

# *ANNUAL PROGRAMME REPORT*

## *FM14-21*

Slovakia

SK-LOCALDEV Local Development, Poverty Reduction and Roma Inclusion

2020

## A. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The programme Local Development, Poverty Reduction and Roma Inclusion contributes to fostering local development and to reducing poverty, with a strong focus on vulnerable groups at high risk of exclusion, such as Roma. It shall implement cost-efficient and sustainable measures that integrate education, housing, employment, health and non-discrimination components.

The Programme is implemented through two Open calls, one Small Grants Scheme Call and one pre-defined project.

All the calls were launched in 2020 – in July, September and November. Aim of the first call LDI01 is to support projects enhancing access of vulnerable children and youth in disadvantaged areas to a broader range of extra-curricular activities to improve their personal development and provide them with skills increasing their chances to succeed in society. Supported projects shall create multifunctional youth centres in the Least Developed Districts. The call LDI01 was closed on 30<sup>th</sup> November 2020. Altogether 20 project applications were submitted in amount of 16 209 549 €; 8 out of them are planned to be implemented in cooperation with a Norwegian partner. The selection committee meeting is scheduled for 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2021.

The call LDI02 and Small Grants Scheme call LDI03 will be closed in 2021. They both are focused on Roma Inclusion and their Empowerment.

The year 2020 has been affected mainly by Covid-19 pandemic situation and it has also affected the implementation of the Programme. The deadlines for the project applications submission within the calls LDI01 and LDI02 were postponed. The bilateral call for search a partner for project applications submission within the call LDI01 was unsuccessful. Other planned bilateral calls related to the calls LDI02 and LDI03 were not launched. The Information Days for the calls and Matchmaking Event were hold on-line. The project partner of the predefined project LDIPP001 *“Innovative education of teachers to increase their intercultural competences in the education process of Roma pupils”* the Nansen Centre for Peace and Dialog decided not to continue in the cooperation because of the Covid-19 situation impacts.

The pre-defined project LDIPP001 of the National Institute of Education is focused on increasing the professional competencies of pedagogical staff and professionals, school management and through the development of professional publications and methodologies to support intercultural education in schools with students from Roma communities. The project was positively appraised by the Programme Operator and its eligibility started in May 2020. The project contract was signed on 7<sup>th</sup> September 2020.

One of the first educational activities successfully implemented within the project was the *Training for Trainers in Human Rights and Democratic Citizenship*. As part of the activity: *Preparing teachers for the language exam in the Romani language* an analysis of legislative documents dealing with the education of pedagogical staff was performed.

Author teams were set up for the Roma - Slovak teaching materials and the methodology of the historical reading book *Looking for the Past of the Roma* within the activity of *teaching*

*materials*. Currently, the author's teams are working on the content of the Romani-Slovak reading book for the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> level of elementary school and the content of the textbook for the Romani language. All planned international workshops have been postponed due to pandemic.

Within the programme the Programme Operator cooperates with the Council of Europe and the Royal Norwegian Embassy to Slovakia. They both are the members of the Cooperation Committee and observers of the Selection Committee. The Embassy has assisted to the Programme Operator regarding the bilateral aspects and establishment cooperation with the Norwegian organizations. The Council of Europe has provided the Programme Operator with the valuable comments and proposals to the calls texts and the selection criteria, which is very appreciated by the Programme Operator.

During the calls texts development, the Programme Operator has been in touch with some umbrella organizations active in the field; however not relevant for the call as an eligible applicant or partner. The Programme Operator sees as a great advantage, if somebody not involved in the call preparation or review, provides the Programme Operator with a feedback on the call. The Programme Operator can see how the potential applicants would understand the call and can adjust it to be more understandable for people not working with the Norway Grants on daily base.

One of the lessons learned for the future is to be more accessible by digital means of communication.

Publicity and visibility of the Grants has been in line with the Communication plan for the Programme. The Programme Operator closely cooperates and coordinates their activities with the National Focal Point. The Programme Operator communicates dissemination and publicity activities with Royal Norwegian Embassy to Slovakia and the Press Department of the Ministry of Investments, Regional Development and Informatization of the Slovak Republic. A video interview with the head of the Programmes Operation Unit on basic questions related to the call LDI01 was made. The Programme Operator considers it successful and would like to continue with the similar videos.

The risk assessment in 2020 is mainly connected with the Covid-19 pandemic situation and its unforeseeable impact. In 2021 a monitoring on impacts of the Covid-19 situation will be carried out for the predefined project. The overall risk of the programme has been increased a little.

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## B. PERFORMANCE

## 1. Results

### Outcome 3: Capacity of schools for inclusive education enhanced

#### *Pre-defined projects*

Within the Outcome 3 of the programme there is one pre-defined project (PDP) LDIPP001 named *"Innovative education of teachers to increase their intercultural competences in the education process of Roma pupils"* being implemented. The main goal of the project is to increase the professional competencies of pedagogical staff and professionals, school management and through the development of professional publications and methodologies to support intercultural education in schools with students from Roma communities. The activities of the project will lead to the support of the introduction of innovative educational methods, which will lead to the strengthening of pupils' identity, awareness of belonging to their community and the importance of learning in the mother tongue.

The Programme Operator (hereinafter referred to as "the PO") informed the National Focal Point (hereinafter referred to as "the NFP") about the positive appraisal of this pre-defined project on 7<sup>th</sup> May 2020 based on the appraisal carried out by the PO. Consequently, the NFP informed the Financial Mechanism Office (hereinafter referred to as "the FMO") about the positive appraisal of this pre-defined project on the 12<sup>th</sup> May 2020, which is also the first date of the eligibility of the expenditures of the pre-defined project. Consequently, the PO sent the grant offer letter to the Project Promoter on 28<sup>th</sup> May 2020. The PO received the acceptance to the grant offer letter on 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2020. The project contract was signed on 7<sup>th</sup> September 2020 and came into force on 10<sup>th</sup> September 2020.

On the 18<sup>th</sup> November 2020 the project promoter of the predefined project sent to the PO a request for substantial change in the project due to withdrawal of the project partner *The Nansen Centre for Peace and Dialog* from the project. It was due to the consequences of the Covid-19 pandemic and other ongoing obligations in the organisation. The project partner *European Wergeland Centre* agreed to take over the all activities of the Nansen Centre for Peace and Dialog. The change of the project was provisionally approved by the PO and the NFP. As it is a predefined project, such change required a Programme modification. In accordance with Article 6.9 of the Regulation on Implementation of the Norwegian Financial Mechanism 2014-2021 the request for programme modification was sent to the FMO by the NFP on 25<sup>th</sup> November 2020. The programme modification was approved by the donors on 18<sup>th</sup> December 2020 and the conclusion of the Addendum No 2 to the Programme Agreement is expected in January 2021. One of the first educational activities successfully implemented within the project was the *Training for Trainers in Human Rights and Democratic Citizenship*. As part of the activity: *Preparing teachers for the language exam in the Romani language* an analysis of legislative documents dealing with the education of pedagogical staff was performed.

Author teams were set up for the Roma - Slovak teaching materials and the methodology of the historical reading book *Looking for the Past of the Roma* within the activity of teaching materials. Currently, the author's teams are working on the content of the Romani-Slovak

reading book for the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> level of elementary school and the content of the textbook for the Romani language. All planned international workshops have been postponed due to pandemic.

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

As the implementation phase of the programme has only started, only the calls for bilateral relations for establishing and development of the partnership (for the calls of the Local Development and Inclusion Programme) were planned with allocation 40 000 Euro in total. Finally, only bilateral call LDIBF01 connected with the call LDIO1 on local development and multifunctional centres for youth was launched. At the beginning of September 2020 a matchmaking event as a part of the Information Day for the call LDIO1 was planned. The PO expected to welcome two potential donor project partners from Norway *Apenhet by Funfact* and *Sky Hoyt live Scene*. Due to the situation with Covid-19 pandemic and various restriction connecting to traveling not only between Slovakia and Norway but all over the world, the matchmaking event was cancelled and was organized online. In view of the situation the bilateral call LDIBF01 was not successful, no application on bilateral fund was received by the deadline which was 25<sup>th</sup> September 2020. Due to this fact the PO has decided not to open the other two planned bilateral calls.

There is no Donor Programme Partner in the programme; the PO has discussed a possibility of the future cooperation with The Norwegian Association of Local and Regional Authorities in order to strengthen bilateral relations and involve Norwegian organizations into the programme implementation easily. The support from the national bilateral fund has been considering. Because of lack of time and worsening situation with Covid-19 pandemic the discussion about possible future cooperation remains open. Unfortunately, the situation with the pandemic worsened in autumn 2020. Travelling and the bilateral cooperation has been greatly affected by it. The Royal Norwegian Embassy to Slovakia was also involved in the search for Norwegian partners, when a potential applicant approached the PO for help. Along with each call published, a list of potential partners from Norway was published to simplify and facilitate the search for partners from Norway. Within the matchmaking event three Norwegian organizations presented their organization and focus on cooperation. Within the closed call LDIO1 8 out of 20 project applications submitted are with a Norwegian partner. The Royal Norwegian Embassy to Slovakia has also been involved in nomination of the evaluation experts in cooperation with the Council of Europe.

## **2. Implementation**

## Compliance with Programme Agreement conditions

Based on the Memorandum of Understanding of the NFM 2014 – 2021 *“the Programme shall contribute to fostering local development and to reducing poverty, with a strong focus on vulnerable groups at high risk of exclusion, such as Roma. It shall implement cost-efficient and sustainable measures that integrate education, housing, employment and health components. Establishing multi-functional youth centres, targeted at vulnerable children and youth, in the least developed regions of Slovakia shall be further explored during the development of the concept note, as well as the cooperation of the centres with mediators from Roma communities”*. The Programme is focused on regional development and Roma inclusion. Youth and children are the main target group of the Programme and calls launched. The aim of the call LDI01 is to support projects enhancing access of vulnerable children and youth in disadvantaged areas to a broader range of extra-curricular activities to improve their personal development and provide them with skills increasing their chances to succeed in society. Solely the projects to be implemented in the least developed districts in Slovakia will be supported. Synergy with other component of Roma inclusion is highlighted within the Selection criteria by providing more points. The calls LDI02 and LDI03 are focused on Roma inclusion and their empowerment. If the project is to be implemented in the least developed district, it is prioritised by additional points. Integrated approach, including cost-efficient and sustainable measures in the area interventions of education, housing, employment, health and non-discrimination is the main approach within all the calls. Within the calls there is also condition about involvement of Roma mediators.

Within the Concept Note and Programme Agreement a predefined project of the National Institute of Education has been agreed. It is a continuation of the predefined project from the EEA Financial Mechanism period 2009 – 2014. The project is being implemented in cooperation with the European Wergeland Centre, as the Nansen Centre for Peace and Dialogue decided not to continue with the Project because of internal organization issues and Covid-19 situation.

A maximum level of funding available from the total eligible expenditure of the Programme for infrastructure (hard measures) has been agreed in concept note, it is 60 % and it has been reflected within the calls.

The representatives of the Office of the Plenipotentiary for Roma Communities in SR and the Regional Development Section at the Ministry of Investments, Regional Development and Informatization of the SR (an administrative unit responsible for the development of the Last Development Districts) are the members of the Cooperation Committee and the Selection Committee. Both organizations actively participated in the calls preparation process.

## Cooperation with International Partner Organisations (IPOs)

Within the programme the Programme Operator cooperates with the Council of Europe (hereinafter referred to as “the CoE”). The Council of Europe is a member of the Cooperation Committee for the LDI programme as an international programme partner. During 2020 the Cooperation Committee met three times. The calls texts drafts were subject to the

Cooperation Committee reviews. The CoE provides programme operator with valuable comments to the calls draft and selection criteria.

## C. LEARNING

### 1. Monitoring

There is only one project contract signed for the predefined project LDIPP001. The project contract was signed on 7<sup>th</sup> September 2020. The First Project Interim Report will be submitted in January 2021. The PO has been in touch with the project promoter via phone and e-mails due to ongoing pandemic of Covid-19. In the Q1 of 2021 the PO plans to carry out a monitoring on Covid-19 impact on the project implementation. The monitoring plan is attached. The site visits will be carried out only, if the pandemic situation allows it. If the pandemic situation does not improve, the Programme Operator will consider another form of monitoring, e.g. digital monitoring.

### 2. Evaluation

The evaluation has not been carried out yet.

### 3. Lessons learned

During the calls text development, the PO has been in touch with some umbrella organizations active in the field; however not relevant for the call as an eligible applicant or partner. The PO sees as a great advantage, if somebody not involved in the call preparation or review, provides the PO with a feedback on the call. The PO can see how the potential applicants would understand the call and can adjust it to be more understandable for people not working with the Norway Grants on daily base. Although the PO can see that the call LDI01 focused on regional development and multifunctional centres for youth is too ambitious in relation to the applicants' capacity.

The year 2020 has been affected mainly by pandemic Covid-19. We all have been forced to use the online communication more to ensure the smooth implementation of the programme. The PO had to quickly implement new measures and rules relating to the new situation. Fortunately, we were able to adapt quickly and quite successfully, for example by organizing the online Matchmaking event, where all participating partners were also reacting flexibly. Due to the impact of the pandemic, the Programme Operator decided to postpone the deadline of the LDI01 and LDI02 calls and prolonged the period of project submission by about 1 - 1.5 month. Besides the announcement of 3 calls in 2020 and working on assessment and contracting the PDP the transfer of competencies of the Programme Operator from the Government Office of the Slovak republic to the Ministry of Investments, Regional Development and Informatization of the SR took place and is effective as of 1<sup>st</sup> October 2020. The fact that existing telephone contacts and e-mail addresses remained valid enable to smoothly continue with the Programme implementation.

The Programme Operator considers year 2020 successful. The changes and pandemic situation did not have a significant impact on the implementation of the programme. It is also thanks to the right planning at the beginning of the Programme.

## **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: Strengthened social and economic cohesion								
Outcome 1: Social and economic development of the least developed districts strengthened								
Indicator	Unit of measurement	Baseline	Achievements until end of previous reporting period	Achievements until end of December 2020			Target	Comment
				Numerator	Denominator	Value		
<b>Number of jobs created</b>	Number	0	-	-	-	-	20	-
<i>Gender</i>								
<i>Female</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Male</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Not specified</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Age</i>								
<i>Children and youth (0-17)</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Young adults (18-29)</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Adults (30-64)</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Elderly (65+)</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Not specified</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Number of municipalities with increased capacity to offer multiple extracurricular activities to children and youth</b>	Number	0	-	-	-	-	10	-
<b>Number of people at risk of poverty using services provided by the supported youth centres</b>	Number	0	0 (IFR 2020)	-	-	-	1,500	-
<i>Gender</i>								
<i>Female</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Male</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Not specified</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Age</i>								
<i>Children and youth (0-17)</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

<i>Young adults (18-29)</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Adults (30-64)</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Elderly (65+)</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Not specified</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Roma</i>								
<i>Roma</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Not specified</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Output 1.1: Services and infrastructure for children and youth provided</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 multifunctional youth centres established or supported	Number	0	0 (IFR 2020)	-	-	-	10	-
Number of legal entities involved in the projects	Number	0	0 (IFR 2020)	-	-	-	30	-
Number of projects implemented in multi-level and/or multi-stakeholder local partnerships	Number	0	0 (IFR 2020)	-	-	-	10	-
Number of field social workers and/or Roma mediators cooperating with the Youth Centres	Number	0	0 (IFR 2020)	-	-	-	20	-
Average increase of time (in hours per week) the centre is open for children and youth	Average	0	-	-	-	-	8	-
<b>Outcome 2: Social inclusion of marginalized Roma communities enhanced</b>								
Indicator	Unit of measurement	Baseline	Achievements until end of previous reporting period	Achievements until end of December 2020			Target	Comment
				Numerator	Denominator	Value		
Share of majority population in intervention area accepting Roma	Percentage	TBD, TBD	-	-	-	-	(+25%)	-

<b>Number of Roma people using supported services</b>	Number	0	-	-	-	-	3,000	-
<i>Gender</i>								
<i>Female</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Male</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Not specified</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Age</i>								
<i>Children and youth (0-17)</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Young adults (18-29)</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Adults (30-64)</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Elderly (65+)</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Not specified</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Share of people living in the marginalised Roma communities in project intervention area receiving services</b>	Percentage	N/A	-	-	-	-	20.00 %	-
<b>Output 2.1: Services to Marginalised Roma Communities provided</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 applying an integrated approach (i.e. addressing more than one thematic area of intervention among health, education, employment, housing and non-discrimination components)</b>	Number	0	0 (IFR 2020)	-	-	-	12	-
<b>Number of joint activities between Roma and non-Roma</b>	Number	0	0 (IFR 2020)	-	-	-	24	-
<b>Number of marginalised Roma communities with investments into public infrastructure reducing disparities between Roma and non-Roma</b>	Number	0	0 (IFR 2020)	-	-	-	4	-

Number of Roma people working in the centres	Number	0	0 (IFR 2020)	-	-	-	24	-
Number of marginalized Roma communities provided with services	Number	0	0 (IFR 2020)	-	-	-	12	-
<b>Output 2.2: Capacities of organisations active in the social inclusion of marginalised Roma communities increased</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 entities / actors active in the social inclusion of marginalised Roma communities supported	Number	0	0 (IFR 2020)	-	-	-	20	-
Number of good practices replicated in marginalised Roma communities	Number	0	0 (IFR 2020)	-	-	-	10	-
Number of multi-stakeholder partnerships established or supported	Number	0	0 (IFR 2020)	-	-	-	10	-
<b>Outcome 3: Capacity of schools for inclusive education enhanced</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 educational institutions that have implementing curricula on Romani language or culture	Number	80	-	-	-	-	105	-
Number of schools applying inclusive education models	Number	17	-	-	-	-	60	-
<b>Output 3.1: Children and youth with a Roma background empowered</b>								
Indicator	Unit of measurement	Baseline	Achievements until end of previous	Achievements until end of December 2020			Target	Comment

			reporting period					
<b>Number of textbooks and methodological materials integrating Roma history and language for teaching staff and pupils of primary and secondary schools distributed</b>	Number	0	0 (IFR 2020)	-	-	-	11,500	-
<b>Number of kindergarten, primary and secondary teachers working with Roma children trained in innovative education practices</b>	Number	0	0 (IFR 2020)	-	-	-	80	-
<i>Gender</i>								
<i>Female</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Male</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Not specified</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Roma</i>								
<i>Roma</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Not specified</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Number of school administration/management staff working with Roma children trained in innovative education practices</b>	Number	0	0 (IFR 2020)	-	-	-	80	-
<i>Gender</i>								
<i>Female</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Male</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Not specified</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Roma</i>								
<i>Roma</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Not specified</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Number of Romani language teacher candidates prepared for the state language examination</b>	Number	0	0 (IFR 2020)	-	-	-	10	-
<i>Gender</i>								
<i>Female</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

<i>Male</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Not specified</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Roma</i>								
<i>Roma</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Not specified</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Number of multipliers/trainers trained in Education for democratic citizenship (EDC) and Human rights education (HRE)</b>	Number	0	0 (IFR 2020)	-	-	10	10	-
<i>Gender</i>								
<i>Female</i>	-	-	-	-	-	0	-	-
<i>Male</i>	-	-	-	-	-	0	-	-
<i>Not specified</i>	-	-	-	-	-	10	-	-
<i>Roma</i>								
<i>Roma</i>	-	-	-	-	-	0	-	-
<i>Not specified</i>	-	-	-	-	-	10	-	-
<b>Number of professional staff trained in Education for democratic Citizenship (EDC) and Human Rights education (HRE)</b>	Number	0	0 (IFR 2020)	-	-	-	60	-
<i>Gender</i>								
<i>Female</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Male</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Not specified</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Roma</i>								
<i>Roma</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Not specified</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<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		

<b>Level of trust between cooperating entities in Beneficiary States and Donor States</b>	Scale 1-7	TBD, Survey to be carried out by the FMO.	-	-	-	-	4.50, Target is $\geq 4.5$ , and an increase on the baseline value	-
<i>State type</i>								
<i>Beneficiary State</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Donor State</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Not specified</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Level of satisfaction with the partnership</b>	Scale 1-7	TBD, Survey to be carried out by the FMO.	-	-	-	-	4.50, Target is $\geq 4.5$ , and an increase on the baseline value	-
<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 %, Target is minimum 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 2020			Target	Comment
				Numerator	Denominator	Value		
<b>Number of projects involving cooperation with a donor project partner</b>	Number	0	0 (IFR 2020)	-	-	-	4	-
<i>Donor State</i>								
<i>Norway</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Iceland</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Liechtenstein</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Not specified</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Number of pedagogical staff participating in the "Oslo" Study visit</b>	Number	0	0 (IFR 2020)	-	-	-	60	-
<i>Gender</i>								
<i>Female</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Male</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Not specified</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Roma</i>								
<i>Roma</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Not specified</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

## Annex 2: Communication summary

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

Communication plan for the programme Local Development, Poverty Reduction and Roma Inclusion 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 2020. The Programme Operator has communicated its dissemination and publicity activities with Royal Norwegian Embassy to Slovakia and the Press Department of the Government Office of the SR (till 30<sup>th</sup> September 2020) and the Ministry of Investments, Regional Development and Informatization of the SR (from 1<sup>st</sup> October 2020).

In line with the approved communication plan, the Programme Operator organized the Launching conference for the programme Local Development and Inclusion on 13<sup>th</sup> November 2019 with the participation of the Royal Norwegian Embassy to Slovakia, Council of Europe and other participants from all over Slovakia. The aim of the Launching conference was to inform about the programme, pre-defined project, planned open calls, planned events and to raise awareness about Norway grants in Slovakia.

On 10<sup>th</sup> September 2020 the Programme Operator organized an Information Day for the call LDI01. Due to the situation with pandemic Covid-19, the event was organized online. Originally the Information Day was planned along with the Matchmaking event with a participation of two Norwegian organizations. Finally, the matchmaking event was also hold on-line on 17<sup>th</sup> September. During the event, the participants were given an opportunity to meet and communicate with altogether three potential project partners from Norway, namely: *Apenhet by Funfact*, *Skyhoyt live Scene*, *Newschool*. On the 28<sup>th</sup> of September 2020 the Programme Operator organized the Information day for the open call LDI02. Approximately 35 potential applicants and partners joined the event.

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	3	15
Visiting rate of the Programme subpage under the websites <a href="http://www.eeagrants.sk">www.eeagrants.sk</a> / <a href="http://www.norwaygrants.sk">www.norwaygrants.sk</a>	0	53 427	40 000
Number of seminars, conferences and other events carried out	0	4	8
Number of posts on Facebook page (yearly)	0	20	15
Number of information publications/leaflets	0	0	1
Other information and publicity activities carried out by the Programme Operator	TBD		

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## **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 it 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 Grants as a National Focal Point for comments and discussion.

## **c. Website and social media**

The Local Development, Poverty Reduction, Roma Inclusion 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).

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.eeagrants.sk](http://www.eeagrants.sk) and [www.norwaygrants.sk](http://www.norwaygrants.sk). Generally, in 2020 there were following visits recorded on the website [www.eeagrants.sk](http://www.eeagrants.sk) / [www.norwaygrants.sk](http://www.norwaygrants.sk) that include 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 with 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 and the press news for each communication activity is prepared ad-hoc. Altogether news were published on the website [www.eeagrants.sk](http://www.eeagrants.sk) and on Facebook page “*Granty EHP a Nórska na Slovensku*” relating to LDI programme in 2020, namely on the information about the Launching conference of the programme, the information about the Information days and Match-making event, calls launching and the information about extension of the calls LDI01 and LDI02. The frequently ask questions were published in connection to all announced calls. As regards the announcement of the calls relevant partners (The Royal Norwegian Embassy to Slovakia, Office of the Government Plenipotentiary for Roma

Communities, Association of Towns and Communities of Slovakia and the Union of town and cities of Slovakia) shared the link connected to the calls announcement and events on their websites. 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.

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

Only the PDP started their implementation in 2020. On 30<sup>th</sup> November 2020 the launching conference for the project took place. The Project Promoter organized the event on-line due to Covid-19 situation. Beside the project promoter National Institute of Education, project partner European Wergeland and the Programme Operator, the state secretary of the Ministry of Education, Science, Research and Sport of the SR had a speech at the conference. About twenty relevant participants participated in the event, including professional public. Discussion about the topic to be solved by the predefined project was very fruitful. The Programme Operator considers the launching conference successful even though it was organized during unfortunate situation. It confirms that also during the inappropriate conditions the project and some activities can be implemented and there are other ways how to proceed.

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#### **e. Multimedia**

Below you can find a video interview with the Head of the EEA and Norway Grants Programmes Operation Unit Ms. Jana Dacková on the call launched within the programme Local Development, Poverty Reduction and Roma Inclusion (in Slovak language).

The link: <https://www.eeagrants.sk/novinky/nove-informacne-video-k-vyzve-ldi01-v-programe-miestny-rozvoj-znizovanie-chudoby-a-inkluzia-romov/>

### Annex 3: Overview of contracted projects

Outcome	Projects	#	# of donor project partners	Amount contracted	% of outcome budget contracted
<b>Outcome 1: Social and economic development of the least developed districts strengthened</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 1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>€ 0</b>	<b>0.00 %</b>
<b>Outcome 2: Social inclusion of marginalized Roma communities 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 2</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>€ 0</b>	<b>0.00 %</b>
<b>Outcome 3: Capacity of schools for inclusive education enhanced</b>	Pre-defined	1	2	€ 1,300,000	100.00 %
	Contracted through open calls	0	0	€ 0	0.00 %
	Contracted through small grants scheme	0	0	€ 0	0.00 %
	<b>Total Outcome 3</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>€ 1,300,000</b>	<b>100.00 %</b>
<b>Programme</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>€ 1,300,000</b>	<b>8.00 %</b>

## Annex 4: Risk management

Programmatic risks						
Risk description	Risk related to	Likelihood	Consequence	Risk score	Response type	Risk N/A
Sustainability and cost-effectiveness of implemented measures	Reducing social and economic disparities	2	3	2.45	Mitigate	No
	<b>Description of planned response</b>	The cost effectiveness risk has been mitigated by reducing the project grant to EUR 1,000,000 as a maximum. This risk is incorporated in all three announced calls LDI01, LDI02, LDI03. Projects which include those measures will be favoured in evaluation process. The applicants are obligate to fulfil the Questionnaire with the sustainability plan as a part of it. The sustainability and cost-effectiveness measures will be examining during the evaluation and selection process.				
	<b>Description of actual response</b>	The risk has been mitigated by reducing the project grant to EUR 1,000,000 as a maximum. The risk is incorporated in all three announced calls Projects which include those measures will be favoured in evaluation process. The applicants are obligate to fulfil the Questionnaire with the sustainability plan as a part of it. The sustainability and cost-effectiveness measures will be a subject to the experts evaluation and the Selection Committee review.				
	<b>Planned future response</b>	The first call LDI01 was closed on 30th of November 2020. The first project contracts are expected in the 3rd quarter of 2021. After concluding the selection process the sustainability and cost-effectiveness measures will be a subject of the Programme Operator monitoring.				
Lack of commitment of Project Promoters	Reducing social and economic disparities	2	3	2.45	Mitigate	No
	<b>Description of planned response</b>	In terms of commitment of Project Promoter(PP), the Programme has been aligned with the Action Plans of the Least Developed Districts. The Programme Operator expects active involvement of the national regional structures established under the Act on the Support of the Least Developed Regions				

		will actively contribute to generating viable project ideas, similarly to the regional branches of the Office of the Plenipotentiary for Roma Communities.				
	<b>Description of actual response</b>	The PO expects active involvement of the national regional structures established under the Act on the Support of the Least Developed Regions will actively contribute to generating viable project ideas, similarly to the regional branches of the Office of the Government Plenipotentiary for Roma Communities(OGPRC). OGPRC plays very active role in the CC meetings. The calls were set up based on the comments of the CC members to reduce the risk.				
	<b>Planned future response</b>	The PO will monitor the implementation of the projects supported through on site/digital monitoring, project interim reports, phone calls and e-mails. In case there is a need of further support the PO will initiate involvement of the guarantor to the project implementation who will take auspices over the Project, oversee the quality of services provided, contribute to the Strategy of working with children and youth and report his or her finding to the PO. ,				
Lack of interest and/or motivation of end beneficiaries to participate on project activities.	Reducing social and economic disparities	2	2	2.00	Accept	No
	<b>Description of planned response</b>	The Programme offers generous grant rates (100% for public sector, 90% for NGOs with the possibility to cover the co-financing through voluntary work). This, in combination with the flexible bottom-up and community-drive approach should be capable of generating enough projects of sufficient quality. The partnership principle may help to diversify and spread the risk over several entities, while also contributing to the commitment of the various stakeholders to implement the project.				
	<b>Description of actual response</b>	Partnership is supported under each call. In LDI01 call the partnership with two project partners is obligatory. Partnership in other two calls will be consider as advantage in evaluation process. The first call was closed on 30th of November 2020. The first project contracts are expected in the 3rd quarter of 2021.				
	<b>Planned future response</b>	The PO will monitor the project implementation and communicate about the challenges regarding the interest and motivation of the beneficiaries. In case of need a special workshop regarding this will be organize specified to the needs of target group.				

Lack of project application submitted due to the large support of the ESIF	Reducing social and economic disparities	2	2	2.00	Mitigate	No
	<b>Description of planned response</b>	Support from the ESIF should be complemented by the Grants. Promising ideas started under the ESIF can be replicated (or even sustained) from the Programme, providing that double funding is prevented.				
	<b>Description of actual response</b>	The first call LDI01 was closed on 30 November 2020. Twenty project applications were submitted within the call. The applicants applied for grant in amount of twice more than the allocation of the call.				
	<b>Planned future response</b>	Taking recent situation regarding Covid-19 and uncertain future into account if there are not enough project applications submitted within a call the PO will propose to transfer the funds to another calls with high interest. As regards the calls focused on Roma component we expect high interest.				
<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>
Misconception of notions (indicators, methodology of calculations, conditions etc.)	Reducing social and economic disparities	2	2	2.00	Mitigate	No
	<b>Description of planned response</b>	The notions shall be clearly defined and communicated with the project promoters and their partners.				
	<b>Description of actual response</b>	The PO is prepared to answer questions relating to call text, indicators, selection criteria and others after the launching each call via email or phone (within 10 days for question received by email). Most frequent questions asked are published with their answers on the programme website. There is also Guidelines published, which includes definitions of notions.				

	<b>Planned future response</b>	To be in touch with the applicant, project promoters, to organize Information Days, webinars, and if needed, to issue or add a Guideline to define the notions				
Delays in schedule such as delays of construction works due to weather conditions, problems with the supplier, delays in public procurement etc.	Reducing social and economic disparities	3	3	3.00	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.				
	<b>Description of actual response</b>	The risks are a part of the Project Application and are evaluated by the evaluators and the SC. Due to the Covid-19 the PO prolonged the duration of the calls. The PO will proceed the most effectively to start with project implementation in time. For the call LDI01 the potential applicants were noticed about the risk of Covid-19 during the Information Day. Within LDI02 and LDI03 the applicants were noticed directly in the call text. The risk connected to Covid-19 is also a part of the selection criteria.				
	<b>Planned future response</b>	The PO will be monitoring the milestones of the each project, as well as the impact of the Covid-19 situation on the implementation. The PO will monitor public procurement and their timeline by a responsible person. Milestones are subject to the PO's verification within the project interim reports. The PO accepts delays caused by force majeure. The planned timeline of postponed activities is required to be submitted by the project promoters and measures with the particular steps to mitigate the delay.				
Covid-19 impact on the Programme implementation and potential delay	Reducing social and economic disparities	2	3	2.45	Mitigate	No
	<b>Description of planned response</b>	The covid-19 has mostly affected the partnership agreement in PDP. Nevertheless, the Programme implementation is in line with the schedule. The PO will be monitoring the milestones of each project, as well as the impact of the Covid-19 situation on the implementation. See the Monitoring plan for more details. The first project contracts should be signed by the end of 9/2021. The risk of covid-19 impacts is also a subject of project application evaluation and SC/Programme Operator review.				

	<b>Description of actual response</b>	-		
	<b>Planned future response</b>	-		
<b>Overall risk of the programme</b>				
	<b>Likelihood</b>	<b>Consequence</b>	<b>Risk score</b>	
OVERALL RISK OF THE PROGRAMME	2	3	2.45	

## **Annex 5: Monitoring plan**

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

## **Annex 6: Evaluation report**

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