

# *ANNUAL PROGRAMME REPORT*

## *FM14-21*

Slovakia

SK-GOVERNANCE Cross-border Cooperation / Good Governance, Accountable  
Institutions, Transparency

2019

## A. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The main objective of the programme “Cross-border Cooperation/Good governance, Accountable Institutions, Transparency” is to improve the integrity and accountability of the public administration. The programme comprises of two programme areas - Good governance, accountable institutions and transparency and Effectiveness and efficiency of the judicial system and strengthening rule of law.

The programme area Good governance, accountable institutions and transparency is implemented through one Open call, one Call for Small Grants Scheme and three pre-defined projects. Both calls were launched on 16<sup>th</sup> September 2019 and are dedicated to find projects fostering institutional cross-border cooperation with Ukraine related to good governance, accountable institutions, transparency and contributing to improved integrity and accountability of public administration. While the Open call GGC01 is primarily dedicated to national cooperation between Slovak and Ukrainian public institutions to support larger scale initiatives, the Call for Small Grant Scheme GGC02 gives the opportunity to implement projects for grassroots initiatives, i.e. the opportunity for local and regional public institutions in Slovakia and Ukraine to implement the projects on a smaller scale.

The Open call GGC01 is open until 31<sup>st</sup> January 2020 and the Call for Small Grants Scheme GGC02 is open until 15<sup>th</sup> January. The selection process should take approximately 6 – 8 months and the Selection Committee Meeting is going to take place in the first half of 2020 (to be agreed with the members of the Selection Committee after the closure of both calls). Afterwards, the project contracts shall be concluded approximately by the end of September 2020.

The eligibility for all the three pre-defined projects started in 2019. The first pre-defined project GGCPP001 with the Project Promoter the Government office of the Slovak republic named “Improving Integrity of the Public Administration/IIPA” is focused on horizontal coordination in the public sector, targeting management of human resources in the area of integrity and anti-corruption measures in international cooperation with the OECD. The internal act replacing the project contract was issued on 10<sup>th</sup> December 2019. The second pre-defined project GGCPP003 with the Public Procurement Office as the Project Promoter named “Responsible public procurement” will contribute to a more effective system of public procurement, mainly through strengthening of the application of the value for money principle including the Most Economically Advantageous Tender (MEAT) criteria in international cooperation with the OECD. The project contract will be signed at the beginning of 2020. The third pre-defined project GGCPP004 with the Ministry of Interior of the Slovak republic as the Project Promoter named “TRIGLAV – Strengthen the fight against CBRN threats at the Slovak-Ukrainian border” will strengthen cross-border cooperation in order to enhance the detection and interception of illicit CBRN (chemical, biological, radioactive and nuclear) materials on the Slovakian-Ukrainian border. It is a continuation of a project funded under the “Cross-border Cooperation” programme implemented in the Slovak Republic under the 2009-2014 Norwegian Financial Mechanism. The project contract will be signed at the beginning of 2020.

The programme area Effectiveness and efficiency of the judicial system and strengthening rule of law is implemented through one pre-defined project. The pre-defined project GGCPP002

with the Project Promoter Ministry of Justice of the Slovak republic named “Enhancing the efficiency of the justice system through the protection/empowerment of victims and vulnerable parties” will contribute to the increased efficiency and quality of the judicial system in the area of protection of victims of crime and in the area of protection of minors within family law disputes. The eligibility of this pre-defined project started in 2019 and the project contract will be signed at the beginning of 2020.

As regards the risk assessment in 2019, the Programme Operator neither identified additional risks to the programme nor adjusted the existed ones in comparison with the risk assessment approved in 2018. Therefore, the overall risk of the programme has not changed.

Enhanced collaboration between beneficiary and donor state entities involved in the programme within the bilateral cooperation with donor states shall be fulfilled through Open call, Small Grant Scheme Call and a pre-defined project GGCPP004. It is supposed that at least four projects chosen within Open call and Small Grant Scheme call shall be in the cooperation with a donor project partner and 1/3 of all projects shall be implemented in trilateral partnerships between Slovakia, Ukraine and the Donor States.

The key public relation event in 2019 was the Launching conference organised by the Programme Operator which took place in Hotel Bôrik, Bratislava on 26<sup>th</sup> February 2019 with the participation with 80 people from across Slovakia, representatives from donor programme partner – the Norwegian Barents Secretariat, the representative of the international programme organisation – OECD as well as the representatives of Royal Norwegian Embassy to Slovakia.

## B. PERFORMANCE

### 1. Results

#### **Outcome 1: Integrity of public administration improved**

##### *Pre-defined projects*

Within the Outcome 1 of the programme there is one pre-defined project GGCPP001 named “Improving Integrity of the Public Administration/IIPA” being implemented. The Programme Operator informed the NFP about the positive appraisal of this pre-defined project on 12<sup>th</sup> September 2019 based on the appraisal carried out by the external company “Erudio s. r. o.”, chosen on the basis of the public procurement. Consequently, the NFP informed the FMC about the positive appraisal of this pre-defined project on the same day, i.e. on 12<sup>th</sup> September 2019, which is also the first date of the eligibility of the expenditures of the pre-defined project. As regards the Project Promoter, which is the same as the Programme Operator (the Government office of the SR) the article 7.6.2 of the Regulation must have been applied and the internal act on behalf of the project contract was issued on 10<sup>th</sup> December 2019. Although, the Project Promoter and OECD agreed on the final version of the partnership agreement at the beginning of December 2019, there has been a significant delay (approximately 3 months

in comparison with the planned date of issuing the internal act) caused by the ongoing discussions and negotiations (nearly one year long) over the final version of the partnership agreement between the Project Promoter and the Project Partner – OECD. The PO communicated with the Project Promoter almost on the daily basis since the discussions over the partnership agreement with the OECD had started and it is necessary to say that it has been challenging for the Project Promoter deal with the OECD as it has been very strict to follow their internal procedures. However, this is a lesson learned for the PO to urge the Project Promoters to initiate discussions over partnership agreements with international/intergovernmental organisations as soon as possible in the next programming period.

## **Outcome 2: Quality of the judicial system improved**

### *Pre-defined projects*

Within the Outcome 2 of the programme there is one pre-defined project GGCPP002 named “*Effectiveness and Efficiency of the Judicial System, Strengthening Rule of Law*” being implemented by the Ministry of Justice of the Slovak republic. There was a delay caused by the modification of the Programme Agreement and its Annexes as there had to be a change in the courts to be refurbished within this pre-defined project (some of the former courts are going to be completely reconstructed). Based on the positive appraisal of the pre-defined project carried out by the PO, the NFP was informed on 14<sup>th</sup> October 2019. Consequently, the NFP informed the FMC about the positive appraisal of this pre-defined project on the same day, i.e. on 14<sup>th</sup> October 2019, which is also the first date of the eligibility of the expenditures of the pre-defined project. Also there was a change in the budget, because the Project Promoter decided not to apply any indirect costs. This change of the project was approved on 11<sup>th</sup> November 2019. Afterwards, the PO received the acceptance to the grant offer letter on 9<sup>th</sup> December 2019 and started the preparation of the project contract. As soon as the final version of the project contract is prepared, the internal procedures for signing the project contract can start. It is supposed to have the project contract signed at the beginning of 2020.

## **Outcome 3: Slovak-Ukrainian institutional cooperation enhanced**

### *Pre-defined projects*

Within the Outcome 3 of the programme there shall be one pre-defined project GGCPP004 named “*TRIGLAV- Strengthen the fight against CBRN threats at the Slovakian-Ukrainian border*” implemented by the Ministry of Interior of the Slovak republic. Based on the positive appraisal of the pre-defined project carried out by the PO, the NFP was informed on 28<sup>th</sup> November 2019. Consequently, the NFP informed the FMC about the positive appraisal of this pre-defined project on 29<sup>th</sup> November 2019, which is also the first date of the eligibility of the expenditures of the pre-defined project. The PO sent the grant offer letter to the Project Promoter on 27<sup>th</sup> December 2019 and is currently waiting for the acceptance of the grant offer letter from the Project Promoter. After the acceptance of the grant offer letter is received, the PO shall start preparing the project contract. It is supposed to have the project contract signed at the beginning of 2020.

## **Outcome 4: Increased application of the Value for Money principle in public procurement**

### *Pre-defined projects*

Within the Outcome 4 of the programme there is one pre-defined project GGCPP003 named “Responsible public procurement” being implemented by the Public Procurement Office. Based on the positive appraisal of the pre-defined project carried out by the PO, the NFP was informed on 16<sup>th</sup> July 2019. Consequently, the NFP informed the FMC about the positive appraisal of this pre-defined project on 16<sup>th</sup> July 2019, which is also the first date of the eligibility of the expenditures of the pre-defined project. The PO received the acceptance of the grant offer letter on 26<sup>th</sup> August 2019. The situation here was the same as with the GGCPP001, there has been a significant delay (approximately 6 months in comparison with the planned date project contract signature) caused by the ongoing discussions and negotiations (nearly one year long) over the final version of the partnership agreement between the Project Promoter and the project partner – OECD. The PO communicated with the Project Promoter almost on the daily basis since the discussions over the partnership agreement with the OECD had started and it is necessary to say that it has been challenging for the Project Promoter deal with the OECD as it has been very strict to follow their internal procedures.

As soon as the Project Promoter and the OECD agreed on the final version of the partnership agreement in December 2019, the PO started the preparation of the project contract. As soon as the final version of the project contract is prepared, the internal procedures for signing the project contract can start. It is supposed to have the project contract signed at the beginning of 2020.

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

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

Forasmuch as the implementation phase of the programme has only started, there has been only one pre-defined initiative GGCBFPI-01 implemented within the Bilateral Fund on the programme level. It is a bilateral pre-defined initiative of the Norwegian Barents Secretariat named “Study trip to Slovakia and participation at match making event”. The aim of the predefined bilateral initiative was to undergo a Study trip to Slovakia and to participate in the Match-making event in Košice organized by the Programme Operator. Within the initiative the representatives from 4 institutions from Norway, namely Troms County Youth Council, Nord University Business School, Nordland County Council and Municipal Development Company (Sør-Varanger municipality) have participated in several meetings with Slovak institution and established the base for the potential future cooperation. The initiative took place from 23<sup>rd</sup> to 27<sup>th</sup> September 2019.

The low interest in the call for bilateral relations is closely related with the expected low interest in the Open Call and Small Grant Scheme call caused by the narrow focus of both calls, which are aimed only at public institutions as eligible applicants and mandatory Ukrainian partners (in comparison with the previous period when all the subjects including NGOs were

eligible to apply and the programme was focused on cross-border cooperation with Ukraine generally). While the PO has repeatedly approached all potential Project Promoters via emails, through letters from the Head of the Government Office as well as through the Launching conference, call's Information day and a Match-making seminar, the cooperation with the Ukraine seems not to be an attractive topic for the Slovak entities in this area.

The Cooperation Committee Meeting took place on 25<sup>th</sup> February 2019 at the premises of the Programme Operator in Bratislava with the participation of representatives from the DPP, IPO, NFP and the Royal Norwegian Embassy to Slovakia. The meeting was constructive and very fruitful, the implementation steps and information on selection procedure and pre-defined projects were presented along with the initiatives for the Bilateral Fund at programme level. The next CCM should take place along with the Selection Committee Meetings which are supposed to be in the 1<sup>st</sup> half of 2020.

The overall cooperation, day-to-day communication as well as communication through the Cooperation Committee with the DPP – the Norwegian Barents Secretariat – is very good. Regarding the narrow focus of the programme encouragement of the bilateral cooperation is supposed to be more challenging for both (the PO and the DPP).

## 2. Implementation

### Conformity with specific requirements

General condition no.1 - The maximum level of funding available from the total eligible expenditure of the programme for infrastructure (hard measures) shall be 30%.

- this condition shall be fulfilled as both calls and all the four pre-defined projects altogether shall not exceed the maximum level of funding for infrastructure set in the Annex I to the Programme Agreement. The Programme Operator shall follow this condition during the whole implementation of the Programme as well.

General condition no.2 - For pre-defined project no. 1 (numbering under Section 5.1 of Annex II to the Programme Agreement), the National Focal Point shall ensure that the Programme Operator ensures that the appraisal foreseen in Article 6.5.3 of the Regulation is externalised and carried out by a legal entity independent of and unrelated to the Programme Operator

- this condition has already been fulfilled. The appraisal for the project GGCPP001 foreseen in Article 6.5.3 of the Regulation was carried out by the external company named Erudio s. r. o. that was chosen based on the results of the public procurement. Erudio s. r. o. evaluated the pre-defined project and submitted the detailed appraisal report to the Programme Operator on 5<sup>th</sup> September 2019.

General condition no. 3 - For pre-defined project no. 1 (numbering under Section 5.1 of Annex II to the Programme Agreement), the Programme Operator's responsibilities regarding the verification of payment claims described in Article 5.6.1 e) of the Regulation, and the verification of the project outputs described in Article 5.6.1 g) of the Regulation, shall be externalised and be carried out by a legal entity independent of and unrelated to the

Programme Operator. The project interim and final reports shall be approved by this entity. No interim or final payment shall be made to the project until the respective project interim or final report is approved by this entity

- public procurement for an external company responsible for the verification of payment claims described in Article 5.6.1 e) of the Regulation and the verification of the project outputs described in Article 5.6.1 g) of the Regulation is being prepared and shall be finalized by the beginning of 2020.

General condition no. 4 - The National Focal Point shall ensure that the Programme Operator ensures that project promoters:

- Keep any buildings purchased, constructed, renovated or reconstructed under the project in their ownership for a period of at least 5 years following the completion of the project and continue to use such buildings for the benefit of the overall objectives of the project for the same period;
- Keep any buildings purchased, constructed, renovated or reconstructed under the project properly insured against losses such as fire, theft and other normally insurable incidents both during project implementation and for at least 5 years following the completion of the project; and
- Set aside appropriate resources for the maintenance of any buildings purchased, constructed, renovated or reconstructed under the project for at least 5 years following the completion of the project. The specific means for implementation of this obligation shall be specified in the project contract.

- abovementioned conditions shall be fulfilled. The Programme Operator included relevant conditions in Project Contact to be signed and shall also follow it during the whole implementation of the Programme.

General condition no. 5 - For the outcome 3 indicator “Level of (self-reported) knowledge among Ukrainian participants involved in cooperation with SK (on issues related to procurement, justice, etc.) targeted by projects’ activities”, where the baseline value is “to be determined” (TBD), the Programme Operator shall submit to the FMO for approval the baseline value, together with a description of the data collection method used, no later than 6 months after the finalisation of the selection of projects under Open call and the Call of the Small Grant Scheme. The updated baseline value shall be agreed upon through a modification of the programme agreement.

- in each project it shall be mandatory for the Project promoter to conduct a survey in order to determine the level of knowledge (self-reported) between Ukrainian participants involved in the cooperation with Slovakia on issues related to procurement, justice, etc. This survey shall have to be realized by the Project Promoter at the beginning of the project (i.e. before the implementation of the activities for strengthening Slovak-Ukrainian institutional cooperation) and at the end of the project (i.e. after the implementation of the activities for strengthening Slovak-Ukrainian institutional cooperation) pursuant to the instruction of the Programme Operator. The potential applicants have been informed about this need in the text of the calls.

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

Within the programme Good Governance and Cross-border Cooperation the Programme Operator cooperates with the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD). OECD is also a project partner to two of the pre-defined project GGCPP001 and GGCPP003 and it is important to point out that there has been a slight delay in the process of preparation of the partnership agreement between OECD and Project Promoters – The Government office of the Slovak republic and the Public procurement office which has taken over one year. As of now the final version of the partnership agreement is being approved within the internal procedures of the organisations, and shall be signed soon.

## **C. LEARNING**

### **1. Monitoring**

Forasmuch as there have been no project contracts signed during 2019 no monitoring has been conducted.

### **2. Evaluation**

Forasmuch as there have been no project contracts signed during 2019 no evaluation has been conducted.

### **3. Lessons learned**

Pursuant to the fact that the implementation phase of the programme at project level has not fully started yet. The PO expects that more room for this part shall be in the next phases of the implementation.

## **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: Integrity and accountability of public administration improved								
Outcome 1: Integrity of public administration improved								
Indicator	Unit of measurement	Baseline	Achievements until end of previous reporting period	Achievements until end of December 2019			Target	Comment
				Numerator	Denominator	Value		
Control of Corruption indicator score (CCI - World Bank)	Number	62.02	-	-	-	0	65	The project GGCPP001 only started at the end of 2019. Interim project report has not been submitted yet.
Corruption perception index score (Transparency International)	Number	54	-	-	-	0	49	The project GGCPP001 only started at the end of 2019. Interim project report has not been submitted yet.
Annual number of detected corruption cases registered by the Ministry of Interior	Number	367	-	-	-	0	500	The project GGCPP001 only started at the end of 2019. Interim project report has not been submitted yet.
Output 1.1: Measures to improve integrity of public administration implemented								
Indicator	Unit of measurement	Baseline	Achievements until end of previous reporting period	Achievements until end of December 2019			Target	Comment
				Numerator	Denominator	Value		
Number of capacity building workshops organised	Number	0	-	-	-	0	3	-
Number of line ministries whose policies in the field of integrity of public administration are coordinated	Number	0	-	-	-	0	5	-
Number of public servants lectured on ethical conduct	Number	0	-	-	-	0	350	-

<i>Gender</i>								
<i>Female</i>	-	-	-	-	-	0	-	-
<i>Male</i>	-	-	-	-	-	0	-	-
<i>Not specified</i>	-	-	-	-	-	0	-	-
<b>Public Integrity Review conducted</b>	Binary	No	-	-	-	No	Yes	-
<b>Set of standards to measure the integrity of public administration developed</b>	Binary	No	-	-	-	No	Yes	-
<b>Outcome 2: Quality of the judicial system improved</b>								
Indicator	Unit of measurement	Baseline	Achievements until end of previous reporting period	Achievements until end of December 2019			Target	Comment
				Numerator	Denominator	Value		
<b>Number of beneficiaries of services provided or improved</b>	Number	0	-	-	-	0	360	The project GCPP002 only started at the end of 2019. Interim project report has not been submitted yet.
<b>Number of family law cases prosecuted by the courts which are supported by the programme</b>	Number	0	-	-	-	0	120	The project GCPP002 only started at the end of 2019. Interim project report has not been submitted yet.
<b>Number of professionals trained who self-report increased competence and capacity for working with victims of crimes and protection of minors</b>	Number	N/A	-	Reported 2022, 2024			180	-
<b>Output 2.1: Quality of family law prosecution improved</b>								
Indicator	Unit of measurement	Baseline	Achievements until end of previous reporting period	Achievements until end of December 2019			Target	Comment
				Numerator	Denominator	Value		
<b>Number of court premises refurbished</b>	Number	0	-	-	-	0	8	-

Number of educational programmes for mediators and judges developed	Number	0	-	-	-	0	1	-
<b>Output 2.2: Access to the justice for the victims improved</b>								
Indicator	Unit of measurement	Baseline	Achievements until end of previous reporting period	Achievements until end of December 2019			Target	Comment
				Numerator	Denominator	Value		
Number of educational programmes for judges and prosecutors, focused on improving handling victims	Number	0	-	-	-	0	2	-
Number of enforcement officers trained	Number	0	-	-	-	0	36	-
Number of inter-ministerial meetings promoting cooperation on the protection of the rights of the victim	Number	0	-	-	-	0	30	-
<b>Outcome 3: Slovak-Ukrainian institutional cooperation enhanced</b>								
Indicator	Unit of measurement	Baseline	Achievements until end of previous reporting period	Achievements until end of December 2019			Target	Comment
				Numerator	Denominator	Value		
Level of (self-reported) knowledge among Ukrainian participants involved in cooperation with SK (on issues related to procurement, justice, etc.) targeted by projects' activities	Scale 1-10	TBD	-	-	-	1	(+100%)	Survey shall be realized by the Project Promoter at the beginning of the project and at the end of the project. The basement values nor actual values have been determined yet.
Number of cooperation partnerships remaining between Slovak and Ukrainian Line Ministries at completion of the programme	Number	0	-	-	-	0	5	-
<b>Output 3.1: Measures fostering Slovak-Ukrainian cooperation implemented</b>								

Indicator	Unit of measurement	Baseline	Achievements until end of previous reporting period	Achievements until end of December 2019			Target	Comment
				Numerator	Denominator	Value		
Number of best practices transferred in the field of transparency from Slovakia to Ukraine	Number	0	-	-	-	0	10	-
Number of people attending joint workshops organised between Slovak and Ukrainian public sector entities	Number	0	-	-	-	0	500	-
<i>Gender</i>								
<i>Female</i>	-	-	-	-	-	0	-	-
<i>Male</i>	-	-	-	-	-	0	-	-
<i>Not specified</i>	-	-	-	-	-	0	-	-
Number of secondments from Ukraine to Slovakia	Number	0	-	-	-	0	20	-
<b>Output 3.2: Measures fostering Slovak-Ukrainian-Norwegian institutional cooperation related to CBRN (chemical, biological, radioactive, nuclear) safety</b>								
Indicator	Unit of measurement	Baseline	Achievements until end of previous reporting period	Achievements until end of December 2019			Target	Comment
				Numerator	Denominator	Value		
CBRN defence education and training systems for Security Forces of Ukraine established	Binary	No	-	-	-	No	Yes	-
Number of assessments of the current status of Internal Acts in the field of CBRN safety and cross-border flow of information	Number	0	-	-	-	0	2	-
Number of exercises of Slovak security forces with international observation	Number	0	-	-	-	0	1	-
Number of international exercises conducted	Number	0	-	-	-	0	1	-

<b>Number of private sector representatives trained on handling illicit CBRN materials</b>	Number	0	-	-	-	0	45	-
<i>Gender</i>								
<i>Female</i>	-	-	-	-	-	0	-	-
<i>Male</i>	-	-	-	-	-	0	-	-
<i>Not specified</i>	-	-	-	-	-	0	-	-
<b>Number of Slovak police specialists educated and trained</b>	Number	0	-	-	-	0	160	-
<i>Gender</i>								
<i>Female</i>	-	-	-	-	-	0	-	-
<i>Male</i>	-	-	-	-	-	0	-	-
<i>Not specified</i>	-	-	-	-	-	0	-	-
<b>Number of Ukrainian Security Forces specialists educated and trained</b>	Number	0	-	-	-	0	100	-
<i>Gender</i>								
<i>Female</i>	-	-	-	-	-	0	-	-
<i>Male</i>	-	-	-	-	-	0	-	-
<i>Not specified</i>	-	-	-	-	-	0	-	-
<b>Outcome 4: Increased application of the Value for Money principle in public procurement</b>								
Indicator	Unit of measurement	Baseline	Achievements until end of previous reporting period	Achievements until end of December 2019			Target	Comment
				Numerator	Denominator	Value		
<b>Average number of bidders in public procurements</b>	Annual number	3.60	-	-	-	0	4	The project GGCPP003 only started at the end of 2019. Interim project report has not been submitted yet.
<b>Number of cases in which the pre-tender market consultations have been used</b>	Number	0	-	-	-	0	50	-
<b>Share of public procurements using MEAT criteria</b>	Percentage	20.00 %	-	-	-	-	40.00 %	The project GGCPP003 only started at the end of 2019.

								Interim project report has not been submitted yet.
<b>Output 4.1: MEAT ("Most Economically Advantageous Tenders") criteria applied</b>								
Indicator	Unit of measurement	Baseline	Achievements until end of previous reporting period	Achievements until end of December 2019			Target	Comment
				Numerator	Denominator	Value		
Number of professional chambers and institutions involved in the preparation of the standards/templates	Number	0	-	-	-	0	3	-
Number of standards/templates for the application of MEAT criteria developed	Number	0	-	-	-	0	6	-
Number of workshops for the biggest Contracting Authorities on MEAT criteria	Number	0	-	-	-	0	6	-
<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 2019			Target	Comment
				Numerator	Denominator	Value		
Level of satisfaction with the partnership	Scale 1-7	TBD	-	-	-	1	≥4.5, and an increase on the baseline	It was not possible to write TBD, only numbers above 1 were accepted. This shall be determined by the Project Promoted via the survey
<i>State type</i>								
<i>Beneficiary State</i>	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
<i>Donor State</i>	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
<i>Not specified</i>	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
Level of trust between cooperating entities in Beneficiary States and Donor States	Scale 1-7	TBD	-	-	-	1	≥4.5, and an increase	It was not possible to write TBD, only numbers above 1 were accepted. This shall be

							on the baseline	determined by the Project Promoted via the survey
<i>State type</i>								
<i>Beneficiary State</i>	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
<i>Donor State</i>	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
<i>Not specified</i>	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
<b>Share of cooperating organisations that apply the knowledge acquired from bilateral partnership</b>	Percentage	N/A	-	-	-	-	≥50%	-
<i>State type</i>								
<i>Beneficiary State</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Donor State</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Not specified</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Bilateral Output 1: Cooperation between Donor and Beneficiary State entities supported</b>								
Indicator	Unit of measurement	Baseline	Achievements until end of previous reporting period	Achievements until end of December 2019			Target	Comment
				Numerator	Denominator	Value		
<b>Number of projects involving cooperation with a donor project partner</b>	Number	0	-	-	-	0	4	-
<i>Donor State</i>								
<i>Norway</i>	-	-	-	-	-	0	-	-
<i>Iceland</i>	-	-	-	-	-	0	-	-
<i>Liechtenstein</i>	-	-	-	-	-	0	-	-
<i>Not specified</i>	-	-	-	-	-	0	-	-
<b>Number of staff from the beneficiary country participating in study visits to Norway</b>	Number	0	-	-	-	0	36	-
<b>Share of projects implemented in trilateral partnerships between Slovakia, Ukraine and the Donor States</b>	Percentage	0.00 %	-	0	0	-	33.30 %	-

## Annex 2: Communication summary

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

Communication plan for the programme Good governance and Cross-border cooperation has been elaborated on the programme operator's level and the Programme Operator proceeds in line with this approved document. The PO has not identified the need to update this document in 2019. The Programme Operator communicates its dissemination and publicity activities with Royal Norwegian Embassy to Slovakia and the Press Department of the Government Office of SR.

In line with the approved communication plan and the abovementioned, the Programme Operator organized the Launching conference for the GGC programme on 26<sup>th</sup> February 2019 with the participation of DPP, IPO, Royal Norwegian Embassy to Slovakia and with over 85 participants from all over Slovakia. The aim of the Launching conference was to inform about the programme, pre-defined projects, planned open calls, planned events and to raise awareness about EEA and Norway grants in Slovakia.

On 26<sup>th</sup> September 2019 the Government Office of the SR as the Programme Operator organized in Košice an Information day and Match-making event for Open Call GGC01 and Call for Small Grant Scheme GGC02. Apart from potential applicants and potential project partners from Slovakia and Ukraine, potential project partners from Norway participated as well. During the event, the participants were given an opportunity to meet and communicate with altogether four potential project partners from Norway, namely Troms County Youth Council, Nord University Business School, Nordland County Council and Municipal Development Company (Sør-Varanger municipality).

The Norwegian Barents Secretariat realized an initiative named "Study trip to Slovakia and participation at match making event". The aim of the predefined bilateral initiative was to undergo a Study trip to Slovakia and to participate in the Match-making event in Košice organized by the Programme Operator. Within the initiative the representatives from 4 institutions from Norway, namely Troms County Youth Council, Nord University Business School, Nordland County Council and Municipal Development Company (Sør-Varanger municipality) have participated in several meetings with Slovak institution and established the base for the potential future cooperation. The initiative took place from 23<sup>rd</sup> to 27<sup>th</sup> September 2019.

In the table below you can find the indicators set in the Communication plan and their actual values.

Indicator	Initial value	Actual value	Target value
Number of reports and articles or reportages about the Programme in all types of media (national, regional and local)	0	6	10



Visiting rate of the Programme subpage under the websites <a href="http://www.eegrants.sk">www.eegrants.sk</a> / <a href="http://www.norwaygrants.sk">www.norwaygrants.sk</a>	0	52 892	50,000
Number of seminars, conferences and other events carried out	0	2	5
Number of information publications/leaflets	0	0	5
Other information and publicity activities carried out by the Programme Operator	TBD	TBD	

### b. Communication with the National Focal Point

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

### c. Website and social media

The Cross-border Cooperation/Good governance, Accountable Institutions, Transparency Programme webpage is a subpage of the national single web page for both FMIs, managed by the NFP, hyperlinking via both addresses [www.eegrants.sk](http://www.eegrants.sk) and [www.norwaygrants.sk](http://www.norwaygrants.sk).

From the technical point of view, all information (for example about Calls or News) are automatically hyper-linked to main webpages generating this kind of information about all Calls or News under programmes implemented. This is why the PO can provide only general values of visits for main websites [www.eegrants.sk](http://www.eegrants.sk) and [www.norwaygrants.sk](http://www.norwaygrants.sk). Generally, in 2019 there were 52 892 visits recorded on the website [www.eegrants.sk](http://www.eegrants.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 Programme Operator 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).

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 PR Department and Press Department of the Government Office of SR and the press news for each communication activity is prepared ad-hoc. Altogether 6 news were published on the website [www.eegrants.sk](http://www.eegrants.sk) and on Facebook page "Granty EHP a Nórska na Slovensku" regarding the

GGC programme in 2019, namely on the information about the Launching conference of the programme, status of the launch of the programme, the information about the Information day and Match-making event in Košice, the launch of both calls and the information about the possibilities to find Norwegian and Ukrainian project partners.

As regards the information about the launch of both calls, GGC01 and GGC02, besides using website and Facebook for spreading the information on the launch of the calls, the PO after the discussion with the Strategic Actions Unit of EEA and Norway Grants and the Press Department of the Government office of the SR, decided to use press media as well, at the local as well as at the national scale, in order to reach as many potential applicants and project partners as possible.

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

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

N/A. The PdPs started the implementation at the end of 2019; this point is therefore not relevant yet.

#### **e. Multimedia**

Below you can find an interview (only in Slovak) for the Slovak national radio with the Head of the EEA and Norway Grants Programmes Operation Unit Ms. Dacková and with the ambassador at large for grants from the European Economic Area Financial Mechanism, the Norwegian Financial Mechanism and the Swiss Financial Mechanism Mr. Kašický, during the Information day and Match-making event in Košice on 26<sup>th</sup> September 2019

<https://www.rtvs.sk/radio/archiv/11204/1211479>

Below you can find a video interview with the Head of the EEA and Norway Grants Programmes Operation Unit Ms. Dacková on the calls launched within the programme Good governance and cross-border cooperation (in Slovak language)

<https://www.facebook.com/116525705145104/videos/2539964112959431/>

### Annex 3: Overview of contracted projects

Outcome	Projects	#	# of donor project partners	Amount contracted	% of outcome budget contracted
<b>Outcome 1: Integrity of public administration improved</b>	Pre-defined	1	0	€ 1,500,000	100.00 %
	Contracted through open calls	0	0	€ 0	0.00 %
	Contracted through small grants scheme	0	0	€ 0	0.00 %
	<b>Total Outcome 1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>€ 1,500,000</b>	<b>100.00 %</b>
<b>Outcome 2: Quality of the judicial system improved</b>	Pre-defined	0	0	€ 0	0.00 %
	Contracted through open calls	0	0	€ 0	0.00 %
	Contracted through small grants scheme	0	0	€ 0	0.00 %
	<b>Total Outcome 2</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>€ 0</b>	<b>0.00 %</b>
<b>Outcome 3: Slovak-Ukrainian institutional cooperation enhanced</b>	Pre-defined	0	0	€ 0	0.00 %
	Contracted through open calls	0	0	€ 0	0.00 %
	Contracted through small grants scheme	0	0	€ 0	0.00 %
	<b>Total Outcome 3</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>€ 0</b>	<b>0.00 %</b>
<b>Outcome 4: Increased application of the Value for Money principle in public procurement</b>	Pre-defined	0	0	€ 0	0.00 %
	Contracted through open calls	0	0	€ 0	0.00 %
	Contracted through small grants scheme	0	0	€ 0	0.00 %
	<b>Total Outcome 4</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>€ 0</b>	<b>0.00 %</b>
<b>Programme</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>€ 1,500,000</b>	<b>16.30 %</b>

## Annex 4: Risk management

Programmatic risks						
Risk description	Risk related to	Likelihood	Consequence	Risk score	Response type	Risk N/A?
Results achieved may not be very visible since the perception of judiciary system is low	Reducing social and economic disparities	2	2	2.00	Mitigate	No
	<b>Description of planned response</b>	Promotion of the achieved results on the websites and in the media, organizing workshops (involving organisations that monitor these issues as guests) in order to disseminate results and information.				
	<b>Description of actual response</b>	The project GGCPP002 started at the end of 2019 and the project contract shall be signed at the beginning of 2020.				
	<b>Planned future response</b>	Promotion of the achieved results on the websites and in the media, organizing workshops (involving organisations that monitor these issues as guests) in order to disseminate results and information.				
Difficulties in concluding financial partnerships with public institutions in Ukraine due to legislation (centralization in Ukraine)	Reducing social and economic disparities	3	3	3.00	Accept	No
	<b>Description of planned response</b>	Some public organizations have set up a sort of NGO through which they are able to participate in such projects without bigger issues				
	<b>Description of actual response</b>	The project GGCPP004 has chosen a project partner in Ukraine, and NGO through which they are able to accept the grand for all the project partners in Ukraine.				

	<b>Planned future response</b>	Some public organizations have set up a sort of NGO through which they are able to participate in such projects without bigger issues.				
Issues connected with financial flows to Ukrainian institutions	Reducing social and economic disparities	3	2	2.45	Accept	No
	<b>Description of planned response</b>	This risk solely depends on the state system and the PO is not able to affect national procedures set by Ukraine				
	<b>Description of actual response</b>	This risk solely depends on the state system and the PO is not able to affect national procedures set by Ukraine				
	<b>Planned future response</b>	This risk solely depends on the state system and the PO is not able to affect national procedures set by Ukraine				
Allocation of Operational Programme "Effective Public Administration" within EU funds that is over 335 million EUR may reduce the number of eligible project promoters and project partners for Transparency Programme	Reducing social and economic disparities	2	2	2.00	Mitigate	No
	<b>Description of planned response</b>	It is generally known that administrative burden of the EU funds is far higher than in Norway Grants. If the level of administrative burden in Norway grants does not change, more eligible Project Promoters and Project Partners might be attracted to apply for grants. Moreover there is open EEA and Norway Fund for regional cooperation. As the amount of project grants in the Transparency programme is smaller, it means the amount of co-financing is not so high. This could attract the stakeholders in Slovakia.				

	<b>Description of actual response</b>	The PO has tried not to worsen the administrative burden for the applicants, even tried to simplify the procedures where possible.				
	<b>Planned future response</b>	It is generally known that administrative burden of the EU funds is far higher than in Norway Grants. If the level of administrative burden in Norway grants does not change, more eligible Project Promoters and Project Partners might be attracted to apply for grants. Moreover there is open EEA and Norway Fund for regional cooperation. As the amount of project grants in the Transparency programme is smaller, it means the amount of co-financing is not so high. This could attract the stakeholders in Slovakia.				
Low interest of Ukrainian partners in the programme	Reducing social and economic disparities	2	3	2.45	Mitigate	No
	<b>Description of planned response</b>	Financial involvement of public institutions can be possible through their NGOs which make it easier. The possibility to be financially engaged in the projects should be motivating for the UA organizations. Not strict rules for the involvement of UA partner into the projects enable the UA partners to decide in what way they would take part (based on advantages and disadvantages of different involvements)				
	<b>Description of actual response</b>	The PO has repeatedly approached all potential Project Promoters via emails, through letters from the Head of the Government Office and potential project partners from Ukraine through the Launching conference, calls' Information day and a Match-making seminar.				
	<b>Planned future response</b>	Financial involvement of public institutions can be possible through their NGOs which make it easier. The possibility to be financially engaged in the projects should be motivating for the UA organizations. Not strict rules for the involvement of UA partner into the projects enable the UA partners to decide in what way they would take part (based on advantages and disadvantages of different involvements).				
<b>Operational risks</b>						

Risk description	Risk related to	Likelihood	Consequence	Risk score	Response type	Risk N/A?
Judges not interested in specialized trainings	Reducing social and economic disparities	2	2	2.00	Mitigate	No
	<b>Description of planned response</b>	Raising attractiveness of specialized trainings provided (skilled and reputable experts in the field as lecturers)				
	<b>Description of actual response</b>	The GGCPP002 started at the end of 2019, as of now we do not have any information on this matter.				
	<b>Planned future response</b>	Raising attractiveness of specialized trainings provided (skilled and reputable experts in the field as lecturers).				
Complications caused by unawareness of legislation and inability to keep up with the amendments of the legislation of other states	Reducing social and economic disparities	3	3	3.00	Mitigate	No
	<b>Description of planned response</b>	The PO will encourage the UA partners to choose submission of proof of expenditure by way of the reports by an independent auditor qualified to carry out statutory audits of accounting documents. The PO will also be in close touch with the project promoters to know about the potential complications. The PO will cooperate with the relevant organizations responsible for the CBC in Slovakia and Ukrainian embassy in Slovakia				
	<b>Description of actual response</b>	The PO did encouraged the UA partners (as well as others) to choose the submission of proof of expenditure by the way of the reports by an independent auditor.				

	<b>Planned future response</b>	The PO will encourage the UA partners to choose submission of proof of expenditure by way of the reports by an independent auditor qualified to carry out statutory audits of accounting documents. The PO will also be in close touch with the project promoters to know about the potential complications. The PO will cooperate with the relevant organizations responsible for the CBC in Slovakia and Ukrainian embassy in Slovakia.				
Frequent changes of representatives in state and regional administration	Reducing social and economic disparities	3	2	2.45	Accept	No
	<b>Description of planned response</b>	This risk solely depends on the state system and delegation of its authority				
	<b>Description of actual response</b>	The PO can not influence this risk.				
	<b>Planned future response</b>	This risk solely depends on the state system and delegation of its authority.				
Time constraints in the projects implementation	Reducing social and economic disparities	3	3	3.00	Mitigate	No
	<b>Description of planned response</b>	The circulation of documentation is prolonged when there are partners from other countries involved. Documentation translation requires a lot of time as well. This has to be taken cognisance of from the very beginning by the PO and project promoters and partners				
	<b>Description of actual response</b>	The planned response applies here as well.				



	<b>Planned future response</b>	The circulation of documentation is prolonged when there are partners from other countries involved. Documentation translation requires a lot of time as well. This has to be taken cognisance of from the very beginning by the PO and project promoters and partners.		
<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	