

ANNUAL PROGRAMME REPORT

FM14-21

Slovakia

SK-LOCALDEV Local Development, Poverty Reduction and Roma
Inclusion

2022

A. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

B. PERFORMANCE

1. Programme progress and results

Objectives

In 2022, the Programme Operator of the Local Development Programme (hereinafter referred to as "PO") focused on the implementation phase of all projects contracted.

The objective of the Programme Strengthened social and economic cohesion is supported through local development and reducing poverty, with a strong focus on vulnerable groups at high risk of exclusion, mainly Roma. The Slovak Republic belongs to OECD countries with the highest regional disparities increase. The balanced regional development is an important part of the EU policy and the Slovak government. By the end of 2022, there still were 20 districts in list of the least developed districts meeting the criteria according to Act No. 336/2015 Coll. on the support for the least developed districts. The least developed districts belong to Prešov, Košice and Banská Bystrica region and this shows persistent regional disparities between western and eastern part of the Slovak Republic. The PO provides a special support to high unemployment and low economic performance regions. In addition to high unemployment rate these regions face also additional factors, e.g. insufficient infrastructure, social exclusion of marginalized communities, low quality of primary and secondary education. In order to promote social inclusion and fight against poverty, it is essential to support the construction of a modern infrastructure for social, educational, cultural and recreational services, including sport facilities focusing on children with special needs, elderly people and people with disabilities. The cost-efficient and sustainable measures that integrate education, housing, employment and health components are implementing to strengthen social and economic development and decrease the regional disparities. Altogether, the measures are implementing in 13 least developed districts (both components local development and Roma inclusion) and in 6 other districts, including Bratislava Self-government Region.

Eight multi-functional youth centres, targeted at vulnerable children and youth, in the least developed regions of Slovakia are being established. However, the centres included in the network of multi-functional youth centres have already started to implement their activities focused on improvement of children and youth's personal development in order to provide them with skills increasing their chances to succeed in the society.

Contribution of the projects is the improvement of the quality of living standards of population in the supported districts, prevention of social exclusion and mitigation of its negative impacts, the promotion of equality of opportunities at the labour market, the support of marginalized communities, the promotion of the physical culture and sport.

The programme progress towards the programme objective is visible and monitored not only by the results of investment projects but also by the many activities carried out within the Call LDI02 and the Call LDI03.

In general, the implementation of 26 projects continued during year 2022 (9 projects Local Development, 9 projects Roma Inclusion, 7 projects Small Grant Scheme and one pre-defined project LDIPP001).

The predefined project LDIPP001 supports the systemic implementation of the Romani language and literature teaching at all levels of education within school educational programmes

in schools with pupils from Roma communities, the promotion of intercultural education and democratic and inclusive school environment. In the area of education and enrolment of children in the marginalised Roma communities (hereinafter referred to as “MRC”), there have been important findings in the second EU SILC_MRK 2020 survey. The results of survey was published by the Office of the Plenipotentiary of the Government of the Slovak Republic for Roma Communities (hereinafter referred to as “the Plenipotentiary Office”) in 2022.

Some of the results are the following:

While roughly a third (32%) of children from marginalised Roma communities aged 3 to 6 years attended kindergarten in 2020, 87% of children in Slovakia as a whole did so. The data point to the creation of ethnically homogeneous Roma classes in both primary and special schools. Almost half (47%) of children from marginalised Roma communities aged 6 to 15 years studying in mainstream education have only Roma classmates.

It must also be noted that living conditions of Roma are still very low and there is a huge gap between the Roma communities and majority. Few examples:

The results of the survey show that almost 9 out of 10 persons from marginalised Roma communities live in households that are considered overcrowded according to the Eurostat definition, with an average of 3 persons per room. By comparison, in Slovakia as a whole, approximately 30% of persons live in overcrowded households, with an average of 1 person per room.

More than half (54%) of people from marginalised Roma communities live in households with an income of less than €4 per person per day, while for 16% it is less than €2 per person per day. Given that the incomes of these households do not even reach the minimum subsistence level, it is possible to speak of extreme income poverty. Less than 2% of the total population in Slovakia lives below the income threshold of €4 per person per day. The significantly lower incomes of marginalised households are also reflected in indicators of poverty and social exclusion. Up to 87% of households in marginalised Roma communities are at risk of poverty and 52% of them face severe material deprivation. This is compared to 11% (at risk of poverty) and 6% (severe material deprivation) of the general population.

Outcome 1: Social and economic development of the least developed districts strengthened

In 2022, nine projects were implemented and contributed to the strengthening of the social and economic development of the eight least developed districts.

The projects started their implementation in autumn 2021, which was negatively affected by the Covid-19 situation. In 2022, after preparation phase and based on the better situation the projects activities in the most of projects started. Mainly soft activities focused on work with children and youth were implemented. The construction works were connected with the public procurement and price increase in the market of construction materials and works. Only 3 out of 9 projects started their planned construction works. For two of them, the construction works are going to start in 2023 and some of the Project Promoters (hereinafter referred to as “PP”) have still been dealing with the public procurements. It is clear that the condition of 12 months operation of the multifunctional Youth Centres by the PPs’ own resources, in order to foster the sustainability principle, by the end of April 2024 (before approval of the final project report) will not be met. Fulfilment of the condition is supposed approximately by 4 months later or the PO will evaluate it based on the status of the project continuation after full operation of the multifunctional Youth Centre.

As it was mentioned in the Annual Programme Report 2021 it can be seen that the concept of multifunctional centre for youth as the idea of a structure of centres working with children and youth with a clear and coherent vision of working with children and youth on a given territory has been difficult to grasp by the PPs. They are not used to such cooperation of the centres and their focus is on building renovation. Notwithstanding the PO sees this as the start point and it is supposed that at the end of the projects implementation there will be progress in people's thinking for further cooperation and perception of the centre as a structure/network of cooperating organizations with aim of local/regional development.

The PO therefore expects 8 *multifunctional youth centres* to be *established or supported* at the end of the Programme implementation, even though that some of the PPs indicated a higher number than one multifunctional youth centre in the project applications.

A deviation from the 2022 expectations is connected with the LDI01002 project (Municipality Rožkovany). They had a problem with a building permit for the investment activities and therefore PP, also in connection with the results of the local election in October 2022, decided to request the termination of the project contract. The agreement on the termination of the project was signed in January 2023.

Besides the target value of the indicator *Number of multifunctional youth centres established or supported* this also negatively influenced the indicator *Number of projects implemented in multi-level and/or multi-stakeholder local partnerships*. Only the value 8 out of 9 targeted can be achieved.

The implementation of the projects showed that the most of the PPs have not sufficient experience and administrative capacity for such kind of the projects. In connection with the situation in the last three years, their lack of experience and administrative capacity and focus on construction works in the projects appears to be problematic and public procurement prolongs the period of activity implementation. There is still enough time for successful implementation of the projects thanks to the 12 months which should have been initially meant for Youth Multifunctional Centre operation from the PPs' own sources. The projects are considered risky and are regularly monitored by the PO.

The LDI01006 project (Municipality Stráne pod Tatrami, where the majority of the population is Roma) is a good example as they started with the construction works in April 2022 and the activities in area of health, employment and housing are in their full implementation.

The target values of all three outcome's indicators *Number of jobs created and Number of municipalities with increased capacity to offer multiple extracurricular activities to children and youth are going to be achieved*. The indicator *Number of people at risk of poverty using services provided by the supported youth centres (disaggregated by gender, age, Roma)* will be overachieved. Expectations of the PO in this regard were low.

The similar situation is with the indicator *Number of legal entities involved in the projects*, which is going to be overachieved.

The target value of the indicators *Number of field social workers and/or Roma mediators cooperating with the Youth Centres* and *Average increase of time (in hours per week) the centre is open for children and youth* are going to be achieved.

Outcome 2: Social inclusion of marginalized Roma communities enhanced

Within the Outcome 2 17 projects are being implemented, 7 of them under the small grant scheme.

Under the LDI02 call initially 6 projects were approved and contracted. Based on the reallocation in 2022 from the Outcome 1 (because of lack of the projects in good quality under LDI01 call) by more than 1.5 mil. EUR further projects could be supported. Three projects from the reserve list were concluded and one was approved. The project contract is going to be signed at the beginning of 2023.

The project LDI02013 (Municipality Betlanovce) have not started with the implementation of the project. Moreover, the planned construction works for the community centre should take about 18 months and moreover the public procurement documentation have not been elaborated. It is clear that the project cannot be implemented as it was initially planned in the project application. The final decision on the project - withdrawal from the Project Contract - was made by the PO at the beginning of 2023.

Under the small grant scheme call LDI03 initially 7 projects were approved. One of them decided not to implement the project because of the problems with one of the Project Partners. In this connection, the only project on the reserve list could be supported. The Project Contracts for all projects approved were concluded.

11 projects were in their full implementation and 5 projects just started their implementation. Based on the successful project applications it seems that except for the indicator *Number of projects applying an integrated approach (i.e. addressing more than one thematic area of intervention among health, education, employment, housing and non-discrimination components)* the target values of all indicators will be achieved or overachieved. The reasons are low expectations of the PO and expectations of different kind of activities. e.g. *Number of joint activities between Roma and non-Roma* - in the project LDI03021 the target value of this indicator is 300 It is very high number in comparison with other projects and PO's expectations. The reason is the most of those 300 activities are of the same kind - implemented every day in hospitals in different towns (the project focuses on postpartum care for mothers and children from Roma communities). The target value of the indicator will be achieved, even if the two highest numbers of the joint activities in the projects will not be counted. Only the indicator *Number of projects applying an integrated approach (i.e. addressing more than one thematic area of intervention among health, education, employment, housing and non-discrimination components)* will not be achieved because of lack of projects.

One of the successfully implemented projects in the call LDI02 is the project LDI02024 Centres of Renewal in Gemer. The Project Promoter has created two centres for renewal of local cultural and architectural heritage. They focus on training of local unemployed workers from marginalized Roma communities, who then take part in the renewal efforts. Additionally, a free work tool rental is available for locals and people from the surrounding villages. The tools are mainly used for communal projects as well as renewing their own homes. The centres also have a small building material workshop and a tourist information centre. Other partners in the project are running the community centre and working with children in the afternoon hours.

One of the successfully implemented projects in the Call LDI03 is the project LDI03017 (the PP Banská Bystrica Self-governing Region Employment Agency). The project kicked off with a successful online Launching conference with 40+ participants. It included presentations of the project, the financial mechanism, the project partners, as well as examples of good practice and experience with implementing affirmative actions or similar measures by Slovak employers. Within the initial desk research and preparatory phase for practical activities for employers (seminars and workshops to be implemented in the end of 2022 and in 2023), the project partners developed several information and practical tools. These include Preparatory study about the practical use of affirmative actions in Slovakia and abroad, Guidebook on affirmative actions for employers as a practical guide for employees and Information leaflet about affirmative actions, which includes basic information about affirmative actions as defined by the

Slovak antidiscrimination legislation, who can adopt them, in which areas and in relation to which protected grounds of discrimination. Employment services are being provided to 150 Roma clients, mostly from marginalized Roma communities. The provision of employment services is provided by the community workers supervised by the employment counsellor from the Banská Bystrica Self-governing Region Employment Agency.

Outcome 3: Capacity of schools for inclusive education enhanced

Within the Outcome 3 there is the Pre-defined Project LDIPP001 named “Innovative education of teachers to increase their intercultural competences in the education process of Roma pupils” of the PP National Institute of Education and Youth being implemented.

The project LDIPP001 is implemented according to the schedule. In November 2022, the interim conference was held on the occasion of the International Day of the Romani Language (5th November). For several years, the PP has been participating in the creation of such educational conditions that will enable Roma men and women to be educated in their native Roma language and learn more about Roma culture and Roma history. At the conference, the PP presented to the participants the results so far in the field of Roma education within the framework of a predefined project and presented the possibilities of further development of education in the Roma language, taking into account the observance of the child's right to be educated in his/her mother tongue. The final conference of the project is scheduled for March 2024.

In the period February - July 2022, education for teachers took place, which ended with the final exam in September 2022. In November 2022, another call for applications for innovative educational training focusing on intercultural education in schools with students from Roma communities was announced. The educational program will take place in the range of 110 hours and will last a maximum of 12 months. The educational trainings consist of 4 modules: Introduction to intercultural education, About the history, ethnography and folklore of the Roma, Motivating pupils through conversation in the Roma language, Innovative methods for inclusion in education.

10 participants successfully completed the training in the activity Preparing teachers for the language exam in the Romani language. 6 participants successfully passed the state exam in the Romani language at the State Language School in Prague. Another 4 plan to continue preparing for the state exam in Romani. The education was implemented in a combined form (face-to-face, online, distance learning). The activity is still ongoing and the expected end date of this activity is June 2023.

In May 2022, the second international workshop in the project was held. Several working online meetings were organized with the Norwegian partner of the EWC project in order to prepare a joint agenda for the implementation of educational training in Oslo in 2022 and also in 2023. With the Norwegian partner, an educational training was organized in Oslo for 30 participants in June 2022. The second study visit for 30 participants is planned for June 2023. Educators, research staff, and management who are actively involved in the activities of this project will be able to apply for the study visit.

10 trainers (general training, face-to-face) and 8 trainers (advanced training, face-to-face) were trained in the activity Training for multipliers/trainers in the field of education and training for human rights and democratic citizenship. The trainings were carried out in cooperation with the EWC project partner. Methodical support was provided for participants within the implementation phase in the 2021/2022 school year. Several model action plans have been developed, which are thematically focused on supporting a democratic school environment for all, taking into account human rights and democratic citizenship. Coordination and preparatory work, evaluation online meeting were carried out (agreement on the program, schedule,

formation of a team of lecturers, issuing a call for translation of applications, communication with lecturers, participants, admin. and technical support).

In the 2021/2022 school year, working versions of Roma-Slovak reading books for the 3rd and 4th grade are currently being tested in three elementary schools. 33 worksheets for the 3rd grade of elementary schools and 33 worksheets for the 4th grade of elementary schools were prepared. The working version of the Amari romani čhib textbook and the workbook were tested. A teacher's manual was developed. Comments are being processed. Graphic works will be carried out, illustrations will be provided. The methodology for the historical reading book - Looking for the past of the Roma has been developed, it is after language proofreading without graphic editing. Methodology for the History of Roma - 1st version submitted, work on the 2nd version. Romani-Slovak and Slovak-Roma dictionary - developed in Excel format, the dictionary is still being worked on. Rules of Romani spelling - 1st version uploaded.

So far, 20 schools have been involved in the Slovak Academy activity "Democratic and inclusive school environment for all", the academy has 30 graduates so far. 5 primary and 5 secondary schools implemented their action plans in the 2021/2022 school year. Another 10 schools are accepted for the educational event for the 2022/2023 school year. The implementation of the action plans is carried out under the supervision of trainers and the PP's project team. During this implementation, the PP provided the schools with methodological support, consultation on the economic agenda for the accounting of the funds that each school received as part of the contract on the provision of funds for the financing of the "Slovak Academy" educational event.

For Outcome 3 indicator Number of educational institutions that have implementing curricula on Romani language or culture (Baseline – 80, Target – 105), the achieved value is 86. Six primary schools were included in the list of educational institutions. The final version of the list will be published on the project website after completion of the project.

The current value of indicator Number of schools applying inclusive education models (Baseline – 17, Target – 60) is 43. Schools provide lessons model and demonstrations of learning activities or action plans.

For Output 3.1 indicator Number of textbooks and methodological materials integrating Roma history and language for teaching staff and pupils of primary and secondary schools distributed (Baseline - 0, Target - 0, teaching material are in the progress) and indicator Number of kindergarten, primary and secondary teachers working with Roma children trained in innovative education practices (Baseline - 0, Target - 0, accepted applicants for education is 34, education is implemented) the achieved values will be reported in the following year.

Output 3.1 indicator Number of school administration/management staff working with Roma children trained in innovative education practices (Baseline – 0, Target – 80) the achieved value is 60. Further calls for training applications was launched in October 2022.

Output 3.1 indicator Number of Romani language teacher candidates prepared for the state language examination (Baseline – 0, Target – 10) and indicator Number of multipliers/trainers trained in Education for democratic citizenship (EDC) and Human rights education (HRE) (Baseline – 0, Target – 10) the values have been achieved.

Output 3.1 indicator Number of professional staff trained in Education for democratic Citizenship (EDC) and Human Rights education (HRE) (Baseline – 0, Target – 60) the achieved value is 30.

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

In Memorandum of Understanding for the Norwegian Financial Mechanism 2014 – 2021 75 000 € were allocated to the Local Development and Inclusion Programme from the Fund for Bilateral Relations. The funds were planned to be used for the bilateral calls for search and establishing of partnerships for the main calls of the Programme. Due to unsuitable situation and restrictions affecting travelling due to Covid-19 the bilateral calls for LDI02 and LDI03 calls were not launched. Using of the Bilateral Fund at the Programme level will be a subject to the Cooperation Committee discussion at the beginning of 2023.

In the Programme Local Development and Inclusion there are 15 projects with a Norwegian partner, after termination of the Project Contract with the municipality of Rožkovany (LDI01002) and withdrawal from the Project Contract with Betlanovce municipality (LDI02013) at the beginning of 2023.

The PPs evaluate the cooperation with donor partners as very good and beneficial. They appreciate the amount of experience and innovative practices they exchange with their Norwegian partners.

In the project of the Municipality Spišská Belá (LDI01003), the PP appreciates that the knowledge gained from the bilateral partnership will also be applied by the two Slovak project partners. One in the field of teacher education and the other in the field of inclusion and work with minorities. The visit to Norway took place in September 2022, and according to the PP, the visit to the Norwegian partner Newschool AS and Oslo itself was a great inspiration and benefit for them, and they believe that they will translate the acquired knowledge into their activities.

The Norwegian partner Newschool AS is a partner in other projects - in the Prakovce Municipality (LDI01008) and in the Association of Young Roma (LDI02012). Both PPs appreciate the contribution of the Norwegian partner and the sharing of his experience and knowledge.

The PP of the predefined project has a very good experience with their Norwegian partner European Wergeland Centre. Together they are preparing the second visit to Norway.

The Municipality Jelšava (LDI01009) considers the approach of the Norwegian partner Acting for Climate to be very inspiring. Several events took place during the Norwegian partner's visit to Slovakia, which met with a positive response from the general public. The partner's unconventional approach to life and our place in it also shifts the perception of vulnerable groups, work with them and acceptance.

The PP People in need Slovakia (LDI03023) has a major benefit from the partnership, especially in the methodology of working with at-risk youth in career counselling, where Norway carried out a major reform of education, within which career counselling was also reformed. People in need Slovakia, in turn, inspired the Norwegian partner Fretex Pluss in systematic work with volunteers.

Some projects have the cooperation with the Norwegian partner postponed to a later period, due to anti-pandemic measures in the first half of 2022. Activities are often connected with the duration of the school year, therefore possible exchange stays are currently being planned and prepared. But this does not prevent active communication in the on-line space, where the exchange of experiences takes place.

C. MONITORING AND EVALUATION

1. Monitorings carried out

In 2022 monitoring of the projects was carried out according to the monitoring plan. The Monitoring reports have not been concluded yet.

Compliance monitoring of the predefined project LDIPP001 has been carried out. Preliminary the PP has been recommended to expand the project team with an experience manager of public procurement.

Within the Local Development component, all the Projects have been subject to the regular monitoring. The PO can say that the site visits on the projects were successful. Progress in the projects is more visible than it appeared in the interim reports on the projects. However, the delay in the construction works have been confirmed.

Within the Roma Inclusion component, four projects have been monitored because of issues with implementation – mainly the delay in implementation and low level of expenditures incurred. The risk monitoring was carried out in the projects LDI02012 Opportunity Centrum Valaská – ZMR (original name Association of Young Roma) and LDI02014 Lučenec. The monitoring has confirmed that the Project Promoters need to strengthen the project management and matters connected with the public procurement. The Programme Operator recommended improvement of the management processes.

In the Call LDI03 two projects were monitored - LDI03018 Utopia and LDI03022 Karpatská nadácia. In the LDI03018 preliminary there is a need to strengthen the communication and cooperation between the project partners and communication with the Programme Operator. The project LDI03022 was chosen as a random sample. This project is implemented very well and it is one of the best projects in the Programme.

In 2023 the regular monitoring, with site visits of the predefined project and projects from LDI02 and LDI03 calls based on the sample is planned. The monitoring plan for 2023 is attached.

2. Evaluations carried out

Not applicable. The evaluation is not planned in the programme, as it will be carried out by the National Focal Point.

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: Strengthened social and economic cohesion								
Outcome 1: Social and economic development of the least developed districts strengthened								
Indicator	Unit of measurement	Baseline value	Previous achievement value	Achievements until end of December 2022			Target value	Comment
				Numerator	Denominator	Achievement value		
Number of jobs created	Cumulative number	0	3 (APR 2021)	-	-	19	20	The projects of the call LDI01 are in implementation. Creation of about 22 jobs is expected based on the project contracts.
<i>Gender</i>								
<i>Female</i>	-	-	1	-	-	12	-	-
<i>Male</i>	-	-	2	-	-	7	-	-
<i>Not specified</i>	-	-	0	-	-	0	-	-
<i>Age</i>								
<i>Children and youth (0-17)</i>	-	-	0	-	-	0	-	-
<i>Young adults (18-29)</i>	-	-	1	-	-	7	-	-
<i>Adults (30-64)</i>	-	-	2	-	-	12	-	-
<i>Elderly (65+)</i>	-	-	0	-	-	0	-	-
<i>Not specified</i>	-	-	0	-	-	0	-	-
Number of municipalities with increased capacity to offer multiple extracurricular activities to children and youth	Cumulative number	0	0 (APR 2021)	-	-	16	10	The projects are in implementation. 22 municipalities are involved in the projects and they are working on increasing in their capacities.
Number of people at risk of poverty using services provided by the supported youth centres	Cumulative number	0	822 (IFR 2022)	-	-	3,346	1,500	The projects are in implementation. About 5 500 people at risk of poverty should use the services of youth centres.

<i>Gender</i>								
<i>Female</i>	-	-	451	-	-	1,752	-	-
<i>Male</i>	-	-	371	-	-	1,594	-	-
<i>Not specified</i>	-	-	0	-	-	0	-	-
<i>Age</i>								
<i>Children and youth (0-17)</i>	-	-	479	-	-	2,350	-	-
<i>Young adults (18-29)</i>	-	-	132	-	-	517	-	-
<i>Adults (30-64)</i>	-	-	211	-	-	479	-	-
<i>Elderly (65+)</i>	-	-	0	-	-	0	-	-
<i>Not specified</i>	-	-	0	-	-	0	-	-
<i>Roma</i>								
<i>Roma</i>	-	-	729	-	-	2,582	-	-
<i>Not specified</i>	-	-	93	-	-	764	-	-

Output 1.1: Services and infrastructure for children and youth provided

Indicator	Unit of measurement	Baseline value	Previous achievement value	Achievements until end of December 2022			Target value	Comment
				Numerator	Denominator	Achievement value		
Number of multifunctional youth centres established or supported	Cumulative number	0	11 (IFR 2022)	-	-	0	9	The projects are in implementation. 8 projects with multifunctional youth centre are supported.
Number of legal entities involved in the projects	Cumulative number	0	39 (IFR 2022)	-	-	45	30	Based on the PPs' records – 45 legal entities have already been involved into the project. All projects of the call LDI01 are in implementation. About 65 legal entities should be involved in the project as project partners and cooperating organizations.

Number of projects implemented in multi-level and/or multi-stakeholder local partnerships	Cumulative number	0	5 (IFR 2022)	-	-	8	9	All projects are implemented in multi-level and/or multi-stakeholder partnerships. One project has been terminated.
Number of field social workers and/or Roma mediators cooperating with the Youth Centres	Cumulative number	0	5 (IFR 2022)	-	-	16	20	28 social workers and/or Roma mediators should cooperate with Youth Centres based on projects contracted.
Average increase of time (in hours per week) the centre is open for children and youth	Average	0	0 (APR 2021)	-	-	9	8	It is expected that the centres will be open by about 25 hours longer per week in average. Based on data from PP, centre are open 53 hours longer, which is 9 hours more on average.
Outcome 2: Social inclusion of marginalized Roma communities enhanced								
Indicator	Unit of measurement	Baseline value	Previous achievement value	Achievements until end of December 2022			Target value	Comment
				Numerator	Denominator	Achievement value		
Share of majority population in intervention area accepting Roma	Percentage	TBD, TBD	-	0	0	-	(+25%)	The preliminary value of the indicator is 40,82%. The final value will be known in 2023 once the last project approved is contracted.
Number of Roma people using supported services	Cumulative number	0	0 (APR 2021)	-	-	3,178	4,000	In the year 2022 there were 11 Project Promoters which supported services for Roma people.
<i>Gender</i>								
<i>Female</i>	-	-	0	-	-	1,870	-	-

Male	-	-	0	-	-	1,308	-	-
Not specified	-	-	0	-	-	0	-	-
Age								
Children and youth (0-17)	-	-	0	-	-	1,733	-	-
Young adults (18-29)	-	-	0	-	-	819	-	-
Adults (30-64)	-	-	0	-	-	626	-	-
Elderly (65+)	-	-	0	-	-	0	-	-
Not specified	-	-	0	-	-	0	-	-
Share of people living in the marginalised Roma communities in project intervention area receiving services	Percentage	N/A	-	2,716	22,115	12.28 %	20.00 %	In the year 2022 there were 11 Project Promoters which reported data.
Output 2.1: Services to Marginalised Roma Communities provided								
Indicator	Unit of measurement	Baseline value	Previous achievement value	Achievements until end of December 2022			Target value	Comment
				Numerator	Denominator	Achievement value		
Number of projects applying an integrated approach (i.e. addressing more than one thematic area of intervention among health, education, employment, housing and non-discrimination components)	Cumulative number	0	1 (IFR 2022)	-	-	16	18	Except for LDI02013 all the projects started their implementation and applying the integrated approach.
Number of joint activities between Roma and non-Roma	Cumulative number	0	2 (IFR 2022)	-	-	301	36	The achieved value is much higher as expected. The reason is that within two projects the planned target value is much higher in comparison with others projects – e.g. LDI03021 the target valued is about 300 activities. The PO expected fewer activities, but on a large scale.

Number of marginalised Roma communities with investments into public infrastructure reducing disparities between Roma and non-Roma	Cumulative number	0	0 (IFR 2022)	-	-	6	10	In the projects LDI02015 and LDI02024
Number of Roma people working in the centres	Cumulative number	0	8 (IFR 2022)	-	-	54	50	The achievement value is for 11 projects of the Call LDI02 and the Call LDI03.
Number of marginalized Roma communities provided with services	Cumulative number	0	2 (IFR 2022)	-	-	52	24	The achievement value is for 11 projects of the Call LDI02 and the Call LDI03.
Output 2.2: Capacities of organisations active in the social inclusion of marginalised Roma communities increased								
Indicator	Unit of measurement	Baseline value	Previous achievement value	Achievements until end of December 2022			Target value	Comment
				Numerator	Denominator	Achievement value		
Number of entities / actors active in the social inclusion of marginalised Roma communities supported	Cumulative number	0	8 (IFR 2022)	-	-	46	40	The achievement value is for 11 projects of the Call LDI02 and the Call LDI03.
Number of good practices replicated in marginalised Roma communities	Cumulative number	0	4 (IFR 2022)	-	-	25	20	The achievement value is for 11 projects of the Call LDI02 and the Call LDI03
Number of multi-stakeholder partnerships established or supported	Cumulative number	0	8 (IFR 2022)	-	-	25	18	The achievement value is for 11 projects of the Call LDI02 and the Call LDI03.
Outcome 3: Capacity of schools for inclusive education enhanced								
Indicator	Unit of measurement	Baseline value	Previous achievement value	Achievements until end of December 2022			Target value	Comment
				Numerator	Denominator	Achievement value		
Number of educational institutions that have implementing curricula on Romani language or culture	Cumulative number	80	86 (APR 2021)	-	-	86	105	LDIPP001 – the list of educational institutions is updated regularly
Number of schools applying inclusive education models	Cumulative number	17	33 (APR 2021)	-	-	43	60	LDIPP001 – based on the submitted documentation

								on lessons model and examples of other educational activities, preferably action plan.
Output 3.1: Children and youth with a Roma background empowered								
Indicator	Unit of measurement	Baseline value	Previous achievement value	Achievements until end of December 2022			Target value	Comment
				Numerator	Denominator	Achievement value		
Number of textbooks and methodological materials integrating Roma history and language for teaching staff and pupils of primary and secondary schools distributed	Cumulative number	0	0 (IFR 2022)	-	-	0	11,500	The author teams have prepared working versions of teaching materials, which have been tested in schools in 2021/2022. Now the comments are being incorporated.
Number of kindergarten, primary and secondary teachers working with Roma children trained in innovative education practices	Cumulative number	0	0 (IFR 2022)	-	-	34	80	Number of accepted applicants for innovative education is 34 in the year 2022. Due to technical error disaggregation was not tracked. It will be reported next year.
<i>Gender</i>								
<i>Female</i>	-	-	0	-	-	0	-	-
<i>Male</i>	-	-	0	-	-	0	-	-
<i>Not specified</i>	-	-	0	-	-	34	-	-
<i>Roma</i>								
<i>Roma</i>	-	-	0	-	-	0	-	-
<i>Not specified</i>	-	-	0	-	-	34	-	-
Number of school administration/management staff working with Roma children trained in innovative education practices	Cumulative number	0	60 (IFR 2022)	-	-	60	80	60 certificates issued. Further calls for training applications was launched in October

								2022. Due to technical error disaggregation was not tracked. It will be reported next year.
<i>Gender</i>								
<i>Female</i>	-	-	0	-	-	0	-	-
<i>Male</i>	-	-	0	-	-	0	-	-
<i>Not specified</i>	-	-	60	-	-	60	-	-
<i>Roma</i>								
<i>Roma</i>	-	-	0	-	-	0	-	-
<i>Not specified</i>	-	-	60	-	-	60	-	-
Number of Romani language teacher candidates prepared for the state language examination	Cumulative number	0	10 (IFR 2022)	-	-	10	10	The number of graduates of the training is 10. Due to technical error disaggregation was not tracked. It will be reported next year.
<i>Gender</i>								
<i>Female</i>	-	-	0	-	-	0	-	-
<i>Male</i>	-	-	0	-	-	0	-	-
<i>Not specified</i>	-	-	10	-	-	10	-	-
<i>Roma</i>								
<i>Roma</i>	-	-	0	-	-	0	-	-
<i>Not specified</i>	-	-	10	-	-	10	-	-
Number of multipliers/trainers trained in Education for democratic citizenship (EDC) and Human rights education (HRE)	Cumulative number	0	10 (IFR 2022)	-	-	10	10	10 issued certificates - general education. 8 issued certificates - advanced education. Due to technical error disaggregation was not tracked. It will be reported next year.
<i>Gender</i>								
<i>Female</i>	-	-	0	-	-	0	-	-
<i>Male</i>	-	-	0	-	-	0	-	-

<i>Not specified</i>	-	-	10	-	-	10	-	-
<i>Roma</i>								
<i>Roma</i>	-	-	0	-	-	0	-	-
<i>Not specified</i>	-	-	10	-	-	10	-	-
Number of professional staff trained in Education for democratic Citizenship (EDC) and Human Rights education (HRE)	Cumulative number	0	0 (IFR 2022)	-	-	30	60	30 participants are admitted to the educational event of the Slovak Academy. Due to technical error disaggregation was not tracked. It will be reported next year.
<i>Gender</i>								
<i>Female</i>	-	-	0	-	-	0	-	-
<i>Male</i>	-	-	0	-	-	0	-	-
<i>Not specified</i>	-	-	0	-	-	30	-	-
<i>Roma</i>								
<i>Roma</i>	-	-	0	-	-	0	-	-
<i>Not specified</i>	-	-	0	-	-	30	-	-
Bilateral Outcome: Enhanced collaboration between beneficiary and donor state entities involved in the programme								
Indicator	Unit of measurement	Baseline value	Previous achievement value	Achievements until end of December 2022			Target value	Comment
				Numerator	Denominator	Achievement value		
Level of trust between cooperating entities in Beneficiary States and Donor States	Scale 1-7	6.47, Survey carried out by the FMO.	-	-	-	6.47	4.50, Target is ≥4.5, and an increase on the baseline value	-
Level of satisfaction with the partnership	Scale 1-7	6.50, Survey carried	-	-	-	6.50	4.50, Target is ≥4.5,	-

		out by the FMO.					and an increase on the baseline value	
Share of cooperating organisations that apply the knowledge acquired from bilateral partnership	Percentage	N/A	-	-	-	-	50.00 %, Target is minimum 50 %	To be reported at the end of projects' implementation.
Bilateral Output 1: Cooperation between Donor and Beneficiary State entities supported								
Indicator	Unit of measurement	Baseline value	Previous achievement value	Achievements until end of December 2022			Target value	Comment
				Numerator	Denominator	Achievement value		
Number of projects involving cooperation with a donor project partner	Cumulative number	0	17 (IFR 2022)	-	-	17	15	The achieved value 17 to the end of 2022 is based on the concluded project contracts. However, the real number is 15 without the LDI01002 and LDI02013 projects, which have been terminated in 2023.
Number of pedagogical staff participating in the "Oslo" Study visit	Cumulative number	0	0 (IFR 2022)	-	-	30	60	In the year 2022, 30 pedagogical staff participated in the study visit in Oslo. Due to technical error disaggregation was not tracked. It will be reported next year.
<i>Gender</i>								
<i>Female</i>	-	-	0	-	-	0	-	-
<i>Male</i>	-	-	0	-	-	0	-	-
<i>Not specified</i>	-	-	0	-	-	30	-	-
<i>Roma</i>								

<i>Roma</i>	-	-	0	-	-	0	-	-
<i>Not specified</i>	-	-	0	-	-	30	-	-

Annex 2: Communication summary

1. Best projects

One of the best examples in the call LDI02 is project LDI02024 Centres of Renewal in Gemer.

The Project Promoter has created two centres for renewal of local cultural and architectural heritage. They focus on training of local unemployed workers from marginalized Roma communities, who then take part in the renewal efforts. Additionally, a free work tool rental is available for locals and people from the surrounding villages. The tools are mainly used for communal projects as well as renewing their own homes. The centres also have a small building material workshop and a tourist information centre. Other partners in the project are running a community centre and working with children in the afternoon hours.

Priority was the refurbishment of the buildings of the centres themselves, both in Bátka and Plešivec. Both buildings were in an inadequate conditions for opening up to the public, so the Project Promoter needed to fix this first. In addition to this, the Project Promoter support local municipalities and initiatives, in order to synergize the positive impacts on the region. Municipalities and local NGOs have asked the Project Promoter for and received help in their public renewal projects. One of the highlights in such cooperation is the help with the partial reconstruction of the impressive Coburg manor house in Jelšava. This is a monumental three-story four-wing Baroque-Classical building with an inner courtyard, which is undergoing a gradual renovation. The Project Promoter is so proud that their team could take part in the renovation of this beautiful building.

The Norwegian partners - Norsk håndverksinstitutt visited this project in April 2022 and took an active part in the launching conference. The Project Promoter and partner developed a plan of reaching further out into the communities and searching for (maybe often) forgotten practices of the craft that can built onto and incorporated into training of the employees. Since Roma communities are often associated solely with blacksmithing, the insight and plan of how to reach into this community will allow to develop more authentic picture of history and identity of local Roma, but also professionalize and extent Project Promoter's activities - both, in the region of Gemer and also in terms of partnership with Norwegian partner.

One of the best examples in the call LDI03 is project LDI03017 Banská Bystrica Self-governing Region Employment Agency.

The project kicked off with a successful opening online Opening conference with 40+ participants. It included presentations of the project, the financial mechanism, the project partners as well as examples of good practice and experience with implementing affirmative actions or similar measures by Slovak employers. The recording from the conference and presentations of the speakers are available at: <https://dvo.agenturapracebbsk.sk/2022/04/06/otvaracia-konferencia-projektu/>

Within the initial desk research and preparatory phase for practical activities for employers (seminars and workshops to be implemented in the end of 2022 and in 2023), the project partners developed several information and practical tools: Preparatory study about practical use of affirmative actions in Slovakia and abroad, Guidebook on affirmative actions for employers as a practical guide for employees, Information leaflet about affirmative actions,

which includes basic information about affirmative actions as defined by the Slovak antidiscrimination legislation, who can adopt them, in which areas and in relation to which protected grounds of discrimination. It also includes information about the project. The leaflet is available at: <https://www.snslp.sk/wp-content/uploads/letak-DVO.pdf>

The project kicked off with a successful opening online Opening conference with 40+ participants. It included presentations of the project, the financial mechanism, the project partners as well as examples of good practice and experience with implementing AA or similar measures by Slovak employers. The recording from the conference and presentations of the speakers are available at: <https://dvo.agenturapracebbsk.sk/2022/04/06/otvaracia-konferencia-projektu/>

The Project Promoter presents the project activities at the individual meetings with the employers at the local and national level (governmental, municipal and private sector) and communicates with business chambers (American, British, German, Italian, French etc.) to provide the information about the project activities to various range of employers.

Employment services are being provided to 150 Roma clients, mostly from marginalized Roma communities. The provision of employment services is provided by community workers supervised by employment counsellor from Banská Bystrica Self-governing Region Employment Agency. In August 2022, Banská Bystrica Self-governing Region Employment Agency implemented affirmative actions by providing the opportunity to one of the Roma clients who took the role of employment counsellor. Mrs Ingrida Oláhová should serve as a success story to motivate other clients in active job search and personal development. She is a single mother of 4 children with elementary education, active civil activist who gets the support from colleges, trainings and mentoring to be able to fulfill the role of advisor.

The Norwegian partner MiA Mangfold i Arbeidslivet was cooperating at preparation of the online opening conference with presentation of their projects and activities in the field and diversity of their own team. MiA participated on designing the Preparatory study about the practical use of affirmative actions in Slovakia and abroad where they contributed with Norwegian legislative framework for adoption and implementation of affirmative actions and 2 good practice examples of Norwegian companies implementing affirmative actions (Stormberg and Lerføy Seafood). The information should serve also as inspiration for Slovak companies who are target audience of the study as well as background information for policy initiatives planned further on in the project. Norwegian partner also participated on preparation of Guidebook on affirmative actions for employers – the methodological guidance to implementation of affirmative action for employers including the case studies from abroad. The partners are actually preparing the Seminar on affirmative actions and diversity management at workplace, which should be held on 8 November 2022, where the Norwegian partner plays important role.

2. Visibility of the Grants and the Donors

2.a. Communication activities

The Programme Operator proceeds in line with the Communication plan for the Programme Local Development, Poverty Reduction and Roma inclusion. The Programme Operator communicates its dissemination and publicity activities with Royal Norwegian Embassy to Slovakia and the Press Department of the Ministry of Investments, Regional Development and Informatization of the Slovak Republic. Through the web site www.eegrants.sk and Facebook profile <https://www.facebook.com/EEANorwayGrants/> the Programme Operator communicates statistical evaluation of the calls, the results of the calls and projects supported with public. The Programme Operator also published a complex list of the submitted applications and their results.

Promotional videos were made for all projects, except projects from the Reserve list. Approximately 2-minute-long videos give the general public a short overview of the projects, their focus, goals and aims, key activities, cooperation with project partners as well as expected results.

2.b. Project stories

Webpage <https://www.eegrants.sk/en/programs/local-development-and-inclusion/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 LDI for the year 2022 focused on presenting individual projects either their conferences, seminars or other events and news. The latest post related to Local development and inclusion was an invitation to the training for community centers and non-governmental organizations organized by the Banská Bystrica Self-governing Region Employment Agency within project Affirmative action boosting up Roma employment and education (LDI03017). Overall, the Programme LDI has earned on Facebook a number of posts (26), likes (73), comments (2) and shares (19) and had a significant reach of posts (7845) to individuals. The most liked post (7) was a short informative video about the project LDI01004 - Multifunction Center 4.0. This project focuses on the lack of opportunities for children and youth, it enables them to acquire knowledge and helps contributes to Roma inclusion. The post with the most people reached (835) was another informative video connected to the project LDI01005 - The Space Connects Us – Multifunctional center in Moldava nad Bodvou to bring together children and young people from minority with the majority. The Local development and inclusion Programme webpage, www.norwaygrants.sk/ldi, is a subpage of the national single web page operated in Slovak and English. Within this page, one article was dedicated to the LDI Programme regarding the updated result of the Call LDI03.

3. Media coverage

<https://www.mirri.gov.sk/aktuality/granty-ehp/vicepremierka-remisova-na-lepsiu-buducnost-pre-marginalizovane-romske-komunity-dame-takmer-milion-eur-z-norskych-grantov/index.html>

<https://www.mirri.gov.sk/aktuality/granty-ehp/vicepremierka-remisova-v-norsku-mame-zaujem-aby-sme-z-grantov-ehp-a-norska-mohli-financovat-aj-riesenia-na-podporu-odolnosti-nasej-krajiny-a-spolocnosti-voci-vonkajsim-hrozbam/>

<https://www.sninaprevsetkych.sk/inkluzivne-pristupy-na-lokalnej-urovni/>

4. Website and social media

Link to programme website		Total number of page views in the reporting year	
https://www.eeagrants.sk/en/		171543	
	Link or account handle	Number of posts published in the reporting year	Number of followers
Facebook	https://www.facebook.com/EEANorwayGrants/	10	1661

5. Visuals

EEA and Norway Grants media library (eealibrary.org) will be completed by the multimedia assets of the Local Development and Inclusion Programme projects after obtaining high quality materials and official permissions and legal copyrights for the photo gallery and the video materials:

Videos from the Calls LDI01 and LDI02:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=B3piBoh2gEw&list=PLYoKgE1yAl3bnibvD0unq_dCj-QVhLx0U

Videos from the Call LDI03 will be published in 1Q 2023.

Annex 3: Overview of contracted projects

1. Project summary

	Number	Total Grant	Amount budgeted to dpps (estimate)
Total number of projects contracted	26	€ 14,956,112	€ 567,929
Number of pre-defined projects contracted	1	€ 1,300,000	€ 55,410
Number of projects with a donor project partner	17	€ 11,242,318	€ 567,929
Number of projects with a donor project partner Norway	17	€ 11,242,318	€ 567,929
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
Local Development and Inclusion bilateral relations (LDIBF01)		€ 40,000		0	€ 0	0.00 %	0	€ 0	0	€ 0
Local development, poverty reduction and Roma inclusion (LDI01)	Outcome 1	€ 7,700,000	30/11/2020	20	€ 16,209,549	210.51 %	10	€ 6,075,933	9	€ 6,068,911
Local development, poverty reduction and Roma inclusion (LDI02)	Outcome 2	€ 6,000,000	15/01/2021	32	€ 21,400,000	356.67 %	6	€ 5,268,668	6	€ 6,453,399
SGS Local development, poverty reduction and Roma inclusion (LDI03)	Outcome 2	€ 1,247,059	01/03/2021	20	€ 3,700,000	296.70 %	7	€ 1,116,312	6	€ 1,133,802

Annex 4: Risk management

Risk description	Likelihood (1-4)	Consequence (1-4)	Risk score	Planned response in 2023
Sustainability and cost-effectiveness of implemented measures	2 medium low	3 medium high	2.45	The Programme Operator will monitor the measures implemented.
Lack of commitment of Project Promoters, including insufficient PPs' experience	2 medium low	3 medium high	2.45	The PO monitors the implementation of the projects through on site/digital monitoring, project reports, phone calls and e-mails. In case there is a need of further support the PO will initiate involvement of the guarantor to the project implementation who will take auspices over the Project, oversee the quality of services provided, contribute to the Strategy of working with children and youth and report his or her finding to the PO. In case of statutory representant's change the PO is in touch with the PP.
Lack of interest and/or motivation of end beneficiaries to participate on project activities.	2 medium low	2 medium low	2.00	The Programme Operator will monitor the project implementation and communicate about the challenges regarding the interest and motivation of the beneficiaries.
Misconception of notions (indicators, methodology of calculations, conditions etc.)	2 medium low	2 medium low	2.00	The Programme Operator is in touch with the project promoters and will provide them with guidance. There is Guidelines published, which includes definitions of notions. Most frequent questions asked are published with their answers on the programme website.
Delays in schedule such as delays of construction works due to weather conditions, problems with the supplier, delays in public procurement etc.	3 medium high	3 medium high	3.00	The Programme Operator will monitor public procurement and their timeline by a responsible person. Milestones are subject to the Programme Operator 's verification within the project interim reports. The Programme Operator accepts delays caused by force majeure. The planned timeline of postponed activities is

				required to be submitted by the project promoters and measures with the particular steps to mitigate the delay.
Covid-19 impact on the Programme implementation and potential delay	2 medium low	3 medium high	2.45	The Programme Operator accepts delays caused by force majeure. The planned timeline of postponed activities is required to be submitted by the project promoters and measures with the particular steps to mitigate the delay
High price increase, especially in construction materials and works	3 medium high	3 medium high	3.00	The call for additional funds for price increase is planned. The call will be open for the projects supported.
Overall risk of not absorbing most financing and achieving most targets (1-4):			2.00	

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 60%.	General		N/A		This condition is going to be fulfilled as all three calls and the 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. The National Focal Point shall ensure that the Programme Operator ensures that project promoters: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Keep any buildings purchased, constructed, renovated or reconstructed under the project in their ownership for a period of at least 5 years following the completion of the project and continue to use such buildings for the benefit of the overall objectives of the project for the same period; • Keep any buildings purchased, constructed, renovated or reconstructed under the project properly insured against losses such as fire, theft and other normally insurable incidents both during project implementation and for at 	General		N/A		This condition applies to all the projects to be supported with the infrastructure (investments) measures. The Programme Operator included relevant conditions in the Project Contract signed and to be signed and shall also follow it during the whole implementation of the Programme.

<p>least 5 years following the completion of the project; and</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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. 					
<p>3. For the outcome 2 indicator “Share of majority population in the intervention area accepting Roma”, where the baseline value is “to be determined” (TBD), the National Focal Point shall ensure that the Programme Operator submits to the FMO the baseline value, together with a description of the data collection method used, no later than six months after the finalisation of the selection of projects under the call for proposals within this outcome. The updated baseline value shall be agreed upon through a modification of the programme agreement.</p>	<p>General</p>		<p>N/A</p>		<p>The condition is connected with the calls LDI02 and LDI03. 26 project contracts have already been concluded and one project is going to be concluded at the beginning of 2023.</p> <p>In both calls, there was a notice: Within all projects, surveys shall be conducted at the beginning and at the end of the project, in order to identify the following baseline and target values: “<i>Share of majority population in intervention area accepting Roma</i>” Project Promoters conducted surveys and informed about them the Programme Operator.</p>