.

No expenditures incurred before and after the dates set in the Decision on the approval of the application shall be eligible. Having regard to principle of proportionality, travel costs and subsistence allowances are calculated as a lump sum. Further details can be found in the Bilateral Fund Guide (mainly in the Annex 5), issued by the National Focal Point.

4. GRANT APPLICATION SUBMISSION

The Grant Application shall be written in English and submitted electronically at eeagrants@mirri.gov.sk, along with the following:

- Participation-related document(s), such as signed Letter of intent, exchange of emails, invitation, event agenda and confirmation of acceptance of speech or other similar document proving the bilateral interest in the initiative from both Slovakia and Norway.
- In case of Slovak applicant or Partner - Legal entities established as a legal person in the Slovak Republic, which are registered in the social services providers register or accredited providers of social services in the Slovak Republic according to the Act No. 305/2005 Coll. on the Socio-legal Protection of the Child and on Social Guardianship or Act No. 448/2008 Coll. on Social Services and on change and amendment of the Act No. 455/1991 Coll., or Act No. 274/2017 Coll. on Victims of crime, which do not meet the required standards¹ yet, documentation of exchange of communication with a counselling centre or women's shelter meeting the required standards^{1,4} established as a legal entity in Slovakia confirming their

⁵ Under this Call, only expenditures falling under Article 8.8, point b) of the Regulation on implementation of the Norwegian Financial Mechanism, are eligible.

intention/interest to cooperate and to be a partner within the Call DGV03, if one of the potential partner is not such an organization.

The date and time of the submission of the Grant Application is identical to the date on and time of its receipt by the server of the Ministry of Investments, Regional Development and Informatization of the Slovak Republic.

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

Grant Application should be submitted as DOC or DOCX files. Other annexes should be submitted as PDF files to prevent accidental loss of data.

The Grant Application shall be received in a due time prior to its scheduled start of implementation. When drafting the schedule, applicants shall take into account that the whole evaluation may take up to 3 weeks, thus it is recommended to plan the activities not earlier than 4 weeks following the submission of the Grant Application. While aiming to be flexible, a grant application submitted later than four weeks before the planned start of a bilateral initiative shall be rejected by the Programme Operator. Resubmission can be allowed in case the Call closure is not approaching.

5. SELECTION PROCEDURES

The Grant Applications will be evaluated in the order they are received (FIFO principle), which means that the applications are being assessed in the exact same order in which they were delivered. The Selection Criteria are attached to this Call.

Grant Applications not meeting formal or eligibility criteria, evaluated by the Programme Operator, shall be rejected by the Programme Operator. Applicants are informed about their right to contest the rejection. This rejection does not prevent the re-submission of the Grant Application.

Every Grant Application meeting the formal and eligibility criteria is circulated to the relevant Cooperation Committee representatives. The nominated representatives of the Programme Operator and the Donor Programme Partner (DPP) the Norwegian Directorate of Health score the Grant Application and decide either to recommend or not to recommend the Grant Application for funding. The nominated representatives of the Programme Operator and the Donor Programme Partner shall individually inform the Programme Operator about their decision on each Grant Application within 7 working days. Within this period the Norwegian Embassy in Slovakia, the Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family of the SR and the Coordinating Methodical Centre can provide the Programme Operator and the Donor Programme Partner with their comments on the application. The application shall be approved, if the Programme Operator and the Donor Programme Partner recommend the grant application for funding.

Final decision shall be issued by the Programme Operator.

6. FINANCING AND REPORTING

No advance payments will be provided. Unless otherwise agreed by the Programme Operator, all activities under the initiative need to be financially completed within one month from the date of return from the travel, and the payment claim (Final Report) should be submitted no later than two months following the date of return from the travel. The Programme Operator reserves the right not to reimburse the grant or its part in case the above mentioned was not complied with.

7. STATE AID

The activities eligible under this Call (traveling costs) are aimed at cross-border cooperation between Slovakia and Norway. The activities are non-economic in nature.

Before approving a Grant Application, the Programme Operator will carry out a state aid test. If applicable, the grant or its respective part can be provided as de minimis aid under the scheme number DM-8/2019 published at www.eegrants.sk, if conditions for granting this aid are met.

8. FURTHER INFORMATION

Please note that all applicants are required to disclose any consultant involved in the preparation of the Grant Application within the Grant Application⁶.

Before and during preparation of a Grant Application it is recommended to become familiar with the following documents, as amended.

- Call DGV03 on improvement of the quality of services so that they meet the required standards¹, including specific services for children victims;
- Bilateral Guideline;
- Bilateral Fund Guide issued by the National Focal Point;
- Regulation on 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.eegrants.sk and/or www.eegrants.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:

⁶ Staff of the National Focal Point, Programme Operator, DPPs or other programme partners providing general advices on the EEA & Norway Grants programmes as part of their public duties should not be listed on the list of consultants.

- e-mail: eeagrants@mirri.gov.sk (the request needs to be linked to the call - by call code DGVBF03; questions received by e-mail will be responded within 10 days);
- phone: +421-2-209 28 464.

9. CALL ANNEXES

1. Application form including budget
2. Selection criteria
3. Informative list of social service providers meeting the required standards