

# *ANNUAL PROGRAMME REPORT*

## *FM14-21*

Slovakia

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

2023

## A. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

## B. PERFORMANCE

### 1. Programme progress and results

#### Objectives

The year 2023 was crucial from the point of view of the implementation of the programme and the projects approved so far, because some projects were to be completed already in 2023 and others in 2024. Many main outputs in the form of publications, strategies, concepts, methodologies have already been completed, handed over and even presented at final conferences (GGC01005 and GGC01009) or workshops to get publicity and so on. The majority of public procurements were also carried out (apart from the public procurement on equipment), which contributed to the material-technical and other assurance of projects implementation. All of this collectively contributes to the fulfillment of the program's goal - *integrity and accountability of public administration*, also because the main project promoters are primarily public administration institutions (ministries and other central offices, public universities or cities/self-governing regions as representatives of territorial local/regional self-government), which gained know-how, experience, new contacts and desirable reflection declared in the form of propositions and recommendations (main findings, policy recommendations), which should bring new progressive ideas, procedures, including in the form of policy papers for public administration.

These projects are not only of theoretical importance, perhaps the most apt example is the project GGC01008 Climate Change Adaptation Strategy and Mitigation Steps for SK – UA crossborder region (CLIMADAM)[\[1\]](#), which shares the Slovak experience of territorial self-government and prepares, for example, the neighboring region of Ukraine to adapt to climate change, which knows no borders. In addition to the progress in the successful completion of projects, in 2023 the call for bilateral initiatives between Slovakia and donor states under the Fund for bilateral relations within the Programme Good Governance and Cross-border Cooperation was opened and closed. The call was determined to strengthening bilateral relations between Donor states and Slovakia in the area of transparency, good governance and accountable institutions[\[2\]](#). It was another step in gaining new experiences that could inspire the public administration in Slovakia.

It is obvious that the given program gained importance in 2022, when full-scale Russian aggression against Ukraine began and after Ukraine received the status of a candidate country for membership in the European Union. In December 2023, European leaders decided to start accession negotiations with Ukraine[\[3\]](#). This means pressure to fulfill the criteria and pressure to continue the necessary reforms for Ukraine.

In this sense, the deepening of cooperation is even more desirable when sharing know-how and experience, and the programme also helps in what is called „lessons learned“ and brings recommendations or suggestions. Mutually beneficial is the project GGCPP003 Responsible Public Procurement, within the framework of which several training sessions on the basics of MEAT criteria for beginners and several meetings with other experts on the topic of "procurement of cycle paths" were held in 2023. This significantly contributes to the fulfillment of the programme objective (integrity and accountability of public administration improved). An example of new bilateral relations with added value is the project GGC01009 Future of Public Administration between the universities of Košice and Kharkiv. The partner of the project is also The Slovak Corps of Ukrainian Students as a youth educational organization of Ukrainian students studying in Slovakia. The intention of the association is to support the self-realization efforts of Ukrainian students in Slovakia in the field of study and to help this group of young people. The aim of the organization is to create a space for Ukrainian students to share

knowledge, experience and skills upon arrival in Slovakia and also during their studies. This project significantly contributes to reduced social disparities and strengthened bilateral cooperation. Most of the programme's projects are implemented by institutions in Eastern Slovakia near the Ukrainian border or are directly related to the Slovak-Ukrainian border.

The programme supports the reduction of differences among European countries, but also within Slovakia, where the regions in Eastern Slovakia belong to the so-called least developed regions. Moreover, the programme supports the reduction of economic differences between Donor states, Slovakia and Ukraine, as projects implement activities resulting in networking, exchange, sharing and transfer of knowledge, experience and best practices between Slovakia, Donor states and Ukraine.

[1] <https://www.arr.sk/en/climadam/>

[2] [https://www.eeagrants.sk/site/assets/files/4734/ggcbf02\\_-\\_open\\_call\\_update.pdf?csrt=955327107804443966](https://www.eeagrants.sk/site/assets/files/4734/ggcbf02_-_open_call_update.pdf?csrt=955327107804443966)

[3] <https://www.atlanticcouncil.org/blogs/ukrainealert/historic-breakthrough-for-ukraine-as-eu-agrees-to-begin-membership-talks/>

## Outcome 1: Integrity of public administration improved

Within the Outcome 1 of the programme there is a pre-defined project GGCPP001 named "Improving Integrity of the Public Administration/IIPA" being implemented by the Government Office of the Slovak Republic. Outcome 1 [1] indicator Annual number of detected corruption cases registered by the Ministry of Interior of the Slovak Republic achieved the annual target value which was set on 500 cases, and the actual value reported based on the Ministry of Interior of the Slovak Republic's records reached 236 cases, which is lower number than in 2021 and 2022. Outcome 1 indicator Control of Corruption indicator score (CCI - World Bank) underachieved the target value which was set on 65 and the actual value reported based on the CCI World bank's records reached 60,40. It is a value from 2022 report published in 2023, as report for 2023 will be published in 2024. These underachievements are probably caused by changes in the political situation in Slovakia in 2023 [2][3]. It is necessary to continue with the activities and increasing in the public awareness on anti-corruption policy. The target value of the Outcome 1 indicator Corruption perception index score (Transparency International) was not yet achieved, but this year's result is the best since the beginning of the project. The target value was set on 56 and the actual value reported based on the Transparency International's records is 54/100, which is one point better than the last year and three points better than the baseline value. The report for 2023 was published in January 2024 and Slovakia ranked on 47<sup>th</sup> place, which is two places better than last year.

In September 2023, during the monitoring of this pre-defined project GGCPP001, the project promoter informed the Programme Operator (PO) about significant savings within the project. After detailed revision of the budget and already incurred expenditure, the project promoter informed the PO about the final amount of saved financial resources in the amount almost 300,000 €. Savings were caused by traveling restrictions connected with the pandemic of COVID-19, personal changes in the project team and savings caused by technical, financial and time difficulties to procure an IT tool for reporting corruption and analysis within the Government Office of the SR. The project promoter will also not elaborate rules for lobbying and development of a model code of conduct for employees in public administration, since the rules for lobbying are no longer within the competence of the Government Office of the Slovak Republic and the code of conduct for employees was already created outside the project and was also commented on by the OECD. The project grant was decreased by 20%, including the small corrections based on the audit, from the amount of 1,500,000 € to 1,199,443

€. A tiny part of the project's budget (1,100 €) along with the funds from other pre-defined projects was reallocated from the Programme at the beginning of 2023. Memoranda of Understanding with these changes came to effect on 17 February 2023.

In 2023, the project promoter together with the Civil Service Council prepared draft Code of conduct for members of the government, state secretaries and their political advisors, the material on property declarations "Analysis of the current system of submitting property declarations and a proposal for its efficiency" was evaluated. Moreover, Council of Anti-Corruption Coordinators was created and based on this, the OECD and the project promoter started working on the National Anti-Corruption Strategy of the Slovak Republic started and by the end of 2023, it was submitted to an interdepartmental comment procedure within the Government Office of the SR.

As regards output 1.1 indicators Measures to improve integrity of public administration implemented, in 2023, 2 capacity building workshops were organized and 54 public servants lectured on ethical conduct. The cumulative numbers can be found in the Annex I. All so-far achieved actual values of the indicators contribute to the programme objective – integrity and accountability of public administration improved and all output indicators should be achieved at the end of the programme implementation.

[1] This is the reported indicator, which is not under direct control of the Project Promoter.

[2] <https://www.reuters.com/world/europe/central-banker-odor-appointed-slovakias-caretaker-prime-minister-2023-05-15/>

[3] <https://apnews.com/article/slovakia-parliamentary-election-c417efef2f33d38086d7229ddc3e24c0>

## Outcome 2: Quality of the judicial system improved

Within the Outcome 2 of the programme there is a 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. In October 2023, reconstruction works at eight partner courts were finished. Special monitoring and interrogation rooms, enabling interaction between minors in a friendlier environment and positively affecting minors and their participation in court proceedings, were ceremonially open by the Minister of Justice of the Slovak republic. The reconstruction was significantly delayed [1], which influenced the fulfilment of the Outcome 2 indicators named Number of beneficiaries of services provided or improved and Number of family law cases prosecuted by the courts, which are supported by the programme. The actual value for the indicator Number of beneficiaries of services provided or improved is 53 out of 360 and the actual number for Number of family law cases prosecuted by the courts is 3 300 out of 120 at the moment. Due to the fact that the premises were refurbished with significant delay, it is probable these outcome indicators will not reach the target value by the end of project implementation. By using the refurbished premises in 8 courts and by realizing training of judges the indicator values will be higher and higher every year, which will significantly contribute to the efficient justice system.

In October 2023, the second study trip to Iceland with the cooperation of National Agency for Children and Families aimed improving knowledge of methods and procedures designed to protect victims and introducing measures to prevent secondary and repeated victimization in court proceedings for judges, prosecutors was realized.

Also, work on the second educational program for judges, prosecutors and mediators continued in 2023 and will be finished in 2024. Moreover, 2 inter-ministerial meetings promoting cooperation on the protection of the rights of the victim were realized, methodology named Identification of domestic

violence as part of a multidisciplinary approach in the family law agenda was finalized and several trainings for judges and prosecutors from all around Slovakia.

The public procurement on media campaign had to be repeated three times because planned video spots caused huge price differences between received offers. After the discussion within Ministry of Justice of the SR and relevant stakeholders, the public procurement had been modified at the end of 2023. The project promoter decided to change the description of the subject of the contract and instead on focusing on TV spots causing huge price differences, they decided to focus the media campaign in a more targeted manner to make 15 short videos. The aim of these short videos is to increase awareness and education about the rights of victims of crimes, to inform victims and their surroundings about available help, about the existence of intervention centres whose activities are aimed at helping victims of domestic violence and disproving stereotypes and reducing the public's tolerance of domestic violence against women and children. The updated public procurement was launched early in 2024 and at the moment the offers are being assessed.

In field of improvement of the judiciary system, the new map of courts in the Slovak Republic took effect in June 2023, as planned.

[\[1\]](#) The delay was caused by the necessary change of the project to include cooperating courts as project partners to effectively ensure the reconstruction.

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

Within the Outcome 3 there is one pre-defined project GGCPP004 and five projects under the call GGC01 are being implemented.

All Output 3.1 indicators will be overachieved by the end of programme when comparing the target values set in the Annex I to the Programme Agreement. The target value for the indicator Number of best practices transferred in the field of transparency from Slovakia to Ukraine is set on 10 and the actual value achieved is 22 – for example best practices to Ukraine the field cross-border cooperation planning or creating a course Border Studies at Uzhgorod University (GGC01005), in the area of transparency and openness of public institutions (GGC01007) or in the area transport model in Uzhgorod (GGC01008). The target value for the indicator Number of people attending joint workshops organised between Slovak and Ukrainian public sector entities is set on 500. The actual value based on the attendance sheets is 2 532. The GGC01006 has contributed to this overachievement the most – the main reason is that during pandemic and war in Ukraine, all workshops were realized online. The target value for the indicator Number of secondments from Ukraine to Slovakia is set on 20 and the contracted value is 59. There was a decrease in the contracted value, as the original value was set on 62, but due to war in Ukraine and other difficulties and obstacles on the side of the Ukrainian project partner within the project GGC01006, it was not possible to realize planned 3 secondments. The actual value of secondments reported is 19 – within GGC01005 were aimed at border and customs service, within GGC01007 at transparency and openness of public institutions and within GGC01009 at integrity and accountability of public administration, good governance and democratic principles. All remaining planned secondments will be realized in 2024. In case it would not be possible to realize all planned secondments due to worsened situation in Ukraine, the Project Promoters have prepared alternative scenario for using the grants contributing to the objective, outcome and outputs of the projects.

Project GGC01005 successfully finalized all project activities in 2023 and the final project report was approved as well. During the implementation, various activities were implemented, such as 12 workshops realized and subsequently 12 manuals [\[1\]](#) for integrated border management by the relevant Slovak and Ukrainian authorities issued; one background material was issued to improve the planning of cross-border cooperation, the "Border Studies" course was launched at the University of Uzhgorod,

a plan was drawn up for the development of cooperation between the Slovak Republic and the UA in the customs area, 8 missions of customs and border service representatives from Ukraine to Slovakia were carried out. The closing conference took place in June 2023<sup>[2]</sup>. The project grant was spent up to 98,40%, which is great spending.

Within the project GGC01009 implemented by Pavol Jozef Šafárik University in Košice various activities were implemented such as two joint workshops with topics Higher standards of integrity and accountability in public administration and Tools on good democratic governance and principles with the attendance 84 people, 2 secondments from Ukraine to Slovakia took place in January and February 2023 and the final conference took place in Košice in November 2023. Project finalized all planned activities, but due to COVID-19 restrictions and war in Ukraine, planned business trips to Ukraine could not be realized, so there are still unused funds. By the end of 2023, the PO communicated with the project promoter about new possible activities to be implemented until April 2024. The project promoter will confirm its position in January 2024 after discussions with project partners.

Due to a significant delay in the implementation of the project activities, the Project Promoter of the pre-defined project GGCPP004 was not able to implement all planned activities (one exercise of Slovak Security Forces and one study trip to France) and the budget was decreased to the amount of 2,139,347 euro from 2,500,000 euro. The funds were reallocated from the programme. Projects' activities continued its activities in 2023. CBRN defence education and training systems were created, but due to new government in Slovakia in 2023 and changes in relevant institutions, the process of accreditation had to start again with Academy of the Police Force in Bratislava at the end of 2023. Moreover, opening conference took place in January 2023, intensive English language courses for Ukrainian CBFN specialist were realized, altogether 4 workshops on CBRN defence education system took place in Trenčín, Oslo, Košice and Drammen and study visit to USA Washington DC was realized in September 2023. Although the pre-defined project implemented various activities, it is still considered risky because due to changes in the Ministry in the second half of 2023, the public procurement for equipment was not launched until the end of 2023. The plan of public procurements for the whole Ministry of Interior of the SR was updated in January 2024 and the public procurement for equipment is supposed to be launched as soon as possible. The PO discusses this with the project promoter on weekly basis.

In 2023, the war in Ukraine still influenced the implementation of projects, but not as much as in 2022 – the project promoters with the cooperation of the project partners created alternative scenario plans that could be used in order the war in Ukraine complicated the implementation of planned activities. For example, the project GGC01007 prepared alternative scenario that included activities that could be implemented instead of planned ones that could not be implemented due to restrictions and danger caused by war in Ukraine. Once it was clear that some of the originally planned activities could not be realized, the project promoter requested a change in the project in line with a prepared alternative scenario. The addendum to the project contract will be signed in February 2024. These plans helped the project promoters to react quickly to changing situation without wasting precious time remaining for projects' implementation.

The war in Ukraine is still considered a programme risk.

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[1] <https://www.sibsu.sk/publications>

[2] <https://www.sibsu.sk/news>

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

Within the Outcome 4 of the programme there is a pre-defined project GGCPP003 named “Responsible public procurement” being implemented by the Public Procurement Office. Based on the Project Promoter’s records the actual values of two Outcome 4 indicators *Average number of bidders in public procurements* and *Share of public procurements using MEAT criteria* in 2023 are underachieved, i.e. lower than the baseline values, but higher than in 2022. This decrease has been caused by the consequences of COVID-19 pandemic and ongoing war in Ukraine. The contracting parties have been trying to procure goods as soon as possible, in disregard of quality. Since the start of the pandemic, the Public Procurement Office has observed decrease of general macro - indexes of the public procurement in Slovakia. At the moment, taking the pandemic and ongoing war in Ukraine into account and not being able to predict its duration, it is difficult to suppose if and how this situation will affect reaching the target values of outcome indicators. Activities contributing to the increased application of the Value for Money principle in public procurement continued to be implemented within the project in 2022, the current numbers are higher, but an increase is expected in 2023 during which more activities within the project shall be implemented.

The process of the reduction of the project grant by 50,000 euro due to the savings (on planned business trips that could not be realized because of COVID-19 pandemic) in the project was finalized in Q1 2023. This amount was reallocated from the programme.

There are neither any delays nor issues within the project and the implementation is going very well. In 2023, 5 standards/templates for the application of MEAT criteria were developed, 2 professional chambers and institutions were involved in the preparation of these standards/templates – namely Association of Towns and Municipalities in Slovakia and Smart Cities Club, 5 workshops for the biggest Contracting Authorities on MEAT criteria were organized, pre-tender market consultations were used in 56 cases, document *Strengthening value for money in the public procurement system of the Slovak Republic*<sup>[1]</sup> was published and methodology named *How to benefit from market consultation findings to design effective MEAT criteria*?<sup>[2]</sup> was prepared and published. Moreover, the project team participated in the prestigious Public Procurement Conference hosted by OECD in Paris in October 2023.

Even though the increase in application of the Value for Money principle in public procurement has been affected by the COVID-19 situation in 2020 – 2022 and ongoing war in Ukraine and shows lower numbers, the project has finalised the tools for its improvement and started to use them in practice. They are on good way to further use them in practice and to achieve the target value within the next years of the project implementation.

[1]  
[https://zodpovednevo.uvo.gov.sk/fileadmin/zodpovednevo/dokumenty/projektove\\_sk/Strengthening\\_value\\_for\\_money\\_in\\_procurement\\_system\\_of\\_Slovak\\_Republic.pdf](https://zodpovednevo.uvo.gov.sk/fileadmin/zodpovednevo/dokumenty/projektove_sk/Strengthening_value_for_money_in_procurement_system_of_Slovak_Republic.pdf)

[2]  
[https://zodpovednevo.uvo.gov.sk/fileadmin/zodpovednevo/dokumenty/projektove\\_sk/Ako\\_vyuzit\\_zistenia\\_pripravnych\\_trhovych\\_konzultacii\\_pri\\_navrhovani\\_efektivnych\\_MEAT\\_kriterii.pdf](https://zodpovednevo.uvo.gov.sk/fileadmin/zodpovednevo/dokumenty/projektove_sk/Ako_vyuzit_zistenia_pripravnych_trhovych_konzultacii_pri_navrhovani_efektivnych_MEAT_kriterii.pdf)

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

Four out of nine projects, namely GGCPP004, GGC01005, GGC01006, GGC01007, are being implemented in trilateral partnerships between Slovakia, Ukraine and Norway. Therefore, the Bilateral output 1 indicator *Share of projects implemented in trilateral partnerships between Slovakia, Ukraine and the Donor States* was overachieved by reaching 44.44 % in comparison with the target value 33.30 % and

the indicator Number of projects involving cooperation with a donor project partner (disaggregated by Donor State) achieved its target value, i.e. 4 projects are being implemented with the project partners from Norway.

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.

Two Cooperation Committee Meetings (hereinafter referred to as “CCM”) took place in 2023, with the participation of representatives from the DPP, IPO, FMO, NFP and the Royal Norwegian Embassy in Bratislava and in Vienna.

The first CCM took place in January – February 2023 by per-rollam procedure during which Annual Programme Report 2022 was discussed and commented on.

The next CCM took place in September 2023 and was focused on progress of the implementation of the programme and its projects, programme modification proposal and bilateral fund at programme level. The meeting was also connected with the visit of the project GGC01006 named Slovak-Ukrainian cross-border cooperation - CBC4US<sup>[1]</sup>.

In March 2023, Updated Bilateral call GGCBF02 in the area of transparency, good governance and responsible public institutions was launched and was closed on 31<sup>st</sup> December 2023. Altogether 6 applications were submitted, 3 of them approved and in its implementation and 2 were rejected because proposed initiatives were not in line with the aim of the call, which was to promote transparency, good governance and responsible public institutions. One application was received by the end of 2023 and will be assessed early in 2024. If the last application is approved, almost the whole allocation of the bilateral fund call will be used (106,028 euro out of 106,287,19 euro).

A second study trip to Iceland within the pre-defined initiative named Study stay at the Children's House in Reykjavík, Iceland implemented by the Ministry of Justice of the Slovak Republic took place in October 2023 with the cooperation of the Icelandic partner – National Agency for Children and Families . Study trip was aimed at exchange of experience, knowledge and the transfer of best practices between countries in the field of child-friendly justice/protection of vulnerable groups. The most important knowledge of the study stays was a visit to specialized children's homes in Norway and Iceland, where participants learnt more about special interrogation methods of children, about treatment and subsequent work in the children's home and the possibilities of medical examinations directly in the children's home (altogether 19 judges, prosecutors and employees of the Ministry participated). Originally, both study trips were supposed to be realized with Norwegian National Courts Administration, but unfortunately, due to COVID-19 restrictions and its other duties, this institution was not able to realize also the second study trip. After several months of trying to find an appropriate partner in Norway, the Ministry of Justice of the SR was recommended to try to find the partner in Iceland, which was at last successful. This initiative contributed to the fulfilment of the bilateral Output 1 indicator named Number of staff from the beneficiary country participating in study visits to Norway (currently being the subject to change the name of the indicator to Number of staff from the beneficiary country participating in study visits to Norway and Iceland via the addendum to the programme agreement).

<sup>[1]</sup> <https://en.cbc4us.zmos.sk/>

## C. MONITORING AND EVALUATION

### 1. Monitorings carried out



In 2023, there were four changes in the monitoring plan. First one was caused by the change of the internal procedures of the PO, specifically rules regarding the monitoring of projects with the project grant above 1 mil. euro every year. This rule was changed in 2023 and the PO decided to carry out only results monitoring of GGCPP001 instead of monitorings of all pre-defined projects as it was originally planned in line with the rules in force in 2022. The monitoring of the project GGCPP004 is still open as the project remains risky and is consulted on the regular basis. The Project Promoter is required to provide information on activities implementation, public procurement plans and spending of the project grant on a monthly basis. During the monitoring of GGCPP001, the PO suggested to review the spending of expenditure in order to determine if there will be any saved funds at the end of implementation. More information is stated on page 3 of this document.

The results monitoring was planned for the project GGC01008, but based on the data provided in the project interim reports, the PO decided not to carry out the planned monitoring for this project as it was considered unnecessary. Originally, there was not any monitoring planned for GGC01006, but given the data and information from the project interim reports and communication from the Project Promoter, the PO decided to carry out risk monitoring for this project, which took place in December 2023. The project promoter informed the PO about the difficulties with the communication with their Ukrainian project partner – Association of Ukrainian Cities. For almost whole 2023, the project promoter approached this partner many times regarding project activity ideas that could be implemented within the project, as more than third of the project grant is still not used. The project partner changed their opinion often, resulting in not agreeing on any activities, as it would require the transfer of part of the project grant from the budget of this partner to project promoter (the activities would have to take place in Slovakia due to war in Ukraine, hence the transfer of the project grant to project promoter). More on this topic will be decided early in 2024, but the PO still supposes approximately 30% of the project grant not be used.

The results monitoring of GGC01007 was carried out in November 2023 as planned. The implementation is going well, however, due to ongoing war in Ukraine, some project activities could not be realized in Ukraine and in line with the alternative scenario, alternative activities that will take place in Slovakia had to be approved by the PO in November 2023. Currently, the PO is waiting for the signed addendums to the partnership agreements and afterwards the addendum to the project contract will be signed. According to the latest information from the project promoter, the addendums to the partnership agreements were sent to the PO in February 2024.

In 2024, no monitorings are planned. The monitorings from 2023 and their reports will be completed. In case of need ad hoc monitoring will be carried out.

## **2. Evaluations carried out**

Not applicable. The evaluation of the programme was not carried out by the PO. The National Focal Point carried out the monitoring of the Good Governance programme at the end of 2023, but the results have not been finalized yet. Evaluation of the programme is planned by the National Focal Point in 2024.

## **D. ANNEXES**

- 1. Results achieved**
- 2. Communication summary**
- 3. Project summary and call details**
- 4. Risk management**
- 5. Monitoring plan**
- 6. Evaluation report**
- 7. Agreement conditions**

## Annex 1: Results achieved

Objective: Integrity and accountability of public administration improved								
Outcome 1: Integrity of public administration improved								
Indicator	Unit of measurement	Baseline value	Previous achievement value	Achievements until end of December 2023			Target value	Comment
				Numerator	Denominator	Achievement value		
<b>Control of Corruption indicator score (CCI - World Bank)</b>	Annual number	63.50	62.02 (APR 2022)	-	-	60.40	65	CCI - World Bank report 2022. The report for the year 2023 is not available yet.
<b>Corruption perception index score (Transparency International)</b>	Annual number	51	53 (APR 2022)	-	-	54	56	According to Transparency International CPI for the year 2023, Slovakia ranked on the 47th place with 54 points out of 100, which is the best results since the beginning of the project GGCPP001.
<b>Annual number of detected corruption cases registered by the Ministry of Interior</b>	Annual number	357	469 (APR 2022)	-	-	241	500	Data provided by the Ministry of Interior of the Slovak Republic for the year 2023.
Output 1.1: Measures to improve integrity of public administration implemented								
Indicator	Unit of measurement	Baseline value	Previous achievement value	Achievements until end of December 2023			Target value	Comment
				Numerator	Denominator	Achievement value		
<b>Number of capacity building workshops organised</b>	Cumulative number	0	4 (IFR 2023)	-	-	4	3	In 2023, 2 capacity building workshops were organized. The project promoter realized one more capacity building workshop than it was originally planned. The indicator is fulfilled.

<b>Number of line ministries whose policies in the field of integrity of public administration are coordinated</b>	Cumulative number	0	5 (IFR 2023)	-	-	5	5	For example policies of Ministry of Interior of the Slovak Republic, Ministry of Justice of the Slovak Republic or Ministry of Education, Science, Research and Sport of the Slovak Republic are coordinated in the field of integrity of public administration.
<b>Number of public servants lectured on ethical conduct</b>	Cumulative number	0	182 (IFR 2023)	-	-	236	350	The Project Promoter will continue lectures in 2024.
<i>Gender</i>								
<i>Female</i>	-	-	103	-	-	125	-	-
<i>Male</i>	-	-	79	-	-	111	-	-
<i>Not specified</i>	-	-	0	-	-	0	-	-
<b>Public Integrity Review conducted</b>	Binary	No	Yes (IFR 2023)	-	-	Yes	Yes	-
<b>Set of standards to measure the integrity of public administration developed</b>	Binary	No	No (IFR 2023)	-	-	Yes	Yes	Set of standards to measure the integrity of public administration was developed in 2023.
<b>Outcome 2: Quality of the judicial system improved</b>								
Indicator	Unit of measurement	Baseline value	Previous achievement value	Achievements until end of December 2023			Target value	Comment
				Numerator	Denominator	Achievement value		
<b>Number of beneficiaries of services provided or improved</b>	Cumulative number	0	0 (IFR 2023)	-	-	53	360	The actual value contains the persons visiting refurbished premises in partner courts and beneficiaries whose services were improved by judges who completed training. As the

								reconstruction of court premises was finished with significant delay, it is possible the target value will not be reached by the end of implementation of the project.
<b>Number of family law cases prosecuted by the courts which are supported by the programme</b>	Cumulative number	0	0 (APR 2022)	-	-	3,300	120	Number of cases of judges in the partner courts who completed the training and afterwards, via surveys, reported increased competence and capacity with protection of minors
<b>Number of professionals trained who self-report increased competence and capacity for working with victims of crimes and protection of minors</b>	Cumulative number	N/A	48 (APR 2022)	Reported 2022, 2024			180	-
<b>Output 2.1: Quality of family law prosecution improved</b>								
Indicator	Unit of measurement	Baseline value	Previous achievement value	Achievements until end of December 2023			Target value	Comment
				Numerator	Denominator	Achievement value		
<b>Number of court premises refurbished</b>	Cumulative number	0	0 (IFR 2023)	-	-	8	8	All the court premises were finalized in October 2023. Indicator is fulfilled.
<b>Number of educational programmes for mediators and judges developed</b>	Cumulative number	0	1 (IFR 2023)	-	-	1	1	In 2022, educational programme for mediators and judges was developed. Indicator is fulfilled
<b>Output 2.2: Access to the justice for the victims improved</b>								
Indicator	Unit of measurement	Baseline value	Previous achievement value	Achievements until end of December 2023			Target value	Comment
				Numerator	Denominator	Achievement value		

<b>Number of educational programmes for judges and prosecutors, focused on improving handling victims</b>	Cumulative number	0	1 (IFR 2023)	-	-	1	2	The second educational programme will be finalized in March 2024.
<b>Number of enforcement officers trained</b>	Cumulative number	0	17 (IFR 2023)	-	-	36	36	In 2023, 19 enforcement officers were trained. Indicator is fulfilled.
<b>Number of inter-ministerial meetings promoting cooperation on the protection of the rights of the victim</b>	Cumulative number	0	15 (IFR 2023)	-	-	17	30	Since last IFR, 2 inter-ministerial meetings were realized. The rest of the meetings is planned for 2024. The project promoter supposes the target value will be met by the end of project implementation.
<b>Outcome 3: Slovak-Ukrainian institutional cooperation enhanced</b>								
Indicator	Unit of measurement	Baseline value	Previous achievement value	Achievements until end of December 2023			Target value	Comment
				Numerator	Denominator	Achievement value		
<b>Level of (self-reported) knowledge among Ukrainian participants involved in cooperation with SK (on issues related to procurement, justice, etc.) targeted by projects' activities</b>	Scale 1-10	5.63	5.63 (APR 2022)	-	-	5.63	10, The target is +100% from baseline (plus one hundred percent and not plus one hundred percentage points), but capped at the	The target value will be determined after all relevant projects are finalized.

							maximum of 10.	
<b>Number of cooperation partnerships remaining between Slovak and Ukrainian Line Ministries at completion of the programme</b>	Cumulative number	0	1 (APR 2022)	-	-	3	5	This is the final value. The indicator will not be fulfilled, as the value in the contracted projects is 3.
<b>Output 3.1: Measures fostering Slovak-Ukrainian cooperation implemented</b>								
Indicator	Unit of measurement	Baseline value	Previous achievement value	Achievements until end of December 2023			Target value	Comment
				Numerator	Denominator	Achievement value		
<b>Number of best practices transferred in the field of transparency from Slovakia to Ukraine</b>	Cumulative number	0	18 (IFR 2023)	-	-	22	10	The highest number of best practices transferred to Ukraine is within already finished project GGC01005 - number 14.
<b>Number of people attending joint workshops organised between Slovak and Ukrainian public sector entities</b>	Cumulative number	0	1,762 (IFR 2023)	-	-	2,532	500	-
<i>Gender</i>								
<i>Female</i>	-	-	974	-	-	1,462	-	-
<i>Male</i>	-	-	788	-	-	1,070	-	-
<i>Not specified</i>	-	-	0	-	-	0	-	-
<b>Number of secondments from Ukraine to Slovakia</b>	Cumulative number	0	18 (IFR 2023)	-	-	19	20	The most secondments were realized within project GGC01005 (8) and GGC01007 (9).
<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 value	Previous achievement value	Achievements until end of December 2023			Target value	Comment
				Numerator	Denominator	Achievement value		

<b>CBRN defence education and training systems for Security Forces of Ukraine established</b>	Binary	No	No (IFR 2023)	-	-	No	Yes	In 2023, CBRN defence education and training systems were created. Due to new government in Slovakia in 2023 and changes in relevant institutions, the process of accreditation had to be started again with Academy of the Police Force in Bratislava.
<b>Number of assessments of the current status of Internal Acts in the field of CBRN safety and cross-border flow of information</b>	Cumulative number	0	0 (IFR 2023)	-	-	0	2	The assessment started in 2023 and will be finalized in 2024.
<b>Number of exercises of Slovak security forces with international observation</b>	Cumulative number	0	0 (IFR 2023)	-	-	0	1	The exercise will take place in Slovakia in March 2023.
<b>Number of international exercises conducted</b>	Cumulative number	0	0 (IFR 2023)	-	-	0	1	The exercise will take place in Slovakia in March 2023.
<b>Number of private sector representatives trained on handling illicit CBRN materials</b>	Cumulative number	0	0 (IFR 2023)	-	-	0	45	The training of private sector representatives is planned in 2024, at the moment the public procurement for services is being prepared.
<i>Gender</i>								
<i>Female</i>	-	-	0	-	-	0	-	-
<i>Male</i>	-	-	0	-	-	0	-	-
<i>Not specified</i>	-	-	0	-	-	0	-	-
<b>Number of Slovak police specialists educated and trained</b>	Cumulative number	0	0 (IFR 2023)	-	-	0	160	The training and education of Slovak police specialists is planned in 2024, at the moment the public

								procurement for services is being prepared.
<i>Gender</i>								
<i>Female</i>	-	-	0	-	-	0	-	-
<i>Male</i>	-	-	0	-	-	0	-	-
<i>Not specified</i>	-	-	0	-	-	0	-	-
<b>Number of Ukrainian Security Forces specialists educated and trained</b>	Cumulative number	0	0 (IFR 2023)	-	-	55	100	English courses took place in 2023, during which 55 Ukrainian specialists were educated. The courses continue in 2024.
<i>Gender</i>								
<i>Female</i>	-	-	0	-	-	18	-	-
<i>Male</i>	-	-	0	-	-	37	-	-
<i>Not specified</i>	-	-	0	-	-	0	-	-
<b>Outcome 4: Increased application of the Value for Money principle in public procurement</b>								
Indicator	Unit of measurement	Baseline value	Previous achievement value	Achievements until end of December 2023			Target value	Comment
				Numerator	Denominator	Achievement value		
<b>Average annual number of bidders in public procurements</b>	Annual number	3.60	3.07 (APR 2022)	-	-	3.30	4	In 2023, 727 direct negotiations procedures were issued in Slovakia and 140 of them were issued with target of procuring goods or services-influenced. In this procedure it's common to negotiate with only one candidate/bidder, which affects the indicator.
<b>Number of cases in which the pre-tender market consultations have been used</b>	Cumulative number	0	74 (IFR 2023)	-	-	78	50	In 2023, pre-tender market consultations were used in 56 cases



<b>Share of public procurements using MEAT criteria</b>	Percentage	20.00 %	7.20 % (APR 2022)	394	4,168	9.45 %	40.00 %	During the COVID – 19 pandemic situation and ongoing war in Ukraine contracting authorities prefer using of lowest costs criterion (time aspect) instead of MEAT (quality aspect).
<b>Output 4.1: MEAT (“Most Economically Advantageous Tenders”) criteria applied</b>								
Indicator	Unit of measurement	Baseline value	Previous achievement value	Achievements until end of December 2023			Target value	Comment
				Numerator	Denominator	Achievement value		
<b>Number of professional chambers and institutions involved in the preparation of the standards/templates</b>	Cumulative number	0	0 (IFR 2023)	-	-	2	3	Association of Towns and Municipalities in Slovakia and Smart Cities Club
<b>Number of standards/templates for the application of MEAT criteria developed</b>	Cumulative number	0	2 (IFR 2023)	-	-	6	6	In 2023, 5 standards/templates were developed. The indicator is fulfilled.
<b>Number of workshops for the biggest Contracting Authorities on MEAT criteria</b>	Cumulative number	0	5 (IFR 2023)	-	-	7	6	In 2023, 5 workshops were realized . The indicator is fulfilled.
<b>Bilateral Outcome: Enhanced collaboration between beneficiary and donor state entities involved in the programme</b>								
Indicator	Unit of measurement	Baseline value	Previous achievement value	Achievements until end of December 2023			Target value	Comment
				Numerator	Denominator	Achievement value		
<b>Level of satisfaction with the partnership</b>	Scale 1-7	6.63	6.63 (APR 2022)	-	-	6.63	≥4.5, and an increase on the baseline	-

<b>Level of trust between cooperating entities in Beneficiary States and Donor States</b>	Scale 1-7	6.75	6.75 (APR 2022)	-	-	6.75	≥4.5, and an increase on the baseline	-
<b>Share of cooperating organisations that apply the knowledge acquired from bilateral partnership</b>	Percentage	N/A	-	0	0	-	≥50%	According to Core Indicator Guidance, the FMO collects data
<b>Bilateral Output 1: Cooperation between Donor and Beneficiary State entities supported</b>								
Indicator	Unit of measurement	Baseline value	Previous achievement value	Achievements until end of December 2023			Target value	Comment
				Numerator	Denominator	Achievement value		
<b>Number of projects involving cooperation with a donor project partner</b>	Cumulative number	0	4 (IFR 2023)	-	-	4	4	PdP of the Ministry of Interior of the Slovak Republic – GGCPP004. Within the Open call GGC01 project GGC01005, GGC01006 and GGC01007. Altogether 4 projects involve cooperation with Norwegian project partner
<b>Number of staff from the beneficiary country participating in study visits to Norway</b>	Cumulative number	0	18 (IFR 2023)	-	-	36	36	Second study visit to Iceland took place in October 2023 within the project GGCPP002
<b>Share of projects implemented in trilateral partnerships between Slovakia, Ukraine and the Donor States</b>	Percentage	0.00 %	44.44 % (IFR 2023)	4	9	44.44 %	33.30 %	4 projects out of 9 (pre-defined project GGCPP004 and 3 projects within GGC01 call) are implemented in the trilateral partnerships between Slovakia, Ukraine and the Donor States.

## Annex 2: Communication summary

### 1. Best projects

Within the programme there are altogether 4 projects being implemented in partnerships with Norwegian project partners. Based on the feedback from the Project Promoters, all of them are satisfied with the level of cooperation with their Norwegian project partners. Project GGC01005 was implemented by the Ministry of Interior of the Slovak Republic in cooperation with Norwegian project partner Åpenhet AS. According to the project promoter, this partner was very active, communicative and very helpful also with the transfer of best practices to Ukraine the field of IT technology in border control processes and customs control process, current trends in the detection of irregular documents, detection of human trafficking at the external border, current trends in the training of a service dog to detect the illegal import of goods, current trends in the detection of illegal import and export of funds. This project was successfully ended, implemented all planned activities and spent almost whole project grant. Another example is pre-defined project GGCPP003 aimed at promoting the principle of value for money in public procurement. This project is being implemented with the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) – that is very helpful and active since the beginning of the project. The whole implementation is very smooth, without any issues. In 2023, 5 standards/templates were developed in cooperation with Association of Towns and Municipalities in Slovakia and Smart Cities Club, 5 workshops for the biggest Contracting Authorities on MEAT criteria were organized, pre-tender market consultations were used in 56 cases, document Strengthening value for money in the public procurement system of the Slovak Republic was published and methodology named How to benefit from market consultation findings to design effective MEAT criteria? was prepared and published. Moreover, the project team participated in the prestigious Public Procurement Conference hosted by OECD in Paris in October 2023.

### 2. Visibility of the Grants and the Donors

#### 2.a. Communication activities

The PO proceeds in line with the Communication plan for the programme Good governance and Cross-border cooperation. The PO communicates its dissemination and publicity activities with Royal Norwegian Embassy in Vienna and the Press Department of the Ministry of Investments, Regional Development and Informatization of the Slovak Republic. Through the web site [www.eeagrants.sk](http://www.eeagrants.sk) and Facebook profile <https://www.facebook.com/EEANorwayGrants/> the PO communicates with general public and besides the basic information presents the programme activities and results. Information about the programme and projects implemented are published, including the presentation videos.

In 2023, there was no major programme publicity information, apart from the launch of the bilateral fund call GGCBF02 in March 2023.

#### 2.b. Project stories

Webpage <https://www.eegrants.sk/en/programs/good-governance-and-cross-border-cooperation/projects/> contains the comprehensive information about all projects including the information of nutshell, project description, photo gallery and the video about the project. Activities on social media, precisely the Facebook page, in the programme GGC focused on presenting individual projects, either their conferences or other events and news. Overall, the programme GGC has earned on Facebook a number of posts (9), likes (28), and shares (3) and had a significant reach of posts (2010) to individuals.

### 3. Media coverage

<https://www.zmos.sk/aktualizovana-vyzva-v-ramci-programu-dobre-spravovanie-a-cezhranicna-spolupraca-oznam/mid/405616/.html>

### 4. Website and social media

Link to programme website		Total number of page views in the reporting year	
<a href="https://www.eegrants.sk/en/">https://www.eegrants.sk/en/</a>		16315	
	Link or account handle	Number of posts published in the reporting year	Number of followers
Facebook	<a href="https://www.facebook.com/EEANorwayGrants/">https://www.facebook.com/EEANorwayGrants/</a>	9	1819

### 5. Visuals

EEA and Norway Grants media library (ealibrary.org) will be completed by the multimedia assets of the Good Governance and Cross-border Cooperation Programme projects after project promoters update and upload all the necessary photos. The PO will regularly remind the project promoters to update the media library and will check if they fulfilled this requirement. At the moment, two projects uploaded photos from activities.

GGC01006:

[Humanitarian aid - EEA & Norway Grants media library \(ealibrary.org\)](#)

[Study visit to Norway - EEA & Norway Grants media library \(ealibrary.org\)](#)

GGCPP001:

[IMG-3282 - EEA & Norway Grants media library \(ealibrary.org\)](#)

[IMG\\_1811 - EEA & Norway Grants media library \(eealibrary.org\)](http://eealibrary.org)

### Annex 3: Project summary and call details

#### 1. Project summary

	Number	Total Grant	Amount budgeted to dpps (estimate)
<b>Total number of projects contracted</b>	9	€ 8,788,235	€ 858,019
<b>Number of pre-defined projects contracted</b>	4	€ 6,288,235	€ 500,000
<b>Number of projects with a donor project partner</b>	4	€ 3,958,172	€ 858,019
Number of projects with a donor project partner Norway	4	€ 3,958,172	€ 858,019
Number of projects with a donor project partner Iceland	0	€ 0	€ 0
Number of projects with a donor project partner Liechtenstein	0	€ 0	€ 0

#### 2. Call details

Call title	Outcome(s)	Call amount	Submission deadline	Number of applications received	Grant amount applied for	Grant demand %	Number of applications approved for funding	Grant amount awarded	Number of projects contracted	Amount contracted
GGC01 - Open call for proposals on fostering Institutional cross-border cooperation with Ukraine	Outcome 3	€ 2,500,000	31/01/2020	11	€ 5,829,205	233.17 %	5	€ 2,500,000	5	€ 2,500,000
GGC02 - Small grants scheme - call for proposals on fostering institutional cross-border cooperation with Ukraine	Outcome 3	€ 0	15/01/2020	1	€ 166,202	0.00 %	0	€ 0	0	€ 0

#### Annex 4: Risk management

Risk description	Likelihood (1-4)	Consequence (1-4)	Risk score	Planned response in 2024
Results achieved may not be very visible since the perception of judiciary system is low	2 medium low	2 medium low	2.00	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.
Issues connected with financial flows to Ukrainian institutions	3 medium high	2 medium low	2.45	This risk solely depends on the state system and the PO is not able to affect national procedures set by Ukraine. The risk has to be accepted.
Low interest of Ukrainian partners in the programme	2 medium low	3 medium high	2.45	Within 6 projects under the Outcome 3, there are altogether 12 Ukrainian project partners and all partnership agreements are already signed. The Programme Operator will regularly communicate with the Project Promoters in order to secure functioning and stable partnerships.
Judges not interested in specialized trainings	2 medium low	2 medium low	2.00	Raising attractivity of specialized trainings provided (skilled and reputable experts in the field as lecturers). If needed, it will be set up based on the results why there is no interest.
Complications caused by unawareness of legislation and inability to keep up with the amendments of the legislation of other states	3 medium high	3 medium high	3.00	The PO will be willing to approve the changes in budget wherever possible if the Ukrainian partners prefer the proof of expenditure by the way of the reports by an independent auditor during the projects' implementation.
Frequent changes of representatives in state and regional administration	3 medium high	2 medium low	2.45	The PO cannot influence this risk.
Time constraints in the projects implementation	3 medium high	3 medium high	3.00	Originally, time constraints in the projects implementation were only connected with the project partners from other countries. At the moment, slight delays are caused by COVID-19 pandemic and ongoing war in Ukraine. The PO

				regularly communicates with the Project Promoters in order to mitigate the consequences of the war in Ukraine on the projects' implementation.
Ongoing pandemic of COVID-19 and connected delays in projects	2 medium low	2 medium low	2.00	The PO will check on project promoters regularly during the project interim reports verification, via phone or email and will be helpful to maintain smooth project implementation within the programme.
War in Ukraine	3 medium high	3 medium high	3.00	The PO will regularly communicate with the Project Promoters in order to mitigate the risk on the implementation of the projects and their results. If planned activities are not able to be implemented due to current situation in Ukraine, the Project Promoters will submit a request for a change in the projects to the PO.
<b>Overall risk of not absorbing most financing and achieving most targets (1-4):</b>			<b>3.00</b>	



### **Annex 5: Monitoring plan**

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

### **Annex 6: Evaluation report**

*Not Available*

## Annex 7: Agreement conditions

Description	Type	Tracking	Fulfilled	Date of fulfilment	Description of measures taken
1. The maximum level of funding available from the total eligible expenditure of the programme for infrastructure (hard measures) shall be 30%.	General	Continuously tracking	N/A		This condition is going to be fulfilled as all five projects within the GGC01 call and all four pre-defined projects altogether do 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.
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.	General	One-time fulfilment	Yes	05/09/2020	The condition was fulfilled.
3. 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	General	Continuously tracking	N/A		This condition applies to the pre-defined project of the Ministry of Justice of the Slovak Republic. The Programme Operator included the condition in the signed project contact and shall also follow it during the whole implementation of the Programme.

<p>overall objectives of the project for the same period;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 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</li> <li>• 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</li> </ul>					
<p>4. 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.</p>	<p>General</p>	<p>One-time fulfilment</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>18/01/2023</p>	<p>Fulfilled. In each project involving the cooperation with Ukraine, it is 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 was realized by all five Project Promoters within the GGC01 call and GGCPP004 at the beginning of the project (i.e. before the implementation of the activities for strengthening Slovak-Ukrainian institutional cooperation) and will be realized at the end of the project (i.e. after the implementation of the activities for</p>

					<p>strengthening Slovak-Ukrainian institutional cooperation) pursuant to the instruction of the Programme Operator. All six Project Promoters provided the Programme Operator with the baseline value and supporting data (mainly in Slovak) and the Programme Operator submitted the baseline value to the FMO on 7<sup>th</sup> November 2022 – the baseline value for this indicator is set at 5.63.</p> <p>All project contracts concluded within GGC01 and a project contract for the pre-defined project GGCPP004 include the condition for the Project Promoters to realize the survey for determination of the baseline value of the above-mentioned outcome 3 indicator.</p>
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