

## **ADDENDUM**

to

**Norwegian Financial Mechanism 2014-2021**

### **PROGRAMME AGREEMENT**

for the financing of the Programme “Domestic and Gender-based Violence”  
hereinafter referred to as the “Programme Agreement”

between

The Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs  
hereinafter referred to as the “NMFA”

and

Government Office of the Slovak Republic,  
hereinafter referred to as the “National Focal Point”,  
representing the Slovak Republic,  
hereinafter referred to as the “Beneficiary State”

together hereinafter referred to as the “Parties”

Article 1

1. The Annexes to the Norwegian Financial Mechanism Programme Agreement for the financing of the Programme SK DOMESTIC AND GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE are replaced by the Annexes sent with this Addendum.
2. The modifications contained in the new versions of Annex I and Annex II to the Programme Agreement entered into force on 28 June 2019.

Article 2

This Addendum and the Annexes accompanying it constitute an integral part of the Programme Agreement. Except from the modifications stated above, the Programme Agreement remains unchanged.

Signed in Brussels on.....

Signed in .....on.....

For the NMFA

For the National Focal Point

.....  
Henning Stirø  
Director  
Financial Mechanism Office

.....  
Matúš Šutaj Eštok  
Head  
Government Office of the Slovak Republic

**Annex I**

<b>Programme Operator and Partners</b>	
Programme Operator:	Government Office of the Slovak Republic
Donor Programme Partner:	Norwegian Directorate of Health
International Partner Organisation:	Council of Europe (CoE)
Other Programme Partner(s):	Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family of the Slovak Republic

<b>Programme Objective</b>		<b>Domestic and gender-based violence prevented and victims protected and assisted</b>							
<b>PA</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Expected programme results</b>	<b>Indicator</b>	<b>Unit of measurement</b>	<b>Source of verification</b>	<b>Frequency of report</b>	<b>Baseline value</b>	<b>Baseline year</b>	<b>Target value</b>
<b>PA04</b>	<b>Outcome 1</b>	<i>Understanding of gender equality increased</i>	Share of population (targeted by awareness-raising activities) favourable to gender equality (disaggregated by gender)	Percentage	Survey results	Annually (APR)	TBD <sup>1</sup>	2019	(+15%)
			Share of population (targeted by awareness-raising activities) that reject gender stereotyping	Percentage	Survey results	Annually (APR)	TBD <sup>1</sup>	2019	(+15%)
			Share of students (in targeted schools) favourable to gender equality (disaggregated by gender)	Percentage	Survey results	Annually (APR)	TBD <sup>1</sup>	2019	(+20%)
			Share of students (in targeted schools) rejecting gender stereotyping	Percentage	Survey results	Annually (APR)	TBD <sup>1</sup>	2019	(+15%)
	<b>Output 1.1</b>	<i>Measures targeting education and</i>	Number of awareness-raising campaigns promoting gender equality	Number	Project promoters' records	Semi-annually <sup>2</sup>	0	N/A	10

<sup>1</sup> Survey to be conducted after launching the small grant scheme call.

<sup>2</sup> In APR and September IFR

		<i>awareness-raising activities in the field of gender equality implemented</i>	Number of institutions active in the field of gender equality supported	Number	Project contracts, partnership contracts	Semi-annually	0	N/A	10
			Number of schools from marginalised Roma communities to which lectures specifically focused on gender equality have been provided	Number	Lists of schools, attendance sheets	Semi-annually	0	N/A	25
			Number of schools provided with lectures focused on gender equality	Number	Lists of schools, attendance sheets	Semi-annually	0	N/A	79
			Number of specialised educational materials developed	Number	Copies of materials	Semi-annually	0	N/A	4
<b>PA22</b>	<b>Outcome 2</b>	<b><i>Victims of domestic and gender-based violence protected and supported</i></b>	Number of beneficiaries of services provided (disaggregated by gender)	Number	Project promoters' records	Annually (APR)	0	2017	700
			Share of supported counselling centres meeting CoE standards <sup>3</sup>	Percentage	Project promoters' records	Annually (APR)	TBD	N/A	(+20%)
	<b>Output 2.1</b>	<b><i>Services for victims of domestic and gender-based violence preserved</i></b>	Number of awareness raising and educational campaigns implemented by the centres and shelters	Number	Campaign materials	Semi-annually	0	N/A	10
			Number of existing counselling centres supported	Number	Project contracts	Semi-annually	0	N/A	35

<sup>3</sup> The standards are set in the Istanbul Convention and in the Council of Europe document 'Combating violence against women: minimum standards for support services' and are adapted to Slovakia by the CMC.

			Number of existing places in shelters supported	Number	Project contracts	Semi-annually	0	N/A	200
			Number of service providers running or participating in a consortium with public institutions at local level	Number	Project contracts	Semi-annually	0	N/A	43
	Output 2.2	<i>Services for victims of domestic and gender-based expanded or enhanced</i>	Number of counselling centres established or specialised to meet the required standards <sup>3</sup>	Number	Project promoters' records	Semi-annually	0	N/A	15
Number of places in shelters created or specialised to meet the required standards <sup>3</sup>			Number	Project promoters' records	Semi-annually	0	N/A	50	
Number of shelters and counselling centres enhanced in terms of children needs			Number	Project promoters' records	Semi-annually	0	N/A	43	
	Output 2.3	<i>Services to specific target groups provided</i>	Number of counselling centres supported, providing services to specific target groups, such as victims or rape, victims with addictions	Number	Project contracts	Semi-annually	0	N/A	2
Number of counselling centres working with perpetrators			Number	Project contracts	Semi-annually	0	N/A	1	
Number of pilot projects on sexual assaults units implemented, transferring best practice from Norway			Number	Project contracts	Semi-annually	0	N/A	2	
<b>PA22</b>	<b>Outcome 3</b>	<b><i>Response systems to victims of domestic and</i></b>	Annual number of cases of gender-based and domestic violence officially reported (disaggregated by gender)	Annual number	Ministry of Justice statistics/Police statistics	Annually (APR)	708	2017	800

		<b><i>gender-based violence improved</i></b>	Level of satisfaction of institutions and organisations involved in the response systems with the effectiveness of the response system	Scale 1-10	Survey results List of participants	2022 (APR)	TBD	2019	(+2)
	Output 3.1	<i>Coordination and methodological teams established</i>	Number of regional coordination and methodological teams established	Number	Bylaws of regional coordination and methodological teams	Semi-annually	0	N/A	7
	Output 3.2	<i>Institutions in the field of DGBV trained</i>	In-depth analyses carried out	Binary	Copy of analysis	Semi-annually	No	N/A	Yes
			Number of CoE HELP training courses translated and adapted to Slovakia	Number	Copy of translated course	Semi-annually	0	N/A	1
			Number of lectures and consultations provided to supporting professions	Number	Attendance sheets	Semi-annually	0	N/A	47
			Number of professional staff trained (disaggregated by gender, Roma)	Number	List of training participants	Semi-annually	0	N/A	150
			Number of standards for institutions active in the field of Domestic and gender-based Violence elaborated in cooperation with the IPO in place	Number	Copies of the elaborated standards	Semi-annually	0	N/A	1
	Output 3.3	<i>Specialised police teams created</i>	Number of specialised police teams created	Number	Police records	Semi-annually	0	N/A	10

	Output 3.4	<i>Police facilities upgraded to cater for sensitivity to victims of domestic and gender-based violence</i>	Number of rooms in police stations customized to the needs of victims of domestic and gender-based violence	Number	Police records	Semi-annually	0	N/A	8
Bilateral	Bilateral outcome	<b><i>Enhanced collaboration between Beneficiary and Donor State entities involved in the programme</i></b>	Level of satisfaction with the partnership (disaggregated by Beneficiary State, Donor State)	Scale 1-7	Survey results	Annually (APR)	TBD <sup>4</sup>	2018	≥4.5, and an increase on the baseline value
			Level of trust between cooperating entities in Beneficiary States and Donor States (disaggregated by Beneficiary State, Donor State)	Scale 1-7	Survey results	Annually (APR)	TBD <sup>5</sup>	2018	≥4.5, and an increase on the baseline value
			Number of best practices transferred from Norway to Slovakia	Number	Project promoters' records	Annually (APR)	1 <sup>5</sup>	2017	3 <sup>6</sup>
			Share of cooperating organisations that apply the knowledge acquired from bilateral partnership (disaggregated by Beneficiary State, Donor State)	Percentage	Survey results	Annually (APR)	N/A	N/A	≥50%
	Bilateral output 1	<i>Cooperation between Donor and Beneficiary State entities facilitated</i>	Number of projects involving cooperation with a donor project partner (disaggregated by Donor State)	Number	Copies of project contracts	Semi-annually	0	N/A	4
			Number of staff from beneficiary states in exchanges or secondments focused on the establishment of sexual assault units (disaggregated by gender, Donor State)	Number	List of participants	Semi-annually	0	N/A	4

<sup>4</sup> Survey shall be conducted by the FMO.

<sup>5</sup> One best practice was transferred during FM09-14

<sup>6</sup> Net number of practices transferred during FM14-21 will be 2.

			Number of staff from beneficiary states in exchanges focused on children victims of violence (disaggregated by gender, Donor State)	Number	List of participants	Semi-annually	0	N/A	4
			Number of staff from donor states in exchanges focused on children victims of violence (disaggregated by gender, Donor State)	Number	List of participants	Semi-annually	0	N/A	2
			Number of staff from donor states in exchanges or secondments focused on the establishment of sexual assault units (disaggregated by gender, Donor State)	Number	List of participants	Semi-annually	0	N/A	2
			Number of workshops on sharing experience on providing services to minorities	Number	Attendance sheets	Semi-annually	0	N/A	2



## Conditions

### General

1. The maximum level of funding available from the total eligible expenditure of the programme for infrastructure (hard measures) shall be 30%.
2. The relevant public institution(s) in the Slovak Republic in charge of the policy area in question, including the Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family, shall be actively involved in the implementation of the programme, specifically as member(s) of the Cooperation Committee. The Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family shall be a voting member at the Selection Committee subject to the absence of any conflict of interest.
3. For Outcome 1 indicators “Share of population (targeted by awareness-raising activities) favourable to gender equality (disaggregated by gender)”, “Share of population (targeted by awareness-raising activities) that reject gender stereotyping”, “Share of students (in targeted schools) favourable to gender equality (disaggregated by gender)” and “Share of students (in targeted schools) rejecting gender stereotyping,” where the baseline value is “to be determined”, (TBD), the National Focal Point shall ensure that the Programme Operator submits to the FMO the baseline value, together with a description of the data collection method used, no later than 6 months after the finalisation of the selection of projects under the Small Grant Scheme. The updated baseline value shall be agreed upon through a modification of the programme agreement.
4. For Outcome 2 indicator “Share of supported counselling centres meeting CoE standards,” where the baseline value is “to be determined” (TBD), the National Focal Point shall ensure that the Programme Operator submits to the FMO the baseline value, together with a description of the data collection method used, no later than 6 months after the finalisation of 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.
5. For Outcome 3 indicator “Level of satisfaction of institutions and organisations involved in the response systems with the effectiveness of the response system”, where the baseline value is “to be determined” (TBD), the National Focal Point shall ensure that the Programme Operator submits 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 signature of the contract for the pre-defined project no. 2 (numbering under Section 5.1 of Annex II to the Programme Agreement). The updated baseline value shall be agreed upon through a modification of the programme agreement.
6. The National Focal Point shall ensure that the Programme Operator informs and coordinates any relevant activities with the Fund Operator of the Active Citizens Fund- Slovakia in order to seek and achieve synergies.

Pre-eligibility

Not applicable

Pre-payment

Not applicable

Pre-completion

Not applicable

Post-completion

Not applicable

<b>Eligibility of costs - period</b>	First date	End date
Eligibility of costs	29/11/2016	31/12/2024

<b>Grant rate and co-financing</b>	
Programme eligible expenditure (€)	€ 10,588,236
Programme grant rate (%)	85 %
Maximum amount of Programme grant - EEA Financial Mechanism (€)	€ 0
Maximum amount of Programme grant - Norwegian Financial Mechanism (€)	€ 9,000,000
Maximum amount of Programme grant - Total (€)	€ 9,000,000

Maximum eligible costs (€) and Advance payment amount (€)								
PA	Budget heading	EEA Grants	Norway Grants	Total grant	Programme grant rate	Programme co-financing	Programme eligible expenditure	Advance payment
PM	Programme management	€ 0	€ 815,000	€ 815,000	85 %	€ 143,824	€ 958,824	€ 239,706
PA04	Understanding of gender equality increased	€ 0	€ 1,530,000	€1,530,000	85 %	€ 270,000	€ 1,800,000	€ 72,000
PA22	Victims of domestic and gender-based violence protected and supported	€ 0	€ 5,380,000	€ 5,380,000	85 %	€ 949,412	€ 6,329,412	€ 0
PA22	Response systems to victims of domestic and gender-based violence improved	€ 0	€ 1,275,000	€ 1,275,000	85 %	€ 225,000	€ 1,500,000	€ 300,000
Total		€ 0	€ 9,000,000	€ 9,000,000	85 %	€ 1,588,236	€ 10,588,236	€ 611,706

Retention of management costs	
Retention of management costs - percentage of the management costs	10 %
Retention of management costs - planned Euro value	€ 95,882

## ANNEX II - Operational rules

### 1. Programme summary

This Annex sets out the operational rules for the programme. The programme agreement is based on the MoU, the concept note and comments made by the NMFA. 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 Operator is the Government Office of the Slovak Republic. The Norwegian Directorate of Health is the Donor Programme Partner (DPP). The Council of Europe is the International Partner Organisation (IPO). The Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family of the Slovak Republic is the Programme Partner.

The programme objective is “Domestic and gender-based violence prevented and victims protected and assisted”. The programme shall support projects within the following Programme Areas (PAs):

PA 04 “Work-life Balance”: Within this PA, the programme shall support the outcome “Understanding of gender equality increased” (Outcome 1) by way of pre-defined project (PDP no. 1) “HER STORY” and one small grant scheme (SGS) focused on capacity-building of organisations working in the field of gender equality and work-life balance.

PA 22 “Domestic and Gender-based Violence”: Within this PA, the programme shall support the outcome “Victims of domestic and gender-based violence protected and supported” (Outcome 2) by way of three calls for proposals (calls no. 1, 2 and 3). Call no. 1 will support intervention teams at local level on services for victims of domestic and gender-based violence, including children. Call no. 2 will support the improvement of the quality of the services so that they meet the required standards, including specific services for children victims. Call no. 3 will support the specialisation of services targeted at vulnerable groups, such as victims with addictions, victims of sexual abuse, as well as perpetrators of violence.

Within the same PA, the programme shall support the outcome “Response systems to victims of domestic and gender-based violence improved” (Outcome 3) by way of pre-defined projects “Improving the victim-oriented approach – a tool enhancing the capacity to fight violence against women and domestic violence” (PDP no. 2) and “Awareness raising and enhancement of the capacity to fight violence against women in Slovakia in line with Council of Europe standards” (PDP no. 3).

There shall be an ambition that shelters and counselling services for victims of domestic and gender-based violence that receive funding under this programme are operational for at least five years after the Programme Operator’s approval of the project completion report.

### 2. Eligibility

#### 2.1 Eligible applicants:

The rules on eligibility of project promoters and project partners are set in Article 7.2 of the Regulation. In accordance with Article 7.2.4, the following entities shall be eligible:

	<b>Eligible applicants (Project Promoters)</b>	<b>Eligible partners</b>
<p><b>Call no. 1</b> on intervention teams at local level on services for victims of domestic and gender-based violence, including children</p> <p><b>Outcome 2</b> “Victims of domestic and gender-based violence protected and supported”</p>	<p>Legal entities established as a legal person in the Slovak Republic, which are registered in the social services providers register or accredited providers of social services in the Slovak Republic according to the Act No. 305/2005 Coll.<sup>1</sup> on the Socio-legal Protection of the Child and on Social Guardianship or Act No. 448/2008 Coll. on Social Services and on change and amendment of the Act No. 455/1991 Coll., or Act No. 274/2017 Coll. on Victims of Crime provided that the social services providers meet the required standards<sup>2</sup></p> <p>or</p> <p>Municipalities in accordance with Act No. 369/1990 Coll. on Municipal Administration, established as a legal person in the Slovak Republic</p> <p>or</p> <p>Higher territorial units and offices of self-governing regions in accordance with Act No. 302/2001 Coll. on self-government of higher territorial units established as a legal person in the Slovak Republic</p> <p>- Eligible applicants shall have at least one entity among those listed as “Eligible partners” as project partners and;</p> <p>- At least one of the project partners or the applicant shall be a counselling centre or shelter meeting the required standards<sup>2</sup>.</p>	<p>Entities established as a legal person in the Slovak Republic:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Local Office of Labour, Social Affairs and Family</li> <li>- City police or local directorate of police corps</li> <li>- Municipalities in accordance with Act No. 369/1990 Coll. on Municipal Administration</li> <li>- State budgetary and contributory organisations established in accordance with Act No. 523/2004 Coll. on Budget Rules of the Public Service</li> <li>- Higher territorial units and offices of self-governing regions in accordance with Act No. 302/2001 Coll. on self-government of higher territorial units</li> <li>- Counselling centre or shelter meeting the required standards<sup>2</sup></li> </ul> <p>provided that at least one of the project partners or the applicant is a counselling centre or shelter meeting the required standards<sup>2</sup>.</p> <p>Other partners in addition to one project partner from the list above: any public or private entity, commercial or non-commercial, as well as non-governmental organisations established as a legal person either in Norway or in the Slovak Republic, or any international organisation or body or agency thereof.</p>
<p><b>Call no. 2</b> on improvement of the quality of services so that they meet the required standards, including specific</p>	<p>- Legal entities established as a legal person in the Slovak Republic, which are registered in the social services providers register or accredited providers of social services in the Slovak</p>	<p>Legal entities established as a legal person in the Slovak Republic, which are registered and accredited providers of social services in the Slovak Republic according to the Act No. 448/2008 Coll. on Social Services and</p>

<sup>1</sup> Collection of Acts.

<sup>2</sup> The standards are set in the Istanbul Convention and in the Council of Europe document ‘Combating violence against women: minimum standards for support services’ and are adapted to Slovakia by the Coordinating Methodical Centre.

<p>services for children victims</p> <p><b>Outcome 2</b> “Victims of domestic and gender-based violence protected and supported”</p>	<p>Republic according to the Act No. 305/2005 Coll. on the Socio-legal Protection of the Child and on Social Guardianship or Act No. 448/2008 Coll. on Social Services and on change and amendment of the Act No. 455/1991 Coll., or Act No. 274/2017 Coll. on Victims of crime, which do not meet the required standards<sup>2</sup> yet, provided that they have a project partner meeting the required standards<sup>2</sup>, or</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Legal entities established as a legal person in the Slovak Republic which are registered and accredited providers of social services in the Slovak Republic according to 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, which meet the required standards<sup>2</sup>.</li> </ul>	<p>on change and amendment of the Act No. 455/1991 Coll. or accredited according to the 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, meeting the required standards<sup>2</sup></p> <p>Other partners: any public or private entity, commercial or non-commercial, as well as non-governmental organisations established as a legal person either in Norway or in the Slovak Republic, or any international organisation or body or agency thereof.</p>
<p><b>Call no. 3</b> on specialised services targeted at vulnerable groups, as well as perpetrators of violence</p>	<p>Entities established as a legal person in the Slovak Republic:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Municipalities in accordance with Act No. 369/1990 Coll. on Municipal Administration;</li> <li>- State budgetary and contributory organizations established in accordance with Act No. 523/2004 Coll. on Budget Rules of the Public Service;</li> <li>- Higher territorial units and offices of self-governing regions in accordance with Act No. 302/2001 Coll. on self-government of higher territorial units;</li> <li>- Hospitals in accordance with Act No. 578/2004 Coll. on healthcare providers, healthcare professionals and professional organisations; or</li> <li>- Legal entities which are registered and accredited</li> </ul>	<p>Any public or private entity, commercial or non-commercial, as well as non-governmental organisations established as a legal person either in Norway or in the Slovak Republic, or any international organisation or body or agency thereof.</p>

	providers of social services in the Slovak Republic according to 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 Act No. 274/2017 Coll. on Victims of crime	
<b>SGS</b> <b>Outcome 1</b> “Understanding of gender equality increased”	In accordance with Article 7.2.1 of the Regulation	Any public or private entity, commercial or non-commercial, as well as non-governmental organisations established as a legal person either in Norway or in the Beneficiary States, or any international organisation or body or agency thereof.

Project promoters and partners must adhere to the objectives of the Istanbul Convention, including a victims-oriented, evidence-based approach to combating domestic and gender-based violence in accordance with the principles of gender equality, in line with the overall objective of the programme.

## 2.2 Special rules on eligibility of costs:

Costs are eligible in accordance with chapter 8 of the Regulation.

In-kind contributions in the form of voluntary work made in accordance with Article 6.4.5 of the Regulation in case of projects where the project promoter is an NGO or a social partner, may constitute up to 100% of the co-financing required by the programme for the project.

In accordance with Article 8.5.1 e) of the Regulation, project promoters or project partners that are international organisations or bodies or agencies thereof, may identify their indirect costs in accordance with the relevant rules established by such organisations.

## 3. Bilateral relations

### 3.1 Bilateral relations

The programme shall contribute to strengthening bilateral relations between Slovakia and Norway.

The programme shall as appropriate facilitate donor partnership projects by carrying out, *inter alia*, match-making events and activities in conjunction with launching calls for proposals, as well as by encouraging donor partnership projects in call texts.

The programme shall contribute, *inter alia*, to the following:

1. Transfer of Norwegian know-how in the field of sexual assault units;
2. Transfer of Norwegian know-how on programmes for perpetrators of violence;
3. Bilateral exchanges focused on the provision of service to minorities;
4. Bilateral exchanges focused on children victims of violence.

The further use of the funds for bilateral relations allocated to the programme shall be agreed in the Cooperation Committee.

#### 4. Selection of projects and financial parameters

##### 4.1 Open calls and availability of funds (including number of calls, duration of calls, and estimated size):

	<b>Indicative timing</b>	<b>Total available amount</b>	<b>Maximum/Minimum grant applied for</b>
<p><b>Call no. 1</b> on intervention teams at local level on services for victims of domestic and gender-based violence, including children</p> <p><b>Outcome 2</b> “Victims of domestic and gender-based violence protected and supported”</p>	2 <sup>nd</sup> half 2019	€ 3,329,412	€ 600,000/ € 200,000
<p><b>Call no. 2</b> on improvement of the quality of services so that they meet the required standards, including specific services for children victims</p> <p><b>Outcome 2</b> “Victims of domestic and gender-based violence protected and supported”</p>	09/2019	€ 2,000,000	€ 500,000/ € 200,000
<p><b>Call no. 3</b> on specialised services targeted at vulnerable groups, as well as perpetrators of violence</p> <p><b>Outcome 2</b> “Victims of domestic and gender-based violence protected and supported”</p>	1 <sup>st</sup> half2020	€ 1,000,000	€ 350,000/ € 200,000
<p><b>SGS</b></p> <p><b>Outcome 1</b></p> <p>“Understanding of gender equality increased”</p>	<p>Launched: 05/2019</p> <p>4 deadlines: 30.09.2019 31.03.2020 30.09.2020</p>	€ 1,440,000	€ 200,000/ € 100,000



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The Programme Operator shall aim to ensure the geographical distribution of funds.

#### 4.2 Selection procedures:

The project evaluation and award of grants shall be in accordance with Article 7.4 of the Regulation.

The Programme Operator shall be responsible for project evaluation and for the award of grants.

The Programme Operator shall establish a Selection Committee that shall recommend the projects to be funded within the programme. The Selection Committee shall consist of at least four persons possessing the relevant expertise. At least one of them shall be external to the Programme Operator, the DPP, the IPO and the Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family of the Slovak Republic. The DPP and IPO shall be voting members of the Selection Committee. The NMFA and the National Focal Point shall be invited to participate in the meetings of the Selection Committee as observers.

The Programme Operator shall review the applications for compliance with administrative and eligibility criteria. Applicants whose applications are rejected at this stage shall be informed and given a reasonable time to appeal that decision.

Each application that meets the administrative and eligibility criteria shall be reviewed by two experts: one of these experts shall be appointed by the Programme Operator and the other shall be appointed by the DPP and the IPO. The experts shall be impartial and independent of the Programme Operator and the Selection Committee.

The experts shall separately score the project according to the selection criteria published with the call for proposals. For the purposes of ranking the projects, the average of the scores awarded by the experts shall be used.

If the difference between the scores given by the two experts is more than 30 % of the higher score, a third expert shall be commissioned by the Programme Operator to score the project independently. In such cases the average score of the two closest scores shall be used for the ranking of the projects.

The Programme Operator shall provide the Selection Committee with a list of the ranked projects. The Selection Committee shall review the ranked list of projects. It may modify the ranking of the projects in justified cases. The justification for the modifications shall be detailed in the minutes of the meeting of the Selection Committee. If such a modification results in a project's rejection, the affected applicant shall be informed in writing about the justification for the modification. The Selection Committee shall submit the list of recommended projects to the Programme Operator.

The Programme Operator shall verify that the selection process has been conducted in accordance with the Regulation and that the recommendations from the Selection Committee comply with the rules and objectives of the programme. Following such verification, the Programme Operator shall, based on the recommendation of the Selection Committee, make a decision on which projects shall be supported. Prior to making such decision, an on the spot visit may be carried out by the Programme Operator when construction works or purchase of special equipment are foreseen in the project. If the Programme Operator modifies the decision of the Selection Committee or suggests modification of the project, it shall inform the applicants affected and provide them with a justification.

The Programme Operator shall notify the applicants about the results of the selection process within a reasonable time and publicise the results.

The process set out in this Article shall apply to all calls for proposals, including the SGS, under this programme.

The SGS call for proposals shall be open for the submission of applications for two years until the exhaustion of available funds. The applications shall be submitted by the deadlines set in the call. The expected deadlines are set out under Article 4.1. Each deadline shall be followed by the respective selection process, including the selection committee meeting.

#### 4.3 *Project grant rate:*

Grants to projects from the programme may be up to 100% of total eligible expenditure of the project. In the case of projects where the project promoter is an NGO or a social partner, as defined in Article 1.6 of the Regulation, the project grant rate may be up to 90% of total eligible expenditure of the project. 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.

## 5. **Additional mechanisms within the programme**

### 5.1 *Pre-defined projects*

There will be three pre-defined projects implemented under the programme:

#### 1) “HER STORY”

Project Promoter: Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family of the Slovak Republic

Donor project partner(s): N/A

Other project partner(s): N/A

Programme outcome the project contributes to: “Understanding of gender equality increased”

Total maximum eligible project costs: € 360,000

Project grant rate: 100%

Maximum project grant amount: € 360,000

The project aims to combat the impact of gender stereotypes and inequalities on society through education and awareness-raising. It will strengthen the capacity of teachers on gender mainstreaming in education and increase the knowledge among young people on gender equality and women’s rights.

The project will, *inter alia*, include the following activities:

- Develop and distribute educational materials to support gender equality mainstreaming in primary and secondary schools as well as universities;
- Develop and promote a documentary on gender issues, including an interactive website with additional material for educational purposes;
- Develop audio-visual lectures on gender issues, consisting of films, TV shows, adverts, expert commentary and the other material developed under the project, and deliver lectures to students across Slovakia.

#### 2) “Improving the victim-oriented approach – a tool enhancing the capacity to fight violence against women and domestic violence”

Project Promoter: Institute of Labour and Family Research

Donor project partner(s): Norwegian Centre for Violence and Traumatic Stress Studies (NKVTS)

Other project partner(s): Presidium of Police Force of the Slovak Republic, Academy of the Police Force, , Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family of the Slovak Republic, Prison and Court Guard of the Slovak Republic

Programme outcome the project contributes to: “Response systems to victims of domestic and gender-based violence improved”

Total maximum eligible project costs: € 1,300,000

Project grant rate: 100%

Maximum project grant amount: € 1,300,000

The project continues and strengthens the work of the Coordinating Methodical Centre (CMC) to develop, implement and coordinate a comprehensive national policy on preventing and combating domestic and gender-based violence, in line with the Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence (the Istanbul Convention).

The project supports the CMC in coordinating a multi-agency approach to domestic and gender-based violence, which includes the efforts of the police, justice, health and service agencies, and aims to avoid re-victimisation.

The CMC shall coordinate the cooperation between the entities involved, through regular meetings and exchanges of information, in order to ensure a mutual understanding of the need for an evidence-based and victim-oriented response to domestic and gender-based violence.

The project will, *inter alia*, include the following activities:

- Implement evidence-based policy recommendations and guidelines as well as monitoring and evaluation to improve the response to domestic and gender-based violence;
- Support the coordinated and multi-agency approach to domestic and gender-based violence at regional level;
- Research on intimate partner violence in teenage partnerships, on the basis of knowledge and best practice from Norway;
- Adapt interrogation rooms in police stations to victims of domestic and gender-based violence and train specialised police teams on cases of domestic and gender-based violence;
- Provide guidelines and training for police officers on first contact and for investigators on interviews with victims of domestic and gender-based violence;
- Develop and implement intervention programmes for perpetrators of domestic and gender-based violence, including training for professionals and an evaluation of the programmes.

3) “Awareness raising and enhancement of the capacity to fight violence against women in Slovakia in line with Council of Europe standards”

Project Promoter: Council of Europe

Donor project partner(s): N/A

Other project partner(s): Institute for Labour and Family Research of the Slovak Republic, Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family of the Slovak Republic

Programme outcome the project contributes to: “Response systems to victims of domestic and gender-based violence improved”

Total maximum eligible project costs: € 200,000

Project grant rate: 100%

Maximum project grant amount: € 200,000

The project aims to complement the efforts of the Slovak authorities to comply with Council of Europe and international standards in the area of domestic and gender-based violence.

The project will, *inter alia*, include the following activities:

- Raising awareness on Council of Europe and international standards in the area of domestic and gender-based violence through a peer-to-peer exchange among authorities and an information website/application;
- Strengthening the capacity of legal professionals by translating and adapting the dedicated Human Rights Education for Legal Professionals (HELP) course on domestic and gender-based violence into the Slovak context and providing training for judges and prosecutors;
- Support Slovakia's support services for victims of domestic and gender-based violence through sponsoring a regional conference on good practices, and producing and disseminating an in-depth analysis of existing support services for victims of domestic and gender-based violence, including recommendations to align with the Council of Europe and international standards.

## 5.2 Financial Instruments

Not applicable

## 6. Programme Management

### 6.1 Payment flows

The Programme Operator shall ensure that payments to projects are made in a timely manner. Interim and final payments to the projects shall be based on approved project reports.

Payments of the project grant shall take the form of advance payments, interim payments and a final payment. The level of advance payment to projects shall be set out in the project contract. The maximum level of advance payment shall be linked to the project budget and duration as follows:

<b>Project implementation duration<sup>3</sup></b>	<b>Advance payment</b>	<b>1<sup>st</sup> Interim payment</b>	<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Interim payment</b>	<b>3<sup>rd</sup> Interim payment</b>	<b>4<sup>th</sup> Interim payment</b>	<b>Final payment<sup>4</sup></b>
Less than 24 months	20%	40%	35%	-	-	5%
24-36 months	15%	30%	25%	25%	-	5%
More than 36 months	10%	20%	20%	25%	20%	5%

The advance payment shall be paid following the signature of the project contract. Subsequent payments shall be paid after the approval of project interim reports. The final payment will be paid after approval of the final report.

An advance payment, if any, of a percentage of the total grant amount shall be paid within 15 working days from the submission of a request or within the period set in the project contract. The interim payments shall be paid within 1 month after the approval of project interim reports.

<sup>3</sup> The project contract may set suspensive conditions related to advance, interim and/or final payments. In justified cases, at the Programme Operator's discretion, a project promoter may receive extraordinary payments to ensure sufficient funds for the projects during the implementation so as to avoid any liquidity problems, provided that the Programme Operator has sufficient capacity to proceed with these payments.

<sup>4</sup> Retention may be applied at the end of the implementation or pro rata from each advance payment and interim payments.

Upon approval of the final project report a final balance payment, if applicable, shall be made within 1 month.

The approval of project interim and final reports shall take place within 3 months from the submission of the required information.

The periodicity of reporting periods and deadlines for reporting will be further detailed in the description of the Programme Operator's management and control systems.

#### *6.2 Verification of payment claims*

Project promoters shall submit interim and final project reports containing information on project progress and incurred expenditure.

In line with point i) of Article 5.6.2 of the Regulation incurred expenditure reported shall be subject to administrative verifications before the report is approved. Verifications to be carried out shall cover administrative, financial, technical and physical aspects of projects, as appropriate, and be in accordance with the principle of proportionality. Examination of proof of expenditure related to the administrative verifications may be carried out on a sample basis.

Additionally, in line with point ii) of Article 5.6.2 of the Regulation on-the-spot verifications of projects, which may be carried out on a sample basis, shall be carried out.

The detailed procedure for verification will be further detailed in the description of the Programme Operator's management and control systems.

#### *6.3 Monitoring and reporting*

The Programme Operator shall monitor, record and report on progress towards the programme's outcomes in accordance with the provisions contained in the legal framework. The Programme Operator shall ensure that suitable and sufficient monitoring and reporting arrangements are made with the project promoters in order to enable the Programme Operator and the NFP to meet its obligations to the NMFA.

When reporting on progress achieved in Annual and Final Programme Reports, the Programme Operator shall disaggregate results achieved as appropriate and in accordance with instructions received from the FMO.

#### *6.4 Programme administrative structures*

Not applicable

### **7. Communication**

#### *7.1 Communication*

The Programme Operator shall comply with Article 3.3 of the Regulation, the Information and Communication Requirements in Annex 3 of the Regulation and the Communication plan for the programme.

**8. Miscellaneous**

Not applicable