

ANNUAL PROGRAMME REPORT

FM14-21

Slovakia

SK-INNOVATION Business Development, Innovation and SMEs

2023

A. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

B. PERFORMANCE

1. Programme progress and results

Objectives

All planned Calls have been launched and completed within the SK-Innovation Programme (hereinafter as "Programme") and all projects were contracted. 35 projects are supported in the amount of EUR 15,84 mil.

After PA's modification No. 4 the total allocation for the Programme's regranting is EUR 17,35 mil., out of which EUR 15,84 mil. (91,34%) has been contracted, EUR 11,17 mil. (70,51%) has been paid on projects and EUR 5,05 mil. (31,85%) has been withdrawn until the end of 2023.

PA01 (Outcome 1): 3 Calls – BIN SGS01 (NFM), BIN 01 (NFM), BIN 02 (EEA FM), 21 projects supported in the amount of EUR 13,38 mil (91,04% of the allocation), 18 SMEs and 2 large companies. 8 Norwegian business partnership with 6 Norwegian businesses (IDN AS, ICB Digital AS, SINTEF AS, Integrate Renewables AS, JAHØ MUR og FASADE AS, Pure Food of Norway). The implementation of the projects started in 12/2021, 5 projects are completed. As regards the main Programme areas, 67% of the supported projects focus on Green Industry Innovation (GII) and 33% on Welfare Technologies and Ambient Assisted Living (WT/AAL). The most frequent topics dealt with in the supported projects include circular economy, reduction of CO2 emissions, energy efficiency and development of applications for care for elderly or ill people. The projects aims, set up indicators and character of the supported projects indicates that the Programme will meet its objective. 62% of the supported projects within Business and Innovation (PA01) are implemented in the less developed regions of Slovakia.

PA03 (Outcome 2): 2 Calls – BIN SGS02 (NFM), BIN SGS03 (EEA FM), 14 projects supported in the amount of EUR 2,46 mil (93% of the allocation), 10 universities (9 state, 1 private), 4 upper-secondary schools (3 state, 1 private). 13 Norwegian and 1 Icelandic project partnerships with 8 universities (NTNU, College for Green Development, Kristiania University College, University of Stavanger, Cathedral School Gimle, UiT Arctic University of Norway in Narvik, University of Bergen, University of Iceland) and 2 upper secondary schools (Arctic Circle Upper Secondary School, Glemmen Upper Secondary VET School). The implementation started in 09/2022, no project completed in 2023. 50% of the supported projects within Education and Employment potential enhanced in Slovakia (PA03) are implemented by education institutions in the less developed regions of Slovakia.

Based on the modification of the Memoranda of Understanding (taken into force 17 February 2023), the PO requested the modification of the Programme Agreement connected to the reallocation of the Programme's uncommitted funds (EUR 4 235 294) to other programmes and funds implemented in Slovakia. The modified Programme Agreement (Addendum No. 4) entered into force on 31 August 2023.

Despite the high inflation rate and price increase, the PO has done an extensive work on increasing the Programme's absorption and expects all projects to be concluded within the given timeframe in 2024.

Outcome 1: Increased competitiveness of Slovak enterprises within the focus areas: Green Industry Innovation and Welfare Technology and Ambient Assisted Living technologies

Within the Outcome 1 of the Programme there are three calls **BIN SGS01/NFM, BIN01/NFM, BIN02/EEA FM** being implemented.

Under the Call for proposals on support of newly established businesses (start-ups) (**BIN SGS01/NFM**) with original allocation of EUR 1 058 824, the PO contracted 8 projects in total. After termination of 2 project contracts in 2022 (BIN SGS01_2020_010, BIN SGS01_2020_030) and contracting 2 projects in 05/2022 (BIN SGS01_2020_005) and 01/2023 (BIN SGS01_2020_011) from the reserve list, the final number of the supported start-up is 6. PO expected 7 start-ups in the amount of EUR 1 204 976,70 supported under this Call, however, after lengthy negotiations, 1 project from the reserve list (BIN SGS01_2020_006) eventually decided not to proceed with the project due to insufficient time for implementation. 3 out of 6 contracted projects have Norwegian partner.

After PA's modification No. 4, signed in August 2023, the total allocation for this Call is EUR 1 208 000, with contracted EUR 1 005 120 (83,21%), and paid EUR 828 407,46 (82,42% of contracted) out of which EUR 692 851,33 (68,93% of contracted) was withdrawn by the end of December 2023. 4 projects (BIN SGS01_2020_003, BIN SGS01_2020_023, BIN SGS01_2020_005, BIN SGS01_2020_012) already finished implementation. 2 Final Project Reports (FPR) were approved by the PO, 1 FPR submitted in 12/2023 and 1 FPR in 01/2024 are being reviewed. The remaining 2 projects plan to finish the implementation in April 2024.

BIN SGS01_2020_003/WT/ALL, "mFIRES – Modular First Responder Information System" developed IT solution of assistance services for elderly, people after surgery, disabled or otherwise dependent seniors with the aim to secure them with social, medical and technical support, assistance with daily living activities, maintain independence and social interaction. The solution has been registered as the company's IPR by the Industrial Property Office of the Slovak Republic, and successfully brought to the market. The project promoter concluded the project implementation as planned, in 12/2022. The FPR was approved by the PO in 08/2023 with withdrawn 99,16% of the grant. Their estimated annual growth in turnover and net operational profit is both 2% and will be monitored by the PO in 2025 based on company's business performance in 2024.

BIN SGS01_2020_023/GII, "Energy savings and a better environment for children with attendance analysis" with originally planned completion in 11/2022 extended the implementation till 03/2023. The project focused on saving energy and improving the interiors of buildings and developed devices established in public buildings such as schools or offices measures and collects data on environment in the rooms. Based on the analyses of the collected data, it is possible to set up healthy environment of the building for its users, save energy consumption and reduce pollution. The project promoter registered 3 trademarks at the Industrial Property Office of the Slovak Republic and started selling them. The FPR was approved by the PO in 09/2023 with withdrawn 89,73% of the project grant. 1 job has been created in connection with the project. Their estimated annual growth in turnover and net operational profit is both 5% and. The PO will monitor these indicators in 2025 based on company's business performance in 2024.

Representatives of the both completed projects attended Oslo Innovation Week in 09/2023 and presented their projects at the networking event "Meet Start-ups from Central/Southern Europe" organised in cooperation with PO's by the DPP, Innovation Norway.

BIN SGS01_2020_005/WT/AAL, "OPATRIO: Web-based application for home care service management" originally planned to finish in 03/2023 was completed in 09/2023 and submitted FPR in 12/2023 which is in the approval process. The project aims at increasing quality of life of seniors and people with different disabilities, who receive home care service in Slovakia. The

project shall be beneficial not only for the clients themselves but also for the municipality officials responsible for home care services provision and the employed caregivers.

BIN SGS01_2020_012/GII, "SELITEX - Second Life for Textile" was finished 3 months before the planned completion. The project aims to contribute with sustainable solutions for the global waste problem through upcycling of generated textile waste creating perspective products and proceeding them into serial production. Their designs are recognized as an intangible asset and being registered as the company's IPR (brand, design). The project finished in 11/2023 and FPR is to be submitted in 01/2024.

The remaining two start-ups supported (BIN SGS01_2020_026, BIN SGS01_2020_011) are both in GII Programme area and continue in their projects' implementation.

BIN SGS01_2020_026, "Replacement of Obsolete Wave Energy for the third generation" planned to finish in 08/2023. However, the Norwegian partner of the project terminated the Partnership agreement due to bankruptcy, so the project promoter had to solve its replacement and prolonged the project implementation till 04/2024. The PO supported the promoter and funded the company representatives' attendance at the Oslo Innovation Week in 09/2023, where they successfully presented their project idea through the pitch and found a new Norwegian project partner. The amendment to the project agreement in relation to this change has been already approved and will be signed in 01/2024.

The last project of this Call, BIN SGS01_2020_011, "Innovative lighting solutions made of solid wood and natural materials" is progressing in implementation till 04/2024 as planned. The PO also funded the company representative's attendance at the Oslo Innovation Week in 09/2023.

The PO has reviewed and approved 12 project changes requests within this Call till 12/2023. Most of the changes concerned budget and extension of the project implementation period but also partner change as already mentioned above that required conclusion of an amendment to the project contract.

Under the Call for proposals on support of innovation and business development (**BIN 01/NFM**) with original allocation of EUR 11 578 235, the PO contracted 14 projects in total out of which 12 were implemented in 2023 (8 in the GII area and 4 in WT/ALL), 4 out of 12 projects under this Call have Norwegian partner.

Based on the PA modification no. 3, the PO contracted the only project on the reserve list under this Call (BIN 01_2021_003/WT/AAL), in the amount of EUR 1 457 009,18. The project contract has entered into force in 01/2023. 2 project promoters terminated contracts in 02/2023 and 09/2023. The project promoter of BIN 01_2021_009/GII with the amount of EUR 433 674,50 decided not to proceed with the project implementation due to concerns about compliance with legislative requirements for hazardous waste management and short of technical staff. The project BIN 01_2021_016/GII with the amount of EUR 200 000 withdrew from the project contract due to significant changes in the market segment in which it operates. The project promoter developed innovative technology to streamline the recycling of PET bottles but the significant increase in the price of input materials and the influx of cheap products on the EU market from Asia, caused the project promoter serious economic difficulties and loss of competitiveness.

After PA's modification No. 4, signed in 08/2023, the total allocation for this Call is EUR 10 958 471, with contracted EUR 10 210 306,99 (93,17%), paid EUR 7 017 416,71 (68,73% of contracted) and withdrawn EUR 3 223 444,71 (31,57% of contracted) by the end of December 2023.

The projects are in various stages of implementation depending on the time of conclusion of the project contract. The PO has reviewed and approved 28 project changes' requests till 12/2023. Most of the changes concern budget and extension of the project implementation period. As of December 2023, 2 projects are due to finish in 02/2024, 3 in 03/2024 and the rest in 04/2024, however, in view of the results achieved and the progress made in achieving the indicators, the PO expects further changes.

Significant progress in achieving the indicators within this Call is expected at the end of projects' implementation as they are designed to reach the results as the final stage of the activities. In view of the above, the PO carried out monitoring of 7 projects of this Call focusing on results in the last quarter of 2023 (more on this in chapter C.1. of this report) and 6 financial controls on site.

The PO funded the participation of a representative of the company implementing the project BIN 01_2021_021/GII "Micro Pirana" at the OIW 2023 event. The company is developing a device that converts thermal energy of low-potential heat into electrical energy.

Under the Call for proposals on support of innovation and business development (**BIN02/EEA FM**) with allocation of EUR 5 415 882, 3 projects are implemented (2 GII, 1 WT), 1 has Norwegian partner. After PA's modification No. 4, signed in 08/2023, the total allocation for this Call is EUR 2 530 588,00 with contracted EUR 2 164 351,44 (85,53%), paid EUR 1 556 076,29 (71,90% of contracted) and withdrawn EUR 921 061,38 (42,56% of contracted) by the end of December 2023.

The project BIN 02_2021_025 "Competitiveness of the company by purchasing new technology" finished 1 month before the planned date of completion and submitted the FPR in 12/2023 that is currently reviewed by the PO. The aim of the project is to increase the competitiveness of the company through the purchase of innovative technology for sorting metals from electrical and electronic equipment. BIN 02_2021_024 extended implementation period until 04/2024. The remaining project under this Call proceed according to the plan towards completion in 03/2024.

The PO funded the participation of a representative of the company implementing the project BIN 02_2021_024/GII "Applied research for the improvement of acoustic properties of mobile noise barriers and ecological use of waste generated during their production" at the OIW 2023 event. The project is aimed at the development of innovative technologies and processes in the production of mobile noise barriers and tents designed mainly for the construction industry.

The PO has reviewed and approved 5 project changes requests within this Call till 12/2023. All changes concerned either budget or extension of the project implementation period.

Expected results reflected in project indicators are high within this Call, however, all shall be reached after the project activities are carried out. 1 trademark registration validated by European Union Intellectual Property Office has been achieved by the project BIN 02_2021_002 "Bridging the gap for people with food restrictions - Safe Food". The project's aim is bringing an innovative approach to improve the lives of people with food allergies or intolerances through the development of a tailor-made solution (non-allergenic food boxes) supported by a mobile application and regular delivery by low emission vehicles. The PO carried out monitoring of 1 project of this Call focusing on results in the last quarter of 2023 (more on this in chapter C.1. of this report) and 1 financial control on site.

Target values of two **Outcome 1** indicators have already overachieved in 2023 - **Number of products or services commercialized (new to the market)** and **Number of IPR applications**

submitted and the PO expects further increase of achievement values within these two indicators by the end of the Programme.

While the expected target value for **Number of commercialised products or services (new to the market)** in the Programme was set at 3, 3 projects proved progress in 2023 (BIN SGS01_2020_012/GII, BIN SGS01_2020_023/GII and BIN SGS01_2020_003/WT/ALL). As a result of these projects' support, a total of 13 new products and services are now on the market compared to 1 in 2022. The PO estimates a total of 35 new products/services launched on the market at the end of the Programme implementation given the 13 projects with this selected indicator (7 GII, 6 WT). The total estimated value has increased compared to 2022 as 2 projects with this indicator have been contracted in 2023 (BIN SGS01_2020_011/GII, BIN01_2021_003/WT/ALL).

Target value of **Number of Intellectual Property Rights (Copyright, Trademark, Patents) applications submitted** was set at 3 within the Programme. In 2023, 2 additional IPRs were submitted and registered, reaching the current value 5 (in 2022 reported 2 achievements of this indicator). Out of 11 projects with this indicator (8 GII, 3 WT) two completed projects reached their project target value (BINS01_2020_023/GII, BIN SGS01_2020_003/WT/ALL) and 1 project reported progress in 2023 (BIN02_2021_002/WT/ALL). An estimated total of 18 IPR applications, as reported by the project promoters, shall be submitted by the end of Programme implementation. It is also necessary to mention, that as a result of monitoring of the project BIN01_2021_003/WT/ALL in 2023, the PO found that the target value of new IPRs registered according to project agreement was misunderstood by the project promoter and will not be reached. However, the project promoter's commitment has been clarified to reach 1 registered application instead of contracted 50 and thus will be reflected to amendment to the project contract (already included in the estimated 18 IPRs for the Programme). Even with this decrease, the target value of the Programme has been already overachieved and is going to increase further.

Progress was also reached in Outcome indicators **Number of innovative technologies/processes/solutions applied (new to the enterprise)** and **Number of innovative technologies/processes/solutions developed** with estimated achievement values overreaching the Programme target values. The annual shift to 4 new technologies being applied compared to 2022 (0 reported achievements in 2022) was reported by a single project (BIN SGS01_2020_026/GII) thus approaching the target value of 7 for indicator **Number of innovative technologies/processes/solutions applied (new to the enterprise)** in the PA. Estimated value should reach 23 new technologies, processes or solutions applied at the end of Programme implementation as 13 projects are registered with this indicator (9 GII, 4 WT). In comparison to estimated value in 2022 (21), there is a slight increase in the expected achievement value (23) caused by withdrawal of BIN01_2021_016/GII and contracting of BIN01_2021_003/WT/ALL and BIN SGS01_2020_011/GII with higher project target values.

Similar situation is with the indicator **Number of innovative technologies/processes/solutions developed**, however the progress was only by 1 unit in 2023. The current value 2 (1 achievement reported in in 2022) was reached by completed projects implemented by start-ups (BIN SGS01_2020_023/GII and BIN SGS01_2020_003/WT/ALL). Out of 13 projects with this indicator (7 GII, 6 WT) the PO estimates a total of 19 innovative technologies, processes or solutions developed at the end of Programme implementation (with the PA target set to 5 only). Compared to 2022, the estimations increased from 14 to 19 as 2 projects with this indicator were contracted in 2023 (BIN01_2021_003/WT/ALL and BIN SGS01_2020_011/GII).

Moderate progress has also been recorded for indicators *Estimated annual collection of waste from production and operational processes for re-use or recycling (in tons)* and *Estimated re-use of waste for other production processes (in tons)*.

For the indicator ***Estimated annual collection of waste from production and operational processes for re-use or recycling*** the baseline value was set according to the data from the project promoters to 1 ton. The ambitious Programme target of 15,000 tons will not be achieved by far as already announced in previous Annual Programme Reports. Only 5 project promoters selected this indicator and the achievement value shall not reach more than 76.2 tons altogether. This is even a further decrease in the estimation value compared to 2022 (103 tons) due to withdrawal of BIN01_2021_016/GII. This project has been replaced by the project BIN01_2021_003/WT/ALL but with much lower project target value (0.2 tons instead of 27 tons). Current progress by 1.94 tons has been reported by 1 start-up (BIN SGS01_2020_012/GII).

The situation is very similar for the indicator ***Estimated re-use of waste for other production processes (in tons)***. It is expected that 3 supported projects with this indicator should be able to re-use 17 tons altogether at the end of implementation which is far behind the Programme target value of 10,000 tons. The baseline value was set according to the data from the project promoters to 0.5 tons and current progress of 3.81 tons has been reported by 1 of the project promoters BIN SGS01_2020_012/GII. In 2022, the PO was still expecting 44 tons but due to withdrawal of BIN01_2021_016/GII the value dropped by 27 tons in 2023.

Compared to 2022, the PO records progress with the Outcome indicators *Number of jobs created* and *Survival rate of start-ups measured 1 year from the last day of the eligibility period of the projects*.

12 project promoters selected the indicator ***Number of jobs created***. Based on project target values set in project contracts the Programme shall support creation of 81 jobs either in relation to the project implementation or as a result of it. Compared to estimations of the PO in 2022 this number increased significantly from 52 to 81 by contracting project BIN01_2021_003/WT/ALL.

Only 1 of the completed projects reported and proved 1 job created by the end of 12/2023. Progress in this indicator would have been more significant but during reviewing the project interim reports, the PO found that progress in this indicator cannot be measured and reported during the implementation of the project, considering the variability of forms of employment relationships in the Slovak legislative environment regulated by the Labour Code, and their use by the project promoters. The PO therefore decided to provide the project promoters with special instructions for reporting progress in this indicator, which was issued in 05/2023, incl. the information that this indicator will be reviewed by the PO in the FPR. The purpose was to enable measurement and verification of the achievement of the Programme's target values. The project promoters thus report number of jobs created in their FPRs only and the PO processes the provided data in accordance with the Core Indicators Guideline issued by the Financial Mechanism Office in order to report the achievement of the Programme targets set in the PA. The target is set in the PA at 25 jobs, so although not all of the announced 81 jobs will meet the requirements for this indicator, the PO expects that the Programme target will be achieved.

Compared to 2022 results, there is no progress reported yet regarding indicator ***Estimated annual CO2 emission reductions***. The PO expects 3 supported projects with this indicator shall reach 3 816 tons of CO2 emission reduction at the end of the implementation. The estimated 4 266 tons from the previous year decreased after BIN01_2021_016/GII withdrawal and BIN SGS01_2020_006/GII decision not to proceed with contracting. The target value 6000 tons for the Programme will not be achieved even after the successful completion of the aforementioned projects.

As already reported in the previous APRs, none of the projects of the Programme selected Outcome indicator **Estimated annual decrease of energy consumption**. One start-up from the reserve list was in contracting process with a target of 11 MWh at the beginning of 2023 (BIN SGS01_2020_006/GII) but eventually decided not to proceed with the project. The PO presumes (as with the Outcome indicator *Estimated annual CO2 emission reductions*), that companies rather apply for support in this area under other national grant programmes, whether structural funds or the subsidy schemes of the respective ministries with higher grant rates.

For both key Programme indicators, *Estimated annual growth in turnover* and *Estimated annual growth in net operational profit*, there have also been slight changes during 2023. 2 projects completed BIN SGS01_2020_023/GII, BIN SGS01_2020_003/WT/ALL and another 3 projects BIN SGS01_2020_012/GII, BIN SGS01_2020_005/WT/ALL, BIN02_2021_025/GII submitted their final reports by the end of December. The baseline value was set and progress is to be reported in 2024.

As a result of the dropout of 2 projects with high expected values in this indicator, the estimated achievement value of **Estimated annual growth in turnover** dropped from ambitious 105% in 2022 to more realistic 46% which is still far above the expected 3% target value for the Programme. Similar situation is with **Estimated annual growth in net operational profit**, decreasing estimated achievement value from estimated 44% to 21%, still overreaching the target 3% of the Programme.

The Programme still has insufficient number of start-ups with formally 4 completed project (2 FPRs approved and 2 FPRs in reviewing process at the end of December) out of 6 supported. Therefore, the Outcome indicator **Survival rate of start-ups measured 1 year from the last day of the eligibility period of the projects** can be expressed as a percentage (16.66%) for only 1 of 6 start-ups with completed project in 12/2022. As of December 2023, the PO can only state that the company still exists. Its economic results for 2023 will be available to the PO in April 2024 at the earliest. Considering that start-ups applied for the project grant in 2020 and are still functioning despite the pandemic, energy crisis, high inflation and the impacts of the war in neighbouring state to this day proves their viability and the PO is optimistic in relation to achievement of the target value set for the Programme (25%).

In connection with the already mentioned difficulties in determining the measurement of the value of the indicator *Number of jobs created* is also related to the setting of indicator **Share of enterprises' staff who declare better skills/competences in their field** and its percentage expression. The results will be available at the end of the Programme.

Output 1.1: Enterprises supported to develop innovative green technologies, processes, solutions, products or services

After the project BIN01_2021_016/GII withdrew from the project contract, the PO supports 2 large enterprises in the Programme, both in the GII Programme area. Both large enterprises are supported in application (target 1/achievement 2) and commercialisation (target 1/achievement 2) of innovative technologies/processes and solutions, so the achievement values are slightly higher than expected in the PA. However, neither of them set up the indicator for developing green technologies, processes or solutions, so the target value of the Programme in this indicator will not be achieved. As far as SMEs are concerned, the number of supported enterprises that develop (target 4/achievement 7), apply (target 3/achievement 7) and commercialize (target 2/achievement 5) innovative green technologies, processes or solutions is more ambitious than expected in the PA.

The expected number of women or young entrepreneurs supported, increased by one after contracting additional start-up from the reserve list BIN SGS01_2020_011/GII in 01/2023, thus exceeding slightly the PA target value (target 4/achievement 5).

Output 1.2: Enterprises supported to green their business operations

One project from the reserve list under the Call BIN SGS01/NFM applying for support for the greening of the operation withdrew from contracting process in 03/2023 therefore no enterprise, neither large nor SME, is supported in this area. Target values (8 SMEs, 4 large) set for this output of the Programme will not be achieved.

Output 1.3: Enterprises supported to innovative welfare and ambient assisted living technologies, solutions and processes

There are no large enterprises supported in WT/AAL area, the target values for this output will not be met. On the other hand, the number of supported SMEs that develop (target 4/achievement 6), apply (target 4/achievement 4) and commercialize (target 1/achievement 6) innovative welfare and ambient assisted living technologies, solutions and processes is higher than expected in the PA.

The target value of 4 women or young entrepreneurs supported in this Programme area will not be achieved. Even after contracting the project from the reserve list under the Call BIN01/NFM in 01/2023 the achievement value does not exceed 3.

Output 1.4: Start-ups supported for business growth

The PO contracted 8 start-ups in total. After termination of 2 project contracts in 2022 (BIN SGS01_2020_010, BIN SGS01_2020_030) and contracting 2 projects in 05/2022 (BIN SGS01_2020_005) and 01/2023 (BIN SGS01_2020_011) from the reserve list, the final number of the supported start-ups within the Programme is 6. The PO expected 7 start-ups supported however, after lengthy negotiations, 1 project from the reserve list (BIN SGS_01_2020_006) eventually decided not to proceed with the project for reasons already mentioned above. The target value 8 therefore will not be met.

Outcome 2: Education and Employment potential enhanced in Slovakia in Green Industry Innovation and Welfare and Ambient Assisted Living technologies

Within the Outcome 2 of the Programme there are two calls **BIN SGS02/NFM** and **BIN SGS03/EEA FM** being implemented.

Under the Call on supporting of institutional cooperation between higher educational institutions, upper secondary schools and private sector (**BIN SGS02/NFM**) 11 projects are implemented. All projects have Norwegian partners, as it was a mandatory condition of the Call. After PA's modification No. 4, signed in 08/2023, the total allocation for this Call is EUR 2 000 000 with contracted EUR 1 909 248 (95,46%), paid EUR 1 381 660 (72,37%) and withdrawn EUR 202 648 (10,61% of contracted) by the end of December 2023. The projects started their implementation in 10/2022.

Most of the project promoters submitted only two PIRs in course of 2023 as the majority of schools were inactive in summer and therefore decided to merge respective reporting periods. All 11 projects had opening conferences during the year with the attendance of the PO representatives. The PO has reviewed and approved 8 project changes requests within this Call till 12/2023. All changes concerned either budget or extension of the project implementation period.

1 project, BIN SGS02_2021_005, "Innovative education as a tool to reflect labour market needs and environmental challenges" is about to finish in 01/2024. With regard to the quality of the

submitted PIRs and progress of the activities, the PO expects there will be no more changes and will be completed successfully. It also held the closing conference in early 01/2024. The project focuses on tools for delivering education through ICT with the aim to promote creativity, critical thinking, project-based and student-centred learning and use of interactive methods targeted for a wide diversity of learners. The most of the projects under this Call plan to finish in 04/2024.

Under the Call on supporting international mobility between higher educational institutions, upper secondary schools and private sector (**BIN SGS03/EEA FM**) 3 applications were submitted, all were supported. 3 projects were contracted at the beginning of 2023 and are being implemented. The projects have 2 Norwegian partners and 1 partner from Iceland. After PA's modification No. 4, signed in 08/2023, the total allocation for this Call is EUR 650 000 with contracted EUR 555 145,45 (85,41%), paid EUR 388 601,82 (70%) and withdrawn EUR 5 989,80 (1,54 % of contracted) by the end of December 2023.

The project promoters submitted their first PIRs with merged reporting periods in the second half of 2023 and due to their low quality, 2 are still in the reviewing process. As the majority of the mobilities took place at the end of the 2023, progress in the results shall be visible in the expected PIRs. All projects held their opening conferences with the attendance of the PO representatives. No changes were requested so far and the projects plan to finish in 03 - 04/2024.

The results of **Outcome 2** indicators will be reported for 2024 in accordance with the provisions of the PA.

Output 2.1: International mobility supported

The majority of the mobilities took place at the end of the 2023, progress in the results shall be visible in the expected PIRs (PIR2) at the beginning of 2024. However, according to the project contracts, none of the 3 projects supported under the Call BIN SGS03/EEA FM, set the target to *Support Apprenticeships between Donor States and Slovakia in SMEs or other businesses*. The Programme will therefore not meet the target value (20) for this indicator. On the other hand, *Number of staff from Slovakia in exchanges* will be more than a double of expected (target 15/estimate 33). *Expected staff members from the Donor states coming to Slovakia* is lower than the target value (target 10/estimate 7). The planned *number of students from Slovakia in exchanges* is also lower than the Programme target (target 25/estimate 15) and even lower is *number of expected Donor states students in exchanges* (target 15/estimate 2). Given the number of applications submitted, the PO finds these figures quite reasonable. The PO presumes, that educational institutions rather apply for support in this area under other national grant Programmes, and structural funds in particular (well-established programme Erasmus+, scholarship programmes of the Slovak Academic Information Agency and the like) with higher grant rates.

Output 2.2: International Cooperation Supported

All contracted 11 projects are progressing more or less according to the plan. Some of them reviewed their schedules and extended the project implementation till the end of the Programme so that now mostly all projects are going to finish in 04/2024. The first results reported however, are quite optimistic. The PO estimates that all target values shall be overachieved at the end of the Programme. There is only one project under the Programme, BIN SGS02_2021_005, with selected indicator *Number of apprentices supported in Slovakia within SMEs or other organisations/institutions* with planned 90 apprentices to be supported (Programme target 20/estimate 90). As the project is progressing very well and will be completed in 01/2024, the PO expects the target value of this single project to reach at least the target value of the whole Programme. One project, BIN SGS02_2021_002, reported and proved

progress in indicator *Number of institutions developing curricula related to GII or WT/AAL* in 2023. The probability to reach the target Programme value (target 3/estimate 8) is high, considering progress of the projects throughout 2023. The PO also records progress in *Number of institutions engaged in cooperation at higher education and upper secondary level*. The estimate for the Programme exceeds the Programme target (target 10/estimate 17), and by the end of 2023, 6 institutions proved involvement in the cooperation in their PIRs. Similarly with *Number of SMEs and other enterprises engaged in institutional cooperation at higher education and upper secondary level* (target 10/estimate 24) 7 cooperation agreements with enterprises reported and proved by three projects in 2023.

The highest expectations and also very good progress is by the indicator *Number of participants in workshops organized to share experiences regarding youth apprenticeships and new methods of education and engaging youth* (target 50/estimate 1 324). Until the end of 2023 6 project promoters organised workshops, which were attended by a total of 292 participants. As the target of the Programme is set to 50, the PO can already claim that the value has been exceeded and that there is great interest in the focus area of the projects implemented under the Programme.

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

The implementation of the Programme continued to be carried out in cooperation with the Donor Program Partners (DPPs) - Innovation Norway, Norwegian Directorate for Higher Education and Skills (HK-dir, Norway) and National Agency for International Education Affairs (AIBA, Liechtenstein) also throughout 2023. The PO finds the cooperation with DPPs effective and successful. The PO values their willingness to help and assist in a variety of issues, concrete suggestions to improvement or simplifying of procedures, prompt response to questions raised and flexibility in communication.

Cooperation Committee Meetings:

In 2023, two Cooperation Committee (CC) meetings were held online. At the meeting on 6 June 2023, the PO provided the information on the Programme implementation progress, related challenges, the reallocation of uncommitted funds to other programmes (Addendum No. 4 of SK-Innovation Programme agreement), Fund for Bilateral Relations (FBR) implementation and the Bilateral Activity Plan (BAP) for 2023-2024. Projects promotion was also on the agenda of the meeting. Three showcase projects were presented in the form of short videos. All having a Norwegian partner, they are a good example of bilateral cooperation. The other CC meeting was held on 16 November 2023. It focused on projects implementation status, including achievements and challenges, FBR implementation progress (approved initiatives and drawing), the BAP for 2023-2024, reporting on Oslo Innovation Week 2023 and presentation of upcoming bilateral events. Projects promotion was demonstrated through a series of project videos. It was agreed that the next CC meeting would include site visits of the implemented projects.

Initiatives of the Programme Operator:

VET seminar

On 21 March 2023, PO organised Vocational Education and Training (VET) webinar. The partners of the event were the State Institute of Vocational Education and Training (ŠIOV), the Norwegian Directorate for Higher Education and Skills (HK-dir) and the Agency for International

Education Affairs (AIBA), Liechtenstein. They ensured experts and their active participation in the seminar through their presentations and panel discussion. The aim of the VET seminar was to enhance cooperation between educational institutions and businesses with the intention of improving the quality of education in Slovakia so that it meets the needs of the Slovak labour market. The seminar also served to gain an overview of VET systems in the Donor states, namely in Liechtenstein and Norway, but also in Slovakia, as well as to find solutions to common challenges in this field. The webinar was attended by almost 40 participants, mostly secondary school teachers, researchers from universities, representatives of the local government and other stakeholders. The expected benefit of the event was the strengthening of bilateral relations and sharing of best practices between the relevant stakeholders, as well as the possibility of further cooperation in the field of VET in the preparation and implementation of initiatives supported under the open calls of the program.

Oslo Innovation Week 2023 - Meet Innovative Startups/Scaleups from Central/Southern Europe:

This initiative by PO - Study trip for start-ups, provided a great opportunity to strengthen bilateral relations between beneficiary and donor state entities involved in the Programme. The event was organised by the DPP Innovation Norway. The PO's role was co-organising the event and arrange Slovak participants. Five Slovak start-ups supported by the Small Grant Scheme BIN SGS01 and four beneficiaries of the call BIN BF04 financed within the Programme's Fund for Bilateral Relations, were also among the participants. After a one-hour pitching session during which two of the Slovak start-ups presented their project ideas, the attendees could take part in matchmaking, which resulted in potential collaborations and partnerships. The major benefits of the study trip were widening of the network of new contacts, sharing of best practices and finding potential business partners. In addition to facilitating cooperation, the event highlighted the important role of the EEA and Norway Grants in supporting the Business Development, Innovation, and SMEs programmes in Europe.

Calls under the Fund for Bilateral Relations:

Enhanced collaboration between beneficiary and Donor states in the reporting year was also well represented within the initiatives implemented under two FBR calls, i.e. BIN BF02 and BIN BF04.

BIN BF02 - Call for proposals for bilateral Initiatives under the education component (November 2021 – December 2023):

Under this call 11 applications were submitted by the Slovak secondary schools and universities. Five of them were approved and contracted in the total amount EUR 48 544 out of EUR 50 000 allocation. The initiatives were planned and implemented within six months period and mostly focused on green energy topics. As Donor states are more advanced and experienced in green technologies, they provided Slovak applicants with inspiration and valuable assets in the form of know-how and best practices. As a result, it gave rise to innovated and modernised teaching material and school curricula, the use of digital tools in teaching, the development of digital competences of students and teachers and bilateral partnership. As regards a donor partner, Arctic Circle Upper Secondary School in Mo I Rana, Norway, seemed to be very popular as this school appeared in three bilateral initiatives and in two other projects under the call BIN SGS02. It is interesting to note that three beneficiaries under this call were implementing initiatives also under education call BIN SGS02, which proves a continuous interest in cooperation with donor state schools/universities. The call was closed as planned, on 31 December 2023.

BIN BF04 - Call for proposals for bilateral initiatives (February 2023 - June 2024):

The most recently launched call BIN BF04 with allocation of EUR 70 000 is focused on support of bilateral businesses development. Five applications amounting to EUR 15 878 in total were approved and four of them were contracted in 2023. These four applications were related to the participation in Oslo Innovation Week 2023. The fifth initiative started implementation in November 2023 and aims to test the virtual reality application as a tool for the education of diabetic patients. It involves a Norwegian partner Helgeland Hospital Trust.

Bilateral Partnerships:

All calls under the Programme support the development of bilateral partnerships with entities from Donor states. The details are summarised below.

Outcome 1: Increased competitiveness of Slovak enterprises within the focus areas: Green Industry Innovation and Welfare Technology and Ambient Assisted Living technologies:

Projects implemented: 21, bilateral partnerships: **8 Norwegian business partnerships** with 6 Norwegian businesses (IDN AS, ICB Digital AS, SINTEF AS, Integrate Renewables AS, JAHO MUR og FASADE AS, Pure Food of Norway).

Based on the regular contacts with project promoters, the partnerships and cooperation with donor business partners are considered to be very useful and beneficial. The major benefits include sharing knowledge, expertise, know-how, experience and best practices; achieving joint results; mutual interest in new joint activities or projects; technology growth; increased competitiveness.

Outcome 2: Education and Employment potential enhanced in Slovakia in Green Industry Innovation and Welfare and Ambient Assisted Living technologies:

All projects have a donor project partner following the obligatory condition of both calls – BIN SGS02 and BIN SGS03.

Projects implemented: 14, bilateral partnerships: **13 Norwegian and 1 Icelandic project partnerships** with 8 universities (NTNU, College for Green Development, Kristiania University College, University of Stavanger, Cathedral School Gimle, UiT Arctic University of Norway in Narvik, University of Bergen, University of Iceland) and 2 upper secondary schools (Arctic Circle Upper Secondary School, Glemmen Upper Secondary VET School).

The Programme seems to secure a long-term cooperation with partner schools and universities. There is a strong likelihood of the positive effects of partnerships to be sustained after the funding period. The project promoters value the following benefits: the continuation of the institutional cooperation and joint activities; setting up new joint or follow-up projects; organising student exchanges and mobilities; designing new curricula, learning modules and courses, current and future engagement of the students from both countries via lectures and workshops.

Number of new jointly registered applications for Intellectual Property Protection (Copyright, Trademark, Patents): 0

C. MONITORING AND EVALUATION

1. Monitorings carried out

In 06/2023, the Amendment No. 1 to the Programme Implementation Agreement was concluded and came into force changing the limits for the selection of the sample of projects to be

monitored. Hence, the PO made a selection of the projects to be monitored in 2023 following the new rules. The PO selected 8 projects with total eligible expenditure between EUR 3 and 1 million.

The Monitoring Plan for 2023 was thus also modified accordingly and started to be implemented only in the second half of the year. The PO had to deal with the filling of the monitoring manager position during the year, and thanks to a flexible approach the PO changed the permanent position to a position filled on a work agreement tied to the implementation of the Monitoring plan for 2023 that proved to be sufficient.

Monitoring was carried out from 09/2023 to 12/2023 in the form of on-site visits and for 7, out of 8 monitored projects, it was combined with an on-site financial control. In view of the approaching end of the Programme, the PO focused on monitoring the results. The monitoring was based on the information provided in the project application, the project contract, the PIRs submitted, the information provided by the project promoters in the monitoring questionnaire, and on the basis of an on-site verification carried out either at the project promoters' headquarters or at their production premises. The project monitoring was aimed at verifying the progress of the project towards the agreed deliverables.

5 projects were monitored in 10/2023 (BIN01_2021_003/WT/ALL, BIN01_2021_017/GII, BIN01_2021_015/GII, BIN01_2021_012/GII and BIN02_2021_024/GII). In all cases the implementation of the projects is slightly delayed, some shortcomings have been identified with only a little impact on the project implementation. One major finding was in the project BIN01_2021_003/WT/ALL, where the PO found, that the target value of new IPRs registered according to project agreement has been misunderstood by the project promoter and will not be reached. However, the project promoter's commitment has been clarified to reach 1 registered application instead of contracted 50 and thus will be reflected to amendment to the project contract in 2024.

3 projects were monitored in 11/2023 (BIN01_2021_001/GII, BIN01_2021_020/WT/ALL, BIN01_2021_010/WT/ALL). The findings were similar – some lagging behind the original schedules and moderate shortcomings with low estimated impact on project results. It is realistic to assume that the targets values of the project indicators of these projects will be met.

Taking into account the time pressure and the volume of work of the PO in connection with the upcoming closure of the projects and Programme and also making use of the new rules in the PIA, the PO decided to carry out monitoring in 2024 only in cases where it becomes evident, that the project has become high-risk and its monitoring proves to be essential. On the basis of the results of the monitoring carried out for the year 2023, the PO assumes that all projects should be completed within the time allowed for the implementation of the Programme.

2. Evaluations carried out

No evaluation of the Programme according to the Article 10.1 of the Regulations has been carried out by the end of December 2023.

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: 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 value	Previous achievement value	Achievements until end of December 2023			Target value	Comment
				Numerator	Denominator	Achievement value		
Estimated annual growth in turnover	Percentage	N/A	-	-	-	-	3.00 %	2 projects completed and another 3 projects submitted their final project reports by the end of Dec 2023. The baseline value was set and progress to be reported in 2024. Based on the projects' data the target value shall reach approx. 46 %.
Estimated annual CO2 emission reductions (in tons)	Annual number	0	0 (APR 2022)	-	-	0	6,000	We expect 3 projects with this indicator shall reach 3 816 tons at the end of the implementation. No progress reported till 12/2023.
<i>Financial Mechanism</i>								
<i>EEA Grants</i>	-	-	0	-	-	0	-	-
<i>Norway Grants</i>	-	-	0	-	-	0	-	-
Estimated annual collection of waste from production and operational processes for re-use or recycling (in tons)	Annual number	1	0 (APR 2021)	-	-	2.94	15,000	We expect that out of 5 projects with this indicator, the annual value shall be 76,2 tons. Current progress reported by 1 project promoter.
Estimated annual decrease of energy consumption (in MWh)	Annual number	0	0 (APR 2022)	-	-	0	1,000	No project with this indicator.
Estimated annual growth in net operational profit	Percentage	N/A	-	-	-	-	3.00 %	2 projects completed and another 3 projects submitted

								their final project reports by the end of Dec 2023. The baseline value was set and progress to be reported in 2024. Based on the projects' data the target value shall reach approx. 21 %.
Estimated re-use of waste for other production processes (in tons)	Cumulative number	0.50	0 (APR 2021)	-	-	4.31	10,000	It is expected that 3 projects with this indicator should be able to re-use 17 tons at the end of the implementation. Current progress reported by 1 of the project promoters
Number of jobs created	Cumulative number	0	0 (APR 2022)	-	-	1	25	One of 12 projects with this indicator is completed with 1 job created by the end of Dec 2023. In total, we expect 81 jobs to be created based on data from the project promoters.
<i>Financial Mechanism</i>								
<i>EEA Grants</i>	-	-	0	-	-	0	-	-
<i>Norway Grants</i>	-	-	0	-	-	1	-	-
<i>Gender</i>								
<i>Female</i>	-	-	0	-	-	1	-	-
<i>Male</i>	-	-	0	-	-	0	-	-
<i>Not specified</i>	-	-	0	-	-	0	-	-
<i>Age</i>								
<i>Children and youth (0-17)</i>	-	-	0	-	-	0	-	-
<i>Young adults (18-29)</i>	-	-	0	-	-	1	-	-
<i>Adults (30-64)</i>	-	-	0	-	-	0	-	-
<i>Elderly (65+)</i>	-	-	0	-	-	0	-	-
<i>Not specified</i>	-	-	0	-	-	0	-	-

Number of products or services commercialized (new to the market)	Cumulative number	0	1 (APR 2022)	-	-	13	3	Out of 13 projects with this indicator (7 GII, 6 WT), 3 projects reported progress. Estimated total of 35 new products/services commercialized at the end of implementation.
<i>Sector</i>								
<i>Green</i>	-	-	1	-	-	12	-	-
<i>Blue</i>	-	-	0	-	-	0	-	-
<i>ICT</i>	-	-	0	-	-	0	-	-
<i>Welfare/ambient</i>	-	-	0	-	-	1	-	-
<i>Not specified</i>	-	-	0	-	-	0	-	-
Number of innovative technologies/processes/solutions applied (new to the enterprise)	Cumulative number	0	0 (APR 2022)	-	-	4	7	Out of 13 projects with this indicator (9 GII, 4 WT), progress reported by 1 project. Estimated achievement value should reach 23 new technologies, processes or solutions applied at the end of implementation.
<i>Sector</i>								
<i>Green</i>	-	-	0	-	-	4	-	-
<i>Blue</i>	-	-	0	-	-	0	-	-
<i>ICT</i>	-	-	0	-	-	0	-	-
<i>Welfare/ambient</i>	-	-	0	-	-	0	-	-
<i>Not specified</i>	-	-	0	-	-	0	-	-
Number of innovative technologies/processes/solutions developed	Cumulative number	0	1 (APR 2022)	-	-	2	5	Out of 13 projects with this indicator (7 GII, 6 WT) 2 projects reported progress until the end of Dec 2023. Expected 19 innovative technologies, processes or solutions developed at the end of implementation

<i>Financial Mechanism</i>								
<i>EEA Grants</i>	-	-	0	-	-	0	-	-
<i>Norway Grants</i>	-	-	1	-	-	2	-	-
<i>Sector</i>								
<i>Green</i>	-	-	1	-	-	1	-	-
<i>Blue</i>	-	-	0	-	-	0	-	-
<i>ICT</i>	-	-	0	-	-	0	-	-
<i>Welfare/ambient</i>	-	-	0	-	-	1	-	-
<i>Not specified</i>	-	-	0	-	-	0	-	-
Number of Intellectual Property Rights (Copyright, Trademark, Patents) applications submitted	Cumulative number	0	3 (APR 2022)	-	-	5	3	Out of 11 projects with this indicator (8 GII, 3 WT) two completed projects reached their project target value and 1 project reported progress in 2023. An estimated total of 18 IPR applications, as reported by the project promoters, will be submitted by the end of implementation.
<i>Financial Mechanism</i>								
<i>EEA Grants</i>	-	-	1	-	-	1	-	-
<i>Norway Grants</i>	-	-	2	-	-	4	-	-
Share of Enterprises' staff who declare better skills/competencies in their field	Percentage	N/A	-	-	-	-	65.00 %	No progress reported.
Survival rate of start-ups measured 1 year from the last day of the eligibility period of the projects	Percentage	N/A	-	1	6	16.67 %	25.00 %	Only 1 of the 6 supported start-ups can be assessed one year after the end of the project. Survival rate of the other 5 will be reported in the next APRs.
Output 1.1: Enterprises supported to develop innovate green technologies, processes, solution, products or services								
Indicator	Unit of measure	Baseline value	Previous achievement	Achievements until end of December 2023			Target value	Comment

	nt		t value	Numerato r	Denominato r	Achieveme nt value		
Number of large enterprises supported to apply green technologies/processes/solutions	Cumulative number	0	2 (IFR 2023)	-	-	2	1	BIN01_2021_017_VIPO, BIN01_2021_015_Asseco
Number of large enterprises supported to commercialise green technologies/processes/solutions	Cumulative number	0	2 (IFR 2023)	-	-	2	1	BIN01_2021_017_VIPO, BIN01_2021_015_Asseco
Number of large enterprises supported to develop green technologies/processes/solutions	Cumulative number	0	0 (IFR 2023)	-	-	0	1	No large enterprise with this inidicator.
Number of SMEs supported to apply green technologies/processes/solutions	Cumulative number	0	7 (IFR 2023)	-	-	7	3	BIN SGS01_2020_026_niore, BIN01_2021_007_LUBEX, BIN01_2021_012_REVOLTT, BIN01_2021_024_Woolstyle, BIN02_2021_025_Electro, BIN02_2021_024_BAMIDA, BIN SGS01_2020_011_Setup
<i>Financial Mechanism</i>								
<i>EEA Grants</i>	-	-	2	-	-	2	-	-
<i>Norway Grants</i>	-	-	5	-	-	5	-	-
Number of SMEs supported to commercialise green technologies/processes/solutions	Cumulative number	0	5 (IFR 2023)	-	-	5	2	SGS01_2020_023_včely, SGS01_2020_012_Waki, BIN01_2021_021_ROEZ, BIN02_2021_024_BAMIDA, BIN SGS01_2020_011_Setup
<i>Financial Mechanism</i>								
<i>EEA Grants</i>	-	-	1	-	-	1	-	-
<i>Norway Grants</i>	-	-	4	-	-	4	-	-
Number of SMEs supported to develop green technologies/processes/solutions	Cumulative number	0	7 (IFR 2023)	-	-	7	4	BIN SGS01_2020_023_včely, BIN SGS01_2020_026_niore, BIN01_2021_012_REVOLTT, BIN01_2021_005_Martel, BIN01_2021_001_KOOR, BIN02_2021_024_BAMIDA, BIN SGS01_2020_011_Setup

<i>Financial Mechanism</i>								
<i>EEA Grants</i>	-	-	1	-	-	1	-	-
<i>Norway Grants</i>	-	-	6	-	-	6	-	-
Number of young and female entrepreneurs supported	Cumulative number	0	5 (IFR 2023)	-	-	5	4	BIN SGS01_2020_023_včely, BIN SGS01_2020_012_Waki, BIN01_2021_007_LUBEX, BIN01_2021_015_Asseco, BIN SGS01_2020_011_Setup
Output 1.2: Enterprises supported to green their business operations								
Indicator	Unit of measurement	Baseline value	Previous achievement value	Achievements until end of December 2023			Target value	Comment
				Numerator	Denominator	Achievement value		
Number of large enterprises supported to improve energy efficiency	Cumulative number	0	0 (IFR 2023)	-	-	0	4	No large enterprise with this indicator.
Number of SMEs supported to improve energy efficiency	Cumulative number	0	0 (IFR 2023)	-	-	0	8	No project with this indicator.
<i>Financial Mechanism</i>								
<i>EEA Grants</i>	-	-	0	-	-	0	-	-
<i>Norway Grants</i>	-	-	0	-	-	0	-	-
Output 1.3: Enterprises supported to innovate welfare and ambient assisted living technologies, solutions and processes								
Indicator	Unit of measurement	Baseline value	Previous achievement value	Achievements until end of December 2023			Target value	Comment
				Numerator	Denominator	Achievement value		
Number of large enterprises supported to apply ambient assisted living/welfare technologies/processes/solutions	Cumulative number	0	0 (IFR 2023)	-	-	0	3	No large enterprise with this indicator.
Number of large enterprises supported to commercialize ambient assisted living/ welfare technologies/processes/solutions	Cumulative number	0	0 (IFR 2023)	-	-	0	1	No large enterprise with this indicator.

Number of large enterprises supported to develop ambient assisted living/welfare technologies/processes/solutions	Cumulative number	0	0 (IFR 2023)	-	-	0	1	No large enterprise with this indicator.
Number of SMEs supported to apply ambient assisted living/welfare technologies/processes/solutions	Cumulative number	0	4 (IFR 2023)	-	-	4	4	BIN01_2021_020_Diagnose, BIN01_2021_013_EMM, BIN02_2021_002_BA Solar, BIN01_2021_003_WELLNEA
<i>Financial Mechanism</i>								
<i>EEA Grants</i>	-	-	1	-	-	1	-	-
<i>Norway Grants</i>	-	-	3	-	-	3	-	-
Number of SMEs supported to commercialize ambient assisted living/ welfare technologies/processes/solutions	Cumulative number	0	6 (IFR 2023)	-	-	6	1	BIN02_2021_002_BA Solar, BIN01_2021_013_EMM, BIN01_2021_010_NOVOTA, BIN SGS01_2020_003_Intellope, SGS01_2020_005_PROROZ, BIN01_2021_003_WELLNEA
<i>Financial Mechanism</i>								
<i>EEA Grants</i>	-	-	1	-	-	1	-	-
<i>Norway Grants</i>	-	-	5	-	-	5	-	-
Number of SMEs supported to develop ambient assisted living/welfare technologies/processes/solutions	Cumulative number	0	6 (IFR 2023)	-	-	6	4	BIN02_2021_002_BA Solar, BIN01_2021_013_EMM, BIN01_2021_020_Diagnose, BIN SGS01_2020_003_Intellope, BIN SGS01_2020_005_PROROZ, BIN01_2021_003_WELLNEA
<i>Financial Mechanism</i>								
<i>EEA Grants</i>	-	-	1	-	-	1	-	-
<i>Norway Grants</i>	-	-	5	-	-	5	-	-
Number of young and female entrepreneurs supported	Cumulative number	0	3 (IFR 2023)	-	-	3	4	BIN SGS01_2020_005_PROROZ, BIN01_2021_010_NOVOTA, BIN01_2021_003_WELLNEA

Output 1.4: Start-ups supported for business growth								
Indicator	Unit of measurement	Baseline value	Previous achievement value	Achievements until end of December 2023			Target value	Comment
				Numerator	Denominator	Achievement value		
Number of start-ups supported	Cumulative number	0	6 (IFR 2023)	-	-	6	8	BIN SGS01_2020_003_Intellope, BIN SGS01_2020_005_PROROZ, BIN SGS01_2020_023_včely, BIN SGS01_2020_026_niore, BIN SGS01_2020_012_Waki, BIN SGS01_2020_011_Setup
Outcome 2: Education and Employment potential enhanced in Slovakia in Green Industry Innovation and Welfare and Ambient Assisted Living technologies								
Indicator	Unit of measurement	Baseline value	Previous achievement value	Achievements until end of December 2023			Target value	Comment
				Numerator	Denominator	Achievement value		
Number of businesses who self-rate the programme as having added value, regarding employment of apprenticeships (on a scale of 1-5)	Cumulative number	0	0 (APR 2022)	Reported 2022, 2024			10	-
Number of education institutions offering new courses / modules in environmental technologies	Cumulative number	0	0 (APR 2022)	Reported 2022, 2024			4	-
Number of people who remain employed in the chosen sector after apprenticeships	Cumulative number	0	0 (APR 2022)	Reported 2022, 2024			25	-
Number of people who remain working in the chosen sector after mobility	Cumulative number	0	0 (APR 2022)	Reported 2022, 2024			15	-
Percentage of participants who declare improved skills and competencies	Percentage	N/A	-	-	-	-	70.00 %	-

Output 2.1: International mobility supported								
Indicator	Unit of measurement	Baseline value	Previous achievement value	Achievements until end of December 2023			Target value	Comment
				Numerator	Denominator	Achievement value		
Number of apprenticeships supported between Donor States and Slovakia in SMEs or other businesses	Cumulative number	0	0 (IFR 2023)	-	-	0	20	No projects with this indicator
<i>Financial Mechanism</i>								
<i>EEA Grants</i>	-	-	0	-	-	0	-	-
<i>Norway Grants</i>	-	-	0	-	-	0	-	-
<i>Gender</i>								
<i>Female</i>	-	-	0	-	-	0	-	-
<i>Male</i>	-	-	0	-	-	0	-	-
<i>Not specified</i>	-	-	0	-	-	0	-	-
Number of staff from beneficiary states in exchanges	Cumulative number	0	0 (IFR 2023)	-	-	0	15	Estimated 33 staff members from Slovak education institutions in exchanges to be supported.
<i>Financial Mechanism</i>								
<i>EEA Grants</i>	-	-	0	-	-	0	-	-
<i>Norway Grants</i>	-	-	0	-	-	0	-	-
<i>Donor State</i>								
<i>Norway</i>	-	-	0	-	-	0	-	-
<i>Iceland</i>	-	-	0	-	-	0	-	-
<i>Liechtenstein</i>	-	-	0	-	-	0	-	-
<i>Not specified</i>	-	-	0	-	-	0	-	-
<i>Gender</i>								
<i>Female</i>	-	-	0	-	-	0	-	-
<i>Male</i>	-	-	0	-	-	0	-	-
<i>Not specified</i>	-	-	0	-	-	0	-	-
<i>Type of exchange</i>								
<i>Online</i>	-	-	0	-	-	0	-	-

<i>Physical</i>	-	-	0	-	-	0	-	-
<i>Not specified</i>	-	-	0	-	-	0	-	-
Number of staff from donor states in exchanges	Cumulative number	0	0 (IFR 2023)	-	-	0	10	Estimated 7 staff members from donor states in exchanges to be supported.
<i>Financial Mechanism</i>								
<i>EEA Grants</i>	-	-	0	-	-	0	-	-
<i>Norway Grants</i>	-	-	0	-	-	0	-	-
<i>Donor State</i>								
<i>Norway</i>	-	-	0	-	-	0	-	-
<i>Iceland</i>	-	-	0	-	-	0	-	-
<i>Liechtenstein</i>	-	-	0	-	-	0	-	-
<i>Not specified</i>	-	-	0	-	-	0	-	-
<i>Gender</i>								
<i>Female</i>	-	-	0	-	-	0	-	-
<i>Male</i>	-	-	0	-	-	0	-	-
<i>Not specified</i>	-	-	0	-	-	0	-	-
<i>Type of exchange</i>								
<i>Online</i>	-	-	0	-	-	0	-	-
<i>Physical</i>	-	-	0	-	-	0	-	-
<i>Not specified</i>	-	-	0	-	-	0	-	-
Number of students from beneficiary states in exchanges	Cumulative number	0	0 (IFR 2023)	-	-	0	25	Estimated 15 students from Slovakia in exchanges to be supported.
<i>Financial Mechanism</i>								
<i>EEA Grants</i>	-	-	0	-	-	0	-	-
<i>Norway Grants</i>	-	-	0	-	-	0	-	-
<i>Donor State</i>								
<i>Norway</i>	-	-	0	-	-	0	-	-
<i>Iceland</i>	-	-	0	-	-	0	-	-
<i>Liechtenstein</i>	-	-	0	-	-	0	-	-
<i>Not specified</i>	-	-	0	-	-	0	-	-
<i>Gender</i>								
<i>Female</i>	-	-	0	-	-	0	-	-

Male	-	-	0	-	-	0	-	-
Not specified	-	-	0	-	-	0	-	-
<i>Type of exchange</i>								
Online	-	-	0	-	-	0	-	-
Physical	-	-	0	-	-	0	-	-
Not specified	-	-	0	-	-	0	-	-
Number of students from donor states in exchanges	Cumulative number	0	0 (IFR 2023)	-	-	0	15	Estimated 2 students from donor states in exchanges to be supported.
<i>Financial Mechanism</i>								
EEA Grants	-	-	0	-	-	0	-	-
Norway Grants	-	-	0	-	-	0	-	-
<i>Donor State</i>								
Norway	-	-	0	-	-	0	-	-
Iceland	-	-	0	-	-	0	-	-
Liechtenstein	-	-	0	-	-	0	-	-
Not specified	-	-	0	-	-	0	-	-
<i>Gender</i>								
Female	-	-	0	-	-	0	-	-
Male	-	-	0	-	-	0	-	-
Not specified	-	-	0	-	-	0	-	-
<i>Type of exchange</i>								
Online	-	-	0	-	-	0	-	-
Physical	-	-	0	-	-	0	-	-
Not specified	-	-	0	-	-	0	-	-
Output 2.2: Institutional Cooperation Supported								
Indicator	Unit of measurement	Baseline value	Previous achievement value	Achievements until end of December 2023			Target value	Comment
				Numerator	Denominator	Achievement value		
Number of apprentices supported in Slovakia within SMEs or other organisations/institutions	Cumulative number	0	0 (IFR 2023)	-	-	0	20	Estimated 90 apprentices to be supported at the end of implementation
<i>Financial Mechanism</i>								

<i>EEA Grants</i>	-	-	0	-	-	0	-	-
<i>Norway Grants</i>	-	-	0	-	-	0	-	-
Gender								
<i>Female</i>	-	-	0	-	-	0	-	-
<i>Male</i>	-	-	0	-	-	0	-	-
<i>Not specified</i>	-	-	0	-	-	0	-	-
Number of institutions developing curricula related to Green Industry Innovation, or Welfare and Ambient Assisted living	Cumulative number	0	1 (IFR 2023)	-	-	1	3	Estimated 8 institutions developing 22 new curricula in GII/WT. Progress reported by 1 project.
Number of institutions engaged in cooperation at higher education and upper secondary level	Cumulative number	0	2 (IFR 2023)	-	-	6	10	Estimated 17 institutions to be engaged in cooperation. Progress reported by 5 projects
Number of participants in workshops organized to share experiences regarding youth apprenticeships and new methods of education and engaging youth	Cumulative number	0	56 (IFR 2023)	-	-	292	50	Estimated 1 324 participants expected in workshops. Progress reported by project 6 projects.
Number of SMEs and other enterprises engaged in institutional cooperation at higher education and upper secondary level	Cumulative number	0	3 (IFR 2023)	-	-	7	10	Estimated 24 enterprises to be engaged in cooperation. Progress reported by 3 projects.
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 2023			Target value	Comment
				Numerator	Denominator	Achievement value		
Level of satisfaction with the partnership	Scale 1-7	6.79, Survey carried out by the FMO	-	-	-	5.33	4.50, Target is ≥4.5, and an increase on the	-

							baseline value	
Level of trust between cooperating entities in Beneficiary States and Donor States	Scale 1-7	6.81, Survey carried out by the FMO	-	-	-	6.33	4.50, Target is ≥4.5, and an increase on the baseline value	-
Share of cooperating organisations that apply the knowledge acquired from bilateral partnership	Percentage	N/A	-	1	1	100.00 %	50.00 %	-
Share of donor business partnerships which continue after project implementation period	Percentage	N/A	-	-	-	-	30.00 %	-
Bilateral Output 1: Donor cooperation enhanced								
Indicator	Unit of measurement	Baseline value	Previous achievement value	Achievements until end of December 2023			Target value	Comment
				Numerator	Denominator	Achievement value		
Number of new jointly registered applications for Intellectual Property Protection (Copyright, Trademark, Patents)	Cumulative number	N/A	0 (APR 2022)	-	-	0	2	No project with this indicator.
Bilateral Output 2: Bilateral partnerships promoted								
Indicator	Unit of measurement	Baseline value	Previous achievement value	Achievements until end of December 2023			Target value	Comment
				Numerator	Denominator	Achievement value		
Number of projects involving cooperation with a donor project partner	Cumulative number	0	22 (IFR 2023)	-	-	22	12	3 projects in BIN SGS01, 4 projects in BIN01, 1 project in BIN02, 11 projects in BIN SGS02, 3 projects in BIN SGS03.

Annex 2: Communication summary

1. Best projects

In 2023 the implementation of supported projects continued and their outputs and results started to be more visible. The PO has selected the following projects as best practice examples:

Example 1

Project number: BIN01_2021_010

Project promoter: NOVOTA ART, s.r.o., Bratislava

Project title: Development of Smart Furniture with Artificial Intelligence and Medical Devices

Project partners: JAHO MUR OG FASADE AS (NO), VIA LUX - Home of Social Services and Facilities for the Elderly (SK)

The overall objective of the project is the development of smart furniture for elderly and physically disabled people to foster their independent and high-quality living. The complex system consists of pieces of furniture and accessories with robotic arms, moving and kinetic parts and elements of artificial intelligence enabling connection with a medical centre. It also contains medical devices and technologies for measuring vital functions, scanning and improving life, as well as early diagnosis and prevention of collapse. The control of the smart system is conducted via a voice controlled display. The company NOVOTA ART, s.r.o., being the project leader, ensures the overall research management and is responsible for the production of furniture prototypes, which includes the creation of 3D designs of the furniture, simulations of physical, mechanical and electronic functions of furniture parts, the creation of construction plans and materials for production. Two project partners cooperate on the project activities as follows: the VIA LUX facility - Home of Social Services and Facilities for the Elderly is involved in the medical devices implementation and is leading the field research, while JaHo Mur og Fasade AS from Norway, carries out research and final testing of prototypes with seniors living alone and immobile persons in sample housing units built for this purpose. Based on the test results of functionality, safety, interior mobility and reliability, the furniture pieces may be modified. The Norwegian partner is preparing a showroom in Kristiansand where prototypes of smart furniture will be displayed for sale. This project is worth mentioning because it intends to improve the quality of life of elderly people or people with declining health in general and runs an effective communication campaign mainly through its dedicated project website <https://smartfurniture.tech/>. It contributes to the Programme objectives by developing welfare and ambient assisted living technologies through robotic and mechatronic solutions, artificial intelligence, and automation. Thanks to these it will be possible to cut costs, and personnel needed for care as well as make processes more efficient.

<https://smartfurniture.tech/en/> - dedicated project web

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=c1azU70UhUQ&t=36s> – project video (available also on the project web)

<https://smartfurniture.tech/en/news/smart-furniture-first-prototypes> - photos - first prototypes

<https://smartfurniture.tech/en/news/3d-design-and-simulations> - photos - 3D design and simulations

<https://smartfurniture.tech/en/news/employee-training-focused-on-computer-training-for-cnc-machining> - photos - employee training

<https://web.vucke.sk/sk/novinky/seniori-vo-via-lux-barci-pomahaju-vyvijat-byvanie-so-smart-technologiami.html> - PR article in a regional medium (Higher Territorial Unit web) (only in Slovak language)

Example 2

Project number: BIN SGS02_2021_005

Project promoter: Secondary Vocational School of Gastronomy and Services, Presov

Project title: Innovative education as a tool to reflect labour market needs and environmental challenges

Project partner: Arctic Circle Upper Secondary School, Mo I Rana (NO)

The main objective of the project is to improve the quality of education and practical vocational training in Slovakia with emphasis on teaching and the implementation of green innovations in gastronomy. The involvement of the Norwegian partner school is based on sharing experience and best practice in the use of new information technologies in vocational training and assisting in subsequent transition into the Slovak school system. The project consists of a series of activities leading to the set goal, i.e. teachers training to increase their digital competences, digitisation of teaching material, integration of technologies into teaching/learning environment, curriculum innovation through the introduction of a new subject of Informatics in Process Control. Thanks to the project, the school boasts modern technologies, such as smart pots for growing microgreens, 3D glasses, an interactive building block robotics kit and a robot with a cute cat face that helps future chefs and waiters serving in the canteen. The new equipment and procedures were enthusiastically received by both teachers and students. This project is worth presenting because it contributes to the Programme outcome *Education and employment potential enhanced in Slovakia* by provision of modern education based on innovative approach and technologies, hence preparing students for current labour market needs. The project results are summarised in two videos and a TV reportage with links attached below. Moreover, the successful bilateral cooperation and partnership led to writing another project plan, which gave rise to the bilateral initiative funded under BIN BF02 call named “Be a leftover lover!”

<https://norskyprojekt.gastrosos.sk/en/> dedicated project web

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dilLTP-k3F0> - project video

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1onxXI5Jip7Qq6K1oG8eC9z2ISxEU0AJU/view> - video about the robot

https://cloud-e.edupage.org/cloud/TV_Markiza_-_Norsky_projekt.mp4?z%3AVZrm1oBquxZDQlz86F%2FQd%2F4Ibb3ANB5OSmVvpc5FGprAlobWCtyUwlvGqKTtxBF0 – TV reportage (on the private commercial TV Markiza) (only in Slovak language)

<https://norskyprojekt.gastrosos.sk/en/fotogaleria> - photos

2. Visibility of the Grants and the Donors

2.a. Communication activities

The PO made the best efforts to raise public awareness of the Programme, Grants and the Donors. The PO used the communication tools defined in the Communication Plan. PO focused preferably on the internet-based communication and social media.

The PO launched one call in 2023 – Call for Proposals for Bilateral Initiatives (BIN BF04) and continued implementing supported projects under five programme calls, i.e. BIN SGS01, BIN01, BIN02, BIN SGS02 and BIN SGS03 and the call BIN BF02 supported within the Fund for Bilateral Relations.

The related communication campaign was intensive, focused on potential and existing applicants, beneficiaries, professionals and general public, as well as the partners from the Donor states. The PO's website <http://www.vyskumnaagentura.sk/sk/granty-ehp-a-norska-sk> and Facebook page (FB) <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100068653969027> served as the main communication platforms where information on calls and projects were published and regularly updated. In addition to these, LinkedIn profile <https://www.linkedin.com/in/granty-business-and-innovation-005469239/> was used to promote the Grants, Bilateral Fund calls and projects implementation progress. The National Focal Point and DPPs were active in disseminating the Programme and project achievements and results through their websites and FB pages.

Promotion of the EEA and Norway Grants in 2023 was carried out through the following channels:

Programme Operator:

- dedicated webpage <http://www.vyskumnaagentura.sk/en/programme-eea-norway-grants>
- Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100068653969027>

- Linked In <https://www.linkedin.com/in/granty-business-and-innovation-005469239/>

The PO reports a slight increase in the number of Facebook (FB) followers from 145 to 166 (+ 15%) and a significant increase in the number of LinkedIn (LI) followers from 28 to 51 (83%). Although Facebook content reach went slightly down, there was an upward trend in content interactions (+219,8%) and link clicks (9,4%).

Project Promoters:

- dedicated project websites/webpages,
- social media - FB/IG/YT,
- opening, mid-term and closing conferences,
- roll-ups,
- information boards,
- local TVs,
- flyers,
- promotional materials.

The PO's main information activities in 2023 were in line with the Communication Plan and included:

- Banners publication (web, FB): These were related to launching the call BIN BF04.
- Facebook posts: 71 posts were published on the PO's Facebook in the reporting year to promote calls and projects.
- Conferences, infoseminars, seminars on common interest: On 21 March 2023, PO organised Vocational Education and Training (VET) webinar.

The partners of the event were the State Institute of Vocational Education and Training (ŠIOV), the Norwegian Directorate for Higher Education and Skills (HK-dir) and the Agency for International Education Affairs (AIBA), Liechtenstein. They ensured experts and their active participation in the seminar through their presentations and panel discussion. The aim of the VET seminar was to enhance cooperation between educational institutions and businesses with the intention of improving the quality of education in Slovakia so that it meets the needs of the Slovak labour market. The seminar also served to gain an overview of VET systems in the Donor states, namely in Liechtenstein and Norway, but also in Slovakia, as well as to find solutions to common challenges in this field. The webinar was attended by almost 40 participants who were mostly secondary school teachers, as well as researchers from universities, representatives of the local government and other stakeholders. The welcome speeches were given by the State Secretary

of the Ministry of Education, Science, Research and Sport of the Slovak Republic, Mr. Slavomír Partila and the Ambassador of the Kingdom of Norway to Slovakia, H.E. Mr. Alex Vodicka Winther. The invited experts presented VET models of Liechtenstein, Norway and Slovakia, and in the subsequent panel discussion, they tried to find answers to the question "Is vocational education and training the key to ensuring a competent workforce for the future?" They showed the similarities and differences of the systems, as well as some of the common challenges. The expected benefit of the event was the strengthening of bilateral relations and sharing of best practices between the relevant stakeholders, as well as the possibility of further cooperation in the field of VET in the preparation and implementation of initiatives supported under the open calls of the program.

- Promoting bilateral cooperation (matchmakings, B2B meetings, presenting of partnership projects): Oslo Innovation Week 2023 - Meet Innovative Startups/Scaleups from Central/Southern Europe: The event was organised by Innovation Norway (DPP). The PO's role was a co-organiser, which included inviting startup representatives, preparing and signing the agreement with the selected attendees, selecting 2 presentations for the pitching session, assisting with registration on the b2match platform, supporting participants in Oslo, reviewing and approving the reports on the business trip, and reimbursing the related costs.

In addition to the information activities carried out according to the Communication Plan, PO was also involved on the following events:

- Opening, mid-term and closing conferences: Welcoming addresses by representatives of projects and opening speeches by PO and a representative of the Norwegian Embassy in Bratislava/Vienna contained references on Grants and the Programme. Elements of the Grants' visual identity (logo use, typography and colours) accompanied by the slogan were used on all project related material, such as presentations, invitations, programme, flyers, newsletters, websites, promotional items, roll-ups, information boards, etc.
- Cooperation Committee Meetings: There were two CC meetings organised by PO and held online in 2023. The attendees were representatives of the Donor Programme Partners, National Contact Point, and Royal Norwegian Embassy in Bratislava/Vienna. The presentation of a few showcase projects in the form of short videos was a part of the agenda.

2.b. Project stories

In 2023 projects were being implemented and gradually presented some tangible results, which were published on their project websites and/or social media. PO posted or shared these achievements on the dedicated Facebook and LinkedIn pages. PO collaborates closely with project promoters to get inspiring stories behind the projects and publish them under #OurStories campaign on social media pages.

3. Media coverage

In the reporting year, PO decided to focus on the internet and social media environment rather than local, regional, or national media. However, some of the project promoters made their projects visible through local or national TVs, streaming on social media and PR articles. Examples of such promotion are shown below:

National Coverage:

Reportage on the national TV - RTVS, *Správy RTVS*, 20-01-2023 o 19:00 (33:30):

<https://www.rtvs.sk/televizia/archiv/13982/380433#2018>

Reportage on the national radio - RTVS, *Žurnál Rádia Regina* 20-01-2023 o 17:00 (08:14):

<https://www.rtvs.sk/radio/archiv/1533/1986128>

Local coverage:

Reportage on the local TV – TV Central Nitra, *Správy*, 25.01.2023 (00:00-04:19):

http://cetv.sk/spravy-25-1-2023/?fbclid=IwAR3YXex_rqAoK-VIb7-x5W-QBKPYuY8r1E4FEQ0V31RPh_1WntXK9G5R76I

Reportage on the local TV – TV SEN, 24-02-2023:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fRoFvmf1aQU&t=2s>

Other:

PR article in an academic monthly university magazine *Attelier*:

https://www.attelier.sk/ako-sa-naucit-pouzivat-pocitac/?fbclid=IwAR1SXjc6BHO52PXO_JlrHjT2QKR4gnrR_SciLsBHzZk7nFYpLr1ZIBGjpE

Photos, news and blog:

<https://www.mysafefood.eu/en/home/>

Social media <https://www.facebook.com/photo/?fbid=224174683726183&set=a.161225563354429>, <https://www.instagram.com/mysafefood.eu/>

4. Website and social media

Link to programme website		Total number of page views in the reporting year	
http://www.vyskumnaagentura.sk/sk/gra...		19355	
	Link or account handle	Number of posts published in the reporting year	Number of followers
Facebook	https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100068653969027	71	166
LinkedIn	https://www.linkedin.com/in/granty-business-and-innovation-005469239/	13	51

5. Visuals

There were no programme- and/or project-related multimedia assets published in EEA and Norway Grants media library (eealibrary.org) in the reporting year, but will be added in 2024 after obtaining consent from project promoters for sharing the project photos and videos. Some examples of such interesting assets are given below.

BIN SGS01_2020_023: Energy savings and a better environment for children with attendance analysis, Zachráň včely, s.r.o.

https://smartschoolsensors.com/sk/content/16-info_videos

BIN01_2021_010: Development of Smart Furniture with Artificial Intelligence and Medical Devices, NOVOTA ART, s.r.o.

<https://youtu.be/c1azU70UhUQ>

<https://smartfurniture.tech/>

BIN01_2021_015: Community ERP in Cloud, Asseco Solutions, a.s.

<https://asseco-cloud.sk/novinky/video-o-projekte>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UrO7BNIYIUQ&t=15s>

<https://www.facebook.com/search/top?q=assec%20cloud%20erp>

BIN01_2021_017: Ecologization of tyre bead production by technological innovations in machinery and processes, VIPO, a.s.

https://vipo-my.sharepoint.com/:v:/g/personal/mpecho_vipo_eu/Edd5li2_FERGm8jiPb8lwtcBDnSi6RnKTukenL26NaIWxw?e=O9Xr8N

password: **vipo**

BIN02_2021_002: Bridging the gap for people with food restrictions - Safe Food, BA Solar, s.r.o.

<https://www.mysafefood.eu/video-ako-vznikol-projekt-safe-food/>

<https://www.linkedin.com/company/safe-food-slovensko/>

<https://www.facebook.com/reel/706425917913303>

<https://www.facebook.com/reel/812471713327263>

<https://www.facebook.com/reel/671059428181456>

<https://www.facebook.com/reel/1021388162187117>

BIN02_2021_024: Applied research for the improvement of acoustic properties of mobile noise barriers, BAMIDA s.r.o.

<https://www.bamida.sk/eea-grants/o-projekte-about-project/>

BIN SGS02_2021_005: Innovative education as a tool to reflect labour market needs and environmental challenges, Secondary Vocational School of Gastronomy and Services, Presov

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dilLtP-k3F0>

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1onxXI5Jip7Qq6K1oG8eC9z2ISxEU0AJU/view>

BIN SGS02_2021_008: Ready for 21st Century, Secondary Vocational School of Technics and Services, Levice

<https://youtu.be/hjmaCyXRWgQ>

BIN SGS02_2021_004: Education Content Engineering Hub, Slovak University of Technology, Bratislava

<https://www.eceh.fiit.stuba.sk/videos/eceh-introductory-information-video.mp4>

Annex 3: Project summary and call details

1. Project summary

	Number	Total Grant	Amount budgeted to dpps (estimate)
Total number of projects contracted	35	€ 15,844,171	€ 1,881,023
Number of pre-defined projects contracted	0	€ 0	€ 0
Number of projects with a donor project partner	21	€ 7,342,487	€ 1,881,023
Number of projects with a donor project partner Norway	20	€ 7,163,679	€ 1,796,952
Number of projects with a donor project partner Iceland	1	€ 178,808	€ 84,071
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
Call for proposals for international mobility between higher education institutions, upper-secondary schools and private sector (BIN SGS03)	Outcome 2	€ 650,000	30/06/2022	3	€ 555,145	85.41 %	3	€ 555,145	3	€ 555,145
Call for Proposals on the Support of Innovation and Business Development (BIN 02)	Outcome 1	€ 2,530,588	04/10/2021	35	€ 18,930,855	748.08 %	6	€ 2,164,351	3	€ 2,164,351
INSTITUTIONAL COOPERATION BETWEEN HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS, UPPER-SECONDARY SCHOOLS AND PRIVATE SECTOR (BIN SGS02)	Outcome 2	€ 2,000,000	28/02/2022	13	€ 2,234,847	111.74 %	11	€ 1,909,248	11	€ 1,909,248

OPEN CALL FOR PROSALS ON THE SUPPORT OF INNOVATION AND BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT (BIN 01)	Outcome 1	€ 10,958,47 1	17/09/2021	25	€ 20,593,22 7	187.92 %	13	€ 10,210,30 7	12	€ 10,210,30 7
SMALL GRANT SCHEME SUPPORT OF NEWLY ESTABLISHED BUSINESSES (START-UPS), (BIN SGS01)	Outcome 1	€ 1,208,000	23/10/2020	31	€ 5,264,122	435.77 %	6	€ 1,005,120	6	€ 1,005,120

Annex 4: Risk management

Risk description	Likelihood (1-4)	Consequence (1-4)	Risk score	Planned response in 2024
Insufficient use of means from the Fund for Bilateral Relations and difficulties in fulfilling the condition of bilateral project partnerships (educational component)	1 low	2 medium low	1.41	The PO mobilized schools, applicants for the Call BIN BF02 and supported 5 initiatives. 95% of the Call allocation (EUR 50 000) was withdrawn/contracted. The Call was closed as planned on 31/12/2023. The PO has withdrawn/reserved 22% of the Call BIN BF04 allocation. The PO expects that the rest of the Call allocation (EUR 70 000) will be used on bilateral initiatives of businesses (targeted campaign) and networking events organized in cooperation with DPP in 2024.
Discrepancy between expected programme outcomes and achieved results of implemented project	2 medium low	2 medium low	2.00	The PO will evaluate the progress towards the achievement of the targeted results as part of the verification of the Interim/Final project reports. If needed, the PO will perform results-based monitoring and take measures to ensure the achievement of project results.
Change of legislative environment	2 medium low	2 medium low	2.00	The PO will continue to monitor changes in legislation, mainly in public procurement, state aid, financial control and audit. The PO will update guidelines for beneficiaries, if needed.
Lack of time for project implementation	3 medium high	3 medium high	3.00	The PO will closely monitor progress in project implementation - activities and milestones fulfilment within the verification of PIRs, evaluate risk and site visits/monitoring, if necessary. The PO will be forthcoming in project prolongation and in case of changes to the projects. The PO will be in regular contact with the beneficiaries and solve any problems connected with the finalisation of the projects.

Insufficient institutional and management capacities in the PO level	2 medium low	2 medium low	2.00	Stabilisation of PO's capacities by applying the Research Agency Employee Stabilization Plan of the (stable salaries, regular bonuses, suitable work environment, enabling distance work, professional trainings in the field of soft and hard skills)
Long period for obtaining permits needed for projects implementation in areas of GII and WT (application of technology)	2 medium low	3 medium high	2.45	The PO will regularly monitor progress in implementation of relevant projects and take proper actions in a timely manner and on a case-by-case basis.
Shortcomings and mistakes in the public procurement	2 medium low	3 medium high	2.45	The PO will continue intensive communication and assistance to beneficiaries in order to ensure the limitation of mistakes and the compliance of the documentation submitted for the public procurement verification.
Impact of COVID-19 restrictions	1 low	1 low	1.00	Regular monitoring of the pandemic situation and taking action if necessary.
Insufficient capacity to perform public procurement controls that may affect the speed of projects implementation	2 medium low	3 medium high	2.45	Due to the closing of the OPII (EU Funds) administrated by the Research Agency, the PO's public procurement department has sufficient capacity to control public procurement.
Low absorption of grants	2 medium low	3 medium high	2.45	This risk is mainly connected with public procurement controls and obtaining the necessary permits. In addition, the PO regularly communicates with project promoters with the aim of immediately solving the problems that may arisen and improving submitted PIRs and thereby also absorption of grants.
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. For outcome 1 indicators “Estimated annual collection of waste from production and operational processes for re-use or recycling (in tons)” and “Estimated re-use of waste for other production processes (in tons)”, where the baseline value is “to be determined” (TBD), the Programme Operator shall submit to the FMO for approval the baseline value, together with a description of the data collection method used, no later than 6 months after the selection of projects under the last relevant call for proposals. The updated baseline value shall be agreed upon through a modification of the programme agreement.	General	One-time fulfilment	Yes	05/10/2022	The technical modification of the PA to update the baseline value of both indicators done in line with the condition 1.
2. The results framework (esp. Output level indicators under Outcome 1) may be revised after the selection process is concluded. The updated results framework shall be agreed upon through a modification of the programme agreement.	General	One-time fulfilment	Yes	21/12/2022	The PO has requested to increase the target of the output level indicator 1.4. through the PA’s modification No. 3
3. 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 	General	Continuously tracking	N/A		The PO has specified the condition in project contracts, drawn up in accordance with the template of the project contract prepared by the NFP. It is included in the general terms and conditions (Annex 2). In addition, the PO is tracking the fulfillment of this condition during the project

<p>use such buildings for the benefit of the overall objectives of the project for the same period;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Keep any buildings purchased, constructed, renovated or reconstructed under the project properly insured against losses such as fire, theft and other normally insurable incidents both during project implementation and for at least 5 years following the completion of the project; and • 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>implementation (during the verification of PIRs and monitorings).</p>
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