

# *ANNUAL PROGRAMME REPORT*

## *FM14-21*

Slovakia

SK-INNOVATION Business Development, Innovation and SMEs

2020

## A. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Since the signing of the Programme Agreement in October 2019 and the Programme Implementation Agreement in November 2019, the Programme Operator has achieved results connected mainly with the promotion of the programme, search of the project partners and the preparation of the calls for proposals.

The programme was kicked off by a launching conference and the match-making event aiming at the search for business project partners from the donor states. The event was held on 17<sup>th</sup> of December 2019 in Bratislava. In cooperation with the Donor Programme Partner Innovation Norway, the Programme Operator linked up to 60 Slovak participants with 3 Norwegian businesses through the B2B meetings. Just before the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, on 3<sup>rd</sup> of March 2020, the Programme Operator launched the Call for travel grants providing possibilities for business partners search and visits. Later, due to the travel restrictions, the Programme Operator in conjunction with Innovation Norway, organized two extra online match-making and B2B events for Slovak and Norwegian businesses. The first one was focused on Welfare Technology and took place on 24<sup>th</sup> of September 2020, the second one on Green Industry Innovation and ICT and took place on 15<sup>th</sup> of December 2020.

The Call for proposals under the Small Grant Scheme for supporting newly established businesses (start-ups) was launched on 29<sup>th</sup> of June 2020 and closed on 23<sup>rd</sup> of October 2020. 31 applications were submitted with 19 partnerships, out of which 10 are from Norway. The Programme Operator has started the evaluation of the formal criteria of the submitted applications. This process should be finalised in April 2021. The Call for proposals on supporting innovation and business development, the Calls for proposals under the Small Grant Scheme on supporting institutional cooperation and international mobility for secondary schools and higher education and the Call for initiatives for supporting partnerships within education institutions and businesses are under preparation and will be sent to the NFP and the donors for approval in spring 2021.

Communication with the public on the programme and the promotion of the calls was carried out mainly through the webpage and the social media of the Programme Operator and its partners (Donor Programme Partners and National Focal Point) and the advertisement in economic daily newspaper and regional radio.

The COVID-19 pandemic has turned all lives upside down and shifted our everyday working routines in homes and virtual space. Balancing work and family life while working from home was a challenge, as well as the need for changing the approach in developing and strengthening bilateral cooperation, which is one of the main goals of the EEA and Norway Grants. Though the adaptation to the new conditions had to be fast and efficient, the Programme Operator together with its programme partners, managed to tackle these demands with minor delays in the programme implementation.

## B. PERFORMANCE

### 1. Results

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

### *Analysis of bilateral relations and achievements*

The Programme Operator (PO) launched one Call for Travel Grants (BIN BF01) within the Fund for Bilateral Relations focused on searching potential business project partners and joint project preparations between the entities from Slovakia and the donor states. The call was published on 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2020 but due to the start of the COVID-19 pandemic travel restrictions, only one application was submitted. The application was rejected because the applicant was not eligible. The Call BIN BF01 was closed on 31<sup>st</sup> December 2020.

The Call for [proposals](#) under the Small Grant Scheme for supporting newly established businesses (start-ups) ([BIN SGS01](#)) was launched (29.6.2020) and closed (23.10.2020) during the COVID-19 pandemic. 31 project applications were submitted which are in the process of the evaluation. 10 of the submitted applications have Norwegian project partners, that represents 1/3 of the submitted projects. Based on information from the submitted applications, half of the applicants with Norwegian project partners declared that they found the partner through the Donor Programme Partner's (DPP) database and the DPPs support, several applicants developed previous partnership cooperation, few of them found partner at matchmaking events or with the support of the Norwegian Embassy in Slovakia. That number of involved Norwegian project partners shows that Slovak applicants were able to search and find a partner despite the travel limitations. The PO sees the benefit in the ability and the competence of the DPPs and partners who were able to react very quickly to the new situation and began to organize online seminars and digital matchmaking events, which provided an opportunity to search for partners through their own websites and promoted links of companies operated in the programme focus areas.

As the evaluation of the applications and the selection of projects has not been finalized yet, the PO can't assess the achievements of the bilateral outcome and output indicators agreed in the Programme Agreement.

In 2020 the PO participated as a co-organizer at three matchmaking events organized by DPP/Innovation Norway (IN) and focused on searching potential business partners from the donor states. The PO was responsible for mobilisation and evaluation of the Slovak participants. The first event took place in Oslo with participants in person, two others were in digital format. The first matchmaking event focused on Green Industry and ICT took place on 2-3 March 2020 in Oslo. The main target groups were companies aiming at participation in the calls under the EEA and Norway Grants from beneficiary countries implementing the business programme. There were three Slovak business participants (Archee, E-Vision Systems, General European Innovation Group), one of them gave a short presentation during the match-making event.

The second matchmaking and B2B event was organized in a digital format due to the COVID-19 pandemic situation and travel restrictions. The matchmaking was organized by Innovation Norway and focused on Welfare Technology (WT) in Europe with the EEA and Norway

Grants. The event was held on 24<sup>th</sup> September 2020, as part of digital Oslo Innovation Week. Countries selected for the matchmaking were Norway, Bulgaria, Poland and Slovakia. The role of the PO was to mobilise Slovak companies operated in the WT area and aiming to apply for the Programme's calls. The PO selected two Slovak companies to participate at the B2B online meetings (TUVA and [pelicantravel.com](http://pelicantravel.com)).

On 15<sup>th</sup> December 2020 the PO participated as a co-organizer of an online matchmaking and B2B event – International Green Industry Innovation and ICT: Webinar and Matchmaking, organized by Innovation Norway. Event was organised as multilateral matchmaking for companies aiming at applying for the calls in Croatia, Bulgaria, Greece, Romania, Latvia, Estonia, Lithuania and Slovakia. The PO selected five Slovak companies (KERNELS, JRK Slovensko, E-Vision Systems, General European Innovation Group, Saftra Photonics), operating in the area of GII.

*Please describe the cooperation with the Donor Programme Partner(s), including through the Cooperation Committee (if applicable).*

The cooperation between the PO and the DPPs has been very active since the start of the programme implementation. The DPPs (Innovation Norway, DIKU, AIBA) were involved in the stakeholder meetings, the elaboration of the Concept Note and the Programme Agreement, approval the calls for proposals and the selection criteria. The DPPs have played a key role in advising on the use of the Fund for Bilateral Relations, approving the Bilateral Activity Plans, calls for proposals for bilateral initiatives and assisting in the project partner search. The PO communicates with the DPPs through the Cooperation Committee (CC) meetings or DPP/PO bilateral meetings. The PO organizes at least two CC meetings per year. In urgent cases and since March 2020, the CC meetings were organized via per rollam or online due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

## 2. Implementation

### Conformity with specific requirements

General condition no. 1 stated in the Annex I of the Programme Agreement will be taken into consideration after the finalisation of the selection process of projects of the last call from the following calls for proposals: BIN SGS01, BIN 01 and BIN 02.

General condition no. 2 stated in the Annex I of the Programme Agreement will be taken into consideration after the finalisation of the selection process of calls for proposals.

General condition no. 3 stated in the Annex I of the Programme Agreement concerns three calls for proposals. The already published call BIN SGS01 had a reference concerning the reconstruction and renovation of buildings in the article 6 of the Call text. The draft texts of the calls BIN 01 and BIN 02 which are under preparation, have reference to all the conditions concerning the buildings.

The special rules stated in the Annex II – Operational rules of the Programme Agreement will be specified in the text calls for proposals for educational component (BIN SGS02 and BIN

SGS03) which are under preparation and will be sent for approval to the DPPs and the NFP in spring 2021.

The Programme's special concerns stated in the Memorandum of Understanding have been incorporated in the Programme's Concept Note, the Programme Agreement and in the respective calls for proposals as following:

- all calls for proposals aim at the main focus areas: Green Industry Innovation and Welfare and Ambient Assisted Living;
- allocation for the education part is EUR 3,529,412, i.e. 15% of the total eligible expenditures;
- both agencies, DIKU and AIBA, have been involved in the preparation and implementation of the educational component within their role of the DPPs as members of the Cooperation Committee and through the DPP/PO bilateral meetings;
- calls for proposals within the business part of the Programme (BIN SGS01, BIN 01, BIN 02) address young and female entrepreneurs, as a prioritised target group by adding extra 2 points in the evaluation of the content-related criteria of the submitted applications.

#### Cooperation with International Partner Organisations (IPOs)

N/A

## C. LEARNING

### 1. Monitoring

Taking into consideration the programme's implementation phase, the PO has not carried out any monitoring yet. The PO does not have any predefined project and either have not finished selection of projects nor contracted any projects yet.

In 2021 the PO will not carry out any monitoring, as the evaluation and selection of the applications submitted under the closed call (Call for proposals on support of newly established businesses/BIN SGS01) has not been finalised yet and the first projects are planned to be contracted in August/September 2021. This call is a small grant scheme and the expenditures per project will not exceed EUR 200,000. In line with the Annex 1 of the Programme Implementation Agreement, the PO will carry out the risks analyses of the selected projects in line with the procedure described in the programme's Internal Manual. Based on the projects risk analyses, will plan on-spot financial controls.

The PO will prepare a monitoring plan in time before the projects are contracted. The plan will include monitoring results and on risk in order to ensure that the project progress is meeting its outcome and outputs and to identify potential threats and problems.

### 2. Evaluation

There has not been any evaluation carried out on the programme yet.

### **3. Lessons learned**

The beginning of the year 2020 was marked by a global public health crisis. The COVID-19 pandemic has affected the work of all parties involved in the programme and the Grants implementation. The PO had to adapt fast to the new conditions of working from home. Balancing work and family life was a challenge for some of the PO employees, as some of them had to take shorter or longer pandemic leaves. Due to many travel restrictions and unforeseen situations, the PO had to rethink the approach in using the means from the Fund for Bilateral Relations and the search for project partners, especially in the education component. Due to the adaption to these changes some of the PO's performance required a longer time and thus some deadlines were postponed. Although the delays effected the announcement of the call for proposals (BIN 01, BIN 02 and the calls for educational component), so far it has not endangered the programme implementation.

## **D. ANNEXES**

- 1. Updated results (indicator achievements)**
- 2. Communication**
- 3. Overview of contracted projects**
- 4. Risk management**
- 5. Monitoring plan**
- 6. Evaluation report**
- 7. List of individual mobilities**

## Annex 1: Updated results (indicator achievements)

Objective: Increased value creation and sustainable growth								
Outcome 1: Increased competitiveness of Slovak enterprises within the focus areas: Green Industry Innovation and Welfare Technology and Ambient Assisted Living technologies								
Indicator	Unit of measurement	Baseline	Achievements until end of previous reporting period	Achievements until end of December 2020			Target	Comment
				Numerator	Denominator	Value		
Estimated annual growth in turnover	Percentage	N/A	-	-	-	-	3.00 %	-
Estimated annual CO2 emission reductions (in tons)	Annual number	0	-	-	-	-	6,000	-
<i>Financial Mechanism</i>								
<i>EEA Grants</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Norway Grants</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Estimated annual collection of waste from production and operational processes for re-use or recycling (in tons)	Number	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 three months after the selection	-	-	-	-	15,000	-

		of the relevant projects. The updated baseline value shall be agreed upon through a modification of the programme agreement.						
<b>Estimated annual decrease of energy consumption (in MWh)</b>	Annual number	0	-	-	-	-	1,000	-
<b>Estimated annual growth in net operational profit</b>	Percentage	N/A	-	-	-	-	3.00 %	-
<b>Estimated re-use of waste for other production processes (in tons)</b>	Number	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 three months after	-	-	-	-	10,000	-



		the selection of the relevant projects. The updated baseline value shall be agreed upon through a modification of the programme agreement.							
<b>Number of jobs created</b>	Number	0	-	-	-	-	25	-	
<i>Financial Mechanism</i>									
<i>EEA Grants</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
<i>Norway Grants</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
<i>Gender</i>									
<i>Female</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
<i>Male</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
<i>Not specified</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
<i>Age</i>									
<i>Children and youth (0-17)</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
<i>Young adults (18-29)</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
<i>Adults (30-64)</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
<i>Elderly (65+)</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
<i>Not specified</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
<b>Number of products or services commercialized (new to the market)</b>	Number	0	-	-	-	-	3	-	
<i>Sector</i>									
<i>Green</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
<i>Blue</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	

<i>ICT</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Welfare/ambient</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Not specified</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Number of innovative technologies/processes/solutions applied (new to the enterprise)</b>	Number	0	-	-	-	-	7	-
<i>Sector</i>								
<i>Green</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Blue</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>ICT</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Welfare/ambient</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Not specified</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Number of innovative technologies/processes/solutions developed</b>	Number	0	-	-	-	-	5	-
<i>Financial Mechanism</i>								
<i>EEA Grants</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Norway Grants</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Sector</i>								
<i>Green</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Blue</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>ICT</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Welfare/ambient</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Not specified</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Number of Intellectual Property Rights (Copyright, Trademark, Patents) applications submitted</b>	Number	0	-	-	-	-	3	-
<i>Financial Mechanism</i>								
<i>EEA Grants</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Norway Grants</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Share of Enterprises' staff who declare better skills/competencies in their field</b>	Percentage	N/A	-	Reported 2022, 2024			65.00 %	-

Survival rate of start-ups measured 1 year from the last day of the eligibility period of the projects	Percentage	N/A	-	-	-	-	25.00 %	-
<b>Output 1.1: Enterprises supported to develop innovate green technologies, processes, solution, products or services</b>								
Indicator	Unit of measurement	Baseline	Achievements until end of previous reporting period	Achievements until end of December 2020			Target	Comment
				Numerator	Denominator	Value		
Number of large enterprises supported to apply green technologies/processes/solutions	Number	0	-	-	-	-	1	-
Number of large enterprises supported to commercialise green technologies/processes/solutions	Number	0	-	-	-	-	1	-
Number of large enterprises supported to develop green technologies/processes/solutions	Number	0	-	-	-	-	1	-
Number of SMEs supported to apply green technologies/processes/solutions	Number	0	-	-	-	-	3	-
<i>Financial Mechanism</i>								
<i>EEA Grants</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Norway Grants</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Number of SMEs supported to commercialise green technologies/processes/solutions	Number	0	-	-	-	-	2	-
<i>Financial Mechanism</i>								
<i>EEA Grants</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Norway Grants</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Number of SMEs supported to develop green technologies/processes/solutions	Number	0	-	-	-	-	4	-
<i>Financial Mechanism</i>								
<i>EEA Grants</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

<i>Norway Grants</i>								
<b>Number of young and female entrepreneurs supported</b>	Number	0	-	-	-	-	4	-
<b>Output 1.2: Enterprises supported to green their business operations</b>								
Indicator	Unit of measurement	Baseline	Achievements until end of previous reporting period	Achievements until end of December 2020			Target	Comment
				Numerator	Denominator	Value		
<b>Number of large enterprises supported to improve energy efficiency</b>	Number	0	-	-	-	-	4	-
<b>Number of SMEs supported to improve energy efficiency</b>	Number	0	-	-	-	-	8	-
<i>Financial Mechanism</i>								
<i>EEA Grants</i>								
<i>Norway Grants</i>								
<b>Output 1.3: Enterprises supported to innovate welfare and ambient assisted living technologies, solutions and processes</b>								
Indicator	Unit of measurement	Baseline	Achievements until end of previous reporting period	Achievements until end of December 2020			Target	Comment
				Numerator	Denominator	Value		
<b>Number of large enterprises supported to apply ambient assisted living/welfare technologies/processes/solutions</b>	Number	0	-	-	-	-	3	-
<b>Number of large enterprises supported to commercialize ambient assisted living/welfare technologies/processes/solutions</b>	Number	0	-	-	-	-	1	-
<b>Number of large enterprises supported to develop ambient assisted living/welfare technologies/processes/solutions</b>	Number	0	-	-	-	-	1	-

<b>Number of SMEs supported to apply ambient assisted living/welfare technologies/processes/solutions</b>	Number	0	-	-	-	-	4	-
<i>Financial Mechanism</i>								
<i>EEA Grants</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Norway Grants</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Number of SMEs supported to commercialize ambient assisted living/welfare technologies/processes/solutions</b>	Number	0	-	-	-	-	1	-
<i>Financial Mechanism</i>								
<i>EEA Grants</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Norway Grants</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Number of SMEs supported to develop ambient assisted living/welfare technologies/processes/solutions</b>	Number	0	-	-	-	-	4	-
<i>Financial Mechanism</i>								
<i>EEA Grants</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Norway Grants</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Number of young and female entrepreneurs supported</b>	Number	0	-	-	-	-	4	-
<b>Output 1.4: Start-ups supported for business growth</b>								
Indicator	Unit of measurement	Baseline	Achievements until end of previous reporting period	Achievements until end of December 2020			Target	Comment
				Numerator	Denominator	Value		
<b>Number of start-ups supported</b>	Number	0	-	-	-	-	6	-
<b>Outcome 2: Education and Employment potential enhanced in Slovakia in Green Industry Innovation and Welfare and Ambient Assisted Living technologies</b>								
Indicator	Unit of measurement	Baseline	Achievements until end of previous reporting period	Achievements until end of December 2020			Target	Comment
				Numerator	Denominator	Value		

Number of businesses who self-rate the programme as having added value, regarding employment of apprenticeships (on a scale of 1-5)	Number	0	-	Reported 2022, 2024			10	-
Number of education institutions offering new courses / modules in environmental technologies	Number	0	-	Reported 2022, 2024			4	-
Number of people who remain employed in the chosen sector after apprenticeships	Number	0	-	Reported 2022, 2024			25	-
Number of people who remain working in the chosen sector after mobility	Number	0	-	Reported 2022, 2024			15	-
Percentage of participants who declare improved skills and competencies	Percentage	-	-	Reported 2022, 2024			70.00 %	-
<b>Output 2.1: International mobility supported</b>								
Indicator	Unit of measurement	Baseline	Achievements until end of previous reporting period	Achievements until end of December 2020			Target	Comment
				Numerator	Denominator	Value		
Number of apprenticeships supported between Donor States and Slovakia in SMEs or other businesses	Number	0	-	-	-	-	20	-
<i>Financial Mechanism</i>								
<i>EEA Grants</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Norway Grants</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Gender</i>								
<i>Female</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Male</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Not specified</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Number of staff from beneficiary states in exchanges	Number	0	-	-	-	-	15	-
<i>Financial Mechanism</i>								
<i>EEA Grants</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

<i>Norway Grants</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Donor State</i>								
<i>Norway</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Iceland</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Liechtenstein</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Not specified</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Gender</i>								
<i>Female</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Male</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Not specified</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Type of exchange</i>								
<i>Online</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Physical</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Number of staff from donor states in exchanges</b>	Number	0	-	-	-	-	10	-
<i>Financial Mechanism</i>								
<i>EEA Grants</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Norway Grants</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Donor State</i>								
<i>Norway</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Iceland</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Liechtenstein</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Not specified</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Gender</i>								
<i>Female</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Male</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Not specified</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Type of exchange</i>								
<i>Online</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Physical</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Number of students from beneficiary states in exchanges</b>	Number	0	-	-	-	-	25	-

<i>Financial Mechanism</i>								
<i>EEA Grants</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Norway Grants</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Donor State</i>								
<i>Norway</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Iceland</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Liechtenstein</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Not specified</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Gender</i>								
<i>Female</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Male</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Not specified</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Type of exchange</i>								
<i>Online</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Physical</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Number of students from donor states in exchanges</b>	Number	0	-	-	-	-	15	-
<i>Financial Mechanism</i>								
<i>EEA Grants</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Norway Grants</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Donor State</i>								
<i>Norway</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Iceland</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Liechtenstein</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Not specified</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Gender</i>								
<i>Female</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Male</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Not specified</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Type of exchange</i>								
<i>Online</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Physical</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-



Output 2.2: Institutional Cooperation Supported								
Indicator	Unit of measurement	Baseline	Achievements until end of previous reporting period	Achievements until end of December 2020			Target	Comment
				Numerator	Denominator	Value		
Number of apprentices supported in Slovakia within SMEs or other organisations/institutions	Number	0	-	-	-	-	20	-
<i>Financial Mechanism</i>								
<i>EEA Grants</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Norway Grants</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Gender</i>								
<i>Female</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Male</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Not specified</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Number of institutions developing curricula related to Green Industry Innovation, or Welfare and Ambient Assisted living	Number	0	-	-	-	-	3	-
Number of institutions engaged in cooperation at higher education and upper secondary level	Number	0	-	-	-	-	10	-
Number of participants in workshops organized to share experiences regarding youth apprenticeships and new methods of education and engaging youth	Number	0	-	-	-	-	50	-
Number of SMEs and other enterprises engaged in institutional cooperation at higher education and upper secondary level	Number	0	-	-	-	-	10	-
<b>Bilateral Outcome: Enhanced collaboration between beneficiary and donor state entities involved in the programme</b>								
Indicator	Unit of measurement	Baseline	Achievements until end of previous	Achievements until end of December 2020			Target	Comment
				Numerator	Denominator	Value		

			reporting period					
<b>Level of satisfaction with the partnership</b>	Scale 1-7	TBD, Survey to be carried out by the FMO	-	-	-	-	4.50, Target is $\geq 4.5$ , and an increase on the baseline value	-
<i>Financial Mechanism</i>								
<i>EEA Grants</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Norway Grants</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>State type</i>								
<i>Beneficiary State</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Donor State</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Not specified</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Level of trust between cooperating entities in Beneficiary States and Donor States</b>	Scale 1-7	TBD, Survey to be carried out by the FMO	-	-	-	-	4.50, Target is $\geq 4.5$ , and an increase on the baseline value	-
<i>Financial Mechanism</i>								
<i>EEA Grants</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Norway Grants</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>State type</i>								
<i>Beneficiary State</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Donor State</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Not specified</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

<b>Share of cooperating organisations that apply the knowledge acquired from bilateral partnership</b>	Percentage	N/A	-	-	-	-	50.00 %, Target is minimum 50 %	-
<i>Financial Mechanism</i>								
<i>EEA Grants</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Norway Grants</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>State type</i>								
<i>Beneficiary State</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Donor State</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Not specified</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Share of donor business partnerships which continue after project implementation period</b>	Percentage	N/A	-	-	-	-	30.00 %	-
<b>Bilateral Output 1: Donor cooperation enhanced</b>								
Indicator	Unit of measurement	Baseline	Achievements until end of previous reporting period	Achievements until end of December 2020			Target	Comment
				Numerator	Denominator	Value		
<b>Number of new jointly registered applications for Intellectual Property Protection (Copyright, Trademark, Patents)</b>	Number	N/A	-	-	-	-	2	-
<i>Financial Mechanism</i>								
<i>EEA Grants</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Norway Grants</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Bilateral Output 2: Bilateral partnerships promoted</b>								
Indicator	Unit of measurement	Baseline	Achievements until end of previous reporting period	Achievements until end of December 2020			Target	Comment
				Numerator	Denominator	Value		

<b>Number of projects involving cooperation with a donor project partner</b>	Number	0	-	-	-	-	12	-
<i>Financial Mechanism</i>								
<i>EEA Grants</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Norway Grants</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Donor State</i>								
<i>Norway</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Iceland</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Liechtenstein</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Not specified</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

## Annex 2: Communication summary

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

To make the programme and the Grants visible, the PO has used the tools as defined in the Communication Plan. The PO focused on potential applicants, professionals and the general public, as well as the Donor Programme Partners. The PO has already started to communicate and promote the Grants and the programme in 2019. After the signing of the Programme Agreement, the PO organised in December 2019, a launching conference in Bratislava with the support of the Norwegian Embassy. A part of the conference was a business match-making seminar aiming at facilitating partnerships between businesses from Slovakia and the donor states. Three Norwegian companies (Infiniwell AS, International Development Norway, Tomra Sorting GmbH), DPP (Innovation Norway) and about 60 Slovak entities participated at this event. In 2019 the PO participated at few events to promote the programme, such as the Norwegian Day organised by the Norwegian Embassy, information seminars organized by SMEs umbrella organisations and seminars organized by the Slovak Ministry of Education addressing vocational education.

In 2020, the PO has mainly communicated and promoted the following activities and events:

- announcement of two calls for proposals: Call for Travel Grants (BIN BF01), announced on 3.3.2020 and the Call on [support of newly established businesses \(start-ups\)](#) (BIN SGS01) announced on 29.6.2020;
- one information seminar on the Call for [support of newly established businesses \(start-ups\)](#) (BIN SGS01) held on 15.7.2020;
- three matchmaking events organized by the DPP Innovation Norway.

The PO informed the public about the events through the social media and umbrella organizations focused on businesses, mainly SMEs. The first matchmaking event focused on Green Industry and ICT, organized by Innovation Norway, took place on 2<sup>nd</sup>-3<sup>rd</sup> March 2020 in Oslo. With the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic in March 2020, the PO has gradually reoriented activities into the online space and online communication. In this respect, the NFP provided assistance with technical background. At the same time, the DPPs started to organize international online matchmaking and B2B meetings where the PO participated as a co-organizer for Slovakia.

These bilateral events provided a good opportunity to present the Grants and the programme to the businesses, professionals and wider public in Slovakia via social networks. The PO realized that the advantage of online events is their easy access for lots of people that means a higher possibility to increase participation and spreading of information on the programme and the calls.

### b. Communication with the National Focal Point

The PO considers the communication and cooperation with the NFP as very professional and supportive. The NFP shares information regarding the PO's activities through its communication channels (web, FB). Thanks to NFP's technical support and assistance, the PO

was able to hold online information seminar on the Call BIN SGS 01 and online meeting of the Cooperation Committee.

### c. Website and social media

Main channels for spreading information about the programme, calls, information seminar, matchmaking events etc. is the PO's website and Facebook:

<http://www.vyskumnaagentura.sk/sk/aktuality-hlavne>,  
<http://www.vyskumnaagentura.sk/en/programme-eea-norway-grants> and Facebook site  
„Rozvoj obchodu, inovácií a MSP“: <https://www.facebook.com/Rozvoj-obchodu-inov%C3%A1ci%C3%AD-a-MSP-564905313952353/>.

Banners with the announcement of two calls BIN BF01 and BIN SGS01 were placed on the PO's website and Facebook. Press releases on these calls were published by the press department of the Slovak Ministry of Education, Science, Research and Sport on its press portal and sent to Slovak press agencies, national and regional newspapers and electronic media focused on startups, business and economy. The call BIN SGS 01 was advertised in the national daily newspaper SME.sk, in the economic section (Ekonomika.SME.sk <https://tlacovespravy.sme.sk/>, <https://ekonomika.sme.sk/>) and in the regional radio Radio WOW, as a radio spot <https://www.radiowow.sk/web11/>.

It was very important to share information about announced calls with the DPPs, the National Focal Point and the Norwegian Embassy. All of them made the programme visible on their websites and FB profiles: NFP: <https://www.eeagrants.sk/>;

Norwegian Embassy in Slovakia: <https://www.facebook.com/NorwegianEmbassyBratislava/>,  
<https://www.facebook.com/Granty-EHP-a-N%C3%B3rska-na-Slovensku-116525705145104/>;

Innovation Norway: <https://www.innovasjon Norge.no/en/start-page/eea-norway-grants/funding-options/>; AIBA: <https://www.eeagrants-li.com/>; DIKU: <https://diku.no/en/programmes>.

### d. Best practice examples

The PO's website is constantly being updated and is fully functional in the Slovak and English versions. It serves as a basic platform for informing potential applicants and the public. In addition to basic information about the programme and the calls. Information from the website are shared via PO's FB account. Based on the PO's statistics related to the submitted applications under the Call BIN SGS01, most of the applicants gained information on the call from the PO's website. Others mentioned as a source of information the website of the Research Agency, the programme opening conference, an umbrella organizations focused on SMEs, or the PO's FB site.

The number of web and FB fans is increasing, especially when the call is published. The PO anticipates higher visits during the promotion of the calls announced in 2021. Based on the PO's web analytics the number of visitors till February 2021 is 18 084.

### e. Multimedia

The PO has not produced any video or multimedia product yet.

### Annex 3: Overview of contracted projects

Outcome	Projects	#	# of donor project partners	Amount contracted	% of outcome budget contracted
<b>Outcome 1: Increased competitiveness of Slovak enterprises within the focus areas: Green Industry Innovation and Welfare Technology and Ambient Assisted Living technologies</b>	Pre-defined	0	0	€ 0	0.00 %
	Contracted through open calls	0	0	€ 0	0.00 %
	Contracted through small grants scheme	0	0	€ 0	0.00 %
	<b>Total Outcome 1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>€ 0</b>	<b>0.00 %</b>
<b>Outcome 2: Education and Employment potential enhanced in Slovakia in Green Industry Innovation and Welfare and Ambient Assisted Living technologies</b>	Pre-defined	0	0	€ 0	0.00 %
	Contracted through open calls	0	0	€ 0	0.00 %
	Contracted through small grants scheme	0	0	€ 0	0.00 %
	<b>Total Outcome 2</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>€ 0</b>	<b>0.00 %</b>
<b>Programme</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>€ 0</b>	<b>0.00 %</b>



## Annex 4: Risk management

Programmatic risks						
Risk description	Risk related to	Likelihood	Consequence	Risk score	Response type	Risk N/A
Insufficient use of means from the Fund for Bilateral Relations and difficulties in fulfilling the condition of bilateral project partnerships (educational component) due to pandemics COVID-19	Strengthening bilateral relations	3	3	3.00	Mitigate	No
	<b>Description of planned response</b>	Organise events to strengthen bilateral cooperation in online space in cooperation with DPPs and NFP (on-line counselling, match-making, webinars etc)				
	<b>Description of actual response</b>	Using of online applications in organizing on-line bilateral events (webinars, match-making seminars for potential applicants and online PO/DPP meetings)				
	<b>Planned future response</b>	Finding other ways of bilateral cooperation in online space (e.g. on-line activities – counselling/trainings; conferences; Enhance skills and access to tools enabling participants (potential applicants and partners) to communicate efficiently in virtual space)				
Discrepancy between expected programme outcomes and achieved results of implemented project	Both objectives	1	1	1.00	Mitigate	No
	<b>Description of planned response</b>	Appropriate call setup, selection criteria, monitoring of approved projects				
	<b>Description of actual response</b>	Appropriate call setup and selection criteria of the announced Call BIN SGS01				
	<b>Planned future response</b>	Appropriate call setup, selection criteria, monitoring of approved projects under all calls for proposals taking into consideration targets in the results framework at the programme and project level.				
Insufficient number of applications	Both objectives	2	2	2.00	Mitigate	No

	<b>Description of planned response</b>	Information seminars for applicants after launch of the planned calls for proposals. Other communication channels will be used to attract potential applicants (webpage, FB, direct mailing, participation at conferences, seminars related to EEA and Norway Grants).				
	<b>Description of actual response</b>	Promotion of the announced Call BIN SGS01 (web, FB, newspaper adds, direct mailing) and organization of an information seminar for the announced Call BIN SGS01.				
	<b>Planned future response</b>	Information seminars for applicants after launch of each call for proposals. Other communication channels will be used to attract potential applicants (webpage, FB, direct mailing, participation at conferences, seminars related to EEA and Norway Grants).				
Low number of innovative projects submitted	Reducing social and economic disparities	2	2	2.00	Mitigate	No
	<b>Description of planned response</b>	Use intensive and targeted communication tools to promote the innovation component of the programme.				
	<b>Description of actual response</b>	Targeted communication with SMEs and start-ups umbrella organizations to attract suitable applicants for the information seminar of the announced BIN SGS01 and the programme's launching conference.				
	<b>Planned future response</b>	Use of targeted communication to promote the innovation component focusing on electronic media and portals aimed on innovations and business development; using communication network of Grants; the PO's communication tools such as web, FB, newspaper adds, press releases, direct mailing. Using these tools in connection with launching of calls for proposals, information seminars, match-making events and informing on achieved programme/project results.				
Change of legislative environment	Both objectives	3	2	2.45	Accept	No
	<b>Description of planned response</b>	Promptly up-date of documents intended for applicants/ promoters (e.g. calls, guidelines for promoters etc.), publication of up-to-date information on webpage, up-date of internal documents.				

	<b>Description of actual response</b>	In 2020 no profound legislative changes occurred with impact on documents intended for project applicants, project promoters or internal documents connected to programme implementation.				
	<b>Planned future response</b>	Promptly up-date of documents intended for applicants/promoters (e.g. calls, guidelines for promoters etc.), publication of up-to-date information on webpage, up-date of internal documents.				
	Both objectives	2	3	2.45	Mitigate	No
Lack of time for project implementation	<b>Description of planned response</b>	Adequate timeframe setup of projects implementation in the planned Calls for proposals. If necessary, projects concerned will be evaluated individually.				
	<b>Description of actual response</b>	Set up of adequate timeframe in the announced Call BIN SGS01.				
	<b>Planned future response</b>	Good monitoring plan and risk analyses of projects. The PO will prepare a monitoring plan in reasonable time before the projects are contracted. This plan will focus on monitoring of results, on risk, financial control and overall assessment of project progress.				
<b>Operational risks</b>						
<b>Risk description</b>	<b>Risk related to</b>	<b>Likelihood</b>	<b>Consequence</b>	<b>Risk score</b>	<b>Response type</b>	<b>Risk N/A</b>
Insufficient institutional and management capacities in the PO level	Both objectives	2	2	2.00	Mitigate	No
	<b>Description of planned response</b>	A capacity plan will ensure sufficient capacities during the entire programme implementation.				
	<b>Description of actual response</b>	As of 1 February 2021, the PO has hired all staff members needed for the programme implementation. The PO's staff participates at regular weekly trainings organized by the Research Agency focused on improvement of IT skills within new IT capacities in order to challenge the COVID-19 restrictions.				
	<b>Planned future response</b>	A capacity plan will ensure sufficient capacities during the entire programme implementation. Ensuring capacity building for improvement of skills and resources of PO's				

		staff through targeted trainings and workshops, participation on trainings organized by the Research Agency to improve employees' management, institutional and IT skills.				
Long period for obtaining permits needed for projects implementation in areas of GII and WT (application of technology)	Both objectives	2	3	2.45	Accept	No
	<b>Description of planned response</b>	Proper set up of project implementation timeframe and assessment of this risk.				
	<b>Description of actual response</b>	As there were no projects assessed yet, there has been no need to start looking into this yet.				
	<b>Planned future response</b>	During the projects evaluation, the PO will look into identification of permits needed and ensure that the process of applying for permits in terms of time and content is feasible also in regards to possible prolongation of time for obtaining permits due to COVID-19 effects.				
Shortcomings and mistakes in the public procurement	Both objectives	2	3	2.45	Mitigate	No
	<b>Description of planned response</b>	Info seminars about public procurements (PP) procedures, clear PP guidelines and consultations during tender preparations will be organized for applicants.				
	<b>Description of actual response</b>	Update of the chapter on public procurement in the PO's Internal manual. The PO has not started preparing guidelines or seminar on PP in 2020, as it is planned in 2021.				
	<b>Planned future response</b>	Info seminars about public procurements procedures, clear PP guidelines and consultations during tender preparations will be organized for applicants.				
Lack of professional evaluators	Reducing social and economic disparities	2	2	2.00	Mitigate	No
	<b>Description of planned response</b>	Creation of expert evaluators database that ensures transparent, objective and high quality implementation of the project evaluation process. The number of expert evaluators is secured by the Open call for expert evaluators issued by the PO on 8th of July 2020 and				

		direct mailing to the existing database of expert evaluators administrated by the Research Agency.			
	<b>Description of actual response</b>	A database created of 45+ professional evaluators enables the PO to choose the most suitable and available evaluators for the programme.			
	<b>Planned future response</b>	Up-to-date of expert evaluators database to maintain the sufficient number of professional evaluators for the programme.			
Impact of COVID-19 restrictions	Both objectives	3	3	3.00	Mitigate No
	<b>Description of planned response</b>	Adapt to the new circumstances in regards to PO's capacity building, introducing new approaches towards the search and development of bilateral partnerships, closely follow up developments and changes they may effect programme and projects implementation.			
	<b>Description of actual response</b>	Adapt to new working conditions (home office) bysecuring of proper IT tools and capacity development (trainings at the Research Agency). Modification of calls for proposals where donor project partner is obligatory, by using online tools for match-making and B2B events, broaden the calls for online activities in partnership projects (workshops, conferences, virtual mobility, stays, etc.), Communication with project applicants – information seminar on announced calls for proposals - shifted to online space.			
	<b>Planned future response</b>	Adapt to the insufficient PO capacities due to COVID-19 sick leaves and informing in time the NFP and DPPs about possible delays in the programme implementation (such as launch of the calls for proposals, assessment of applications etc). Follow up developments with COVID-19. Continue to use online space for communication on programme and project level with donors, programme partners, project promoters. Assess and monitor projects implementation, maintain up-to-date communication with project promoters.			
<b>Overall risk of the programme</b>					
		<b>Likelihood</b>	<b>Consequence</b>	<b>Risk score</b>	
OVERALL RISK OF THE PROGRAMME		2	2	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*