

# *ANNUAL PROGRAMME REPORT*

## *FM14-21*

Slovakia

SK-CULTURE Cultural Entrepreneurship, Cultural Heritage and Cultural  
Cooperation

2020

## A. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

One of the main aims of the EEA and Norway grants and Culture programme especially is strengthening of bilateral cooperation between donors and beneficiary states. Bilateral cooperation is an important part of the expected results of the both pre-defined projects within the Programme which are implemented by the Monument Board of the SR. [\[MM1\]](#)

“ProMonumenta II” pre-defined project was during 2020 in its second year of the implementation and visible results have been already reported. Within this project, 3 new members of regional teams were hired, 90 inspections of the cultural monuments were carried out, 3 new working cars and 3 drones purchased. The promotional event “Gutter Day” in Town of Skalica was organized for cultural monuments owners and operators. Workshop for inspection specialists took place in Levoča and Banská Štiavnica.

The second pre-defined project “Red Monastery – Reborn” started its implementation in 2020, the project was contracted in July 2020, minor delays are foreseen in bilateral cooperation activities.

During year 2020, the projects within the call CLT01 focused on the cultural heritage monuments restoration and their entrepreneurship potential promotion were evaluated and project applications were selected. Till the end of year 2020, 12 cultural heritage monuments restoration (CLT01) project contracts were signed.

In terms of the small grant scheme on contemporary arts and bilateral cooperation in culture, the project applications within the first small grant scheme call CLT02 were registered, evaluated and selected during year 2020. In September 2020, the first art project was contracted and till the end of 2020 further 6 project contracts were signed.

The second call within the small grant scheme (CLT03) focused on the support of the capacity development of cultural players and audience development addressing contemporary art and culture was launched on 30<sup>th</sup> October 2020. The call is open till 25<sup>th</sup> February 2021 and the results of this call will be reported in the next Annual Programme Report.

All Covid-19 related restrictions during the whole 2020 calendar year caused that the Programme Operator and National Focal Point had to put in place new forms of communication and visibility measures within the programme implementation. From day to day, they had to adopt new measures and approaches to ensure further smooth implementation of Programme. The Programme Operator had to provide the system for online meetings and to be able to carry out all the necessary meetings, events and seminars, including Information Days and Matchmaking event.

In November 2020, excellent and fruitful online networking event - [Seminar for all Culture Programme Operators](#) (Programme Operators gathering meeting) was organised by both Arts Council Norway and Norwegian Directorate for Cultural Heritage. The Slovak Programme Operator was declared the Good Governor within the Cultural Programmes Operators for 2020

by the Financial Mechanism Office for its transparency, project applicants-friendly approach and the real cooperation with the Donor Programme Partners.

The Programme Operator further continued with the facilitation of future bilateral cooperation also by organizing the Matchmaking event for call CLT03. Due to Covid-19 restrictions, the Matchmaking event was organised in online form on 9<sup>th</sup> December 2020 in very close cooperation with the Arts Council Norway. [\[MM2\]](#) [\[JD3\]](#) The programme progress is foreseen to be in line with the planned results. The overall programme risks [\[MM4\]](#) [\[JD5\]](#) in their value does not indicate any major changes within the reporting period. [\[DN6\]](#)

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[\[MM1\]](#) It is not necessary to include this as all readers are familiar with the programme. In this section, please try to provide a concise summary of the main results, risks and relevant issues that emerged in 2020.

[\[MM2\]](#) Most of this information is provided in detail in later sections. Please try to shorten this to one page, shortly highlighting the main items (maybe just using bullet points)/

[\[JD3\]](#) It would be great for the future if the FMO updates the documents needed for APR in autumn, not in December or even in January. It is too late. If the PO wants to submit the APR till 15 February, it necessary to start in November.

There is time needed for preparation, experts' communication, internal review and CC review, including the comments evaluation and addressing them in APR. We cannot start on 1<sup>st</sup> January with the new templates and instructions.

And it would be great if Grace is able to limit the text of executive summary to 1,5 page. Because by writing it within the grace the PO can see the number of pages only after exporting the APR to word or pdf. If it is possible to see and we just do not know about it, we will be happy to be instructed.

It would be also great if by exporting the APR all the parts are exported. Now we had to prepare Annex 7 separately in word document, which is not very effective.

[\[MM4\]](#) We would appreciate to see a reference to the possible impact of Covid-19 restrictions on progress and bilateral cooperation, especially as regards outcome 2 (see comment also in the risk assessment section).

[\[JD5\]](#) The projects have just started. This will be more relevant for 2021.

[\[DN6\]](#) The reference is stated on the relevant part for outcome2

## B. PERFORMANCE

### 1. Programme context

The legislative context of programme area in Slovak Republic can be seen as stable. The Protection of Monuments and Historic Sites in Slovakia is governed mainly by the Act No. 49/2002 Coll. on the Protection of Monuments and Historic Sites. The period of 2019 and 2020 reflects one change (amendments) of The Monument Law and its adoptions and reaction regarding the Constitutional Court ruling in restoration area covered by this law. Above all, after thorough discussion between The Monuments Board and The Chamber of Restorers there was an effort to „legitimize“ the work of professional restorers at the Monuments Board (workshops in Levoča and Bratislava) in the law. Restorers who are the employees of the Monuments Board of the Slovak Republic according to this amendment were able to restore national monuments - works of art and objects after amendment of this law in 2016. From the 11<sup>th</sup> February 2019 according to the Constitutional Court ruling[1]<sup>1</sup> Monuments Board of the Slovak Republic is no longer allowed to provide restoration services. Only a member of the Chamber of Restorers is allowed to restore cultural monuments in the Slovak Republic. This can be seen in general as a minor change in legal environment of Slovak Republic monument protection field that will not affect EEA grant programming and implementation.

Slovakia's main policy in monument preservation is The Strategy on Monument Fund Protection for year 2017 – 2022[2]<sup>2</sup>, elaborated by the Ministry of Culture of the SR. It covers these topics: monument fund (monument and sites) and monument fund values, UNESCO sites, Archeological heritage, Financial tools and resources, Traditional crafts development, Management of cultural monuments owned by the state, Institutional securing. This Strategy is divided into two Action plans. First of them is just about to end its operation, because it had tasks till the end of the year 2020. The Action plan for years 2021-2022 is to be submitted to the government by the end of March 2021. One of the main objectives of this Action plan is to find new ways of funding the restoration of cultural heritage. Special focus is set on EU structural funds for monument restoration and integrated approach to its management and tourism support in monuments surrounded area. Integrated monument restoration is culture priority in Structural Funds Priority Axis 5 - Europe closer to its citizens.[3]<sup>3</sup> Fund allocation is not clear yet, but this will be significant driving force for monument restoration in years 2021-2027, especially because there were no Structural Funds for monument restoration in previous programming period.

In 2019 there was made first complex analysis of culture in Slovak Republic – The Revision of cultural expenditure<sup>[4]</sup>. Its aim was to find strengths and weaknesses of financing in culture. Therefore, it was necessary to collect relevant data, that wasn't collected before.

At the beginning of 2019, there were 9,989 immovable national cultural monuments registered in Slovakia. 25,75% of these monuments are in bad technical state. Also cultural debt was calculated. According to the figures €5,4 billion is needed to get all the monuments to good technical condition.

The Ministry of Culture of the SR (further only Ministry), the state central authority responsible for the protection of the cultural heritage, increased of the financial resources available to the established subsidiary system („Let's Renew Our House“) to help the owners with the necessary renovation and conservation works (from €5 mil. up to €12 mil.). The Ministry also set up a new sub-programme focused on the 3 years long continual renovation works. This sub-programme is established by now. Each year there is around €4 mil. allocated for circa 8 complex restoration projects. Restored monuments are obliged to take part in European heritage days for 5 years after restoration and this way the Ministry contributes to make the renovated cultural monuments to be accessible to wider public. The Ministry makes the cultural policy within all the subsidy sub-programmes through evaluation criteria. Higher points get projects that are located in the least developed regions, on an important cultural rout, contribute to tourism in the area or are realized through traditional craftsmanship. By applying these state priorities, the Ministry subsidy system contributes also to the Programme objectives.

State support for the renewal of the monument fund through the subsidy program “Let's Renew Our House” was €12 mil. in 2018. In the total and also in the unit amount, the paid support is too small to prevent the creation of monument debt. Average support for real estate monuments disbursed in total through „Let's Renew Our House“ in sub-programs 1.1, 1.2, 1.4 in the years 2008 - 2016 was €5.7 mil., in the years 2017 - 2018 it reached €10.3 mil. after the introduction of the new sub-program 1.6, which finances complex restoration projects. Unit support in the original three sub-programs compared to foreign benchmarks (EU funds, EEA grants) is also negligibly small, with unit support for the new sub-program 1.6 reaching comparable values as support through EEA grants. In 2017 and 2018, however, only 7 and 8 projects were supported. Each year we see a significant increase of applications in this sub-programme, the allocation is stable, so the success rate is decreasing.

Main aim for the coming years is, according to analytical and strategic documents, to increase funding in the area of monument restoration, revive historical crafts, so the quality of craftsmanship and restoration of monument is higher and to develop new financial mechanisms for monument owners. For example, adopt tax relief for monument owners, who have renovated their house and therefore it benefits to the city environment. Next new approach is to create revolving fund<sup>[5]</sup> similar to the one in Netherlands. It is a system of repayable advantageous loans intended primarily for legal entities with elaborated business

plans. Most revolutionary is the aim to prepare refunding system of increased expenses associated with the restoration of monuments. The main thought behind this is that monument restoration is more expensive than the restoration of the ordinary building. Each owner has to take care of his building. But he is the one that owns a historical monument is in public interest that it is in good condition and its values are preserved. These increased expenses should be mandatory overpaid from the state after successful restoration. First step is to create a methodology how to count these increased expenses.

Covid-19 and restrictions caused by it caused many problems to living culture and creative industries. Many artists and cultural and creative associations had to stop performing. Due to this situation Ministry of Culture of the Slovak Republic started special aid on November 2020. Fastest way to give a subsidy and stipendium to artists was through the Slovak Arts Council, the Slovak Audiovisual Fund and the Minority Culture Fund. The amount that could be allocated to one applicant was €3,000.

During year 2020, the Slovak Arts Council (hereinafter referred to as “the SAC”) reacted to the extraordinary situation caused by pandemic circumstances by the launching of two special calls. The first call was launched in April 2020 and it was focused on the activities in the field of research and education. SAC distributed €1,200,000 and it used the funds from the projects which were not implemented in 2020.

The support in form of scholarships was intended for critics, historians, researchers and other specialists which are professionals in field of reflection in all kinds of arts, creative industry, popular and mass culture from the perspective of various social science disciplines.

The legal entities could be supported for the implementation of research projects, professional critical reflection, publishing of original professional literature and professional translations.

The call for projects focused on educational and training activities designed for leaders and managers and employees of institutions and organisations operated in culture and arts was launched.

Online lectures or courses reflecting art and culture could be organised with support from this special call.

The first special call also included also interdisciplinary cultural and educational activities for children, youth and adults with a focus on building, cultivating and development of new audiences.

The allocated funds were also provided for the creation and redesign of websites, internet/digital platforms, reservation systems, visual identities, promotional materials of the applicants or the creation of advertising campaigns intended for any media.

The second special call of SAC was launched in September 2020 as first aid for artists who could not benefit from another form of state aid. It was intended exclusively for individuals working professionally in the field of theatre, dance, music, literature and visual arts, but also for those who theoretically reflect culture and art, or who participate organizationally and managerially in the implementation of various professional activities in art and culture.

Unlike other types of scholarships provided by the SAC, it was possible to apply also for support for interpretive performances, staging or realization of a part of the work - acting or dance staging, lighting or sound design. The amount of support ranged from €1,500 to €3,000 and the application process was simplified compared to the SAC standard calls.

The Slovak Arts Council redistributed a total of € 8,574,500 and supported the production of 3,022 artists from various fields of cultural arts and the creative industries.

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[6] <https://www.culture.gov.sk/ministerstvo/medialny-servis/aktuality-ministerstva-kultury/spustame-dotacie-na-pomoc-kulture-pocas-koronakrizy/>

[1] [https://www.slov-lex.sk/pravne-predpisy/SK/ZZ/2019/34/vyhlasene\\_znenie.html](https://www.slov-lex.sk/pravne-predpisy/SK/ZZ/2019/34/vyhlasene_znenie.html)

[2] [http://www.pamiatky.sk/Content/Data/File/sluz\\_predpis/Strategia\\_ochrany\\_pamiatkoveho\\_fondu\\_2017-2022.pdf](http://www.pamiatky.sk/Content/Data/File/sluz_predpis/Strategia_ochrany_pamiatkoveho_fondu_2017-2022.pdf)

[3] <https://www.mirri.gov.sk/sekcie/cko/politika-sudrznosti-eu/programove-obdobie-2021-2027/index.html>

[4] <https://www.culture.gov.sk/ministerstvo/institut-kulturnej-politiky/revizia-vydavkov/>

[5] <https://www.zachranmepamiatky.sk/portfolio/4-revolvingovy-hypotekarny-fond/>

## 2. Results

### Outcome 1: Cultural heritage conditions enhanced

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-The projects implemented under the call CLT01 will contribute to the Outcome 1 - output 1.1 Cultural heritage restored and revitalised.

During year 2020, the projects within call CLT01 focused on the cultural heritage monuments restoration and their entrepreneurship potential promotion were evaluated and the project applications were selected for support.

The Programme Operator (hereinafter referred to as “the PO”) received 66 project applications in the total amount of almost €59 mil. (requested Project Grant). 2 applications were rejected by the PO due to administrative non-compliance and 1 due to providing non-accurate

information within application submitted; 9 applications were rejected due to not receiving the minimum average number of points required.

The Selection Committee meetings took place in on-line form on 12<sup>th</sup> March 2020 and per-rollam form on 27<sup>th</sup> March 2020. 12 project applications were recommended for support within the call allocation, 14 project applications to the reserve list and 2 project applications were rejected and not recommended for support.

Consequently, before the approval, the PO verified and assessed each project application in terms of potential risks recommended by the Selection Committee (hereinafter referred to as “the SC”), as well as the compliance with the state aid rules. On 27<sup>th</sup> July 2020, the decision on the approval of 12 recommended CLT01 project applications were issued by the PO without any modification to the ranked list recommended by the SC.

After the funds reallocation to the CLT01 call in amount of €2 825 831 (by the Addendum No. 1 to the Culture Programme Agreement related to the cancelling of the predefined project Rusovce Garden), which entered into force on 30<sup>th</sup> September 2020, further 4 projects were approved from the reserve list on 5<sup>th</sup> November 2020.

Addendum No. 2 of the Culture Programme Agreement entered into force on 10<sup>th</sup> December 2020 and it further increased CLT01 call allocation by the funds from the overall EEA Financial Mechanism reserve in amount of €2 699 339. Additional 3 projects from CLT01 reserve list were approved by the PO on 14<sup>th</sup> December 2020.

Till the end of year 2020, 12 cultural heritage monuments restoration (CLT01) project contracts were signed. The project contracts for additionally approved 7 project applications are foreseen to be signed in February 2021. The implementation of the first 2 contracted projects (CLT01008 and CLT01010) started after the project contracts signature in September 2020 and no visible achieved results could be reported currently. The project promoters have been dealing with the public procurement and preparation works.

Based on the data provided within the projects with concluded project contracts and the projects approved for support from the reserve list the target values of the indicators related to this outcome should be achieved.

#### **Pre-defined projects:**

Both pre-defined projects stated within the Programme Agreement contribute to the Outcome 1 of the programme.

The pre-defined project “**Pro Monumenta II**” (PDP1) implemented by the Monument Board of the SR is fully contributing to the output 1.2 **Cultural heritage monitored and preserved** and should achieve all the target values of the indicators defined under this output. The main aim of the project is to further develop system preventive cultural monuments maintenance and

make it sustainable, to raise awareness of the need for preventive maintenance of cultural heritage and to increase the competence and availability of craftsmanship. Within this project, 3 new members of regional teams were hired (2 women and 1 man), together 90 cultural monuments were monitored during 10 months of implementation till end of February 2020 (out of 210 as a target) . Annual number of cultural monuments monitored is 108. The project team also succeeded to purchase 3 new working cars and drones - one for each regional team. Also the permits and licences for operation of drons have been obtained. The promotional event “Gutter Day” in Town of Skalica was organized for cultural monuments owners and operators. In September 2020, two workshops of inspection specialists took place in Levoča and Banská Štiavnica. The adaptation of the regional teams’ premises – also as future training centres - will start immediately after the approval of the public procurement procedures. No evident delays are monitored within the project implementation except of the launching press conference and bilateral cooperation activities (caused by Covid-19 restrictions).

The pre-defined project “**Red Monastery – Reborn**” (PDP2) implemented also by the Monument Board of the SR will contribute to the output 1.1 **Cultural heritage restored and revitalised**. The project will restore and revitalise very important part of the Red Monastery complex and make it accessible for the general public, it will carry out different educational activities and generate and foster the cultural tourism. The project contract came into force in July 2020, during year 2020 the project teams prepared the documentation for launching of public procurement for the reconstruction works and provide the cleaning and demolition works on the relevant parts of the Monastery. The delays are monitored within this activity of premises reconstruction due to Covid-19 restriction and the need to prepare relevant project documentation by authorised persons. The project management was also focused on the contracts for preparation of libretto and scenario of new exposition with future name “History of Red Monastery”. These will be prepared in cooperation with Ľubovňa Museum, Museum of Spiš and Eastern Slovakia museum in Košice. They will provide relevant professional works and rent the collection exhibit for the new exposition. The documents for purchase of technology for brewery, mead formulation and processing of medicinal herbs is under preparation.

## **Outcome 2: Access to contemporary arts improved**

*During year 2020, the projects within call CLT02 focused on the contemporary arts and bilateral cooperation in arts and culture were registered, evaluated and project applications selected.*

Overall, 35 project applications in the total amount of €6 mil. were submitted to the PO. Altogether 54 institutions have been involved in the submitted applications as the donor project partners (12 Icelandic, 4 Liechtenstein, 38 Norwegian entities). 1 project application was rejected by the PO due to non-compliance with eligibility criteria and 12 project applications were rejected due to not receiving the minimum average number of points required.

The SC meeting for CLT02 call took place in on-line form on 24<sup>th</sup> April 2020. The Selection Committee recommended 9 applications for support within the allocation. Altogether 5

applications were recommended on the reserve list, 5 project applications were not recommended due to lack of funding and 3 project applications were rejected by the SC (not recommended for support).

Consequently, the PO verified and assessed in terms of potential risks each of the project applications recommended by the Selection Committee, as well as the compliance with the state aid rules.

On 22<sup>nd</sup> July 2020, the decision on the approval of 9 CLT02 project applications were issued by the PO without any modification of the ranked list recommended by the SC.

In September 2020, the first CLT02 project (CLT02015) was contracted and during November and December 2020 further 6 project contracts were signed. The implementation of the first contracted project of the Slovak Technical University (CLT02015) started after the project contracts signature in September 2020, but no visible achieved results could be reported. At the end of 2020 the Project Promoter was solving a challenge of withdrawal of the Islandic partner because of Covid-19 impacts and was trying to replace the partner or to agree on taking the activities of the Islandic partner over with the Norwegian project partner.

The second call within the small grant scheme (CLT03) focused on the support of the capacity development of cultural players and audience development addressing contemporary art and culture was launched on 30<sup>th</sup> October 2020. The call is open till 25<sup>th</sup> February 2021 and the results of the call will be reported in the next Annual Programme Report.

In November 2020 the PO requested for the 3<sup>rd</sup> Programme Modification which related to the reallocation of the funds from the management costs to Outcome2 with aim to support project CLT02023 in the full amount of project grant requested. The reason for such request was the intention of the PO and the project promoter to keep the involvement of all three donor project partners from Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway in the project implementation. The modification was approved in December 2020 and the Addendum No. 3 conclusion is supposed in January 2021.

Based on the data provided within the projects approved for support within the call CLT02 almost all the indicators should be achieved. As regards the Indicator "Number of entrepreneurship strategies developed and implemented" the target value is supposed to be achieved by implementation of the projects to be selected within the call CLT03. The indicators related to the number of artists involved and number of events will be overachieved. During the Programme Concept Note preparation, the PO estimated the target number of events based on the idea of bigger and long lasting events. After the first small grant scheme projects approval it is evident that projects will include higher number of smaller events.

Cultural project events with necessary physical participation of key players could be postponed as the implementation of the projects could be till 30<sup>th</sup> April 2024. The monitoring of the

projects in terms of Covid-19 implications is planned by the PO during 1<sup>st</sup> half a year of 2021. The PO also monitored time schedule of projects within project interim reports and the shift of events are currently considered as appropriate.

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

#### *Analysis of bilateral relations and achievements*

The overall objective of the EEA Grants (not only in the field of cultural cooperation) is **enhanced collaboration between Slovakia and Donor State entities involved in the Programme**. This is also the bilateral outcome within Culture programme. The indicators defined under the bilateral outcome **Enhanced collaboration between Slovakia and Donor State entities involved in the programme** will be achieved by the implementation of both pre-defined projects, as well as the projects selected within the CLT01 call on the cultural heritage revitalization and both CLT02 and CLT03 small grant scheme calls for the bilateral cooperation in culture and arts.

Bilateral cooperation is important part of the expected results of both pre-defined projects implemented by the Monument Board of the SR which were contracted in November 2019 (“ProMonumenta II”) and in July 2020 (“Red Monastery – Reborn”). The Monument Board of the SR together with the Norwegian project partners will provide transfer of cultural monument management know-how between Slovakia and Norway and organise common study trip to the United Kingdom within “Red Monastery – Reborn” project. Minor delays are foreseen within the bilateral activities such as common meetings and workshops with the donor partners. Activities planned to be held during year 2020 (the meeting with the Norwegian project partners planned in May/June in Slovakia) have been postponed due to Covid-19 travels restrictions to year 2021.

The bilateral cooperation of the Monument Board of the SR and the Norwegian Directorate for Cultural Heritage is further developed and strengthened on the basis of the previous pre-defined “ProMonumenta” project. Unfortunately, the planned bilateral activities within the project (the visit of the Norwegian project partner to Slovakia in March 2020) have been also postponed due to Covid-19 restrictions to year 2021.

The only bilateral indicator which can be currently reported is “*number of project involving the cooperation with donor project partner*” – 27 of approved cultural projects include cooperation of donor project partner (programme target value is 30). Till end of 2020, 21 contracts for projects which included at least one donor project partner were signed, the rest of approved projects will be signed by March 2021. As there is another call CLT03 launched with a mandatory partnership with a donor project partner the target value of the indicator will be achieved.

The Programme Operator continued with the facilitation of future bilateral cooperation also by organizing the Matchmaking event for call CLT03. Due to abovementioned restrictions, the Matchmaking event was organised in online form on 9<sup>th</sup> December 2020 in very close cooperation with the Arts Council Norway. The Bilateral Fund call CLTBF03 (travel grant call for project applications development) was not launched for this particular call. Altogether, 34 Slovak and 12 Norwegian participants had possibility to discuss project and partnership ideas within plenary session and 3 thematic groups.

The ambition and challenge of the Culture programme in term of bilateral cooperation is to have at least 30% of the projects under the Outcome 1 “Cultural heritage conditions enhanced” (call CLT01) implemented in partnership with entities from the Donor States. Altogether, 18 out of 19 approved projects are with at least one donor project partner, which means 94% of cultural heritage projects will be implemented in partnership with the donor entities and this achieved results is extraordinary. 8 bilateral CLTBF01 initiatives were supported from the Bilateral Fund and 5 entities from these bilateral initiatives succeeded in call CLT01 and they are project promoters or project partners within the approved projects.

The donor project partnership within projects under the Outcome 2 “Access to contemporary arts improved” is obligatory and all 9 approved projects within this outcome include at least one donor project partner. The call CLTBF02 was focused on the partnership development for CLT02 and together 14 initiatives were supported from the Bilateral Fund. It was very surprising that only 3 entities from the supported bilateral initiatives were successful in the call CLT02 and they are project promoters or project partners within approved projects.

Within the successful projects there is also a project of the Pôtoň Civic Association which should be implemented in partnership with 3 donor project partner entities - one project partner from each donor state. Right after the Addendum to the Programme Agreement has been signed, the Programme Operator will increase the amount of the Project budget to cover the involvement and expenses of all the donor project partners. It is supposed in January 2021. This is the only project within the Programme with involvement of the donor project partners from all three donor countries. The project is therefore seen as an extraordinary example of bilateral cooperation.

The close cooperation between the donors’ institutions and Slovak programme representatives include also session of Cooperation Committee (hereinafter referred to as “the CC”) of the Culture programme. During the year 2020 one person-to-person meeting took place in Lillehammer, Norway. The meeting included the interesting visits of cultural monument sites. Four ad-hoc *per-rolam* meetings took place during 2020 to ensure the procedures of relevant call launching and Programme Agreement (budget and modalities) modifications. In November 2020, two-day online Seminar for all Culture Programme Operators (Programme Operators gathering meeting) was organised by the Arts Council Norway and Norwegian Directorate for Cultural Heritage. The PO of the Slovak Culture Programme participated actively and presented the experiences from the online sessions of the CLT02 call Selection Committee. The Slovak Programme Operator was declared the Good Governor within the Cultural Programmes Operators for 2020 by the Financial Mechanism Office for its transparency, project applicants-friendly approach and the real cooperation with the Donor Programme Partners (hereinafter referred to as “the DPPs”) – Arts Council

Norway and Norwegian Directorate for Culture. The overall cooperation, as well as communication through the Cooperation Committee with the Donor Programme Partners is very good. The DPPs are very proactive regarding the bilateral partnerships establishment. They also provide support to the Programme Operator as an observer during the Selection Committee meetings on review of the Norwegian (and/or other donors) partners and proposed bilateral cooperation.

### 3. Implementation

#### Conformity with specific requirements

Based on the Memorandum of Understanding of the EEA FM 2014 – 2021 (hereinafter referred to as “the MoU”) the Programme is contributing to the strengthening social and economic development through cultural cooperation, cultural entrepreneurship and cultural heritage management. Measures facilitating networking between service providers were supported. The programme is focusing on the role that art, culture and cultural heritage play in local and regional development and emphasis is put on the potential of the cultural and creative sectors in relation to social and economic development and their ability to reach out to the broader public.

The programme is through its projects and their implementation contributing to greater awareness about the culture of social, ethnic and cultural minorities and groups, including the Roma population as agreed in the MoU.

Also the condition stated in the MoU that more than € 2,5 million shall be available for a small grants scheme which is addressing contemporary art and culture, as well as the promotion of bilateral exchange of living art is fulfilled and more than € 3 million is total allocation for the both small grants scheme calls.

Within the Programme Agreement two pre-defined projects have been agreed, both implemented by the Monument Board of the Slovak Republic. The implementation of both pre-defined projects is further described in the chapter 2 “Results” on Outcome 1.

Compliance with Programme Agreement general conditions is described in Annex 7.

#### Cooperation with International Partner Organisations (IPOs)

N/A

## C. LEARNING

### 1. Monitoring

-The on-site monitoring was not carried out by the Programme Operator during 2020 due to ongoing pandemic of COVID-19. Only both pre-defined projects were in implementation phase during the reported period. The first interim projects reports have been submitted and

approved by the PO and the PO closely monitor both pre-defined projects activities on the regular basis (e-mails and phones communication). The promoter informed the PO regularly about all achieved milestones and events. The monitoring plan is attached and will be ad-hoc adjusted according to the development of the Covid-19 situation and possibilities to travel and visit the promoters and project sites. In the Q1 of 2021 the PO plans to carry out a monitoring on COVID -19 impact on the project implementation.

## 2. Evaluation

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

## 3. Lessons learned

The lessons learned of the year 2020 are closely connected with the Covid-19 pandemic situation in Slovakia and other Beneficiary states, as well as Donor states.

All Covid-19 related restrictions, as well as continuous unfavourable situation in terms of travelling possibilities during the whole 2020 calendar year caused that the PO and National Focal Point (hereinafter referred to as the "NFP") had to put in place new forms of communication and visibility measures within the programme implementation. From day to day, the PO had to adopt new measures and approaches to make Selection Committee meetings and sessions possible and to ensure further smooth implementation of Programme. It provided the system for online meetings and the PO was able to carry out all the necessary meetings, events and seminars, including Information Days and Matchmaking event.

With regard to the bilateral cooperation, the Programme Operator was focused on the facilitation of future bilateral cooperation within arts component projects by the organizing the Matchmaking event for call CLT03. Therefore, and due to Covid-19 restrictions, the Matchmaking event was also organised in online form. Thanks to the Arts Council Norway and in close cooperation with their representatives, Slovak participants could meet their potential project partners in virtual space and they had opportunity to present their proposals and ideas to Norwegian representatives. The event was very appreciated by both Slovak and Norwegian representatives.

The Programme Operators' networking meeting prepared by Donor program partners has been also organized in online form. The Slovak PO presented its experiences with organising Selection Committee online sessions. During this POs' networking meeting, good examples and experiences from different countries were shared, it was a great opportunity to be inspired by the others.

## D. ANNEXES

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

## 7. List of individual mobilities

## Annex 1: Updated results (indicator achievements)

Objective: Social and economic development strengthened through cultural cooperation, cultural entrepreneurship and cultural heritage management								
Outcome 1: Cultural heritage conditions enhanced								
Indicator	Unit of measurement	Baseline	Achievements until end of previous reporting period	Achievements until end of December 2020			Target	Comment
				Numerator	Denominator	Value		
<b>Number of jobs created</b>	Number	0	0 (APR 2019)	-	-	3	25	New members of regional inspection teams within ProMonumenta II (PDP1)
<i>Gender</i>								
<i>Female</i>	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-
<i>Male</i>	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
<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>	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	-
<i>Elderly (65+)</i>	-	-	-	-	-	0	-	-
<i>Not specified</i>	-	-	-	-	-	0	-	-
<b>Annual revenues generated by the restored monuments (€)</b>	Annual number	1,337,013	0 (APR 2019)	-	-	104,000	2,674,026, +100% increase compared to the baseline value	Annual revenue reported from Red Monastery - Reborn (PDP2), the annual revenue decreased
<b>Annual number of visitors to supported cultural heritage sites, museums and cultural activities</b>	Annual number	130,590	0 (APR 2019)	-	-	45,379	261180, +100% increase compared to baseline value	Reported only from PDP2
<b>Annual number of monuments monitored by regional inspection teams</b>	Annual number	80	80 (APR 2019)	-	-	108	100	Reported from PDP1

Output 1.1: Cultural heritage restored and revitalised								
Indicator	Unit of measurement	Baseline	Achievements until end of previous reporting period	Achievements until end of December 2020			Target	Comment
				Numerator	Denominator	Value		
Number of cultural monuments restored and revitalised	Number	0	0 (IFR 2020)	-	-	0	19	-
Number of entrepreneurship strategies developed and implemented	Number	0	0 (IFR 2020)	-	-	0	19	-
Number of projects that have conducted consultations with the local community	Number	0	0 (IFR 2020)	-	-	0	19	-
Number of revitalisation projects promoting the culture and heritage of minorities	Number	0	0 (IFR 2020)	-	-	0	10	-
Number of partnership agreements concluded between the owner of cultural heritage sites and other players	Number	0	0 (IFR 2020)	-	-	0	35	-
Output 1.2: Cultural heritage monitored and preserved								
Indicator	Unit of measurement	Baseline	Achievements until end of previous reporting period	Achievements until end of December 2020			Target	Comment
				Numerator	Denominator	Value		
Number of craftsmen trained	Number	0	0 (IFR 2020)	-	-	0	15	-
<i>Gender</i>								
<i>Female</i>	-	-	-	-	-	0	-	-
<i>Male</i>	-	-	-	-	-	0	-	-
<i>Not specified</i>	-	-	-	-	-	0	-	-

Number of new regional inspection teams' members	Number	0	0 (IFR 2020)	-	-	1	1	Reported from PDP1
Number of centres for construction crafts established	Number	0	0 (IFR 2020)	-	-	0	3	-
Number of cultural monuments monitored	Number	0	0 (IFR 2020)	-	-	90	210	Reported from PDP1
Number of bilateral workshops carried out	Number	0	0 (IFR 2020)	-	-	0	3	-
<b>Outcome 2: Access to contemporary arts improved</b>								
Indicator	Unit of measurement	Baseline	Achievements until end of previous reporting period	Achievements until end of December 2020			Target	Comment
				Numerator	Denominator	Value		
Annual number of people attending cultural activities	Annual number	3,615,897	3,615,897 (APR 2019)	-	-	10,815,911	4,000,000, Number of people attending in the last year of programme implementation. Attendance at theatres, theatre festivals, shows, concerts and live performances - Ministry of Culture Statistics	Number of visitors of theatres, theatre festivals, cinemans, movie festivals, concerts
Expenses of households on culture services	Number	58.41	-	-	-	0	60	-
<b>Output 2.1: Capacity of cultural players supported</b>								
Indicator	Unit of measurement	Baseline	Achievements until end of previous	Achievements until end of December 2020			Target	Comment
				Numerator	Denominator	Value		

			reporting period					
Number of artists and cultural experts directly involved or benefiting from the support	Number	0	0 (IFR 2020)	-	-	0	200	-
Number of entrepreneurship strategies developed and implemented	Number	0	0 (IFR 2020)	-	-	0	15	-
Number of cultural players (institutions) supported	Number	0	0 (IFR 2020)	-	-	0	20	-
<b>Output 2.2: Audience development supported</b>								
Indicator	Unit of measurement	Baseline	Achievements until end of previous reporting period	Achievements until end of December 2020			Target	Comment
				Numerator	Denominator	Value		
Number of events targeting audience development	Number	0	0 (IFR 2020)	-	-	0	30	-
Number of events dedicated to artistic freedom and/or freedom of expression	Number	0	0 (IFR 2020)	-	-	0	15	-
Number of educational institutions involved	Number	0	0 (IFR 2020)	-	-	0	10	-
Number of events focused on raising awareness about minority culture	Number	0	0 (IFR 2020)	-	-	0	15	-
<b>Bilateral Outcome: Enhanced collaboration between beneficiary and donor state entities involved in the programme</b>								
Indicator	Unit of measurement	Baseline	Achievements until end of previous reporting period	Achievements until end of December 2020			Target	Comment
				Numerator	Denominator	Value		
Level of satisfaction with the partnership	Scale 1-7	TBD, Survey to	-	-	-	-	4.50, Target is ≥4.5 and an	-

		be conducted by the FMO					increase on the baseline	
<i>State type</i>								
<i>Beneficiary State</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Donor State</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Not specified</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Level of trust between cooperating entities in Beneficiary States and Donor States</b>	Scale 1-7	TBD, Survey to be conducted by the FMO	-	-	-	-	4.50, Target is ≥4.5 and an increase on the baseline	-
<i>State type</i>								
<i>Beneficiary State</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Donor State</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Not specified</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Share of cooperating organisations that apply the knowledge acquired from bilateral partnership</b>	Percentage	N/A	-	-	-	-	50.00 %	-
<i>State type</i>								
<i>Beneficiary State</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Donor State</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Not specified</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Bilateral Output 1: Bilateral cultural cooperation supported</b>								
Indicator	Unit of measurement	Baseline	Achievements until end of previous reporting period	Achievements until end of December 2020			Target	Comment
				Numerator	Denominator	Value		

<b>Number of projects involving cooperation with a donor project partner</b>	Number	0	0 (IFR 2020)	-	-	21	30	-
<i>Donor State</i>								
<i>Norway</i>	-	-	-	-	-	14	-	-
<i>Iceland</i>	-	-	-	-	-	7	-	-
<i>Liechtenstein</i>	-	-	-	-	-	0	-	-
<i>Not specified</i>	-	-	-	-	-	0	-	-
<b>Number of bilateral activities targeting minorities</b>	Number	0	0 (IFR 2020)	-	-	0	10	-
<b>Number of joint cultural activities implemented</b>	Number	0	0 (IFR 2020)	-	-	0	25	-

## Annex 2: Communication summary

### a. Visibility of the Grants and the donors

To promote bilateral relations and cooperation with Donor States entities, as well as to make the cooperation with the Donor States more visible on the programme level, the Programme Operator elaborated the Communication Plan and acts in line with this document. With regards to the first Covid-19 pandemic wave and related restrictions, as well as continuous unfavourable situation in terms of travelling possibilities during the whole 2020 calendar year, the PO and NFP shall put in place new forms of communication and visibility measures.

During the reporting period and due to Covid-19 restrictions, the PO organised the publicity events only in online form. The PO organised two Information Day seminars for Slovak potential applicants within contemporary arts component (CLT03 call) on 3 and 4 December 2020. Altogether, 154 participants were registered for both Information Day seminars.

The PO organised the Match-making event for the same call on 9 December 2020 in close cooperation with the Arts Council Norway. 34 Slovak representatives and 12 Norwegian participants were registered for the event and used the possibility for close discussion and presentation of their proposals and ideas within 3 different thematic groups.

Publicity and communication indicators status:

Indicator	Current value	Target value
Number of reports and articles or reportages about the Programme in all types of media (national, regional and local)	27	20
Visiting rate of the Programme subpage under the websites <a href="http://www.eeagrants.sk">www.eeagrants.sk</a>	53,427	40,000
Number of seminars, conferences and other events carried out	10	8
Number of information publications/leaflets	0	3

Promotional videos were made for two pre-defined projects of the Monument Board of the SR – CLTPP001 and CLTPP002. Approximately 2-minutes-long videos give the general public a short overview of the projects, their focus, goals and aims, key activities, cooperation with project partners, as well as expected results.

### b. Communication with the National Focal Point

The PO is a member of the communication network of the National Focal Point. In the matter of publicity, the PO closely cooperates and coordinates its activities with the NFP to ensure that actual, clear and detailed information on the Programme is provided for all the target

groups. The communication between the PO and the NFP is nearly on a daily basis depending on the issue that is to be discussed. The NFP is also an observer in the Cooperation Committee, therefore is aware of any proposals or changes that are to be discussed/implemented.

### c. Website and social media

The Culture Programme webpage is a subpage of the national single web page for both FMs, managed by the NFP, hyperlinking via both addresses [www.eeagrants.sk](http://www.eeagrants.sk) and [www.norwaygrants.sk](http://www.norwaygrants.sk). The webpage is operated in Slovak and in English. The NFP administers a profile on Facebook under the title “Granty EHP a Nórska na Slovensku” <https://www.facebook.com/Granty-EHP-a-N%C3%B3rska-na-Slovensku-116525705145104>, where all major information of the Programme is published (in accordance of the internal rules of the PO/NFP’s organization). The news published on Culture programme are connected with the progress in Programme implementation and its milestones – Information Days for the calls, Matchmaking events, call launching, call closure and results of the calls.

From the technical point of view, all information (for example about the Calls or News) are automatically hyper-linked to main webpages generating this kind of information about all Calls or News under programmes implemented. This is why the PO can provide only general values of visits for main websites [www.eeagrants.sk](http://www.eeagrants.sk) and [www.norwaygrants.sk](http://www.norwaygrants.sk). Generally, in 2020 there were 53 427 visits recorded on the website [www.eeagrants.sk](http://www.eeagrants.sk) / [www.norwaygrants.sk](http://www.norwaygrants.sk) including 20,4 % returning visitors (recorded according to unique IP addresses) and 79,6 % new web visitors. In terms of methodology and statistics it is not relevant information value if the PO provides real number of visitors and other relevant numbers only in relation to visiting of programme sub-webpage. The NFP administers a profile on Facebook under the title “Granty EHP a Nórska na Slovensku”, where all major information of the Programme is published (in accordance of the internal rules of the PO/NFP’s organization) and also administers the Youtube channel under the title “Granty EHP a Nórska na Slovensku”.

With regard to the Programme content the focus is concentrated to the local and regional media as well as the national media and by all types of media (press, radio, TV, social media, website). The particular media is communicated in the co-operation with the Public Relations Department and Press Department of the Ministry of Investments, Regional Development and Informatization of the Slovak Republic and the press news for each communication activity is prepared ad-hoc.

Altogether 12 news were published on the website [www.eeagrants.sk](http://www.eeagrants.sk) and on Facebook page “Granty EHP a Nórska na Slovensku” regarding the Culture programme in 2020, namely on the evaluation of the closure of the open call CLT01 and Small grant scheme call CLT02, the results of the CLT01 and CLT02 calls and the update on the results of the CLT0101. Very important there were the news on the launching of the second small grants scheme with code CLT03, organising and registering for CLT03 Information seminar as well as for CLT03 Matchmaking Event.

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

#### **d. Best practice examples**

During the reporting period and due to Covid-19 restrictions, the PO had to find and implement in practise new digital ways of event and programme milestones organisation. The Selection Committee was organised without any delay for CLT01 and CLT02 in online format, as well as the Information Days and Matchmaking event for CLT03 call. As much as possible the electronic and digital communication had to be used for the further progress in Programme implementation.

#### **e. Multimedia**

Below you can find the videos of both pre-defined projects produced by the Strategic Action Unit of the Grants. Videos are in Slovak, but also with English subtitles.

CLTPP001: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YigfMI1BJWl>

CLTPP002: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=k7mRds\\_5AwA](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=k7mRds_5AwA)

### Annex 3: Overview of contracted projects

Outcome	Projects	#	# of donor project partners	Amount contracted	% of outcome budget contracted
<b>Outcome 1: Cultural heritage conditions enhanced</b>	Pre-defined	2	2	€ 2,500,000	13.53 %
	Contracted through open calls	12	12	€ 10,158,938	54.96 %
	Contracted through small grants scheme	0	0	€ 0	0.00 %
	<b>Total Outcome 1</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>€ 12,658,938</b>	<b>68.49 %</b>
<b>Outcome 2: Access to contemporary arts improved</b>	Pre-defined	0	0	€ 0	0.00 %
	Contracted through open calls	0	0	€ 0	0.00 %
	Contracted through small grants scheme	7	11	€ 1,158,547	38.62 %
	<b>Total Outcome 2</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>€ 1,158,547</b>	<b>38.62 %</b>
<b>Programme</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>€ 13,817,485</b>	<b>64.32 %</b>

## Annex 4: Risk management

Programmatic risks						
Risk description	Risk related to	Likelihood	Consequence	Risk score	Response type	Risk N/A
Delays in timeschedule such as delays of construction works due to weather conditions, problems with the suppliers, delays in public procurement etc.	Reducing social and economic disparities	3	3	3.00	Mitigate	No
	<b>Description of planned response</b>	The project implementation period should be long enough to minimize this risk.				
	<b>Description of actual response</b>	Given the relatively long time span of the Programme, there should be enough time for the implementation of projects. The delays however could be caused objectively due to Covid-19 restriction and several lockdowns in Slovakia				
	<b>Planned future response</b>	Not possible to describe currently. The PO will organize seminar for the Project Promoters and remind them the schedule and last day of project eligibility. The PO will also carry out a monitoring on Covid-19 impact on the projects implementation in Q1 2021.				
Complications during the construction works due to unexpected findings. It can result in a change of project documentation and the subsequent delay to the original schedule and changes in budget headings	Reducing social and economic disparities	3	2	2.45	Accept	No
	<b>Description of planned response</b>	The project implementation period should be long enough to minimize this risk.				
	<b>Description of actual response</b>	It is given relatively long time span of the Programme, there should be enough time for the implementation of projects.				
	<b>Planned future response</b>	Not possible to describe currently. The PO will organize seminar for the Project Promoters and remind them the schedule and last day of project eligibility. The PO will also carry out a monitoring on Covid-19 impact on the projects implementation in Q1 2021.				

Project sustainability after completion	Reducing social and economic disparities	1	2	1.41	Mitigate	No
	<b>Description of planned response</b>	The application for relevant projects should contain the description for the sustainability and the elaborated Entrepreneurial Strategy with the plan for sustainability.				
	<b>Description of actual response</b>	The selection process included the assessment of the clear entrepreneurial plan with the model of the sustainability of the project. The sustainability condition to maintain the project results and indicators achieved had been included in all project contracts signed.				
	<b>Planned future response</b>	The monitoring of the sustainability after the completion.				
Lack of freedom of public institutions to generate revenue	Reducing social and economic disparities	1	3	1.73	Mitigate	Yes
	<b>Description of planned response</b>	Not relevant after the project selection.				
	<b>Description of actual response</b>	The Programme Operator during the selection procedure assessed that the Project Promoters, as well as their founders, if relevant, understand the importance of the entrepreneurial aspect of the Programme. For this purpose, entrepreneurship plans were an integral part of Project Applications.				
	<b>Planned future response</b>	Not relevant.				
Delays in time schedule of projects due to Covid-19 pandemic restrictions etc.	Strengthening bilateral relations	2	3	2.45	Mitigate	No

	<b>Description of planned response</b>	Given the relatively long time span of the Programme, there should be enough time for the implementation of projects. The delays however could be caused objectively due to Covid-19 restriction and several lockdowns. The PO plans to monitor the timeschedule of the projects in terms of the implementation period and actual delays during 1st half a year 2021. The cultural projects events could be carried out online and in case of necessary physical participation, these will be postponed.				
<b>Operational risks</b>						
<b>Risk description</b>	<b>Risk related to</b>	<b>Likelihood</b>	<b>Consequence</b>	<b>Risk score</b>	<b>Response type</b>	<b>Risk N/A</b>
Project Promoters not committed to the project	Reducing social and economic disparities	1	2	1.41	Mitigate	Yes
	<b>Description of planned response</b>	Not relevant after the project selection.				
	<b>Description of actual response</b>	Not relevant after the project selection.				
	<b>Planned future response</b>	Not relevant				
Low attendance of monuments before as well as after the reconstruction	Reducing social and economic disparities	2	2	2.00	Mitigate	No
	<b>Description of planned response</b>	The project applications need to include clear description of future function of restored monument, the amount of visitors has to be monitored and reported on the project level				
	<b>Description of actual response</b>	Only restoration projects with a clear idea of the function of the building and the link of this function to revenue generation was proposed for funding by the SC and further approved by the PO.				

	<b>Planned future response</b>	The promotion of the restored monuments on the national level, the requirement to make powerful promotion.		
<b>Overall risk of the programme</b>				
	<b>Likelihood</b>	<b>Consequence</b>	<b>Risk score</b>	
OVERALL RISK OF THE PROGRAMME	3	2	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*