

OPEN CALL FOR PROPOSALS
ON THE SUPPORT OF INTERVENTION TEAMS AT LOCAL LEVEL ON SERVICES FOR VICTIMS OF
DOMESTIC AND GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE, INCLUDING CHILDREN
Norway Grants 2014 – 2021
SLOVAKIA

1. BASIC DATA AND CONDITIONS

The aim of the Call is the support of existing services for victims of domestic and gender-based violence, including children, and the integration of these services into intervention teams at local level.

Call launch:	14 May 2021
Call closure:	16 September 2021, 23:59 CEST
Call number:	DGV02
Programme outcome(s):	Victims of domestic and gender-based violence protected and supported
Programme output(s):	Services for victims of domestic and gender-based violence preserved (compulsory) , Services for victims of domestic and gender-based expanded or enhanced (compulsory)
Maximum grant to be applied for:	EUR 600,000
Minimum grant to be applied for:	EUR 200,000
Co-financing:	For public sector entities and non-governmental organisations ¹ , co-financing is not required. At least 10% for social partners ^{2,3} and other non-for-profit organizations. At least 15% for private sector entities and other entities.
Total allocation:	EUR 3,329,412
Announced by:	Ministry of Investments, Regional Development and Informatization of the Slovak Republic
Eligible applicants:	1. Legal entities established as a legal person in the Slovak Republic, which are registered in the social services providers register or accredited providers of social services in the Slovak Republic according to the Act No. 305/2005 Coll. on the Socio-legal Protection of the Child and on Social Guardianship or Act No. 448/2008 Coll. on Social Services and on change and amendment of the Act No. 455/1991 Coll., or Act No.

¹ For the purposes of the Call "Non-governmental organization" (hereinafter referred to as NGO) is defined as a non-profit organization established as a legal entity, having a non-commercial purpose, independent off local, regional and central government, public entities, political parties and commercial organizations. Religious institutions and political parties are not considered NGOs

² For the purposes of the call "Social partners" are defined as representatives of employers' organizations and trade unions.

³ In case of social partners (and NGOs, if applicable), in-kind contribution in the form of voluntary work may constitute up to 100% of the co-financing.

	<p>274/2017 Coll. on Victims of Crime provided that the social services providers meet the required standards^{4,5} (hereinafter referred to as European Standards)</p> <p>or</p> <p>2. Municipalities in accordance with Act No. 369/1990 Coll. on Municipal Administration, established as a legal person in the Slovak Republic</p> <p>or</p> <p>3. Higher territorial units and offices of self-governing regions in accordance with Act No. 302/2001 Coll. on self-government of higher territorial units established as a legal person in the Slovak Republic</p> <p>Eligible applicants shall have at least one entity among those listed as “Eligible partners” as project partners</p> <p>and;</p> <p>At least one of the project partners or the applicant shall be a counselling centre or shelter⁶ meeting the required standards ^{4, 5}.</p>
<p>Eligible partners:</p>	<p>Entities established as a legal person in the Slovak Republic:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Local Office of Labour, Social Affairs and Family - City police or local directorate of police corps⁷ - Municipalities in accordance with Act No. 369/1990 Coll. on Municipal Administration - State budgetary and contributory organisations established in accordance with Act No. 523/2004 Coll. on Budget Rules of the Public Service - Higher territorial units and offices of self-governing regions in accordance with Act No. 302/2001 Coll. on self-government of higher territorial units - Counselling centre or shelters⁶ meeting the required standards ^{4, 5} <p>provided that at least one of the project partners or the applicant is a counselling centre or a shelter meeting the required standards ^{4, 5}.</p> <p>Other partners in addition to one project partner from the list above:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - any public or private entity, commercial or non-commercial, as well as

⁴ The standards are set in the Council of Europe document ‘Combating violence against women: minimum standards for support services’ and are adapted to Slovakia by the Coordinating Methodical Centre (the required standards are hereinafter referred to as **European Standards**).

⁵ An informative list of social service providers meeting the required European standards is listed in Annex 6 of this call.

⁶ These are emergency housing facilities, or other forms of residential form assistance to victims of domestic or gender-based violence.

⁷ In this case, the local directorate of the police corps means the regional directorate and its subordinate departments (county departments and district departments).

	non-governmental organisations established as a legal person either in Norway or in the Slovak Republic, or any international organisation ⁸ or body or agency thereof.
Further conditions:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The mandatory attachments to the Project Application are: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. The Budget; b. Partnership statement, Letter of Intent or other similar document proving the interest of the applicant and its partner to jointly implement the Project together, signed by the mandatory partner; c. Completed questionnaire (including awareness-raising and education campaign plan)⁹ d. Test of local character of social services¹⁰. 2. Project promoters and partners shall adhere to the following approach¹¹: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - to protect women against all forms of violence, and prevent, prosecute and eliminate violence against women and domestic violence; - to contribute to the elimination of all forms of discrimination against women and promote substantive equality between women and men, including by empowering women; - to design a comprehensive framework, policies and measures for the protection of and assistance to all victims of violence against women and domestic violence; - to promote international co-operation with a view to eliminating violence against women and domestic violence; - to effectively co-operate in order to adopt an integrated approach to eliminating violence against women and domestic violence; including a victims-oriented, evidence-based approach to combating domestic and gender-based violence in accordance with the principles of gender equality, in line with the overall objective of the programme. 3. Costs on infrastructure (hard measures)¹² must not exceed 40% of the total eligible costs of the project. 4. Projects shall be implemented in line with applicable state aid rules. 5. The special conditions for the provision of the project grant are listed in Annex 3 of this Call.
Funding source(s):	Norway Grants and State Budget of the Slovak Republic

⁸ For the purposes of the EEA and Norway Grants “International organizations” are defined as intergovernmental organizations as defined by the Vienna Convention on the Law of Treaties.

⁹ Campaigns need to be planned and implemented only at the local level; national campaigns are implemented within other components of this Programme. The campaign must be implemented by a counselling centre or a shelter.

¹⁰ The test is needed to complete and submit on behalf of applicant and all project partners financially engaged in the project, with the exception of those applicants and project partners, which are public organizations acting within their public competences and foreign project partners.

¹¹ In line with European standards

¹² For the purposes of the Programme the infrastructure (hard measures) is/are defined as any activity that requires a building permit/a building announcement or purchase of building or estates.

2. EXPECTATIONS AND RESULTS FRAMEWORK

[The call will support intervention teams at local level on services for victims of domestic and gender-based violence, including children.](#) The main ambition of this Call is to preserve existing shelters and counselling centres for victims of domestic and gender-based violence through the support of specialized service providers who have been identified as meeting the **European Standards** (hereinafter referred to as "**specialised service providers**"). These providers may cooperate or continue to cooperate with public sector institutions active in this field in order to establish or preserve intervention teams at local level.

The requirement for sustainability is that shelters and counselling services for victims of domestic and gender-based violence who receive funding under this Programme operate for at least five years after the approval of the final project report by the Programme Operator.

The establishment of new shelters or counselling centres, as well as services specialised for survivors of sexual violence is an optional part of the project.

Projects supported under this Programme contribute to the Programme Objective defined as *Domestic and gender-based violence prevented and victims protected and assisted*.

Projects supported under this Call contribute to Programme Outcome defined as *Victims of domestic and gender-based violence protected and supported* and Programme Output defined as *Services for victims of domestic and gender-based violence preserved*. The Projects will also contribute to the Programme Output defined as *Services for victims of domestic and gender-based expanded or enhanced*.

In the Application Form, applicants are obliged to set baseline and target values for the following Programme Indicators¹³:

Outcome indicators:

- Number of beneficiaries of services provided¹⁴ (disaggregated by gender)¹⁵
- Share of supported counselling centres meeting the Standards^{16, 17}

Outputs indicators:

¹³ The definition of the indicators is stated in the Guideline for Applicants, Annex II.

¹⁴ During the project implementation, the achieved value of the indicator will be reported by gender. This is a reported indicator.

¹⁵ The target value is not binding. As a part of project, the Programme Operator will monitor the number of beneficiaries of the services provided. The aim of the project is to provide adequate services to as many victims (beneficiaries) as possible within a counselling centre or a shelter.

¹⁶ The term counselling centres also means shelters.

¹⁷ At the end of the project implementation, all centres and shelters must meet the required **European Standards**. In the case of counselling centres specifically focused on providing services to specific target groups, these **European Standards** apply *mutatis mutandis*.

- Number of awareness raising, and educational campaigns implemented by the centres¹⁸ and shelters. **The minimum target value is one (1) awareness-raising campaign and one (1) educational campaign carried out by a counselling centre or a shelter within each project, i.e. the project must include educational activities in addition to the awareness-raising campaign.** The plan for education and awareness-raising campaigns is a part of the questionnaire which is a mandatory annex to the project application. Template of the questionnaire is attached to this Call.
- Number of existing counselling centres supported. **The minimum target value is one (1) supported existing counselling centre** if a shelter is not supported within the project.
- Number of existing places¹⁹ in shelters supported. **The minimum target value is fifteen (15) supported existing places¹⁹ in a shelter(s)**, unless a counselling centre is supported under the project.
- Number of service providers running or participating in a consortium²⁰ with public institutions at local level. It is expected that all counselling centres and shelters involved in the project will cooperate with public institutions at local level in the field of domestic and gender-based violence. Consortium participation does not have to be formalized by an agreement. In addition to the counselling centres and shelters involved in the project, the target value will also include service providers who are not involved in the project (they are not applicants or partners) but are involved in the consortium.
- Number of counselling centres established or specialised to meet the required standards. This is an **optional** indicator in case a new counselling centre is to be established within the project, or the **European Standards** have been met by a centre that did not meet them before.
- Number of places¹⁹ in shelters created or specialised to meet the required standards. This is an **optional** indicator in case a new or extended existing shelter is to be established within the project, or the **European Standards** have been met by another object (e.g. an emergency housing facility) that did not meet them before.
- Number of shelters and counselling centres enhanced in terms of children needs. **The minimum target value is formed by the sum of all supported service providers involved in the project** (i.e. all supported counselling centres and shelters must enhance their conditions in terms of children's needs).

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

The full results framework of the Programme is listed in the Annex I to the Programme Agreement for financing the Programme “Domestic and Gender-based Violence” concluded between Slovakia and Norway and published at www.eeagrants.sk.

¹⁸ Means counselling centres.

¹⁹ A place means a place (bed) for one person.

²⁰ A consortium is a group of organizations or people with the same goal who work together to achieve this goal.

3. SELECTION CRITERIA AND PRIORITISED PROJECTS

Priority shall be given to:

- Projects with higher quality, or added value of the intervention team, also with respect to multilevel and multi-stakeholders cooperation, the current existence of the team and its level of readiness²¹,
- Projects with higher quality, or added value of an awareness-raising and education campaign plan (**eliminating criterion**),
- Projects with a higher rate of enhanced conditions in terms of children's needs (**eliminating criterion**),
- Projects in which at least one counselling centre and at the same time at least one shelter will be supported, even if they are operated by the same social service provider,
- Projects involving more than one counselling centre and/or a shelter, but at least one supported counselling centre or one supported shelter must meet the **European Standards**,
- Projects in which a new counselling centre will be established, or the **European Standards** will be met by a centre that did not meet them before,
- Projects in which a new shelter will be established, or the capacity of an existing shelter will be expanded or the **European Standards** for a shelter that did not meet them before will be met,
- Projects in which specialised support services for survivors of sexual violence are developed and/or enhanced,
- Projects implemented in partnership with entities from Norway.

It is highly unlikely that one project will meet all the priorities of this Programme. It is therefore highly recommended to focus on the priorities resulting from your needs. The aim of the Programme and the Call is to support good quality projects, not projects including all the priorities without appropriate quality. For the success of the whole Programme, it is important that some projects contribute to certain priorities and other projects contribute to different ones.

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

4. ELIGIBLE ACTIVITIES

The project grant can be used for the following activities²²:

²¹ Multilevel cooperation means partnership between various levels of public administration (national, regional, district, local). Multi-stakeholder cooperation means partnership between organizations from different sectors (public sector, non-governmental sector, private sector, etc.).

²² In the case that new or existing entities will be supported, the aim of which is specialization of provided services, for new entities registration is required before the commencement of the provision of basic counselling in accordance with Act No. 448/2008 Coll. on social services and on the amendment of Act no. 455/1991 Coll. and for both, before the submission of the final project report, accreditation in accordance with one of the relevant Acts – Act No. 448/2008 Coll. or Act No.

- a) provision of mandatory activities and other activities according to the special conditions for a provision of the project grant, operation, maintenance and minor repairs of existing counselling centres and shelters,
- b) educational activities at local level and local campaigns to raise awareness on domestic and gender-based violence in the region,
- c) networking and multi-institutional cooperation in the field of domestic and gender-based violence at local level,
- d) support for the establishment or expansion of facilities and services for children - victims or witnesses of violence - in shelters or counselling centres,
- e) other support activities necessary to maintain, expand and enhance services for victims of domestic and gender-based violence in the field of domestic and gender-based violence.

Below please find more concrete examples of eligible activities:

- ensuring the provision of social, legal, psychological counselling, special pedagogical counselling in a counselling centre / shelter and legal representation,
- joint workshops, trainings, internships and other forms of cooperation and team building between members of the intervention team,
- expanding the services provided to children, e.g. by individual or group therapy, conjoint work with mothers and children, game therapy, art therapy and other expressive forms of therapy, etc.,
- providing and/or expanding the specialized services for survivors of sexual violence,
- extension, or quality improving of spaces for children, e.g. establishment of a playroom for children with equipment for children and youth of all ages, establishment of a therapy room, multifunctional room, rooms for leisure activities, gardens where children and mothers could engage in physical and recreational activities, etc.,
- construction, technical and other modifications and measures to ensure an increased sense of security, improve the quality of life and the possibilities of communication, loneliness, creativity and movement (for self-expression, stress relief, etc.) in a counselling centre or a shelter,
- awareness-raising campaigns focused on target groups and project regions, implemented through various channels (e.g. television and radio, internet, social media, door-to-door visits, distribution of information materials such as banners, leaflets, stickers, brochures, advocacy and enforcement activities, plays, etc.),
- working with local actors to overcome negative stereotypes against women and men,
- activities aimed at involving local authorities and schools in this area,
- study visits by members of the intervention team to Norway,
- support and implementation of education and training at all levels of the education system, including non-formal education, etc.,

274/2017 Coll. Accreditation is not required only in the case of a shelters, as long as it provides counselling services only to accommodated clients.

- exchange of knowledge and experience and sharing of best practices between organizations active in the field.

The Programme Operator monitors the situation with COVID-19 and responds to the current situation. The Programme Operator duly considers "force majeure" cases and acts within its limits and conditions of implementation in the Beneficiary State. An appropriate help and flexibility will be taken in order to continue with smooth and successful project implementation. Further information can be found on www.eeagrants.sk.

The Programme Operator strongly advises the applicants to take the potential situation when the COVID-19 pandemic will still not be over at the time of project implementation into account, when developing the project application and to consider, as part of the project risks, this potential situation and the ways in which the project will mitigate the risks related to it.

5. ELIGIBLE EXPENDITURES

Except for the so-called "excluded expenditures" listed in Article 8.7 of the Regulation on the Implementation of the Norwegian Financial Mechanism 2014-2021 (hereinafter referred to as „the Regulation“), all types of expenditures can be eligible, provided that they meet the conditions listed in this Call and in Article 8.2, 8.3 and 8.5 of the Regulation²³.

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

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

For the purpose of this Call, equipment²⁴ shall be considered costs of non-current (long-term) tangible and intangible assets according to the applicable accounting standards of the country where the applicant and/or project partner is established and according to generally accepted accounting principles.

²³ The further information can also be found in the [Guideline for Applicants](#).

²⁴ Where new or second hand equipment is purchased, only the portion of the depreciation corresponding to the duration of the project and the rate of actual use for the purposes of the project may be considered eligible expenditure. The entire purchase price of that equipment may only be eligible in case the Programme Operator determines that the equipment is an integral and necessary component for achieving the outcomes of the project by way of exception from the rule.

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

6. RECOMMENDED MILESTONES AND TIMEFRAME

The Programme Operator highly recommends that the projects comply with the following time-frame:

Event/Milestone	Expected date
Call closure	September 2021
Project Contract signed	April 2022
Project completed (latest possible date)	April 2024

As indicated in the table above, the entire selection process will last approximately 6 - 8 months.

7. PARTNERSHIP

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

An example of suitable partnership is a transfer of know-how between Slovak and Norwegian entities, experience and best practices exchange, development of joint campaigns etc. An example of a poor partnership is a situation in which the partner provides services for the applicant. This, in fact, is not a partnership within the meaning of this Call; this would be a business relation. Project partners are expected to actively contribute to the development of the project application, and this as well as their role in the project, must be very clearly reflected and elaborated in the project application.

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

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

After the Project Application is approved, draft **Partnership agreement** shall be submitted. The partnership agreement shall be drafted in line with Article 7.7 of the Regulation. The draft agreement is subject to the Programme Operator's screening before it is concluded. **It is neither necessary nor recommended to enter into partnership agreement before the Project is approved!** Signed partnership statement, letter of intent or other similar document shall be seen as sufficient expression of interest of the applicant and its partner to jointly implement the project.

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

Partnership with Donor State entities

One of the two main objectives of the Norway Grants is to support the cooperation with Norwegian entities. To facilitate the identification and establishment of partnerships between Slovak and Norwegian entities, the Programme Operator plans to open for the possibility to apply for a grant, if conditions for travelling are suitable. These activities will be able to be funded under the Programme Bilateral Fund, which will provide small grants up to **2 500 EUR**, covering mainly the related travel costs.

Please, be aware that:

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

When searching for a suitable partner in Norway²⁵, the applicants may use one of the following tools:

1. Sending an inquiry with short description of the project to eeagrants@vicepremier.gov.sk. Such request will be shared with the Donor Programme Partner.
2. Direct contact with entities listed on the List of potential partners, published at www.eeagrants.sk.
3. When searching for partners from Norway, it is recommended to contact the Norwegian Directorate of Health as the contact point at Freja.Ulvestad.Karki@helsedir.no.

Further information can be found in the **Call for bilateral activities**, published at www.eeagrants.sk²⁶.

8. SELECTION PROCEDURES

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

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

The Programme Operator shall establish a Selection Committee that shall recommend the projects to be funded.

The Selection Committee shall consist of at least four persons possessing the relevant expertise. At least one of them shall be external to the Programme Operator, to the Donor Programme Partner (hereinafter referred to as "DPP"), the International Partner Organization (hereinafter referred to as

²⁵ It is recommended to complete the Norwegian partners search form provided in the call annexes if you contact the identified potential partners, the Norwegian Directorate of Health or the Program Operator.

²⁶ The call for bilateral activities will be launched only if there are suitable conditions for travelling. Please follow the Programme Operator's web page www.eeagrants.sk for the information.

“IPO”) and the Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family of the Slovak Republic. The DPP and IPO shall be the voting members of the Selection Committee. The Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs (hereinafter referred to as “NMFA”) and the National Focal Point shall be invited to participate in the meetings of the Selection Committee as observers.

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

Each project application that meets the administrative and eligibility criteria shall be reviewed by two experts: one of these experts shall be appointed by the Programme Operator in cooperation with the Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family of the Slovak Republic and the other shall be appointed by the DPP and the IPO. The experts shall be impartial and independent of the Programme Operator and the Selection Committee.

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

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

If the project application does not receive the minimum points required in average within the selection criteria, the project application shall be rejected. The Programme Operator shall notify the applicants whose project applications are rejected at this stage and the Selection Committee about the results within a reasonable time.

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

The Programme Operator shall verify that the selection process has been conducted in accordance with the Regulation and that the recommendations from the Selection Committee comply with the rules and objectives of the programme. Following such verification, the Programme Operator shall decide on which projects shall, based on the recommendation of the Selection Committee, make a decision on which projects shall be supported. Prior to making such decision, an on the spot visit may be carried out

by the Programme Operator when construction works or purchase of special equipment are foreseen in the project. If, in duly exceptional cases, the Programme Operator modifies the decision of the Selection Committee or suggests modification of the project, it shall inform the Selection Committee and the applicants affected and provide them with a justification.

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

9. FINANCING AND REPORTING

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

Project implementation duration ²⁷	Advance payment	1 st Interim payment	2 nd Interim payment	3 rd Interim payment	4 th Interim payment	Final payment ²⁸
Less than 24 months	20 %	40 %	35 %	-	-	5%
24-36 months	15 %	30 %	25 %	25 %	-	5 %

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

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

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

10. STATE AID

The Programme Operator shall, in line with Article 8.16 of the Regulation, ensure that any public support under the Norwegian Financial Mechanism 2014-2021 complies with the procedural and substantive state aid rules applicable at the time when the public support is granted.

²⁷ The project contract may set suspensive conditions related to advance, interim and/or final payments. In justified cases, at the Programme Operator's discretion, a project promoter may receive extraordinary payments to ensure sufficient funds for the projects during the implementation so as to avoid any liquidation problems, provided that the Programme Operator has sufficient capacity to proceed with these payments.

²⁸ Retention may be applied at the end of the implementation or pro rata from each advance payment and interim payments.

Based on an overall assessment of the measures to be implemented within the call, it is supposed that these are of purely local nature and as such are not liable to affect trade between Member States, irrespective of the legal form of the applicant. As a result, there is no need to examine the other cumulative conditions for the existence of State aid within the meaning of Article 107(1) TFEU, provided that conditions listed in the Annex 9 of the Call (Test of local character of social services) are met.

The annex is submitted by the applicant on behalf of itself and all partners financially engaged in the project, with the exception of those applicants and project partners, which are public organizations acting within their public competences and foreign project partners.

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

11. PROJECT APPLICATION SUBMISSION AND EVALUATION

Project Application shall be prepared in English and submitted electronically via the web application accessible [here](#) until the date and time of the Call closure specified in Chapter 1 of this Call (Basic data and conditions). The Application Form can be found [here](#) and the Guideline for Applicants at www.eegrants.sk.

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

1. Budget (template is attached to this Call);
2. Partnership statement, letter of intent or other similar document proving the interest of the applicant and the partner to jointly implement the project together, signed by the mandatory partner;
3. A completed questionnaire, including an awareness-raising and education campaign plan.
4. A completed test of local character of social services.

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

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

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

The size of the project application as well as the individual attachments must not exceed 2MB!

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

12. FURTHER INFORMATION

Please note that all applicants are required to disclose any consultant involved in the preparation of the Project Application²⁹ in the Project Application Form.

There is no legal entitlement to the Project Grant.

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

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

Further recommended documents are:

- Programme Agreement for the financing of the Programme “Domestic and Gender-based Violence”;
- Regulation on the implementation of the Norwegian Financial Mechanism 2014 – 2021;
- Guidelines, instructions and other documents published by the Financial Mechanism Office, National Focal Point and Ministry of Finance of the SR (Certifying Authority);
- National Action Plan for the Prevention and Elimination of Violence against Women 2021 – 2027³⁰
- Council of Europe Guidance on Combating violence against women: minimum standards for support services
[https://www.coe.int/t/dg2/equality/domesticviolencecampaign/Source/EG-VAW-CONF\(2007\)Study%20rev.en.pdf](https://www.coe.int/t/dg2/equality/domesticviolencecampaign/Source/EG-VAW-CONF(2007)Study%20rev.en.pdf)
- Council of Europe guidance on raising awareness of violence against women
<http://rm.coe.int/CoERMPublicCommonSearchServices/DisplayDCTMContent?documentId=09000168046e1f1>
- Council of Europe Guidance on Domestic and sexual violence perpetrator programmes
<http://rm.coe.int/CoERMPublicCommonSearchServices/DisplayDCTMContent?documentId=09000168046e1f2>
- Council of Europe Guidance on Encouraging the participation of the private sector and the media in the prevention of violence against women and domestic violence
<http://rm.coe.int/CoERMPublicCommonSearchServices/DisplayDCTMContent?documentId=0900016805970bd>

²⁹ Staff of the National Focal Point, Programme Operator, DPPs or other programme partners providing general advices on the EEA & Norway Grants programmes as part of their public duties should not be listed on the list of consultants.

³⁰ According to the Work Plan of the Government of the SR, the document should be submitted to the Government of the SR for a meeting by 30 June 2021.

- Council of Europe Guidance on Gender-based asylum claims and non-refoulement <https://rm.coe.int/conventionistanbularticle60-61-web/1680995244>
- Council of Europe Factsheet on Female Genital Mutilation <https://rm.coe.int/female-genital-mutilations-istanbul-convention-/168092582d>
- National Strategy on equality between women and men and equal opportunities in the Slovak Republic for the years 2021-2027³¹
- National Action Plan on equality between women and men and equal opportunities in the Slovak Republic for the years 2021 – 2027 in SR³¹
- Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination against Women (**CEDAW**) – <https://www.ohchr.org/Documents/ProfessionalInterest/cedaw.pdf>

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

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

The Programme Operator can be contacted for queries by:

- e-mail: eeagrants@vicepremier.gov.sk (the request needs to be linked to the call - by call code DGV02; questions received by e-mail will be responded within 10 days);
- phone: +421-2-2092 8464.

13. CALL ANNEXES

1. Application Form
2. Budget template
3. Special conditions for the provision of project grant
4. Questionnaire, including an education and awareness-raising campaign plan
5. Selection criteria
6. Informative list of social services providers meeting the required European standards
7. Selection Committee Statute and Rules of Procedures
8. Norwegian partners search form (non-binding)
9. Test of local character of social services

³¹ The document was discussed and approved at the meeting of Government of the SR on 27th April 2021; the document can be downloaded at <https://rokovania.gov.sk/RVL/Material/25845/1>.