Norwegian Financial Mechanism 2021-2028

PROGRAMME AGREEMENT

between

The Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs

and

The Ministry of Investments, Regional Development and Informatization of the Slovak Republic,

hereinafter referred to as the "National Focal Point",

representing Slovakia,

hereinafter referred to as the "Beneficiary State"

together hereinafter referred to as the "Parties"

for the financing of the Programme "Social"

hereinafter referred to as the "Programme"

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Chapter 1
Scope, legal framework, and definitions

Article 1.1
Scope

This Programme Agreement between the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs (hereinafter referred to as the NMFA) and the National Focal Point lays down the rights and obligations of the Parties regarding the implementation of the Programme and the financial contribution from the Norwegian Financial Mechanism 2021-2028 to the Programme.

Article 1.2
Legal Framework

1. This Programme Agreement shall be read in conjunction with the following documents which, together with this Programme Agreement, constitute the legal framework of the Norwegian Financial Mechanism 2021-2028:

a) the Agreement between the Kingdom of Norway and the European Union on a Norwegian Financial Mechanism for the period May 2021–April 2028;

b) the Regulation on the implementation of the Norwegian Financial Mechanism 2021-2028 (hereinafter referred to as the "Regulation");

c) the Memorandum of Understanding on the Implementation of the Norwegian Financial Mechanism 2021-2028, entered into between Norway and the Beneficiary State; and

d) any guidelines adopted by the NMFA in accordance with the Regulation.

2. In case of an inconsistency between this Programme Agreement and the Regulation, the Regulation shall prevail.

3. The legal framework is binding for the Parties. An act or omission by a Party to this Programme Agreement that is incompatible with the legal framework constitutes a breach of this Programme Agreement by that Party.

Article 1.3
Definitions

Terms used and institutions and documents referred to in this Programme Agreement shall be understood in accordance with the Regulation, in particular Article 1.6 thereof, and the legal framework referred to in Article 1.2 of this Programme Agreement.

Article 1.4
Annexes and hierarchy of documents

1. Annexes attached hereto form an integral part of this Programme Agreement. Any reference to this Programme Agreement includes a reference to its annexes unless otherwise stated or clear from the context.

2. The provisions of the annexes shall be interpreted in a manner consistent with this Programme Agreement. Should the meaning of any provision of the said annexes, so interpreted, remain inconsistent with this Programme Agreement, the provisions of the annexes shall prevail, provided that these provisions are compatible with the Regulation.

3. Commitments, statements and guarantees, explicit as well as implicit, made in the preparation of the programme are binding for the National Focal Point and the Programme Operator unless otherwise explicitly stipulated in this Programme Agreement.

Chapter 2
The Programme

Article 2.1
Co-operation

1. The Parties shall take all appropriate and necessary measures to ensure fulfilment of the obligations and objectives arising out of this Programme Agreement.

2. The Parties agree to provide all information necessary for the good functioning of this Programme Agreement, including risk assessment and response analysis, and to apply the principles of implementation as set out in the Regulation.

3. The Parties shall promptly inform each other of any circumstances that interfere or threaten to interfere with the successful implementation of the Programme.

4. In executing this Programme Agreement the Parties declare to counteract corrupt practices. Further, they declare not to accept, either directly or indirectly, any kind of offer, gift, payments or benefits which would or could be construed as illegal or corrupt practice or giving rise to a conflict of interest. The Parties shall immediately inform each other of any indication of corruption or misuse of resources related to this Programme Agreement.

Article 2.2
Main responsibilities of the Parties

1. The National Focal Point is responsible and accountable for the overall management of the Norwegian Financial Mechanism 2021-2028 in the Beneficiary State and for the full and correct

implementation of this Programme Agreement. In particular, the National Focal Point undertakes to:

a) comply with its obligations stipulated in the Regulation and this Programme Agreement;

b) ensure that the Certifying Authority, the Audit Authority and the Programme Operator properly perform the tasks assigned to them in the Regulation and this Programme Agreement;

c) take all necessary steps to ensure that the Programme Operator is fully committed and able to implement and manage the Programme, including ensuring the appropriate allocation of staff and other resources, throughout the programme period;

d) take the necessary measures to remedy irregularities in the implementation of the Programme and ensure that the Programme Operator takes appropriate measures to remedy irregularities in projects within the Programme, including measures to recover misspent funds; and

e) make all the necessary and appropriate arrangements in order to strengthen or change the way the Programme is managed.

2. The NMFA shall, subject to the rules stipulated in the legal framework referred to in Article 1.2 of this Programme Agreement, make available to the Beneficiary State a financial contribution (hereinafter referred to as "the programme grant") to be used exclusively to finance the eligible cost of the Programme.

Article 2.3
Objective(s) of the Programme

1. This Programme Agreement sets out the objective(s), outcome(s), outputs, indicators and targets for the Programme.

2. The National Focal Point shall ensure that the Programme Operator implements and completes the Programme in accordance with the objective(s), outcome(s), outputs, indicators and targets set for the Programme.

Article 2.4
Programme grant

1. The maximum amount of the programme grant, the programme grant rate, and the estimated eligible cost of the Programme shall be as specified in this Programme Agreement.

2. The programme budget annexed to this Programme Agreement shall:

a) contain a breakdown between the Programme's budget headings; and

b) indicate the agreed advance payment, if any.

3. The management cost of the Programme Operator shall not exceed the amount specified in this Programme Agreement.

Article 2.5
Special conditions and programme specific rules

1. This Programme Agreement shall list any conditions set by the NMFA with reference to Article 6.3.2 of the Regulation. The National Focal Point shall ensure compliance with these conditions and take the necessary steps to ensure their fulfilment.

2. The National Focal Point shall ensure compliance with any other programme specific rules laid down in this Programme Agreement.

Article 2.6
Reporting

The National Focal Point shall ensure that the Programme Operator provides financial reports and a Final Programme Report in accordance with Chapter 9 and Article 6.8 of the Regulation as well as other reporting in accordance with guidelines adopted by the NMFA.

Article 2.7
Monitoring and audits

The monitoring and audits referred to in Chapter 10 and Chapter 11 of the Regulation shall not in any way relieve the National Focal Point or the Programme Operator of their obligations under the legal framework regarding monitoring of the Programme and/or its projects, financial control and audit.

Article 2.8
Modification of the Programme

1. Unless otherwise explicitly stipulated in this Programme Agreement, any modification of the Programme is subject to prior approval by the NMFA.

2. Budget reallocations to and from calls and pre-defined projects (both within the same outcome and between outcomes) are permitted without a modification of the Programme Agreement or prior approval by the NMFA for an amount of up to 10% of the total allocation for each planned call or pre-defined project.

3. Changes to the Programme which have been agreed in their entirety through a modification of the relevant Memorandum of Understanding do not require a modification of the Programme Agreement. In such cases, the Programme Agreement shall be updated by the NMFA.

4. Programme specific exceptions from paragraph 1, if any, are set in the annexes to this Programme Agreement.

5. Expenditures in breach of this Article are not eligible.

6. Should there be a doubt as to whether a modification of the Programme Agreement is required, the National Focal Point shall consult the NMFA before such modifications take effect.

7. Requests for modifications shall be submitted and assessed in accordance with Article 6.7 of the Regulation.

Article 2.9
Communication

1. All communication to the NMFA regarding this Programme Agreement shall take place in English and be directed to the Financial Mechanism Office (hereinafter referred to as the FMO), which represents the NMFA towards the National Focal Point and the Programme Operator in relation to the implementation of the Programme.

2. To the extent that original documents are not available in the English language, the documents shall be accompanied by full and accurate translations in English. The National Focal Point shall bear the responsibility for the accuracy of the translation that it provides and the possible consequences that might arise from any inaccurate translations.

Article 2.10
Contact information

1. The contact information of the Programme Operator is as specified in this Programme Agreement.

2. The contact information for the NMFA and the Financial Mechanism Office are:

Financial Mechanism Office Att: Managing Director EFTA House Avenue des Arts, 19H 1000 Brussels Telephone: +32 (0)2 286 1701 E-mail: fmo@efta.int

3. Changes of or corrections to the contact information referred to in this Article shall be given in writing without undue delay by the Parties to this Programme Agreement.

Article 2.11
Representations and warranties

1. This Programme Agreement and the awarding of the programme grant is based on information provided by, through, or on behalf of the National Focal Point to the NMFA prior to the signing of this Programme Agreement.

2. The National Focal Point represents and warrants that the information provided by, through, or on behalf of the National Focal Point, in connection with the implementation or conclusion of this Programme Agreement are authentic, accurate and complete.

Chapter 3
Projects

Article 3.1
Selection of projects and award of grants

1. The National Focal Point shall ensure that the Programme Operator selects projects in accordance with Chapter 7 of the Regulation and this Programme Agreement.

2. Eligibility of Project Promoters and project partners is stipulated in Article 7.2 of the Regulation and, in accordance with paragraph 4 thereof, subject only to the limitations stipulated in this Programme Agreement.

3. Pre-defined projects shall be outlined in this Programme Agreement.

4. The National Focal Point shall take proactive steps to ensure that the Programme Operator complies fully with Article 7.5.2 of the Regulation.

Article 3.2
Project contract

1. For each approved project a project contract shall be concluded between the Programme Operator and the Project Promoter.

2. In cases where a project contract cannot, due to provisions in the national legislation, be made between the Programme Operator and the Project Promoter, the Beneficiary State may instead issue a legislative or administrative act of similar effect and content.

3. The content and form or the project contract shall comply with Article 7.9 of the Regulation.

4. The National Focal Point shall ensure that the obligations of the Project Promoter under the project contract are valid and enforceable under the applicable law of the Beneficiary State.

Article 3.3
Project partners and partnership agreements

1. A project may be implemented in a partnership between the Project Promoter and project partners as defined in point (y) of Article 1.6 of the Regulation. If a project is implemented in such a partnership, the Project Promoter shall sign a partnership agreement with the project partners with the content and in the form stipulated in Article 7.10 of the Regulation.

2. If one of the parties to the agreement is an entity from Norway, the partnership agreement shall be in English and shall be based on a template provided by the NMFA.

3. The eligibility of expenditures declared by a project partner is subject to the same rules as would apply if the expenditures were declared by the Project Promoter.

4. The National Focal Point shall ensure that the Programme Operator verifies that the partnership agreement complies with this Article. A draft partnership agreement or letter of intent shall be submitted to the Programme Operator before the signing of the project contract.

Chapter 4
Finance

Article 4.1
Eligible expenditures

1. Without prejudice to Article 8.9 of the Regulation, eligible expenditures of this Programme are:

a) management costs of the Programme Operator in accordance with the detailed budget in the financial plan;

b) payments to projects within this Programme in accordance with the Regulation, this Programme Agreement and the project contract; and

c) payments to activities funded by the bilateral funds allocated to the programme.

2. Expenditures of Project Promoters and project partners are eligible provided that they are in accordance with the provisions of Chapter 8 of the Regulation and any further provisions contained in this Programme Agreement.

3. The first date of eligibility of expenditures in projects shall be set in the project contract in accordance with Article 8.14 of the Regulation. The first date of eligibility of any pre-defined project shall be no earlier than the date of entry into force of the Programme Agreement.

4. The maximum eligible costs of the categories referred to in paragraph 1 are set in this Programme Agreement. Programme specific rules on the eligibility of expenditure set in this Programme Agreement shall be complied with.

Article 4.2
Proof of expenditure

Costs incurred by Programme Operators, Project Promoters and project partners shall be supported by documentary evidence as required in Article 8.12 of the Regulation.

Article 4.3
Proof of conditions fulfilled for simplified cost options

Costs of the Programme Operators, Project Promoters and project partners that are covered by simplified cost options shall be supported by the proof of conditions fulfilled in accordance with Article 8.13 of the Regulation.

Article 4.4
Payments

1. Payments to the Programme shall be made when all relevant conditions for payments stipulated in this Programme Agreement and the Regulation have been fulfilled.

2. Payments to the Programme shall take the form of an advance payment, interim payments and payment of the final balance and shall be made in accordance with Articles 9.2, 9.3 and 9.5 of the Regulation.

3. Payments of the project grant to the Project Promoters may take the form of advance payments, interim payments and payments of the final balance.

4. The National Focal Point shall ensure that payments are transferred in accordance with Article 9.1.2 of the Regulation.

5. Chapter 9 of the Regulation shall apply to all aspects related to payments, including currency exchange rules and handling of interests on bank accounts.

Article 4.5
Transparency and availability of documents

The National Focal Point shall ensure an audit trail for financial contributions from the Norwegian Financial Mechanism 2021-2028 to the Programme in accordance with Article 9.8 of the Regulation.

Article 4.6
Irregularities, suspension and reimbursements

The NMFA has the right to make use of the remedies provided in the Regulation, in particular Chapter 13 thereof. The National Focal Point has a duty to take all necessary measures to ensure that the provisions in Chapter 12 and 13 of the Regulation regarding irregularities, suspension of payments, financial corrections and reimbursement are complied with.

Chapter 5
Final provisions

Article 5.1
Dispute settlement

1. The Parties waive their rights to bring any dispute related to the Programme Agreement before any

national or international court and agree to settle such a dispute in an amicable manner.

2. If a demand for reimbursement to the NMFA is not complied with by the Beneficiary State, or a dispute related to a demand for reimbursement arises that cannot be solved in accordance with paragraph 1, the Parties may bring the dispute before Oslo Tingrett.

Article 5.2
Termination

1. The NMFA may, after consultation with the National Focal Point, terminate this Programme Agreement if:

a) a general suspension decision according to Article 13.6 of the Regulation or a decision to suspend payments according to point (h) of Article 13.1.1 of the Regulation has not been lifted within 6 months of such a decision;

b) a suspension of payments according to Article 13.1 of the Regulation, other than under point (h) of Article 13.1.1, has not been lifted within one year of such a decision;

c) a request for reimbursement according to Article 13.2 of the Regulation has not been complied with within one year from such a decision;

d) the Programme Operator becomes bankrupt, is deemed to be insolvent, or declares that it does not have the financial capacity to continue with the implementation of the Programme; or

e) the Programme Operator has, in the opinion of the NMFA, been engaged in corruption, fraud or similar activities or has not taken the appropriate measures to detect or prevent such activities or, if they have occurred, nullify their effects.

2. This Programme Agreement can be terminated by mutual agreement between the Parties.

3. Termination does not affect the right of the Parties to make use of the dispute settlement mechanism referred to in Article 5.1 or the right of the NMFA to make use of the remedies provided in Chapter 13 of the Regulation.

Article 5.3
Waiver of responsibility

1. Any appraisal of the Programme undertaken before or after its approval by the NMFA, does not in any way diminish the responsibility of the National Focal Point and the Programme Operator to verify and confirm the correctness of the documents and information forming the basis of the Programme Agreement.

2. Nothing contained in the Programme Agreement shall be construed as imposing upon the NMFA or the FMO any responsibility of any kind for the supervision, execution, completion, or operation of the Programme or its projects.

3. The NMFA does not assume any risk or responsibility whatsoever for any damages, injuries, or other possible adverse effects caused by the Programme or its projects including, but not limited to inconsistencies in the planning of the Programme or its projects, other project(s) that might affect it or that it might affect, or public discontent. It is the full and sole responsibility of the National Focal Point and the Programme Operator to satisfactorily address such issues.

4. Neither the National Focal Point, the Programme Operator, entities involved in the implementation of projects, nor any other party shall have recourse to the NMFA for further financial support or assistance to the Programme in whatsoever form over and above what has been provided for in the Programme Agreement.

5. Neither the European Free Trade Association, its Secretariat, including the FMO, its officials or employees, nor the NMFA, its officials or employees, can be held liable for any damages or injuries of whatever nature sustained by the National Focal Point or the Beneficiary State, the Programme Operator, Project Promoters or any other third person, in connection, be it direct or indirect, with this Programme Agreement.

6. Nothing in this Programme Agreement shall be construed as a waiver of diplomatic immunities and privileges awarded to the European Free Trade Association, its assets, officials or employees.

Article 5.4
Entry into force and duration

1. This Programme Agreement shall enter into force on the date of the last signature of the Parties.

2. This Programme Agreement shall remain in force until five years have elapsed after the date of the acceptance of the Final Programme Report.

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This programme agreement is drawn up in two originals in the English language.

For the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs	For the National Focal Point
Signed in ..... on	Signed in ..... on .....
.....	.....

Annex I to the Programme Agreement

Roles	
Programme Operator:	Ministry of Investments, Regional Development and Informatization of the Slovak Republic
Donor Programme Partner:	Norwegian Directorate of Health (HDIR)
IPO:	Council of Europe (CoE) European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA)
Other Programme Partner(s):	-

Indicator	Disaggregation	Unit of measurement	Data source	Baseline	Planned Target[1]
PA10 objective: Prevention and combatting of domestic and gender-based violence in line with international and European human rights standards.					
Outcome 1: Access to protection and support for survivors of domestic and gender-based violence improved					
Number of public institutions and civil society organisations supported to expand or strengthen support and assistance networks operating in line with CoE standards		Cumulative number	PP records	0	16
Number of counselling centres and shelters operating in compliance with CoE standards		Cumulative number	PP records; CMC monitoring reports	26	30
Output 1.1: Services for survivors of domestic and gender-based expanded					
Number of counselling centres/shelters established or expanded to meet the Council of Europe standards, including services for specific vulnerable groups		Cumulative number	PP records	0	14
Number of pilot projects on sexual assaults centres implemented, transferring best practice from Norway		Cumulative number	PP records	0	2
Number of cases of survivors of domestic and gender-based violence supported	Gender	Cumulative number	PP records	0	700
Number of cases of survivors of sexual violence supported	Gender	Cumulative number	PP records	0	100
Output 1.2: Awareness and professional capacity on DGBV prevention strengthened					
Average engagement rate (%) of online advocacy/awareness campaigns		Percentage	PP records; Built-in analytics from social media, website and email marketing platforms	N/A	15 %

[1] Planned targets included in the above table represent the level of ambition at the time of Programme Agreement conclusion or following major modifications of the Programme. These targets shall not be used to measure the level of success of the programme. Actual targets following project contracting shall be reported on annually in the Country Reports and the Final Programme Report.

Number of professionals who have successfully completed training about the specific needs and rights of Roma women and women facing multiple and intersecting forms of disadvantage as victims of DGBV[2]	Gender	Cumulative number	PP records	0	30
Number of awareness raising and educational campaigns		Cumulative number	PP records	0	14
Number of people self-reporting a change in their attitudes from educational activities	Gender	Cumulative number	PP records	0	500
Output 1.3: Institutional and policy framework for coordinated prevention and protection against DGBV strengthened					
Number of assessments, studies or mappings completed		Cumulative number	Official reports or publications of completed assessments PP records	0	5
Number of new or improved national coordination initiatives ensuring multi-sectoral response to domestic and gender-based violence		Cumulative number	PP records	0	8
PA07 objective: Enhanced inclusion and empowerment of Roma.					
Outcome 2: Social inclusion of Roma communities enhanced					
Number of Roma people benefitting from supported services[3]	Gender	Cumulative number	PP records	0	2,000
Number of deprived or segregated neighbourhoods or settlements supported		Cumulative number	PP records	0	10
Number of cooperation mechanisms (formal or informal) established specifically to facilitate structured dialogue between Roma and pro-Roma organisations and local authorities[4]		Cumulative number	PP records	0	10
Output 2.1: Services to marginalised Roma communities provided					
Number of Roma people directly benefiting from supported healthcare or health-related services	Age	Cumulative number	PP records	0	500
Number of Roma people directly benefiting from supported housing services	Gender	Cumulative number	PP records	0	500

[2] For example: service providers, hospital or SAC staff, etc.

[3] At outcome-level the indicator will look at the overall population benefitting from the supported services by using a demographic multiplier to estimate indirect impact.
Indirect beneficiaries will be calculated primarily at the household level, based on the assumption that support provided to an individual has an impact on other members of their household. The multiplier will therefore be derived from the average household size in the given locality, using available statistical data.

[4] For instance, joint working groups, participation in advisory councils and consultations, designation of liaison officers, as well as community-based, informal or semi-formal activities enabling regular interaction, dialogue and trust-building between Roma communities and local authorities.

Number of Roma people directly benefiting from antidiscrimination activities	Gender	Cumulative number	PP records	0	1,000
Number of joint activities between Roma and non-Roma	Gender	Cumulative number	PP records	0	30
Number of Roma people directly benefiting from supported employment services	Gender	Cumulative number	PP records	0	500
Number of Roma children and adults directly benefiting from supported educational services	Gender	Cumulative number	PP records	0	500
Output 2.2: Strengthened capacities for Roma inclusion and empowerment					
Number of consultations held with relevant stakeholders including affected communities during project planning and implementation		Cumulative number	PP records	0	20
Number of supported Roma or pro-Roma CSOs working specifically on Roma women and girls inclusion and empowerment with increased capacity		Cumulative number	FO/PP records	0	5
Number of Roma individuals attending training, workshops, or mentoring programs on leadership or advocacy	Gender	Cumulative number	PP records	0	500
Number of supported Roma or pro-Roma CSOs working on Roma inclusion and empowerment with increased capacity		Cumulative number	FO/PP records	0	15
Bilateral Outcome: Enhanced collaboration between beneficiary and donor state entities involved in the programme					
Level of relevance of the partnership		Scale 1-5	FMO survey	N/A	4
Level of effectiveness of the partnership		Scale 1-5	FMO survey	N/A	4
Level of efficiency of the partnership		Scale 1-5	FMO survey	N/A	4
Level of added value of the partnership		Scale 1-5	FMO survey	N/A	4
Level of sustainability of the partnership		Scale 1-5	FMO survey	N/A	4
Level of involvement of the project partner in the project		Scale 1-5	FMO survey	N/A	4
Level of trust between partners		Scale 1-5	FMO survey	N/A	4
Level of overall satisfaction with the partnership		Scale 1-5	FMO survey	N/A	4
Bilateral Output 1: Enhanced collaboration between Beneficiary State and Donor State entities					
Percentage of projects involving cooperation with a donor project partner		Percentage	PP records	N/A	20 %

Conditions

General

1. The maximum level of funding for investment in infrastructure and equipment (hard measures) in the Programme is set at 50 % of the total eligible expenditure of the Programme. The maximum level under Outcome 1 is set at 50 % of the total eligible expenditure of Outcome 1 (with maximum 40% for infrastructure), and the maximum level under Outcome 2 is set at 50 % of the total eligible expenditure of Outcome 2 (with maximum 40% for infrastructure).

2. The National Focal Point shall ensure that the Programme Operator ensures that Project Promoters:

- Keep any buildings purchased, constructed, renovated or reconstructed under the project in their ownership for a period of at least 5 years following the completion of the project and continue to use such buildings for the benefit of the overall objectives of the project for the same period;
- Keep any buildings purchased, constructed, renovated or reconstructed under the project properly insured against losses such as fire, theft and other normally insurable incidents both during project implementation and for at 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.

Pre-eligibility

3. No costs shall be eligible under the pre-defined project “Enhancing the quality and scope of combating violence against women and domestic violence”, before all requested information on the budget for the pre-defined project has been submitted by the Programme Operator and the NMFA has confirmed the grant to the project as described in Annex II to this Programme Agreement.

Pre-payment

Not applicable

Pre-completion

Not applicable

Post-completion

Not applicable

Eligibility of costs - period	**First date**	**Final date**
Eligibility of costs	06/06/2025	30/04/2032
Grant rate and co-financing		
Programme eligible expenditure (€)		€ 27,829,411.76
Programme grant rate (%)		85.00 %
Maximum amount of Programme grant - EEA Financial Mechanism (€)		-
Maximum amount of Programme grant - Norwegian Financial Mechanism (€)		€ 23,700,000.00
Maximum amount of Programme grant - Total (€)		€ 23,700,000.00

PA	Budget Heading	Norway Grants	Total grant	Programme grant rate	Programme co-financing	Programme eligible expenditure	Grant advance payment
PM	Programme management	€ 1,638,000.00	€ 1,638,000.00	85.00 %	€ 289,058.82	€ 1,927,058.82	€ 192,705.88
PA10	Outcome 1 (Norway Grants)	€ 10,881,000.00	€ 10,881,000.00	85.00 %	€ 1,920,176.47	€ 12,801,176.47	€ 530,000.00
PA07	Outcome 2 (Norway Grants)	€ 10,881,000.00	€ 10,881,000.00	85.00 %	€ 1,920,176.47	€ 12,801,176.47	€ 0.00
BF	Bilateral funds at programme level	€ 300,000.00	€ 300,000.00	n/a[5]	n/a[6]	€ 300,000.00	€ 0.00
Total		**€ 23,700,000.00**	**€ 23,700,000.00**	**85.00 %**	**€ 4,129,411.76**	**€ 27,829,411.76**	**€ 722,705.88**

Retention of management costs	
Retention of management costs - Percentage of the management costs	10.00 %
Retention of management costs - Planned Euro value	€ 192,705.88

[5] Grant amount of Bilateral fund at programme level is not relevant for the calculation of programme grant rate

[6] Grant amount of Bilateral fund at programme level is not relevant for the calculation of programme co-financing

Social

Operational rules (Annex II)

1. Programme summary

This Annex sets out the operational rules for the programme. The Programme Agreement is based on the MoUs, the Concept Note, and comments made by the FMC. Commitments, statements and guarantees, explicit as well as implicit, made in the Concept Note, are binding for the National Focal Point and the Programme Operator unless otherwise explicitly stipulated in the annexes to this Programme Agreement.

The programme focuses on two closely interconnected target groups: Marginalised Roma Communities (MRC) and women with experience or at risk of domestic and gender-based violence (DGBV), along with their children.

Outcome 1: Access to protection and support for survivors of domestic and gender-based violence improved shall be addressed through 2 open calls for proposals (Call 1 and Call 2) and a pre-defined project (PDP 1).

Call 1 shall support projects building new and expanding the existing network of specialised support services for women with experience or at risk of domestic and gender-based violence and their children. The focus will be on specifically vulnerable groups of women, such as Roma women and women vulnerable for other reasons (e.g. refugee women, women with addictions or in dependent relationships, women with disabilities).

Call 2 shall support the establishment and operation of at least 2 Sexual Assault Centers (SAC) within hospitals with emergency departments, equipped for 24/7 operation, which shall provide services to victims of sexual violence free of charge**.**

PDP 1 shall support the activities of the Coordinating-Methodological Centre for the Prevention of Violence against Women (CMC), with focus on improving the quality and scope of measures to combat violence against women and domestic violence in Slovakia.

Outcome 2: Social inclusion of Roma communities enhanced shall be addressed by 1 open call for proposals.

Call 3 shall focus on local interventions in municipalities with marginalised Roma communities, with an emphasis on building partnerships among national, regional and local administrations, community centres, field workers, Roma communities, civil society, schools, and specialised service providers, with specific attention to the needs and empowerment of Roma women.

2. Selection of projects

2.1 Calls and availability of funds (including number of calls, duration of calls, and estimated size):

The project grant rate shall in all cases be set at a level that complies with the State Aid rules in force and takes into account any and all other forms of public support granted to projects. Any remaining costs of the project shall be provided or obtained by the Project Promoter and/or the project partners.

Modality	**Available amount (€)**	**Project grant rate (%)**	**Minimum and maximum project grant amount (€)**	**Indicative launch date and duration of call**
Outcome 1				
Call 1	€ 7,651,177	100%	€100,000 – €700,000	Launch date: Q2 - Q3 2026 Duration: 4 months
Call 2	€ 2,500,000	100%	€400,000 – €600,000	Launch date: Q2 - Q3 2026 Duration: 4 months
Outcome 2				
Call 3	€ 12,801,177	100%	€100,000 – €1,000,000	Launch date: Q3 - Q4 2026 Duration: 4 months

Specifics for all calls:

- Projects addressing challenges arising from the invasion of Ukraine shall be granted additional points.

Call 1 specifics:

- Partnerships between mainstream service providers and Roma-led, community-based organisations or sector-specific organisations shall be encouraged.

- All supported specialised service providers shall be required to cooperate with the Slovak Coordination-Methodological Centre for the Prevention of Violence against Women (CMC) for the purpose of the monitoring and evaluation of their services by the CMC.

Call 2 specifics:

- All project promoters and/or partners shall be required to cooperate with the Slovak Coordination-Methodological Centre for the Prevention of Violence against Women (CMC), the Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family (MLSAF) and the Programme Operator.
- A SAC Sustainability Board shall be established composed of representatives of the hospitals establishing SACs, the Coordinating-Methodological Centre for the Prevention of Violence against Women (CMC), the Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family (MLSAF) and the Ministry of Health, and with the Ministries of Justice and Interior invited as appropriate. The Board will provide a platform for hospitals to share challenges and coordinate with responsible institutions to ensure the long-term sustainability of SAC services. The Board shall also explore how the SACs can be integrated in the health and social care system to ensure long-term sustainability.

Call 3 specifics:

- Consultation with key Roma and pro-Roma stakeholders will take place in the development of the call for proposals.
- Supported activities shall combine at least two of the following areas of intervention: health, education, employment, housing and non-discrimination, based on locally identified needs.
- Priority will be given to projects in the priority districts[7]by awarding additional points.

2.2 Eligible applicants and project partners:

Call	Eligible applicants	Eligible partners
1	Any entity, public or private, commercial or non-commercial and non-governmental organisations, established as a legal person in Slovakia registered or accredited according to the Act No. 448/2008 Coll. on Social Services and on change and amendment of the Act No. 455/1991 Coll. or accredited according to Act No. 305/2005 Coll. on the Socio-legal Protection of the Child and on Social Guardianship or accredited according to the Act No. 274/2017 Coll. on Victims of crime.	As per Article 7.2.2 of the Regulation At least one entity meeting the Council of Europe minimum standards or the Slovak Coordination- Methodological Centre for the Prevention of Violence against Women (CMC) shall be a mandatory partner in cases where the Project Promoter does not meet the Council of Europe minimum standards on support services for combatting violence against women.[8]

[7] "Priority districts" shall be understood as districts designated in accordance with Act No. 271/2025 Coll. on the Support of Priority Districts and the generally binding legal regulation issued by the Ministry of Investments, Regional Development and Informatization of the Slovak Republic, which keeps and publishes the list of priority districts.

[8] "Combating violence against women: minimum standards for support services" (Council of Europe, 2008)

	Public entities and non-governmental organisations established as a legal entity in Slovakia implementing programmes for perpetrators of domestic and gender-based violence.	
2	Public hospitals Public or private healthcare institutions with emergency departments.	As per Article 7.2.2 of the Regulation.
3	Public entities and non-governmental organisations established as a legal entity in Slovakia, active in the field of Roma inclusion.	As per Article 7.2.2 of the Regulation.

2.3 Selection procedures:

Applications that meet the administrative and eligibility criteria shall be reviewed by three impartial experts. In view of establishing a pool of experts, each of the following entities shall be invited to nominate one expert: the Donor Programme Partner, the Council of Europe (CoE) for calls 1 and 2 under Outcome 1, the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA) for call 3 under Outcome 2, the Programme Operator and the relevant competent public institution. All experts shall be independent and external to the entities nominating experts.

All Selection Committees shall include 5 voting members:

- For Calls 1 and 2, the members shall be representatives of the following entities: the Programme Operator, the Norwegian Directorate of Health (HDIR), the Council of Europe (CoE), a member nominated by representatives of civil society and one additional member appointed by the Programme Operator.
- For Call 3, the members shall be representatives of the following entities: the Programme Operator, the Norwegian Directorate of Health (HDIR), the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA), a member nominated by representatives of civil society and one additional member appointed by the Programme Operator.

The Selection Committees shall reach its conclusions through majority votes where no consensus can be reached. The rules and procedure of the Selection Committees shall be included in the call for proposals.

3. Pre-defined projects

1) "Enhancing the quality and scope of combatting violence against women and domestic violence"

Project Promoter: Institute for Labour and Family Research

Donor project partner(s):	Norwegian Centre for Violence and Traumatic Stress Studies (NKVTS)
Other project partner(s):	Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family of the Slovak Republic (MLSAF)
Total maximum eligible costs:	€ 2,650,000
Project grant rate:	100.00 %
Maximum project grant amount:	€ 2,650,000
Estimated duration:	52 months

The project aims to strengthen Slovakia's systemic response to violence against women and domestic violence by enhancing research, coordination, and evidence-based policymaking. The project shall contribute to the correct transposition of Directive 2024/1385 into national policies, addressing violence prevention and survivors' protection, including survivors of sexual violence. The project shall support multi-sectoral cooperation, provide training to professionals across various sectors, and conduct research on DGBV prevalence, service gaps, legal shortcomings and on the links between poverty, social exclusion, and gender-based violence.

The main activities shall include:

1. **Analytical tasks for transposition of Directive 2024/1385**: Conduct data collection and analysis on incident reporting, service availability, accessibility, and legal gaps to ensure contextualised, evidence-based transposition aligned with EU standards and best practices.
2. **Research on effectiveness of protection and support measures**: Examine the impact of current measures, including the responsiveness of the judiciary and broader protection systems to survivors and their children.
3. **Regional coordination to strengthen multi-sectoral response**: Engage eight regional coordinators to disseminate guidelines, support cooperation among institutions, and deliver training to enhance consistency in addressing DGBV cases.
4. **Monitoring harmful gender norms and discriminatory attitudes**: Assess the extent and forms of harmful gender norms to support improvements in primary prevention of gender-based violence, discrimination, and sexism.
5. **Exploring synergies between Roma inclusion and violence against women (VAW)**: Investigate links between gender and ethnic discrimination, social exclusion, poverty, and GBV to improve understanding and targeted interventions.
6. **Training and networking for Roma inclusion projects**: Provide capacity building for personnel working in Roma inclusion initiatives to ensure they can identify and respond effectively to cases of violence.
7. **Victim centred dissemination and awareness activities**: Promote coordinated messaging and local dissemination of knowledge to shift societal norms and reinforce a survivor centred approach.
8. **Support for policy development and methodological guidance**: Equip policymakers, particularly MLSAF, with research-based guidance for legislative and non-legislative measures related to violence prevention and survivor support.

4. Bilateral relations

The bilateral funds for the programme will prioritise education, training and capacity-building activities. The following may be explored in cooperation with the Donor Programme Partner:

- support the transfer of Norwegian know-how to Slovakia in the establishment and operation of Sexual Assault Centres (SACs), including multidisciplinary response models, forensic procedures, survivor-centred and trauma-informed care.
- strengthen the quality and availability of perpetrator programmes through exchange of experience with Norwegian institutions and experts.
- enhance the professional capacities of practitioners from the social-legal protection system, healthcare sector, judiciary, police and related institutions, with particular attention to the protection of children and the needs of women from marginalised groups, including Roma women.
- address emerging forms of violence, in particular sexual violence and digital harassment, through expert exchanges.
- partnership-building and knowledge-exchange activities implemented in cooperation with the SYNERGY Network aimed at strengthening programme-level learning, dissemination of good practice and innovation in the prevention of and response to domestic and gender-based violence.

A targeted bilateral initiative addressing gaps in the coverage of domestic and gender-based violence in the education of social workers and related professions shall be explored.

A study-trip to Norway and Donor visit to Sexual Assault Centres (SAC) in Slovakia shall be organised and financed from the programme management costs budget.

The Cooperation Committee shall consist of representative(s) of the Programme Operator, the Norwegian Directorate of Health (HDIR) as Donor Programme Partner, the Council of Europe (CoE) and the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA) as International Partner Organisations and the Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family of the Slovak Republic and the Office of the Plenipotentiary for Roma Communities.

5. Programme management and financial parameters

5.1 Special rules on eligibility of costs:

Management costs shall take the form of eligible direct staff costs actually incurred and a flat rate of 30% of eligible direct staff costs, covering all remaining costs, in line with Article 8.7 in the Regulation.

5.2 Programme administrative structures:

The Programme Operator shall ensure that all supported projects and activities are consistent with the values and principles set out in Article 1.3.1 of the Regulation (hereafter referred to as "the values"), and abstains from supporting operations that may fail to do so, through procedures described in, inter alia, the management and control systems and the project contract. The project selection procedure shall be conducted in accordance with the values and in a transparent and non-discriminatory manner. The Programme Operator shall during project selection and prior to signing project contracts, assess the compliance of the project activities and all entities involved within the project with the values. Concerns regarding compliance with the values may be raised by the impartial experts scoring the projects and during the Selection Committee meetings, and shall be recorded in the minutes of the meeting. An obligation on continued compliance with the values, including clear indications of the consequences for failure to do so, shall be included in the project contract. The project contract shall also require that the values are reflected in governance, decision-making, internal procedures and communication with partners. Throughout project implementation, project reporting shall include reporting on compliance with the values, and the PO shall carry out substantive monitoring on this aspect. Suspected breaches of the principles of implementation shall constitute a risk factor, and influence selection for verifications and monitoring. Both administrative and on-the spot verifications may be conducted, as appropriate. The Programme Operator is committed to take corrective measures where necessary at all stages of the project lifecycle in cases of non-compliance with the values.

6. Miscellaneous

Not applicable.