

**OPEN CALL FOR BILATERAL INITIATIVES
BETWEEN SLOVAKIA AND NORWAY**
under the
**FUND FOR BILATERAL RELATIONS WITHIN THE
DOMESTIC AND GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE PROGRAMME**
Norway Grants 2014 – 2021
SLOVAKIA

1. BASIC DATA AND CONDITIONS

The Fund for Bilateral Relations within the programme Domestic and Gender-based Violence Programme (hereinafter referred to as “the Bilateral Fund DGV”) was established to strengthen bilateral relations between Norway and Slovakia through activities such as networking, exchanges, sharing and transfer of knowledge, technology, experience and best practice between the Slovakian and Norwegian entities active in the field of domestic and gender-based violence.

Call launch:	20 th December 2022
Call closure:	20 th December 2023, 23:59 CET or until its total allocation is used
Call number:	DGVBF04
Area of Support:	Initiatives aimed at strengthening bilateral relations between entities from Norway and Slovakia active in the field of Domestic and Gender-based Violence.
Maximum grant to be applied for:	EUR 10,000
Minimum grant to be applied for:	N/A
Co-financing:	No co-financing is requested by the applicants under this Call
Total allocation:	<p>EUR 95,126.95</p> <p>EUR 45,000 shall be reserved Initiatives engaging Slovak or Norwegian applicant or partner providing social services to specific target groups (the specific target groups include people with specific needs, such as women in the sex industry, drug/alcohol addicted victims of domestic violence, victims of sexual violence, blind people etc. and work with perpetrators) of victims of domestic and gender-based violence (hereinafter referred to as “Priority initiatives”).</p> <p>If this amount is not fully used by 30 April 2023, the Programme Operator may use the rest of the amount for supporting non-priority initiatives submitted under the Call. Until then, any non-priority initiative that could not have been supported due to the lack of funding shall be put on a reserve list.</p>

Announced by:	Ministry of Investments, Regional Development and Informatization of the Slovak Republic – the Programme Operator for the Domestic and Gender-based Violence Programme
Eligible applicants and partners:	<p>Legal entities established in Slovakia or Norway active in the field of Domestic and Gender-based Violence</p> <p>Applicants from Slovakia must have at least one partner from Norway meeting the above definition and vice versa.</p> <p>Additional partnership with the legal entities established in Iceland or Liechtenstein active in the field of Domestic and Gender-based Violence shall be prioritised.</p>
Further eligibility limitations:	<p>The Programme Operators of the Programmes within the EEA and Norway Grants 2014 – 2021 are not eligible to apply.</p> <p>The Norwegian Directorate of Health as the Donor Programme Partner, the Council of Europe as the International Partner Organisation and the Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family of the Slovak Republic as the Programme Partner shall not be eligible to apply.</p>
Further conditions:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Each Slovak applicant must have at least one partner from Norway meeting the eligibility conditions and vice versa. No more than two partners may participate in the implementation of an initiative. Partnership with entities from Iceland or Liechtenstein meeting the eligibility conditions is appreciated. 2. The implementation of the initiative shall not be planned to last more than 12 months and should be finished by 31st December 2024. 3. Signed Partnership Statement, Letter of Intent or other similar document proving the interest of the applicant and its partner/s to jointly implement the initiative is mandatory¹. 4. At least one joint media output on the bilateral initiative shall be created and published (such as article, press report, blog, social media post etc.).
Funding source(s):	<p>EEA Financial Mechanism (EEA Grants) - 48,54 %</p> <p>Norwegian Financial Mechanism (Norway Grants) - 51,46 %</p>

2. ELIGIBLE ACTIVITIES

A wide range of activities is eligible, as long as these fall within the above defined Area of Support. The activities have to be in line with the European standards².

¹ The Partnership Statement, Letter of Intent or other similar document proving the interest of the applicant and its partner/s to jointly implement the initiative can be signed by any person representing the organization with the power to declare interest of the organization to enter into such partnership. A scanned signed version is sufficient. Should the partner request financial contribution, a Partnership Agreement shall be concluded after approval of the initiative, but prior to its implementation.

² The standards are set in the Council of Europe document 'Combating violence against women: minimum standards for support services' and are adapted to Slovakia by the Coordinating Methodical Centre (the required standards are hereinafter referred to as **European Standards**).

Generally, the initiatives shall have a clear bilateral profile and serve the purpose of strengthening bilateral relations between Slovak and Norwegian entities. The Bilateral fund DGV shall support well-balanced partnerships (bilateral or multilateral) where all parties benefit from the cooperation.

This call is suitable for short-term initiatives. Initiatives combining several bilateral activities will be prioritised in the selection process. A series of cooperation activities with a particular result, including round tables or discussions that will be logically planned, are also welcomed.

Examples of eligible activities in the above mentioned Area of Support:

- development of bilateral cooperation, networking, exchange, sharing and transfer of knowledge, experience and best practice among bilateral partners;
- finding solutions to common issues and challenges;
- trainings and capacity building;
- joint meetings, visits, conferences, training and seminars among Slovak and Norwegian entities on the topic of common interest;
- workshops, meetings, visits and seminars on topic of common interest in the above mentioned Area of Support;
- development and/or translation of information material;
- on-line studies with participants and/or inputs from Norwegian entities and Slovakia;
- discussions between leading Slovak and Norwegian experts/professionals;
- round tables between Slovak and Norwegian entities focused on social services support to victims of domestic and gender-based violence;
- events: joint campaigns, exhibitions, festivals and promotional materials among Slovak and Norwegian entities on the topic of common interest in the above mentioned Area of Support;
- data collection;
- publishing of joint reports, studies and publications.

The activities with special focus on the Roma women will be appreciated.

This list is non-exhaustive!

While this call is focused on face-to-face initiatives, it is mandatory to plan an online alternative for the activities within the initiative in case of pandemic or other similar event. Therefore, it is necessary to describe a mitigation plan for the possibility that the face-to-face activities could not be realized. The mitigation plan has to describe an eventual virtual fall-back option.

Initiatives may not generate profit. If an initiative generates income as a part of its operation, the use of this income shall be described in the Grant Application.

The Applicant shall select at least 3 indicators listed in the Annex IV to the Bilateral Fund Guide. Implementation of the initiative must have a tangible result that all partners contributed to. It can be in form of a video, presentation, study, analysis, strategy, publication, photos from events or others. Non-compliance with this rule may lead to a reduction of the approved grant.

Unless otherwise agreed by the Programme Operator, the initiative needs to be financially completed within one month from the last day of eligibility of expenditures stated in the Grant Offer Letter. The Final Report should be submitted no later than two months following the practical completion of the activity. The Programme Operator reserves the right not to reimburse the grant or its part in case the above mentioned was not complied with.

3. ELIGIBLE EXPENDITURES

Under this Call, only expenditures falling under Article 8.8, point a) and c) of the Regulations³ are eligible. Eligible expenditures therefore are those related to:

- activities aiming at strengthening bilateral relations between the Norwegian entities and Slovakia;
- networking, exchange, sharing and transfer of knowledge, technology, experience and best practice between Slovak and Norwegian entities.

Except for the so-called “excluded expenditures” listed in Article 8.7 of the Regulations, all types of expenditures can be eligible, provided that they meet the conditions listed in this Call and in Article 8.2 of the Regulations.

No expenditures incurred before and after the dates set in the Grant Offer Letter shall be eligible. While there are no limitations regarding the types of expenditures (salaries, travel costs, purchase of equipment etc.), the past experience shows that the general principles on the eligibility of expenditures contained in Article 8.2. of the Regulations need to be considered. This is especially relevant as far as the *proportionality* and *necessity* of expenditures is concerned. As an example, purchase of equipment or consumables such as PCs, laptops, furniture might not be considered proportionate given the short time-span of the initiative implementation. Expenditures on wages that would be incurred irrespective of the implementation of the initiative might also be considered unnecessary (and thus not eligible). Further details can be found in the Bilateral Fund Guide, issued by the National Focal Point.

In relation to the nature of this Call, the most common types of expenditures are salary costs and fees, rental of premises, rental of virtual rooms, rental of equipment, travel and accommodation, costs of providing quality lecturers, moderators, costs of creating on-line publications, development of videos and other kinds of communication materials, preparation of studies and monographs, or purchase of advertising or other media coverage costs.

4. GRANT APPLICATION SUBMISSION

The Grant Application shall be written in English and submitted electronically at eeagrants@mirri.gov.sk, along with the following mandatory attachment:

³ Regulation on the Implementation of the EEA Financial Mechanism 2014-2021 and Regulation on the Implementation of the Norwegian Financial Mechanism 2014-2021

- signed Partnership Statement, Letter of Intent or other similar document proving the interest of the applicant and its partners to jointly implement the initiative². A recommended template for a statement can be found in the Bilateral Fund Guide (Annex 10);

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

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

Grant Application should be submitted as DOC or DOCX files. Other annexes should be submitted as PDF files to prevent accidental loss of data.

The Grant Application shall be received in a due time prior to its scheduled start of implementation. When drafting the schedule, applicants shall take into account that the whole evaluation may take up to 4 weeks, thus it is recommended to plan the activities not earlier than 8 weeks following the submission of the Grant Application. While aiming to be flexible, a grant application submitted later than eight weeks before the planned start of a bilateral initiative shall be rejected by the Programme Operator. Resubmission can be allowed in case the Call closure is not approaching.

5. SELECTION PROCEDURES

The Grant Applications will be evaluated in the order they are received (FIFO principle), which means that the applications are being assessed in the exact same order in which they were delivered. The Selection Criteria are attached to this Call, where the detailed information on the selection procedures can be found.

6. FINANCING AND REPORTING

Unless otherwise agreed by the Programme Operator, no advance payments will be provided.

The reimbursement is based on the approved Final Report submitted by the beneficiary within two months after the completion of substantive implementation.

In case of longer initiatives (more than 6 months), an Interim Report shall be submitted, in order to report the progress in the implementation of the bilateral initiative.

7. STATE AID

The activities eligible under this Call (networking, exchange, sharing and transfer of knowledge, technology, experience and best practice; joint seminars; workshops and trainings; self-help activities etc.) are aimed at strengthening cooperation between Slovak and Norwegian institutions active in the field of Domestic and Gender-based Violence. It is supposed that the activities will not be economic in nature.

Before approving a Grant Application, the Programme Operator will carry out a state aid test. If applicable, the grant or its respective part can be provided as de minimis aid under the scheme number DM-8/2019 published at www.eegrants.sk, if conditions for granting this aid are met.

8. FURTHER INFORMATION

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

Before and during preparation of a Grant Application it is recommended to become familiar with the following documents, as amended.

- Bilateral Guideline issued by the Financial Mechanism Office;
- Bilateral Fund Guide issued by the National Focal Point;
- Regulation on implementation of the EEA Financial Mechanism 2014 – 2021 and Regulation on implementation of the Norwegian Financial Mechanism 2014 – 2021;
- Guidelines, instructions and other documents issued by the Financial Mechanism Office, National Focal Point and Ministry of Finance of the SR (Certifying Authority).

These documents are published on the websites <https://www.eegrants.sk/en/basic-information/zakladne-dokumenty/> and/or <https://eegrants.org/resources>. The Programme Operator may also introduce the FAQ section, if relevant.

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

The Programme Operator can be contacted for queries by:

- e-mail: eeagrants@mirri.gov.sk (the request needs to be linked to the call – by call code DGVBF04; questions received by e-mail will be responded within 10 days);
- phone: +421-2-2092 8464.

9. CALL ANNEXES

1. Application form including budget
2. Selection criteria and selection procedure