



**Ministry of Education SR
Managing Authority for
Operational Programme Education**



**Annual Report on the Implementation
of the Operational Programme Education
for January – December 2009**

Bratislava
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INTRODUCTION

The Annual Report on the Implementation of the Operational Programme Education for January – December 2009 (hereinafter simply the “2009 Annual Report”) includes data on implementation of the Operational Programme Education (hereinafter simply the “OPE”) achieved **at the level of priority axes** in the monitoring and financial indicators as at 31 December 2009.

The Annual Report has been prepared on the basis of Article 67 of Council Regulation (EC) No 1083/2006 of 11 June 2006 and Annex XVIII of the Commission Implementing Regulation (EC) No 1828/2006 and contains the information on:

- progress made in implementing the OPE;
- the state of financial implementation of the OPE;
- programmes of the European Social Fund (hereinafter simply the “ESF”): Coherence and Concentration;
- OPE monitoring mechanisms;
- Technical Assistance (hereinafter simply “TA”);
- OPE information & publicity measures.

The report also contains information on the contribution made by implementation of the OPE to the horizontal priorities (hereinafter simply the “HPs”) defined in the National Strategic Reference Framework of the SR for 2007 – 2013 (hereinafter simply the “NSRF”).

All programme monitoring and evaluation data in relation to the priority axes and measures are broken down by the dimensions: priority theme, form of financing, territorial area, industrial classification of economic activity and location at the NUTS III level, in accordance with the requirements set out in Annex II of Commission Regulation (EC) No 1828/2006.

SUMMARY

In 2009 the Ministry of Education of the SR as the Managing Authority for the Operational Programme Education continued in implementing all the priority axes of the Operational Programme Education by declaring new direct awards for the national projects and, in connection to 2008, successfully implemented all the national projects the direct awards of which had been declared in 2008. National projects are of an extensive nature – system projects covering as a rule the whole territory of Slovakia. Their objective is to support in particular nationwide activities promoting the programme declaration of the Government of the Slovak Republic, system changes and priorities of the Government of the Slovak Republic. Beneficiaries of national projects are primarily organisations directly managed by the SR Ministry of Education. A national project is founded on implementation of activities based on clearly set regional or national policies, or which supplement these policies. A national project is linked to a strategy defined in the framework of the respective operational programme and is implemented with especial emphasis on the eliminating regional disparities, while respecting territorial and sectoral aspects of the given territory's development. In 2009 direct awards were progressively declared in the period from March to November 2009. In total 7 direct awards were declared in the framework of priority axis 1, 2 and 4, of which in 2009 the SR Ministry of Education contracted 4 national projects out of the direct awards declared in the period monitored.

The Agency of the Ministry of Education of the Slovak Republic for the Structural Funds of the EU as the Intermediate Body under the Managing Authority in 2009 declared in accordance with the Schedule of Calls for 2009 calls for the submission of demand-driven projects in the framework of four priority axes (with the exception of priority axis 5). In total there were seven calls for demand-driven projects declared in 2009. In 2009 it likewise implemented 92 approved and 31 contracted demand-driven projects from calls declared in 2008.

The SR Ministry of Health, which as the Intermediate Body under the Managing Authority implements Measure 2.2 Promoting Further Education in Healthcare of priority axis 2 Further Education as a Tool for Developing Human Resources in 2009 and Measure 5.2 Technical Assistance for the Convergence Objective of the SR Ministry of Health. In priority axis 5 Technical Assistance for Convergence Objective the SR Ministry of Health declared two calls for demand-driven projects, financially implemented 4 projects in the framework of the first call declared in 2008 and successfully implemented 8 projects from two calls declared in 2008.

In the framework of priority axis 1, which focuses on implementing education reform in primary and secondary schools, increasing the quality of tertiary education, the year 2009 saw the declaration of 4 direct awards and 2 calls for demand-driven projects. In total 600 applications for non-repayable financial contributions were received, out of which 236 were approved, and 220 projects were contracted. In total 300 projects were being implemented as at 31 December 2009.

In the framework of priority axis 2, targeted at the support of the informal and lifelong learning system, 3 direct awards and 3 calls were declared for the submission of demand-driven projects. In total 33 applications for non-repayable financial contributions were received, out of which 22 were approved, and 10 projects were contracted. In total 11 projects were being implemented as at 31 December 2009.

In the framework of priority axis 3, aimed at increasing the education level of persons with special educational needs, focusing at marginalised Roma communities, in 2009 the Agency of

the Ministry of Education of the SR for the Structural Funds of the EU declared 2 calls for demand-driven projects. In total 153 applications for non-repayable financial contribution were received, out of which 74 were approved, and 72 projects were contracted. In total 2 projects were being implemented as at 31 December 2009.

In the framework of priority axis 4, aimed at increasing the quality and access to further education with emphasis on transforming education content toward developing key competences, with the aim of ensuring long-term competitiveness of the Bratislava region, the Ministry of Education of the SR declared 4 direct awards and 2 calls for demand-driven projects in 2009. In total 127 applications for non-repayable financial contributions were received, out of which 41 were approved, and 39 projects were contracted. In total 36 projects were being implemented in the framework of priority axis 4 as at 31 December 2009.

For the Convergence Objective technical assistance in the framework of the Operational Programme Education has the separate priority axis 5. The Ministry of Education in 2009 declared in the framework of priority axis 5 in total 6 technical assistance announcements, received 6 applications for non-repayable financial contributions, of which it had approved 4 applications as at 31 December 2009. The main objective is to ensure efficient implementation of the Operational Programme Education in accordance with the demands placed on the management and administrative structures responsible for the Operational Programme's implementation. In total 9 technical assistance projects were being implemented as at 31 December 2009.

In connection with financial drawing of the Structural Funds in the framework of the Operational Programme Education we can state that as at 31 December 2009 the funds approved totalled €274 512 517.86 and the amount of contracted funds stood at €236 153 777.06. In 2009 the implementation of all five priority axes of the Operational Programme Education in the total commitment of €617 801 578 for EU sources for 2007 – 2013 drew in total €4 448 888.85, which in percentage terms represents 0.85% of the commitment. Despite the fact that in general the implementation of the Operational Programme Education may be viewed as successful, in particular in terms of the declaration of direct awards and calls, the state achieved in approval and contracting, the SR Ministry of Education as the Managing Authority for the Operational Programme Education is still facing the task of further increasing the volume of funds drawn.

This level of drawing may be considered appropriate to the results achieved at the end of the third year of the 2007 – 2013 programming period, also given that the actual implementation of the Operational Programme Education began at the level of national and demand-driven projects in conjunction with actual drawing only in 2009. In this regard it should be recognised that the Operational Programme Education, which is co-financed from the European Social Fund is a specific programme, the rate of drawing from which cannot be compared with other operational programmes financing projects of a primarily capital nature, or projects whose implementation and drawing derive directly from legislation of the Slovak Republic. The SR Ministry of Education in the framework of this programme supports primarily projects of an educational nature (current expenditure) with an implementation period of approximately 2 – 4 years, whereby the educational activities within these projects proceed progressively. In this regard the financing, too, is proceeding at a pace appropriate to the schedule of education activities.

Here it is important to look also at the volume of contracted funds in the framework of the Operational Programme Education, since the level of funds contracting has a significant, if not decisive, effect on the current, but particularly future, drawing of European Union Structural

Funds. As at 31.12.2009 contracting of the total European Social Fund commitment for the 2007 – 2009 programming period totalled 32.89% (as at 31.7.2010 this figure had risen to 45.52%) which clearly forms an appropriate basis for ensuring the problem-free drawing of structural funds from the European Union. From the aspect of the commitments for individual years, the commitments for 2007 and 2008 are contractually covered, as too is part of the 2009 commitment (more than 36%).

Of the structure of drawing to date, the greater volume of expenditures approved at the Certifying Authority comprised interim payments and final payments (forming almost 65% of the volume of certified expenditures to date for the European Social Fund source) awaiting approved clearing of pre-financing. Since, however, the bulk of the beneficiaries of the Operational Programme Education are from the public sector and are financed by means of pre-financing, we expect especially in Q2 and Q3 2010 a significant growth in drawing by means of clearing of pre-financing payments provided (as at 2.9.2010 cleared pre-financing payments formed 82.45% of the total volume of certified expenses, and we expect this share to increase in future).

In this regard it is necessary to highlight the fact that as at 31.12.2009 the SR Ministry of Education in the framework of the Operational Programme Education registered pre-financing totalling **€53 699 000** (of which European Social Fund sources total **€46 198 000**) that had been provided but not yet been cleared or certified. Although the provision of pre-financing does not represent drawing in relation to the Certifying Authority or the European Commission, these resources enable beneficiaries to implement their projects, which is then reflected in drawing of structural funds following their subsequent clearing and approval at the Certifying Authority (as at 3.9.2010 drawing totalled 5.31% of the total commitment).

An important area in the Operational Programme Education is that of the horizontal priorities. This concerns the Horizontal Priority Marginalised Roma Communities, the Horizontal Priority Equal, the Horizontal Priority Sustainable Development and the Horizontal Priority Information Society. In the framework of the Horizontal Priority Marginalised Roma Communities 47 projects in the framework of the Operational Programme Education with a contribution to the Horizontal Priority Marginalised Roma Communities were contracted as at 31 December 2009. In the framework of the Horizontal Priority Equal 14 projects with a contribution to the Horizontal Priority Equal were contracted as at 31 December 2009, while the number of projects with a contribution to the Horizontal Axis Sustainable Development was 76, and within the Horizontal Priority Information Society 51 projects with a contribution to the Horizontal Priority Information Society were contracted as at 31 December 2009. In the period monitored the implementation began of projects having a contribution to the individual horizontal priorities. Based on the adjustment to the relevant programming and managing documentation we expect in the coming period an increase in the number of projects contributing to individual horizontal priorities. Detailed information on the implementation of the horizontal priorities, including realisation of the projects contributing horizontal priorities, is given in Chapter 4: “HORIZONTAL PRIORITIES”.

A very important tool in supporting the efficient use of funds from the Structural Fund and the Cohesion Fund is also accurate and targeted information and publicity on the EU assistance. In 2009 the Managing Authority and Intermediate Bodies under the Managing Authority cooperated and ensured the distribution of timely, correct and comprehensive information, efficient provision of information and realisation of publicity as regards aid from the Structural Funds and the Cohesion Fund and the Operational Programme Education.

The Regional Information Offices and their work at the level of the 8 self-governing regions has proven, for a second year now, the thorough coordination of procedures of the Managing Authority and Intermediate Body under the Managing Authority in providing information and publicity. Their establishment has shown to be highly beneficial for the use and provision of information, facilitating the distribution of general information on the Operational Programme Education and at the same time raising awareness about the European Community and the Structural Funds.

A range of information activity of the OPE for 2009 was the “Annual Conference of the Agency of the Ministry of Education of the SR for the Structural Funds of the EU” in the framework of which the Managing Authority, as well as the Agency of the Ministry of Education of the SR, presented the Operational Programme Education. The conference was held on 4.6.2009 under the auspices of the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Education, Ján Mikolaj. The total number of participants was 137. In terms of information and publicity, an important event was the “Open Day at the Agency of the SR Ministry of Education for EU Structural Funds”, held on 25 June 2009. The aim of the event was to familiarise visitors with the possibilities of drawing funds from the Structural Funds of the European Union, current and planned calls and approved projects.

For the purpose of informing potential applicants for a non-repayable financial contribution, successful applicants for a non-repayable financial contribution and beneficiaries of a non-repayable financial contribution the Agency of the Ministry of Education of the SR for the Structural Funds of the EU organised in 2009 in total 26 information seminars and working meetings. On 26.11.2009 the second year of the Day of Structural Funds in Healthcare was held in Bratislava. The aim of the Day of Structural Funds in Healthcare was to raise the general public's awareness of the course of the implementation process of measure 2.2 of the Operational Programme Education and what possibilities exist for obtaining funds from the Structural Funds for financing projects in the health sector.

Problems that arose over the course of 2009 were immaterial and therefore no change was required to the Operational Programme Education.

The year 2009 can in general be evaluated as a year of the ongoing implementation of the Operational Programme Education without any serious problems, with further declaration of calls and direct awards, and contracting of activities of both national and demand-driven projects. All in all we can state that the process under way of implementing the Operational Programme Education will continue also in 2010 so as to meet the set objectives of the Operational Programme Education.

1. IDENTIFICATION

OPERATIONAL PROGRAMME	Convergence Objective and Regional Competitiveness & Employment Objective
	NUTS II – Western Slovakia
	NUTS II – Central Slovakia
	NUTS II – Eastern Slovakia
	NUTS II – Bratislava Region
	2007 – 2013
ANNUAL REPORT ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE OPERATIONAL PROGRAMME	2007SK05UPO001
	Operational Programme Education
	2009
	9.6.2010

2. OVERVIEW OF THE OPERATIONAL PROGRAMME'S IMPLEMENTATION

2.1. Outcome achieved and analysis of progress made

In 2009 implementation of the OPE continued on from work in 2008. Over the course of 2009 the Managing Authority (hereinafter simply the “MA”) declared direct awards for national projects. Likewise calls for the submission of applications for non-repayable financial contributions (hereinafter simply “AfNFC”) for demand-driven projects. The calls were declared by the Agency of the Ministry of Education of the Slovak Republic for the Structural Funds of the European Union (hereinafter simply the “ASFEU”) and by the SR Ministry of Health (hereinafter simply the “MH SR”) as the Intermediate Bodies under the Managing Authority (hereinafter simply the “IBMA”) in accordance with the applicable Letters on the Delegation of Powers.

In declaring calls and direct awards the MA and individual IBMAs work from the nature of the OPE, its global objective and sub-objectives. The OPE seeks to raise the adaptability of the workforce by means of improving the quality of and access to lifelong learning. Specific measures aimed at strengthening human capital, particularly by means of supporting education in individual segments of the education system: regional education, tertiary education and further education. Support is pursued through the development and implementation of reforms in education and vocational training systems with regard to raising people's capabilities to respond to the needs of a knowledge-based society and lifelong learning, by enhancing the skills of training staff as regards innovation and the knowledge-based economy, and by creating networks between tertiary schools, research and technological centres and businesses. Support for the education of persons with special education needs facilitates social inclusion and the permanently sustainable integration of disadvantaged groups in the labour market, with particular regard to marginalised Roma communities (hereinafter simply “MRCs”).

The global objective of the OPE is to ensure the long-term competitiveness of the Slovak Republic (hereinafter simply the “SR”) by means of adapting the education system to the needs of a knowledge-based society. For the purpose of meeting this global objective, a number of direct awards and calls for demand-driven projects in the framework of the individual priority axes were made in the period monitored.

Priority axis 1 focuses on regional and tertiary education, i.e. covering primary, secondary and tertiary education. **Its objective** is to implement education reform at primary and secondary schools, to promote improvement in the quality of tertiary education and the quality of human resources in research and development. This objective is to be met with the aid of two measures:

- 1.1. Transformation of the Traditional School to a Modern School
- 1.2 Tertiary Schools and Research & Development as Engines for Developing a Knowledge-Based Society

The SR has been pursuing these measures and the priority axis by means of legislative changes adopted since 2008. Over the period monitored work has begun on fully implementing school system reform in the SR, which in 2009 was supported by the following legislative amendments passed:

- Act No. **245/2008 Coll. on upbringing and education** (the Education Act) and on the amendment of certain acts as later amended;
- Act No. **282/2008 Coll. on support for work with young people and on the amendment of Act no. 131/2002 Coll. on tertiary schools** and on the amendment of certain acts as later amended;
- SR Government Resolution no. **112** of 20.2.2008 approving the **Informatisation Strategy for Regional Education**;
- Act No. **184/2009 Coll. on vocational education and training** and on the amendment of certain acts;
- Act No. **496/2009 Coll. on tertiary schools** and on the amendment of certain acts as later amended;
- SR Ministry of Education Decree No. **282/2009 Coll. on secondary schools**;
- SR Government Resolution No. 367 of 4.6.2008 passing the **Modernisation Programme Slovakia 21**;
- Act no. **300/2008 Coll. on the organisation and promotion of sport** and on the amendment of certain acts.

More detailed information regarding the individual legislative amendments adopted in the SR in the period monitored can be found in Section 2.2.1 of this 2009 Annual Report.

In the framework of **priority axis 1** the MA in the period monitored declared 4 **direct awards** and the IBMA ASFEU declared 2 **calls for demand-driven projects**.

Priority axis 2 supports the system of non-formal and informal education. The objective of this priority axis is to create and develop an efficient system of lifelong learning and lifelong guidance aimed at developing competences and raising qualifications throughout life for all SR citizens. This objective is to be met with the aid of two measures:

- 2.1 Promoting further education
- 2.2. Promoting further education in healthcare

For supporting the attainment of the objectives of this priority axis the following legislative amendments were adopted in the SR:

- Act No. **568/2009 Coll. on lifelong learning** and on the amendment of certain acts;
- Act No. **317/2009 Coll. on teaching staff and professional staff** and on the amendment of certain acts;
- SR Ministry of Education Decree No. **437/2009** laying down the **qualification requirements and specific qualification requirements for individual categories of teaching staff and professional staff**;
- SR Government Resolution No. 382/2007 of 25.4.2007 passing the **Strategy for Lifelong Learning and Lifelong Guidance**;
- SR Ministry of Education Decree No. **445/2009 Coll. on continuing education, credits and attestations of teaching staff and professional staff**.

In the framework of **priority axis 2** the MA in the period monitored declared **3 direct awards**, and the **IBMA ASFEU** declared **1 call for demand-driven projects** and the **IBMA of the MH SR** declared **2 calls for demand-driven projects**.

Priority axis 3 focuses on the primary, secondary and further education of persons with special education needs and creates the conditions for further education of specialists who contribute to solving the social, economic, cultural and education problems of persons with special education needs and of members of marginalised groups. Measures under priority axis 3 Support for Education of Persons with Special Education Needs have the task of supporting the social inclusion of these persons. The objective of the priority axis is to raise the level of education of persons with special education needs with regard to MRCs. This objective is to be met with the aid of two measures:

- 3.1 Raising the Education Level of Members of Marginalised Roma Communities;
- 3.2 Raising the Education Level of Persons with Special Education Needs.

Implementation of this priority axis has been assisted by the adoption of the following legislative changes:

- SR Government Resolution no. 183/2008 of 26.3.2008 approving the **Medium-Term White Paper for the Development of the Roma Ethnic Minority in the Slovak Republic SOLIDARITY – INTEGRITY – INCLUSION 2008 – 2013**,
- SR Government Resolution No. 206 of 2.4.2008 approving the **White Paper for the Upbringing and Education of Roma Children and Pupils, Including the Development of Secondary and Tertiary Education**.

In the framework of the **priority axis 3** the MA in the period monitored did not declare any **direct awards**. The **IBMA ASFEU** declared **2 calls for demand-driven projects**.

Interconnecting education content to labour market needs, the acquisition of basic skills and key competences, raising the quality of further education and reflecting the needs of a knowledge-based society, all require a comprehensive and uniform approach throughout the SR. For attaining these objectives a separate **priority axis 4** has been created for the Bratislava self-governing region. The objective of priority axis 4 is to improve the quality and approach to further education, placing emphasis on transforming the content of education toward developing key competences with the aim of ensuring the Bratislava region's long-term competitiveness. This objective is to be met with the aid of three measures:

- 4.1. Transformation of the Traditional School to a Modern School for the Bratislava Region;
- 4.2 Raising the Competitiveness of the Bratislava Region by Means of Developing Tertiary and Further Education;
- 4.3 Technical assistance for the Regional Competitiveness and Employment Objective.

Projects being implemented in the framework of calls under measures 1.1 and 4.1 of the OPE are focused on reconstructing the content of education at primary and secondary schools toward developing key competences and making use of innovative forms and methods of teaching. This is connected also with the professional training and further education of teaching staff who are substantially involved in the transformation of the traditional school to a modern school. The projects approved are to contribute to education reform through the creation and implementation of school education programmes, with emphasis on supporting improvements in the quality of education on the basis of innovation and school profiling in connection to the education system reform pursuant to Act No. 245/2008 Coll. on upbringing and education and on the amendment of certain acts. This improvement in the quality of the education system will enable pupils and students to acquire key skills that will raise their competitiveness on the labour market. In so doing the OPE will concurrently contribute to developing a knowledge-based society as a component of the Lisbon Strategy. The same legislative amendments as those mentioned above for priority axis 1 apply also for this priority axis.

In the framework of **priority axis 4** the MA in the period monitored declared **4 direct awards** in measure 4.1 and 4.2 and the **IBMA ASFEU declared 2 calls for demand-driven projects** in measure 4.2. Measure 4.3 is stated below together with information on technical assistance.

Priority axis 5 is aimed at the efficient implementation of the OPE in accordance with the demands placed on the management and administrative structures responsible for the OPE's implementation. It focuses on implementation, monitoring, control, evaluation and studies, as well as on information and publicity. Technical assistance is addressed also by measure 4.3 in the framework of priority axis 4, the objective of which is to ensure the OPE's implementation in the Bratislava region. In this way implementation is ensured throughout the SR.

In the period monitored the following notices were declared for technical assistance in the framework of measure 4.3 Technical Assistance for the Regional Competitiveness and Employment Objective: **4** notices for technical assistance for the MA and **2** notices for technical assistance for the IBMA ASFEU. In the framework of priority axis 5 for the Convergence objective, **4** notices were declared for the MA and **2** notices for the IBMA ASFEU. In the period monitored no IBMA MH SR technical assistance projects in the framework of the OPE were submitted and approved (more detailed information on the reasons is given in Section 3.5 of this 2009 Annual Report).

In the period monitored the MA declared in total **7 direct awards**. The direct awards were declared in the period from March to November 2009. Since these were national projects, 4 mirror AfNFCs were submitted, covering concurrently the Convergence objective as well as the Regional Competitiveness and Employment (hereinafter simply "RC&E") objective, i.e. 8 AfNFCs and 1 AfNFC covering the Convergence objective due to exhausting the allocation for measure 4.1. On the basis of the direct award the applicant was obliged to ensure finance for the RC&E objective from their own funds. For this reason the AfNFCs for the RC&E objective had to include an Annotation of activities for the Bratislava self-governing region and a statement under oath by the applicant on securing finance for the Bratislava self-governing region:

- **1** of the direct awards was declared for priority axis 1 *Reform of the System of Education and Vocational Training*, measure 1.1 Transformation of the Traditional School to a Modern School and for priority axis 4 *Modern Education for a Knowledge-Based Society*

for the Bratislava Region, measure 4.1 Transformation of the Traditional School to a Modern School for the Bratislava Region;

- **3** of the direct awards were declared for priority axis 2 Further Education As a Tool for Developing Human Resources, measure 2.1 Promoting Further Education and for priority axis 4 *Modern Education for a Knowledge-Based Society for the Bratislava Region*, measure 4.2 Raising the Competitiveness of the Bratislava Region by Means of Developing Tertiary and Further Education;
- **3** of the direct awards were declared for priority axis 1 Reform of the System of Education and Vocational Training, measure 1.1 Transformation of the Traditional School to a Modern School.

In the period monitored **8** AfNFCs were submitted, of which the chief manager (hereinafter simply the “CM”) and the general manager (hereinafter simply the “GM”) by selection approved **5** AfNFCs and as at 31.12.2009 in total **4** projects had been contracted.

As at 31.12.2009 a total of **9** national projects are being implemented in the framework of the OPE, in a total allocation of €153 940 000. The focus of the national projects was directed at promoting the reform of regional education in connection to the adopted legislation in the field of education.

The ASFEU in the period monitored declared **7 calls** for demand-driven projects, while 4 calls declared at the end of 2008 (6.10.2008) had a closing date in January 2009. In 2009 the following calls for the submission of AfNFCs were declared in the period from 27.2.2009 to 15.10.2009:

- **1** call for priority axis 3 Support for Education of Persons with Special Education Needs, measure 3.1 Raising the Education Level of MRC Members (27.2.2009);
- **1** call for priority axis 3 Support for Education of Persons with Special Education Needs, measure 3.2 Raising the Education Level of Persons with Special Education Needs (13.3.2009);
- **1** call for priority axis 1 Reform of the System of Education and Vocational Training, measure 1.2 Tertiary Schools and Research & Development As Engines for Developing a Knowledge-Based Society (18.6.2009);
- **1** call for priority axis 4 Modern Education for a Knowledge-Based Society for the Bratislava Region, measure 4.2 Raising the Competitiveness of the Bratislava Region by Means of Developing Tertiary and Further Education (18.6.2009);
- **1** call for priority axis 2 Further Education As a Tool for Developing Human Resources, measure 2.1 Promoting Further Education (12.8.2009);
- **1** call for priority axis 4 Modern Education for a Knowledge-Based Society for the Bratislava Region, measure 4.2 Raising the Competitiveness of the Bratislava Region by Means of Developing Tertiary and Further Education (12.08.2009);
- **1** call for priority axis 1 Reform of the System of Education and Vocational Training, measure 1.1 Transformation of The Traditional School to a Modern School (15.10.2009).

Information on the focus of individual calls declared, target groups in the declared calls and eligible activities at which the calls were targeted are defined in Section 2.1.1.2.

MH SR

The period monitored saw the completion of 4 projects from the call for the submission of AfNFCs *“Replenishing the Healthcare System with Qualified Specialists”*, which was implemented in 2008 under measure 2.2. One project was ended by way of withdrawal from the Contract on the Provision of a Non-Repayable Financial Contribution (hereinafter simply an “NFC” and “NFC contract” respectively), which entered into effect on 8.10.2009. The beneficiary had made no drawing of the approved and contracted NFC.

In the framework of the call *“Developing New Forms of Further Education in Healthcare”*, work continued on the implementation of 1 project.

In the framework of the call *“Replenishing the Healthcare System with Qualified Specialists”*, the contracting process proceeded and the implementation of 7 projects began.

In the period monitored 2 calls for demand-driven projects were declared in the framework of measure 2.2:

- the call *“Support for Evaluating Continuing Education of Healthcare Workers”* was declared on 28.5.2009;
- the call *“Raising Other Skills of Healthcare Workers”* was declared on 30.9.2009.

Individual calls for demand-driven projects were declared in accordance with the applicable updated time schedule of calls, which was regularly published on the ASFEU website: www.asfeu.sk, the SR MH website: www.health-sf.sk, the SR ME website: www.minedu.sk, and on the information portal of the Central Coordination Body (hereinafter simply the “CCB”): www.nsrr.sk.

The time schedules of the calls for demand-driven projects were updated as follows:

- IBMA ASFEU: 5.2.2009, 2.3.2009, 3.6.2009, 19.6.2009, 10.8.2009, 28.9.2009;
- IBMA MH SR: 6.5.2009, 28.5.2009, 30.6.2009, 7.8.2009, 8.9.2009.

The original deadlines for declaring the calls were postponed on the basis of written requests by both IBMAs to adjust the schedule of calls for 2009, most frequently for reason of harmonising the text of the call with state aid rules and with related consultations with the MA, MF SR and the European Commission, and due to the increase in the percentage limit of supplies from direct expenditures and due to the current needs relating to the ongoing reform of education in the SR, with regard to activities supported from the SR Government programme declaration, adopted legislative changes, system changes and priorities of the SR Government.

As at 31.12.2009 a total of **328** demand-driven projects were being implemented in the framework of the OPE, in a total allocation of €70 632 790.64.

2.1.1. State of physical progress in the Operational Programme

Over the course of 2009 the MA declared direct awards for national projects. Likewise the IBMA declared calls for the submission of AfNFCs for demand-driven projects. Part 2.1.1.1. offers a

summary of the individual direct awards and Section 2.1.1.2. gives a summary of the individual calls for the submission of AfNFCs.

Table 1 gives an overview of the number of calls and direct awards declared over the period monitored.

Table 1: Overview of the declaration of calls and direct awards in the period from 1.1.2009 to 31.12.2009

Priority axis	Number of calls	Allocation of funds per call (NFC) in €		
		Total	Of which	
			SF/CF	State budget
Priority axis 1	6	149 333 000.00	N/A*	N/A
Priority axis 2	6	146 800 000.00	N/A	N/A
Priority axis 3	2	21 000 000.00	N/A	N/A
Priority axis 4	12	17 665 000.00	N/A	N/A
Priority axis 5	6	8 485 000.00	7 212 250.00	1 272 750.00
Total	32	343 283 000.00	7 212 250.00	1 272 750.00

*N/A – The distribution of the allocation between structural funds and the state budget cannot be precisely quantified with regard to the various financing proportions.

Overall we can state that in the period monitored the MA/IBMA for the OPE fulfilled the objectives set in the previous year of 2008. Following the successful start-up of OPE implementation in 2008, through the declaration of the first calls and direct awards and subsequent contracting of the respective projects, the MA/IBMA in 2009 continued in these intentions, where in individual contracted projects the implementation of contracted projects proceeded successfully over the course of 2009. In parallel with the implementation of individual projects the MA/IBMA also declared direct awards and calls for the submission of AfNFCs according to the individual time schedules for the declaration of calls and direct awards for 2009 in the interest of promoting those activities that support the SR Government Programme Declaration, system changes and priorities of the SR Government. Once the respective projects have been contracted, their implementation will proceed in the following years. The process of declaring further direct awards and demand-driven calls will also continue so that the set objectives of the OPE and individual programme declarations of the SR Government are fulfilled with regard to the ongoing reform of education in the SR.

A comparison of the planned and actual drawing of national projects as at 31.12.2009 is detailed in Annex 11.

2.1.1.1. Evaluation of direct awards

Direct awards were progressively declared in 2009 from March to November 2009.

14.3% of direct awards were focused on promoting activities in the framework of priority axis 1 Reform of the System of Education and Vocational Training, and in mirror these activities were supported by means of priority axis 4 Modern Education for a Knowledge-Based Society for the Bratislava Region; **42.8%** of direct awards were focused on priority axis 2 Further Education as a Tool for Developing Human Resources, and in mirror these activities were again supported by means of priority axis 4 Modern Education for a Knowledge-Based Society for the Bratislava

Region; and **42.8%** of direct awards were focused on support for activities in the framework of priority axis 1 Reform of the System of Education and Vocational Training.

National projects conceived in this way had the task of serving as a tool for implementing education reform in the SR. Since these are complex projects, the direct awards were subject to their direct connection to legislation, or SR Government white papers.

The first direct award “*External Evaluation of School Quality Promoting Self-Evaluation Processes and School Development*” was focused on creating a project for developing tools for evaluating the quality of education activities of schools and school facilities, as well as on collaboration in the implementation of the OPE in assessing its impact on school quality by means of the implementation of an external evaluation of schools involved in projects financed in the framework of the OPE, and on monitoring of their progress. The national project will concentrate on:

- building an efficient and reliable data collection system and statistical processing of this data for external evaluation of school quality,
- drawing up a model and system of evaluation and self-evaluation of the work of schools and school facilities, including its practical application,
- realisation of the external evaluation of primary and secondary schools receiving finance from the OPE for the implementation of a project, for the purpose of determining the benefit of this funding for improving the quality of the education process.

Other information on the registration, approval process and contracting/non-contracting of the project is given in parts 3.1 Priority Axis 1 and 3.4 Priority Axis 4 to which the above-mentioned direct award relates.

The second direct award, entitled “*Professional and Career Growth of Teaching Staff*” was based on Act No. 317/2009 Coll. on teaching staff and professional staff and on the amendment of certain acts and on the SR Ministry of Education Decree No. 445/2009 on the continuing education, credits and attestations of teaching staff and professional staff, and was focused on the creation of a project for creating and developing an efficient system of further education of teaching and professional staff at schools and school facilities with an emphasis on developing key competences, deepening and raising the qualifications of teaching and professional staff in accordance with the Act on Teaching and Professional Staff and in accordance with the current and projected needs of a knowledge-based society. The national project will concentrate on:

- the creation, innovation and implementation of professional standards and tools for evaluating the development of professional competencies for categories, career grades and career positions of teaching and professional staff at schools and school facilities,
- the creation and accreditation of continuing education programmes and developing the quality of institutions of further education,
- raising and renewing the levels of key competences of teaching staff and staff working in the field of education in the system of continuing education in accordance with professional standards and current and projected needs of a knowledge-based society,

- raising information and publicity on the education possibilities and facilitating access to education programmes and teaching resources by means of modern education forms and technologies.

Further information on the registration, approval process and contracting/non-contracting of the project is given in parts 3.2 Priority Axis 2 and 3.4 Priority Axis 4, to which the above-mentioned direct award relates.

The third direct award, entitled “*Professional and Career Growth of Teaching Staff*” was re-declared for reason of the rejection of the AfNFC from the second direct award, since the submitted AfNFC did not meet the evaluation criteria as adopted by the OPE Monitoring Committee (hereinafter simply the “MC”) in the process of expert assessment and therefore the AfNFC selection did not proceed. The third direct award was likewise based on Act No. 317/2009 Coll. on teaching staff and professional staff and on the amendment of certain acts and on the SR Ministry of Education Decree No. 445/2009 on the continuing education, credits and attestations of teaching staff and professional staff, and was declared with the same conditions and aims as set for the second direct award.

Further information on the registration, approval process and contracting/non-contracting of the project is given in parts 3.2 Priority Axis 2 and 3.4 Priority Axis 4, to which the above-mentioned direct award relates.

The fourth direct award entitled “*Digitalisation of the Content of National education Programmes for Primary Schools*” was focused on the creation and efficient use of the digital education content of national education programmes in the teaching process at primary schools, leading to modernisation and qualitative improvement in education, as well as support provided for reforms of regional education at primary schools. This direct award was aimed at promoting the reform of regional education in connection to Act No. 245/2008 Coll. on education (the “Education Act”) and on the Informatisation Strategy for Regional Education.

The national project will concentrate primarily on:

- the creation of digital education content of national education programmes for selected subjects at the 2nd grade of primary schools,
- the creation of conditions for enabling access to and work with digital education content for the 2nd grade of primary schools,
- the education of 2nd grade primary school teaching staff for work with and use of digital education content in the teaching process at 2nd grade of primary schools.

Digital education content will be integrated into the Department of Education’s existing datacentre.

Due to the change in the provision of aid and support stated in the direct award (change in the project activities – addition of the 1st grade of primary schools and merger with the project for secondary schools) the direct award was cancelled on 23.10.2009.

Further information on this direct award is given in Section 3.1 Priority Axis 1, to which the direct award relates.

The fifth direct award entitled “*Digitalisation of National Education Programmes for Secondary Schools*” was focused on the creation and efficient use of the digital education content of national education programmes in the teaching process at secondary schools, leading to modernisation and qualitative improvement in education, as well as support for reforms of regional education at secondary schools. This direct award was aimed at supporting the regional education reform in connection to Act No. 245/2008 Coll. on education (the “Education Act”) and on the Informatisation Strategy for Regional Education.

The national project will concentrate primarily on:

- the creation of digital education content of national education programmes for selected subjects at secondary schools,
- the creation of conditions for enabling access to and work with digital education content of secondary schools,
- the education of secondary school teaching staff for work with and use of digital education content in the teaching process at secondary schools.

Digital education content will be integrated into the Department of Education’s existing datacentre.

Due to the change in the provision of aid and support stated in the direct award (change in the project activities – addition of the 1st grade of primary schools and merger with the project for the 2nd grade of primary schools) the direct award was cancelled on 23.10.2009.

Further information on this direct award is given in Section 3.1 Priority Axis 1, to which the direct award relates.

The sixth direct award entitled “*National System of Qualifications in the Context of Further Education Supported by a System of Guidance*” was focused on creating a project for developing the education system by means of raising the quality of lifelong learning and lifelong guidance and creating a national system of qualifications. The national project contributes to raising the participation of adults in lifelong learning and in lifelong guidance. This direct award was aimed at meeting the objectives of Act no. 568/2009 Coll. on lifelong learning.

The national project will concentrate primarily on:

- the creation and implementation of a national system of qualifications,
- the creation and implementation of a system of further education for gaining qualifications, including the promotion of further education for gaining qualifications,

- the creation and implementation of a system of guidance for persons participating in further education activities, including the promotion of guidance for persons participating in the further education activities,
- the monitoring and forecasting of education needs,
- the creation and implementation of an information system for the national system of qualifications, for further education for gaining qualifications and guidance for persons participating in the further education activities,
- international surveys, evaluations and comparisons in the field of measuring the key competences of persons participating in the further education activities.

Further information on the registration, approval process and contracting/non-contracting of the project is given in parts 3.2 Priority Axis 2 and 3.4 Priority Axis 4, to which the above-mentioned direct award relates.

The seventh direct award entitled “*Digitalisation of the Content of National Education Programmes for Primary and Secondary Schools*” was focused on the creation and efficient use of the digital education content of national education programmes in the teaching process at primary and secondary schools, leading to modernisation and qualitative improvement of education, as well as support for reforms of regional education at primary and secondary schools. This direct award was aimed at supporting the reform of regional education in connection to Act No. 245/2008 Coll. on education (the “Education Act”) and on the Informatisation Strategy for Regional Education.

The national project will concentrate primarily on:

- the creation of digital education content of national education programmes for selected subjects at primary and secondary schools in the official state language,
- the creation of conditions for enabling access to and work with digital education content of primary and secondary schools,
- the education of primary and secondary school teaching staff for work with and use of digital education content in the teaching process at primary and secondary schools.

Further information on the registration, approval process and contracting/non-contracting of the project is given in Section 3.1 Priority Axis 1, to which the above-mentioned direct award relates.

The average duration of the declaration of one direct award was 2 months (60 days), with the exception of the sixth direct award declared in October 2009, which lasted 3 months (90 days). The duration of the declaration of direct awards was fully in accordance with the conditions set by the System of Management of the Structural Funds and the Cohesion Fund for the Programming Period 2007-2013 in all versions applicable in 2009, namely: version 3.0 dated 31.1.2009, version 3.1 dated 23.9.2009 and version 3.2 dated 8.11.2009¹.

¹ The minimum period for publication of a call for ESF projects is set at 60 calendar days.

The average length of the approval process (i.e. from the closing date of the direct award through to sending the Decision approving the AfNFC) was 3 months, meaning that the MA in accordance with the System of the Management of the Structural Funds and the Cohesion Fund ensured that all applicants, whose AfNFCs were subject to the approval process, were informed of the AfNFC approval decision within 100 days from the submission deadline for AfNFCs.

The total financial allocation for all direct awards declared in 2009 was **€240 560 000** (including the allocation of the 2 cancelled direct awards). Of this amount, the CM and GM chose to approve AfNFCs totalling **€92 680 149.20**, representing **38.52%** of the allocated amount for direct awards.

The sum claimed by the applicant is based on the conditions set out in the direct award, which sets the amount as a maximum, i.e. the applicant may apply also for an amount lower than that stated in the direct award. The submitted national projects undergo, in the framework of a formal assessment, an ex-ante financial control by the MA in order to assess the eligibility of expenditure pursuant to the conditions of the call. Following the ex-ante financial control, the MA draws up a checklist for the ex-ante financial control in which it identifies shortcomings found and the shortcomings are then forwarded to the expert assessors. Outputs from the ex-ante financial control and outputs from the expert assessment of the national project are then sent to the applicant to adjust its budget for the submitted national project on the basis of the shortcomings identified. Differences between the amount claimed by the applicant and the contracted sum arise for the following reasons:

- ineligible expenditures (the applicant states in the budget for the national project expenditures that are not eligible pursuant to the conditions of the call);
- mathematical errors (incorrect totalling of budget items, incorrect multiplication of budget items);
- discrepancy between data stated in the budget, in the comment to the budget and to the detailed descriptions of the project (e.g. the number of man-hours stated in the detailed description of the project – the part of the job matrix does not correspond to the number of man-hours stated in the budget);
- lacking link between expenditures and activities (the applicant does not identify or identifies insufficiently in the detailed description of the national project activities the expenditures needed for implementing the given activity, while indicating such expenditures in the budget);
- non-compliance with the financial limits for the performance of works specified in the conditions of the call;
- lack of economy (e.g. duplicate claiming of expenditures in several budget items).

As regards success rate from the aspect of NFC applicants and submitted AfNFCs in the period monitored, the success rate of approved AfNFCs was 77.77% (2 AfNFCs from the direct award OPV/K/RKZ/NP/2009-2 were not approved).

From the aspect of regional coverage and with regard to the multiple objectives of the operational programme, most of the national projects, by their being drawn up and submitted in mirror (i.e. for the Convergence objective, as well as for the RC&E objective), geographically cover the whole of the SR.

2.1.1.2. Evaluation of calls for demand-driven projects

2.1.1.2.1. Priority Axis 1 – Reform of the System of Education and Vocational Training

Measure 1.1. Transformation of the Traditional School to a Model School

Over the course of 2009 one call for the submission of AfNFCs was declared in the framework of measure 1.1, since the period for submission of two calls that had been declared at the end of 2008 was still running and their closing date was set for 19.1.2009. Individual calls were focused on various target groups:

- primary school teaching staff and pupils (including special primary schools);
- secondary school teaching staff and pupils (including special secondary schools);
- secondary vocational school teaching staff and pupils (including special secondary vocational schools).

The activities on which the calls were focused were defined as follows:

- the creation and implementation of a primary school education programme supporting pupils' key competences with the use of new teaching materials in the framework of the upbringing-education process and preparing pupils for a knowledge-based society;
- innovation of teaching aids for developing pupils' key competences;
- the creation and implementation of a secondary school education programme supporting pupils' key competences with the use of new teaching materials in the framework of the upbringing-education process and preparing pupils for a knowledge-based society;
- innovation of teaching aids for developing pupils' key competences;
- the creation and implementation of a secondary vocational school education programme supporting pupils' key competences with the use of new teaching materials in the framework of the upbringing-education process and preparing pupils for a knowledge-based society;
- raising the efficiency and effectiveness of the school education programme of secondary vocational schools by means of introducing innovative forms and methods of education with the aim of developing pupils' key competences and preparing pupils for a knowledge-based society;
- innovation of teaching aids for developing pupils' key competences.

1) The appropriation for the call **OPV-2008/1.1/03-SORO**, focused on primary schools, which was declared in October 2008 with a closing date that stretched into the start of 2009, totalled €13 277 567.55, where the financial contribution per AfNFC was limited to an interval of at minimum €66 387.84 and at maximum €165 969.59.

Since the planned allocation for the support of all AfNFCs satisfying the conditions of the formal accuracy assessment and concurrently of the expert assessment, was not sufficient for the call OPV-2008/1.1/03-SORO, the ASFEU in its letter dated 15.5.2009 requested the MA to increase the allocation of €13 277 567.55 by €4 842 500. The MA approved the increase in its letter dated 20.5.2009, in the amount of €4 700 000. The total allocation for this call then represented **€17 977 567.55**.

As at 19.1.2009 a total number of **361** AfNFCs were received under the call, with eligible expenditures totalling €46 309 163.85 and with a requested NFC of €44 086 311.39. Of the total number of 361 AfNFCs received, the Selection Committee in the end recommended for approval 40.44% of applications (i.e. **146** projects).

By the end of 2009 in the framework of this call, **142** contracts on the provision of an NFC had been concluded, where the total amount of the NFC of the concluded contracts is €17 531 668.48, representing **97.5%** of the contracted amount of the total allocation for the call.

2) The appropriation for the call **OPV-2008/1.1/04-SORO**, focused on the secondary schools, which was declared in October 2008 with a closing date that stretched into the start of 2009, totalled €9 958 175.66. The amount of the NFC per AfNFC was limited to an interval of at minimum **€99 581.76** and at maximum **€331 939.19**.

Since the planned allocation for the support of all AfNFCs satisfying the conditions of the formal accuracy assessment and concurrently of the expert assessment, was not sufficient for the call OPV-2008/1.1/04-SORO, the ASFEU in its letter dated 15.5.2009 requested the MA to increase the allocation of €9 958 175.66 by €5 215 000. The MA approved the increase in its letter dated 20.5.2009, in the sum of €5 210 000. The total allocation for this call then represented **€15 168 175.66**.

As at 19.1.2009, a total number of **184** AfNFCs were received under the call, with eligible expenditures totalling €37 768 909.36 and with the requested NFC of €35 986 446.24. Of the total number of applications received, 102 AfNFC satisfied the conditions of the formal accuracy assessment, of which 76 AfNFCs were submitted to a Selection Committee meeting. The Selection Committee recommended **76** projects for approval.

By the end of 2009 in the framework of this call, **74** contracts on the provision of an NFC had been concluded, where the total amount of the NFC of the concluded contracts is €14 691 561.69, representing **96.85%** of the contracted amount of the total allocation for the call.

3) The appropriation for call **OPV-2009/1.1/05-SORO**, focused on special vocational schools, totalled €20 000 000. The level of the NFC per AfNFC was limited to an interval of at minimum **€200 000** and at maximum **€500 000**.

Since the closing date of the call for the submission of AfNFCs stretches beyond the monitored period of this Annual Report, it is not possible to assess the process of receiving AfNFCs, and their subsequent selection. Further information regarding the call will be available in the 2010 Annual Report.

In total **545** AfNFCs were received for measure 1.1, of which **222** AfNFCs were approved. By the end of 2009, a total of **272** projects had been contracted².

Measure 1.2. Tertiary Schools and Research & Development as Engines for Developing a Knowledge-Based Society

In the period monitored 1 call for the submission of AfNFCs (**OPV-2009/1.2/01-SORO**) was declared under measure 1.2. The call was focused on these target groups:

- tertiary-education teachers at state, public and private tertiary schools;
- the management of state, public and private tertiary schools;
- staff working in the field of research & development at tertiary schools (including employees of the Slovak Academy of Sciences and its institutes);
- students of state, public and private tertiary schools;
- doctoral students;
- postdoctoral students.

The activities on which the call was focused were defined as follows:

Framework activity 1.2.1: Developing innovative forms of education, rationalising and improving the quality of study programmes at tertiary schools, including support for career guidance (specific objective 1)

Eligible activities (content framework and project focus) in the framework of the call were:

- wider use of information technologies and new forms of education primarily in external study (virtual universities, distance learning, etc);
- creation and innovation of study programmes, with emphasis on the needs of the labour market and knowledge-based society;
- support for raising interest in the study of mathematics, natural sciences, informatics and other technical study disciplines;
- creating study programmes in a global language promoting international collaboration and mobility of the academic community;
- support for teaching foreign languages at tertiary schools;
- creation of tools for monitoring the employment among tertiary-education graduates in practice.

Framework activity 1.2.2.: Improving the efficiency of administration and management of tertiary schools (specific objective 2)

Eligible activities (content framework and project focus) in the framework of the call are:

² The contracting process will continue in 2010.

- building efficient administration and management of tertiary schools and promoting qualified management by means of further education of the present management of tertiary schools, of administrative staff and innovation in present management processes;
- projects for developing the professional growth of tertiary-education teachers aimed at raising the quality of education;
- creation of an internal model for ensuring the quality of tertiary education.

Framework activity 1.2.3.: Support for developing human resources in research & development (specific objective 3)

Eligible activities (content framework and project focus) in the framework of the call are:

- education programmes focused on the teaching competence of doctoral students and support for raising the number of doctoral students/graduates of doctoral study at tertiary schools and institutes of the Slovak Academy of Sciences;
- promoting mobility between research & development organisations and the business sector;
- education of research & development staff.

Framework activity 1.2.4.: Promoting the active collaboration between the tertiary schools and the private sector in creating new study disciplines and programmes and in the teaching process (specific objective 4)

Eligible activities (content framework and project focus) in the framework of the call are:

- programmes for promoting research and the transfer of new technologies and top expertise between research institutions and the business sector;
- information activities of research & development institutions aimed at raising interest among the business sector in research and development results;
- the implementation, or expansion of the already-introduced joint study programmes of the Slovak tertiary schools and leading tertiary schools abroad, including the granting of dual and triple diplomas;
- programmes supporting the mutual exchange of research & development staff between research institutes, businesses and universities.

The appropriation for call **OPV-2009/1.2/01-SORO**, focused on tertiary schools and R&D staff of tertiary schools (including staff of the Slovak Academy of Sciences and its institutes), totalled €35 000 000. The level of the NFC per AfNFC was limited to an interval of at minimum **€250 000** and at maximum **€1 000 000**.

As at 24.8.2009, a total number of **52** AfNFCs were received under the call, with eligible expenditures totalling €40 304 816.94 and with the requested NFC of €38 449 928.60. Of the total number of applications received, 38 AfNFC satisfied the conditions of the formal accuracy assessment, of which 45 AfNFCs were submitted to a Selection Committee meeting. The Selection Committee recommended **38** projects for approval.

Since the process of concluding contracts stretches beyond the monitored period of this 2009 Annual Report, further information regarding this call will be available in the 2010 Annual Report.

2.1.1.2.2. Priority axis 2 – Further Education As a Tool for Developing Human Resources

Measure 2.1 Promoting Further Education

In the period monitored 1 call for the submission of AfNFCs (**OPV-2009/2.1/01-SORO**) was declared under measure 2.1. The call was focused on these target groups:

- persons participating in the further education activities for the sectors of construction, textile, electronics, mechanical engineering and chemicals, other than employees at risk of redundancy, low-qualified employees and the unemployed;
- further education lecturers.

The activities on which the call was focused were defined as follows:

Framework activity 2.1.4.: Promoting further education in individual sectors;

Framework activity 2.1.5.: Facilitating access to further education;

Framework activity 2.1.7.: Developing key competences by means of further education.

The eligible activity (content framework and project focus) in the framework of the call for the submission of AfNFCs was:

- the creation and implementation of education programmes for persons participating in the further education activities and for further education lecturers, with a focus on enriching and extending qualifications, professional skills and developing key competences for the sector of construction, textile, electronics, mechanical engineering and chemicals, with regard to new technologies, innovation processes and their use in practice.

The appropriation for the call **OPV-2009/2.1/01-SORO** amounted to €7 500 000. The amount of the NFC per AfNFC was limited to an interval of at minimum **€300 000** and at maximum **€500 000**.

As at 13.10.2009, a total number of **20** AfNFCs were received under the call, with eligible expenditures totalling €8 310 402.61 and with requested NFC of €7 896 872.99. Of the total number of applications received, 9 AfNFCs satisfied the conditions of the formal accuracy assessment, of which 9 AfNFCs were submitted to a Selection Committee meeting. The Selection Committee recommended **9** projects for approval.

Since the process of contracting successful applicants stretches beyond the monitored period of this 2009 Annual Report, it is not possible to assess the contracting process of projects approved. Further information regarding the call will be available in the 2010 Annual Report.

Measure 2.2 Promoting Further Education in Healthcare³.

³ Implementation of this measure is delegated to the SR Ministry of Health.

In the period monitored 4 projects under measure 2.2. Promoting Further Education in Healthcare were financially implemented and 1 project was subject to extraordinary termination. Two calls from the previous period (2008) were concluded with the process of contracting successful applicants, the contracted projects launched their initial phases of implementation and 2 new calls for the submission of AfNFCs were declared.

The new declared calls were focused on these target groups:

- healthcare workers performing their healthcare occupation at the place of the projects' implementation as defined in the call;
- healthcare workers performing their occupation at an employer located in the territory of the Convergence objective and which is the applicant for an NFC, or is a cooperating entity of such an applicant.

The activities on which the calls were focused were defined as follows:

- the creation and implementation of a model of a centre/centres for evaluating the continuing education of healthcare workers and for exchanging information on healthcare workers;
- the implementation of education programmes and further education activities for healthcare workers, focused on developing and maintaining their qualifications;
- promoting the development of all forms of distance-based further education of healthcare workers.

1) In the framework of the call for the submission of AfNFC **OPV 2008/2.2/01**, measure 2.2., all the 5 approved and contracted projects completed their physical implementation in 2008. More detailed information regarding this call is available in the 2008 Annual Report.

One of the contracted projects was subject to extraordinary termination in the period monitored due to insufficient administrative capacities. The remaining 4 projects were completed financially and in the period monitored their financial implementation was continuing in the form of the submission that administrative verification of final applications for payment. Further information is given in Section 3.2.1.1.2., measure 2.2.

2) In the framework of the call for the submission of AfNFCs **OPV 2008/2.2/02**, measure 2.2., 1 AfNFC was submitted with a requested amount of €1 658 317.30. In the period monitored the evaluation and selection process, as well as project contracting was completed, and the project implementation phase began. More detailed information regarding this call is available in the 2008 Annual Report.

By the end of the first half of 2009, 1 NFC contract had been concluded, where the total amount of the NFC of the concluded contract is **€1 658 317.30**, representing **99.2%** of the contracted sum of the total allocation for the call. The total allocation for the call was €1 659 695.94.

3) In the framework of the call for the submission of AfNFCs **OPV 2008/2.2/02**, measure 2.2., the call was closed in the period monitored. More detailed information regarding this call is given in the 2008 Annual Report.

As at 13.2.2009, a total number of **7** AfNFCs were received under the call, with a total requested NFC of €9 311 185.79. Of the total number of applications received, 7 AfNFCs satisfied the conditions of the formal accuracy assessment, of which 7 AfNFCs were submitted to a Selection Committee meeting. The Selection Committee recommended 7 projects for approval.

By the end of August 2009, in the framework of this call **7** NFC contracts had been concluded, where the total amount of the NFC of the concluded contracts is €9 259 325.80, representing 88.55% of the contracted sum of the total allocation for the call. The total allocation for the call was €10 456 084.45. As at 1.9.2009 implementation of all projects had begun.

4) The appropriation for the call **OPV2009/2.2/01** totalled €1 500 000. The level of the NFC per AfNFC was limited to an interval of at minimum **€500 000** and at maximum **€1 500 000**.

As at 29.7.2009, **2** AfNFCs (of which only one AfNFC was registered, while the other was delivered at variance with the conditions of the call) were received under the call, with eligible expenditures totalling €2 463 421.90 and with the requested NFC of €2 340 250.78. Of the total number of applications received, 1 AfNFC satisfied the conditions of the formal accuracy assessment, of which 1 AfNFC was submitted to a Selection Committee meeting. The Selection Committee recommended **1** project for approval.

By the end of 2009, in the framework of this call 1 NFC contract had been concluded, where the total amount of the NFC of the concluded contract is €1 264 938.47, representing **84.32%** of the contracted sum of the total allocation for the call.

5) The appropriation for the call **OPV2009/2.2/02** totalled €7 000 000. The level of the NFC per AfNFC was limited to an interval of at minimum **€2 000 000** and at maximum **€5 000 000**.

As at 30.11.2009, in total **2** AfNFCs were received under the call. More detailed information regarding this call will be available in the 2010 Annual Report, since the process of the formal accuracy assessment of both AfNFCs was begun prior to 31.12.2009, but will be completed at the start of 2010.

2.1.1.2.3. Priority axis 3 – Support for Education of Persons with Special Education Needs

Measure 3.1 Raising the Education Level of Members of Marginalised Roma Communities

In the period monitored 1 call for the submission of AfNFCs (**OPV-2009/3.1/01-SORO**) was declared in the framework of measure 3.1. The call was focused on these target groups:

- primary school teaching staff;
- primary school pupils from MRCs.

Framework activity 3.1.1.: Support for the access of MRC members to education at all school levels

The activities on which the call was focused were defined as follows:

- programmes for facilitating the access and successful involvement of MRCs in education at primary schools in municipalities with a concentration of MRCs (where pupils from the Roma population form more than 50% of all primary school pupils), including the day-long upbringing process;
- preparatory and remedial courses for primary school pupils coming from MRCs, aimed at enabling them to continue in their studies at secondary school in the system of formal education;
- preparation and creation of teaching documentation and textbooks, teaching texts, teaching aids and handbooks, with the aim of enabling MRCs to integrate into the system of education at primary schools,
- projects focused on teaching the Roma language, literature and Roma studies at primary schools;
- innovation of teaching aids for developing primary school pupils' key competences;

The appropriation for the call **OPV-2009/3.1/01-SORO** amounted to €13 000 000. The level of the NFC per AfNFC was limited to an interval of at minimum **€100 000** and at maximum **€300 000**.

In the framework of the call the recorded total number of AfNFCs received as at 27.4.2009 was 116, with eligible expenditures totalling €22 434 702.52 and with requested NFC of €21 447 608.65.

As at 31.12.2009 in total 50 NFC contracts had been signed in the framework of the call. The NFC for the 50 contracted projects totals €8 420 682.37, representing 64.77% of the allocation for this call.

As at 31.12.2009 only 2 projects had been implemented; the start date for the implementation of the activities of most of the projects is planned for the first quarter of 2010.

Measure 3.2 Raising the Education Level of Persons with Special Education Needs

In the period monitored 1 call for the submission of AfNFCs (**OPV-2009/3.2/01-SORO**) was declared in the framework of measure 3.2. The call was focused on these target groups:

- special secondary school teaching staff;
- disabled pupils of special secondary schools;
- disabled persons;
- persons working in the field of integrating disabled persons into society.

Framework activity 3.2.1.: Support for the access of persons with special education needs to education at all school levels.

The activities on which the call was focused were defined as follows:

- innovation of methods and forms of the upbringing-education process at special secondary schools, promoting the key competences of disabled pupils and of teaching staff at special secondary schools with the use of new teaching materials in the framework of the upbringing-education process and thereby facilitating access of disabled persons to education at secondary schools;
- innovation of teaching aids for developing key competences in disabled pupils at special secondary schools;

Framework Activity 3.2.3.: Further education with special education needs.

The activities on which the call was focused were defined as follows:

- the creation and implementation of further education programmes for disabled persons;
- innovation of teaching aids for developing key competences in disabled persons.

Framework activity 3.2.4.: Further education for persons and support for the collaboration of institutions working in the field of integrating citizens with special education needs into society

The activity on which the call was focused was defined as follows:

- the creation and implementation of further education programmes for persons working with disabled persons.

The appropriation for the call **OPV-2009/3.2/01-SORO** amounted to €8 000 000. The level of the NFC per AfNFC was limited to an interval of at minimum **€120 000** and at maximum **€300 000**.

In the framework of the call the recorded total number of AfNFCs received as at 08.06.2009 was 37, with eligible expenditures totalling €7 259 740.08 and with requested NFC of €7 128 528.46.

In total 22 NFC contracts were signed in the framework of the call. The NFC of the 22 contracted projects totals €3 883 767.27, representing 48.54% of the allocation for this call.

As at 31.12.2009 none of the projects had been implemented. The start date for the implementation of the activities of most of the projects is planned for the first quarter of 2010.

2.1.1.2.4. Priority Axis 4 – Modern Education for a Knowledge-Based Society for the Bratislava Region

Measure 4.1. Transformation of the Traditional School to a Modern School for the Bratislava Region

In the period monitored no calls for the submission of AfNFCs were declared in the framework of measure 4.1. The implementation of projects approved from calls declared in 2008 continued over the course of 2009. More detailed information on the course of implementation of these projects is given in Section 3.4.1.1.2 of this 2009 Annual Report.

Measure 4.2 Raising the Competitiveness of the Bratislava Region by Means of Developing Tertiary and Further Education;

In the period monitored 2 calls for the submission of AfNFCs were declared in the framework of measure 4.2: The first call **OPV-2009/4.2/01-SORO** was focused on these target groups:

- students of state, public and private tertiary schools;
- tertiary education teachers at state, public and private tertiary schools;
- the management of state, public and private tertiary schools;
- staff working in the field of research & development at tertiary schools (including employees of the Slovak Academy of Sciences and its institutes);
- doctoral students;
- postdoctoral students.

Framework activity 4.2.1: The development of innovative forms of education, rationalisation and improving the quality of tertiary education study programmes, including support for the active collaboration of tertiary schools and the private sector in creating new study disciplines and programmes in the teaching process, and as well as improving the efficiency of the management and administration of tertiary schools.

The activities on which the call was focused were defined as follows:

- wider use of information technologies and new forms of education primarily in external study (virtual universities, distance learning, etc);
- creation and innovation of study programmes with emphasis on the needs of the labour market and knowledge-based society;
- support for raising interest in the study of mathematics, natural sciences, informatics and other technical study disciplines;
- creating study programmes in a global language promoting international cooperation and mobility of the academic community;
- support for teaching foreign languages at tertiary schools;
- creation of tools for monitoring employment among tertiary-education graduates in practice;
- building efficient administration and management of tertiary schools and promoting qualified management by means of further education of the present management of tertiary schools, their administrative staff, and the innovation of present management processes;
- projects for developing the professional growth of tertiary-education teachers aimed at raising the quality of education.

Framework activity 4.2.2.: Support for developing human resources in research & development (specific objective 2)

The activities on which the call was focused were defined as follows:

- education programmes focused on the teaching competence of doctoral students and support for raising the number of doctoral students/graduates of doctoral study at tertiary schools and institutes of the Slovak Academy of Sciences;
- promoting mobility between research & development organisations and the business sector;
- education of research & development staff.

Framework activity 4.2.3.: Raising the involvement of tertiary schools and other research & development organisations in international collaboration and networks of development and innovation (specific objective 3)

The activities on which the call was focused were defined as follows:

- programmes for promoting research and the transfer of new technologies and top expertise between research institutions and the business sector;
- information activities of research & development institutions aimed at raising interest in research and development results among the business sector;
- implementation, or expansion of the already-introduced joint study programmes of the Slovak tertiary schools and leading tertiary schools abroad, including the granting of dual and triple diplomas;
- programmes supporting the mutual exchange of research & development staff between research institutes, businesses and universities.

The financial allocation for this call represented €1 000 000. The level of NFC per project was set in the range from **€250 000 to €1 000 000**.

As at 24.8.2009, in total **6** AfNFCs had been received under the call. The financial allocation for eligible expenditures of AfNFCs totals €3 549 362.51, while the total requested NFC is €3 425 125.85.

Since the evaluation process stretches beyond the monitored period of this 2009 Annual Report, it is not possible to assess the process of contracting the approved projects. Further information regarding the call will be available in the 2010 Annual Report.

The second call **OPV-2009/4.2/02-SORO** was focused on these target groups:

- persons participating in further education activities for the sectors of construction, textile, electronics, mechanical engineering and chemicals, other than employees at risk of redundancy, low-qualified employees and the unemployed;
- further education lecturers.

Framework activity 4.2.4: Raising the quality of further education, including support for diversification of the forms of funding further education, support for developing key competences by means of further education and by way of improving the transmission between the sectors of formal, non-formal and informal education.

The activity on which the call was focused was defined as follows:

- creation and implementation of education programmes for persons participating in further education activities and for further education lecturers, with a focus on enriching and extending qualifications, professional skills and developing key competences for the sectors of construction, textile, electronics, mechanical engineering and chemicals, with regard to new technologies, innovation processes and their application in practice.

The financial allocation for this call represented €500 000. The level of the NFC per AfNFC was limited to an interval of at minimum €300 000 and at maximum €500 000.

As at 13.10.2009, the recorded total number of AfNFCs received under the call was **2**, with eligible expenditures totalling €911 721.00 and with a requested NFC of €866 134.95.

Since the evaluation process stretches beyond the monitored period of this 2009 Annual Report, it is not possible to assess the process of contracting the approved projects. Further information regarding the call will be available in the 2010 Annual Report.

Measure 4.3 Technical Assistance for the Regional Competitiveness & Employment Objective.

Technical assistance projects of the MA

In the period monitored 2 technical assistance projects had been submitted to and approved by the MA under this measure as at 31.12.2009, of which 1 project was submitted in the framework of priority theme 85 and 1 project in the framework of priority theme 86. More detailed information on the conditions for the provision of technical assistance is given in Section 6 of this 2009 Annual Report. Financial implementation of the technical assistance projects for 2007 – 2008 continued in 2009 with the processing of AfPs (refunds) submitted to the MA. As at 31.12.2009 none of the MA technical assistance projects had been completed.

Technical assistance in the framework of measure 4.3 for the RC&E objective in the period monitored was implemented under the MA and IBMA in the framework of the two priority themes 85: Preparation, implementation, monitoring and inspection; and 86: Evaluation and studies; information and communication. These priority themes are focused on activities connected with the management, monitoring, inspection, analysis, provision of information, promotion, evaluation and exchange of experience. The main objective was to ensure the efficient implementation of the OPE in accordance with the demands placed on the management and administrative structures responsible for implementing the operational programme. Parts 3.5.1.1 and 6 give more detailed information on technical assistance projects, declared notices regarding technical assistance projects and an overview of the use of technical assistance resources, broken down by priority activity in the framework of priority themes 85 and 86.

2 technical assistance projects were submitted to the MA for 2010, of which 1 project was submitted in the framework of priority theme 85 and 1 project in the framework of priority theme 86. The approval process of technical assistance projects of the ME SR for 2010 will take place in 2010 and will be stated in the 2010 Annual Report.

Notice **OPV/K/RKZ/TP/2009-1 (for priority theme 85)** was focused on ensuring the efficient implementation of the OPE in the framework of the Convergence/RC&E objective.

The eligible applicant for this notice is the ME SR.

The financial allocation for this notice per project of the RC&E objective, for priority theme 85, totals **€100 000**.

As at 18.6.2009 the recorded total number of applications received was **1**, in a total requested NFC of **€71 900**. This application in the requested amount passed through the approval process and was subsequently approved in the full amount requested.

The project was implemented in the period monitored and its activities were completed. More detailed information regarding the individual phases of the approval process and the project's implementation is given in Section 3.4.1.1.3 of this 2009 Annual Report. An overview of the use

of funds in the framework of technical assistance projects (specifically for the RC&E objective) from 1.1.2007 – 31.12.2009, broken down by priority activity (drawing) is given in Section 6 of this 2009 Annual Report. Financial implementation of this project will continue in 2010 with the processing of AfPs (refunds) submitted to the MA.

Notice **OPV/K/RKZ/TP/2009-2 (for priority theme 86)** was focused on ensuring the efficient implementation of the OPE in the framework of the Convergence/RC&E objective.

The eligible applicant for this notice is the ME SR.

The financial allocation for this notice per project of the RC&E objective, for priority theme 86, totals **€6 000**.

As at 18.6.2009 the recorded total number of applications received was **1**, in a total requested NFC of **€4 900**. This application in the requested amount passed through the approval process and was subsequently approved in the full amount requested.

The project was implemented in the period monitored and its activities were completed. An overview of the use of funds in the framework of technical assistance projects (specifically for the RC&E objective) from 1.1.2007 – 31.12.2009, broken down by priority activity (drawing) is given in Section 6 of this 2009 Annual Report. Financial implementation of this project will continue in 2010 with the processing of AfPs (refunds) submitted to the MA.

Notice **OPV/K/RKZ/TP/2009-3 (for priority theme 85)** was focused on ensuring the implementation of the OPE in accordance with the requirements placed on management, implementation, control, audit, monitoring and on administrative structures responsible for implementing the operational programme.

The eligible applicant for this notice is the ME SR.

The financial allocation for this notice per project of the RC&E objective, for priority theme 85, totals **€415 000**.

As at 31.12.2009 the recorded total number of applications received was **1**, in a total requested NFC of **€414 645**.

With regard to the fact that the closing date for the notice is 28.1.2010, further information on the notice and projects will be reported in the 2010 Annual Report.

Notice **OPV/K/RKZ/TP/2009-4 (for priority theme 86)** was focused on ensuring the implementation of the OPE in accordance with the requirements placed on evaluating the operational programme as well as on informing the public, promotion and exchange of experience.

The eligible applicant for this notice is the ME SR.

The financial allocation for this notice per project of the RC&E objective, for priority theme 86, totals **€45 000**.

As at 31.12.2009 the recorded total number of applications received was **1**, in a total requested NFC of **€44 325**.

With regard to the fact that the closing date of the notice is 28.1.2010, further information on the notice and projects will be reported in the 2010 Annual Report.

Technical Assistance projects of the IBMA ASFEU

In the period monitored 2 MA technical assistance projects had been submitted and approved in the framework of this measure as at 31.12.2009, of which 1 project was submitted in the framework of priority theme 85 and 1 project in the framework of priority theme 86. The

approval process of these technical assistance projects for 2010 will take place in 2010 and will be available in the 2010 Annual Report.

Notice **OPV/K/RKZ/TP/SORO/2009-1 (for priority theme 85)** was focused on staffing for the preparation, management and control of programmes, projects and horizontal priorities (hereinafter simply “HP”), including activities of the established structural fund committees and commissions, including staff training.

The eligible applicant for this notice is the ASFEU.

The financial allocation for this notice per project of the RC&E objective, for priority theme 85, totals **€150 000**.

As at 23.12.2009 (this is the closing date for the submission of AfNFCs for the technical assistance projects set by the respective notice) the recorded total number of applications received was **1**, in a total requested NFC of **€132 658.06**. The AfNFC in the requested amount passed through the approval process and was subsequently approved in the full amount requested.

The AfNFC was contracted on 21.12.2009 in the amount of **€132 658.06**. The approved project will be implemented in the period from 1.1.2010 to 31.12.2010.

Notice **OPV/K/RKZ/TP/SORO/2009-2 (for priority theme 86)** was focused on ensuring publicity and information regarding the OPE.

The eligible applicant for this notice is the ASFEU.

The financial allocation for this notice per project of the RC&E objective, for priority theme 86, totals **€22 000**.

As at 23.12.2009 (this is the closing date for the submission of AfNFCs for the technical assistance projects set by the respective notice) the recorded total number of applications received was **1**, in a total requested NFC of **€22 000**. The AfNFC in the requested amount passed through the approval process and was subsequently approved in the full amount requested.

The AfNFC was contracted on 21.12.2009 in the amount of **€22 000**. The approved project will be implemented in the period from 1.1.2010 to 31.12.2010.

2.1.1.2.5 Priority Axis 5 – Technical Assistance for the Convergence Objective

Technical assistance in the framework of the OPE is a separate priority axis 5 for the Convergence objective. The priority axis Technical Assistance for the Convergence objective was in the period monitored implemented under the MA and the IBMA in the framework of the two priority themes 85: Preparation, implementation, monitoring & Control; and 86: Evaluation & Studies; Information & Communication, as stated above for measure 4.3 in the framework of priority axis 4, in Section 2.1.1.2.4 of this 2009 Annual Report.

In the period monitored the ME SR declared 6 technical assistance notices in the framework of priority axis 5, of which 2 notices were for ME SR technical assistance projects for 2009, 2 notices for ME SR technical assistance projects for 2010 and 2 notices for ASFEU technical assistance projects for 2010. In the framework of these notices, 6 AfNFCs were received, of which 4 had been approved as at 31.12.2009. As at the same date 2 decisions approving ME SR technical assistance projects for 2009 had been issued (in the case of the MA technical assistance no contract is signed), 2 ASFEU technical assistance projects for 2010 had been contracted and the approval process of ME SR technical assistance projects for 2010 will take place in 2010.

Measure 5.1. – Technical Assistance for the Convergence objective

MA technical assistance projects

In the period monitored 2 MA technical assistance projects for 2009 had been submitted and approved in the framework of measure 5.1 as at 31.12.2009, of which 1 project was submitted in the framework of priority theme 85 and 1 project in the framework of priority theme 86. The submitted and approved projects were implemented in 2009. Concurrently financial implementation of the technical assistance projects for 2007 – 2008 continued in 2009 with the processing of AfPs (refunds) submitted to the MA. As at 31.12.2009 none of the MA technical assistance projects had been completed. In the period monitored 2 MA technical assistance projects for 2010 were also submitted, the approval process of which will happen in 2010.

Notice **OPV/K/RKZ/TP/2009-1 (for priority theme 85)** was focused on ensuring the efficient implementation of the OPE in the framework of the Convergence/RC&E objective.

The eligible applicant for this notice is the ME SR.

The financial allocation for this notice per project of the Convergence objective, for priority theme 85, totals **€2 500 000**.

As at 31.12.2009 the recorded total number of applications received was **1**, in a total requested NFC of **€2 463 300**. The AfNFC for the given project in the requested amount passed through the approval process and was subsequently approved in the full amount requested.

The project was implemented during 2009 and its activities had been completed as at 31.12.2009. The aim of the project was: to ensure the efficient implementation of the OPE in the framework of the Convergence objective in accordance with the demands placed on the management and administrative structures responsible for implementing the OPE. An overview of the use of funds in the framework of technical assistance projects (specifically for the Convergence objective) from 1.1.2007 – 31.12.2009, broken down by priority activity (drawing) is given in Section 3.5 of this 2009 Annual Report. Financial implementation of this project will continue in 2010 with the processing of AfPs (refunds) submitted to the MA.

Notice **OPV/K/RKZ/TP/2009-2 (for priority theme 86)** was focused on ensuring the efficient implementation of the OPE in the framework of the Convergence/RC&E objective.

The eligible applicant for this notice is the ME SR.

The financial allocation for this notice per project of the Convergence objective, for priority theme 86, totals **€200 000**.

As at 31.12.2009 the recorded total number of applications received was **1**, in a total requested NFC of **€157 700**. The AfNFC for the given project in the requested amount passed through the approval process and was subsequently approved in the full amount requested.

The project was implemented during 2009 and its activities had been completed as at 31.12.2009. The aim of the project was: to ensure the efficient implementation of the OPE in the framework of the Convergence objective in accordance with the demands placed on the management and administrative structures responsible for implementing the OPE. An overview of the use of funds in the framework of technical assistance projects (specifically for the Convergence objective) from 1.1.2007 – 31.12.2009, broken down by priority activity (drawing) is given in Section 3.5 of this 2009 Annual Report. Financial implementation of this project will continue in 2010 with the processing of AfPs (refunds) submitted to the MA.

Notice OPV/K/RKZ/TP/2009-3 (for priority theme 85) was focused on ensuring the implementation of the OPE in accordance with the requirements placed on management, implementation, control, audit, monitoring and administrative structures responsible for implementing the operational programme and for exchange of experience.

The eligible applicant for this notice is the ME SR.

The financial allocation for this notice per project of the Convergence objective, for priority theme 85, totals **€2 229 000**.

As at 31.12.2009 the recorded total number of applications received was **1**, in a total requested NFC of **€2 283 385**.

With regard to the fact that the closing date of the notice was 28.1.2010, further information on the project's approval process will be reported in the 2010 Annual Report.

Notice OPV/K/RKZ/TP/2009-4 (for priority theme 86) was focused on ensuring the implementation of the OPE in accordance with the requirements placed on evaluating the operational programme as well as informing the public, promotion and exchange of experience.

The eligible applicant for this notice is the ME SR.

The financial allocation for this notice per project of the Convergence objective, for priority theme 86, totals **€245 000**.

As at 31.12.2009 the recorded total number of applications received was **1**, in a total requested NFC of **€244 175**.

With regard to the fact that the closing date of the notice is 28.01.2010, further information on the project's approval process will be reported in the 2010 Annual Report.

Technical assistance projects of the IBMA ASFEU

In the framework of measure 5.1, two ASFEU technical assistance projects for 2010 had been submitted and approved as at 31.12.2009, of which 1 project was submitted in the framework of priority theme 85 and 1 project in the framework of priority theme 86.

Notice OPV/K/RKZ/TP/SORO/2009-1

Notice **OPV/K/RKZ/TP/SORO/2009-1 (for priority theme 85)** was focused on staffing for the preparation, management and control of programmes, projects and HPs, including activities of the established SF committees and commissions, including staff training.

The eligible applicant for this notice is the ASFEU.

The financial allocation for this notice per project of the Convergence objective, for priority theme 85, totalled **€2 700 000**.

As at 23.12.2009 (this is the closing date for the submission of AfNFCs for the technical assistance projects set by the respective notice) the recorded total number of applications received was **1**, in a total requested NFC of **€2 646 343.44**. The AfNFC in the requested amount passed through the approval process and was subsequently approved in the full amount requested.

The AfNFC was contracted on 21.12.2009 with an NFC amount of **€2 646 343.44**. The approved project will be implemented in the period from 1.1.2010 to 31.12.2010.

Notice **OPV/K/RKZ/TP/SORO/2009-2 (for priority theme 86)** was focused on ensuring publicity and information regarding the OPE.

The eligible applicant for this notice is the ASFEU.

The financial allocation for this notice per project of the Convergence objective, for priority theme 86, totalled **€550 000**.

As at 23.12.2009 (this is the closing date for the submission of AfNFCs for the technical assistance projects set by the respective notice) the recorded total number of applications received was **1**, in a total requested NFC of **€548 350**. The AfNFC in the requested amount passed through the approval process and was subsequently approved in the full amount requested.

The AfNFC was contracted on 21.12.2009 with an NFC amount of **€548 350**. The approved project will be implemented in the period from 1.1.2010 to 31.12.2010.

Measure 5.2. – Technical Assistance for the Convergence Objective – SR Ministry of Health

Technical assistance projects of the IBMA MH SR

In the period monitored no MH SR technical assistance projects were submitted and approved in the framework of the OPE. In the framework of measure 5.2 the ME SR did not declare any notices with regard to the fact that the IBMA MH SR technical assistance projects were approved and contracted in 2008 for the period 2007 – 2015.

As at 31.12.2009 none of the IBMA– MH SR technical assistance projects had been completed. An overview of the use of funds in the framework of technical assistance projects (specifically for the Convergence objective) from 1.1.2007 – 31.12.2009, broken down by priority activity (drawing) is given in Section 6 of this 2009 Annual Report.

More detailed information regarding the overall monitoring of the development of OPE implementation as at 31.12.2009 is given in Table 2.

Table 2: Monitoring of the development of programme implementation as at 31.12.2009

Priority axis	AfNFCs received	AfNFCs rejected	AfNFCs approved	Contracted projects	Projects in implementation	Withdrawn from contract	Completed projects
Priority axis 1	916	567	348	302	300	2	0
Measure 1.1	864	553	310	302	300	2	0
Measure 1.2	52	14	38	0	0	0	0
Priority axis 2	40	14	25	15	11	1	4
Measure 2.1	23	12	11	2	2	0	0
Measure 2.2	17	2	14	13	9	1	4
Priority axis 3	153	79	74	72	2	0	0
Measure 3.1	116	65	51	50	2	0	0
Measure 3.2	37	14	23	22	0	0	0
Priority axis 4	128	85	41	39	36	0	1
Measure 4.1	103	76	27	27	27	0	0
Measure 4.2	11	7	4	2	2	0	0
Measure 4.3	14	2	10	10	7	0	1
Priority axis 5	17	3	12	12	9	0	1

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Measure 5.1	15	3	10	10	7	0	1
Measure 5.2	2	0	2	2	2	0	0
Total	1254	748	500	440	358	3	6

Financial calculation of SF/CF and state budget in €						
Priority axis Measure	Amount of NFC requested	Amount of NFC not approved	Amount of NFC approved	Funds contracted	Funds repaid	Amount of completed projects
Priority axis 1	311 407 105.15	95 802 422.32	167 121 501.81	134 210 443.29	5 028 373.38	0.00
Measure 1.1	272 957 176.55	85 855 105.23	138 618 890.30	134 210 443.29	5 028 373.38	0.00
Measure 1.2	38 449 928.60	9 947 317.09	28 502 611.51	0.00	0.00	0.00
Priority axis 2	123 748 896.25	52 276 889.40	66 475 361.73	62 655 476.84	10 865.78	216 398.49
Measure 2.1	103 123 140.34	49 141 508.79	53 981 631.55	50 222 292.34	10 865.78	0.00
Measure 2.2	20 625 755.91	3 135 380.61	12 493 730.18	12 433 184.50	0.00	216 398.49
Priority axis 3	28 576 137.11	15 856 297.53	12 719 839.58	12 304 449.64	0.00	0.00
Measure 3.1	21 447 608.65	12 770 455.85	8 677 152.80	8 420 682.37	0.00	0.00
Measure 3.2	7 128 528.46	3 085 841.68	4 042 686.78	3 883 767.27	0.00	0.00
Priority axis 4	37 306 300.34	22 185 605.64	14 661 724.70	13 449 317.24	50 755.44	12 678.05
Measure 4.1	19 446 999.44	12 798 163.04	6 648 836.40	6 469 859.84	47 634.30	0.00
Measure 4.2	16 648 185.33	9 070 152.62	7 578 032.71	6 544 601.81	3 045.69	0.00
Measure 4.3	1 211 115.57	317 289.98	434 855.59	434 855.59	75.45	12 678.05
Priority axis 5	18 658 720.88	2 597 070.84	13 534 090.04	13 534 090.04	1 974.38	420 064.41
Measure 5.1	17 271 232.66	2 597 070.84	12 146 601.82	12 146 601.82	1 974.38	420 064.41
Measure 5.2	1 387 488.22	0.00	1 387 488.22	1 387 488.22	0.00	0.00
Total	519 697 159.74	188 718 285.74	274 512 517.86	236 153 777.06	5 091 968.98	649 140.95

The reasons for contract withdrawal in the case of extraordinary termination of a project were as follows:

In the framework of measure 1.1 an extraordinary termination of the contractual relationship was made from the side of 2 beneficiaries. In the case of the combined primary and nursery school Podzávoz 2739, 022 01 Čadca, the beneficiary in terminating the contractual relationship stated the reason as being that prior to approval of the project from the call code OPV-2008/1.1/03-SORO several teachers joined other education projects, whereby the project was no longer applicable. In the case of the beneficiary: secondary vocational school, Školská 5, 975 90 Banská Bystrica from the call OPV-2008/1.1/04-SORO, the school's new management gave the reason of personnel changes for withdrawing from the NFC contract.

In the case of the project of the upper-tier territorial unit Prešov under the call OPV 2008/2.2/01, the NFC contract was withdrawn from on 8.10.2009. The NFC contract was subject to extraordinary termination by withdrawal from the side of the UTTC Prešov due to insufficient project administration capacities.

The MA's website does not publish any news on the evaluation of reports from calls and direct awards, since the MA archives such reports internally and, if necessary, they are available for inspection. Individual reports from calls are submitted to the Monitoring Committee for information.

A detailed overview of all calls and direct awards declared as at 31.12.2009, together with an overview of individual projects, is given in Annex 2.

Detailed information on the cumulative drawing of priority axes 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5 as at 31.12.2009 is given in Table 3.

Table 3: Drawing of priority axes 1-5 as at 31.12.2009

Priority axis	2007-2013 commitment for EU sources	Fund drawing in 2009 (ESF sources) in €		Cumulative fund drawing (ESF sources) in €	
		Total	% of 2007 – 2013 commitment	Total	% of 2007 – 2013 commitment
Priority axis 1	365 000 000.00	1 802 148.87	0.49%	1 802 148.87	0.49%
Measure 1.1	255 000 000.00	1 802 148.87	0.71%	1 802 148.87	0.71%
Measure 1.2	110 000 000.00	0.00	0.00%	0.00	0.00%
Priority axis 2	146 000 000.00	291 658.79	0.20%	291 658.79	0.20%
Measure 2.1	109 500 000.00	54 357.08	0.05%	54 357.08	0.05%
Measure 2.2	36 500 000.00	237 301.71	0.65%	237 301.71	0.65%
Priority axis 3	65 000 000.00	0.00	0.00%	0.00	0.00%
Measure 3.1	48 700 000.00	0.00	0.00%	0.00	0.00%
Measure 3.2	16 300 000.00	0.00	0.00%	0.00	0.00%
Priority axis 4	17 801 578.00	173 699.88	0.98%	214 726.22	1.21%
Measure 4.1	6 911 514.00	92 030.28	1.33%	92 030.28	1.33%
Measure 4.2	10 178 001.00	3 440.15	0.03%	3 440.15	0.03%
Measure 4.3	712 063.00	78 229.45	10.99%	119 255.79	16.75%
Priority axis 5	24 000 000.00	2 181 381.31	9.09%	2 912 061.68	12.13%
Measure 5.1	22 820 635.00	1 964 334.03	8.61%	2 695 014.40	11.81%
Measure 5.2	1 179 365.00	217 047.28	18.40%	217 047.28	18.40%
Total	617 801 578.00	4 448 888.85	0.72%	5 220 595.56	0.85%

Fulfilment of measurable indicators

Further information regarding the fulfilment of context indicators is given in Table 4.

Table 4: Fulfilment of context indicators as at 31.12.2009*

Indicators		2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	Total
1. expenditure on human resources (total public expenditure on education) as a share of GDP	Result achieved	-	3.79	4.56	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	4.56
	Target	-	-	-	n/a	n/a	n/a	5.2%	5.2%	5.2%	5.2%
	Baseline	4.4%	-	-	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	4.4%
2. total employment rate	Result achieved	60.7%	62.3%	60.2%	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	60.2%
	Target	-	-	-	n/a	n/a	n/a	63.4%	63.4%	63.4%	63.4%
	Baseline	57.7%	-	-	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	57.7%
3. % of population engaged in lifelong learning per 100 inhabitants aged 25-64	Result achieved	3.9%	3.3%	2.8%	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	2.8%
	Target	-	-	-	n/a	n/a	n/a	12.5%	12.5%	12.5%	12.5%
	Baseline	4.6%	-	-	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	4.6%
4. graduates of tertiary grade of tertiary education	Result achieved	-	-	-	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
	Target	-	-	-	n/a	n/a	n/a	12	12	12	12
	Baseline	8.3	-	-	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	8.3
5. secondary-school educated youth	Result achieved	91.3%	92.3%	93.3%	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	93.3%
	Target	-	-	-	n/a	n/a	n/a	92%	92%	92%	92%
	Baseline	91.8%	-	-	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	91.8%
6. % of population (18 – 24) with lower secondary education not continuing in the education	Result achieved	6.5%	6.0%	4.9%	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	4.9%
	Target	-	-	-	n/a	n/a	n/a	5.5%	5.5%	5.5%	5.5%
	Baseline	6.4%	-	-	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	6.4%

* Source: Eurostat

Several institutions in the framework of the ME SR (Institute of Education Information & Forecasting, State Pedagogical Institute, State Institute of Vocational Education, etc), and as well as the SR Statistics Office, Eurostat and other international institutions are involved in the data collection system for context indicators.

The MA aggregates data from the level of projects through measures up to the level of priority axis. The IBMA aggregates data for the needs of the MA by means of IBMA monitoring reports, which it submits to the MA half-yearly. The IBMA has a set quarterly periodicity for submitting monitoring reports from the final beneficiaries.

In the period monitored the MA performed several measures for fulfilling the progress made in the physical indicators in comparison to the set baseline. It cooperated very closely with specific bodies of the CCB, coordinators of individual HPs and representatives of the individual IBMAs. With regard to the identified problems in collecting and aggregating data on achieved indicator values from the project level to the programme level (the measure and priority axis level) a mechanism of sending the achieved indicator values from the IBMA to the MA was agreed by way of a written MA guideline. The MA has a table drawn up containing links created between individual project level indicators and indicators at the level of OPE measures and priority axes.

This table is updated on the basis of current sets of indicators contained in contracts concluded at the IBMA, which are sent to the MA (as at 7.7. and 7.7. of year n) and subsequent sent back to the IBMA from the MA for use in submitting data in the framework of IBMA half yearly monitoring reports. More detailed information on the specific activities and adopted measures of the MA are described in Section 2.7 of this 2009 Annual Report.

Pursuant to the approved OPE Evaluations Plan for the programming period 2007-2013 and for the European Commission recommendation, the MA for the OPE began to carry out an operative evaluation of the OPE in November 2009 on the theme “Assessment of the Effectiveness of the System of OPE Management”. Further information on the selection of an external assessor, the terms of reference, assessment objectives, chief tasks, an overview of selected assessment methods and techniques, and the timetable of this process is given in Section 2.7.2.2. of this 2009 Annual Report.

In the case of most of the context indicators regarding the closing date for the submission of the 2009 Annual Report, the values for 2009 and in some cases also for 2007 and 2008 were not available. Since these are indicators that are aggregated by external sources and not by the MA, the values of these indicators will be stated, where possible, in the following annual reports, depending on their availability.

At this stage of OPE implementation it is difficult to provide a thorough analysis of the result indicator values achieved, for the following reasons:

- the expected values of the OPE result indicators are defined only at the end of the programming period in 2013 and 2015, meaning that it is not currently possible to compare the results achieved in 2009 with the expected results for 2009, which are not defined in the operational programme;
- with regard to the nature of the educational programmes, having an implementation period of approximately 2 – 4 years (with implementation of activities in the case of most of the approved projects having begun in 2009) result indicator values (reflecting the status at the end of the project’s implementation) are not presently available;
- the NFC Contract commits the beneficiary to define the expected result indicator values not on an interim basis, but only at the end of the project’s implementation.

The MA is aware of certain disparities/disproportions in the state achieved to date in fulfilling the programme indicators:

- in the case of several indicators no values have yet been achieved (due to the content focus of the calls/direct awards primarily directed at supporting school reform);
- in several cases the expected values of indicators have at present already been exceeded (in the case of the operational programme’s preparation the MA did not have available the relevant estimates in this field, with new legislation affecting teaching staff being completed only in 2009, i.e. 2 years after the OPE’s approval).

Based on this, the MA in cooperation with both IBMA's carried out an analysis of the contracting of programme indicators. This analysis will form the basis for preparing a timetable of calls and written invitations for the next period.

In 2010 an evaluation will be made, focusing on the setting of the operational programme's indicators, which, inter alia, will look at the reasons for the discrepancy between the planned and achieved indicators, and only then will the MA be able to give a full explanation for this discrepancy.

The contractor for the planned evaluation is to perform the following activities:

- gathering and analysis of relevant materials;
- interviews with staff at the MA and IBMAs;
- drawing up indicator maps;
- answering evaluation questions set by the MA;
- findings and recommendations will be submitted in a final report.

On the basis of experience with gathering data by means of the ITMS, this field was also included in the evaluation.

2.1.2. Financial implementation of the programme

In connection with the drawing from 1.1.2009 to 31.12.2009, in the period in question there were submitted to the Certifying Authority (hereinafter simply the "CA") for the OPE in total 27 summary applications for payment (hereinafter simply "SAP"), of which:

- 16 SAPs for the ME SR
- 11 SAPs for the MH SR

25 SAPs (16 SAPs for the ME SR and 9 SAPs for the MH SR) were approved in a total amount of €5 134 637.19 for the combined source of the European Union and state budget co-financing, i.e. €4 448 888.85 for the EU source and €685 748.34 for the state budget source, and 2 SAPs for the MH SR were rejected due to the identification of ineligible wage expenditures resulting from insufficient performance of administrative verification of the AfP, as well as further highly serious findings having an impact on the proper implementation of the operational programme.

Cumulative drawing

The percentage share of total drawing of the EU funds as at 31.12.2009 (€5 220 595.56) in the 2007 commitment reduced by the total amount of the pre-financing payment (€32 127 560) for the OPE represents 16.25%. In order to fulfil the n+3 rule for the commitment it is necessary by 31.12.2010 to approve at the CA expenditures in the amount of €26 906 964.42, i.e. €26 329 307.66 for the Convergence objective and €577 656.76 for the RC&E objective.

In the 2007 – 2013 commitment (€617 801 578) drawing as at 31.12.2009 totalling €5 220 595.56 represents 0.85%, where the drawing for the Convergence objective was €5 005 869.34, representing a 0.83% share, and drawing for the RC&E objective was €214 726.22, representing a 1.21% share of the total 2007 – 2013 commitment.

This level of drawing may be considered appropriate in relation to the indicators achieved at the end of the third year of the 2007 – 2013 programming period and with regard to the fact that the

actual implementation of the OPE at the level of national and demand-driven projects connected with actual drawing began only in 2009. In this regard it is necessary to bear in mind that the OPE, which is co-financed from ESF funds is a specific programme whose rate of drawing cannot be compared to other operational programmes financing primarily projects of a capital nature, or projects whose implementation and drawing result directly from the SR legislation. The ME SR in the framework of this programme supports primarily projects of an education nature (current expenditures) with an implementation period of approx. 2 – 4 years, with the education activities under these projects running progressively. With regard to the above, financing is likewise proceeding appropriately to the education timetable. Therefore the OPE MA maintains the opinion that the rate of drawing EU SF funds in the framework of the OPE is of an appropriate nature for this operational programme and its individual projects.

In this regard it is also important to look at the volume of funds already contracted in the framework of the OPE, since the level of contracting funds has a significant, but not decisive, impact on the present, but mainly future, drawing of the EU SF funds. As at 31.12.2009 the rate of contracting the total ESF commitment for the 2007 – 2009 programming period had reached 32.89%, which can clearly be classified as an appropriate basis for ensuring the problem-free drawing of the EU SF funds. From the aspect of commitments for individual years, the commitments for 2007 and 2008 are contractually covered, as is partially also the 2009 commitment (more than 36%).

As regards the structure of drawing to date, expenditures approved at the CA representing interim payments and final payments have been of a greater volume (almost 65% of the volume of certified expenditures to date for the ESF source) than approved clearing of pre-financing. Since, however, the bulk of all the OPE beneficiaries are from the public sector and are financed by means of pre-financing payments, we expect especially in Q2 and Q3 2010 a significant growth in drawing by means of clearing of pre-financing.

In this regard it is necessary to highlight the fact that as at 31.12.2009 the ME SR in the framework of the OPE registered pre-financing totalling **€53 699 000** (of which ESF sources total **€46 198 000**) that had been provided but not yet been cleared or certified. Although the provision of pre-financing does not represent drawing in relation to the CA or the European Commission, these resources enable beneficiaries to implement their projects, which is then reflected in drawing of SF funds following their subsequent clearing and approval at the CA.

The MA in an analysis of the SF EU fund drawing identified factors affecting the level of SF EU fund drawing. This concerns primarily the following factors:

- the existence of a time shift in the implementation of individual activities of the supported projects (and related expenditures) due to complications in the public procurement of goods and services (administrative and time demands in carrying out public procurement) relating to the implementation of activities – *in this regard the MA/IBMA have no competences for helping project implementers, since the rules regarding public procurement are clearly given;*
- low quality of submitted AfPs (including supporting documentation proving the eligibility of the expenditures claimed), which has had the consequence of prolonging the period for the administrative processing of applications from the side of the ME SR, or ASFEU, as well as for the amount refunded of eligible expenditures to beneficiaries (implementers) of individual projects – *the MA in an effort to improve the quality of*



submitted AfPs in the framework of national projects provides ongoing consultation with individual directly-managed organisations; the IBMA for improving the efficiency of the financial management of projects provides training for implementers and concurrently provides e-mail and personal consultation regarding specific problem areas.

Despite the above, the MA does not foresee serious problems with fulfilling the N+3 rule in relation to the 2007 commitment by the end of 2010. Considering the degree of contracting, the volume of provided pre-payments and the time interval necessary for the administration and approval of beneficiaries' AfPs (interim payments, final payments, clearing of pre-financing payments provided), the MA forecasts fulfilment of the N+3 rule in relation to the 2007 commitment through the submission of a sufficient volume of expenditures to the CA (MF SR) by means of SAPs at the turn of Q2 / Q3 2010.

Payments received from the European Commission

The CA has received from the European Commission pre-financing for the OPE in 4 tranches, where the 4th tranche of the pre-financing payment was paid on the basis of the European Commission's decision in the framework of measures adopted for eliminating the impacts of the global financial crisis:

1. 1st tranche received 30.11.2007 €12 356 031.56 (2% of the 2007 – 2013 commitment),
2. 2nd tranche received 23.5.2008 €18 534 047.34 (3% of the 2007 – 2013 commitment),
3. 3rd tranche received 2.2.2009 €12 356 031.56 (2% of the 2007 – 2013 commitment),
4. 4th tranche received 28.4.2009 €12 356 031.56 (2% of the 2007 – 2013 commitment).

In 2009 the CA had available on a non-budgetary account pre-financing funds totalling €55 602 142.02.

The CA on 3.11.2009 sent the first interim AfP no. 2610900701 to the European Commission in a total amount of €1 977 577.83 for the EU source, of which €1 906 663.21 for the Convergence objective and €70 914.62 for the RC&E objective, which was paid by the European Commission on 18.11.2009. By means of this application the CA fulfilled the m+24 rule, i.e. it sent the interim application to the European Commission within 24 months of the first tranche being sent from the European Commission. Data on the AfP to the European Commission, broken down by priority axis, is given in Annex 5.

As at 31.12.2009 Slovakia by the AfP to the European Commission declared to the Commission a 6.16% of the 2007 commitment reduced by pre-financing (€32 127 560). For meeting the n+3 rule for the 2007 commitment reduced by pre-financing, it is necessary to declare to the European Commission by 31.12.2010 expenditures totalling €30 149 982.17 (of which €29 428 513.79 for the Convergence objective and €721 468.38 for the RC&E objective), which represents 93.84% of the commitment. All payments received from the European Commission are listed in Annex 3.

Estimates of expected expenditures

An estimate of expected expenditures for 2009 was sent to the European Commission in April 2009 and for the OPE represented the sum of €27 596 087.01. By submitting the modified version of the interim AfP to the European Commission and by receiving the third and fourth tranches of pre-financing, the estimates of expected expenditures were fulfilled to 96.72%.

Further information regarding the comparison of actual and planned falling for the period monitored is given in Table 5.

Table 5⁴: Comparison of actual and planned drawing as at 1.1.2009 to 31.12.2009

	Planned drawing of eligible expenditures in 2009 (€) (estimate of eligible expenditure sent by the CA to the European Commission as at 30.04.2009)		Drawing of eligible expenditures toward the European Commission for 2009 (€)		Deviation (planned drawing – drawing toward the European Commission) (€)		Deviation (fulfilment of estimate of eligible expenditures) (%)	
	EU sources		EU sources		EU sources		EU sources	
	SF	CF	SF	CF	SF	CF	SF	CF
Total for programme	27 596 087.01	x	26 689 640.95	x	906 446.06	x	96.72	x

Assessment of the certification at the CA

For the period **1.1.2009 – 31.12.2009** in total 16 AfPs were submitted from the side of the **paying unit** (hereinafter simply the “PU”) of the **ME SR** to the CA in a total amount of €4 705 590.74 for all financing sources. All AfPs were approved in the submitted volume.

In the period from 1.1.2009 to 31.12.2009 interim certification was performed in the framework of 1 SAP for the IBMA ASFEU and the PU of the ME SR. The subject of the certification was a demand-driven project. The verified sample of expenditures represents the sum of €14 158.27, which is 0.30% of the volume of submitted SAPs and 23.17% of the volume of verified SAPs. Over the period from 1.1.2009 to 31.12.2009 no irregularities were identified from the CA level; no report on irregularities was drawn up.

Over the period from 1.1.2009 to 31.12.2009 in total 11 SAPs were submitted from the side of the **PU of the MH SR** in a total amount of €656 568.87, of which 9 SAPs in the sum of €537 233.28 were approved in the full amount and 2 SAPs totalling €119 335.59 were rejected.

Over the period from 1.1.2009 to 31.12.2009 preliminary certification was performed in the framework of 1 SAP for the IBMA MH SR and the PU of the MH SR; the verification concerned a demand-driven project, which was part of a pilot call in the framework of OPE implementation by the IBMA MH SR. The verified sample of expenditures represents the sum of €5 123.71, which is 0.78% of the volume of submitted SAPs and 8.44% of the volume of verified SAPs. Over the period from 1.1.2009 to 31.12.2009 **ineligible expenditures** identified in the framework of submitted SAPs amounted to €2 075.30, which is 40.50% of the verified sample. Following the adoption of corrective measures from the side of the IBMA MH SR, the expenditures were not confirmed as ineligible. Over the period monitored no irregularities from the CA level were identified; no report on irregularities was drawn up.

⁴ Based on communication between the CA and CCB and pursuant to the European Commission’s requirement for monitoring of the fulfilment of estimates of expected expenditures sent to the European Commission as at 30.04. of year N, the CA submits table 4 in a modified version that is not in accordance with update no. 1 to CCB Methodological Instruction no. 9.

For the OPE in the period from 1.1.2009 to 31.12.2009 in total 27 SAPs were submitted from the side of the PUs of the ME SR and MH SR in a total amount of €5 362 159.61, of which 25 SAPs in the sum of €5 242 824 were approved in the full amount and 2 SAPs totalling €119 335.59 were not approved.

In the period monitored interim certification was performed in the framework of 2 SAPs for the IBMA ASFEU, the IBMA MH SR, the PU of the ME SR and the PU of the MH SR. The verified sample represents the sum of €19 281.98, which is 0.36% of the volume of submitted SAPs and 15.82% of the volume of verified SAPs. Over the period from 1.1.2009 to 31.12.2009 ineligible expenditures identified in the framework of submitted SAPs amounted to €2 075.30, which is 10.76% of the verified sample. Following the adoption of corrective measures from the side of the IBMA MH SR, the expenditures were not confirmed as ineligible. Over the period monitored no irregularities from the CA level were identified; no report on irregularities was drawn up.

Over the period from 1.1.2009 to 31.12.2009 an initiative was sent from the CA level for the performance of a government audit at the ASFEU due to serious findings identified by the certification of a selected SAP. The CA's findings were the subject of review in the framework of government audit no. A278, K1552. Over the period monitored no initiative was sent from the CA level to the Office of Public Procurement. However, an initiative was sent to the MA for the purpose of performing a control concerning the execution of powers delegated to the IBMA MH SR, and this on the basis of results from certification of the selected SAP, identifying insufficient performance of the administrative verification of AfPs, together with other highly serious findings having an impact on the implementation of the operational programme in accordance with the principle of sound financial management. The control of delegated powers was performed in the period from 19.10.2009 to 25.11.2009, resulting in report no. 02/2009 on the audit results of the procedures delegated to the IBMA, dated 18.12 to 2009.

In the case of certification of SAPs carried out in the period from 1.1.2009 to 31.12.2009 the following findings were identified:

ASFEU – IMBA

Failure to comply with the System of Financial Management of the SF and the CF 2007 – 2013 and other documents

- the IBMA failed to comply with the period set by the System of Financial Management of the SF and the CF for performing administrative verification of AfPs and for issuing a Declaration of Verification,
- the IBMA made a change to the level of eligible expenditures that the beneficiary had declared, and subsequently stated this change in the Declaration of Verification, wherein it failed to specify in detail these changes in connection to the individual accounting documents stated in the AfP, as well as the reason for the change,

Incorrect or absent registration of data in the ITMS, ISUF, RIS

- data concerning the project was not filled out in the ITMS in accordance with the System of Financial Management of the SF and the CF 2007 – 2013.

MH SR – IBMA

Ineligible expenditures identified

- wage claims of the target group were not verified from the side of the IBMA insofar as to take account of all supporting documents (contracts between the beneficiary and cooperating entity, as well as contracts between a cooperating entity and healthcare personnel) relating to the implementation of the verified project.

Failure to comply with the System of Financial Management of the SF and the CF 2007 – 2013 and other documents

- Declaration of Verification issued by the IBMA regarding an AfP did not contain any record in the part “Problems examined, findings and corrective measures taken”, despite the fact that the IBMA declared that it had made a change to the amount of eligible expenditures declared by the beneficiary.

Incorrect or absent registration of data in the ITMS, ISUF, RIS

- data concerning the project was not filled out in the ITMS in accordance with the System of Financial Management of the SF and the CF 2007 – 2013;

In respect of the aforementioned findings the IBMA ASFEU, the IBMA MH SR, the PU of the ME SR and PU of the MH SR had adopted appropriate measures as at 31.12.2009, which were accepted by the CA.

Irregularities

As at 31.12.2009 the CA had not been notified of any irregularities or repaid funding.

An overview of reimbursed expenditures as at 31.12.2009 is given in Tables 6A and 6B.

Table 6A: Overview of reimbursed expenditures 1.1.2009 to 31.12.2009

Priority Axis by financing source (EUR)

	column (a)	column (b)	column (c)	column (d)
	Expenditures paid by beneficiaries and included in AfPs sent to the MA, IBMA	Corresponding state contribution	Expenditures paid by the Paying Unit to beneficiaries	Total payments received from the European Commission
Priority axis 1	10 578 090.19	10 567 014.48	1 802 148.87	9 815.54
ESF				
— of which ESF-type expenditures	10 578 090.19	10 567 014.48	1 802 148.87	9 815.54
— of which ERDF-type expenditures	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Priority axis 2	444 456.97	437 759.24	291 658.79	172 634.03
ESF				
— of which ESF-type expenditures	437 619.23	431 263.39	291 658.79	172 634.03

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— of which ERDF-type expenditures	6 837.74	6 495.85	0.00	0.00
Priority axis 3	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
ESF				
— of which ESF-type expenditures	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
— of which ERDF-type expenditures	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Priority axis 4	718 228.26	718 228.26	173 699.88	70 914.62
ESF				
— of which ESF-type expenditures	718 228.26	718 228.26	173 699.88	70 914.62
— of which ERDF-type expenditures	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Priority axis 5	2 707 460.96	2 707 460.96	2 181 381.31	1 724 213.64
ESF				
— of which ESF-type expenditures	2 678 444.63	2 678 444.63	2 152 364.98	1 724 213.64
— of which ERDF-type expenditures	29 016.33	29 016.33	29 016.33	0.00
Total aggregate	14 448 236.38	14 430 462.95	4 448 888.85	1 977 577.83
Total aggregate ESF-type expenditures, where the operational programme is co-financed from the ERDF ⁽¹⁾	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Total aggregate ERDF-type expenditures, where the operational programme is co-financed from the ESF ⁽¹⁾	35 854.07	35 512.18	29 016.33	0.00

Data source: ITMS/Internal registers of the MA/IBMA, CA

Notes:

Column (a) includes claimed amounts of all interim and final applications for payment, clearings of pre-financing and pre-financing for ESF, state budget and public-private sources, that were submitted to the MA/IBMA in the period from 1.1.2009 to 31.12.2009, with the exception of applications for payments that were transferred in the ITMS system to a cancelled or rejected status.

Column (b) includes claimed amounts of all interim and final applications for payment, clearings of pre-financing and pre-financing for ESF, state budget and public sources, that were submitted to the MA/IBMA in the period from 1.1.2009 to 31.12.2009, with the exception of applications for payments that were transferred in the ITMS system to a cancelled or rejected status.

Column (c) includes the amounts of all interim and final applications for payment, clearings of pre-financing and pre-financing for ESF and state budget sources, that were approved by the Certifying Authority in the period from 1.1.2009 to 31.12.2009.

Table 6B: Cumulative overview of reimbursed expenditures as at 31.12.2009
Priority Axis by financing source (EUR)

	column (a)	column (b)	column (c)	column (d)
	Expenditures paid by beneficiaries and included in AfPs sent to the MA, IBMA	Corresponding state contribution	Expenditures paid by the Paying Unit to beneficiaries	Total payments received from the European Commission
Priority axis 1	10 578 090.19	10 567 014.48	1 802 148.87	9 815.54
ESF				
— of which ESF-type expenditures	10 578 090.19	10 567 014.48	1 802 148.87	9 815.54
— of which ERDF-type expenditures	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Priority axis 2	472 920.16	466 222.43	291 658.79	172 634.03
ESF				
— of which ESF-type expenditures	466 082.42	459 726.58	291 658.79	172 634.03
— of which ERDF-type expenditures	6 837.74	6 495.85	0.00	0.00
Priority axis 3	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
ESF				
— of which ESF-type expenditures	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
— of which ERDF-type expenditures	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Priority axis 4	766 871.68	766 871.68	214 726.22	70 914.62
ESF				
— of which ESF-type expenditures	765 937.98	765 937.98	213 792.53	70 914.62
— of which ERDF-type expenditures	933.70	933.70	933.69	0.00
Priority axis 5	3 572 519.35	3 572 519.35	2 912 061.68	1 724 213.64
ESF				
— of which ESF-type expenditures	3 499 748.34	3 499 748.34	2 839 290.66	1 724 213.64
— of which ERDF-type expenditures	72 771.01	72 771.01	72 771.02	0.00
Total aggregate	15 390 401.38	15 372 627.94	5 220 595.56	1 977 577.83
Total aggregate ESF-type expenditures, where the operational programme is co-financed from the ERDF ⁽¹⁾	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Total aggregate ERDF-type expenditures, where the operational programme is co-financed from the ESF ⁽¹⁾	80 542.45	80 200.56	73 704.71	0.00

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Data source: ITMS/Internal registers of the MA/IBMA, CA

Notes:

Column (a) includes claimed amounts of all interim and final AfPs, clearings of pre-financing and pre-financing for ESF, state budget and public-private sources, that had been submitted to the MA/IBMA in the period as at 31.12.2009, with the exception of AfPs that were transferred in the ITMS system to a cancelled or rejected status.

Column (b) includes claimed amounts of all interim and final AfPs, clearings of pre-financing and pre-financing for ESF, state budget and public sources, that had been submitted to the MA/IBMA in the period as at 31.12.2009, with the exception of AfPs that were transferred in the ITMS system to a cancelled or rejected status.

Column (c) includes the amounts of all interim and final AfPs, clearings of pre-financing and pre-financing for ESF and state budget sources, that had been approved by the CA as at 31.12.2009.

Applications in columns (a), (b) and (c) that had been submitted to the MA/IBMA and approved by the CA as at 31.12.2008 are recalculated at the respective ECB monthly exchange rate. The conversion rate was used for recalculating expenditures made in SKK and approved after 31.12.2008.

In the framework of this drawing **1.41%** of funds were used by means of cross-financing (Article 34(2) of EC Regulation no. 1083/2006) in the case of two technical assistance projects of the IBMA (ASFEU). This drawing constituted a refund of funds spent on purchasing computer equipment for IBMA staff involved in the OPE's implementation. In the framework of priority axis 4 (measure 4.3) cross-financing formed **0.43%** in the total drawing, and **2.50%** in the framework of priority axis 5 (measure 5.1).

As at 31.12.2009 in total 20 OPE projects with an expectation of fund drawing in part by cross-financing had been contracted or approved (in the case of MA technical assistance projects, no NFC contract is signed). Financing of expenditures by means of cross-financing is expected not only in the case of technical assistance projects (9 projects) and 2 national projects (1 mirror project), but also in the framework of demand-driven projects (9 projects). The value of such contracted cross-financing funds represents almost **€1 611 000** (of which **€1 365 000** from the ESF source), which in relation to the volume of ESF funds contracted to date represents **0.67%** and **0.22%** in relation to the ESF commitment for the whole 2007 – 2013 programming period.

In the case of technical assistance projects of the MA and both IBMAs (measures 4.3 and 5.1) cross-financing is intended for ensuring optimal material-technical conditions (computer equipment, office equipment, furniture, etc) for MA/IBMA staff involved in the OPE's implementation.

In the case of national projects the use of cross-financing is expected in the framework of the mirror national project "Developing New Vocational Education Programmes for the Needs of the Automobile Industry II" (measures 1.1 and 4.1), the beneficiary of which is the State Institute of Vocational Education. Appropriation for cross-financing is intended for creating specialised textbooks for the needs of educating pupils in the framework of the newly-created school education programmes.

In the case of demand-driven projects it is planned that cross-financing will be used in the case of 9 projects contracted on the basis of the following calls:

- OPV-2009/3.2/01-SORO – Innovation of the methods and forms of the upbringing-education process and creation of further education programmes for disabled persons;
- OPV 2008/2.2/02 – Development of new forms of further education in healthcare;
- OPV 2008/2.2/03 – Replenishing the healthcare system with qualified specialists;

- OPV 2009/2.2/01 – Support for evaluating continuing education of healthcare workers.

In the case of the first call, 6 projects using cross-financing were contracted, while 1 cross-financed project was contracted in the case of each of the other calls.

As at 31.12.2009 the option of using cross-financing in the framework of planned projects was available in the case of 2 calls (of which 1 was a direct award) not yet closed as at that date.

- OPV-2009/1.1/05-SORO Developing and improving the efficiency of school education programmes for secondary vocational schools;
- Direct award – national project no. OPV/K/ NP/2009-7 Digitalisation of the content of national education programmes for primary and secondary schools.

The MA will also in the future promote financing of projects by means of cross-financing where necessary for ensuring the implementation of quality projects contributing to the efficient implementation of the OPE.

The total state of the implementation of priority axes 1-5 in connection with the overview of SF drawing in comparison with the 2007 – 2013 commitments is given in Annex 6.

2.1.2.1 Verifying expenditure eligibility

In the period monitored a total of 69 on-the-spot verifications were carried out. The MA performed 30 on-the-spot verifications and both IBMAs performed in total 39 on-the-spot verifications.

MA

The duty to perform verification of project implementation stems from Article 60 (b) of the general regulation, pursuant to which the MA is responsible for managing and implementing the operational programme in accordance with the principle of sound financial management and is responsible also for verifying that the co-financed products and services are delivered and that the expenditure declared by the beneficiaries for operations has actually been incurred and complies with Community and SR law.

In the period monitored the ME SR as the MA for the OPE carried out in total 30 on-the-spot verifications. Further information regarding on-the-spot verifications, as well as findings and corrective measures is available in Annex 8.

ASFEU

In the period monitored the ASFEU pursuant to Article 13(2) of Commission Regulation (EC) No 1828/2006 carried out in total 29 on-the-spot verifications.

The objective of the on-the-spot verifications was to verify the actual delivery of products, performance of operations and provision of services declared in accounting documents and supporting documentation submitted by the beneficiary in accompaniment to the AfP in accordance with the NFC contract, or in accordance with documents to which the NFC contract refers. The project manager / expenditure administration manager in the on-the-spot verifications proceeded in accordance with the provisions of the NFC contract.

The sampling criteria for selecting projects for on-the-spot verification were defined as follows:

- risk budget of the project;
- receipt of AfPs / applications for clearing pre-financing;
- locality (place of the project's implementation, specific NUTS);
- principle of equal treatment – equal distribution of projects included in the sample for on-the-spot verification for all project managers / expenditure administration managers involved.

All 29 on-the-spot verifications were performed for the purpose of verifying education activities, delivery of products and services and performance of operations declared by the beneficiary in accounting documents and supporting documentation submitted by the beneficiary together with the AfP in accordance with the NFC contract.

In 2009 in addition to the 26 planned on-the-spot verifications, a further 3 on-the-spot verifications were also carried out outside the framework of the planned audits. These three on-the-spot verifications, focused on ascertaining the implementation of the education activities of a project without a prior notice, were carried out at the following beneficiaries: Ladislav Novomeský Secondary School in Bratislava, Nitra self-governing region and Primary School at Bernolákova 5 in Holič.

Further information regarding the on-the-spot verifications is available in Annex 7.

MH SR

In the period monitored from February to October 2009 in total 10 on-the-spot verifications were carried out in the framework of measure 2.2. Promoting Further Education in Healthcare

The MH SR as the IBMA carried out an on-the-spot verification of the following individual subjects: upper-tier territorial units of (hereinafter simply "UTTU") Košice, Prešov, Nitra, Trenčín, Žilina and the Slovak Chamber of Medicine.

On-the-spot verifications were focused on verifying compliance of projects' implementation with the NFC contract, with project objectives, with the fulfilment of indicator values in the project, the implementation schedule for project activities, and with other conditions as given in the NFC contract.

The on-the-spot verifications recorded no serious findings concerning irregularities with any provision of the NFC contract.

An overview of the results from the on-the-spot verifications is given in Annex 7.

Most frequent findings from all on-the-spot verifications

The following most frequent shortcomings were identified in individual on-the-spot verifications:

- discrepancies between staffing for project activities and the current job matrix;
- low compliance in project implementation with for the information and publicity rules ensuring from the NFC contract;

- low quality of monitoring reports; monitoring reports failed to detail information regarding the implementation of individual activities reflecting the physical progress made in the project's implementation.
- monitoring documentation was not divided separately for the Convergence objective and the Regional Competitiveness & Employment objective;
- breach of Act no. 553/2003 Coll., the Labour Code, Act no. 523/2004 Coll., shortcomings in cumulative timesheets, insufficient specification of activities listed in individual timesheets, overlap in personnel expenditures;
- by verifying timesheets (cumulative) and comparing them with the respective work attendance register (electronic or paper) a discrepancy was identified in the data on the arrival or departure to/from work, not marking or not taking account of the lunch break in accordance with the respective internal directive governing the registration of working time, the claiming of holiday for recuperation for a period not connected with the project's implementation;
- in the project documentation the beneficiary did not have available documents regarding the eligibility of the target group's selection;
- insufficient keeping of supporting documentation concerning the project's activities.

Based on individual identified findings the respective measures for eliminating the shortcomings were adopted from the side of beneficiaries, which have now been fulfilled, or are being fulfilled. Among these measures may be included, for example;

- adjusting the project's job matrix in accordance with the actual staffing for implementing the project's individual activities;
- complying with the information and publicity rules in accordance with the NFC Contract;
- stating in the monitoring report more detailed information regarding the implementation of individual activities;
- keeping monitoring documentation separately for the Convergence objective and the Regional Competitiveness & Employment objective;
- specifying or detailing activities and results of scheduled operations with regard to individual timesheets for the respective reported month for projects; reviewing employment contracts and the work tasks of employees working for projects on employment basis (in the case of the same employer); drawing up new internal acts governing the registration of attendance and the place of work performance in accordance with the Labour Code; making changes in remuneration that will be in accordance with the employment contract and applicable Manual for an NFC applicants in the part concerning national projects;
- ensure thorough compliance with the keying of individual activities depending on objectives and target groups and subsequent claiming of the respective level of personnel expenditures, taking account of the breakdown of an eligible wage; ensuring thorough registration of hours worked by individual employees on projects in the form of an electronic attendance register, or attendance log; in claiming a proportionate volume of eligible expenditures for products and services, in a breakdown for individual projects, or mirrors, thoroughly applying the proportion – keying depending on target groups and objectives set by the beneficiary itself in accordance with measurable indicators pursuant to the detailed project description; thorough compliance with the conditions set in the project budget, e.g. unit prices;
- documenting the eligibility of the target group selection;
- provably and comprehensibly keeping supporting documentation to sub-activities in the framework of the project.



At the same time the MA in an effort to minimise in future the findings identified in the framework of the on-the-spot verifications, and to improve the quality of submitted AfPs in the framework of national projects, provides ongoing consultations with individual directly-managed organisations. The IBMAs for improving the efficiency of the financial management of projects provide training for project implementers and concurrently provide e-mail and personal consultations regarding specific problem areas.

2.1.3. Implementation of Structural Funds and the Cohesion Fund from the regional aspect

As regards the levelling of regional differences, the multi-objective operational programme OPE contributes by covering two objectives of the EU Cohesion Policy, namely the Cohesion objective (territory of the whole SR other than the Bratislava self-governing region) and the RC&E objective (Bratislava self-governing region). For the implementation of the OPE there is available for financing projects falling under the RC&E objective €17 089 550 allocated from EU funds respective to gross domestic product and €600 000 000 for financing projects falling under the Convergence objective. Funds allocated in the framework of the Convergence objective are distributed equally among NUTS II regions (pursuant to the programming documents).

Compliance with the indicative regional allocation stated in the OPE, or the OPE Programme Manual, is ensured in the process of declaring calls and direct awards for the submission of AfPs in several ways:

- calls and direct awards for the submission of AfPs are largely declared in mirror for the whole of the SR territory and provide equal possibility for all potential eligible applicants to engage in the AfP submission process;
- the MA and IBMA in the process of approving and selecting AfPs apply the same evaluation and selection criteria, with the aim of selecting the best projects from the aspect of quality;
- preparation of quality demand-driven projects in each region is supported by regional information offices (hereinafter simply “RIOs”) of the IBMA ASFEU, and which are located in each regional town;
- information seminars and trainings are held in parallel in all regions of Slovakia regarding declared calls for the submission of AfPs in the framework of the OPE.

Table 7A: Physical implementation, classified by NUTS III as at 31.12.2009

Priority axis	NUTS III region	Number of applications received	Number of projects contracted	Projects in implementation
Priority axis 1	Trnava	72	11	11
	Trenčín	109	38	38
	Nitra	107	29	29
	Žilina	144	59	58
	Banská Bystrica	137	46	46
	Prešov	179	66	66
	Košice	154	46	45
	Total	902	295	293
Priority axis 2	Trnava	1	1	1
	Trenčín	2	2	1

	Nitra	4	2	1
	Žilina	4	2	1
	Banská Bystrica	4	1	1
	Prešov	5	1	1
	Košice	3	2	1
	Total	23	11	7
Priority axis 3	Trnava	5	3	0
	Trenčín	3	1	0
	Nitra	12	4	0
	Žilina	7	4	0
	Banská Bystrica	31	14	0
	Prešov	51	19	2
	Košice	38	23	0
	Total	147	68	2
Priority axis 4	Bratislava (demand-driven project + national project)	114	29	29
	Bratislava region (technical assistance)	14	10	7
	Total	128	39	36
Total		1200	413	338

Table 7A covers all projects whose activities are implemented in the individual NUTS III regions, other than national projects and technical assistance projects which are implemented in the framework of the Convergence objective.

Table 7B: Physical implementation of projects not classified in regions at the NUTS II level as at 31.12.2009

Priority axis	Number of applications received	Number of projects contracted	Projects in implementation
Priority axis 1	14	7	7
Priority axis 2	17	4	4
Priority axis 3	6	4	0
Priority axis 4	0	0	0
Priority axis 5	17	12	9
Total	54	27	20

Table 7B covers all projects whose activities are implemented in several NUTS III regions, or which have an impact on more than 1 NUTS III region. In the case of national projects and technical assistance projects, Table 7B covers those projects that are implemented in the framework of the Convergence objective.

Further information on the financial implementation of projects broken down by NUTS III is given in Table 8.

Table 8: Financial implementation classified by NUTS III as at 31.12.2009

Priority axis	NUTS III region	Indicative allocations from the ESF (€)	Funds contracted from the ESF			Funds drawn from the ESF		
			€	% of contracting under priority axis	% of allocation on for region	€	% of drawing under priority axis	% of allocation for region
A	B	C	D	$E=D/\sum$ priority axis	$F=D/C$	G	$H=G/\sum$ priority axis	$I=G/C$
Priority axis 1	Trnava	125 998 000	1 283 830.26	0.35%	1.02%	59 207.11	0.02%	0.05%
	Trenčín		4 850 073.90	1.33%	3.85%	257 437.66	0.07%	0.20%
	Nitra		3 752 871.65	1.03%	2.98%	58 373.38	0.02%	0.05%
	Žilina	110 814 000	7 900 921.59	2.16%	7.13%	276 376.58	0.08%	0.25%
	Banská Bystrica		5 890 705.47	1.61%	5.32%	190 252.02	0.05%	0.17%
	Prešov	128 188 000	7 712 338.71	2.11%	6.02%	412 986.19	0.11%	0.32%
	Košice		5 786 567.88	1.59%	4.51%	287 619.11	0.08%	0.22%
	Sub-total	365 000 000	37 177 309.46	10.19%	10.19%	1 542 252.05	0.42%	0.42%
Priority axis 2	Trnava	50 399 200	917 062.43	0.25%	1.82%	0.00	0.00%	0.00%
	Trenčín		1 328 912.69	0.36%	2.64%	51 631.34	0.04%	0.10%
	Nitra		1 037 663.15	0.28%	2.06%	50 115.74	0.03%	0.10%
	Žilina	44 325 600	1 322 366.03	0.36%	2.98%	49 803.92	0.03%	0.11%
	Banská Bystrica		1 305 433.74	0.36%	2.94%	0.00	0.00%	0.00%
	Prešov	51 275 200	1 269 640.73	0.35%	2.48%	0.00	0.00%	0.00%
	Košice		1 327 804.82	0.36%	2.59%	42 068.71	0.03%	0.08%
	Sub-total	146 000 000	8 508 883.60	5.83%	5.83%	193 619.71	0.13%	0.13%
Priority axis 3	Trnava	22 438 000	372 888.34	0.10%	1.66%	0.00	0.00%	0.00%
	Trenčín		224 260.52	0.06%	1.00%	0.00	0.00%	0.00%
	Nitra		511 903.73	0.14%	2.28%	0.00	0.00%	0.00%
	Žilina	19 734 000	543 361.25	0.15%	2.75%	0.00	0.00%	0.00%
	Banská Bystrica		2 093 939.01	0.57%	10.61%	0.00	0.00%	0.00%
	Prešov	22 828 000	2 947 645.37	0.81%	12.91%	0.00	0.00%	0.00%
	Košice		3 580 764.07	0.98%	15.69%	0.00	0.00%	0.00%
	Sub-total	65 000 000	10 274 762.29	15.81%	15.81%	0.00	0.00%	0.00%
Priority axis 4	Bratislava (demand-driven project + national project)	17 089 515	11 108 287.25	3.04%	65.00%	95 470.43	0.54%	0.56%
	Bratislava region (technical assistance)	712 063	369 627.25	0.10%	51.91%	119 255.79	0.67%	16.75%
	Sub-total	17 801 578	11 477 914.50	64.48%	64.48%	214 726.22	1.21%	1.21%
Total		593 801 578	67 438 869.84	11.36%	11.36%	1 950 597.98	0.33%	0.33%



Further information on the financial implementation of projects broken down by NUTS III is given in Table 9.

Table 9: Financial implementation of projects not classified in regions at the NUTS III level as at 31.12.2009

Priority axis	Allocation	Funds contracted from the ESF		Funds drawn from the ESF	
		€	% of contracting under priority axis	€	% of drawing under priority axis
A	B	C	D=C/B	E	F=E/B
Priority axis 1	365 000 000.00	78 566 970.45	21.53%	259 896.82	0.07%
Priority axis 2	146 000 000.00	45 173 715.90	30.94%	98 039.08	0.07%
Priority axis 3	65 000 000.00	489 511.28	0.75%	0.00	0.00%
Priority axis 4	17 801 578.00	0.00	0.00%	0.00	0.00%
Priority axis 5	24 000 000.00	11 503 976.53	47.93%	2 912 061.68	12.13%
Total	617 801 578.00	135 734 174.16	21.97%	3 269 997.58	0.53%

In connection with the physical implementation of national and demand-driven projects classified in the regions according to NUTS III as at 31.12.2009 it may be said that the largest number of applications for NFCs (235) was received from the Prešov region and the fewest applications for NFCs (78) were received from the Trnava region. Proportionally to these figures the largest number of contracted projects (86) was in the Prešov region and the fewest contracted projects (15) were from the Trnava region.

As regards the financial implementation of national and demand-driven projects classified in the regions according to NUTS III as at 31.12.2009 it may be said that the highest volume of contracted ESF funding was in the Prešov region (€11 929 624.81) and the lowest volume of contracted ESF funding (€2 573 781.03) was in the Trnava region. Likewise, the highest volume of ESF funding drawn was in the Prešov region (€412 986.19) and the lowest volume of ESF funding drawn was in the Trnava region (€59 207.11).

Due to the fact that 2008 was occupied largely with contracting projects and that the actual implementation of OPE projects happened afterward, in 2009, the level of ESF funding drawn in individual regions is not high. In percentage terms the levels of funding drawn in the individual regions from the financial allocation per region represent 0.42% for priority axis 1, 0.13% for priority axis 2, 0.00% for priority axis 3 (the implementation of activities contracted in 2009 will take place in 2010) and 1.21% for priority axis 4.

As for the drawing of ESF funds for projects whose activities are implemented in several NUTS III regions, or have an impact on more than 1 NUTS III region, the percentage drawing of these projects not classified in the regions is only 0.53% for all priority axes.

From the structure of drawing to date, the greater volume of certified expenditures has been formed by interim payments and final payments prior to approved clearings of pre-financing. Since, however, the bulk of all the OPE beneficiaries come from the public sector and are financed in the form of pre-financing, we expect in 2010 a significant growth in drawing through

its clearing. In this regard it is necessary to highlight the fact that as at 31.12.2009 the ME SR in the framework of the OPE registered pre-financing totalling €53 699 000 (of which ESF sources total €46 198 000) that had been provided but not yet been cleared or certified. Although pre-financing does not represent drawing in relation to the CA or the European Commission, these funds enable beneficiaries to implement their projects (in the field at the premises of the projects' implementers), which is then reflected in drawing of SF funds following their subsequent clearing and certification.

With regard to the low figures of drawing from the EU funds in all regions and all priority axes, more detailed comment regarding the OPE's contribution to levelling out regional differences will be given in the 2010 Annual Report.

2.1.4. Financial control and audit

Audits on systems and operations under Article 62 of Council Regulation (EC) No. 1083/2006

Tasks of the audit authority are carried out by the Audit and Control Section of the SR Ministry of Finance in cooperation with the bodies involved in the execution of government audits. Pursuant to the audit strategy for the 2007 – 2013 programming period for structural aid programmes approved by the European Commission in May 2009, audits on systems and operations under Article 62 of Council Regulation (EC) no. 1083/2006 are performed as a government audit, the basic elements of which are governed in legislation by Act no. 502/2001 Coll. on financial control and internal audit and on the amendment of certain acts as later amended.

In the second half of 2009 the audit authority in cooperation with bodies participating in the performance of government audits carried out a system audit at all bodies implementing the OPE (CCB, CA, MA, IBMA ASFEU, IBMA MH SR, PU of the ME SR, PU of the MH SR).

Conclusions from the verification performed showed shortcomings particularly in the following management and control processes:

- **at the level of the managing authority and paying unit**
 - insufficient controls performed by the MA/IBMA (Article 16 (b), (g) of Council Regulation (EC) No 1083/2006 and Article 13 (2) – 13 (4) of Commission Regulation (EC) No 1828/2006) – non-definition of the duty to exercise the four-eyes rule, non-definition of the duty to inform the beneficiary following the completion of an administrative verification of reasons for reducing eligible expenditures and the current level of recognised eligible expenditures;
 - insufficient audit trail (Article 60 (c), (d), (f), Article 90 of Commission Regulation (EC) No 1083/2006 and Article 15 of Commission Regulation (EC) No 1828/2006) – non-incorporation of the MA's duty to take account of the results of all audits, to draw up and fulfil an action plan in respect of identified shortcomings, as well as to regularly submit a report on the fulfilment of measures within set deadlines.
- **at the level of the IBMA ASFEU**
 - insufficient controls performed by the MA/IBMA (Article 16 (b), (g) of Council Regulation (EC) No 1083/2006 and Article 13 (2) – 13 (4) of Commission Regulation (EC) No

1828/2006) – unclearly and incomprehensibly defined procedure concerning competences of the project manager and expenditure administration manager in verifying AfPs;

- insufficient performance of ex-ante on-the-spot audit during the course of a project's implementation.

- **at the level of the IBMA MH SR**

- insufficient audit trail (Article 60 (c), (d), (f), Article 90 of Commission Regulation (EC) No 1083/2006 and Article 15 of Commission Regulation (EC) No 1828/2006) – non-incorporation of changes by the IBMA MH SR in the Internal Manual of Procedures resulting from the System of Management of the Structural Funds and the Cohesion Fund for the 2007 – 2013 Programming Period concerning pre-financing.

- **at the level of the PU of the ME SR**

- insufficient audit trail of PU's procedures – absence of implementation of relevant changes from the approved document of the System of Management of the Structural Funds and the Cohesion Fund for the 2007 – 2013 Programming Period into the Internal Manual of Procedures and related governing and controlling processes.

- **at the level of the PU of the MH SR**

- insufficient audit trail of PU's procedures – changes resulting from the approved System of Management of the Structural Funds and the Cohesion Fund for the 2007 – 2013 Programming Period; these as at the last date of the audited period had not been incorporated into the Internal Manual of Procedures.

- **at level of the CCB**

- insufficient procedures for project selection (Article 60 (a) and Article 65 (a) of Council Regulation (EC) No 1083/2006) and insufficient definition of eligibility rules at the national level (Article 56 (4) of Council Regulation (EC) No 1083/2006):
 - Annex 520 – 1 to the System of Management of the SF and the CF (Publicity Manual) gives for the MA a guideline for setting the dimensions for information tools (billboard, explanatory plate), where the minimum size is recommended in the annex. Annex 421 – 5 to the System of Management of the SF and the CF (the form of the NFC contract) does not, however, contain the requirement for the size of the mentioned information tools.
 - Annex 421 – 5 to the System of Management of the SF and the CF states that the communication of the contracting parties via the ITMS will be arranged by a separate contract, but the mechanism for ensuring this has not been implemented to the effect that a beneficiary signing a contract for an NFC in the transitional period also agrees and signs the contract on ITMS communication.
- inadequate first-level control of AfPs performed by the MA (Articles 58 (c), 60 (b), 60 (g) of Council Regulation (EC) No 1083) and procedures for reporting and monitoring irregularities and for recovering amounts paid ineligibly (Article 58 (h) of Council Regulation (EC) No 1083/2006):
 - the absence of a more detailed specification of the use of appropriate procedures in examining public procurement and for examining public procurement terminated prior to signing the application for an NFC. The System of Management of the Structural Funds and the Cohesion Fund does not explain the specific meaning of the term “appropriate” and does not explain which particular procedures relate to the examination of a public procurement terminated prior to the contract being signed.



- pursuant to Council Regulation (EC) No 1083/2006 (Article 55) it is stated that in cases where within three years after closure of an operational programme it is established that an operation has generated revenue that has not been taken into account, such revenue shall be refunded to the general budget of the European Community. In the System of Management of the Structural Funds and the Cohesion Fund version 3.0 this fact is stated, pursuant to the General Regulation, only in relation to the CA, but the procedures from the side of the MA and beneficiary in the given field are not specified.
- The System of Management of the Structural Funds and the Cohesion Fund version 3.0, (a checklist for the administrative verification of AfPs) does not state the issue as to whether the expenditure declared in the AfP is submitted in accordance with the project's financial plan. Consequently there is the risk of a failure to verify the fact regarding the sufficiency of audit trail under Article 15 (d) of Commission Implementing Regulation (EC) No 1828/2006.
- **at the CA level**

The system audit in the framework of the CA did not identify systemic shortcomings or highly severe shortcomings, significantly affecting the assessment of the management and control systems.

On the basis of the verification carried out the audit authority issued an overall statement for the management and control system for the OPE at the assurance level 2, **i.e. that the system works, but some improvements are needed.**

In response to the shortcomings identified the auditors provided recommendations, the active consideration of which would ensure a more effective management and control system for the OPE. The audit authority has received a written report on fulfilment of the measures adopted in order to rectify the shortcomings identified and to eliminate their causes and to reflect the recommendations made in the report on the Government audit on 6.4.2010. Since no documentary verification has yet been made of the identified shortcomings, it is not at present possible to issue a statement regarding the fulfilment of measures taken for correcting shortcomings.

The audit authority in 2009 did not perform any audits on operations under Article 62 of Council Regulation (EC) No 1083/2006 due to the fact that in the period to 31.12.2008 no expenditures were declared to the European Commission.

Compliance audit under Article 71 of Council Regulation (EC) No 1083/2006

The audit authority on 3.12.2008 sent the European Commission a Report on the assessment of compliance pursuant to Article 71 of Council Regulation (EC) No 1083/2006 for the Structural Funds and the Cohesion Fund, an Opinion on the Compliance of Management and Control Systems issued on the basis of Article 71 (2) of this Regulation and a Joint Description of the Management and Control System pursuant to the SR National Strategic Reference Framework pursuant to Article 21 on the basis of Annex XII to Commission Regulation (EC) No 1828/2006 for operational programmes in the programming period 2007 – 2013, including the OPE. In the framework of the output audit documents on the compliance, the audit authority issued a favourable opinion with the reservation concerning the joint system of the programming period 2007 – 2013 for the operational programmes that are a part of the SR National Strategic Reference Framework.

In 2009 the Audit and Control Section of the SR Ministry of Finance conducted in cooperation with the bodies involved in conducting Government audits a documentary verification of fulfilment of the recommendations made in order to eliminate irregularities affecting the reservation, which were identified during the compliance evaluation of the management and control system for the OPE under Article 71 of Council Regulation (EC) No 1083/2006, performed in 2008.

On the basis of the verification performed the audit authority drew up a compliance assessment report and provided an opinion under Article 71 of Council Regulation (EC) No 1083/2006 confirming the management and control system's compliance with Articles 58 to 62 of the Regulation. The audit authority sent the report to the European Commission, which received the report on 16.7.2009.

In addition to the aforementioned audits, an audit by the National Audit Authority at the ME SR was commenced in the period monitored, concerning a control of the readiness for drawing and of fund drawing in the framework of the OPE in the 2007 – 2013 programming period. The National Audit Authority audit focused primarily on the transparency of OPE calls and drawing in the new period. The audit by the National Audit Authority was carried out at the MA in the period from 18.2.2009 to 24.4.2009.

On 7.5.2009 the National Audit Authority drew up Record on the Audit Results Concerning the Readiness for Drawing and of Fund Drawing under the OPE in the 2007 – 2013 Programming Period, performed at the ME SR and stated that the audit found no shortcomings and considered the management and control system of the MA to be at the required level.

2.1.5. Use of funds by category

An overview of the use of funds by individual category, as per Part C of Annex II of Commission Regulation (EC) No 1828/2006 is given in Annex 4.

2.1.6. Contribution to the Lisbon Process

Particular attention is given to the OPE's contribution to the Lisbon Process, including its contribution to achieving the objectives of Article 9 (3) of Council Regulation (EC) No 1083/2006.

For implementing the Lisbon activities the Slovak Republic allocated in the National Strategic Reference Framework 59.35% of expenditure to the Convergence objective and 85.57% of expenditure to the RC&E objective. Based on this distribution of the contribution from funds between the individual expenditure categories by priority theme, the appropriation for the Lisbon activities in the OPE for 2007 – 2013 totals €576 000 000, i.e. 96% of the total allocation of €600 000 000.

Table 10: Contracted funds for priority themes in €

Code	Priority themes (Annex IV, Regulation no. 1083/2006)	Contracted funding (EU sources)	% of allocation for Lisbon activities
	Research and technological development (R&TD), innovation and entrepreneurship		
03	Technology transfer and improvement in cooperation networks between small and medium sized businesses (SMEs), between these and other businesses and universities, post-secondary education establishments all kinds, regional authorities and research centres and scientific and technological poles (scientific and technological	0.00	0.00%

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	parks, technopoles, etc)		
	Raising the adaptability of workers and firms, enterprises and entrepreneurs		
62	Development of lifelong learning systems strategies in firms; training and services for employees to step up their act ability to change; promoting entrepreneurship and innovation	41382008.60	6.98%
64	Development specific services for employment, training and support in connection with restructuring sectors and firms and development systems for anticipating economic changes and future requirements in terms of jobs and skills	0.00	0.00%
	Improving access to employment and sustainability		
67	Measures encouraging active ageing and prolonging working lives	0.00	0.00%
70	Specific action to increase participation of migrants in employment and thereby strengthen their social inclusion	0.00	0.00%
	Improving the social inclusion of less-favoured persons		
71	Pathways to integration and re-entry into employment for disadvantaged people; combating discrimination in accessing and progressing in the labour market and promoting acceptance of diversity in the workplace	0.00	0.00%
	Improving human capital		
72	Design, introduction and implementation of reforms in education and training systems in order to develop employability, improving the labour market relevance of initial and vocational education and training, updating skills of trained personnel with a view to innovation and a knowledge-based economy	132 053 929.19	22.27%
73	Measures to increase participation in education and training throughout the life cycle, including through action to achieve a reduction in early school leaving, gender-based segregation of subjects and increased access to and quality of initial vocational and tertiary education and training	17 863 502.43	3.01%
74	Developing human potential in the field of research and innovation, in particular through postgraduate studies and training of researchers, and networking activities between universities, research centres and businesses	0.00	0.00%

In 2008 financial drawing from the allocation for Lisbon Activities was zero due to the fact that no AfPs were delivered to either of the MA or IBMA that would have been included in SAPs and sent to the CA.

As at 31.12.2009 the total sum of contracted funds by priority themes was €191 299 440.22, representing 32.26% of the total sum (€593 089 515) assigned in the SR National Strategic Reference Framework for 2007 – 2013 (in both the Convergence objective and RC&E objective) for Lisbon Activities in the framework of the OPE. The level of fund drawing from the allocation for Lisbon Activities in 2009 at the level of 32.26% may be considered appropriate in relation to the state achieved at the end of the second year of the 2007 – 2013 programming period, and with regard to the fact that the actual implementation of the OPE at the level of national and demand-driven projects in connection with actual drawing began only in 2009.

Likewise it may be said that by starting the implementation of the OPE in 2009, through the implementation of national and demand-driven projects in the frame of priority axes 1 – 4, the OPE's contribution to fulfilling the recommendations of the EU Council concerning general guidelines for economic policies of the member states and the EC for 2009 was appropriate. The recommendations derive from an evaluation of countries in connection with the implementation of Lisbon Strategy structural reforms in the context of the European Economic Recovery Plan. In the case of the SR this concerns primarily ensuring continuation in redirecting expenditure toward education, research, development and innovation, as well as continuing with the implementation of lifelong learning and in reforms of the systems of education and vocational training, with the aim of addressing the mismatch between qualifications offered and labour market requirements.

In Slovakia the Lisbon Strategy has been reflected in the document [Competitiveness Strategy for the Slovak Republic to 2010](#) (National Lisbon Strategy) approved by SR Government Resolution No. 16.2.2005, and which is based on the underlying philosophy of the Lisbon Strategy. One of the priority areas contained in the Lisbon Strategy for Slovakia is the knowledge-based society, whose development is influential for the country's long-term competitiveness.

A prerequisite to a knowledge-based society is a high-quality system of continuing education, which must provide pupils and students with the possibility to acquire key skills for raising their competitiveness in the labour market. Thanks to this there will then be a flexible workforce, able to adapt to the requirements of a knowledge-based society. A modern education system should enable citizens to educate themselves so that in everyday life they are able to think critically, analyse social phenomena and react flexibly to changes in labour market needs, so that they can work with constantly new information, produce new knowledge and apply this knowledge in practice.

Overall we can state that all calls and direct awards declared and implemented in the period monitored have been focused in accordance with the Lisbon Strategy objectives for promoting a knowledge-based society, encouraging lifelong learning, raising employability, improving interconnections between vocational training and labour market needs, etc.

ASFEU

In the period from 1.1.2009 – 31.12.2009 the OPE contributed to the Lisbon Process by means of developing a knowledge-based society thanks to the implementation of 315 projects, whose content focus encourages the development of key competences among target groups defined in the calls under OPE measures 1.1 "Transformation of the Traditional School to a Modern School" and 4.1 "Transformation of a Traditional School to a Modern School for the Bratislava Region". To the 315 projects in implementation a further 2 projects from measure 3.1: "Raising the Education Level of Members of Marginalised Roma Communities" have been added; the remaining 70 projects in the framework of measures 3.1 and 3.2 "Raising the Education Level of Persons with Special Education Needs" will begin implementation of their activities at the start of 2010.

The Lisbon Strategy is pursued also in the case of calls with the codes OPV-2009/1.2/01-SORO and OPV-2009/4.2/01-SORO, which were focused on promoting innovative forms of tertiary education and the development of human resources in research and development. A significant contribution to the fulfilment of the Lisbon Strategy can be seen also in the case of calls with the codes OPV-2009/2.1/01-SORO and OPV-2009/4.2/02-SORO, which are focused on promoting further education in selected sectors.

MH SR

The activities of projects under the calls focused on replenishing the healthcare system with qualified specialists by means of promoting study in particular specialisms lay the foundations for stabilising and creating jobs in those specialisms that are lacking or insufficient in a given region. By replenishing the necessary specialists, there will be an improvement in the availability and quality of healthcare provided in the given region, and resultantly an improved state of health among the region's population. An improvement in the state of health contributes to raising labour productivity, entailing a consequent improvement in regions' competitiveness. Projects' activities thus both directly (through the stabilisation and creation of jobs) and indirectly (through improving people's state of health) contribute to the Lisbon Process and to achieving the objectives of Article 9 (3) of Regulation (EC) No 1083/2006.

The activities of projects in the calls contribute directly to the Lisbon Process through their focus on raising the healthcare workers' participation in lifelong learning and improving its quality and accessibility by means of its digitalisation. Through improving the professional skills of healthcare workers and through the consequent increase in the quality of healthcare provision a contribution is also indirectly made to improving the state of health of citizens in the SR. An improvement in the state of health contributes to raising labour productivity, entailing a consequent improvement in regions' competitiveness.

Further information regarding the individual calls and direct awards is given in Chapter 3 of this 2009 Annual Report.

2.1.7. Description of partnership agreements

Use of the partnership in the field of the preparation, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of programmes, in the field of publicity and information has proceeded in cooperation with the socio-economic partners, in various working groups and with coordinators of the individual HPs.

The most important partnership agreement in the period monitored was the signing of Addendum 1 to the Letter on the Delegation of Powers, on the basis of which the ME SR as the MA delegates powers for the implementation of the OPE to the ASFEU as the IBMA. Addendum 1 was concluded on 26.2.2009. On 19.3.2009 Addendum 1 to the Letter on the Delegation of Powers was concluded, on the basis of which the ME SR as the MA delegates powers for the implementation of the OPE to the MH SR as the IBMA. The reason for drawing up the addenda was the entry into effect of Act No. 528/2008 Coll. on aid and support provided from the European Community funds and the issuance of the System of Management of the Structural Funds and the Cohesion Fund for the 2007 – 2013 Programming Period, version 3.0 and the resultant adjustments to Structural Fund implementation procedures.

In the period monitored Addendum 2 to the Letter on the Delegation of Powers was concluded by the IBMA ASFEU on 2.11.2009 and by the IBMA MH SR on 9.11.2009. The addenda concerned primarily adjustments to procedures in the preparation and submission of documents in the field of publicity and the preparation of calls.

2.1.7.1 HP working groups

The MA is a member of 4 working groups for the individual HPs: HP Marginalised Roma Communities (hereinafter simply "HP MRC"), HP Equal Opportunities (hereinafter simply "HP

EO”), HP Information Society (hereinafter simply “HP IS”) and HP Sustainable Development (hereinafter simply “HP SD”).

2.1.7.1 HP MRC working group

At the political level, responsibility for the HP MRC lies with the Deputy Prime Minister for Knowledge Society, European Affairs, Human Rights and Minorities. The coordinator of the HP MRC is the Office of the Government Plenipotentiary for Roma Communities (hereinafter simply “OGPRC”) at the SR Government Office, which for performing activities connected with the administrative and methodological provision of the HP MRC has established an HP MRC Coordination Department.

The MA representative is a member of the Working Group for the HP MRC (hereinafter simply “MRC WG”), the Interdepartmental Evaluation and Selection Committee for Local Comprehensive Approach Strategies (hereinafter simply “IESC LCAS”) and the Comprehensive Approach Monitoring Group (hereinafter simply “CAMG”).

The MA in 2009 intensively cooperated with the coordinator for the HP MRC WG – the OGPRC in updating the managing documentation of the MA, as well as the managing documentation of the HP MRC WG coordinator resulting from the update to the System of Management of the SF and the CF. The common priority in 2009 was primarily to simplify the procedural and content aspects relating to a call for the submission of applications for the provision of support for the Local Comprehensive Approach Strategy.

On 1.7.2009 a working meeting was held at the ME SR regarding the implementation of the HP MRC and the current tasks resulting from the SR Government Resolution No. 431 of 10.6.2009. The representative of the OGPRC informed those present about the tasks resulting from the SR Government Resolution for the OGPRC and the MA and the efforts of the OGPRC to move the deadline for making the adjustment to the wording of the declared call with the code ÚSVRK-2008/1 as set in the SR Government Resolution to 6.6.2009. She also informed those present of the current state in the submission of LCAS, about the ongoing expert assessment and the expected date for the submission of assessed applications for approval to the IESC LCAS. A further point of the meeting was the interim drawing of the financial allocation appropriated for the HP MRC in the framework of the OPE in the sum of €17 000 000 during the 2007 – 2013 programming period. In this point the ME SR and the OGPRC agreed that in accordance with the trilateral agreement the drawing of the financial allocation for the HP MRC in the amount of €17 000 000 would be running through the whole 2007 – 2013 programming period without annual financial allocations being set.

On 3.9.2009 collective interdepartmental comment proceedings of the MA and CCB were held at the SR Government Office regarding the draft updated call for the submission of applications for the provision of LCAS support, the text and related documentation of which were sent to the MA in advance for comment. Later on the same day the 2nd meeting of the IESC LCAS was held, the main point of which was to approve the simplified call for the submission of applications for the provision of LCAS support.

The meeting of the HP MRC WG in 2009 was held on 21.10.2009. Pursuant to the applicable statute of the HP MRC WG, a proposal was submitted for the election of 3 HP MRC WG vice chairpersons. The ME SR representative was proposed and elected as the vice chairperson for central government bodies. The updated statute and rules of procedure of the HP MRC WG as well as the updated HP MRC Implementation Coordination System, including annexes, was approved.

2.1.7.1.2 HP EO working group

At the political level responsibility for coordination of HP EO implementation lies with the SR Minister for Labour, Social Affairs and the Family, who pursuant to the approved National Strategic Reference Framework fulfils a coordinatory role in relation to HP EO. The Executive coordination unit, which ensures coordination processes of HP EO implementation, was entrusted to the Department of Gender Equality and Equal Opportunities of the SR Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and the Family (hereinafter simply “MLSA&F”). For this purpose an Equal Opportunities Support Centre, comprising a team of coordinators, is being established at the Department of Gender Equality and Equal Opportunities of the SR MLSA&F. Their role is to closely cooperate with contact points/persons and individual MAs.

In 2009 two meetings of the HP EO WG were held. The topic of the first meeting on 30.3.2009 was to discuss and approve changes to the HP EO Implementation Coordination System (version 4.0) and to the Statute of the HP EO Working Group. Based on comments received from working group members prior to the meeting, the changes to the HP EO Implementation Coordination System and Addendum 1 to the statute of the HP EO Working Group were approved. A further point on the agenda of the meeting was Annex 13 to the National Strategic Reference Framework in which it was necessary to adjust the HP EO indicators and harmonise them with the HP EO Implementation Coordination System, with regard to the fact that these indicators are evaluated in the annual reports of the individual operational programmes and an inconsistency between these two documents was causing a problem to the individual MAs. In the framework of the HP EO Working Group it was proposed that the indicators of Annex 4 to the HP EO Implementation Coordination System be mirrored / copied into Annex 13 to the NSRF, while concurrently monitoring these indicators in relation to specific priorities and objectives of the NSRF stated in Annex 9 of the NSRF.

A further point of the meeting was to discuss changes in the Information on the MA's Contribution to HP EO. The document was sent for comment and all comments were incorporated. Members of the working group approved this document and the Information on the MA's Contribution to HP EO became Annex 5 to the HP EO Implementation Coordination System.

The second meeting of the working group was held on 6.11.2009. The meeting discussed and approved changes to the HP EO Implementation Coordination System (version 4.1) and to Annex 13 to the NSRF. Members of the working group were then familiarised with the handbooks and training activities of the Equal Opportunities Support Centre Department.

In addition to the advised changes to the HP EO Implementation Coordination System, and in respect of which members of the working group had sent comments prior to the meeting, the updated Annex 5 to the HP EO Implementation Coordination System was presented at the meeting – Information on the MA's Contribution to the HP EO. This annex was distributed to members of the HP EO Working Group following the meeting and following their comments to it, this annex was adopted by members of the HP EO Working Group via the per rollam procedure.

Besides the aforementioned meetings of the HP EO Working Group, there was also a meeting of the MA for the OPE, the MA for the Operational Programme Research & Development (hereinafter simply OP R&D) and the HP EO coordinator. The meeting was initiated from the

side of the HP EO coordinator and was held on 27.1.2009 at the premises of the MA. The meeting focused on harmonising the indicators of HP EO stated in the CCB's methodological instruction no. 3 regarding the creation and use of project indicators and their inclusion in the ITMS 2007 – 2013, in the HP EO Implementation Coordination System and indicators stated in declaring the OPE calls. The objective was to agree on HP EO indicators that the MA will use in individual calls. The second topic of the meeting was to provide information to expert assessors and applicants on the equal opportunities from the side of the MA and IBMA in evaluating and declaring calls.

2.1.7.1.3 HP Information Society and HP Sustainable Development Working Groups

At the political level responsibility for coordinating the implementation of HP IS lies with the Deputy Prime Minister for Knowledge Society, European Affairs, Human Rights and Minorities. In relation to information society this role overall is fulfilled by means of the Commission for a Knowledge-Based Society from the function of its chairperson. The coordinator of HP IS at the working level is the Knowledge-Based Society Priorities Coordination Department, the European Policy and Knowledge-Based Society Section at the SR Government Office (hereinafter simply "GO SR").

At the political level the coordination role in the implementation of HP SD is fulfilled by the Deputy Prime Minister for Knowledge Society, European Affairs, Human Rights and Minorities. In relation to information society this role overall is fulfilled by means of the SR Government Council for Sustainable Development from the function of its chairperson. The coordinator of HP SD at the working level is the Knowledge-Based Society Priorities Coordination Department, the European Policy and Knowledge-Based Society Section at the GO SR.

The working group for HP IS and HP SD, which had a joint meeting at the GO SR, met in 2009 twice, on 19.3.2009 and 22.10.2009.

The MA in 2009 cooperated intensively with the coordinator for the HPI S and HPS D. The HP IS and HP SD coordinator pursuant to Section 4.3., point 17 of the System of Management of the SF and the CF for the 2007 – 2013 Programming Period (version 3.0) drew up the Draft Structure of the Information on the Contribution of the Operational Programme to the HP IS and to the HP SD, which were sent to the MA and commented upon.

The coordinator updated the Implementation Coordination Systems of the HP IS and HP SD (version 4.0), Annex 4, set of indicators, Addenda to the Statutes for the HP IS and HP SD pursuant to the System of Management of the SF and the CF for the 2007 – 2013 Programming Period (version 3.0) and then requested comment regarding these documents.

These documents were the subject of approval at the first joint meeting of members of the HP IS and HP SD working groups, held on **19.3.2009**. The HP IS and HP SD Implementation Coordination Systems for 2007 – 2013 (version 4.0) were approved with effect as of 1.4.2009. The Head of the Government Office sent the approved and signed versions dated 20.3.2009 to the MA.

Likewise, the evaluation plans for the HP IS and HP SD (version 2) were also updated. Members of the working groups commented on the draft Annual Report of the HP IS and HP SD for 2008, received from the coordinator and adjusted it pursuant to comments. It was

subsequently approved by the General Director of the Section for European Policy and a Knowledge-Based Society.

Members of the HP IS and HP SD working groups at their 2nd joint meeting of **22.10.2009** approved the updated Implementation Coordination Systems of the HP IS and HP SD (version 4.1), Annex 4, set of indicators, pursuant to the System of Management of the SF and the CF for the 2007 – 2013 Programming Period (version 3.1). The HP IS and HP SD Implementation Coordination Systems for 2007 – 2013 (version 4.1) were approved with effect as of 1.11.2009. The Head of the Government Office sent the approved and signed versions dated 27.10.2009 to the MA.

2.1.7.2 Central Evaluation Committee of the NSRF and the Evaluation Working Group

The **Central Evaluation Committee** of the NSRF (hereinafter simply the “CEC”) was established as an advisory body to the CCB. The CEC comprises MA representatives from all the operational programmes. In the framework of preparing the OPE Evaluation Strategy, the **evaluation working group** was created at the Department for OPE back in 2008. Further information on the CEC, as well as on the evaluation working group is given in Chapters 2.7.2.3 and 2.7.2.4 of this 2009 Annual Report.

2.1.7.3 Working Group for Publicity

The MA for the OPE is a member of the **Working Group for Information and Publicity at the level of the CCB** (hereinafter simply the “PWG”), which sat twice in 2009.

At the first meeting on 29.4.2009 the subject of the meeting was information on the Communication Plan (hereinafter simply the “CP”) of the Operational Programme Technical Assistance for the NSRF and on the information activities of the CCB for 2009, as well as information on planned and implemented activities in the field of information and publicity for 2009 from the side of the individual MAs, information on education activities focused on the 2007 – 2013 programming period, coordination of participants’ registration for the meeting of the INFORM group at the level of the European Commission in Brussels. The agenda also included information from the meeting of the COM Committee for the Coordination of Funds (COCOF) of 24.3.2009, as well as information concerning the joint information portal www.nsrr.sk and joint information bulletin on the EU funds – EUROKOMPAS.

At the second meeting of 10.12.2009 information was reported concerning implemented activities in the field of information and publicity in 2009 and planned activities for 2010 – both from the side of the CCB as well as from representatives of the individual MAs and HP coordinators. The working group was informed of the conclusions from the meeting of the working group at the level of member states – EU INFORM. The meeting also covered the topics of education activities in the framework of the 2007 – 2013 programming period and cooperation in the creation and content of the information portal www.nsrr.sk and the bulletin on EU funds – EUROKOMPAS

The **Publicity Working Group** at the level of MA and IBMA officers sat on 13.7.2009. The meeting discussed current issues concerning the reporting of indicators in the framework of information and publicity. MA representatives informed IBMA representatives of the course of the meeting of the MA/CCB Coordination Working Group.

2.1.8. Specifics for ESF programmes



The support of fundamental rights, non-discrimination and equal opportunities is one of the fundamental principles applied in the EU.

The theme of gender equality is, pursuant to Article 10 of Regulation (EC) No 1081/2006 implemented horizontally in the OPE as a component of HP EO. In calls and direct awards the MA, as well as the IBMA, provides NFC applicants with the necessary information on the theme of gender equality, which should help guarantee compliance with gender equality in every implemented project. In the framework of submitting regular quarterly monitoring reports, beneficiaries quantify the numbers of men and women engaged in the project activities. National, as well as demand-driven projects by declaring a positive contribution to HP EO declared arrangements for avoiding and eliminating discrimination on the basis of ethnicity and race, gender, religion or beliefs, sexual orientation and health impairment.

The OPE promotes a solution to the problem of insufficient engagement of persons with special education needs in the education system and to their risk of social exclusion. During the course of 2009, in the framework of Measure 3.2 **Raising the Education Level of Persons with Special Education Needs**, one call was declared: “Innovation of the Methods and Forms of the Upbringing-Education Process and Creation of Further Education Programmes for Disabled Persons” (IBMA ASFEU). The activities of projects from the call are focused on innovation in the methods and forms of the upbringing-education process at special secondary schools with the aim of supporting key competences of disabled pupils and teaching staff of special secondary schools with the use of new teaching materials and teaching aids and thereby on facilitating the access of disabled persons to education at secondary school. Further activities of projects are aimed at the creation and implementation of further education programmes for disabled persons and persons working in the field of their integration into society, with the use of innovation in teaching aids developing key competences in these persons. In the framework of this call in total 22 AfNFCs were contracted in the period monitored; implementation of all projects will begin in 2010.

The OPE by means of priority axis 3 contributes to the solution of the issues of insufficient engagement of persons with special education needs into the education system, since these persons are at risk of social exclusion. A particular characteristic of MRCs is the accumulation of multiple factors of social exclusion, including the low education level of this group and the consequent limited possibilities for their joining the labour market, where this issue is of a persistent nature. By means of measure 3.1 “Raising the Education Level of Members of Marginalised Roma Communities” the OPE contributes to the creation of conditions necessary for achieving greater progress in the education level of this target group and their employment in the labour market.

In 2009 a call was declared under this measure for the submission of AfNFCs, titled “*Programmes and Courses for Primary School Pupils Coming from Marginalised Roma Communities*”, which was focused on the activation and motivation of pupils from MRCs and the introduction of innovative teaching methods as a tool for MRC’s inclusion into the teaching process and society.

Members of MRCs as participants of the target group are, however, engaged also in national and demand-driven projects implemented in the framework of other OPE measures, primarily measure 1.1. By engaging members of the MRCs into projects implemented in the framework of measure 1.1, the OPE strengthens integration in the process of their social inclusion.

In accordance with the planned timetable of OPE calls and direct awards the support under measure 3.1 aimed at members of MRCs will continue to be implemented also in 2010 with declaration of the direct award for the national project “*Education of Teaching Staff with Regard*

to the Inclusion of Marginalised Roma Communities”, and also of one ongoing call linking to local comprehensive approach strategies, which are to be approved by the OGPRC. In the framework of the appropriation for the comprehensive approach, the objective of the OPE is to help change as quickly as possible the models persistent in these communities, preventing their full integration into the education system and society.

Migrants are not a target group of the OPE; that they are supported in the framework of the Operational Programme Employment & Social Inclusion implemented by the SR MLSA&F.

Transnationality and innovation

The theme of innovation and transnationality defined in Article 3 (5) and (6) of the Regulation (EC) No 1081/2006 of the European Parliament and of the Council is implemented in the OPE horizontally in the framework of priority axes 1 to 4.

Transnationality was promoted in 2009 by means of calls for the submission of AfNFCs for measures 1.2 and 4.2 (IBMA ASFEU) as well as by means of direct awards for the national projects. The international dimension of projects was assessed also in the process of expert assessment of the submitted AfNFCs in the framework of the criterion “Is the project working from existing foreign experience or approaches?”.

Direct awards declared in 2009 contained an activity with an international dimension; applicants included in their activities also transfer of foreign experience, in particular by means of foreign stays and mobilities at partnership institutions. By means of the national project “*Professional and Career Growth of Teaching Staff*” approved in the framework of direct award OPV/K/RKZ/NP/2009-3, networking and international cooperation will be implemented with the aim of achieving the best exchange of experience.

The national project “*Digitalisation of the Content of National Education Programmes for Primary and Secondary Schools*”, approved in the framework of the direct award OPV/K/NP/2009-7, will in the creation and innovation of teaching materials, textbooks and aids for the upbringing-education process focus also on teaching materials used in the EU countries, with the objective of using them also for the school system in the SR. This process will concurrently be accompanied by foreign stays.

An example of the inclusion of a transnationality element is the national project “*Education of Primary School Teachers in the Field of Foreign Languages in Connection with the White Paper for Teaching Foreign Languages at Primary and Secondary Schools*”, which has been being implemented since 2008 and the objective of which is to achieve innovation in the issue of teaching foreign languages at primary school. The project beneficiary – the State Pedagogical Institute – during the education phase of the project (education of teaching staff) cooperates with international institutions (the British Council, Goethe Institut, Österreich Institut, Institut Français). Cooperation is likewise ensured at the level of bilateral relations with individual embassies – Canada, USA, Britain, Germany, Italy, Spain, Russia, France, Austria (Vienna).

Calls for the submission of AfNFCs for measures 1.2 (OPV-2009/1.2/01-SORO) and 4.2 (OPV-2009/4.2/01-SORO) were focused on raising the quality and development of human resources and cooperation between tertiary schools, research & development organisations and the private sector at the national and international level pursuant to SR Government Resolution No. 367 of 4.6.2008 regarding the Modernisation Programme Slovakia 21. Eligible activities in the framework of these calls were the creation of study programmes in a world language, promoting the international cooperation and mobility of the academic community, the introduction, or expansion of existing joint study programmes of Slovak tertiary schools and leading tertiary schools based abroad, including the granting of dual and triple diplomas, as well as programmes

promoting mutual exchange of research and development staff, staff at research institutes, businesses and universities.

The strengthening of multinational actions by means of calls for the submission of AfNFCs for measures 1.2 and 4.2 will be implemented in most cases by means of engaging university or doctoral students in international actions in the framework of the EU countries. The project objectives are focused, for example, on preparing doctoral study programmes with foreign universities in France, Spain, Netherlands and the Czech Republic, and last but not least also for involving doctoral students in international scientific-research cooperation in the framework of partnership universities in the Czech Republic, Poland and other EU countries. The objective is to significantly improve the quality of doctoral study, to grant dual diplomas, to promote the development of international cooperation with the aim of engaging doctoral students in the international scientific community.

The process of contracting projects from the call had not been completed as at 31.12.2009.

The project of the Slovak Chamber of Medicine from call OPV 2008/2.2/02 declared by the IBMA MH SR in 2008, aimed at creating an e-learning portal and thus improving healthcare workers' access to further vocational education irrespective of the place of their occupation, makes use of good experience from the implementation of similar and existing projects in EU member states, and thus creates for the future the conditions for transnational cooperation in the framework of the EU.

In 2009 calls declared for the submission of AfNFCs for demand-driven projects, as well as direct awards for national projects contained an element of innovation insofar as they were focused on promoting education reform. It may be said that all the contracted and implemented projects will be of an innovative nature for the SR education system, from the aspect of both the direct and indirect target group (the public).

The objective of the national project "*Professional and Career Growth of Teaching Staff*", approved in the framework of direct award OPV/K/RKZ/NP/2009-3, is to create and develop an effective system of further education for teaching and professional staff at schools and school facilities, with emphasis on developing key competences, deepening and raising qualifications of teaching and professional staff in accordance with the Act on Professional and Teaching Staff and in accordance with current and prospective needs of a knowledge-based society. The project focuses on the creation, innovation and implementation of professional standards and tools for evaluating the development of professional competences for categories, career grades and career positions of teaching and professional staff at schools and school facilities and on the creation and accreditation of continuing education programmes and on developing quality of further education institutes. A component of eligible activities defined in the direct award is the promotion of new forms of education (e.g. distance learning, e-learning) and the introduction and encouragement of innovation in further education.

The national project "*Digitalisation of National Education Programmes for Primary and Secondary Schools*", approved in the framework of direct award OPV/K/NP/2009-7, is aimed at innovating the content and methods of education, by means of the creation and effective use of digital education content of national education programmes in the teaching process at primary schools and secondary schools, thereby bringing modernisation and improvement in the quality of education as well as encouragement for reform in regional education at primary and secondary schools. The main goal of the project is to create digital education content as a component of national education programmes for selected subjects – in the humanities and natural sciences – at primary schools and secondary schools in the official language, i.e. the creation and use of new teaching materials for the upbringing-education process, as well as the education of teaching staff for working with and using digital education content. By creating digital education content a non-traditional form of teaching will be introduced into the upbringing-education process, with

emphasis on the use of information-communication technologies (hereinafter simply “ICT”) in the education process. For teaching staff the project will be significant from the aspect of the innovation in the content, methods and forms of further education for teachers. Through the application of new forms and methods leading to the development and validation of key competences the education process will approximate more to labour market needs.

In 2009 the IBMA ASFEU declared 7 calls, of which all contained an element of innovation.

Eligible activities under the call for the submission of AfNFCs for measure 3.1 (OPV-2009/3.1/01/-SORO) included the introduction of innovative teaching methods as a tool for MRCs’ inclusion into the teaching process and society. By means of the project activities implemented via measure 3.1 innovation activities will be applied with the aim of strengthening the social inclusion of MRCs. In most cases the projects from this call are focused on the introduction of new preparatory and remedial courses for pupils coming from MRCs, on the creation of alternative teaching curricula that primary schools will be able to use in adapting the teaching content for children coming from MRCs (reduction of the content, more practical orientation, teaching by experience method, alternative forms of education). Innovative forms of education require the necessary material-technical provision, and the projects’ implementation solves this issue. Projects’ objectives are focused on raising the education level of pupils coming from MRCs and particularly on their acquisition of basic skills necessary for the labour market.

In the framework of the call for the submission of AfNFCs for measure 3.2 (OPV-2009/3.2/01-SORO) the key issue was the innovation of methods and forms of the upbringing-education process at special secondary schools with the aim of promoting key competences of disabled pupils and teaching staff of special secondary schools, with the use of new teaching materials and teaching aids, and to thereby facilitate the access of disabled persons to education at secondary school. By means of the activities of the projects implemented via measure 3.2 innovation activities are applied and the social inclusion of disabled persons is strengthened. Further activities of projects are aimed at the creation and implementation of further education programmes for disabled persons and persons working in the field of their integration into society, with the use of innovation in teaching aids developing the key competences of these persons.

An example of this is the not-for-profit organisation “Maják” (*Lighthouse*), which in the framework of the project “Vidíme srdcom” (*Seeing with Our Heart*) is implementing an innovative education programme for sight- and hearing-impaired persons and further education for persons working with them, using know-how from abroad (from Scotland and Italy). The planned outputs from the project include, for example: the creation of education and therapy programmes, of teaching manuals containing a teaching and therapeutic programme; exhibitions of works of sight- and hearing-impaired persons; analysis of the programme of education, therapy and practical skills; a programme for developing personality and social skills; and a comprehensive programme of education for parents and volunteers for working with disabled persons, etc.

In the framework of the calls for the submission of AfNFCs for measures 1.2 and 4.2 (OPV-2009/1.2/01-SORO, OPV-2009/4.2/01-SORO) the eligible activities also contained the element of support for raising the quality and flexibility of education at tertiary schools by means of innovation in the forms of education and support for linking the content of education to the needs of a knowledge-based society.

The objectives and activities of calls for the submission of AfNFCs for measures 2.1 (OPV-2009/2.1/01-SORO) and 4.2 (OPV-2009/4.2/02-SORO) partially promote innovation and improvement in the integration of job seekers into the labour market. For example, the objective of the project entitled “PROMETEUS – PROject ManagemEnT at EUropean Standards” submitted by the company AJS Management Slovakia s.r.o. is the accreditation and transformation of education methodologies with current and prospective needs of target groups

by raising their quality and education level. Specific objectives include the adaptation of the new methodologies in the SR, the creation of an e-learning portal for new methodologies and the accreditation of 27 new courses. The project seeks support for the creation and development of an effective system of further education targeted at raising and adapting qualifications to the requirements of a knowledge-based society and at facilitating access to effective lifelong learning. The target group comprises further education lecturers and persons participating in further education activities for the sectors of construction, textile, electronics, mechanical engineering and chemicals.

Raising the quality of human resources, the effectiveness of their management, the field of innovation is supported by the objectives of, for example, the project submitted by the SLCP Consulting s.r.o., entitled “Competitiveness of Slovak Manufacturing Enterprises by means of Raising the Efficiency of Business Processes and Innovation Capacity”. The project objective is to raise the qualification of workers at Slovak manufacturing enterprises in the field of business process efficiency and innovation capacity. The project focuses on the preparation of innovative education programmes, the implementation of education courses, employee training. Specific objectives of the project is to develop the skills and abilities of workers at Slovak manufacturing enterprises by means of training courses aimed at raising the efficiency of commercial activities, raising the efficiency of internal processes, raising the efficiency of innovation capacity.

Call OPV-2009/1.1/05-SORO was targeted at raising the efficiency and effectiveness of school education programmes by means of implementing innovative forms and methods of education with the objective of developing pupils’ key competences in accordance with Act No. 245/2008 Coll. on upbringing and education (Education Act) and on the amendment of certain acts. Projects from this call will be aimed at implementing innovative forms and methods of education with the view of developing pupils’ key competences and preparing pupils for a knowledge-based society and innovating teaching aids developing pupils’ key competences.

The period monitored saw a continuation in the implementation of activities of the project implemented by the Slovak Chamber of Medicine, approved in the framework of call OPV 2008/2.2/02 (SORO MZ SR). The project’s activities are aimed at developing new forms of further education in healthcare. The objective of the project is to create an e-learning portal intended for the education of healthcare workers – doctors. It is projected that up to 6000 doctors will be trained in the framework of the new portal by the end of the project’s activities.

The project of the Slovak Chamber of Nurses and Midwives from call OPV 2009/2.2/01 is focused on evaluating the continuing education of nurses and midwives by means of regional centres, using an electronic system, which with the aid of an intranet will enable the target group to participate in updating personal data in a database, allow control of the level of credits for the assessed period and will serve as an information portal for innovative forms of education.

Table 11: Monitoring of target groups P01 – P05 for 2009*

a) Number of participants over the year			
Entering participants	Leaving participants	Carry-over participants	
37288	1302	0	
b) Breakdown of participants by gender		c) Breakdown of participants by age	
Number of men	Number of women	Number of persons aged 15 – 24	Number of persons aged 55 – 64
13990	23298	8349	897

d) Breakdown of participants according to status in the labour market					
Number of employees including self-employed	Number of self-employed	Number of unemployed, including long-term unemployed	Number of long-term unemployed	Number of inactive persons	Inactive persons – in education or training
16000	0	0	0	16255	16253
e) Breakdown of participants by educational attainment					
Primary or lower-secondary education (ISCED 1 and 2)	Upper-secondary education (ISCED 3)	Post-secondary non-tertiary education (ISCED 4)		Tertiary education (ISCED 5 and 6)	
10926	1560	71		12349	
f) Breakdown of participants by vulnerability group in accordance with national rules					
Minorities	Migrants	Disabled		Other disadvantaged persons	
238	13	101		85	

* The data on the target group are filled out in accordance with CCB Methodological Instruction no. 9 on the content of the annual and final report on the implementation of the operational programme. The interpretation of Annex XXIII of the general regulation from the side of the MA has to date been that only the total number of men and women in the target group are monitored (neither the MA, nor the beneficiaries keep a register of the target group broken down into men/women for each further subcategory (employed, unemployed, leaving participants, etc)). Only following the Commission's comments regarding the OPE Annual Report for 2009 did we contact the CCB with this problem, and which responded with the preparation of an interpretation of the CCB Methodological Instruction on the annual and final report. In the framework of comments we proposed harmonising the format of the table on participants in ESF operations from the SFC2007 system with the format of the table in the methodological instruction so that they are identical. The CCB also promised to change the configuration of the ITMS. With regard to the fact that this communication occurred only in July/August 2010, it will be possible to state the required target group breakdown only in subsequent years' annual reports (2010 onward).

Data in Table 11, which is given by the nature of the OPE target groups (concerning primarily primary and secondary school pupils, tertiary education students and teaching staff) is reported for the monitored period of 2009 for all priority axes. The values in the framework of priority axis 3 are zero, since its implementation will commence fully in 2010. The table presents data defined in the Implementing Regulation No 1828/2006, Annex XXIII and the target groups are broken down by gender, status in the labour market and educational attainment.

According to the data in Table 11 from the evaluated monitoring reports in 2009 it may be stated that over the period monitored 37 288 participants attended the project's implementation, of whom 13 991 (37.51%) were men and 23 298 (62.48%) were women. Generally it may be said that the participants of the target groups (teaching staff) of the projects contracted in 2008 and 2009 are formed, from the gender aspect, more by women than men, due primarily to the fact that education is one of the areas with a lower average remuneration (horizontal professional gender segregation). From the aspect of the breakdown of participants by age, there was a significant representation of persons in the age range 25 to 54 years (this age group is not monitored separately), i.e. 28 042 (75.20%), with 8 349 persons in the age range 15 to 24 years (22.39%). From the aspect of the breakdown of participants by educational attainment, approximately an equal number of participants had primary or lower-secondary education (10 926 persons, i.e. 29.37%) and tertiary education (12 349 persons, i.e. 29.30%). From the aspect of the breakdown of participants by status in the labour market, the table shows the

projects were focused equally on employed persons (16 000 persons, i.e. 42.90%) and persons in study or training (16 235 persons, i.e. 43.58%).

Data stated on the target groups in Table 11 reflects the number of participants during the implementation of all (national as well as demand-driven) projects, while the values given in individual priority axes with a low degree of fulfilment represent result indicators that will be fulfilled at the end of the project's implementation.

2.2. Information on compliance with Community law

During the reported period the ME SR as the MA for the OPE and the ASFEU and the MH SR as the IBMA did not record any breaches of European Community law, which in the framework of the OPE implementation comprises primarily:

- Council Regulation (EC) No 1083/2006 of 11.7.2006 laying down general provisions on the European Regional Development Fund, the European Social Fund and the Cohesion Fund and repealing Regulation (EC) No 1260/1999 as amended by Council Regulation (EC) No 1341/2008 of 18.12.2008;
- Council Regulation (EC) No 284/2009 of 7 April 2009 amending Regulation (EC) No 1083/2006 laying down general provisions on the European Regional Development Fund, the European Social Fund and the Cohesion Fund concerning certain provisions relating to financial management;
- Regulation (EC) No 1081/2006 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 5 July 2006 on the European Social Fund and repealing Regulation (EC) No 1784/1999;
- Commission Regulation (EC) No 1828/2006 of 8 December 2006 setting out rules for the implementation of Council Regulation (EC) No 1083/2006 laying down general provisions on the European Regional Development Fund, the European Social Fund and the Cohesion Fund and of Regulation (EC) No 1080/2006 of the European Parliament and of the Council on the European Regional Development Fund;
- Council Regulation (EC) No 1605/2002 of 25 June 2002 on the Financial Regulation applicable to the general budget of the European Communities;
- Commission Regulation (EC) No 2342/2002 of 23 December 2002 laying down detailed rules for the implementation of Council Regulation (EC) No 1605/2002 on the Financial Regulation applicable to the general budget of the European Communities;
- Council Regulation (EC) No 2185/96 of 11 November 1996 concerning on-the-spot checks and inspections carried out by the Commission in order to protect the European Communities' financial interests against fraud and other irregularities;
- Council Decision No 702/2006 of 6 October 2006 on Community strategic guidelines on cohesion;
- Regulation (EC) No 396/2009 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 6 May 2009 amending Regulation (EC) No 1081/2006 on the European Social Fund to extend the types of costs eligible for a contribution from the ESF;
- Commission Regulation (EC) No 846/2009 of 1 September 2009 amending Regulation (EC) No 1828/2006 setting out rules for the implementation of Council Regulation (EC) No 1083/2006 laying down general provisions on the European Regional Development Fund, the European Social Fund and the Cohesion Fund and of Regulation (EC) No 1080/2006 of the European Parliament and of the Council on the European Regional Development Fund;

The ASFEU and the MH SR, in connection with Council Regulation (EC) No 1083/2006 of 11 July 2006 laying down general provisions on the European Regional Development Fund, the European Social Fund and the Cohesion Fund in accordance with the System of Management of the Structural Funds and the Cohesion Fund for the 2007 – 2013 Programming Period and in connection with the Letter on the Delegation of Powers, are responsible at their level for the effectiveness of OPE management in accordance with EU rules and with the institutional and financial systems of the SR.

In the case of inconsistency between a particular standard under SR national law and a particular EC standard, Community law shall take priority on the basis of applying the principle of direct effect.

2.2.1. Legislative changes in the SR

A significant change in the context of OPE implementation was the euro changeover, which is governed by Act no. **465/2008 Coll. amending acts in the competence** of the SR Ministry of Finance in connection with the introduction of the euro currency in the Slovak Republic. The act entered into effect on 1.2.2009.

On 1.1.2009 **Act no. 528/2008 Coll. on aid and support provided from the European Community funds** also entered into effect. The act governs the standing and powers of the SR Government, of ministries and other central government bodies and of self-governing regions in the field of the management and control of aid provided from the European Community funds and in the field of protecting the financial interests of the EC. The act also provides for the rights and obligations of NFC applicants, beneficiaries and partners involved in project preparation with the applicant and in project implementation with the beneficiary.

On 23.4.2009 **Act no. 184/2009 Coll. on vocational education and training and on the amendment of certain acts** was passed, and which, with the exception of certain provisions, entered into effect on 1.9.2009. The purpose of the act is to ensure the comprehensive legislative provision for the conditions for ensuring vocational education and training at secondary vocational schools and school facilities in the SR, with the aim of preparing school leavers for life and work in the conditions of a knowledge-based society and the labour market. It also arranges the standing and roles of the subjects of quadrilateral cooperation in the field of vocational education and training, namely central government, local government, employers and employees. The objective of this law is that the results of upbringing and education are compatible with the upbringing-education systems of other EU countries.

On 24.06.2009 **Act no. 317/2009 Coll. on teaching staff and professional employees and on the amendment of certain acts** was passed, which, with the exception of certain provisions, entered into effect on 1.11.2009. The purpose of the act is to provide for the comprehensive solution of the standing, professional development and career growth of teaching staff and professional staff at schools, school facilities and other facilities in which upbringing and education is performed in the sectoral competence of other central government bodies and also of teaching staff at facilities for continuing education of teaching staff. It creates the legislative conditions for fundamental changes in the system of remuneration for teaching staff and professional employees in connection with the continuing education of these groups of employees. It lays down the conditions for continuing education, accreditation of continuing education programmes, implementation of a new credit and career system for teaching staff and professional employees. The act likewise regulates the care of teaching staff and professional

employees in the field of healthcare and workforce regeneration, social care, prevention against growth in aggression and violence and in the field of moral appreciation.

On 24.6.2009 **Act no. 266/2009 Coll. amending Act no. 528/2008 Coll. on aid and support provided from European Community funds** and amending Act no. 5/2004 Coll. on employment services and on the amendment of certain acts as later amended was passed. Pursuant to this act, the MA can conclude a contract with an applicant also prior to an EC decision confirming or not confirming aid.

On 29.10.2009 **Act no. 496/2009 Coll. amending Act no. 131/2002 Coll. on tertiary schools and on the amendment of certain acts as later amended** was passed. The act entered into effect on 1.1.2010.

On 1.12.2009 **Act no. 568/2009 Coll. on lifelong learning and on the amendment of certain acts**, was passed, which though will enter into effect in 2010. The act provides for lifelong learning in which further education links to the educational grade attained in school education, provides for the accreditation of further education programmes, lays down the rules and procedures for validating and recognising results of further education focused on the acquisition of partial qualification and full qualification, a national qualification system, the system of further education, the system of monitoring and forecasting the education needs in further education, verification of compliance with the accreditation conditions and compliance with the conditions for granting licence to perform exams for validating professional competence.

In connection with the implementation of the operational programme there may also be mentioned Act no. 25/2006 Coll. on public procurement and on the amendment of certain acts, which has been amended by Acts no. 213/2009 Coll., 289/2009 Coll., 402/2009 Coll., 503/2009 Coll., the last of which entered into effect on 1.1.2010).

On 1.11.2009 **SR Ministry of Education Decree no. 437/2009 laying down the qualification requirements and specific qualification requirements for individual categories of teaching staff and professional staff** entered into effect.

On 15.11.2009 **SR Ministry of Education Decree no. 445/2009 Coll. on continuing education, credits and attestations of teaching staff and professional staff** entered into effect.

On 1.9.2009 **SR Ministry of Education Decree no. 282/2009 Coll. on secondary schools** entered into effect.

The baseline for national projects from the national policy and their contribution to the overall adaptation of the education system to the needs of a knowledge-based society are given in the individual chapters of the priority axes of this 2009 Annual Report.

2.3. Serious problems encountered and measures taken to overcome them

With effect that during the period monitored, with regard to the framework of the procedure stated in Article 62 (1) (d) (i) of Regulation (EC) No 1083/2006 and also according to Article 10 of Regulation (EC) No 1081/2006, no serious problems were encountered in the context of OPE implementation (legislative changes preventing attainment of OPE implementation, changes in eligible activities, changes in target groups, applicants and eligible expenditures in the framework of the OPE, changes in the framework of the NSRF, etc) it was not necessary from

the side of the MA for the OPE or the MC OPE to adopt any extraordinary measures to address such problems (see Table 12).

Table 12: Monitoring of the number of measures adopted for defined problems

Identified problems	Measures adopted	Number of measures adopted
0	0	0

2.4. Changes in the context of operational programme implementation

The year 2009 was marked by the consequences of the global financial and economic crisis. The SR, as with all countries, is feeling the impact of the economic crisis primarily in the growth in unemployment in consequence of redundancies made due to a drop in production. Mitigation of the impacts of this situation will be carried out in the SR in accordance with the document “Draft Measures for Mitigating the Global Financial and Economic Crisis Impacts on Employment”, which the Minister of Labour, Social Affairs and the Family submitted to the SR Government. The SR Government approved this document in SR Government Resolution no. 100/2009 of 2.2.2009. The objective of the submitted proposal is to contribute through effective measures primarily to maintaining employment and mitigating the impacts of the global financial and economic crisis on employees at firms that in consequence of operating difficulties caused by the crisis are considering making redundancies or cancelling jobs. The proposed measures should contribute to mitigating these impacts by providing funds to employers to offset part of employees’ wage costs, to compensate for social security and related contributions of employees and employers who find themselves in serious operating problems and unable to give work to their employees.

The proposed measures will be implemented in accordance with the Draft Measures of the SR Government for Overcoming the Impacts of the Global Financial Crisis, approved by the SR Government Resolution no. 808 dated 6.11.2008 and with the update to SR Government Measures for Overcoming Impacts of the Global Financial Crisis, approved by SR Government Resolution no. 969 dated 17.12.2008 in the field of labour market policy.

Even though responsibility for active labour market policy lies with the MLSA&F SR, it is equally a priority of the ME SR to contribute by means of the OPE to raising employment and supporting a knowledge-based society with the assistance of declared direct awards and calls for demand-driven projects. The ME SR by means of regional school reform likewise seeks to prevent unemployment through the fact that school leavers gain competences and skills necessary for the labour market.

With regard to the developing situation, the ME SR as the MA for the OPE focused on the implementation of measures that could mitigate the impacts of the global economic crisis, particularly with regard to the economy and socio-economic conditions of the SR population. In connection with the impending impacts of the crisis, the MA for the OPE adopted measures primarily by means of more efficient implementation of investments in education and in innovating the creation of education programmes. The MA for the OPE focused its efforts primarily on intensifying the OPE’s implementation, particularly by means of declaring calls for the submission of AfNFCs and direct awards for national projects prevailing in the framework of priority axes 1 and 4, focused on teaching staff as the bearers of reform and as innovators of education, by providing complete, clear, intelligible and current information for applicants/beneficiaries and by creating the conditions in accordance with the OPE objectives for the efficient, fair and quick provision of aid.

Individual objectives of the OPE sufficiently reflect the basic disparities between the education system and the labour market, and reflect the activities defined within individual priority axes of the OPE and which provide sufficient room for responding to the impacts of the economic crisis without necessitating any change in their orientation. Also with regard to the ongoing preparations for simplifying the administrative processes for drawing funding in ESF programmes, it is expected that there will continue to be sufficient interest from the side of subjects in using the full allocation in the framework of the OPE, while beneficiaries have not indicated to the MA any problems with securing co-financing of projects from own funds.

The ME SR as the MA for the OPE will likewise in the coming period endeavour to concentrate ESF financing on target groups most threatened by the crisis, i.e. MRCs, disabled persons, persons who need to acquire knowledge and skills necessary for applying themselves in the labour market (priority axis 2 and priority axis 3).

Further information regarding the implementation of individual measures by means of declaring calls and direct awards, as well as the implementation itself of national and demand-driven projects is given in the respective chapters of the individual priority axes (3.1.1.1, 3.2.1.1, 3.3.1.1, 3.4.1.1 and 3.5.1.1 of this 2009 Annual Report).

A direct influence on The implementation of the OPE has been also the guidelines, or, as relevant, updates issued during the monitored period from the side of the CCB and the MF SR.

In 2009 the CCB issued the following guidelines:

- System of Management of the Structural Funds and the Cohesion Fund for the 2007 – 2013 Programming Period, version 3.0, the update of which entered into force on 31.1.2009;
- Methodological Instruction of the CCB no. 1/2009 regarding the content of the annual and final report on implementation of operational programme, which entered into force on 6.2.2009;
- Update 1 to the CCB Methodological Instruction no. 3 regarding the creation and use of project indicators and their inclusion in the ITMS 2007 – 2013, which entered into force on 15.5.2009;
- System of Management of the Structural Funds and the Cohesion Fund for the 2007 – 2013 Programming Period, version 3.1, the update of which entered into force on 23.9.2009;
- System of Management of the Structural Funds and the Cohesion Fund for the 2007 – 2013 Programming Period, version 3.2, which entered into force on 19.11.2009;
- Methodological Instruction of the CCB no. 7 regarding the simplification of reporting of expenditure in the 2007 – 2013 programming period, which entered into force on 31.7.2009.

The MF SR, in the position of the Certifying Authority, issued in 2009 the following documents of a conceptual and methodological nature:

- System of Management of the Structural Funds and the Cohesion Fund for the 2007 – 2013 Programming Period, version 4.0, in force from 1.2.2009, version 4.1 in force from 30.4.2009 and version 5.0, which entered into force on 7.11.2009;

- Strategy for the Structural Funds and the Cohesion Fund Financing for the 2007 – 2013 Programming Period, version 2.0 in force from 29.4.2009, version 3.0 in force from 9.9.2009 and version 4.0 which entered into force on 28.10.2009;
- MF SR Guideline no. 15/2008-U regarding financing procedures for projects of the Structural Funds, the Cohesion Fund and the European Fisheries Fund in connection with the end of the 2008 budgetary year and the introduction of the euro in the SR in the framework of the 2004 – 2006 and 2007 – 2013 programming periods in update no. 01/2009 in force from 23.2.2009 and in update no. 02/2009 in force from 2.9.2009;
- Guideline no. 12/2007-U regarding the code list of the programme structure of operational programmes of the Structural Funds and the Cohesion Fund for the 2007 – 2013 programming period, version 4.0 in force from 9.9.2009;
- MF SR Guideline no. 16/2008-U regarding irregularities in financial management of the Structural Funds and the Cohesion Fund and the European Fisheries Fund in update no. 1 in force from 9.9.2009;
- Guideline no. 1/2009-U regarding working procedures for end-of-year closing of accounts for ISUF users, dated 7.10.2009;
- Guideline no. 2/2009 regarding financing procedures of projects of the Structural Funds, the Cohesion Fund and European Fisheries Fund in connection with the end of the budgetary year in force from 7.10.2009.

The website of the SR Ministry of Justice published on 4.8.2009, in the Commercial Bulletin, Addendum 1 to the De Minimis Aid Scheme entitled “*Scheme for Promoting the Development of Modern Education for a Knowledge-Based Society*”.

The MA for the OPE pursuant to these guidelines updated, or, where appropriate, drafted programme and managing documents for the OPE.

2.5. Major changes according to Article 57 of Regulation (EC) no. 1083/2006

During the period monitored no cases were identified where a substantial change according to Article 57 of the general Council Regulation (EC) no. 1083/2006 of 11.6.2006 would be made.

2.6. Complementarity with other tools

In accordance with Article 34 (2) of Council Regulation (EC) No 1083/2006 in the framework of all priority axes of the OPE it is projected that actions falling within the competence of aid from the European Regional Development Fund (hereinafter simply the “ERDF”) will be financed in a complimentary manner and subject to a limit of 10% of Community funding for each priority axis of the OPE. The percentage limit on the level of cross-co-financing per project is set in the call or in the direct award.

Use of cross-financing under the OPE is expected for capital expenditures that are not eligible from the ESF (particularly those that beneficiaries cannot apply in the form of depreciation charges).

In the framework of cross financing it is possible to finance, for example the purchase of computer equipment, audio/video equipment, furniture, machinery and equipment for the needs of vocational practice at schools, aids for persons with special education needs, etc.

Further information regarding the use of cross financing is given in Section 2.1.2 and Table 5 of this 2009 Annual Report.

2.6.1. Coordination between assistance from the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development, the European Fisheries Fund, the interventions of the European Investment Bank and other existing financial instruments

In relation to the ERDF there can be seen, with regard to the progress achieved in OPE implementation, complementarity between priority axis 1 of the OPE and priority axis 1 of the Regional Operational Programme “Development of Civic Infrastructure Facilities” and in the framework of the OP R&D with priority axis 1 “R&D Infrastructure”, with priority axis 2 “Supporting Research & Development” and priority axis 5 “Infrastructure of Tertiary Schools”.

Priority axis 1 of the Regional Operational Programme promotes investment in the technical state of buildings used in the process of education, including the procurement of internal equipment of schools and school facilities. The OPE in a complementary manner also supports activities focused on the content and method (and also the content component) of education, to date primarily by means of the calls OPV-2008/1.1/01-SORO, OPV-2008/1.1/02-SORO, OPV-2008/1.1/03-SORO, OPV-2008/1.1/04-SORO and OPV-2009/1.1/05-SORO.

In the framework of the OP R&D, priority axis 1 focuses on strengthening research & development by means of high-quality technical equipment (instruments, laboratories, ...) at tertiary schools and at research & development institutes, whereas priority axis 5 focuses on investment in the technical state of buildings used in the field of education. Supporting technical infrastructure (whether technical equipment or technical state of buildings) contributes to the professional growth of human resources in research and development in the perception of education by students, tertiary education staff and scientific workers. Priority axis 2 of OP R&D provides support for human resources by activities encouraging the professional return of Slovak scientific workers operating abroad to Slovakia, or by retaining them in Slovakia, or by financing research projects that professional researchers would be able to undertake. The human component of tertiary education infrastructure is also supported primarily by means of priority axis 1 of the OPE, whereby emphasis is placed on creating better conditions for doctoral students and young scientific workers by means of ancillary education programmes and by creating a system that makes it easier for young scientific workers to remain in the field of research & development. A further objective of the OPE is also to ensure the continuing professional qualification growth and mobility of research and development workers. These objectives are fulfilled by means of call no. OPV-2009/1.2/01-SORO entitled “*Promoting Innovative Forms of Education at Tertiary Schools and Developing Human Resources in Research & Development*”.

In connection with priority axis 2, and particularly with measure 2.2, mention must be made of the complementarity with priority axis 1 (Healthcare System Modernisation) and priority axis 2 (Promoting Health and Avoiding Health Risks) of OP Health. There is a clear interconnection between the technical equipment of healthcare facilities (ensured by means of OP Healthcare) and the knowledge level of healthcare personnel. In 2009 two calls were declared aimed at improving the education level of healthcare workers. These were call OPV 2009/2.2/01 entitled “*Promoting Evaluation of Continuing Education of Healthcare Workers*” and call OPV 2009/2.2/02 entitled “*Raising Other Skills of Healthcare Workers*” (in the framework of this call it was possible to focus on, inter alia, training activities connected with the introduction of new technologies, instruments and equipment, etc). In the case of both calls there was also the possibility to use cross financing. In 2009 NFC contracts were signed with successful applicants

and the implementation of activities began in the framework of projects from call OPV 2008/2.2/03 *“Replenishing the Healthcare System with Qualified Specialists”* (the call was focused on promoting specialism study of healthcare workers for replenishing and stabilising the numbers of qualified healthcare workers in self-governing regions).

Priority 3 is complementary to priority axis 1 of the Regional Operational Programme “Development of Civic Infrastructure Facilities”. The construction, modernisation and expansion of new or existing social services facilities contributes to the comprehensive support for persons with special education needs, including members of MRCs. In 2009 in the framework of priority axis 3 of the OPE the following calls were declared: OPV-2009/3.1/01-SORO entitled *“Programmes and Courses for Primary School Pupils Coming from Marginalised Roma Communities”* and OPV-2009/3.2/01-SORO entitled *“Innovation of Methods and Forms of the Upbringing-Education Process and Creation of Further Education Programmes for Disabled Persons”*.

Priority axis 4 (measure 4.1) is complementary to priority axis 1 – “Infrastructure” of OP Bratislava Region. By means of priority axis Infrastructure improvement is sought in the infrastructure and equipment of schools in connection with supporting the education reform in the Bratislava region and raising its overall quality, analogously as in the case of priority axis 1 of the Regional Operational Programme in the framework of the Convergence objective. The content component of education reform is solved by means of calls OPV-2008/4.1/01-SORO, OPV-2008/4.1/02-SORO, OPV-2008/4.1/03-SORO, and OPV-2008/4.1/04-SORO.

The content component of the education reform was also the subject of all direct awards declared in 2008 (indirectly also by means of direct award OPV/K/RKZ/NP/2008-2, which implemented measures 2.1 and 4.2 of the OPE). In 2009 this concerned primarily the direct awards OPV/K/RKZ/NP/2009-1 and OPV/K/ NP/2009-7.

The complementarity of priority axis 4 of the OPE and OP R&D is ensured by means of priority axis 3 of the OP R&D – “R&D Infrastructure in the Bratislava Region” (strengthening research and development by means of quality technical equipment, ...) and priority axis 4 – “Promoting R&D in the Bratislava Region” (supporting human resources by activities encouraging the professional return of the Slovak scientific workers operating abroad to Slovakia, or by retaining them in Slovakia, or by financing research projects that professional researchers would be able to undertake). In 2009 in the framework of the OPE, call OPV-2009/4.2/01-SORO was declared entitled *“Promoting Innovative Forms of Education at Tertiary Schools and Developing Human Resources in Research & Development”*. The call fulfils requirements relating to strengthening the “human” infrastructure of tertiary education (analogously as in the case of measure 1.2 of the OPE), i.e. requirements aimed at creating better conditions for doctoral students and young scientific workers by means of ancillary education programmes and by creating a system that makes it easier for young scientific workers to remain in the field of research & development, for ensuring the continuing professional qualification growth and for ensuring the mobility of research & development staff.

In accordance with Article 9 (4) of Council Regulation (EC) No 1083/2006, which requires coordination between aid from the funds, the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development, the European Fisheries Fund, interventions of the European Investment Bank and of other existing financial instruments, the OPE is complementary in the implementation process with the Rural Development Programme of the SR 2007 – 2013 and with the Operational Programme Fisheries.

Priority axis 2 and priority axis 4 of the OPE are complimentary with Axis 1 – Raising the Competitiveness of the Agricultural and Forestry Sector and with Axis 3 – Quality of Life in Rural Areas and Diversification of the Rural Economy in the Framework of the Rural Development Programme 2007 – 2013. A common objective pursued by the OPE and the Rural Development Programme of the SR 2007 – 2013 is that of strengthening the SR's competitiveness and employment growth, by means of developing competences, capabilities and skills so that the workforce can react flexibly to the new labour market requirements of a knowledge-based society, and this particularly in line with the development of production with high added value and the application of new technologies (including ICT). Both strategic documents seek to address, general problems of the SR in the field of human resources, these being the low qualification of the workforce, insufficient professionalism and information, insufficient rate of innovation and lack of capital and finance for retaining qualified specialists and experts. Multifunctional education and raising the information of subjects' works in a complementary manner with economic growth, with improving people's social conditions and quality of life in rural areas. Priority axis 2 and priority axis 4 of the OPE are complementary with axis 2 – Aquaculture, Processing and Introduction of Fishery Products and Aquaculture onto the Market in the framework of the Operational Programme Fisheries. In the framework of the Operational Programme Fisheries support for educational activities in axis 2 represents supplementary education for beneficiaries in the measures concerned, or improvement of the use of new knowledge and the transfer of research results into practice, including strictly only issues in the field of fisheries.

2.7. Monitoring and evaluation

2.7.1. Monitoring

Monitoring is the basic tool for ensuring the efficient setting and subsequent implementation of the OPE and projects implemented under this programme. Monitoring encompasses the collection of data and the submission of summary information on the current state of the implementation process. Monitoring of the OPE covers all basic processes and aspects of its implementation and enables the OPE Monitoring Committee and the MA to track the course of the OPE's implementation in relation to its objectives and binding process. The system of monitoring must link directly to key management processes so that it identifies risks connected with the OPE implementation and fulfilment of its set objectives and implementation of individual projects, and concurrently enables steps to be taken for sufficient and effective remedy.

Monitoring at the project level

The basic unit of monitoring is the project. The MA in cooperation with the IBMA aggregates data and indicators from the level of projects, through measures, priority axes up to the operational programme level. Project monitoring begins on the day of the NFC contract entering into force, and which is concluded between the MA and the beneficiary in the case of direct awards declared by the MA and between the IBMA and the beneficiary in the case of demand-oriented projects, and ends on the final day of the force and effect of this contract.

Project monitoring is carried out during the implementation of project activities and for the period of five years following the completion of the project's physical implementation; monitoring is carried out by means of monitoring reports sent by the beneficiary. There are interim, final and follow-up monitoring reports.

In the period monitored there were also performed on-the-spot evaluations, which are detailed in Section 2.1.4.2 of this 2009 Annual Report.

Monitoring at the programme level

The objective of monitoring at the programme level is to monitor the objectives and progress of the OPE, using **measurable indicators** (hereinafter simply “indicators”). Indicators are the basic tool for monitoring progress and serve for assessing economy, efficiency and effectiveness of the use of funds allocated to the OPE, priority axis and measure.

Since the start of 2009 the MA and the IBMA in declaring direct awards for national projects and calls for demand-driven projects proceeded pursuant to the provisions of CCB Methodological Instruction no. 3 regarding the creation and use of project indicators and their inclusion in the ITMS 2007 – 2013, which entered into force on 1.12.2008.

The principal change that this methodological instruction brought about was the declaration of the project's contribution to HPs. Based on a written opinion from the CCB (letter no. MVRR-2008-9923/72974-76) the application of the rule, as described in point 13 (h) of the methodological instruction “Projects declaring a contribution to the fulfilment of objectives of horizontal priorities must use at minimum one result indicator relevant to the respective horizontal priority in the ITMS”, began with calls declared following the issue date of the methodological instruction, i.e. after 1.12.2008.

For this reason projects contracted in 2009 under calls and direct awards from before 1.12.2008 were not subject to the obligation to declare contribution to HPs by means of a result indicator (more detailed information is given in part of this 2009 Annual Report).

Over the course of 2009 there was intensive communication between the CCB, IBMA ASFEU and IBMA MH SR regarding the preparation of project indicators for the purposes of the declared calls and direct awards for national projects. The final version of the project indicators was approved by the MA together with each call as its appendix. Where necessary, in accordance with the Methodological Instruction 3 the MA was on an ongoing basis sending to the CCB requests for amending the code lists of indicators in the ITMS (entering new indicators, or classifying existing indicators in the number code to priority themes relevant to the OPE). The CCB accepted all the submitted requests for amending the code list of indicators in the ITMS.

In cooperation with the HP coordinators, the CCB received applications for classifying the existing indicators in the code list as relevant to the HPs.

In 2009 a set of indicators at the OPE level was adjusted for the reason of harmonising the wording of indicators concerning monitoring of categories defined in Annex 5 to the OPE beyond the framework of Annex XXIII to the Implementing Regulation (more information on the approval of Annex 5 to the OPE by the MC is available in Chapter 2.7.1.3 of this 2009 Annual Report).

In 2009 Annex 9 to the NSRF (indicators relating to strategic objectives) and Annex 13 to the NSRF (indicators relating to HP) were amended at an initiative received from the CCB, as were adjusted the related indicators in individual Implementation Coordination Systems for HPs.

With regard to the identified problems in collecting and aggregating data on achieved indicator values from the project level to the programme level (the measure and priority axis level),

arrangements were made based on the written MA guideline as to sending the attained indicator values from the IBMAs to the MA. The MA has a table drawn up containing links created between individual project level indicators and indicators at the level of OPE measures and priority axes. This table is updated on the basis of the received (as at 7.7. and 7.7. of year n) current sets of indicators contained in the contracts concluded at the IBMAs and then sent back by the MA back to the IBMA for its use in submitting data in the framework of the IBMA's half-yearly monitoring reports.

Activity of the Monitoring Committee for the OPE and the 3rd ordinary meeting is detailed in Chapter 2.7.1.3.1 of this 2009 Annual Report.

IBMA representatives in the monitored period attended regular meetings of the MA and IBMAs at approximately two-week intervals. At the meetings of the MA and IBMAs information was presented on the current state of implementation in the delegated measures, problems arising and solutions to them. The MA informed the IBMAs of methodological guidelines under preparation and likewise updates to implementation documents (the OPE Programme Manual, Handbook for Applicants, specimen NFC contract, etc).

2.7.1.1 Submission of half-yearly monitoring reports and annual OPE implementation reports

Pursuant to Article 67 of Council Regulation (EC) No 1083/2006 of 11.7.2006 the MA is obliged to submit to the European Commission yearly by 30 June of the given calendar year an annual report on implementation of OPE for the relevant period. The source documents to the annual report were provided also by the individual IBMAs in the form of the submission of half-yearly monitoring reports.

The half-yearly monitoring report of the IBMA ASFEU for the 2nd half of 2008 was sent to the MA on 30.1.2009. The MA sent its comments regarding the report on 9.2.2009. Together with these comments the MA on the same day sent also CCB Methodological Instruction no. 1/2009. The comments were incorporated into the IBMA half-yearly monitoring report for the 2nd half of 2008 and were sent with their evaluation to the MA on 16.2.2009. The MA on 16.2.2009 requested that the information be supplemented in accordance with CCB Methodological Instruction no. 1/2009 and again by letter dated 18.2.2009 requested readjustment. Since the IBMA ASFEU requested an explanation regarding certain parts of Methodological Instruction no. 1/2009, the MA in a letter of 20.2.2009 sent guidelines for preparing the sourced documentation for the half-yearly monitoring report in accordance with Methodological Instruction no. 1/2009. The half-yearly monitoring report was approved by the MA on 23.2.2009.

In January 2009 the half-yearly monitoring report of the IBMA MH SR was drawn up for the 2nd half of 2008 and was sent to the MA on 4.2.2009 for assessment and approval. The MA sent comments twice as regards the monitoring report by letters dated 11.2.2009 and a request for a further change by letter dated 20.2.2009. These comments were accepted from the side of the MA by letter dated 25.2.2009.

The MA, with regard to the issuance of CCB Methodological Instruction no. 1/2009 regarding the content of the annual and final report on implementation of the operational programme, which entered into force on 6.2.2009, additionally requested both IBMAs to supplement the necessary information on the basis of this instruction and likewise sent the new form sheet of the half-yearly monitoring report to both IBMAs.

The half-yearly monitoring report of the IBMA ASFEU for the 1st half of 2009 was sent to the MA on 31.7.2009. The MA's comments were received on 14.8.2009. These were incorporated into the IBMA half-yearly monitoring report for the 1st half of 2009 and sent with their evaluation to the MA on 21.8.2009. The MA subsequently sent its comments regarding the report on 27.8.2009. On 3.9.2009 the IBMA sent the 3rd version of its half-yearly monitoring report, which was approved by the MA on 7.9.2009.

In July 2009 the half-yearly monitoring report of the IBMA MH SR was drawn up for the 1st half of 2009 and was sent to the MA on 31.7.2009 for assessment and approval. The MA sent its comments to the report by letter dated 14.8.2009 and again by letter dated 21.8.2009. The final version of the half-yearly monitoring report with incorporated comments was sent to the MA on 14.9.2009. The MA approved the half-yearly monitoring report on 14.9.2009.

The MA on the basis of source documentation from the half-yearly monitoring reports for 2008 drew up the draft 2008 annual report and submitted it for comment to the individual IBMAs and members of the MC OPE. The draft was submitted at the 3rd ordinary meeting of the MC OPE, held on 9.6.2009. Following discussion at the meeting of the MC OPE the annual report was approved by members of the MC OPE. Subsequently the annual report was sent to the European Commission via the SFC2007 system for official assessment on 25.6.2009. The European Commission by letter dated 3.7.2009 confirmed the admissibility of the 2008 Annual Report.

The European Commission by letter dated 24.8.2009 raised comments regarding the 2008 Annual Report, on the basis of which the MA contacted also the IBMAs for cooperation and within the two-month deadline the European Commission's comments were incorporated and the OPE Annual Report was re-sent via the SFC2007 system for assessment.

On the basis of European Commission letter no. 021776 dated 12.11.2009 the MA was informed that the Annual Report for 2008 had been drawn up in accordance with the main points of Regulation No 1083/2006 and had been approved by the European Commission. The Annual Report was published on the Internet on the ME SR website www.minedu.sk in Slovak and English.

2.7.1.2 Annual Review Meeting for the OPE

On 2.4.2009 the Annual Review Meeting for the OPE was held pursuant to Article 68 of Council Regulation (EC) No 1083/2006 of 11.7.2006, attended by representatives of the European Commission, the MA, representatives from the IBMAs of the ASFEU and of the MH SR, representatives of the MF SR and other representatives of the Slovak institutions. The subject of the Annual Review Meeting was limited solely to the situation in 2008, but the main objective of the agenda was to evaluate the programme and to obtain an overview of progress made in implementing OPE, as well as the impact of the crisis on the ESF at the national level.

In connection with the global economic downturn the European Commission was interested primarily in the economic situation in the SR, the effect of special measures of the Government on the ESF programmes in connection with addressing rising unemployment and also with maintaining existing jobs. Since the MA is not planning to make changes to the operational programme in consequence of the crisis for reason that it is conceived quite broadly so as to cover the needs of target groups in consequence of the crisis, and also with effect that the

question of addressing employment is more the subject of the Operational Programme Employment & Social Inclusion. Questions were likewise raised concerning financial and physical progress made in implementing OPE national projects and demand-driven projects.

The European Commission presented information regarding a simplification of procedures for ESF implementation, which implement specifically the use of flat rates, unit costs and fixed amounts.

Representatives of the MA and the IBMA in the form of presentations provided an overview of direct awards by the MA for the OPE in 2008, an overview of calls by the IBMA ASFEU and by the IBMA MH SR for measure 2.2, as well as information on physical and financial progress as at 20.3.2009. European Commission representatives expressed concern about potential problems that could jeopardise implementation, the monitored risk of non-fulfilment of the n+3 principal, interest in calls and also problems in calls (e.g. the number of disqualified applications in the case of the first calls by the IBMA ASFEU).

European Commission representatives also expressed concern regarding the implementation of HP MRC and the deadline for declaring the call for measure 3.1, which the ASFEU planned to declare in the 2nd half of 2009 for demand-driven projects.

Other topics discussed at the meeting centred on issues regarding audit, on-the-spot verifications, the ITMS and its updating.

Questions were also raised regarding the administrative capacities and cooperation of the MA and IBMA and information regarding evaluation currently ongoing. The evaluation strategy was re-worked for the evaluations plan and the European Commission requested the inclusion of an evaluation for 2009 aimed at assessing the effectiveness of the OPE management system. European Commission representatives also expressed an interest in the 2008 Annual Report under preparation.

2.7.1.3 Monitoring Committee

2.7.1.3.1 3rd Ordinary Meeting

On 9.6.2009 the 3rd ordinary meeting of the MC was held. The meeting was held with the participation of European Commission representatives and standing members of the MC OPE.

At the start of the MC meeting, the committee secretary presented the agenda for the committee meeting. Documents had been sent to committee members on 28.5.2009 in electronic form. The committee secretary informed members that since the last meeting of the committee, members had approved by the per rollam procedure in accordance with Article 12 of the Committee Rules of Procedure two documents – the OPE Evaluation Strategy, which was the subject of the 2008 Annual Report and the evaluation and selection criteria for OPE technical assistance projects, see details in Chapter 2.7.1.3.2 of this 2009 Annual Report.

A further point of the meeting was a foreword by the European Commission representatives, approval of the verifier of the minutes, as well as approval of the minutes from the 2nd ordinary MC meeting, held on 4.6.2008.

The MC discussed and approved, with comments, the 2008 Annual Report, which monitors the development of the OPE's implementation. The draft 2008 Annual Report was sent to committee members electronically on 16.4.2009. Committee members had the possibility to send comments regarding the draft 2008 Annual Report within the period by 4.5.2009. The evaluation of comments as well as of the 2008 Annual Report adjusted pursuant to the comments formed a part of the committee meeting's agenda. The committee secretary then opened discussion regarding the draft 2008 Annual Report.

The MC meeting also approved the OPE Evaluations Plan for the 2007 – 2013 programming period. Based on CCB Methodological Instruction no. 5/2008 regarding the drafting of the plan of evaluations for the operational programme for the 2007 – 2013 programming period, issued following the approval of the OPE Evaluation Strategy, the ME SR as the MA for the OPE updated and reworked the OPE Evaluation Strategy to the OPE Evaluations Plan for the 2007 – 2013 programming period.

A further point on the agenda of the ordinary meeting was the approval of update no. 5 to the OPE – List of Measurable OPE Indicators. The reason for the update is to harmonise Annex 5 to the OPE with Annex XXIII to Commission Regulation (EC) No 1828/2006 setting out the rules for the implementation of Council Regulation (EC) No 1083/2006 laying down general provisions on the European Regional Development Fund, the European Social Fund and the Cohesion Fund and of Regulation (EC) No 1018/2006 of the European Parliament and of the Council on the European Regional Development Fund (the "Implementing Regulation"). This requirement resulted both from the side of the CCB and from the side of the European Commission. This concerned no change to the indicators, but harmonisation of individual categories (target groups). The updated Annex 5 was consulted with the European Commission representatives.

Committee members also took note of the 3rd version of the OPE Programme Manual. Information was also given regarding progress made in OPE implementation, on the evaluation of calls for the submission of AfNFCs, on the national projects declared by direct awards and also on ensuring information and publicity of the OPE (for further information see Section 7.4.1 of this 2009 Annual Report). The agenda of the MC meeting also included presentations by beneficiaries of selected national projects ("Education of Primary School Teachers in the Field of Foreign Languages in Connection with the White Paper for Teaching Foreign Languages at Primary and Secondary Schools", and "Teacher Education in Connection with the Creation of School Education Programmes").

2.7.1.3.2 Approval per rollam

In the period from 16.2.2009 to 6.3.2009 an approval was made by way of the per rollam procedure. The subject of the written procedure for approval comprised the Evaluation and Selection Criteria for Technical Assistance Projects of the OPE.

In connection to the update of the System of Management of the Structural Funds and the Cohesion Fund for the 2007 – 2013 Programming Period, version 3.0, valid as at 31.1.2009, the selection of technical assistance projects will be made with the aid of evaluation and selection criteria.

The MA therefore drew up draft evaluation and selection criteria for technical assistance projects. The specific features of technical assistance were taken into account in creating the draft.

On 16.2.2009 the draft Evaluation and Selection Criteria for Technical Assistance Projects from the OPE, together with the instruction for AfNFC evaluation, was sent by e-mail to MC members for comment.

Following the incorporation of comments from the MC members, the final draft of the Evaluation and Selection Criteria for Technical Assistance Projects was sent on 23.2.2009 by e-mail to members of the monitoring committee for approval by means of the written per rollam decision making procedure (per rollam decision making). The per rollam procedure was chosen due to the fact that the MA is obliged to incorporate methodological policies defined by the System of Management within 30 days following the issuance of the System of Management, or an update to it, into its managing documentation and the next meeting of the MC was planned only for June 2009.

Pursuant to paragraph 2 of Article 12 of the Rules of Procedure of the Monitoring Committee for the OPE, MC members were invited to express an opinion regarding the submitted material within the period of 10 working days from receiving it, i.e. by 6.3.2009.

Within the set deadline the MC secretariat received by e-mail positive opinions to the submitted material from 8 members of the MC OPE (Nitra UTTU, Bratislava UTTU, Confederation of Industrial, Research and Development Organisations, Trenčín UTTU, OGPRC, Prešov UTTU, MF SR – CA, Slovak Association of Towns and Municipalities). In accordance with paragraph 3 of Article 12 of the Rules and Procedures the non-submission of an opinion is deemed an expression of consent to the material. None of the members submitted any comments or expressed a dissenting opinion.

The Evaluation and Selection Criteria for Technical Assistance Projects of the OPE were approved by MC OPE members on 6.3.2009. The relevant documents were then published on the MA's website: www.minedu.sk.

2.7.1.4 ITMS in the monitoring process

The ITMS is a central information system that serves for the registration, subsequent processing, export and monitoring of data on programming, project and financial management, control and audit of the Structural Funds and the Cohesion Fund for the 2007 – 2013 programming period. The ITMS has the task of ensuring a uniform and compatible system of monitoring, project management and financial management of programmes financed from the Structural Funds and the Cohesion Fund.

Responsibility for general initial data for the system lies with the Ministry of Construction and Regional Development of the SR (hereinafter simply the "MCRD SR") in cooperation with the MF SR. Responsibility for the initial data of the OPE lies with the MA. The MA communicates with the CCB by means of departmental ITMS administrators, who are mutually substitutable.

The ITMS is used by all MAs and IBMAs to the same degree. Access to the ITMS system in 2009 for the new 2007 – 2013 programming period was granted to the MA – ME SR, IBMA MH SR and IBMA ASFEU.

During the monitored period ITMS II was in concurrent operation. ITMS II contains the functionalities for communication with the European Commission, detailed definition of the operational programme, the setting of processes and roles, planning, and definition of calls, receipt of AfNFCs via the public part of the monitoring system, evaluation of AfNFCs, project

contracting, financial management of projects, i.e. the receipt and processing of AfPs and SAPs, as well as control and audit functionalities.

The following working committees have been established for ensuring the proper functioning of the system:

1. Steering Committee of the ITMS Project – SR Ministry of Construction & Regional Development, representatives of the SR Ministry of Finance, DataCentre and ITMS suppliers;
2. Commission of ITMS Experts – SR Ministry of Construction & Regional Development, SR Ministry of Finance and representatives of the MA;
3. Commission for Access Rights – DataCentre, SR Ministry of Construction & Regional Development, SR Ministry of Finance.

The MA ensures the availability of information concerning the procedure for submitting applications for a user account activation, including contact data to the respective subjects published on the ITMS portal. During the course of the period monitored the options for entering data regarding project indicators, public procurement, addenda to NFC contracts and annexes were progressively made available.

The role of the Commission of ITMS Experts, the members of which are representatives of the CCB, the MF SR and MA administrators, is to ensure the involvement of the MA in the development and administration of the ITMS, while the role of the Commission for Access Rights, the members of which are representatives of the CCB, the MF SR and the system administrator, is to methodologically manage and approve the roles of ITMS bodies and users.

The ITMS is divided into three main parts:

1. the non-public part of the ITMS (the CORE ITMS) ensures programme, project and financial management, control and audit; it is integrated with the ISUF accounting system;
2. the reporting part ensures the creation of static and dynamic data exports;
3. the public part (the ITMS portal) ensures communication with beneficiaries, the European Commission's information system SFC2007 (structural funds common database) and the monitoring systems of neighbouring countries for cross-border cooperation programmes.

The public part of the ITMS is accessible via the Internet portal <https://www.itms.sk>. All applicants/beneficiaries for the 2007 – 2013 programming period can gain access to the ITMS portal. The public portal for the submission of AfNFCs will be functional for beneficiaries as of 1.1.2010 and for the submission of monitoring reports as of 30.6.2010. Following the expiry of the transitional period (up to 31.12.2008) all AfNFCs in the period monitored were submitted exclusively via the public portal.

As regards the obligation to fill out and send AfPs and project monitoring reports by means of the public portal throughout the monitored period, the transitional period was extended to 31.12.2009 for reason that the public portal was not fully functional in this field. One of the problems of the public portal, as well as of the CORE ITMS, in the monitored period was the classifying of monitoring indicators into the structure of data of the national indicators code list and their subsequent assignment to priority themes from the side of the CCB, and the consequent problems incurred by the MA in assigning relevant indicators to the OPE programme structure.

The ITMS is developed, operated, maintained and managed by the CCB; proposed procedures with the aim of ensuring the proper functioning of the ITMS are consulted with the ITMS management committee, comprising representatives of the CCB, the MF SR, the DataCentre and the ITMS supplier. The task of the ITMS Management Committee is to manage and control the course of the creation of the ITMS for the 2007 – 2013 programming period.

2.7.2. Evaluation

2.7.2.1 OPE Evaluations Plan for the 2007 – 2013 Programming Period

On the basis of Methodological Instruction no. 5 regarding the drafting of a plan of evaluations of operational programmes for the 2007 – 2013 programming period issued by the CCB on 19.9.2008 the evaluation working group drew up the OPE Evaluations Plan for the 2007 – 2013 Programming Period (hereinafter simply the OPE Evaluations Plan). The OPE Evaluations Plan incorporated comments from the IBMAs, the MC – OPE, as well as the European Commission. Based on the European Commission's requirement raised at the OPE Annual Review Meeting of 2.4.2009, an evaluation was added to the OPE Evaluations Plan for 2009, aimed at assessing the effectiveness of the system of management of the OPE for the purpose of replacing the regular review of the whole OPE in 2009 with regard to the late start of the programme's implementation. The OPE Evaluations Plan was approved by the MC OPE on 9.6.2009. In connection to the adoption of the OPE Evaluations Plan, the OPE Evaluations Plan for 2009 was drawn up in June 2009.

Further information on the preparation of the OPE Evaluation Strategy, which preceded the OPE Evaluations Plan is given in the 2008 Annual Report.

2.7.2.2 Operative Evaluation “Assessment of the Effectiveness of the System of Management of the OPE”

Pursuant to the OPE Evaluations Plan and the OPE Evaluations Plan for 2009, the first planned evaluation for 2009 was the external evaluation on the theme “Assessment of the Effectiveness of the System of Management of the OPE” (for details see Table 13). For the purposes of selecting a contractor for the evaluation, members of the working group for OPE evaluation during the course of the months July to September 2009 drew up the Terms of Reference for Operative Evaluation “Assessment of the Effectiveness of the System of Management of the Operational Programme Education” (hereinafter simply the terms of reference), which defined all the requirements for performing this evaluation: evaluation objective, main tasks and spheres of evaluation issues, overview of selected evaluation methods and techniques, timetable, evaluation criteria, content and structure of the final evaluation report, as well as requirements for tenderers. The terms of reference also took account of the requirements made by the European Commission, to which the terms of reference were presented for opinion prior to carrying out market research and contacting companies with an invitation to tender.

The objective of the evaluation is to assess the effectiveness of the activity of the MA for the OPE, the IBMAs, to analyse the configuration of the system of management and system of implementation for the OPE. The evaluation should also assess the activity of the available administrative capacities engaged in the OPE's implementation. The main fields that the evaluation should deal with comprise an assessment of the system of management, coordination and cooperation, transparency and efficiency of the system of implementation. An important

field of the evaluation will also be the assessment of the proper configuration of the horizontal and vertical breakdown of the administrative structures, the sufficiency and quality of available administrative capacities, as well as economy in the use of technical assistance during the programme's implementation. The evaluation should also assess the effectiveness of the work of the MC OPE and the fulfilment of its tasks. The evaluation is to result in the preparation of a proposal for improving the functioning of the system of management and cooperation between the MA and IBMAs in implementing the OPE.

The MA as the ordering party of the evaluation addressed 6 companies working in the field of evaluation and sent them an invitation to tender pursuant to the terms of reference. The deadline for submitting tenders was 30.9.2009. Five of the companies contacted expressed an interest in submitting a tender.

Based on the fulfilment of all requirements and criteria required in the terms of reference, a contract was concluded on 18.11.2009 between the MA and the external evaluator – Ernst & Young, k.s. The price for preparing the evaluation, pursuant to the contract with the external evaluator, is €11 781 inclusive of value-added tax.

The evaluation was in the phase of implementation in the period monitored. On 8.1.2010, in accordance with the contract with the evaluator, an initial evaluation report was submitted in electronic form. The deadline for submitting the draft final evaluation report, on the basis of the contract with the external evaluator, is 31.3.2010. With regard to the fact that the final evaluation report will be submitted only at the mentioned date, the conclusions, findings and recommendations of this evaluation are not currently available. The final version of the final evaluation report will be published on the website of the MA for the OPE: www.minedu.sk.

The external evaluator in the framework of its tender and following the signing of the contract and in the framework of the initial report submitted to the MA for the OPE (the initial report was submitted in electronic form on 8.1.2010) proposed specific methodological procedures that it will use in solving tasks resulting from the assigned evaluation theme. The following evaluation tools and information sources were selected as appropriate, with regard to the types of evaluation issues:

- analyses of inputs and relevant documentation;
- questionnaire survey (using questions in a working matrix of questions);
- structured interviews;
- focus group for discussing findings.

The listed evaluation tools also represent the individual activities of the evaluation solution itself. The working matrix of questions is the key evaluation tool, on the basis of which information connected with the evaluation issues will be gathered, with the greatest weighting in the evaluation being attached to the questionnaire research, or subsequent structured interviews. The outputs and findings of the evaluation team have also been incorporated in the working matrix of questions. The working matrix of questions makes it possible to structure the examined fields into smaller parts and to focus in detail on each area separately. The working matrix also includes specific evaluation questions designed for each area examined.

Table 13: Evaluations realised in the period in question

Evaluation name	Amount (incl. VAT) €	Evaluation period	realisation	Evaluation type
<i>Assessment of the Effectiveness of the System of Management of the OPE</i>	11 781.00	18.11.2009 – 31.3.2010		planned operative
Brief description of evaluation findings: N/A				
Evaluation conclusions: N/A				
Proposed recommendations: N/A				
Measures adopted from the side of the MA: N/A				
Implementation of evaluation conclusions: N/A				

2.7.2.3 Central Committee for Evaluation of the NSRF

The Central Evaluation Committee of the NSRF (hereinafter simply the “CEC”) was established as an advisory body to the General Director of the Regional Development Strategy Section of the SR Ministry of Construction & Regional Development (hereinafter simply the “MCRD SR”). The chairman of the CEC is the General Director of the Regional Development Strategy Section of the MCRD SR; committee members comprise representatives of the CCB, representatives of the managing authorities of the operational programmes, HP coordinators and a representative of the SR Statistics Office. The MA for the OPE on 25.8.2008 nominated its representative and his deputy to this committee. The CEC as an advisory body to the General Director in the field of evaluating the NSRF is jointly involved in solving strategic, conceptual and methodological matters in the field of evaluation and thereby contributes to the creation and development of an efficient and effective system for evaluating the NSRF.

During the course of 2009 no meetings of the CEC were held. CEC members cooperated only on the basis of electronic communication in the framework of preparing and commenting on materials connected with evaluation of the NSRF:

- drawing up comments regarding the NSRF Evaluations Plan for the 2007 – 2013 Programming Period;
- drawing up comments regarding the material “Statute and Rules of Procedure of the Central Evaluation Committee of the National Strategic Reference Framework”;
- updating Annexes 9 and 13 to the NSRF.

2.7.2.4 Working Group for Evaluation of the OPE

The working group for evaluation of the OPE (hereinafter simply the “working group”) was established in 2008 in the framework of preparing the OPE Evaluation Strategy (further information on the establishment of the working group is given in the 2008 Annual Report). Members of the working group: 2 evaluation managers from the MA for the OPE, 2 programming managers from the MA for the OPE and 2 representatives of the IBMAs: MH SR and ASFEU.

In 2009 members of the working group did not meet on a regular basis. Communication between individual members was conducted primarily in electronic form. Members of the working group were actively involved in preparing the OPE Evaluations Plan as well as in drafting terms of reference for the

“Assessment of the effectiveness of the system of management of the Operational Programme Education”.

Besides this, members of the working group deepened their knowledge in fields relating to the evaluation and attended various education activities:

- Evaluation and Monitoring of EU Structural Funds, organised by the EIPA (European Institute for Public Administration) 26.2. – 7.3.2009 in Maastricht – the trainings were attended by the evaluation manager of the MA for the OPE and the programming manager of the MA for the OPE;
- Evaluation of Structural Funds: Reinforcing Quality and Utilisation, organised by the Ministry of Finance of Lithuania 25.3. – 27.3.2009 in Vilnius – educational conference attended by the programming manager of the MA for the OPE;
- Monitoring and Evaluation of Interventions, organised by the Slovak Evaluation Society 29.6. – 30.6.2009 in Bratislava – the trainings were attended by both evaluation managers of the MA for the OPE and the programming manager of the MA for the OPE;
- Public Procurement – Basic Knowledge on the Law, organised by the ME SR on 8.10.2009 in Bratislava – the trainings were attended by the evaluation manager of the MA for the OPE.

The evaluation managers and other members of the group will be able to use the knowledge gained by means of these education activities in the preparation and execution of the planned evaluations, or in updating the OPE Evaluations Plan.

2.8. National performance reserve

Not applicable.

2.9. Administrative capacity

MA

In the framework of the administrative capacities the ME SR as the MA for OPE implementation for the 2007 – 2013 programming period employed as at 31.12.2009 in total **93** staff, of an originally planned number of 97, thus forming **95.87%** fulfilment of the recruitment plan for administrative capacities for 2009. This number of staff has now stabilised, therefore the MA, even despite the fact that in Table 14 there is stated the need to recruit a further 6 employees for the job position of departmental assistant and financial manager, will solve this issue operatively during the course of 2010, depending on the workload connected with the implementation of the OPE and OP R&D, since staff, particularly financial managers and those working at the PU, are engaged in both operational programmes. The MA views very positively the stabilisation of the administrative capacities at both operational programmes, this being reflected also in a smoother course of the operational programme's implementation.

During 2009 the MA recruited 7 new staff, who were included in the total number of administrative capacity as at 31.12.2009, and 8 staff left employment. This state was caused by the natural turnover of staff, which, nevertheless, was solved on an operative basis and the MA

had endeavoured to fill the vacant positions quickly, so that the balance of administrative capacity was always full and no complications arose in the OPE's implementation.

As in 2008, the MA also in 2009 continued to allow its staff to attend education activities in the framework of staff training and raising the qualification of MA staff involved in OPE implementation. In the period monitored MA staff attended 42 education activities, in a cumulative number of 581 participants, in the framework of which MA staff had the possibility to deepen their qualifications and expert knowledge necessary in OPE implementation. Trainings were arranged in cooperation with the ME SR, the MCRD SR and the MF SR and directly by directly managed organisations of the ME SR. An overview of the trainings and the number of MA staff participating at the individual trainings is given in Table 14 below.

Table 14: Overview of MA staff trainings

Training	Number of MA participants
New accounting methodology	11
New programming period	89
Ex-ante control	60
Overview of the working of the government organisations and government-subsidised organisations	49
Financial control	27
Project accounting	13
Protecting financial interests of the European Communities	24
Management of structural funds	74
Selected management problems of national projects	30
Forensic audit	4
Monitoring and evaluation of interventions	13
Seminar on public procurement	1
Communication training, rhetoric and presentation for their utilisation in implementation of the Structural Funds and the Cohesion Fund – level 1, 2	3
Internal language education – English	2
ITMS training – advanced	25
ITMS training – beginners	5
ITMS training – target group: paying units	22
Web Manager system – methodology day	1
Public procurement for public procurement, audit authority, certifying authority	2
Proper conduct – application in practice	6
Evaluation and monitoring of the EU Structural Funds – in Maastricht	1
Proper conduct – application in practice	1
Application of gender equality in the policies of the Department of Education	1
Equal opportunities in the Structural Funds	1
Public procurement – basic knowledge on the act	1
Simplification of the ESF in 2007 – 2013 according to Regulation 1081/2006 on the ESF	1
Updating of the System of Management of the Structural Funds 2007 – 2013	7
Updating of the system of financial management of the SF and the CF	8
SF and CF financing strategy 2007 – 2013	9
Specifics of economy in implementing national projects in government and government-subsidised organisations	15
The Labour Code in its current wording	28
New control system under Act no. 502/2001 Coll. and other legislative affairs	2
Irregularities in the SF and the CF in the SR	7
Control and audit in the framework of EU financial aid implementation	2
Public procurement – interpretation of the act	2

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Automated system of registry administration	2
Basics of work with ISUF	3
Microsoft Excel – advanced	3
Compulsory retraining for drivers of official vehicles	15
Health & safety at work training for managerial staff	1
Language training – English, German, French	18
Costs, revenues, reserves, provisions, accruals & deferrals, and the issue of the operating results according to the new accounting methodology in central and local government administration, with a presentation	12
TOTAL :	581

The MA also enabled its staff engaged in OPE implementation to attend seminars of the EIPA (European Institute of Public Administration), since the EIPA PA is the main centre for European education and development in the public sector. The EIPA seminars fulfil the basic mission in providing relevant and high quality services for developing administrative capacity dealing with EU affairs. At the same time it contributes to better knowledge of the European integration process and European policies. The MA regularly responded to offered seminars and trainings, in the framework of which MA staff was allowed to apply for individual trainings and seminars directly from the list regularly published on the www.eipa.eu website. Participation on individual EIPA courses was financed by means of the World Bank.

In 2010 the MA continues to have an interest in allowing its staff to attend the above-mentioned courses and education activities, and thus continued to encourage their further education and qualification growth.

Further information regarding administrative capacities of the MA is given in Table 15 below.

Table 15: Administrative capacities of the MA

Position	State as at 31.12.2008	Planned state as at 31.12.2009	State as at 31.12.2009	% of the planned state	Need to recruit
A	B	C	D	E=D/C	F
general director	2	2	2	100%	0
department director	3	3	3	100%	0
department/section assistant	3	4	4*	100%	3****
programming manager	3	3	3	100%	0
monitoring manager	8	5	5	100%	0
project manager	4	12	11**	91.6%	0
evaluation manager	2	2	2	100%	0
information and publicity manager	2	2	2	100%	0
financial manager	27	40	37***	92.5%	3****
technical assistance manager	2	2	2	100%	0
Total	56	75	71	94.6%	6****

* individual employees are partially engaged in OPE and OP R&D

** one of the employees concurrently performs the function of the administrator for the ITMS

*** in the case of staff it is not possible to determine their exclusive engagement in the OPE, since they concurrently work on the OP R&D

**** this number is indicative only; it is not currently necessary to recruit new staff; recruitment will be conducted operatively during the course of 2010, depending on the workload in OPE implementation.

Further information regarding administrative capacities of the PU of the MA is given in Table 16 below.

Table 16: Administrative capacities of the PU

Position	State as at 31.12.2008	Planned state as at 31.12.2009	State as at 31.12.2009	% of the planned state	Need to recruit
A	B	C	D	E=D/C	F
department director	1	1	1	100%	0
financial verifier	6	7	7	100%	0
financial manager	11	12	12	100%	0
financial accountant	2	2	2	100%	0
Total	20	22	22	100%	0

Note: In the case of staff it is not possible to determine their exclusive engagement in the OPE, since they concurrently work on the OP R&D

It is not currently necessary to recruit the above-mentioned administrative capacities; the stated number of staff has already been adjusted in the framework of the systematised number of MA staff. These staff are currently engaged in completing the 2004 – 2006 programming period and are then implementing the OPE, and/or the OP R&D, or, where appropriate, both operational programmes. At present it is not possible to determine which of the staff will, in the new 2007 – 2013 programming period, work solely on the OPE, OP R&D or on both operational programmes of the MA, or which will perform PU activities. This concerns primarily staff conducting AfP administration of national projects, including the performance of on-the-spot inspections, where their engagement in OPE and OP R&D implementation changes continually depending on the workload in the framework of both operational programmes' implementation.

IBMA ASFEU

The ASFEU as at 31.12.2009 employed in total 98 staff engaged in OPE implementation. The following relatively authorised staff of the ASFEU are engaged in OPE implementation: general director, head of the office of the general director, lawyer, finance and administration department director, and advisor for European affairs, where the proportion of their engagement is determined on the basis of the proportion of work performed for the individual OPE objectives.

The individual job positions were filled gradually with regard to the needs arising from the OPE implementation. As at 31.12.2009 employment of 31 staff had been ended, and 62 staff had been recruited. As at 31.12.2009 the administrative capacity plan was 98% fulfilled. Problems with filling the administrative capacity were connected with the insufficient financial remuneration of staff, their insufficient professional knowledge, but also their unfulfilled job expectations with regard to the work required.

In 2010 the IBMA ASFEU plans to recruit a further 2 staff for the position of head of department and project manager (see Table 17 below).

Table 17: Administrative capacities of the IBMA ASFEU

Position	State as at 31.12.2008	Planned state as at 31.12.2009	State as at 31.12.2009	% of the planned state	Need to recruit
A	B	C	D	E=D/C	F
section director	1	1	1	100	0

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head of department	4	4	2	50	1
head of subdepartment	0	8	8	100	0
administration manager	13	10	11	110	0
project manager	18	30	29	97	1
monitoring manager	0	2	2	100	0
information & publicity manager	10	10	10	100	0
expenditure management manager	19	30	30	100	0
administration manager for applications for payment	1	2	2	100	0
ITMS manager	1	1	1	100	0
technical assistance manager	1	2	2	100	0
Total	68	100	98	98	2

In the framework of staff education and raising staff qualification, staff at the IBMA ASFEU continually attended education programmes, seminars and trainings. The trainings were arranged in cooperation with the ME SR, the MCRD SR and the MF SR and the Office of Public Procurement. In 2009 in total 19 trainings were held, attended in total by 337 staff of a total number of 98 staff (cumulative calculation, since a given employee attends several trainings). Trainings were focused on updating, enhancing and deepening knowledge, capabilities and skills necessary for performing activities connected with OPE implementation. An overview of the trainings and the number of staff participating at the individual trainings is given in Table 18 below.

Table 18: Overview of IBMA ASFEU staff trainings

Trainings	Number of participants from IBMA ASFEU
CAF model – quality management	1
ITMS – beginners	30
ITMS – advanced	28
GINIS	49
Updating of the system of financial management of the SF and the CF	2
Training for government organisations	16
On-the-spot verification	13
Repayment of uncleared funds from pre-financing	3
Training for clearing pre-financing	12
Training – communication training	2
Act No 428/2002 on personal data protection	10
Act No. 431/2002 Coll. on accounting	2
Act No 523/2004 Coll. on budgetary rules in general government	1
Working meeting for calls	2
Act No 523/2003 Coll. on public procurement	2
Accounting of fixed assets	41
Act No. 231/199 Coll. on state aid	9
Act No. 283/2002 Coll. on travel expenses	54
Labour Code	60
TOTAL	337

In the field of staff education the ASFEU is planning in 2010 to continue in a systematic and targeted process of education for ensuring the professional preparation of staff in accordance with the White Paper for the ASFEU Staff Education Plan for 2010 and the ASFEU Staff

Education Plan for 2010. According to the Timetable of Education Activities for 2010, the ASFEU is planning to conduct education activities in the following fields:

- in the field connected with implementation processes focused primarily on the systems of management, programming, financial management, monitoring and evaluation of the Structural Funds;
- in the field of language education focused on English;
- in the field of information technology focused on work with the updated ITMS.

IBMA MH SR

In the framework of the administrative capacities the MH SR as the IBMA for OPE implementation for the 2007 – 2013 programming period employed as at 31.12.2009 in total 24 staff, of an originally planned number of 24, thus forming 100% fulfilment of the plan for filling administrative capacities for 2009, whereas in 2008 it was only 67%. With regard to the fulfilment of the planned administrative capacities of the IBMA, the MH SR is not planning to recruit new administrative staff in 2010 for OPE implementation.

The period monitored saw a stabilisation in the staff turnover in department head positions. The head of programming subdepartment at the EU programmes department and the head of non-capital projects implementation subdepartment at the project implementation department were duly appointed to the positions. The vacant position of the head of monitoring subdepartment at the EU programmes department has been filled from an officer position by way of temporary appointment for deputisation. The monitoring manager was reassigned from the monitoring subdepartment to the position of programming & evaluation manager to the programming subdepartment of the same department following the position becoming vacant, and this by the due appointment of the employee to the function of the head of programming subdepartment. The vacated position of project manager following the due appointment of the employee to the function of the head of non-capital projects implementation subdepartment was filled in the period monitored. Administrative capacities of the IBMA is shown in Table 19 below.

Table 19: Administrative capacities of the IBMA MH SR

Position	State as at 31.12.2008	Planned state as at 31.12.2009	State as at 31.12.2009*	% of the planned state	Need to recruit
A	B	C	D	E=D/C	F
general director	1	1	1	100	0
department director	2	3	3	100	0
head of subdepartment	3	4	4	100	0
department/section assistant	3	4	4	100	0
programming & evaluation manager	1	1	1	100	0
monitoring manager	0	1	1	100	0
information & publicity manager	1	1	1	100	0
ITMS manager**	-	-	-	-	-
project manager	4	8	8	100	0
technical assistance manager***	1	1	1	100	0
Total	16	24	24	100	0

* the position of programming manager is combined in the position of programming & evaluation manager

** the position of ITMS manager was combined in the period monitored with the position of project implementation department director

*** the position technical assistance manager is combined in the position of programming & technical assistance manager

The PU of the IBMA MH SR as at 31.12.2009 employed in total 7 staff of the originally planned number of 8, thus forming an 87.5% fulfilment of the recruitment plan for administrative capacities for 2009. For comparison, the fulfilment of the administrative capacities of the PU in 2008 was only 57%. In 2010 the IBMA MH SR plans to recruit another 1 employee for the position of financial accountant (see Table 20 below).

Table 20: Administrative capacities of the PU of the IBMA MH SR

Position	State as at 31.12.2008	Planned state as at 31.12.2009	State as at 31.12.2009	% of the planned state	Need to recruit
A	B	C	D	E=D/C	F
head of subdepartment	1	1	1	100	0
financial verifier	1	3	3	100	0
financial manager	1	2	2	100	0
financial accountant	1	2	1	50	1
Total	4	8	7	87.50	1

In the period monitored the PU of the IBMA MH SR recruited 3 new staff. The recruitment of a new financial accountant will be made in future in accordance with the growth in the volume of the PU's workload. The administrative capacities of the PU of the IBMA MH SR are shown in Table 20 below. In comparison with 2008 (see Table 22) the planned state of administrative capacities of the IBMA MH SR and the PU of the IBMA MH SR was fulfilled to 87.50% at the end of the monitored period.

In the framework of staff education and raising their qualifications, staff at the IBMA MH SR and the PU of the IBMA MH SR involved in the OPE implementation undertook in the period monitored in total 36 vocational trainings organised by the CCP, the IBMA, the MF SR and the SR Government Office, which is 6 trainings fewer in comparison with the figure for 2008. An overview of the trainings and the number of staff participating at the individual trainings is given in Table 21 below.

Table 21: Overview of trainings attended by staff of the IBMA MH SR and the PU of the IBMA MH SR

Trainings	Number of participants from IBMA -MH SR	Number of participants from PU of the IBMA MH SR
Amendment to Act no. 25/2006 Coll. on public procurement and on the amendment of certain acts as amended by Act no. 232/2008 Coll.	7	0
Course for gaining professional competence for public procurement pursuant to Act no. 25/2006	10	0
Act no. 576/2004 Coll. on healthcare and services connected with healthcare provision	13	4
Ex-ante financial control	2	0
Basics of the SR Constitution and standard-setting processes	17	2

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in the SR: I-II blocks		
European funds in Slovakia	1	0
Updating the System of Financial Management of the SF and the CF for the 2007 – 2013 Programming Period (MF SR)	4	1
Seminar on public procurement	6	2
Professional seminar in the field of SF and CF management in the 2007 – 2013 programming period (Senec)	22	7
Professional seminar in the field of SF and CF management in the 2007 – 2013 programming period (Senec)	23	7
System of financial management for the 2007 – 2013 programming period	2	0
Training for update to the System of Management of the SF and the CF for the 2007 – 2013 Programming Period (CCB)	8	0
Irregularities – active participation	0	1
ITMS training for beginners	5	0
ITMS training for advanced	2	0
ITMS training – SAP and PU activity	0	7
Excel for advanced I-II block	10	4
Healthcare informatics 2009 – conference	2	0
Equal opportunities in the Structural Funds	1	0
Financial control pursuant to Act No 502/2001 Coll.	1	
ITMS training – special computer skills (OLAP cubes)	1	0
Basic orientation in ISUF	0	1
Financial control pursuant to Act No 502/2001 Coll.	1	2
Communication training, rhetoric and presentation for their use in implementing the SF and the CF (level 1)	2	0
Training of trainers for the field of protecting the financial interests of the EU in the SR	0	1
Financial reporting of central and local government entities as of 01.01.2009	0	1
Financial management of Structural Funds	0	1
Act no. 523/2004 Coll. on budgetary rules of general government in drawing funds from the SF and CF	3	3
The Public Procurement Act	1	2
SF and CF financing strategy for the 2007 – 2013 programming period	0	7
Basic course for clients of the State Treasury	0	1
Forensic audit (in the framework of the project “Training of trainers for the field of protecting the financial interests of the EU”)	0	1
ITMS training – SAP and PU activity	0	7
Protecting the financial interests of the EU in the SR	0	1
Consolidated financial statements for 2009 in central government	0	1
Individual financial statements for 2009 in central government	0	3
Total	144	67

In the following year of 2010 the IBMA MH SR planned for its staff the following spheres of training themes for raising and deepening the qualifications of staff at the IBMA MH SR and the PU of the IBMA MH SR:

- financial management and budget of central and general government,
- financial control and internal audit,

- Act on Budgetary Rules,
- training on value-added tax,
- training on the State Treasury Information System,
- training on the Funds Accounting Information System,
- training on the Budget Information System,
- ITMS training,
- irregularities and the repayment of European Commission funds,
- selected legislation of the SR and EU in the field of healthcare, EU rules and requirements for national legislation,
- System of Management of the Structural Funds,
- System of Financial Management of the Structural Funds,
- System of Financial Management of Project Implementation,
- publicity and information about SF programmes,
- training and examinations for gaining professional competence for public procurement,
- proper conduct,
- amendment to regulations of the Office of Public Procurement in public procurement,
- accounting in general government,
- training in connection with the introduction of the euro,
- electronic public procurement,
- ECDL – computer skills,
- communication skills (effective presentations, communication skills),
- public relations training
- time management
- project management (new methods),
- training of trainers,
- managerial abilities, personality development,
- language education – professional English – overview of English grammar – project evaluation English, financial English
- management in general and central government (methods for improving the efficiency of central and general government, optimal form of managing an organisation and planning of human resources and their motivation),
- training in OLAP cubes,
- human resources management and non-financial motivation of staff in central government.

Table 22: Comparison of administrative capacities with the state in 2008

	Planned state as at 31.12.08	State as at 31.12.2008	% of the planned state	Planned state as at 31.12.2009	State as at 31.12.2009	% of the planned state
A	B	C	D=C/B	E	F	G=F/E
MA	89	56	63%	75	71	94.60%
IBMA (ASFEU)	68	68	100%	100	98	98%
IBMA (MH SR)	24	16	67%	24	24	100%
PU	21	20	95%	22	22	100%
PU (MH SR)	7	4	57%	8	7	87.50%
Total	209	164	78%	225	202	90%



Further information regarding staff turnover in administrative capacities of the MA and of the IBMA is given in Table 23 below.

Table 23: Staff turnover in administrative capacities

Body	from 1.1.2009 to 31.12.2009	from 1.1.2009 to 31.12.2009
	Left	Recruited
Managing Authority	8*/0	7/0
Intermediate Body under the Managing Authority of the ASFEU	21	41
Intermediate Body under the Managing Authority of the MH SR	2/0	9/1
Paying Unit	2/0	6/0
Paying Unit (IBMA MH SR)	0/0	3/1
Total	33*/0	66/2

* of this number one employee did not leave employment, but is drawing maternity leave.

In a systematised number of 93 staff at the MA as a whole, we see this staff turnover as natural.

The most frequent causes for staff turnover at the MA and IBMA include:

- personal reasons;
- insufficient financial motivation for staff, connected with the high workload, long overtime hours, diversity of tasks requiring detailed knowledge of a broad range of regulations and guidelines;
- low financial remuneration in comparison with certain departments implementing SF;
- problems commuting to work;
- high demands for processing one's agenda both from the professional and time aspect;
- insufficient professional knowledge on the side of employees;
- unfulfilled job expectations with regard to the work performance required.

In order to decrease staff turnover in administrative capacities at the MA and IBMA, they undertook corrective measures so as to limit or avoid staff turnover and thereby ensure a smooth course of OPE implementation.

The MA firstly undertook financial motivation, i.e. a system of stimulating staff at monthly intervals, personnel bonuses, possibility to attend foreign work trips, to undertake professional courses and trainings, and according to requests from employees themselves, a system of refunding costs for language courses, etc.

A not insignificant form of motivation for staff was also the introduction of flexible working hours and an overall improvement in working conditions, in line with obtaining new working premises, computer equipment for staff (e.g. purchasing notebooks with Internet connection for working outside the workplace).

The IBMA ASFEU in seeking to reduce staff turnover is keeping a certain level of salaries comparable with those paid at other institutions with a similar focus, and employees are also remunerated in the form of bonuses. The ASFEU is also undertaking activities for the purpose of regenerating the workforce (e.g.: sports day, social meetings, cultural events).

As at 1.10.2009 the IBMA ASFEU changed the organisational structure of the OPE Implementation Section by redistributing staff at the Expenditure Management Department and the Project Management & Monitoring Department with the aim of increasing personnel capacities at the positions of Expenditure Management Manager and Project Manager, which has had the consequence of a better system of work by means of heads of subdepartments (direct access, operative solution to problems arising at the lowest level).

At the same time in 2009 the IBMA ASFEU engaged in implementing the CAF (Common Assessment Framework) model, which is considered a system of evaluating the quality of an organisation. One of the criteria for this project is ascertaining the satisfaction of staff at the IBMA ASFEU with the results that the IBMA ASFEU attains in relation to competence, motivation, satisfaction and performance. This project is in its concluding phase.

No significant staff turnover was identified in the monitored period at the IBMA MH SR. Two employees left for personal reasons and 9 staff were recruited. One of them had prior experience in the field of SF and two were recruited to the position of subdepartment heads.

At the PU of the MH SR 3 new staff were recruited, one of whom had prior experience in the field of SF.

2.10. MA inspection at the IBMA

With regard to the specific nature of MA inspection at both IBMAs, we give further information regarding this inspection in the separate Chapter 2.10 of this 2009 Annual Report.

ASFEU

On the basis of authorisation CD-2009-25076/16026-1:281 MA staff in the period from 18.5.2009 to 24.6.2009 performed at the IBMA ASFEU verification of working procedures and entrusted tasks delegated to the IBMA.

The subject of the inspection of working procedures and entrusted tasks at the IBMA was 8 AfNFCs and 4 projects. On the sample of 4 projects or, as relevant, 8 AfNFCs, the inspection of the working procedures and entrusted tasks at the IBMA focused on:

- programming;
- receipt, evaluation and selection of AfNFCs;
- conclusion of contracts with beneficiaries;
- ensuring publicity & information;
- financial management;
- monitoring aid;
- evaluating aid;
- administrative, management and control conditions.

On 25.6.2009 the MA sent report no. 1/2009 on the result of the verification of procedures delegated to the IBMA, which contained findings and proposed recommendations.

The verification of procedures delegated to the IBMA ASFEU found:

- a breach of procedures stated in the Internal Manual of Procedures at the ASFEU;
- a breach of procedures stated in the System of Management of the SF and the CF for the 2007 – 2013 Programming Period;
- a breach of procedures stated in the System of Financial Management of the SF and the CF for the 2007 – 2013 Programming Period;
- a breach of provisions of the Letter of Delegation to the Agency of the ME SR for the Structural Funds of the EU as the intermediate body under the managing authority for the fulfilment of tasks of the Ministry of Education of the SR as the managing authority for the OPE;
- non-compliance with the instructions and methodological guidelines of the MA;
- lacking registration of mandatory data in the ITMS;
- insufficient administrative, control and management conditions.

On the basis of the report on the result of the verification of procedures delegated to the IBMA, the MA set the obligation to adopt measures for correcting the shortcomings identified and for removing their causes by 31.7.2010.

MH SR

On the basis of authorisation CD-2009-33660/34250-1:281 MA staff in the period from 19.10.2009 to 25.11.2009 performed at the IBMA MH SR and the PU – MH SR verification of working procedures and entrusted tasks delegated to the IBMA.

The subject of the inspection of working procedures and entrusted tasks at the IBMA comprised 6 projects. On the sample of 6 projects or, as relevant, 6 AfNFCs, the inspection of the working procedures and entrusted tasks at the IBMA was focused on:

- programming;
- receipt, evaluation and selection of AfNFCs;
- conclusion of contracts with beneficiaries;
- ensuring information & publicity;
- financial management;
- monitoring aid;
- evaluating aid;
- administrative, management and control conditions.

The MA sent report no. 2/2009 on the result of the verification of procedures delegated to the IBMA, which contained findings and proposed recommendations.

The verification of procedures delegated to the IBMA at the MH SR found:

- a breach of procedures stated in the Internal Manual of Procedures at the IBMA;
- a breach of procedures stated in the System of Management of the SF and the CF for the 2007 – 2013 Programming Period;
- a breach of procedures stated in the System of Financial Management of the SF and the CF for the 2007 – 2013 Programming Period;
- lacking registration of mandatory data in the ITMS;
- insufficient administrative, control and management conditions.

On the basis of the report on the result of the verification of procedures delegated to the IBMA, the MA set the obligation to adopt measures for correcting the shortcomings identified and for removing their causes by 31.1.2010.

3. IMPLEMENTATION BY PRIORITY AXIS

3.1. Priority axis 1

In the period monitored the MA declared **4** direct awards for priority axis 1 Reform of the System of Education and Vocational Training, Measure 1.1. Transformation of the Traditional School to a Modern School.

The themes of direct awards stemmed from the themes of the national projects that were approved at the Panel Meeting of the SR Minister of Education in 2008. Direct awards were declared in the period from March to November 2009.

In 2009 the following direct awards were declared:

- **External Evaluation of School Quality Promoting Self-Evaluation Processes and School Development, OPV/K/RKZ/NP/2009-1-** focused on building up an efficient and reliable statistical data collection and processing system for external evaluation of school quality; preparing an evaluation and self-assessment model and system of the schools' and school facilities' work, including its practical application and the implementation of external evaluation of primary and secondary schools;
- **Digitalisation of the content of national education programmes for primary schools, OPV/K/NP/2009-4** –focused on the creation and efficient use of digital education content in national education programmes in the teaching process at primary schools, which would lead to modernisation and improvement in the quality of education as well as to the promotion of reform in regional education at primary schools.
- **Digitalisation of the content of national education programmes for secondary schools, OPV/K/NP/2009-5** – focused on the creation and efficient use of digital education content in national education programmes in the teaching process at secondary schools, which would lead to modernisation and improvement in the quality of education as well as to the promotion of reform in regional education at secondary schools.
- **Digitalisation of the content of national education programmes for primary and secondary schools, OPV/K/NP/2009-7** – focused on the creation and efficient use of digital education content in national education programmes in the teaching process at primary and secondary schools, which would lead to modernisation and improvement in the quality of education as well as to the promotion of reform in regional education at primary and secondary schools.

As at 31.12.2009, 5 AfNFCs were received, of which one came from a direct award declared back in 2008, though its date of closure was 12.1.2009. This concerns the direct award entitled **“Education of Nursery Teaching Staff as a Component of Education Reform”**. For more detailed information see Chapter 3.1.1.1.1 of this 2009 Annual Report. In the period monitored 3 projects were contracted.

National projects declared in 2008 the implementation of which began or continued in 2009:

- **Education of Primary School Teachers in Foreign Languages in Connection with the White Paper for Teaching Foreign Languages at Primary and Secondary Schools, OPV/K/RKZ/NP/2008-1** – focused on adding a foreign language to qualifications of 1st grade teachers;
- **Modernisation of the education process at primary schools, OPV/K/RKZ/NP/2008-3** – focused on training primary school teaching staff in ICT;
- **Modernisation of the education process at secondary schools, OPV/K/RKZ/NP/2008-4** – focused on training secondary school teaching staff in ICT;
- **Teacher education with regard to developing school education programmes, OPV/K/RKZ/NP/2008-5** – focused on training multipliers for education of primary and secondary school teaching staff for implementing education content reform and for creating school education programmes, training of primary and secondary school teaching staff for implementing education content reform and creating school education programmes;
- **Developing new vocational education programmes for the needs of the automobile industry II, OPV/K/RKZ/NP/2008-6** – focused on creating secondary school leaver profiles relevant to the needs of manufacturers of automobile components and accessories, with a view to increasing employment in this group of secondary school leavers;
- **Education of Nursery Teaching Staff as a Component of Education Reform, OPV/K/RKZ/NP/2008-7** – focused mostly on training activities developing professional key competences of nursery teaching staff and on developing innovative education strategies at nurseries.

In the period monitored, the ASFEU declared 1 call for demand-driven projects for priority axis 1 Reform of the System of Education and Vocational Training, Measure 1.1. Transformation of the Traditional School to a Modern School and 1 call for Measure 1.2. Tertiary schools and Research & Development as Engines for Developing a Knowledge-based society. As at 31.12.2009, in total 52 AfNFCs were received, of which 38 were approved. The contracting process will be completed in 2010.

Activities covered by the calls were defined as follows:

- development and implementation of a school education programme for secondary vocational schools (hereinafter simply “SVS”) promoting students’ key competences by using new teaching materials in the framework of the education-training process, and preparing students for a knowledge-based society;
- increasing efficiency and effectiveness of the SVS school education programme through the introduction of innovative teaching forms and methods, targeted at developing students’ key competences and preparing them for a knowledge-based society;
- innovation of teaching aids developing students’ key competences;
- wider use of information technologies and new forms of education primarily in the field of external study (virtual universities, distance learning, etc.);
- development and innovation of study programmes placing emphasis on needs of the labour market and a knowledge-based society;



- encouraging greater interest in the study of mathematics, natural sciences, informatics and other technological study courses;
- development of study programmes in a world language, promoting international cooperation and mobility of the academic community;
- support for teaching foreign languages in tertiary education;
- creation of tools for monitoring the employment of university graduates in practice;
- building up efficient administration and management for tertiary schools and support for qualified management through further training of the current management of tertiary schools, administrative staff of tertiary schools and through innovation of current management processes;
- projects for developing the professional growth of teachers in tertiary education, focused on raising the quality of education;
- creation of an internal model for ensuring the quality of tertiary education;
- education programmes focused on the pedagogical competence of doctoral students and on promoting an increase in the number of doctoral students / doctoral graduates at tertiary schools and institutes of the Slovak Academy of Sciences.
- promotion of mobilities between the research & development organisations and the business sector;
- training for research & development staff;
- programmes for encouraging research and the transfer of new technology and top expertise between research institutions and the business sector;
- information activities of research & development institutions aimed at increasing business sector's interest in research & development results;
- Introducing or extending already-implemented joint study programmes of Slovak tertiary schools and leading universities abroad, including the granting of double or triple diplomas;
- programme for encouraging the mutual exchange of staff from research & development organisations, research institutes, businesses and universities.

Target groups covered by the calls were defined as follows:

- teaching staff and students of SVS;
- teaching staff and students of special SVS;
- students of state, public and private tertiary schools;
- tertiary education teachers at state, public and private tertiary schools;
- management of state, public and private tertiary schools;
- research & development staff at tertiary schools (including staff at the Slovak Academy of sciences and its institutes);
- doctoral students;
- postdoctoral students.

Allocations for the individual calls in the period monitored were as follows:

- for call OPV-2009/1.1/05-SORO aimed at SVSs the appropriation totalled €20 000 000;
- for call OPV-2009/1.2/01-SORO aimed at tertiary schools the total appropriation totalled €35 000 000.

As at 31.12.2009, in the framework of priority axis 1 in total 908 AfNFCs were received, of which in the end result 348 applications were approved. As at 31.12.2009, in total 302 projects were contracted⁵.

3.1.1 Achievement of objectives and analysis of progress made

Section 3.1.1.1.1 of this 2009 Annual Report describes the individual direct awards from their declaration through to project contracting. Section 3.1.1.1.2 of this 2009 Annual Report describes the calls for demand-driven projects from their declaration through to project contracting.

3.1.1.1. State of physical progress made in priority axis 1

In the period monitored, 600 AfNFCs (national projects and demand-driven projects) totalling €186 293 659.46 were received in the framework of the implementation of priority axis 1. Of these, 263 AfNFCs were approved in a total value of €95 900 563.53, of which 220 projects were contracted, and as at 31.12.2009 a total of 300 projects were in the implementation phase.

3.1.1.1.1. State of physical progress made in priority axis 1 – national projects

Measure 1.1

1) The first direct award entitled “**Education of Primary School Teachers in Foreign Languages in Connection with the White Paper for Teaching Foreign Languages at Primary and Secondary Schools**” was declared on 22.2.2008 with a submission closing date of 22.4.2008. For more detailed information on the direct award and the course of individual phases of the approval process, including contracting, see the 2008 Annual Report. Table 24 gives further information on the national project.

Table 24: State of implementation of the national project as at 31.12.2009

Project title:	Education of Primary School Teachers in Foreign Languages in Connection with the White Paper for Teaching Foreign Languages at Primary and Secondary Schools
Basis for national / regional policy:	The White Paper for Teaching Foreign Languages and Primary and Secondary Schools, approved by the SR Government on 12.9.2007 in SR Government Resolution No. 767/2007
Project objective:	The project objective is to achieve, in the long-term planning horizon, a 100% representation of 1 st grade primary school teachers qualified to teach a foreign language for the target group of pupils of younger school age.
Beneficiary:	State Pedagogical Institute
Project implementation period:	16.9.2008 – 15.9.2013
State of implementation for the period monitored:	The year 2009 saw the start of the education activities for the summer term participants, which took place from 13.3.2009 to 30.6.2009. During this term the largest group of participants undertook their education in all languages offered (language level A0/A1) – English, German, French, Italian, Spanish and Russian. They were trained at 115 learning centres across Slovakia and the event was sponsored by 15 universities. Subsequently, at the end of the term in June 2009 a questionnaire survey was carried out. Since June 2009 individual activities have been under way connected with the preparation of the nationwide testing of participants, which will take place according to the project timetable. In October 2009 training was conducted for members of the examination team, who are the

⁵ The contracting process will continue in 2010.

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	creators of the items. In December 2009 a training session was held at the CIEP headquarters in Paris for members of the examination team who will process and evaluate individual data. The start of the winter term in the academic year 2009/2010 was originally planned for 26.10.2009, but was postponed, depending on the individual tertiary schools' capacities, to mid-November 2009. Education is being conducted at several language levels. During November 2009 participants were provided with textbooks. During October and November 2009 participants were provided with notebooks. Working meetings of the managing teams were held on an ongoing basis.
State of implementation since the start of the project's implementation:	Statement under oath on the start of the project – 16.09.2008. Notice on the start of the implementation of the first activity – 16.09.2008. In the period of 17.-19.10.2008 – coordination meeting in Piešťany (compiling the list of education places, division of participants, designing the public procurement criteria, organisational instructions). 21.11.2008 – information campaign in the form of a conference, presenting the project and its objectives. 16.12.2008 – meeting of the expert team, 17.12.2008 ceremonial opening of the project office. Activities proceeded in 2009 as described above in the part "State of implementation for the period monitored". From the start of the project's implementation to 31.12.2009 the final beneficiary has submitted 5 monitoring reports, on a quarterly basis.
Budget in €:	€16 421 280.29 €15 027 135.70 (Convergence objective)
Financial implementation / drawing in € for the period monitored:	€281 994.51 €276 616.21 (Convergence objective)
Financial implementation / drawing in € in cumulative terms from the start of the programming period	€281 994.51 €276 616.21 (Convergence objective)
Fulfilment of indicators for the period monitored:	Result indicators (planned state / outcome) Number of schools involved in implementation of the project activities 1950 / 1625 Number of staff involved in implementation of the project's activities 4500 / 4409 Number of staff involved in the programmes' mobilities 160 / 0 – this indicator can be fulfilled only at the end of the project's implementation Number of newly-created / innovated education and study programmes 3 / 3
Fulfilment of indicators in cumulative terms from the start of the programming period	Since the indicators began to be fulfilled only in 2009, the same indicator values apply here as those stated in the above item "Fulfilment of indicators for the period monitored".

2) The direct award entitled "**Modernisation of the education process at primary schools**" was declared on 14.5.2008 with the closing date of 14.7.2008. For more detailed information on the direct award and the course of individual phases of the approval process, including contracting, see the 2008 Annual Report. Table 25 gives further information on the national project.

Table 25: State of implementation of the national project as at 31.12.2009

Project title:	Modernisation of the Education Process at Primary Schools
Basis for national / regional policy:	The Bill on upbringing and education (Education Act) and on the amendment of certain acts, approved in the SR Government Resolution No 147/2008 of 5.3.2008. The act entered into effect on 1.9.2008.
Project objective:	The project objective is to prepare teachers for active implementation of education reform – adapting the education system to the needs of a knowledge-based society.
Beneficiary:	Institute of Education Information & Forecasting
Project implementation	1.12.2008– 30.11.2013



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period:	
State of implementation for the period monitored:	In the framework of the project's implementation in 2009, the existing school database was updated and supplemented for the needs of the project, public procurement was made for the purchase of computer equipment for primary schools, participants for training were selected, materials for individual school subjects were created, the participants were provided with textbooks and teaching aids for Module 1 – Digital literacy of teachers, and module 1 training took place at all training centres.
State of implementation from the start of the project's implementation:	Statement under oath on the start of the project – 1.12.2008 Notice on the start of the first activity's implementation – 1.12.2008. On 1.12.2008 the contract on the provision of a non-repayable financial contribution (hereinafter simply "NFC contract") was signed and as of this day the preparation of the tender conditions for the public procurement commenced. On 17.12.2009 a notice on the public procurement for the purchase of computer equipment and related services was published in the Public Procurement Journal. With regard to a request for correction dated 21.1.2009, presented to the beneficiary from the side of tenderers, due to impossibility of meeting one of the public procurement conditions the public procurement expert team decided to cancel the tender and prepare new conditions. These conditions were prepared and, on the basis of these, a new notice on the public procurement was published in the Public Procurement Journal. The new public procurement was successful. Activities proceeded in 2009 as described above in the part "State of implementation for the monitored period". From the start of the project's implementation to 31.12.2009 the final beneficiary submitted 5 monitoring reports, on a quarterly basis.
Budget in €:	€33 077 287.06 €32 395 334.86 (Convergence objective)
Financial implementation / drawing in € for the period monitored:	€14 108.80 €14 108.80 (Convergence objective)
Financial implementation / drawing in € in cumulative terms from the start of the programming period	€14 108.80 €14 108.80 (Convergence objective)
Fulfilment of indicators for the period monitored:	Result indicators (planned state / outcome) Number of newly-created education programmes – 10/10 Number of schools involved in the implementation of project activities – 1960/2032 Number of training courses for teaching staff – 306/389 Number of staff involved in the project's education activities – 3670/4305 Number of newly-created / innovated education programmes using information-communication technologies in the teaching process – 10/10 Number of schools involved in the implementation of the project's activities using information-communication technologies in the teaching process – 1960/2032 Number of teaching staff involved in the project's activities using information-communication technologies in the teaching process – 3670/4305 Number of schools involved in the implementation of the project activities containing pupils from marginalised Roma communities – 500/1126
Fulfilment of indicators in cumulative terms from the start of the programming period	Since the indicators began to be fulfilled only in 2009, the same indicator values apply here as those stated in the above item "Fulfilment of indicators for the period monitored".

3) The direct award entitled "**Modernisation of the education process at secondary schools**" was declared on 14.5.2008 with the closing date of 14.7.2008. For more detailed information on the direct award and the course of individual phases of the approval process, including

contracting, see the 2008 Annual Report. Table 26 gives further information on the national project.

Table 26: State of implementation of the national project as at 31.12.2009

Project title:	Modernisation of the Education Process at Secondary Schools
Basis for national / regional policy:	The national project was prepared in connection with the Bill on upbringing and education (the Education Act) and on the amendment of certain acts, approved in the SR Government Resolution No 147/2008 of 5.3.2008. The objective of the national project is to change the forms of education at secondary schools, which would lead to the modernisation of the learning process.
Project objective:	Rework the content of the secondary school curriculum and prepare school leavers by means of innovated learning/teaching forms and methods for the current and prospective needs of a knowledge-based society, as well as for follow-up education in the system of tertiary education and further education. Prepare teachers for active implementation of education reform – adapting the education system to the needs of a knowledge-based society. Innovate and modernise the content, methods and outputs of the learning process for new competences of work in the Modern School of the 21st Century. Increase the share of teachers participating in further education programmes with the aim of gaining and developing competences necessary for a knowledge-based society.
Beneficiary:	Institute of Education Information & Forecasting
Project implementation period:	2.12.2008 – 30.11.2013
State of implementation for the period monitored:	Brief description of physical implementation of the project: activity 1.1. Multimedia – digital content for teacher education to modernise education, create digital content for module 1, creation of 7 e-contents for general education subjects (mathematics, physics, chemistry, biology, geography, Slovak language, history) activity 1.2. Creation of textbooks and teaching aids for teachers to modernise education. Distribution of textbooks and teaching aids for module 1. Creation of 7 teaching aids for general education subjects (mathematics, physics, chemistry, biology, geography, Slovak language, history) activity 2.1. Teacher education in the field of modernisation of the teaching process. With regard to the time demands placed on the project by the public procurement, the start of preparatory activities was postponed by 2 months, because the supplier began to work on activity 1.1 from 1.4.2009. The deadline for the start of education was shifted to 1.9.2009. The 1st Teacher Education Module was completed in January 2010. The textbooks for Module 1 were distributed to teachers. The activity is being implemented by Elfa s.r.o. activity 2.2. Provision of technical equipment for modernising education – the activity concerning the provision of digital and teaching equipment (PC, notebook, dataprojector) was implemented in 2009 by Datalan a.s.. Activity 2.2. was implemented only for the Convergence Objective.
State of implementation from the start of the project's implementation:	Statement under oath on the start of the project on 2.12.2008 Notice on the start of the implementation of the first activity of 1.4.2009 Activities proceeded in 2009 as described above in the part "State of implementation for the monitored period". From the start of the project's implementation to 31.12.2009 the final beneficiary submitted 5 monitoring reports, on a quarterly basis.
Budget in €:	€13 191 749.65 €12 733 347.87 (Convergence Objective)



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Financial implementation / drawing in € for the period monitored:	€16 713.41 €9 915.35 (Convergence Objective)
Financial implementation / drawing in € in cumulative terms from the start of the programming period	€16 713.41 €9 915.35 (Convergence Objective)
Fulfilment of indicators for the period monitored:	<p>Result indicators (planned state / outcome)</p> <p>Number of newly-created education programmes – 7/7</p> <p>Number of schools involved in the implementation of the project's activities – 665 / 687</p> <p>Number of training courses for teaching staff – 130 / 172</p> <p>Number of staff involved in the project's education activities – 1560/1844</p> <p>Number of newly-created / innovated education programmes using information-communication technologies in the teaching process – 7 / 7</p> <p>Number of schools involved in the implementation of the project activities using information-communication technologies in the teaching process – 665 / 687</p> <p>Number of teaching staff involved in the implementation of the project activities using information-communication technologies in the teaching process – 1560 / 1844</p> <p>Number of schools involved in the implementation of the project's activities having pupils from marginalised Roma communities – 200 / 315</p>
Fulfilment of indicators in cumulative terms from the start of the programming period	Since the indicators began to be fulfilled only in 2009, the same indicator values apply here as those stated in the above item "Fulfilment of indicators for the period monitored".

4) The direct award entitled "**Teacher Education with Regard to Developing School Education Programmes**" was declared on 29.5.2008 with the closing date of 28.7.2008. For more detailed information on the direct award and the course of individual phases of the approval process see the 2008 Annual Report. The NFC contract was signed for the value of €5 371 901.35 on 2.1.2010. Table 27 gives further information on the national project.

Table 27: State of implementation of the national project as at 31.12.2009

Project title:	Teacher Education with Regard to Developing School Education Programmes
Basis for national / regional policy:	<p>On 22 May 2008 the SR Parliament passed the Education Act. The Act entered into effect on 1.9.2008 and replaced the original Education Act of 1984. On 19.6.2008, following the Education Act being signed by the SR President, the national education programmes for individual levels of the education system and also the related school education programmes and methodology for their creation were approved. The schools could officially begin to prepare their own school education programmes. In August 2008, 13 decrees concerning the Education Act entered into effect. They are effective as of 1.9.2008. From 1.9.2008 the schools began to teach according to their own school education programmes in the first and fifth year of primary school and in the first year of secondary school, primary art school and language school.</p> <p>The creation of school education programmes at the level of schools constitutes the reform of education content. The training activities of the project include also the implementation of further training of teaching staff for acquiring and developing competences ensuring the efficient conversion of the traditional school to a modern school.</p> <p>The training activities and the methodological activity within the project will lead to the innovation of education content and methods at schools and at the same</p>

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	time will increase the quality of education outputs at schools, while the objective is to educate with a view to labour market needs in a knowledge-based society.
Project objective:	Nationwide retraining and education of primary and secondary school teaching staff for implementing reform in education content and creating new school education programmes.
Beneficiary:	State Institute of Vocational Training
Project implementation period:	2.1.2009 – 31.8.2012
State of implementation for the period monitored:	<p>1.1 Creation and progressive supplementing, or changes within the design team (internal and external workers, suppliers) – the project steering committee, the coordination, expert and training team.</p> <p>1.2 The work of expert working groups – expert working groups work on expert topics (e.g. interactive teaching methods, methods and means of evaluation, principles and approaches to continuity in teaching at primary and secondary schools, etc), solve key tasks and problems with regard to the reworking of education content. They create methodological material of a fundamental nature, the purpose of which is to assist teachers in creating school education programmes, modernising and innovating textbook contents and teaching aids, applying new forms and methods of education, education methods in connection to the labour market, efficiently developing key competences, encouraging innovative methods and forms of further education of teaching staff, support for teachers' personal development, etc.</p> <p>2.1 Preparation, updating and evaluation of an education programme (courses) – the preparation, updating and evaluation of an education programme is based on three stages of implementation: Structuring of the education programme for continuous education (the whole education programme is based on a modular arrangement of education. Courses were specified, 3 modules were proposed, covering the education content used by the beneficiary as the key pillar in relation to the creation of school education programmes. Education outputs, recommended teaching aids, procedures and methods for the lecturer and participant, criteria, methods and aids of evaluation were also laid down.), creation of teaching material for future lecturers and teachers, further education of teaching staff (The basis for the creation will be formed by individual courses and modules of the structured education programme. A detailed "Methodology for Creating School Education Programmes for Primary Schools", "Methodology for Creating School Education Programmes for Secondary Schools" and Methodology for Creating School Education Programmes for Secondary Vocational Schools" has been developed, which will serve as a teaching material for participants, as well as for training lecturers) and the creation of on-line courses and teaching material for distance learning (on-line courses).</p> <p>2.2 Provision of education programme (courses) – in the provision of the education programme, Convergence Objective, the beneficiary is planning to implement the courses from April 2010 onward. This activity will be implemented in the following stages: Continuous education of multipliers, continuous education of teaching staff and distance education of teaching staff. For the Convergence Objective, 6000 teaching staff will be trained in the final stage.</p> <p>3.1 Creation of the content, production/publishing and distribution of the teachers' newspaper "Učiteľské Noviny" – biweekly publication of newspaper.</p> <p>3.2 Creation of the content, production/publishing and distribution of a multimedia education DVD – works are under way on a multimedia education DVD. It is intended to transfer knowledge from the field of education and vocational training and it is to promote the research & development results from the pedagogical aspect at primary and secondary schools, placing emphasis on the principles of lifelong learning.</p>



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	3.3 Creation of the content for programming, moderating of the eLearning portal – work is under way on the eLearning portal. It will serve as a space for intermediating information, trends and stimuli for raising quality of the teaching/learning process and for further education of teaching staff, for exchanging experience and creativity in the form of exchanging ideas, information, good practice, experience, solutions to problematic tasks.
State of implementation from the start of the project's implementation:	Statement under oath on the start of the project – 2/1/2009 Notice on the start of the implementation of the first activity – 2.1.2009 Activities proceeded in 2009 as described above in the part "State of implementation for the monitored period". From the start of the project's implementation to 31.12.2009 the final beneficiary submitted 3 monitoring reports, on a quarterly basis.
Budget in €:	€5 544 483.84 €5 371 901.35 (Convergence Objective)
Financial implementation / drawing in € for the period monitored:	€0.00*
Financial implementation / drawing in € in cumulative terms from the start of the programming period	€0.00*
Fulfilment of indicators for the period monitored:	Result indicators (planned state / outcome) Number of schools involved in the implementation of the project activities – 1500 / 0 Number of staff involved in the project education activities – 6000 / 0 Number of training courses for teaching staff – 220/0 Number of schools involved in the implementation of the project activities having pupils from marginalised Roma communities – 150 / 0 The project outputs show zero fulfilment due to the fact that the education courses will begin only in April 2010. The outputs will begin to be fulfilled from April 2010.
Fulfilment of indicators in cumulative terms from the start of the programming period	It is not possible to monitor the fulfilment of the indicators from the start of the programming period for the reason stated above in the part "Fulfilment of indicators for the period monitored".

*financial drawing was zero due to government audit no. A310, on the basis of which the certifying authority suspended the applications for payment received

5) The fifth direct award entitled "**Developing New Vocational Education Programmes for the Needs of the Automobile Industry II**" was declared on 29.8.2008 with the closing date of 20.10.2008. For more detailed information on the direct award and the course of individual phases of the approval process, including contracting, see the 2008 Annual Report.

The NFC contract was signed for the value of €8 066 122.30 on 15.4.2009, with the project's implementation commencing on the same day. In the period monitored 2 monitoring reports were delivered.

In the framework of the national project, 45 school education programmes (5 vocational specialisations in the framework of new study fields) will be created in direct connection to the

national education programmes 23 and 24 Mechanical Engineering and Other Metal-Working Production. Table 28 gives further information on the national project.

Table 28: State of implementation of the national project as at 31.12.2009

Project title:	Developing New Vocational Education Programmes for the Needs of the Automobile Industry II
Basis for national / regional policy:	Education reform, more specifically, the two-level model of creating education programmes at the national level – the national education programme (the national curriculum) and at the regional level – the school education programme.
Project objective:	Training of vocationally competent students and teachers for the needs of automobile industry through the creation of education programmes, application of modern technologies in education.
Beneficiary:	State Institute of Vocational Training
Project implementation period:	15.4.2009-31.8.2013
State of implementation for the period monitored:	<p>In 2009 three new vocational specifications (car salesperson, receiving technician, logistician) were created in a 2-year study field entitled “Sales and Operation Garage Manager”, and two new vocational specialisations (automobile parts and accessories and car electronics) in the framework of a 4-year study field entitled “Production & Control Manager in the Automobile Industry”, in the case of which the teaching process started from 1.9.2009. Over the course of 2009 teaching staff were trained for creating education programmes for the needs of the automobile industry. The teaching staff will use the results from the training for the creative process and subsequently for revising school education programmes. This year works were concurrently underway on creating to an expert study fields, the results of which should raise the quality of the teaching process at individual schools from 2010. These are the “New Technologies in Education” and “Quality Management in Automobile Industry”.</p> <p>The year 2009 was much affected by the economic crisis, which also influenced the automobile industry and the implementation of the project’s activities. As a result of the crisis the interest in education in the framework of study fields related to the automobile industry lessened from the side of the pupils as the employers’ operations were shut down and thus the provision of premises for vocational practice and vocational training was suspended. A number of the schools originally involved in the implementation of the project’s activities had to cancel their participation in the project for these reasons. The beneficiary was informed at the on the spot inspection, held on 14 – 15.12.2009, of the possibility to apply for a change to the NFC contract, specifically to Annex 5 (Detailed description of the project’s activities) in order to harmonise Annex 5 to the contract with the project’s actual implementation.</p>
State of implementation from the start of the project’s implementation:	<p>Statement under oath on the start of the project – 15/4/2009</p> <p>Notice on the start of the implementation of the first activity – 15.4.2009</p> <p>Activities proceeded in 2009 as described above in the part “State of implementation for the monitored period“. From the start of the project’s implementation to 31.12.2009 the final beneficiary submitted 2 monitoring reports, on a quarterly basis.</p>
Budget in €:	<p>€8 323 639.67</p> <p>€8 066 122.30 (Convergence Objective)</p>
Financial implementation / drawing in € for the period monitored:	€0.00*
Financial implementation / drawing in € in cumulative terms from the start of the programming period	€0.00*

Fulfilment of indicators for the period monitored:	Result indicators (planned state / outcome) Number of newly-created / innovated education and study programmes – 5 / 5 Number of staff involved in the project education activities – 225 / 129 Number of pupils / students involved in the implementation of the project activities – 2120 / 748
Fulfilment of indicators in cumulative terms from the start of the programming period	Since the indicators began to be fulfilled only in 2009, the same indicator values apply here as those stated above in the item “Fulfilment of indicators for the period monitored”.

* Two pre-financing payments (June 2009) in the amount of €289 541.19 and €320 365 (December 2009) were provided. The beneficiary presented clearance for pre-financing in the sum of €23 541.66 (November 2009), which was returned to the beneficiary for supplementing, and three clearances for pre-financing in the amounts of €1 403.79, €7 973.87 and 123 968.63 – (December 2009), in the case of which a formal and substantive check was performed. The beneficiary also submitted an application for an interim payment in the amount of €3 522.60 (October 2009), the application was in the course of processing, and applications for interim payment in the amounts of €5 532.25 and €8 441.93 (November 2009), which were returned to the beneficiary for supplementing (in 2010 they were rejected).

6) The direct award entitled “**Education of Nursery Teaching Staff as Component of Education Reform**” was declared on 13.10.2008 with the closing date of 12.1.2009. The direct award focused on developing innovative upbringing and education strategies at nurseries, on training activities designed to develop key professional competences in nursery teaching staff as well as nursery management staff and central and general government specialists in the area of pre-school education, on creating new professional literature for the purpose of making the nursery education process more effective and for the purpose of developing school education programmes for nurseries, on developing new methodologies, professional publications, workbooks and teaching aids, teaching sources also in digital form for the upbringing and education activity at nurseries, on developing innovative teaching materials and aids for the upbringing – education process and on creating an interactive education portal for the lifelong learning of nursery teaching staff.

Target group

- 85% of teaching staff at nurseries, including nursery management in the Convergence Objective – approx 10 000 nursery teaching staff;
- employees working in the field of education – professional staff of central and general government working in the field of pre-school education at the Methodological-Pedagogical Centre, at regional school authorities, the ME SR, National School Inspectorate and the National Pedagogical Institute.

The total financial allocation was €19 584 412.13⁶, of which the financial allocation for RC&E totalled €663 878.38.

The 1 AfNFC submitted totalled €18 482 915.95.

In the period of **12-30.1.2009** a formal accuracy assessment was conducted on the received application. The AfNFC was complete and correctly filled out and the MA did not need to request any missing annexes.

Expert assessment was begun on 2.2.2009 and completed on 4.2.2009. The submitted application satisfied the conditions set by the expert assessment.

⁶ Including both objectives; the key for splitting the allocation was the size of the target group for which the national project is designed.



On 5.3.2009 the **Selection of AfNFC** took place and the AfNFC was approved.

The decision approving the AfNFC was sent on 17.4.2009.

The total amount of funds approved in the AfNFC selection and the approval process was €18 037 603.46.

From the aspect of the approved AfNFC's contribution to the fulfilment of the HP, the AfNFC declared a contribution to the HP Marginalised Roma Communities, HP Equal Opportunities, HP Sustainable Development and HP Information Society.

The NFC contract was signed on 29.4.2009 with the amount of the non-repayable contribution of €18 037 603.46 and on 1.5.2009 the project's implementation began. In the period monitored 3 monitoring reports were delivered. Table 29 gives further information on the national project.

Table 29: State of implementation of the national project as at 31.12.2009

Project title:	Education of Nursery Teaching Staff as a Component Education Reform
Basis for national / regional policy:	Act No. 245/2008 on upbringing and education (Education Act) and on the amendment of certain acts
Project objective:	Implement education content reform and develop a system of lifelong learning focused on developing nursery teachers' key competences in accordance with the needs of a knowledge-based society. <i>Project specific objective 1:</i> Focus the preparation and further education of teaching staff on acquiring and developing competences to transform the traditional school to a modern school; <i>Project specific objective 2:</i> Innovate the content and methods, raise the quality of education outputs for the labour market needs in a knowledge-based society.
Beneficiary:	Methodological-Pedagogical Centre
Project implementation period:	1.5.2009-30.4.2013
State of implementation for the period monitored:	As at 31.12.2009 in total 3 monitoring reports had been submitted. The first activity Development of Education Material – processing of an analysis of requirements from practice began to be implemented on 1.5.2009. Implementation of further activities is proceeding as follows: <i>Activity 1.1 Training of the management and professional staff of central and general government</i> (Beneficiary applied for a postponement in the schedule for this activity from 15.03.2010); <i>Activity 1.2 Education of nursery teaching staff</i> has been running since 10/2009; <i>Activity 1.3 Education portal</i> has been running since 10/2009; <i>Activity 2.1 Development of education material</i> has been running since 10/2009; <i>Activity 2.2 Professional stays and professional excursions</i> (Beneficiary applied for a postponement in the schedule for this activity from 15.03.2010); <i>Activity 2.3 Professional seminars and professional conferences</i> (Beneficiary applied for a postponement in the schedule for this activity from 15.03.2010); <i>Activity 2.4 Equipment and provision for the project</i> has been running since 10/2009. In November pilot training was launched in the framework of the programme



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	Digital technologies at nurseries in 4 groups in the Nitra region. At the same time 7 education programmes were sent for accreditation to the ME SR. The relevant outputs for the indicator Number of innovated / newly-created teaching materials are 2 publications: 1. <u>Methodology for Developing Nursery School Education Programmes</u> /Author: PhDr. Viera Hajdúková, PhD. et al.; reviewed by: PhDr. Oľga Mitrová, PaedDr. Silvia Mináriková/ 2. <u>How to learn more about a nursery child, or pedagogical diagnostics in nursery</u> /author: Doc. PaedDr. Daniela Valachová PhD.; reviewed by: PhDr. Viera Hajdúková, PhD./ Concurrently 1 education programme Digital technologies at nurseries (beginner level) was created. In accordance with the contract, on 6.10.2009 envelopes were opened and bids evaluated for the supplier of the <i>equipment and provision</i> . The purchase agreement was signed with the winner Columbex on 20.11.2009.
State of implementation from the start of the project's implementation:	<p>The beneficiary submitted to the MA a declaration under oath on the start of the project on 1.5.2009, notifying it of the beginning of the first activity's implementation: The creation of education material – processing of an analysis of requirements in practice.</p> <p>Activities proceeded in 2009 as described above in the part "State of implementation for the monitored period". From the start of the project's implementation to 31.12.2009 the final beneficiary submitted 3 monitoring reports, on a quarterly basis.</p>
Budget in €:	<p>€18 689 621.32</p> <p>€18 037 603.46 (Convergence Objective)</p>
Financial implementation / drawing in € for the period monitored:	<p>€5 630.80</p> <p>€5 120.71 (Convergence Objective)</p>
Financial implementation / drawing in € in cumulative terms from the start of the programming period	<p>€5 630.80</p> <p>€5 120.71 (Convergence Objective)</p>
Fulfilment of indicators for the period monitored:	<p>Result indicators (planned state / outcome)</p> <p>Number of schools involved in the implementation of the project's activities using information-communication technologies in the teaching process – 2730 / 11</p> <p>Number of teaching staff involved in project activities using information-communication technologies in the teaching process – 10 000 / 40</p> <p>Number of newly-created / innovated education and study programmes – 7 / 1</p> <p>Number of staff involved in the project education activities – 10 000 / 40</p> <p>Number of innovated / newly-created teaching materials – 200 / 2</p> <p>Number of schools involved in the implementation of the project activities containing pupils coming from marginalised Roma communities – 700 / 0</p>
Fulfilment of indicators in cumulative terms from the start of the programming period	Since the indicators began to be fulfilled only in 2009, the same indicator values apply here as those stated above in the item "Fulfilment of indicators for the period monitored".

7) The first direct award declared in 2009, entitled "**External Evaluation and School Quality Promoting Self-Evaluation Processes and School Development**", was declared on 23.3.2009 with the closing date of 22.5.2009. The direct award focused on the development of quality evaluation tools for upbringing – education activities at schools and school facilities, as well as on cooperation for OPE implementation in evaluating its impact on school quality, by external evaluation of schools involved in the projects funded in the framework of the OPE and monitoring their progress.

Target groups of the direct award comprised:



- primary and secondary school teaching staff;
- staff working in the field of education – professional staff of central and general government – school inspectors of the National School Inspectorate;
- primary and secondary school pupils and students.

The financial allocation was €960 000⁷, of which the allocation for RC&E objective was at maximum €127 000.

The 1 AfNFC submitted totalled €804 876.26.

In the period from 29.5.2009 to 9.6.2009 a **formal accuracy assessment** was conducted on the AfNFC received. In the case of the AfNFC missing annexes were requested, which were supplemented within the deadline set.

Expert assessment was begun on 10.6.2009 and completed on 12.6.2009. The submitted application satisfied the conditions set by the expert assessment.

The AfNFC was selected in the period from **12.6.2009 to 15.6.2009** and the AfNFC in question was **approved**.

Total funds allocated to the NFC applicants are **€800 284.40**, with total eligible expenses for the project of **€800 284.40** and with 0% co-financing in the amount of **€0** from the side of the applicants.

From the aspect of the approved AfNFC's contribution to the fulfilment of the HPs, the AfNFC declared a contribution to the HP Sustainable Development.

The decision approving the AfNFC was sent on 17.7.2009.

The NFC contract was signed on 3.8.2009, with the project's implementation commencing on the same day. Within the period monitored the first monitoring report was delivered on 13.11.2009. More detailed information on the national project is given in Table 30.

Table 30: State of implementation of the national project as at 31.12.2009

Project title:	External Evaluation of School Quality Promoting Self-Evaluation Processes and School Development
Basis for national / regional policy:	The National School Inspectorate was established by law on 1.1.2000. Act No 596/2003 Coll. on the state administration in the school system and school self-governance and on the amendment of certain acts as later amended, sets out its competences, content and scope of activity. SR Ministry of Education Decree of 31.3.2005 on school inspection
Project objective:	To ascertain by way of external evaluation the level of school quality prior to and following implementation of schools' projects funded by the ESF, and their benefit in improving the school's quality. Develop an evaluation and self-assessment model and system for work at schools and school facilities, including its practical use in practice.
Beneficiary:	National School Inspectorate
Project implementation	1.10.2009 -30. 9.2013

⁷ Including both objectives; the key for splitting the allocation was the size of the target group for which the national project is designed



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period:	
State of implementation for the period monitored:	In October 2009 a professional training of school inspectors was held for 96 school inspectors. In November – December 2009, 9 primary schools and 9 secondary schools were externally evaluated prior to the implementation of their projects.
State of implementation from the start of the project's implementation:	Statement under oath on the start of the project: 1.10.2009 Notice on the start of the implementation of the first activity: 12.10.2009 Activities proceeded in 2009 as described above in the part "State of implementation for the monitored period". From the start of the project's implementation to 31.12.2009 the final beneficiary submitted 1 monitoring report, on a quarterly basis.
Budget in €:	€924 553.00 €800 284.40 (Convergence Objective)
Financial implementation / drawing in € for the period monitored:	€0.00
Financial implementation / drawing in € in cumulative terms from the start of the programming period	€0.00
Fulfilment of indicators for the period monitored:	Result indicators (planned state / outcome) Number of staff involved in the project education activities: 84 / 84 Number of schools involved in the implementation of the project activities: 14 / 14
Fulfilment of indicators in cumulative terms from the start of the programming period	Since the indicators began to be fulfilled only in 2009, the same indicator values apply here as those stated above in the item "Fulfilment of indicators for the period monitored".

8) The direct award entitled "**Digitalisation of the Content of National Education Programmes for Primary Schools**" was declared on 30.7.2009 with the closing date of 30.10.2009. The direct award focused on the creation and efficient use of digital education content in the national education programmes in the teaching process at primary schools, leading to modernisation and improvement in the quality of education and to promoting reform of regional education at primary schools.

The financial allocation totalled €30 000 000 for the Convergence Objective.

Target groups of the direct award comprised:

- 2nd grade primary school teaching staff;
- 2nd grade primary school pupils.

Since the conditions for the provision of assistance and support as stated in the direct award were modified (change in project activities – addition of the 1st grade of primary schools and merger with the project for secondary schools), the direct award was cancelled on 23.10.2009.

9) The direct award entitled "**Digitalisation of the content of National Education Programmes for Secondary Schools**" was declared on 30.7.2009 with the closing date of 30.10.2009. It focused on the creation and efficient use of digital education content in the national education programmes in the teaching process at secondary schools, leading to

modernisation and improvement in the quality of education and to promoting reform of regional education at secondary schools.

The financial allocation totalled €15 000 000 for the Convergence Objective.

Target groups of the direct award comprised:

- teaching staff;
- secondary school students.

Since the conditions for the provision of assistance and support as stated in the direct award were modified (change in project activities – addition of the 1st grade of primary schools and merging with the project for the 2nd grade of primary schools), the direct award was cancelled on 23.10.2009.

10) The direct award entitled “**Digitalisation of the Content of National Education Programmes for Primary and Secondary Schools**” was declared on 13.11.2009 with the closing date of 29.1.2010. It focused on the creation and efficient use of digital education content in the national education programmes in the teaching process at primary and secondary schools, leading to modernisation and improvement in the quality of education and to promoting reform of regional education at primary and secondary schools.

The financial allocation totalled €48 500 000 for the Convergence Objective. With regard to insufficient allocation in PO4, the project will be implemented as a mirror project, though the project for RC&E will be funded from the state budget.

Target groups of the direct award comprised:

- primary and secondary school teaching staff;
- primary and secondary school pupils and students.

The 1 AfNFC submitted totalled €484 831 81.02.

In the period from 25.11.2009 to 6.12.2009 a formal accuracy assessment was conducted on the AfNFC.

Expert assessment was begun on **7.12.2009** and completed on 10.12.2009. The submitted application satisfied the conditions set by the expert assessment.

The AfNFC was selected on **14.12.2009** and the AfNFC was **approved**.

Total funds allocated to the NFC applicants represent **€43 790 880.20**, with total eligible expenses for the project of **€43 790 880.20** and with **0%** co-financing in the amount of **€0** from the side of the applicants.

From the aspect of the approved AfNFC's contribution to the fulfilment of the HP, the AfNFC declared a contribution to the HP Sustainable Development and HP Information Society. Contracting process will take place in 2010.

Measure 1.2

In the period monitored no direct awards for national projects were declared in the framework of this measure.

3.1.1.1.2. State of physical progress made under priority axis 1 – demand-driven projects

Measure 1.1

1) Call for primary schools: OPV-2008/1.1.03-SORO

The call for AfNFCs for primary schools under Measure 1.1 Transformation of the Traditional School to a Modern School, entitled “**Development and Implementation of Primary School Education Programmes**” was declared on 6.10.2008. The closing date of the call was 19.1.2009.

The financial allocation for this call was €13 277 567.55 and the financial contribution per AfNFC was limited to the interval of at minimum **€66 387.84** and at maximum **€165 969.59**.

Since the planned allocation for the support of all AfNFCs meeting the conditions of the formal accuracy assessment and concurrently the expert assessment for the call code OPV-2008/1.1/03-SORO was insufficient, the ASFEU requested in its letter of 15.5.2009 that the MA increase the allocation of €13 277 567.55 by €4 842 500. The MA approved the increase in a letter of 20.5.2009 in the amount of €4 700 000. The total allocation for this call thus became **€17 977 567.55**.

The call focused on the development and implementation of the primary school education programme, placing emphasis on promoting improvement in education quality on the basis of school innovations and profiling in connection to the education system reform under Act No 245/2008 Coll. on upbringing and education (Education Act) and on the amendment of certain acts.

The target group of the call comprised:

- primary and secondary school teachers;
- special primary and secondary school teachers.

Geographically the call covered the whole territory of the SR except for the Bratislava self-governing region.

The following eligible applicants were defined in the call:

- primary schools in the founder competence of municipalities and regional school authorities;
- church primary schools;
- private primary schools;
- municipalities as the founder of a primary school;
- regional school authority as the founder of special primary schools, including special primary schools.

As at 19.1.2009 the total number of AfNFCs received under the call was **361**, in the total amount of eligible expenditure of €46 309 163.85 and the requested level of the NFC being €44 086 311.39.

The formal accuracy assessment and registration of AfNFCs into the ITMS started on 20.1.2009 and was completed on 23.4.2009.

Of the total number of AfNFCs received, **213** applications satisfied the conditions of the formal accuracy assessment and proceeded to the expert assessment phase (59% success rate). The financial allocation of total eligible expenses of those AfNFCs that fulfilled the formal accuracy assessment conditions and proceeded to the expert assessment phase, totals €28 034 299.17, the total amount of non-repayable contribution requested in these AfNFCs was €26 705 559.49.

Expert assessment of AfNFCs began on 24.4.2009 by random selection and assignment of AfNFCs to internal and external assessors in the presence of MA representatives and was completed on 16.5.2009. **213 AfNFCs** were subject to expert assessment. The financial allocation of the proposed level of the NFC of those AfNFCs meeting at least the minimum score prescribed amounted to €17 968 523.72. The expert assessment of AfNFCs was completed by the ASFEU general director signing the Summary Expert Assessment Report on 20.5.2009.

The Selection Committee meeting was held on 21.5.2009. The subject of selection comprised **145 AfNFCs**. Out of 145 AfNFCs the Selection Committee, based on the expert assessment results, recommended for approval all 145 projects.

The Selection Committee met again on 22.6.2009.

Upon opening the AfNFC approval process, **214** AfNFCs met the formal accuracy assessment conditions and proceeded to the expert assessment phase. The financial allocation of total eligible expenses of those AfNFCs that fulfilled the formal accuracy assessment conditions and which proceeded to the expert assessment phase, represented the amount of €28 183 578.33, the total amount of the non-repayable contribution requested in these AfNFCs was €26 847 374.69.

Upon opening the AfNFC approval process, 214 AfNFCs were subject to expert assessment. Of these, **146 AfNFCs** achieved at least the minimum score prescribed. In total 68 AfNFCs failed to achieve the prescribed minimum score. The financial allocation of the proposed amount of the NFC of the AfNFCs that fulfilled the expert assessment conditions is **€18 108 443.69**.

The Selection Committee met again on 13.10.2009 for the reason of ascertaining shortcomings in the field of budget structure of the project “VEDMA – Choosing Education for Differentiated Models of Activities”, which was submitted by the primary school Budkovce 355, since this fact was found only after issuing the decision approving the AfNFC.

At the conclusion of the meeting of 13.10.2009 the chair of the Selection Committee stated that the AfNFC with the code NFP26110130359 was recommended by the Selection Committee for approval in the amount of the NFC of €94 896.00. Upon the opening of the AfNFCs approval process, the financial allocation of the proposed amount of the NFC of the AfNFCs that fulfilled the expert assessment conditions was €18 103 495.34.

By the end of 2009 the approval process under the call OPV-2008/1.1/03-SORO was completed, to be followed by the contracting process. Under the mentioned call, in total **142** NFC contracts were signed. The level of the NFC of the 142 contracted projects totalled €17 531 668.45. (Originally, 143 NFC contracts were concluded, however, there was withdrawal from one Contract. The level of the NFC for 143 projects was €17 684 879.70.)

2) Call for secondary schools: OPV-2008/1.1/04-SORO



The call for AfNFCs for primary schools under Measure 1.1 Transformation of the Traditional School to a Modern School, entitled “**Development and Implementation of Secondary School Education Programmes**” was declared on 6.10.2008. The closing date of the call was 19.1.2009.

The financial allocation for this call was €9 958 175.66 and the financial contribution per AfNFC was limited to the interval of at minimum €99 581.76 and at maximum €331 939.19.

Since the planned allocation for the support of all AfNFCs, meeting the conditions of the formal accuracy assessment and concurrently the expert assessment, for the call code OPV-2008/1.1/03-SORO was insufficient, the ASFEU requested in its letter of 15.5.2009 that the MA increase the allocation of €9 958 175.66 by €5 215 000. The MA approved the increase in a letter of 20.5.2009 in the amount of €5 210 000. The total allocation for this call thus became **€15 168 175.66**.

The call is focused on the development and implementation of the secondary school education programme, placing emphasis on the promotion of improving the education quality on the basis of school innovations and profiling in connection to the education system reform under Act No 245/2008 Coll. on upbringing and education (Education Act) and on the amendment of certain acts.

The target group of the call comprised:

- secondary school teaching staff and pupils;
- special secondary school teaching staff and pupils.

Geographically the call covered the whole territory of the SR except for the Bratislava self-governing region. The following eligible applicants were defined in the call:

- secondary schools in the founder competence of self-governing regions and regional school authorities;
- **secondary schools founded by other central government bodies;**
- **church secondary schools;**
- **private secondary schools;**
- **self-governing region as a secondary school founder;**
- **regional school authority as a founder of secondary schools, including special secondary schools.**

As at 19.1.2009 the total number of AfNFCs received under the call was **184**, in the total amount of eligible expenditure of €37 768 909.36 and the requested level of the NFC of €35 986 446.24.

The formal accuracy assessment and registration of AfNFCs into the ITMS started on 20.1.2009 and was completed on 23.4.2009.

Of the total number of the AfNFCs received, **102** applications satisfied the conditions of the formal accuracy assessment and proceeded to the expert assessment phase (55% success rate). The financial allocation of total eligible expenditure of those AfNFCs that fulfilled the formal accuracy assessment conditions and proceeded to the expert assessment phase, represents the amount of €21 583 891.21, the total amount of non-repayable contribution requested in these AfNFCs was €20 552 543.06.

Expert assessment of AfNFCs began on 24.4.2009 by random selection and assignment of AfNFCs to internal and external assessors in the presence of MA representatives and was completed on 16.5.2009. In total **102** AfNFCs were subject to expert assessment. Of these, 76 AfNFCs achieved at least the minimum score prescribed. In total 26 AfNFCs failed to achieve the prescribed minimum score.

Based on the AfNFCs expert assessment results, in accordance with selection criterion 1, it was necessary to prepare a third opinion for 1 AfNFC due to a differing assessment. Concurrently, due to exceeding the 30% deviation between the individual assessments, it was necessary to repeat the expert assessment of 1 AfNFC. With regard to the number of AfNFCs, in the case of which the expert assessments differed, two external assessors were selected at random (drawing lots). The third opinion was drawn up on 16.5.2009, the same day of the expert reassessment of the respective AfNFCs.

The financial allocation of the proposed level of the NFC of those AfNFCs meeting at least the minimum score prescribed amounted to €15 163 730.98. The expert assessment of AfNFCs was completed by the ASFEU general director signing the Summary Expert Assessment Report on 20.5.2009.

The Selection Committee meeting was held on 21.5.2009. The subject of selection comprised **76** AfNFCs. Out of 76 AfNFCs the Selection Committee, based on the expert assessment results, recommended for approval all 76 projects.

The Selection Committee met again on 22.6.2009. The reason for the repeated meeting of the Selection Committee was the unjustified reduction of total eligible expenditure during the ex-ante financial check due to incorrect reclassification of budget items in the case of the AfNFC for the project “Education is a Path of a Personality Development”, code NFP26110130564, submitted under call OPV-2008/1.1/04-SORO, by the applicant the Pedagogical and Social Academy, Levice.

Upon the opening of the AfNFCs approval process, the financial allocation of the proposed NFC amount of the AfNFCs that fulfilled the expert assessment conditions was €15 168 300.13.

In the case of the AfNFC with the code NFP26110130586, the Selection Committee recommended for approval an NFC in the amount of €148 076.07.

By the end of 2009 the approval process under the call OPV-2008/1.1/04-SORO was completed, to be followed by the contracting process. Under the mentioned call, in total **74** NFC contracts were signed. The level of the NFC of the 74 contracted projects totalled €14 691 561.69. (Originally, 75 NFC contracts were concluded, however, there was withdrawal from one Contract. The level of the NFC for 75 projects was €14 909 630.52.)

3) Call for secondary vocational schools: OPV-2009/1.1/05-SORO

The call for AfNFCs for primary schools under Measure 1.1 Transformation of the Traditional School to a Modern School, entitled “**Developing and Improving the Efficiency of School Education Programmes for Secondary Vocational Schools**” was declared on 15.10.2009. The closing date of the call was originally set on 18.1.2010, however, due to the temporary shutdown of the ITMS system, the closing date was extended to 20.1.2010.

The financial allocation for this call was €20 000 000 and the financial contribution per AfNFC was limited to the interval of at minimum €200 000 and at maximum €500 000.

The call was focused on increasing the efficiency and effectiveness of school education programmes via the implementation of innovative forms and methods of education with the aim of developing key competences of students in accordance with Act No 245/2008 Coll. on the upbringing and education (Education Act) and on the amendment of certain acts.

The target group of the call comprised:

- teaching staff and pupils of SVS;
- teaching staff and pupils of special SVS.

Geographically the call covered the whole territory of the SR except for the Bratislava self-governing region. The following eligible applicants were defined in the call:

- secondary vocational schools in the founder competence of self-governing regions and regional school authorities;
- secondary vocational schools founded by other central government bodies;
- church secondary vocational schools;
- private secondary vocational schools;
- self-governing region as the founder of secondary vocational schools;
- regional school authority as the founder of secondary vocational schools, including special secondary vocational schools.

Since the closing date of the call is beyond the period monitored by the 2009 Annual Report, further information regarding the call OPV-2009/1.1/05-SORO will be available in the 2010 Annual Report.

Measure 1.2

1) Call OPV-2009/1.2/01-SORO

The call for AfNFCs for tertiary schools under Measure 1.2 Tertiary schools and Research & Development as Engines for Developing a Knowledge-Based Society, entitled “**Support for Innovative Forms of Education at Tertiary schools and Development of Human Resources in Research & Development**” was declared on 18.6.2009. The closing date of the call was 24.8.2009.

The financial allocation for this call was **€35 000 000** and the financial contribution per AfNFC was limited to the interval of at minimum €250 000 and at maximum €1 000 000.

The call was focused on the promotion of higher quality and flexibility at tertiary schools by means of innovations in the forms of education and by linking the content of education to the needs of a knowledge-based society, by applying the principle of a culture of quality and increasing efficiency in university administration and management, by improving the quality and development of human resources and cooperation between the tertiary schools, research & development organisations and the private sector at the national and international level pursuant to SR Government Resolution No 367 of 4.6.2008 to the Modernisation Programme Slovakia 21.

The target group of the call comprised:

- tertiary education teachers at state, public and private tertiary schools;

- management of state, public and private tertiary schools;
- research & development staff at tertiary schools (including staff at the Slovak Academy of sciences and its institutes);
- students of state, public and private tertiary schools;
- doctoral students;
- postdoctoral students.

Geographically the call covered the whole territory of the SR except for the Bratislava self-governing region. The following eligible applicants were defined in the call:

- state tertiary schools;
- public tertiary schools;
- private tertiary schools;
- Slovak Academy of Sciences (including its individual institutes).

As at 24.8.2009 the total number of AfNFCs received under the call was **52**, in the total amount of eligible expenditure of €40 304 816.94 and the requested level of the NFC of €38 449 928.60.

The formal accuracy assessment and registration of AfNFCs into the ITMS started on 25.8.2009 and was completed on 21.10.2009.

Of the total number of the AfNFCs received, **45** applications satisfied the conditions of the formal accuracy assessment and proceeded to the expert assessment phase (87% success rate). The financial allocation of total eligible expenditure of those AfNFCs that fulfilled the formal accuracy assessment conditions and proceeded to the expert assessment phase, represents the amount of €34 984 712.66, the total amount of non-repayable contribution requested in these AfNFCs was €33 369 202.33.

Expert assessment of AfNFCs began on 22.10.2009 by random selection and assignment of AfNFCs to internal and external assessors in the presence of MA representatives and was completed on 11.11.2009. In total **45** AfNFCs were subject to expert assessment.

Based on the AfNFCs expert assessment results, in accordance with selection criterion 1, it was necessary to prepare a third opinion for 3 AfNFC due to a differing assessment. Concurrently, due to exceeding the 30% deviation between the individual assessments, it was necessary to repeat the expert assessment of 1 AfNFC. The third opinion was drawn up on 9.11.2009, the same day of the expert reassessment of the respective AfNFCs.

The financial allocation of the proposed level of the NFC of those AfNFCs meeting at least the minimum score prescribed amounted to €28 502 611.51. The expert assessment of AfNFCs was completed by the ASFEU general director signing the Summary Expert Assessment Report on 12.11.2009.

The Selection Committee meeting was held on 19.11.2009. The subject of selection comprised **38** AfNFCs. Out of 38 AfNFCs the Selection Committee, based on the expert assessment results, recommended for approval all 38 projects.

Detailed information on the state of declaring calls under priority axis 1 is given in Table 31.

Table 31: State of declaring calls under priority axis 1 in the period from 1.1.2009 to 31.12.2009

Measure	Type of call	Call declared on	Closing date for receiving AfNFCs	Financial allocation per call (NRF) in €		
				Total	Of which	
					SF/CF	SB

1.1	time limited, national project	23.3.2009	22.5.2009	833 000	708 050	124 950
1.1	Call cancelled, national project	30.7.2009	30.10.2009	30 000 000	25 500 000	4 500 000
1.1	Call cancelled, national project	30.7.2009	30.10.2009	15 000 000	12 750 000	2 250 000
1.1	time limited, demand-driven projects	15.10.2009	20.1.2010	20 000 000	N/A	N/A
1.1	time limited, national project	13.11.2009	29.1.2010	48 500 000	41 225 000	7 275 000
1.2	time limited, demand-driven projects	18.6.2009	24.8.2009	35 000 000	N/A	N/A
Total for priority axis 1				149 333 000	N/A	N/A

Table 32 gives further information on the development of implementation of priority axis 1.

Table 32: Development of implementation of priority axis 1 as at 31.12.2009

Measure	AfNFCs received	AfNFCs rejected	AfNFCs approved	Projects contracted	Projects in implementation	Contracts withdrawn	Projects completed
1.1	864	553	310	302	300	2	0
1.2	52	14	38	0	0	0	0
Total	916	567	348	302	300	2	0
Financial quantification of SF / CF in €							
Measure	Contribution requested	Contribution rejected	Contribution approved	Contracted funds	Funds repaid	Projects completed	
1.1	272 957 176.55	85 855 105.23	138 618 890.30	134 210 443.29	5 028 373.38	0	
1.2	38 449 928.60	9 947 317.09	28 502 611.51	0	0	0	
Total	311 407 105.15	95 802 422.32	167 121 501.81	134 210 443.29	5 028 373.38	0	

Under the direct award OPV/K/NP/2009-7, entitled “Digitalisation of the content of the national education programmes for primary and secondary schools” no projects were contracted in 2009, therefore in the table we give only the level of the approved contribution, however the amount of contracted funds will be given in the 2010 Annual Report.

In accordance with the conditions set in the calls with the codes OPV-2008/1.1/03-SORO and OPV-2008/1.1/04-SORO, in the period monitored 545 AfNFCs were received, from which 218 NFC contracts were concluded in the total amount of the NFC of €32 594 510.22. In the framework of calls with the codes OPV-2008/1.1/01-SORO, OPV-2008/1.1/02-SORO, OPV-2008/1.1/03-SORO and OPV-2008/1.1/04-SORO, 272 NFC contracts in a total NFC of €38 682 007.73 were concluded.

In the period from 1.1.2009 to 31.12.2009, the total eligible expenditure under Measure 1.1 was reduced in the case of 5 beneficiaries by on average 0.7%, which did not affect in any significant manner the contracted funds from the allocation intended for measure 1.1. The total eligible expenditure was reduced during the physical implementation of the projects and on the basis of the Applications for a change to the contract sent from the side of the beneficiary, in which it requested a change in expense groups: Special services (637 005) to Remuneration for staff outside an employment relationship (637 027), or, as relevant, Remuneration for staff outside an employment relationship (637 027) to Personal expenses (610 620), on the basis of which the

total eligible expenditure was reduced due to compliance with the set limits of the Call for AfNFCs.

Under measure 1.1 there were 2 extraordinary terminations of the contractual relationship from the side of the beneficiaries, thus reducing the total amount of the NFC for the given measure by €367 507.64. In the case of the combined primary and nursery school Podzávoz 2739, 022 01 Čadca, the beneficiary in terminating the contractual relationship is stated the reason as being that prior to approval of the project from the call with the code OPV-2008/1.1/03-SORO several teachers had joined other education projects, whereby the project was no longer applicable. In the case of the beneficiary: secondary vocational school, Školská 5, 975 90 Banská Bystrica from the call OPV-2008/1.1/04-SORO, the school's new management gave the reason for withdrawing from the NFC contract as being personnel changes.

With regard to the above changes, as at 31.12.2009 there were 302 NFC contracts concluded under measure 1.1 in the total amount of the non-repayable contribution of €134 210 443.29.

Equal opportunities between men and women were ensured in the period monitored the (see Table "Monitoring of target groups by priority axis").

Since the contracting process of measure 1.2 had not been completed by the end of 2009, it is not possible to provide information on physical progress made in the implementation of the measure, or to make an implementation analysis. The individual data will be provided in the 2010 Annual Report.

Fulfilment of physical indicators

Table 33 gives further information on the fulfilment of physical indicators under priority axis 1.

Table 33: Fulfilment of physical indicators as at 31.12.2009

Indicator		2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	Total
Number of newly-created education programmes (number)	Result achieved	0	0	58	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	58
	Target	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	120	N/A	120	120
	Baseline	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0
Number of teaching staff who completed further education programmes (number)	Result achieved	0	0	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0
	Target	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	5000 0	N/A	5000 0	5000 0
	Baseline	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0
Number of teacher education courses (number)	Result achieved	0	0	310	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	310
	Target	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	15	N/A	15	15
	Baseline	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0
Schools successful in repeated quality assessment (%)	Result achieved	0	0	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0
	Target	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	90	N/A	90	90
	Baseline	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0

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Rate of employment among secondary school leavers (%)	Result achieved	0	0	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0
	Target	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	80	N/A	80	80
	Baseline	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0
Share of R&D workers involved in further education (%)	Result achieved	0	0	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0
	Target	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	30	N/A	30	30
	Baseline	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0
Number of projects promoting human resources at centres of excellence at tertiary schools and at the Slovak Academy of Sciences (number)	Result achieved	0	0	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0
	Target	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	20	N/A	20	20
	Baseline	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0
The rate of involvement in international research projects among R&D workers (%)	Result achieved	0	0	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0
	Target	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	20	N/A	20	20
	Baseline	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0
Number of development & innovation partnerships and networks supported from the OPE (number)	Result achieved	0	0	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0
	Target	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	30	N/A	30	30
	Baseline	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0
Share of tertiary schools increasing their management efficiency and management via the OPE (%)	Result achieved	0	0	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0
	Target	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	50	N/A	50	50
	Baseline	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0
Share of development and innovations partnerships and networks existing after completion of the support from OPE (%)	Result achieved	0	0	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0
	Target	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	80	N/A	80	80
	Baseline	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0
Share of employment among tertiary education graduates in the labour market (%)	Result achieved	0	0	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0
	Target	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	90	N/A	90	90
	Baseline	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0
PISA Index (number)	Result achieved	0	0	1446	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	1446
	Target	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	1500	N/A	1500	1500



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	Baseline	1462	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	1462
Tertiary degree graduates of tertiary education (number)	Result achieved	0	2.3	2.2	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	2.2
	Target	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	12	N/A	12	12
	Baseline	8.3	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	8.3
Schools successful in repeated quality assessment (%)	Result achieved	0	0	0*	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0
	Target	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	90	N/A	90	90
	Baseline	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0

*A zero value of an indicator is given for the reason that the National School Inspectorate performed in the period monitored comprehensive inspections on a selected sample of schools and ascertained the **initial** state in the quality of the conditions, results and management.

In 2013 it will repeat the inspection at the given schools and only then will the indicator of the result achieved be available for the schools that succeeded in the repeated evaluation of quality.

In the framework of measure 1.1 the fulfilment of the programme indicator “Number of newly-created education programmes” that achieved the percentage fulfilment of 4.8% was observed in the period monitored. The low fulfilment of the mentioned indicator results from the fact that the projects’ implementation began in 2009. Non-fulfilment of the remaining programme indicators, including the “Number of teaching staff who completed further education programmes” and “Number of teacher training courses”, results from the fact that in the 2nd half of 2009 there were no indicators monitored at the project level that have a link to the aforementioned programme indicators. For this reason they indicate zero values. We expect that the other 2 indicators will be fulfilled in calls containing the given indicators.

The value of the indicator **Number of teacher education courses** is higher than the planned value due to the fact that it mirrors the real needs and interest in trainings and presentations for the applicants for assistance and beneficiaries. In creating the OPE in 2007 a smaller number of the general teacher education courses was considered, but following the start of the reform and through the change in legislation, there arose a need for an increased volume of education programmes and their specific focus.

Over the course of 2009 also the following indicators under measure 1.1 were being fulfilled at the project level, and which have no link to the programme level:

- Number of innovated / newly-created teaching materials;
- Number of new teaching aids;
- Number of schools involved in the implementation of the project’s activities;
- Number of staff involved in the project’s education activities;
- Number of pupils / students involved in the implementation of the project’s activities;
- Number of schools involved in the implementation of the project’s activities using information-communication technologies in the teaching / learning process;
- Number of schools involved in the implementation of project activities having pupils from marginalised Roma communities;
- Number of teaching staff involved in project activities using information-communication technologies in the teaching process.

Since the contracting process under measure 1.2 had not been completed as at 31.12.2009, the following physical indicators were not fulfilled: Number of newly-created education programmes, Number of R&D workers involved in further education, Number of projects

promoting human resources at centres of excellence at tertiary schools and the Slovak Academy of Sciences, Rate of R&D staff's involvement in international research projects, Number of development and innovations partnerships and networks supported from OPE, and therefore they indicate zero values. The fulfilment of the programme indicators Number of newly-created education programmes and Share of R&D workers involved in further education is expected in 2010 and the fulfilment of the remaining 3 programme indicators is expected under the calls including the given indicators. The individual data will be provided in the 2010 Annual Report.

With regard to the assessment of the settings for the accuracy of the system of measurable indicators and of the functioning of the monitoring system the MA is planning to perform over the course of 2010 an evaluation and verification of the setting for the accuracy of the system of OPE measurable indicators. The analysis of the adequacy of the setting of the system of measurable indicators will be a subject of the OPE 2010 Annual Report.

3.1.1.2 Financial implementation of priority axis 1

Further information on fund drawing under priority axis 1 is given in Table 34.

Table 34: Drawing of funds under priority axis 1 as at 31.12.2009

	Commitment 2007-2013 for EU sources	Drawing of funds in year N (EU sources) in€		Cumulative drawing of funds (EU sources) in€	
		Total	% of commitment 2007 – 2013	Total	% of commitment 2007 – 2013
Priority axis 1	365 000 000.00	1 802 148.87	0.49%	1 802 148.87	0.49%
Measure 1.1	255 000 000.00	1 802.148.87	0.71%	1 802 148.87	0.71%
Measure 1.2	110 000 000.00	0.00	0.00%	0.00	0.00%

As at 31.12.2009 the level of the actual fund drawing for 2009 under priority axis 1 reached the total value of €1 802 148.87 (source ESF), representing 0.49% of the commitment for 2007-2013. Drawing under priority axis 1 at the 0.49% level may be viewed as adequate in relation to the indicators attained at the end of the second year of the programming period 2007 – 2013 as well as with regard to the fact that the actual implementation of OPE at the level of the demand-driven projects began, in connection with the actual fund drawing, only in 2009. An assumption of attaining continuous drawing of funds under priority axis 1 is suggested by the growing volume of the funds contracted, representing 31.7% as at 31.12.2009 of the total commitment under priority axis 1 for the programming period 2007 – 2013. From the aspect of commitments for individual years, the commitments for 2007 and 2008 are covered by the contracts, as is partially also the commitment for 2009 (27.4%), which may be classified as a very positive result, despite the fact that contracting under measure 1.2 reported zero value as at 31.12.2009. The adverse situation in this measure may, however, change very soon, since over the course of the 1st and 2nd quarter of 2010 it is expected that the contracts with successful applicants under call OPV-2009/1.2/01-SORO will be concluded.

From the aspect of the future drawing under the mentioned priority axis it is necessary to take into account also the legal form of beneficiaries and possible methods of financing their projects. Since a large share of beneficiaries under priority axis 1 are eligible for financing their projects via pre-financing, in 2010 we expect a considerable increase in drawing via clearance of the pre-financing provided. In this regard it must be noted that as at 31.12.2009 the ME SR reported,

under priority axis 1, pre-financing provided but not yet cleared and certified in the total sum of **€48 807 000 (of which ESF sources represent the amount of €41 988 000)**. Though the pre-financing does not represent drawing in relation to the certifying authority or the European Commission, these funds assist beneficiaries in implementing their projects (they are spent in the field by project developers), and are subsequently turned into drawing of the Structural Funds following their clearance and certification.

3.1.1.3 Specific features for ESF programmes

Aid by target group and equal opportunities

Table 35 gives further information on target groups under priority axis 1.

Table 35: Monitoring of target groups under priority axis 1

a) Number of participants for 2009					
Entering participants		Leaving participants		People involved in the operational programme in the preceding year	
29754		725		0	
b) Breakdown of participants by gender			c) Breakdown of participants by age		
Number of men	Number of women		Number of persons aged 15 – 24	Number of persons aged 55 – 64	
10518	19236		7355	704	
d) Breakdown of participants by labour market status					
Number of employed, including self-employed persons	Number of self-employed persons	Number of unemployed, including long-term unemployed	Number of long-term unemployed	Number of inactive persons	Inactive persons – studying
12773	0	0	0	12572	12572
e) Breakdown of participants by educational attainment					
Primary or lower secondary education (ISCED 1 and 2)	If secondary education (ISCED 3)		Post-secondary non-tertiary education (ISCED 4)	Tertiary education (ISCED 5 and 6)	
8732	794		54	9194	
f) Breakdown of participants by vulnerability group pursuant to national legislation					
Minorities	Migrants		Disabled persons	Other disadvantaged persons	
167	9		77	85	

More information on the monitored target groups is given in Chapter 2.1.8.

3.1.2 Serious problems encountered and measures taken to overcome them

On the whole it may be said that during the period monitored and over the course of the implementation of priority axis 1 no serious problems were encountered and therefore there was no need to adopt any measures for their removal (see Table 36).

Table 36: Monitoring of the number of measures adopted for the defined problems

Problems identified	Measures adopted	Number of measures adopted
0	0	0

3.2. Priority axis 2

In the period monitored, the MA declared 3 direct awards for priority axis 2 Further Education as a Tool for Developing Human Resources for measure 2.1 Promoting further education.

The themes of direct awards stemmed from the themes of the national projects that were approved at the Panel Meeting of the SR Minister of Education in 2008.

The direct awards were as follows:

- **Professional and career growth of teaching staff**, OPV/K/RKZ/NP/2009-2 – focused mostly on the development, innovation and implementation of professional standards and tools for evaluating the professional skills development of school teaching staff;
- **Professional and career growth of teaching staff**, OPV/K/RKZ/NP/2009-3 – with the same focus;
- **National qualification system in the context of further education supported by a system of guidance**, OPV/K/RKZ/NP/2009-6 – focused on the education system through increasing the quality of lifelong learning and lifelong guidance and the creation of a national qualification system.

As at 31.12.2009, 3 AfNFCs had been received for the Convergence Objective under priority axis 3, of which 1 project was contracted. At the same time an already-contracted project from the direct award OPV/K/RKZ/NP/2008-2 was being implemented.

In the period monitored, the ASFEU declared 1 call for demand-driven projects for priority axis 2 Further Education as a Tool for Developing Human Resources for Measure 2.1 Promoting Further Education.

The total appropriation for the call was €7 500 000. As at 31.12.2009, 20 AfNFCs had been received, 9 AfNFCs of which the Selection Committee recommended for approval. As at 31.12.2009 no project had been contracted, the contracting process of successful projects is planned for the first quarter of 2010.

Activities covered by the call were defined as follows:

- creation and implementation of education programmes for persons involved in the activities

in the framework of further education and lecturers of further education, focusing on deepening and expanding the qualification, professional competence and developing of key competences for the sectors of construction, textile, electronics, mechanical engineering and chemical industry, with regard to the new technologies, innovation processes and their use in practice.

Target groups covered by the call were defined as follows:

- persons involved in activities in the framework of further education for the sectors of construction, textile, electronics, mechanical engineering and chemical industry, other than employees at risk of redundancy, low-qualified employees and the unemployed.
- further education lecturers.

In the period monitored, the MH SR declared 2 calls for demand-driven projects for priority axis 2 Further Education as a Tool for Developing Human Resources for Measure 2.2 Promoting Further Education.

The total appropriation for the calls was €8 500 000. As at 31.12.2009, 4 AfNFCs had been received, of which 1 was approved and 1 contracted. The AfNFC selection and contracting process will continue in 2010.

Activities covered by the declared calls were defined as follows:

- development and implementation of a model of centre(s) for evaluating of the systematic education and healthcare workers and exchanging information on healthcare workers;
- implementation of education programmes and further education activities for healthcare workers focusing on the development and maintenance of their qualification gained;
- support for the development of all forms of distance further education of healthcare workers.

Target groups covered by the declared calls were defined as follows:

- healthcare workers performing their healthcare occupation at the place of implementation of the projects under the defined call;
- healthcare workers performing their occupation at an employer seated in the area of the Convergence objective, who is an NFC applicant, or its cooperating party.

Allocations for the individual calls declared were as follows:

- for call OPV 2009/2.2/01 the total appropriation amounted to €1 500 000;
- for call OPV 2009/2.2/02 the total appropriation amounted to €7 000 000.

In the period monitored the projects under call OPV 2008/2.2/01 were concurrently financially completed, the successful project under call OPV 2008/2.2/02 was in implementation and 7 projects under call OPV 2008/2.2/03 were likewise being implemented.

3.2.1 Achievement of objectives and analysis of progress made

Section 3.2.1.1.1 of this 2009 Annual Report describes in detail the direct awards from their declaration, through project contracting to the implementation of the national projects. Section 3.2.1.1.2 of this 2009 Annual Report describes in detail the calls for demand-driven projects of both IBMAs, from their declaration, through their contracting, to the project implementation.

3.2.1.1. State of physical progress made under priority axis 2

In the period monitored, 33 AfNFCs (national projects and demand-driven projects) amounting to €106 486 701.16 were received in the framework of the implementation of priority axis 2. Of these, 20 AfNFCs in the total amount of €64 443 088.68 were approved, of which 10 projects were contracted (the contracting process will continue in 2010 and it is expected that it will be closed in the first quarter of 2010) and 11 projects were being implemented as at 31.12.2009.

3.2.1.1.1. State of physical progress made under priority axis 2 – national projects

- 1) The direct award entitled **Further Education for Primary and Secondary School Teachers in the Subject of Informatics** was declared on 17.3.2008 and completed on

16.5.2008. Further information on the direct award, its evaluation, approval and contracting are available in the 2008 Annual Report.

The national project of the State Pedagogic Institute was implemented under this direct award. Table 37 gives further information on the national project.

Table 37: State of implementation of the national project as at 31.12.2009

Project title:	Further Education for Primary and Secondary School Teachers in the Subject of Informatics
Basis for national / regional policy:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The programme declaration of the SR Government from August 2006, proclaimed “to create the preconditions for systematic change in the content of education, connected with deepening language training, developing computer literacy and communication skills, with substantially greater use of modern teaching aids, particularly information technology and multimedia technology in the teaching process.” • CONCEPT OF EDUCATION AND TRAINING DEVELOPMENT in the Slovak Republic for the forthcoming 15 – 20 years (the “MILLENNIUM” project) • Informatisation strategy for regional schools (approved in February 2008)
Project objective:	Design, develop and implement modern further education for informatics and IT education teachers at primary and secondary schools, supported by digital technologies.
Beneficiary:	State Pedagogical Institute
Project implementation period:	1.10.2008 – 30.09.2011
State of implementation for the period monitored:	In 2009 there continued the public procurement for the purchase of computer technology necessary for the project implemented under activity 2.1 Equipment and Provision for the Project, which was completed in October 2009. In the framework of Activities 1.1 Education for 1st Grade Primary School Teachers in Informatics and IT Education, 1.2 Education for Unqualified 2nd Grade Primary and Secondary Informatics Teachers, and 1.3 Further Education of 2nd Grade Primary and Secondary Informatics Teachers, the education itself was launched on 13.6.2009 once the target groups had been selected. This education continued with a break in the months of July and August until the end of the year. The activity 1.4 Monitoring and evaluation of the project was ensured by sending project monitoring reports 2 to 5. The project’s publicity was conducted in the form of newspaper articles, publishing the project posters and information on the project’s website.
State of implementation from the start of the project’s implementation:	<p>Statement under oath on the start of the project was delivered on 7.10.2008; the project was started on 1.10.2008.</p> <p>In 2008 the project was launched with the activity 2.1 Equipment and Provision for the Project, and this by preparing a public procurement for the purchase of computer technology necessary for the project’s implementation. Activities 1.1 Education for 1st Grade Primary School Teachers in Informatics and IT Education, 1.2 Education for Unqualified 2nd Grade Primary and Secondary Informatics Teachers, and 1.3 Further Education of 2nd Grade Primary and Secondary Informatics Teachers were begun by the preparation of application forms for teachers, drafting contracts with participants in the education on the loaning of equipment, the publication of applications for individual target groups and by the creation of databases of the applicants for the education. In the framework of activity 1.4 Project Monitoring and Evaluation a monitoring report was drafted and sent to the MA. The project was publicised by the printing of an</p>

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	<p>article in the Teachers Newspaper, in the framework of a programme EuroEducation and a survey for the television station TA3, and by information on the project's website. In 2009 the project continued by the activity 2.1 Equipment and Provision for the Project, by conducting the public procurement for the purchase of computer technology necessary for the project's implementation. With regard to the fact that the respective legislation required a joint procedure with the project "Education of Primary School Teachers in Foreign Languages in Connection with the White Paper for Teaching Foreign Languages at Primary and Secondary Schools", the public procurement was slightly delayed and was concluded in August 2009. Activity 2.1 Equipment and Provision for the Project was completed in November 2009 by distributing the teaching equipment to schools.</p> <p>The education itself under the Activities 1.1 Education for 1st grade primary school teachers in informatics and IT education, 1.2 Education for unqualified 2nd grade primary and secondary informatics teachers, and 1.3 Further education of 2nd grade primary and secondary informatics teachers was launched on 13.6.2009. This education continued with a . in the months of July and August until the end of the year. The activity 1.4 Monitoring and evaluation of the project was ensured by sending project monitoring reports 2 to 5. The project's publicity was conducted in the form of newspaper articles, publishing the project posters and information on the project's website.</p> <p>As at 31.12.2009, 5 monitoring reports had been delivered in the framework of the project.</p>
Budget in €:	<p>€8 082 178.15 €7 029 006.34 (Convergence Objective)</p>
Financial implementation / drawing in € for the period monitored:	<p>€67 996.73 €63 949.51 (Convergence Objective)</p>
Financial implementation / drawing in € in cumulative terms from the start of the programming period	<p>€67 996.73 €63 949.51 (Convergence Objective)</p>
Fulfilment of indicators for the period monitored:	<p>Result indicators (planned values / achieved values) Number of newly-created / innovated education and study programmes 3 / 3 Number of schools involved in implementation of the project activities 530 / 645 Number of staff involved in the project education activities 1 301 / 732 Number of electronic services implemented 3 / 3</p>
Fulfilment of indicators in cumulative terms from the start of the programming period	<p>Since the indicators began to be fulfilled only in 2009, the same indicator values apply here as those stated above in the item "Fulfilment of indicators for the period monitored".</p>

- 2) The direct award entitled "**Professional and Career Growth of Teaching Staff**" was declared on 4.5.2009 with the closing date of 3.7.2009.

The direct award was focused on:

- the creation, invitation and implementation of professional standards and tools for evaluating the development of professional competencies for categories, career grades and career positions of teaching and professional staff at schools and school facilities;

- the creation and accreditation of continuing education programmes and developing the quality of institutions of further education;
- raising and renewing at the level of key competences of teaching staff and staff working in the field of education in the system of continuing education in accordance with professional standards and current and projected needs of a knowledge-based society;
- raising awareness of the possibilities for education and facilitating access to education programmes and teaching resources by means of modern education forms and technologies.

Target group in the framework of the direct award:

- teaching and non-teaching staff;
- staff (working in the field of education);
- tertiary education teachers.

The financial allocation was in the amount of €49 800 000 (for both objectives, of which allocation for the RC&E objective is at maximum €5 700 000).

The 1 AfNFC received was submitted by the Methodological–Pedagogical Centre for the Convergence Objective, in the amount of €44 099 695.91.

In the period from 12.6.2009 to 29.6.2009 a formal accuracy assessment was conducted.

Expert assessment began on 29.6.2009 and completed on 1.7.2009. The submitted application failed to satisfy the conditions set by the expert assessment.

Since the presented AfNFC failed to meet the assessment criteria approved by the MC for the OPE in the expert assessment process, the submitted AfNFC was not approved and therefore AfNFC selection did not proceed.

On 1.7.2009 the **ME SR** sent its decision rejecting the AfNFC to the unsuccessful applicant whose application was rejected. The decision included a reasoning for the rejection and a note on the possibility to collect the copies of the AfNFC at the ME SR within the period of 5 calendar days from the delivery date of the decision.

The ME SR did not receive any complaint/appeal against the decision from the AfNFC selection process from the side of the applicant.

- 3) The direct award entitled “**Professional and Career Growth of Teaching Staff**” was declared on 8.7.2009 with the closing date of 9.9.2009.

The direct award was identical to the direct award of 4.5.2009 and had the same focus, target groups and allocation.

The 1 AfNFC submitted was for the Convergence Objective, in the amount of **€43 914 017**.

In the period from 27.7.2009 to 14.8.2009 a formal accuracy assessment was conducted.

Expert assessment was begun on 17.8.2009 and completed on 21.8.2009. The submitted application satisfied the conditions set by the expert assessment.

On 24.8.2009 the AfNFC selection took place and the AfNFC was approved.

Total funds allocated to the NFC applicant are €43 193 286, with total eligible expenses for the projects of €43 193 286 and with 0% co-financing in the amount of €0 from the side of the applicant.

From the aspect of the approved AfNFC's contribution to the fulfilment of the HP, the AfNFC declared a contribution to the HP Sustainable Development and HP Information Society.

On 12.10.2009 the ME SR sent to the successful applicant the decision approving the AfNFC.

The NFC contract was signed for the value of €43 193 286 on 15.10.2009, with the project's implementation commencing on the same day. In the period monitored the first monitoring report was delivered. The first monitoring report was delivered to the ME SR in January 2010. Table 38 gives more detailed information regarding the national project.

Table 38: State of implementation of the national project as at 31.12.2009

Project title:	Professional and career growth of teaching staff
Basis for national / regional policy:	Act No. 317/2009 Coll. on teaching staff and professional staff and on the amendment of certain acts. Decree of the ME SR no 445 on continuing education and attestations of teaching and professional staff.
Project objective:	Develop an efficient system of further education for teaching and professional staff at schools and school facilities with an emphasis on developing key competences.
Beneficiary:	Methodological-Pedagogical Centre
Project implementation period:	15.10.2009 – 14.10.2013
State of implementation for the period monitored:	<p>Main activities of the national project:</p> <p>1.1 Development, innovation and implementation of professional standards and instruments for evaluating the development of professional competences. <i>The activity's implementation started from 10/2009.</i></p> <p>2.1 Analysis of the education needs of individual target groups of teaching and professional staff at schools and school facilities. <i>The activity's implementation started from 10/2009.</i></p> <p>2.2 Development and accreditation of the continuing education programmes of teaching and professional staff under the accreditation system. <i>The activity's implementation started from 10/2009. As at 31.12.2009, 136 education programmes had been created and submitted for accreditation to the ME SR.</i></p> <p>3.1 Creation of teaching resources, methodologies and professional publications, including digital form. <i>The activity has not been started, according to the Contract it is to begin as at 01/2010.</i></p> <p>3.2 Education activities focused on developing key competences of teaching and professional staff and education and training strategies. <i>Under this activity the preparatory tasks have been realised, which are a precondition for the strategic</i></p>

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	<p><i>implementation of the education activities themselves. The preparatory tasks began to be implemented as at 10/2010. The education activities themselves in the framework of the newly-created education programmes have not yet been launched, since the education programmes, submitted to the Accreditation Council, had not been accredited as at 31.12.2009.</i></p> <p>4.1 Creation and administration of an interactive education portal promoting continuing education. <i>The activity's implementation started from 10/2009.</i></p> <p>4.2 Equipment and provision for professional activities. <i>The activity's implementation started from 10/2009.</i></p>
State of implementation from the start of the project's implementation:	<p>Statement under oath on the start of the project was delivered on 15.10.2009. The notice on the start of the first activity's implementation was made as at 31.12.2009, however no education activities have as yet been performed, only the preparatory phase for education. The main activities of the project started in accordance with the schedule. As at 31.12.2009, 136 education programmes had been created and submitted for accreditation.</p> <p>1 monitoring report on the project had been delivered.</p>
Budget in €:	<p>€48 684 716.00</p> <p>€43 193 286.00 (Convergence Objective)</p>
Financial implementation / drawing in € for the period monitored:	€0.00
Financial implementation / drawing in € in cumulative terms from the start of the programming period	€0.00
We Fulfilment of indicators for the period monitored:	<p>Result indicators:</p> <p>Number of newly-created education programmes 625 / 136</p> <p>Number of newly-created / innovated education programmes for gaining and developing ICT knowledge and skills 30 / 21</p> <p>Number of staff involved in the project education activities 18 000 / 0</p> <p><i>The education itself in the framework of the newly-created education programmes has not as yet been launched, since the education programmes, submitted to the Accreditation Council, had not been accredited as at 31.12.2009. For this reason no target group has yet been created.</i></p> <p>Number of electronic services implemented 1 / 0</p>
Fulfilment of indicators in cumulative terms from the start of the programming period	<p>Since the indicators began to be fulfilled only in 2009, the same indicator values apply here as those stated above in the item "Fulfilment of indicators for the period monitored".</p>

- 4) The direct award entitled **"National System of Qualifications in the Context of Further Education Supported by a System of Guidance"** was declared on 12.10.2009 with the closing date of 15.1.2010.

The direct award was focused on developing the education system through increasing the quality of lifelong learning and lifelong guidance and on the creation of a national qualification system.

Target groups in the framework of the direct award comprised:

- persons involved in further education activities;
- lecturers;

- persons working in the field of education.

The financial allocation was in the amount of €46 500 000 (for both objectives, of which allocation for the RC&E objective is at maximum €3 900 000).

In the period monitored no AfNFCs were submitted and due to the closing date for submission being on 15 January 2010, any further information on the direct award assessment will be subject of the 2010 Annual Report.

3.2.1.1.2. State of physical progress made under priority axis 2 – demand-driven projects

Measure 2.1 – IBMA ASFEU

1) Call OPV-2009/2.1/01-SORO

The call for AfNFCs under Measure 2.1 Promoting Further Education, entitled “**Promoting Further Education in Selected Sectors**” was declared on 12.8.2009. The closing date for the call was 13.10.2009.

The financial allocation for this call was €7 500 000. The level of the NFC per AfNFC was limited to the interval of at minimum €300 000 and at maximum €500 000.

The call was focused on supporting education that would respond to employers’ changing requirements for the quality of human resources and efficiency of their management.

The target group of the call comprised:

- persons involved in activities in the framework of further education for the sectors of construction, textile, electronics, mechanical engineering and chemical industry, other than employees at risk of redundancy, low-qualified employees and the unemployed.
- further education lecturers.

Geographically the call covered the whole territory of the SR except for the Bratislava self-governing region. The following eligible applicants were defined in the call:

- individuals and legal entities eligible to pursue business under § 2 (2) (a) and (b) of the Commercial Code, registered in the territory of the SR, and satisfying the definition of micro, small and medium-sized enterprises as referred to in the wording of this call and are planning to implement individual types of eligible projects.

As at 13.10.2009 the total number of AfNFCs received under the call was 20, in the total amount of eligible expenditure of €8 310 402.61 and the total requested level of the NFC of €7 896 872.99.

The formal accuracy assessment and registration into the ITMS started on 14.10.2009 and was completed on 16.11.2009.

Of the total number of the AfNFCs received, 9 applications satisfied the conditions of the formal accuracy assessment and proceeded to the expert assessment phase (45% success rate). The financial allocation of total eligible expenditure of those AfNFCs that fulfilled the formal



accuracy assessment conditions and proceeded to the expert assessment phase, represents the amount of €4 033 598.80, the total amount of non-repayable contribution requested in these AfNFCs was €3 831 918.86.

Expert assessment of AfNFCs began on 18.11.2009 by random selection and assignment of AfNFCs to expert assessors in the presence of MA representatives and was completed on 2.12.2009. In total 9 AfNFCs were subject to expert assessment. All AfNFCs achieved at least the minimum score prescribed. The financial allocation of the proposed level of the NFC of those AfNFCs meeting at least the minimum score prescribed amounted to €3 575 791.11. The expert assessment of AfNFCs was completed by the ASFEU general director signing the Summary Expert Assessment Report on 2.12.2009.

The Selection Committee meeting was held on 9.12.2009. The subject of selection comprised 9 AfNFCs. The Selection Committee recommended 9 projects for approval.

The process of contracting successful applicants is planned for the first quarter of 2010.

Measure 2.2 – IBMA MH SR

1) Call OPE 2008/2.2/01

All 5 projects approved under the call for AfNFCs within Measure 2.2 Promoting Further Education in Healthcare, entitled “**Replenishing the Healthcare System with Qualified Specialists**” completed their implementation in 2008. Further information on the call OPE2008/2.2/01 are available in the 2008 Annual Report.

The period monitored saw financial implementation of the projects in the form of the submission and administrative verification of final applications for payment.

As at 31.12.2009, 4 projects were financially completed in the form of settlement of final applications for payment. The projects of the upper-tier territorial units (hereinafter simply “UTTUs”) of Žilina, Trenčín, Nitra and Košice were financially completed. At the same time, the first follow-up monitoring reports regarding these projects were submitted within the period monitored.

In the case of the project of the Prešov UTTU the beneficiary withdrew from the NFC contract on 8.10.2009. The NFC contract was subject to extraordinary termination by withdrawal from the side of the Prešov UTTC due to insufficient project administration capacities. On the basis of a request from the Prešov UTTU, the MH SR issued on 14.10.2009 a decision approving the application for extraordinary termination of the NFC contract. Withdrawal from the NFC contract entered into effect on 8.10.2009, when the provider received the written notice of the beneficiary concerning the withdrawal from the Contract. The beneficiary did not draw the approved and contracted NFC.

Based on the data given in the follow-up monitoring reports of the 4 financially completed projects we can note that the projects fulfilled the objectives set for building and stabilising human resources in healthcare in individual regions. Out of the total number of 89 healthcare workers who completed the programme of promoting specialism study, all the 89 healthcare workers continued to work in healthcare, at their respective healthcare facilities, 1 year following the completion of the financial assistance for the specialism study.

The projects' implementation fulfilled the set objectives pursuant to building and stabilising human resources in healthcare in the specialisations defined by the call. The numbers of healthcare workers actually involved in the projects of financial assistance for specialism study were almost identical to the planned figures. The results of the implemented projects are a good basis for continuing support for the specialism study under the follow-up call OPE 2008/2.2/03, on the basis of which three-year projects will be implemented in a greater financial volume.

At the same time we wish to highlight two examples of good practice in demand-driven projects from the above call implemented by the MH SR:

1. Project entitled: “Replenishing the Healthcare System with Qualified Specialists in the Trenčín Region”. Project objective: “Support for education for doctors providing healthcare at healthcare facilities in the Trenčín region”.

The support for specialism study under the projects, running from 15.8.2008 to 15.11.2008, was completed by 32 healthcare workers – doctors in the following specialised fields: Anaesthesiology and intensive medicine: 19 doctors; Stomatology: 10 doctors; Clinical oncology: 2 doctors; and Clinical immunology and allergology: 1 doctor.

The supported doctors undertook to provide health care at healthcare facilities in the Trenčín region at minimum one year following the end of the project.

During a 3-month period the proposed model of financing was verified in practice as the basis for preparing further projects in accordance with the prepared analysis of education needs for healthcare workers in the Trenčín self-governing region.

Once the project was completed, the target group had improved its professional skills and has been contributing to improving the quality of health care provided. One year after the project activities being completed all 32 doctors are working in healthcare facilities in the Trenčín self-governing region. The Trenčín self-governing region in cooperation with the healthcare providers created, via stabilisation arrangements, conditions for permanent sustainability of the project results.

This project was introduced to the general public at the second year of the “Day of Structural Funds in healthcare”, held on 26.11.2009 at the MH SR.

2. Project entitled: “Improving the Quality of Health Care Provided in the Area of the Košice Self-Governing Region through Increasing Healthcare Workers’ Qualification”.

The promotion of specialism study for young doctors under the project running from 15.8.2008 to 15.11.2008, with the aim of gaining a diploma in the given field, increased the number of doctors able to independently provide health care for the inhabitants of the Košice self-governing region. Through the contract on the provision of financial assistance for a part of the specialism study these workers undertook to perform the specialised healthcare activity in the territory of the region, or the SR for at least one year after the project’s being completed.

The specialism study was completed by 23 doctors in the specialised fields of: stomatology 6, anaesthesiology and intensive medicine 14, clinical oncology 1 and clinical immunology and allergology 2.

In addition to this, the UTTU prepared an analysis of the state of healthcare worker human resources in the territory of the Košice self-governing region – the analysis of education needs for healthcare workers by age and by founder. The analysis enabled thorough mapping of the current state of human resources in the field of healthcare and for preparing a strategy for further education of healthcare workers. It at the same time serves as the basis for preparing and implementing follow-up projects focusing on raising the education level of healthcare workers in the territory of the Košice self-governing region. One year after the project activities being

completed all 23 doctors supported are working in healthcare facilities in the Košice self-governing region.

2) Call OPE 2008/2.2/02

Under the call for AfNFCs within Measure 2.2 Promotion of further education in health care, entitled “**Developing New Forms of Further Education in Healthcare**”, 1 AfNFC was submitted. In the period monitored the assessment and selection process was completed, the project was contracted and its implementation began. Further information concerning the call OPE 2008/2.2/02 is available in the 2008 Annual Report.

On the basis of the formal accuracy assessment and expert assessment the AfNFC was recommended for approval by the Selection Committee of the MH SR. The decision approving the AfNFC was issued on 1.4.2009.

On 15.5.2009 the NFC contract was signed with the successful applicant – the Slovak Chamber of Medicine, while the period for the project activities’ implementation commenced on 1.6.2009, with a 36-month duration. The subject of the project is to develop new forms of further education aimed at the specific objective 2 of measure 2.2: Implementing Innovations and Raising Quality and the Further Education System in Healthcare. The project objective is to create an e-learning portal intended for educating doctors, including the development and update of e-learning education units.

The project in its initial implementation stage implemented the input project activities – preparations and analyses targeted at creating an e-learning portal for educating doctors.

As at 31.12.2009 the implementation process for the project activities concerning the Slovak Chamber of Medicine continued. The beneficiary submitted two interim applications for payment. The first year of the project implementation will be devoted to developing the e-learning portal and the creation of education modules. In the following two years of project implementation the activities will be continued in creating new education modules alongside making the portal available to the target group with the purpose of supplementing and maintaining professional knowledge by way of a distance form of continuing education. It is expected that by the end of the project’s activities as many as 6 000 doctors will have been trained in the framework of the new portal.

3) Call OPE 2008/2.2/03

Under the call for AfNFCs in the framework of Measure 2.2 Promoting Further Education in Healthcare, entitled “Developing New Forms of Further Education in Healthcare”, 1 AfNFC was submitted.

The call for submission of AfNFCs under Measure 2.2 Promoting Further Education in healthcare, entitled “Replenishing the Healthcare System with Qualified Specialists” was being closed in the period monitored.

Further information concerning the call OPE 2008/2.2/03 is available in the 2008 Annual Report.

The closing date for the call was 13.2.2009.

As at 13.2.2009 the total number of AfNFCs received under the call was 7, out of the total number of 7 eligible NFC applicants. The requested NFC totalled €9 311 185.79.

In the period monitored the process of assessing individual applications took place (formal accuracy assessment – verification of eligibility, completeness and ex-ante financial check). All the applications subsequently underwent the expert assessment process, held on 15.4.2009.

The MH SR Selection Committee meeting for approving AfNFCs was held on 7.5.2009. On the basis of outputs from the expert assessment the Selection Committee recommended for approval all 7 AfNFCs submitted. The Selection Committee recommended for approval all 7 projects, with the total amount of €9 259 325.80 of the requested NFC.

In June 2009 the decisions approving AfNFCs were issued for 5 applications (Nitra, Trenčín, Banská Bystrica, Žilina and Trnava self-governing regions). The remaining two decisions were issued over the course of July 2009.

Subsequently, in the framework of all 7 approved AfNFCs, there followed the process of preparing and signing the NFC contracts. Once the contracts were concluded, all the projects started to be implemented on 1.9.2009.

Based on the data from the first interim monitoring reports, in total 368 healthcare workers have been involved in activities for promoting the specialism study as at 31.12.2009. In the period monitored the Prešov, Košice, Banská Bystrica and Nitra self-governing regions submitted their applications for pre-financing, and subsequently the beneficiaries received this pre-financing.

4) Call OPE 2009/2.2/01

The call for AfNFCs under measure 2.1 Promoting Further Education in Healthcare, entitled “**Support for Evaluating the Systematic Education for Healthcare Workers**” was declared on 28.5.2009. The closing date for the call was 29.7.2009.

The financial allocation for this call was €1 500 000 and the financial contribution per AfNFC was limited to the interval of at minimum €500 000 and at maximum €1 500 000.

The call was focused on supporting the evaluation of the systematic education of healthcare workers.

The target group of the call comprised:

- healthcare workers (under § 27 of Act No 578/2004 Coll. on the healthcare providers, healthcare workers, professional organisations in health care and on the amendment of certain acts) performing their healthcare profession at the place of implementation of the projects defined under the call.

Geographically, the call covered the whole territory of the Convergence Objective. The following eligible applicants were defined in the call:

- chambers as professional organisations in health care, associating more than 10 000 registered healthcare workers.

The total number of AfNFCs recorded under the call as at 29.7.2009 was 2.

The formal accuracy assessment and registration of AfNFCs into the ITMS started on 30.7.2009 and was completed on 31.8.2009.
Only one AfNFC was registered.

The expert assessment of the AfNFC was carried out on 7.9.2009 by one external and one internal assessor.

The Selection Committee meeting was held on 10.9.2009. The subject of selection comprised 1 AfNFC. The Selection Committee recommended for approval 1 project with a total amount of €1 264 938.47. The approval decision was issued on 19.10.2009.

The contracting process was held on 27.11.2009, when the NFC contract was signed with the successful applicant. The total NFC allocation of the concluded contract is €1 264 938.47, representing 84.32% of the allocation for this call.

As at 31.12.2009 the project was in its initial phase at the start of implementation of project activities.

5) Call OPE 2009/2.2/02

The call for AfNFCs under measure 2.1 Promoting Further Education in Healthcare, entitled **“Raising Other Skills of Healthcare Workers”** was declared on 30.9.2009. The closing date for the call was 30.11.2009.

The financial allocation for this call was €7 000 000 and the financial contribution per AfNFC was limited to the interval of at minimum €2 000 000 and at maximum EUR5 000 000.

The call was focused on supporting an increase in the professional vocational activities of healthcare workers by means of further education, with the option of using electronic and other forms of further education.

The target group of the call comprised:

- healthcare workers performing their occupation at an employer seated in the area of the Convergence objective, who is an NFC applicant, or its cooperating party.

Geographically the call covered the whole territory of the SR except for the Bratislava self-governing region. The following eligible applicants were defined in the call:

- budgetary and government-subsidised organisations.

Under the call, as at 30.11.2009, the total number of recorded AfNFCs received was 2. As at 31.12.2009 the formal accuracy assessment process was under way in the case of both AfNFCs received, and which will be completed at the start of 2010. As at 31.12.2009, 1 AfNFC had been rejected in the formal accuracy assessment.

Detailed information on the state of declaring calls under priority axis 2 is provided in Table 39.

Table 39: State of declaring calls under priority axis 2 in the period from 1.1.2009 to 31.12.2009

Measure	Type of call	Call declared on	Closing date for receiving AfNFCs	Financial allocation per call (NRF) in €		
				Total	Of which	
					SF/CF	SB
2.1	Call cancelled, national project	4.5.2009	3.7.2009	44 100 000.00	37 485 000.00	6 615 000.00
2.1	time limited, national project	8.7.2009	9.9.2009	44 100 000.00	37 485 000.00	6 615 000.00
2.1	time limited, demand-driven projects	12.8.2009	13.10.2009	7 500 000.00	N/A	N/A
2.1	time limited, national project	12.10.2009	15.1.2010	42 600 000.00	36 210 000.00	6 390 000.00
2.2	time limited, demand-driven projects	28.5.2009	29.7.2009	1 500 000.00	N/A	N/A
2.2	time limited, demand-driven projects	30.9.2009	30.11.2009	7 000 000.00	N/A	N/A
Total for priority axis 2				146 800 000.00	N/A	N/A

Table 40 gives further information on the development of implementation of priority axis 2.

Table 40: Development of implementation of priority axis 2 as at 31.12.2009

Measure	AfNFCs received	AfNFCs rejected	AfNFCs approved	Projects contracted	Projects in implementation	Contracts withdrawn	Projects completed
2.1	23	12	11	2	2	0	0
2.2	17	2	14*	13	9	1	4
Total	40	14	25	15	11	1	4
Financial quantification of SF/CF and SB in €							
Measure	Contribution requested	Contribution rejected	Contribution approved	Contracted funds	Funds repaid	Projects completed	
2.1	103 123 140.34	49 141 508.79	53 981 631.55	50 222 292.34	10 865.78	0	
2.2	20 625 755.91	3 135 380.61	12 730.18	12 433 184.50	0	216 398.49	
Total	123 748 896.25	52 276 889.40	66 475 361.73	62 655 476.84	10 865.78	216 398.49	

*assessment process of the call OPE 2009/2.2/02 had not been completed as at 31.12.2009

Since the assessment process of call OPE 2009/2.2/02 had not been completed in the framework of measure 2.2, and the contracting process of measure 2.1 had not been completed by the end of 2009, it is not possible to provide information on the physical progress made in the implementation of the measure, or to make an analysis of development in the implementation. The individual data will be provided in the 2010 Annual Report.

Equal opportunities between men and women were ensured in the period monitored the (see Table “Monitoring of target groups by priority axis”).

Fulfilment of measurable indicators

Table 41 gives further information on the fulfilment of physical indicators under priority axis 2.

Table 41: Fulfilment of physical indicators as at 31.12.2008

Indicator		2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	Total
1. Percentage of inhabitants involved in lifelong learning per 100 inhabitants aged 25-64	Result achieved	3.9%	3.3%	2.8%	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	2.8%
	Target	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	12.50%	N/A	N/A	12.50%
	Baseline	4.6%	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	4.6%
2. Number of lecturers who completed further education programmes of which: women/men broken down by age: 24-45, 46 and above	Result achieved	0	0	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0
	Target	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	1000	N/A	N/A	1000
	Baseline	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
3. Number of promoted further education programmes	Result achieved	0	0	3	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	3
	Target	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	150	N/A	N/A	150
	Baseline	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
4. Number of newly-created networks developed within the learning regions	Result achieved	0	0		N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0
	Target	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	20	N/A	N/A	20
	Baseline	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
5. Number of networks developed within the learning regions, existing following the end of the OPE assistance	Result achieved	0	0	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0
	Target	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	80%	N/A	N/A	80%
	Baseline	0%	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
6. Share of healthcare workers who completed further education programmes for healthcare workers, of which: women/men broken down by age: 24-54, 54 and above	Result achieved - Men ♂ - Women ♀	N/A	0.19%	0.12% ♀:63 ♂:37 aged 24 – 54: 100	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0.12%
	Target	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	7%	N/A	N/A	7%
	Baseline	0%	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

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7. Number of further education programmes for healthcare workers	Result achieved	0	0	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0
	Target	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	20	N/A	N/A	20
	Baseline	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
8. Share of healthcare workers remaining in the healthcare system after closing further education programmes, of which: women/men broken down by age: 24-54, 54 and above	Result achieved	0	0	100 ♀:63 ♂:37 aged 24 – 54: 100	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	100
	Target	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	80%	N/A	N/A	80%
	Baseline	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

Values from the fulfilment of physical indicators are given on the basis of the fulfilment of result indicators at the level of the implemented projects. Low or zero indicator values are due to the fact that the projects are at the start of their implementation and the resultant indicator values will be achieved at the end of the projects' implementation.

In the case of indicator no. 6 Share of healthcare workers who completed the further education programmes for healthcare workers, the value achieved for 2009 is lower (0.12%) than that indicated in the 2008 Annual Report (0.19%) due to the withdrawal from the NFC contract of the Prešov self-governing region from the side of the IBMA of the MH SR.

The value of indicator no. 6 should rise progressively over the year 2010 according to the number of healthcare workers who will complete their specialism study under the projects focused on the specialism study in individual self-governing regions of the call OPE 2008/2. 2/03.

A change also happened in result indicator no. 8 Share of healthcare workers remaining in the healthcare system after the completion of further education programmes. Based on the data from the first follow-up monitoring reports, all the healthcare workers who completed the programme for promoting further education remained working in the region. The current value of the indicator is 100%. Of the given number there were 63% women and 37% men.

Indicator no. 7 Number of further education programmes for healthcare workers is not as yet quantified, since under the mentioned activity of developing and updating education programmes no calls had yet been declared as at 31.12.2009.

With regard to the assessment of the settings for the accuracy of the system of measurable indicators and of the functioning of the monitoring system the MA is planning to perform over the course of 2010 an evaluation and verification of the setting for the accuracy of the system of OPE measurable indicators. The analysis of the adequacy of the setting of the system of measurable indicators will be a subject of the OPE 2010 Annual Report.

3.2.1.2 Financial implementation of priority axis 2

Further information on fund drawing under priority axis 2 is given in Table 42.

Table 42: Drawing of funds under priority axis 2 as at 31.12.2009

	Commitment 2007-2013 for EU sources	Drawing of funds in year N (EU sources) in€		Cumulative drawing of funds (EU sources) in€	
		Total	% of commitment 2007 – 2013	Total	% of commitment 2007 – 2013
Priority axis 2	146 000 000.00	291 658.79	0.20%	291 658.79	0.20%
Measure 2.1	109 500 000.00	54 357.08	0.05%	54 357.08	0.05%
Measure 2.2	36 500 000.00	237 301.71	0.65%	237 301.71	0.65%

As at 31.12.2009 the level of the actual fund drawing for 2009 under priority axis 2 reached the total value of €291 658.79 (source ESF), representing 0.20% of the commitment for 2007-2013. Drawing under priority axis 2 at the 0.20% level may be viewed as adequate in relation to the indicators attained at the end of the second year of the programming period 2007 – 2013 as well as with regard to the fact that actual implementation of OPE at the level of national and demand-driven projects began, in connection with the actual fund drawing, only in 2009. In this regard it should be noted that as at 31.12.2009 the rate of contracting in the total commitment under priority axis 2 for the programming period 2007 – 2009 reached the level of 36.77%, which may be classified as the adequate basis for ensuring the problem-free drawing of the EU structural funds. From the aspect of the commitments for individual years, the commitments for 2007 and 2008 are covered by the contracts, as is in large part also the commitment for 2009 (more than 65%).

From the aspect of the future drawing under the mentioned priority axis it is necessary to take into account also the legal form of beneficiaries and possible methods of financing their projects.

Since a part of the beneficiaries under priority axis 2 is eligible to the financing of their projects via pre-financing, in 2010 we expect a considerable increase in drawing via clearance of the pre-financing provided. In this regard it must be noted that as at 31.12.2009 the ME SR reported, under priority axis 2, provided but not yet cleared and certified pre-financing totalling €2 698 000 (of which ESF sources represent the amount of €2 328 000). Though the pre-financing does not represent drawing in relation to the certifying authority or the European Commission, these funds assist beneficiaries in implementing their projects (they are spent in the field by project developers), and are subsequently turned into drawing of the Structural Funds following their clearance and certification.

3.2.1.3 Specifics of ESF programmes

Assistance by target group and equal opportunities

Table 43 gives further information on target groups under priority axis 2.

Table 43: Monitoring of target groups under priority axis 2

a) Number of participants for 2009					
Entering participants		Leaving participants		People involved in the operational programme in the preceding year	
1189		1		0	
b) Breakdown of participants by gender			c) Breakdown of participants by age		
Number of men	Number of women		Number of persons aged 15 – 24	Number of persons aged 55 – 64	
692	497		3	12	
d) Breakdown of participants by labour market status					
Number of employed including self-employed persons	Number of self-employed persons	Number of unemployed, including long-term unemployed	Number of long-term unemployed	Number of inactive persons	Inactive persons – studying
1189	0	0	0	0	0
e) Breakdown of participants by educational attainment					
Primary or lower secondary education (ISCED 1 and 2)	Upper secondary education (ISCED 3)		Post-secondary non-tertiary education (ISCED 4)	Tertiary education (ISCED 5 and 6)	
0	110		0	1079	
f) Breakdown of participants by vulnerability group in accordance with national legislation					
Minorities	Migrants		Disabled persons		Other disadvantaged persons
66	4		4		0

More information on the monitored target groups is given in Chapter 2.1.8.

3.2.2. Serious problems encountered and measures taken to overcome them

On the whole it may be said that during the period monitored and over the course of the implementation of priority axis 2 no serious problems were encountered and therefore there was no need to adopt any measures for their removal (see Table 44).

Table 44: Monitoring of the number of measures adopted for the defined problems

Problems identified	Measures adopted	Number of measures adopted
0	0	0

3.3. Priority axis 3

The MA in the period monitored did not declare any direct awards for submitting national projects under priority axis 3 Support for Education for Persons with Special Education Needs.

According to the schedule for OPE direct awards, in September 2009 a direct award was to be declared under Measure 3.1 Raising the Education Level of Members of Marginalised Roma Communities, but due to the need to finalise the draft project and to expand it by new activities, which necessitated the engagement of experts from the State Pedagogical Institute (activities focusing on the Roma language – further education, developing teaching texts, methodological manuals, etc), the MA moved the deadline for declaring the direct award “Education of Teaching Staff with Regard to the Inclusion of Marginalised Roma Communities” to May 2010. The indicative allocation for this direct award is €18 300 000.

The ASFEU in the period monitored declared 2 calls for demand-driven projects for priority axis 3 Support for Education for Persons with Special Education Needs, for Measure 3.1 Raising the

Education Level of Members of the Marginalized Roma Communities, and for Measure 3.2 Raising the Education Level of Persons with Special Education Needs.

The total appropriation for the calls was €21 000 000. As at 31.12.2009, 153 AfNFCs had been received, of which 74 AfNFCs were approved and 72 projects contracted.

Activities covered by the calls were defined as follows:

- programmes for facilitating access and the successful performance of MRCs in education at primary schools in the municipalities with a concentration of MRCs (a share of Roma pupils exceeding 15% of all pupils at the primary school), including the daylong upbringing process;
- preparatory and remedial courses for primary school pupils from MRCs, aimed at enabling them to continue their studies at secondary schools, in the system of formal education;
- preparation and creation of teaching documentation and textbooks, teaching texts, teaching aids and handbooks, with the aim of enabling MRCs to integrate into the system of education at primary schools, innovation and in the methods and forms of the upbringing-education process at the special secondary schools supporting the key competences of disabled pupils and of teaching staff at special secondary schools with the use of new teaching materials in the framework of the upbringing-education process and facilitating access of disabled persons to education at secondary schools;
- projects focused on teaching the Roma language, literature and Roma studies at primary schools;
- innovation of teaching tools for developing primary school pupils' key competences;
- innovation of teaching tools for developing the key competences of disabled pupils at special secondary schools;
- creation and implementation of further education programmes for disabled persons;
- the creation and realisation of further education programmes for persons working with disabled persons;
- innovation of teaching tools for developing the key competences of disabled persons.

Target groups covered by the calls were defined as follows:

- primary school teaching staff;
- primary school pupils from MRCs;
- teaching staff at special secondary schools;
- disabled pupils at special secondary schools;
- disabled persons;
- persons working in the field of integrating disabled persons to society.

Allocations for the individual calls were as follows:

- for call OPV-2009/3.1/01-SORO, focused on the activation and motivation of MRC pupils, the appropriation totalled €13 000 000;
- for call OPV-2009/3.2/01-SORO, focused on innovation of methods and forms of the upbringing-education process at special secondary schools, the appropriation totalled €8 000 000.

In the period monitored the AfNFC approval process was completed and the NFC contracts were signed, and 2 projects were implemented under measure 3.1 as at 31.12.2009.

3.3.1 Achievement of objectives and analysis of progress made

In the period monitored, 153 AfNFCs amounting to €28 576 137.11 were received in the framework of the implementation of priority axis 3. Of these, 74 AfNFCs were approved in the total value of €12 719 839.58, of which 72 projects were contracted, and as at 31.12.2009, 2 projects were in the implementation phase.

Section 3.3.1.1 describes in detail the individual calls for demand-driven projects from their declaration through to project contracting.

3.3.1.1. State of physical progress made under priority axis 3

Measure 3.1

1) Call: OPV-2009/3.1/01-SORO

Call for submitting AfNFCs for primary schools under measure 3.1. Raising the Education Level of Members of Marginalised Roma Communities, entitled “**Programmes and Courses for Primary School Pupils from Marginalised Roma Communities**”, was declared on 27.2.2009. The closing date was 27.4.2009.

The financial allocation for this call was €13 000 000 and the financial contribution per AfNFC was limited to the interval of at minimum €100 000 and at maximum €300 000.

The call was focused on activating and motivating MRC pupils and on implementing innovative teaching methods as a tool for MRC’s inclusion into the teaching process and society.

The target group of the call comprised:

- primary teaching staff;
- primary school pupils from MRCs.

Geographically the call covered the whole territory of the SR except for the Bratislava self-governing region. The following eligible applicants were defined in the call:

- primary schools in the founder competence of municipalities and regional school authorities with a share of Roma pupils exceeding 15% of all pupils at the primary school;
- church primary schools with a share of Roma pupils exceeding 15% of all pupils at the primary school;
- private primary schools with a share of Roma pupils exceeding 15% of all pupils at the primary school;
- primary art schools with a share of Roma pupils exceeding 15% of all pupils at the primary school.

In the framework of the call there had been recorded as at 27.4.2009, a total number of 116 accepted AfNFCs with eligible expenditures totalling €22 434 702.52 and with requested an NFC of €21 447 608.65.

The formal accuracy assessment and registration of AfNFCs into the ITMS started on 28.4.2009 and was completed on 1.7.2009.

Of the total number of the AfNFCs received, **86** applications satisfied the conditions of the formal accuracy assessment and proceeded to the expert assessment phase. The financial allocation of total



eligible expenditure of those AfNFCs that fulfilled the formal accuracy assessment conditions and proceeded to the expert assessment phase, represents €16 763 223.78, the total amount of the NFC requested in these AfNFCs was €16 018 840.47.

Expert assessment of AfNFCs began on 2.7.2009 by random selection and assignment of AfNFCs to expert assessors in the presence of MA representatives and was completed on 24.7.2009. In total 86 AfNFCs were subject to expert assessment. The financial allocation of the proposed level of the NFC of those AfNFCs meeting at least the minimum score prescribed amounted to €8 677 152.80. The expert assessment of AfNFCs was completed by the deputy of the ASFEU general director signing the Summary Expert Assessment Report on 24.7.2009.

The Selection Committee meeting was held on 27.7.2009. Out of 51 AfNFCs the Selection Committee recommended for approval all 51 projects.

The contracting process was begun for 51 projects following the recommendation by the Selection Committee.

Under the mentioned call, in total 50 NFC contracts were signed as at 31.12.2009. The NFC for the 50 contracted projects totals €8 420 682.37, representing 64.77% of the allocation for this call.

As at 31.12.2009 only 2 projects had been implemented; the start date for the implementation of the activities of most of the projects is planned for the first quarter of 2010.

Measure 3.2

2) Call: OPV-2009/3.2/01-SORO

Call for submitting AfNFCs under measure 3.2 Raising the Education Level of Persons with Special Education Needs, entitled “**Innovation of the Methods and Forms of the Upbringing-Education Process and Creation of Further Education Programmes for Disabled Persons**”, was declared on 13.3.2009. The closing date was 8.6.2009.

The financial allocation for this call was €8 000 000 and the financial contribution per AfNFC was limited to the interval of at minimum €120 000 and at maximum EUR300 000.

The call was focused on the innovation of methods and forms of the upbringing-education process at special secondary schools with the aim of promoting key competences of disabled students and teachers of special secondary schools by using new teaching materials and teaching aids and thus on facilitating access to education at secondary schools for disabled persons;

The target group of the call comprised:

- teaching staff at special secondary schools;
- disabled pupils of special secondary schools;
- disabled persons;
- persons working in the field of integrating disabled persons to society.

Geographically the call covered the whole territory of the SR except for the Bratislava self-governing region. The following eligible applicants were defined in the call:

- special secondary school in the founder competence of regional school authorities and self-governing regions;

- church special secondary school;
- private special secondary school;
- regional school authority as the founder of a special secondary school, special education facility and special education consultancy and prevention facility;
- self-governing region as the founder of a special secondary school;
- non-governmental organisations (outside the de minimis aid scheme), having had for at minimum 1 year prior to the call's declaration the following lines of work: provision of community services in the field of education;
- special upbringing facilities: diagnostics centre, re-education centre, treatment-education sanatorium (outside the de minimis aid scheme) included in the system of school facilities;
- school upbringing consultancy and prevention facilities: pedagogical-psychological consultancy and prevention centre, special-pedagogical consultancy centre (outside the de minimis aid scheme) included in the system of school facilities.

In the framework of the call there had been recorded as at 8.6.2009, a total number of 37 accepted AfNFCs with eligible expenditures totalling €7 259 740.08 and with requested an NFC of €7 128 528.46.

The formal accuracy assessment and registration into the ITMS started on 9.6.2009 and was completed on 3.8.2009.

Of the total number of the AfNFCs received, 29 applications satisfied the conditions of the formal accuracy assessment and proceeded to the expert assessment phase.

The financial allocation of total eligible expenditure of those AfNFCs that fulfilled the formal accuracy assessment conditions and proceeded to the expert assessment phase, represents €5 523 359.77, the total amount of the NFC requested in these AfNFCs was €5 416 399.55.

Expert assessment of AfNFCs began on 4.8.2009 by random selection and assignment of AfNFCs to expert assessors in the presence of MA representatives and was completed on 20.8.2009. In total 29 AfNFCs were subject to expert assessment.

The Selection Committee meeting was held on 21.8.2009. The Selection Committee recommended for approval 23 projects.

The contracting process was begun for 23 projects following the recommendation by the Selection Committee. In total 22 NFC contracts were signed in the framework of the call. The level of the NFC of the 22 contracted projects totals €3 883 767.27, representing 48.54% of the allocation for this call.

As at 31.12.2009 none of the projects had been implemented. The start date for the implementation of the activities of most of the projects is planned for the first quarter of 2010. Detailed information on the state of declaring calls under priority axis 3 is provided in Table 45.

Table 45: State of declaring calls under priority axis 3 in the period from 1.1.2009 to 31.12.2009

Measure	Type of call	Call declared on	Closing date for receiving AfNFCs	Financial allocation per call (NRF) in €		
				Total	Of which	
					SF/CF	SB
Total for priority axis 2				146 800 000.00	N/A	N/A
3.1	time-limited, demand-driven projects	27.2.2009	27.4.2009	13 000 000.00	N/A	N/A
3.2	time-limited, demand-driven projects	13.3.2009	8.6.2009	8 000 000.00	N/A	N/A

Total for priority axis 3	21 000 000.00	N/A	N/A
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Table 46 gives further information on the development of implementation of priority axis 3.

Table 46: Monitoring of the development of priority axis 3 as at 31.12.2009

Measure	AfNFCs received	AfNFCs rejected	AfNFCs approved	Projects contracted	Projects in implementation	Contracts withdrawn from	Projects completed
3.1	116	65	51	50	2	0	0
3.2	37	14	23	22	0	0	0
Total	153	79	74	72	2	0	0
Financial quantification of SF/CF and SB in €							
Measure	Contribution requested	Contribution rejected	Contribution approved	Contracted funds	Funds repaid	Projects completed	
3.1	21 447 608.65	12 770 455.85	8 677 152.80	8 420 682.37	0	0	
3.2	7 128 528.46	3 085 841.68	4 042 686.78	3 883 767.27	0	0	
Total	28 576 137.11	15 865 297.53	12 719 839.58	12 304 449.64	0	0	

Since under measure 3.1 only 2 projects were in the initial implementation phase as at 31.12.2009 and under measure 3.2 the projects will be implemented in 2010, it is not possible to provide information on the physical progress made in implementation of the measure, or to make an analysis on the implementation's development. The individual data will be provided in the 2010 Annual Report.

Fulfilment of physical indicators

Table 47 gives further information on the fulfilment of physical indicators under priority axis 3.

Table 47: Fulfilment of physical indicators as at 31.12.2009

Indicator		2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	Total
1. Number of special-needs students involved in education programmes of which: MRC students socially-disadvantaged students students with special upbringing-education needs	Result achieved	0	0	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0
	Target	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	10 000	N/A	N/A	10 000
	Baseline	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
2. Number of formal education programmes for persons with special education needs of which: programmes focused on MRC students, socially-disadvantaged students and students with special upbringing-education needs	Result achieved	0	0	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0
	Target	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	15	N/A	N/A	15
	Baseline	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

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3. Number of persons involved in social inclusion of persons with special education needs, trained under the further education programmes of which: Women/men by age: 16-24, 25-45, 46 and above By education: primary, secondary, tertiary	Result achieved	0	0	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0
	Target	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	35 000	N/A	N/A	35 000
	Baseline	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
4. Number of further education programmes for persons involved in social inclusion of persons with special education needs of which: Women/men By age: 16-24, 25-45, 46 and above	Result achieved	0	0	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0
	Target	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	35	N/A	N/A	35
	Baseline	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
5. Rate of employment among participants from the formal education programmes for persons with special education needs of which: Women/men MRC, socially-disadvantaged and disabled persons placed in the labour market that were placed in the following education grade, registered at the Labour, Social Affairs and the Family Office	Result achieved	0	0	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0
	Target	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	40	N/A	N/A	40
	Baseline	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
6. Rate of employment among participants from the further education programmes for persons with special education needs	Result achieved	0	0	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0
	Target	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	40	N/A	N/A	40
	Baseline	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
7. school failure of socially-disadvantaged students at primary schools	Result achieved	0	0	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0
	Target	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	50	N/A	N/A	50
	Baseline	65.4	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	65.4

Since under measure 3.1 only 2 projects were in their initial implementation phase as at 31.12.2009 and under measure 3.2 the projects will be implemented in 2010, the fulfilment of physical indicators indicates zero values. The individual data will be provided in the 2010 Annual Report.

With regard to the assessment of the settings for the accuracy of the system of measurable indicators and of the functioning of the monitoring system the MA is planning to perform over the course of 2010 an evaluation and verification of the setting for the accuracy of the system of OPE measurable indicators. The analysis of the adequacy of the setting of the system of measurable indicators will be a subject of the OPE 2010 Annual Report.

3.3.1.2 Financial implementation of priority axis 3

Further information on fund drawing under priority axis 3 is given in Table 48.

Table 48: Drawing of funds under priority axis 3 as at 31.12.2009

	Commitment 2007-2013 for EU sources	Drawing of funds in year N (EU sources) in€		Cumulative drawing of funds (EU sources) in€	
		Total	% of commitment 2007 – 2013	Total	% of commitment 2007 – 2013
Priority axis 3	65 000 000.00	0.00	0.00%	0.00	0.00%
Measure 3.1	48 700 000.00	0.00	0.00%	0.00	0.00%
Measure 3.2	16 300 000.00	0.00	0.00%	0.00	0.00%

Since under measure 3.1 only 2 projects were in their initial implementation phase as at 31.12.2009 and under measure 3.2 the projects will be implemented in 2010, the fund drawing in 2009 indicates zero values for the period monitored. An analysis of the fund drawing will be provided in the 2010 Annual Report. Despite this, however, it may be noted that already at the close of 2009 appropriate conditions had been established for beginning the problem-free drawing of EU Structural Funds in 2010, and this via contracting financial resources under both measures of the priority axis 3. As at 31.12.2009 the rate of contracting in the total commitment under priority axis 3 for the programming period 2007 – 2009 achieved the value of 16.56%. From the aspect of commitments for individual years, the commitment for 2007 was contractually covered and as was partially also the commitment for 2008 (16.9%).

From the aspect of the future drawing under the mentioned priority axis it is necessary to take into account also the legal form of beneficiaries and possible methods of financing their projects.

Since a part of the beneficiaries under priority axis 3 is eligible to the financing of their projects via pre-financing, in 2010 we expect a considerable increase in drawing via clearance of the pre-financing provided.

3.3.1.3 Specifics of ESF programmes

Assistance by target group and equal opportunities

Table 49 gives further information on target groups under priority axis 3.

Table 49: Monitoring of target groups under priority axis 3

a) Number of participants for 2009					
Entering participants		Leaving participants		People involved in the operational programme in the preceding year	
0		0		0	
b) Breakdown of participants by gender			c) Breakdown of participants by age		
Number of men	Number of women	Number of persons aged 15 – 24	Number of persons aged 55 – 64		
0	0	0	0		
d) Breakdown of participants by labour market state					
Number of employed including self-employed persons	Number of self-employed persons	Number of unemployed, including long-term unemployed	Number of long-term unemployed	Number of inactive persons	Inactive persons – studying
0	0	0	0	0	0
e) Breakdown of participants by educational attainment					

Primary or lower secondary education (ISCED 1 and 2)	Upper secondary education (ISCED 3)	Post-secondary non-tertiary education (ISCED 4)	Tertiary education (ISCED 5 and 6)
0	0	0	0
f) Breakdown of participants by vulnerability group in accordance with national legislation			
Minorities	Migrants	Disabled persons	Other disadvantaged persons
0	0	0	0

For the period monitored it is not possible to provide information required under Article 10 of Regulation (EC) No 1081/2006, since in 2009 the activities performed under priority axis 3 comprised primarily the declaration of calls, assessment of AfNFCs, and contracting of the approved AfNFCs. As at 31.12.2009, 2 projects were in implementation. For the reason that as at 31.12.2009 the IBMA did not have available monitoring reports for the projects implemented, the information on monitoring target groups for priority axis 3 will be available in the 2010 Annual Report.

3.3.2. Serious problems encountered and measures taken to overcome them

On the whole it may be said that during the period monitored and over the course of the implementation of priority axis 3 no serious problems were encountered and therefore there was no need to adopt any measures for their removal (see Table 50).

Table 50: Monitoring of the number of measures adopted for the defined problems

Problems identified	Measures adopted	Number of measures adopted
0	0	0

3.4 Priority axis 4

In the period monitored, the MA declared **4** direct awards under priority axis 4 Modern Education for a Knowledge-Based Society for the Bratislava Region, for Measure 4.1. Transformation of the Traditional School to a Modern School for the Bratislava Region (1 direct award), and Measure 4.2. Raising the Competitiveness of the Bratislava Region by Developing Tertiary and Further Education(3 direct awards)

The themes of direct awards stemmed from the themes of the national projects that were approved at the Panel Meeting of the SR Minister of Education. Direct awards were declared from March to October 2009.

In the period monitored the following direct awards were declared:

- **External Evaluation of School Quality Promoting Self-Evaluation Processes and School Development, OPV/K/RKZ/NP/2009-1** – focused on building up an efficient and reliable statistical data collection and processing system for external evaluation of school quality; preparing an evaluation and self-assessment model and system of the of schools' and school facilities' work, including its practical application and the implementation of external evaluation of primary and secondary schools;
- **Professional and Career Growth of Teaching Staff, OPV/K/RKZ/NP/2009-2** – focused mostly on the development, innovation and implementation of professional standards and instruments for evaluating the development of professional skills, developing and accrediting further education programmes;

- **Professional and Career Growth of Teaching Staff, OPV/K/RKZ/NP/2009-3** – focused mostly on the development, innovation and implementation of professional standards and instruments for evaluating the development of professional skills, developing and accrediting further education programmes;
- **National System of Qualifications in the Context of Further Education Supported by a System of Guidance, OPV/K/RKZ/NP/2009-6** – focused on the development and implementation of a national system of qualifications.

National projects declared in 2008 the implementation of which began or continued in 2009:

- **Education of Primary School Teachers in Foreign Languages in Connection with the White Paper for Teaching Foreign Languages at Primary and Secondary Schools, OPV/K/RKZ/NP/2008-1** – focused on adding a foreign language to qualifications of 1st grade teachers and on extending the study of 2nd grade primary school teachers qualified to teach a foreign language to include pedagogical-psychological foundations and the didactics of teaching foreign languages at the 1st grade of primary schools;
- **Further Education for Primary and Secondary School Teachers in the Subject of Informatics, OPV/K/RKZ/NP/2008-2** – focused on supplementing the qualification of primary and secondary school teachers with the subject of informatics and further education for primary and secondary school teachers of informatics;
- **Modernisation of the Education Process at Primary Schools, OPV/K/RKZ/NP/2008-3** – focused on training primary school teaching staff in ICT;
- **Modernisation of the Education Process at Secondary Schools, OPV/K/RKZ/NP/2008-4** – focused on training secondary school teaching staff in ICT;
- **Teacher Education with Regard to Developing School Education Programmes, OPV/K/RKZ/NP/2008-5** – focused on training multipliers for education are of primary and secondary school teaching staff for implementing education content reform and for creating school education programmes, training of primary and secondary school teaching staff for implementing education content reform and creating school education programmes;
- **Developing New Vocational Education Programmes for the Needs of the Automobile Industry II, OPV/K/RKZ/NP/2008-6** – focused on creating secondary school leaver profiles relevant to the needs of manufacturers of automobile components and accessories, with a view to increasing employment in this group of secondary school leavers;
- **Education of nursery teaching staff as a Component of Education Reform, OPV/K/RKZ/NP/2008-7** – focused mostly on training activities developing professional key competences of nursery teaching staff and on developing innovative upbringing and education strategies at nurseries.

In the period monitored, 4 AfNFCs were received under priority axis 4, of which one came from a direct award declared back in 2008, though its closing date was 12.1.2009. This concerned a direct award entitled “**Education of Nursery Teaching Staff as a Component of Education Reform**”. In the period monitored 5 projects were contracted, of which 3 were projects from calls declared in 2008 and their contracting process continued on in 2009. This concerned the following projects: “**Education of Teaching Staff with Regard to Developing School Education Programmes**”, “**Developing New Vocational Education Programmes for the Needs of the Automobile Industry**”

II”, “Education of Nursery Teaching Staff as a Component of Education Reform”. Further information is given below in this chapter.

No national project was completed in the period monitored.

In the period monitored, the ASFEU declared **2** calls for demand-driven projects under priority axis 4 Modern Education for a Knowledge-Based Society for the Bratislava Region, for Measure 4.2. **Raising the Competitiveness of the Bratislava Region by Developing Tertiary and Further Education.**

The total appropriation for the calls declared in 2009 under measure 4.2 was €1 500 000. As at 31.12.2009, 8 AfNFCs had been received, of which the Selection Committee recommended 2 projects for approval. The process of submitting documents proving the fulfilment of conditions for the provision of assistance from the side of potential beneficiaries had not been completed by 31.12.2009. The process of contracting AfNFCs will be completed in 2010.

Activities covered by the calls were defined as follows:

- wider use of information technologies and new forms of education primarily in the field of external study (virtual universities, distance learning, etc.);
- development and innovation of study programmes placing emphasis on needs of the labour market and a knowledge-based society;
- encouraging greater interest in the study of mathematics, natural sciences, informatics and other technological study courses;
- creation of an internal model for ensuring the quality of tertiary education;
- development of study programmes in a world language, promoting international cooperation and mobility of the academic community;
- support for teaching foreign languages in tertiary education;
- creation of tools for monitoring the employment of university graduates in practice;
- building up efficient administration and management for institutes of tertiary education and support for qualified management through further training of the current management of institutes of tertiary education, administrative staff of institutes of tertiary education and through innovation of current management processes;
- projects for developing the professional growth of teachers in tertiary education, focused on raising the quality of education;
- education programmes focused on the pedagogical competence of doctoral students and on promoting an increase in the number of doctoral students / doctoral graduates at tertiary schools and institutes of the Slovak Academy of Sciences.
- promotion of mobilities between the R&D organisations and the business sector;
- education of research & development staff.
- programmes for encouraging research and the transfer of new technology and top expertise between research institutions and the business sector;
- information activities of research & development institutions aimed at increasing business sector's interest in research & development results;
- introducing or extending already-implemented joint study programmes of Slovak tertiary schools and leading universities abroad, including the granting of double or triple diplomas;
- programme for encouraging the mutual exchange of staff from research & development organisations, research institutes, businesses and universities;
- the creation and realisation of education programmes for persons participating in activities in the framework of education and for further education teachers, with a focus on deepening and extending qualification, professional skills and developing key competences for construction

of textile electro-technical, machinery and chemical sectors with regard to new technologies, innovation processes and their use in practice.

Target groups covered by the calls were defined as follows:

- students of state, public and private tertiary schools;
- tertiary education teachers at state, public and private tertiary schools;
- management of state, public and private tertiary schools;
- research & development staff at tertiary schools (including staff at the Slovak Academy of Sciences and its institutes);
- doctoral students;
- postdoctoral students;
- persons involved in activities in the framework of further education for the sectors of construction, textile, electronics, mechanical engineering and chemical industry, other than employees at risk of redundancy, low-qualified employees and the unemployed.
- further education lecturers.

Allocations for the individual calls declared in 2009 were as follows:

- for call **OPV-2009/4.2/01-SORO** the total appropriation amounted to €1 000 000;
- for call **OPV-2009/4.2/02-SORO** the total appropriation amounted to €500 000.

In the period monitored the ME SR declared 6 technical assistance (hereinafter simply “TA”) notices in the framework of priority axis 4, of which 2 notices were for ME SR technical assistance projects for 2009, 2 notices for ME SR technical assistance projects for 2010 and 2 notices for ASFEU technical assistance projects for 2010. In total 6 AfNFCs were received in the framework of these notices. As at 31.12.2009, 2 TA ME SR projects for 2009 were approved on the basis of the issued decision approving the AfNFC (in the case of TA of the MA the contract is not signed), 2 TA ASFEU projects for 2010 were approved and contracted, and the approval process for the 2 TA ME SR projects for 2010 will take place in 2010.

3.4.1 Achievement of objectives and analysis of progress made

Section 3.4.1.1.1 of this 2009 Annual Report describes the individual direct awards from their declaration through to project contracting and the state of implementation with regard to individual national projects for the period monitored. Section 3.4.1.1.2 of this 2009 Annual Report describes the calls for demand-driven projects from their declaration through to project contracting. Section 3.4.1.1.3 of this 2009 Annual Report and Chapter 6 of this 2009 Annual Report gives detailed information on the TA projects and use of TA funds by priority activity under priority themes.

3.4.1.1. State of physical progress made under priority axis 4

In the period monitored, 69 AfNFCs (national projects, demand-driven projects and TA projects) amounting to €26 588 049.92 were received in the framework of the implementation of priority axis 4.

Of these, 18 AfNFCs were approved in the total value of €8 877 875.30, of which 23 projects were contracted. As at 31.12.2009, 36 projects were in the implementation phase.

3.4.1.1.1. State of physical progress made under priority axis 4 – national projects

Measure 4.1

1) The direct award entitled “**Education in Primary School Teachers in Foreign Languages in Connection with the White Paper for Teaching Foreign Languages at Primary and Secondary Schools**” was declared on 22.2.2008 and the closing date was 22.4.2008. For more detailed information on the direct award, its assessment, approval, contracting process, see the 2008 Annual Report. Table 51 gives further information on the national project.

Table 51: State of implementation of the national project as at 31.12.2009

Project title:	Education of Primary School Teachers in Foreign Languages in Connection with the White Paper for Teaching Foreign Languages at Primary and Secondary Schools
Basis for national / regional policy:	The White Paper for Teaching Foreign Languages and Primary and Secondary Schools, approved by the SR Government on 12.9.2007 in SR Government Resolution No. 767/2007
Project objective:	The project objective is to achieve, in the long-term planning horizon, a 100% representation of 1 st grade primary school teachers qualified to teach a foreign language for the target group of pupils of younger school age.
Beneficiary:	State Pedagogical Institute
Project implementation period:	16.09.2008 – 15.09.2013
State of implementation for the period monitored:	The year 2009 saw the start of the education activities for the summer term participants, which took place from 13.3.2009 to 30.6.2009. During this term the largest group of participants undertook their education in all languages offered (language level A0/A1) – English, German, French, Italian, Spanish and Russian. They were trained at 115 learning centres across Slovakia and the event was sponsored by 15 universities. Subsequently, at the end of the term in June 2009 a questionnaire survey was carried out. Since June 2009 individual activities have been under way, connected with the preparation of the nationwide testing of participants, which will take place according to the project timetable. In October 2009 training was conducted for members of the examination team, who are the creators of the items. In December 2009 a training session was held at the CIEP headquarters in Paris for members of the examination team who will process and evaluate individual data. The start of the winter term in the academic year 2009/2010 was originally planned for 26.10.2009, but was postponed, depending on the individual tertiary schools' capacities, to mid-November 2009. Education is being conducted at several language levels. During November 2009 participants were provided with textbooks. During October and November 2009 participants were provided with notebooks. Working meetings of the managing teams were held on an ongoing basis.
State of implementation from the start of the project's implementation:	Statement under oath on the start of the project – 16.09.2008. Notice on the start of the implementation of the first activity – 16.09.2008. In 2008 the following preparatory activities were begun: 17.-19.10.2008 – coordination meeting in Piešťany (compiling the list of education places, division of participants, designing the public procurement criteria, organisational instructions). 21.11.2008 – information campaign in the form of a conference, presenting the project and its objectives. 16.12.2008 – meeting of the expert team, 17.12.2008 ceremonial opening of the project office. Activities proceeded in 2009 as described above in the part “State of implementation for the monitored period”. From the start of the project's implementation to 31.12.2009 the final beneficiary submitted 2 monitoring reports, on a quarterly basis.
Budget in €:	€16 421 280.29 €1 394 144.59 (RC&E Objective)
Financial implementation / drawing in € for the period monitored:	€281 994.51 €5 378.30 (RC&E Objective)
Financial implementation / drawing in € in cumulative terms from the start of the	€281 994.51 €5 378.30 (RC&E Objective)



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programming period	
Fulfilment of indicators for the period monitored:	Result indicators (planned state / outcome) Number of schools involved in implementation of the project activities 50 / 113 Number of staff involved in implementation of the project activities 500 / 312 Number of staff involved in the mobilities programmes 44 / 0 Number of newly-created / innovated education and study programmes 3 / 3
Fulfilment of indicators in cumulative terms from the start of the programming period	Since the indicators began to be fulfilled only in 2009, the same indicator values apply here as those stated above in the item "Fulfilment of indicators for the period monitored".

2) The direct award entitled "**Modernisation of the Education Process at Primary Schools**" was declared on 14.5.2008 and the closing date was 14.7.2008. For more detailed information on the direct award, its assessment, approval, contracting process, see the 2008 Annual Report. Table 52 gives further information on the national project.

Table 52: State of implementation of the national project as at 31.12.2009

Project title:	Modernisation of the education process at primary schools
Basis for national / regional policy:	The Bill on upbringing and education (Education Act) and on the amendment of certain acts, approved in the SR Government Resolution No 147/2008 of 5.3.2008. The act entered into effect on 1.9.2008.
Project objective:	The project objective is to prepare teachers for active implementation of education reform – adapting the education system to the needs of a knowledge-based society.
Beneficiary:	Institute of Education Information & Forecasting
Project implementation period:	1.12.2008– 30.11.2013
State of implementation for the period monitored:	In the framework of the project's implementation in 2009, the existing school database was updated and supplemented for the needs of the project, public procurement was made for the purchase of computer technology for primary schools, participants for the training were selected, materials for individual school subjects were created, the participants were provided with textbooks and teaching aids for Module 1 – Digital literacy of teachers, and module 1 training took place at all training centres.
State of implementation from the start of the project's implementation:	Statement under oath on the start of the project – 1.12.2008 Notice on the start of the implementation of the first activity – 1.12.2008 The project's implementation began on 1.12.2008 with the activity publicity and information. Activities proceeded in 2009 as described above in the part "State of implementation for the monitored period". From the start of the project's implementation to 31.12.2009 the final beneficiary submitted 2 monitoring reports, on a quarterly basis.
Budget in €:	€33 077 287.06 €681 952.20 (RC&E Objective)
Financial implementation / drawing in € for the period monitored:	€14 108.80 €0.00 (RC&E Objective)
Financial implementation / drawing in € in cumulative terms from the start of the programming period	€14 108.80 €0.00 (RC&E Objective)
Fulfilment of indicators for the period monitored:	Result indicators (planned state / outcome) Number of newly-created education programmes 10 / 10 Number of schools involved in implementation of the project activities 158 / 159 Number of training courses for teaching staff 25 / 38 Number of staff involved in the project education activities 320 / 378 Number of newly-created / innovated education programmes using information-



	<p>communication technologies in the teaching process 10/10</p> <p>Number of schools involved in the implementation of the project's activities using information-communication technologies in the teaching process – 25 / 38</p> <p>Number of teaching staff involved in the project activities using information-communication technologies in the teaching process 320/378</p> <p>Number of schools involved in the implementation of the project activities containing pupils from marginalised Roma communities 5 / 54</p>
Fulfilment of indicators in cumulative terms from the start of the programming period	Since the indicators began to be fulfilled only in 2009, the same indicator values apply here as those stated above in the item "Fulfilment of indicators for the period monitored".

3) The direct award entitled "**Modernisation of the Education Process at Secondary Schools**" was declared on 14.5.2008 and the closing date was 14.7.2008. For more detailed information on the direct award, its assessment, approval, contracting process, see the 2008 Annual Report. Table 53 gives further information on the national project.

Table 53: State of implementation of the national project as at 31.12.2009

Project title:	Modernisation of the education process at secondary schools
Basis for national / regional policy:	The national project was prepared in connection with the Bill on upbringing and education (the Education Act) and on the amendment of certain acts, approved in the SR Government Resolution No 147/2008 of 5.3.2008. The objective of the national project is to change the forms of education at secondary schools, which would lead to the modernisation of the learning process.
Project objective:	<p>Rework the content of the secondary school curriculum and prepare school leavers by means of innovated forms and methods of teaching for the current and prospective needs of a knowledge-based society, as well as for subsequent education in the system of tertiary education and further education.</p> <p>Prepare teachers for active implementation of education reform – adapting the education system to the needs of a knowledge-based society.</p> <p>Innovate and modernise the content, methods and outputs of the learning process for new competences of work in the Modern School of the 21st Century.</p> <p>Increase the share of teachers participating in further education programmes with the aim of gaining and developing competences necessary for a knowledge-based society.</p>
Beneficiary:	Institute of Education Information & Forecasting
Project implementation period:	2.12.2008 – 30.11.2013
State of implementation for the period monitored:	<p>Brief description of physical implementation of the project:</p> <p>activity 1.1. Multimedia – digital content for teacher education to modernise education, create digital content for module 1, creation of 7 e-contents for general education subjects (mathematics, physics, chemistry, biology, geography, Slovak language, history)</p> <p>activity 1.2 Creation of textbooks and teaching aids for teachers to modernise education. Distribution of textbooks and teaching aids for module 1. Creation of 7 teaching aids for general education subjects (mathematics, physics, chemistry, biology, geography, Slovak language, history)</p> <p>activity 2.1 Teacher education in the field of modernisation of the teaching process. With regard to the time demands placed on the project by the public procurement, the start of preparatory activities was postponed by 2 months, because the supplier began to work on activity 1.1 from 1.4.2009. The deadline for the start of education was shifted to 1.9.2009. The 1st Teacher Education Module was completed in January 2010. The textbooks for Module 1 were distributed to teachers. The activity is being implemented by Elfa s.r.o.</p> <p>activity 2.2. Provision of technical equipment for modernising education – the activity concerning the provision of digital and teaching equipment (PC, notebook,</p>

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	datapjector) was implemented in 2009 by Datalan a.s.. Activity 2.2. was implemented only for the Convergence objective.
State of implementation from the start of the project's implementation:	Statement under oath on the start of the project of 02.12.2008. Notice on the start of the implementation of the first activity of 1.4.2009 Activities proceeded in 2009 as described above in the part "State of implementation for the monitored period". From the start of the project's implementation to 31.12.2009 the final beneficiary submitted 2 monitoring reports, on a quarterly basis.
Budget in €:	€13 191 749.65 €458 401.78 (RC&E Objective)
Financial implementation / drawing in € for the period monitored:	€16 713.41 €6 798.06 (RC&E Objective)
Financial implementation / drawing in € in cumulative terms from the start of the programming period	€16 713.41 €6 798.06 (RC&E Objective)
Fulfilment of indicators for the period monitored:	Result indicators (planned state / outcome) Number of newly-created education programmes 7 / 7 Number of schools involved in implementation of the project activities 119 / 110 Number of training courses for teaching staff 21 / 30 Number of staff involved in the project education activities 260 / 287 Number of newly-created / innovated education programmes using information-communication technologies in the teaching process 7 / 7 Number of schools involved in the implementation of the project's activities using information-communication technologies in the teaching process – 119 / 110 Number of teaching staff involved in the project activities using information-communication technologies in the teaching process 260 / 287 Number of schools involved in the implementation of the project, containing pupils from marginalised Roma communities 30 / 24
Fulfilment of indicators in cumulative terms from the start of the programming period	Since the indicators began to be fulfilled only in 2009, the same indicator values apply here as those stated above in the item "Fulfilment of indicators for the period monitored".

4) The direct award "**Teacher Education with Regard to Developing School Education Programmes**" was declared on 29.5.2008, with a closing date of 28.7.2008. For more information on the direct awards, its assessment, approval, contracting process, see the 2008 Annual Report.

The NFC contract was signed in the amount of €172 582.48 on 2.1.2009. Table 54 gives further information on the national project.

Table 54: State of implementation of the national project as at 31.12.2009

Project title:	Teacher education with regard to developing school education programmes
Basis for national / regional policy:	22 May 2008 the SR Parliament passed the Education Act. The Act entered into effect on 1.9.2008 and replaced the original Education Act of 1984. On 19.6.2008, following the Education Act being signed by the SR President, the national education programmes for individual levels of the education system and also the related school education programmes and methodology for their creation were approved. The schools could officially begin to prepare their own school education programmes. In August 2008, 13 decrees concerning the Education Act entered into effect. They are effective as of 1.9.2008. From 1.9.2008 the schools began to teach according to their own school education programmes in the first and fifth year of primary school and in the first year of secondary school, primary art school and language school. The creation of school education programmes at the level of schools constitutes the reform of education content. The training activities of the project include also the



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	<p>implementation of further training of teaching staff for acquiring and developing competences ensuring the efficient conversion of the traditional school to a modern school.</p> <p>The training activities and the methodological activity within the project will lead to the innovation of education content and methods at schools and at the same time will increase the quality of education outputs at schools, while the objective is to educate with a view to labour market needs in a knowledge-based society.</p>
Project objective:	Nationwide retraining and education of primary and secondary school teaching staff for implementing reform in education content and creating new school education programmes.
Beneficiary:	State Institute of Vocational Training
Project implementation period:	2.1.2009 – 31.8.2012
State of implementation for the period monitored:	<p>1.1 Creation and progressive supplementing, or changes within the design team (internal and external workers, suppliers) – the project steering committee, the coordination, expert and training team.</p> <p>1.2 The work of expert working groups – expert working groups work on expert topics (e.g. interactive teaching methods, methods and means of evaluation, principles and approaches to continuity in teaching at primary and secondary schools, etc), solve key tasks and problems with regard to the reworking of education content. They create methodological material of a fundamental nature, the purpose of which is to facilitate teachers in creating school education programmes, modernising and innovating textbook contents and teaching aids, applying new forms and methods of education, education methods in connection to the labour market, efficiently developing key competences, encouraging innovative methods and forms of further education of teaching staff, support for teachers' personal development, etc.</p> <p>2.1 Preparation, updating and evaluation of an education programme (courses) – the preparation, updating and evaluation of an education programme is based on three stages of implementation: Structuring of the education programme for continuous education (the whole education programme is based on a modular arrangement of education. Courses were specified, 3 modules were proposed, covering the education content used by the beneficiary as the key pillar in relation to the creation of school education programmes. Education outputs, recommended teaching aids, procedures and methods for the lecturer and participant, criteria, methods and aids of evaluation were also laid down.), creation of teaching material for future lecturers and teaching staff, further education of teaching staff (The basis for the creation will be formed by individual courses and modules of the structured education programme. A detailed "Methodology for Creating School Education Programmes for Primary Schools", "Methodology for Creating School Education Programmes for Secondary Schools" and Methodology for Creating School Education Programmes for Secondary Vocational Schools" has been developed, which will serve as a teaching material for participants, as well as for training lecturers) and the creation of on-line courses and teaching material for distance learning (on-line courses).</p> <p>2.2 Provision of education programme (courses) – in the provision of the education programme, the RC&E objective, the beneficiary has been implementing the courses since March 2010. This activity will be implemented in the following stages: Continuous education of multipliers, continuous education of teaching staff and distance education of teaching staff. For the RC&E objective, 600 teaching staff will be trained in the final stage.</p> <p>3.1 Creation of the content, production/publishing and distribution of the teachers' newspaper "Učiteľské Noviny" – biweekly publication of newspaper.</p> <p>3.2 Creation of the content, production/publishing and distribution of a multimedia education DVD – works are under way on a multimedia education DVD. It is intended to transfer knowledge from the field of education and vocational training and it is to promote the research & development results from the pedagogical aspect at primary and secondary schools, placing emphasis on the principles of lifelong learning.</p> <p>3.3 Creation of the content for programming, moderating of the eLearning portal –</p>



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	work is under way on the eLearning portal. It will serve as a space for intermediating information, trends and stimuli for raising quality of the teaching/learning process and for further education of teaching staff, for exchanging experience and creativity in the form of exchanging ideas, information, good practice, experience, solutions to problematic tasks.
State of implementation from the start of the project's implementation:	<p>A statement under oath on the start of the project – 2.1.2009.</p> <p>Notice on the start of the implementation of the first activity – 2.1.2009</p> <p>Activities proceeded in 2009 as described above in the part "State of implementation for the monitored period". From the start of the project's implementation to 31.12.2009 the final beneficiary submitted 3 monitoring reports, on a quarterly basis.</p>
Budget in €:	<p>€5 554 483.84</p> <p>€172 582.49 (RC&E Objective)</p>
Financial implementation / drawing in € for the period monitored:	€0.00*
Financial implementation / drawing in € in cumulative terms from the start of the programming period	€0.00*
Fulfilment of indicators for the period monitored:	<p>Result indicators (planned state / outcome)</p> <p>Number of schools involved in implementation of the project activities 100 / 0</p> <p>Number of staff involved in the project education activities 700 / 0</p> <p>Number of training courses for teaching staff 35 / 0</p> <p>Number of schools involved in the implementation of the project activities containing pupils from marginalised Roma communities 10 / 0</p> <p>The project outputs are of zero performance since the education courses started in March 2010. The outputs will start to be fulfilled from March 2010.</p>
Fulfilment of indicators in cumulative terms from the start of the programming period	It is not possible to monitor the fulfilment of the indicators from the start of the programming period for the reason stated above in the part "Fulfilment of indicators for the period monitored".

*financial drawing was zero due to government audit no. A310, on the basis of which the certifying authority suspended the applications for payment received

5) The direct award entitled "**Developing New Vocational Education Programmes for the Needs of Automobile Industry II**" was declared on 29.8.2008 and the closing date was 20.10.2008. For more detailed information on the direct award, its assessment and approval process, see the 2008 Annual Report.

The NFC contract was signed for the value of €257 517.37 on 15.4.2009, with the project's implementation commencing on the same day. In the period monitored 2 monitoring reports were received.

In the framework of the national project, 4 school education programmes (5 vocational specialisations in new study fields) will be created in direct connection to the national education programmes 23 and 24 Machinery and other metal-working production. Table 55 gives further information on the national project.

Table 55: State of implementation of the national project as at 31.12.2009

Project title:	Developing New Vocational Education Programmes for the Needs of the Automobile Industry II
Basis for national / regional policy:	Education reform, more specifically, the two-level model of creating education programmes at the national level – the national education programme (the national

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	curriculum) and at the regional level – the school education programme.
Project objective:	Training of vocationally competent students and teachers for the needs of automobile industry through the creation of education programmes, application of modern technologies in education.
Beneficiary:	State Institute of Vocational Training
Project implementation period:	15.4.2009 – 31.8.2013
State of implementation for the period monitored:	In 2009 three new vocational specifications (car salesperson, receiving technician, logistician) were created in a 2-year study field entitled Sales and Operation Garage Manager, and two new vocational specialisations (Automobile Parts & Accessories and Car Electronics) in the framework of a 4-year study field entitled production & control manager in the automobile industry, in the case of which the teaching process started from 1.9.2009. Over the course of 2009 teaching staff were trained for creating education programmes for the needs of the automobile industry. The teaching staff will use the results from the training for the creative process and subsequently for revising school education programmes. This year works were also under way on the creation of two expert studies, the results of which should improve the quality of the teaching process at individual schools in 2010. The studies are entitled “New Technologies in Education” and “Quality Management in the Automobile Industry”. The year 2009 was greatly affected by the economic crisis, which also influenced the automobile industry and the implementation of the project’s activities. As a result of the crisis the interest in education in the framework of study fields related to the automobile industry lessened from the side of the pupils, as did the interest of teaching staff in the education. The beneficiary was informed at the on-the-spot inspection, held on 14 – 15.12.2009, of the possibility to apply for a change to the NFC contract, specifically to Annex 5 (Detailed description of the project’s activities) in order to harmonise Annex 5 of the Contract with the project’s actual implementation.
State of implementation from the start of the project’s implementation:	Statement under oath on the start of the project – 15.4.2009 Notice on the start of the implementation of the first activity – 15.4.2009 Activities proceeded in 2009 as described above in the part “State of implementation for the monitored period”. From the start of the project’s implementation to 31.12.2009 the final beneficiary submitted 2 monitoring reports, on a quarterly basis.
Budget in €:	€8 323 639.37 €257 517.37 (RC&E Objective)
Financial implementation / drawing in € for the period monitored:	€0.00*
Financial implementation / drawing in € in cumulative terms from the start of the programming period	€0.00*
Fulfilment of indicators for the period monitored:	Result indicators (planned state / outcome) Number of newly-created / innovated education and study programmes 5 / 5 Number of staff involved in the project education activities 20 / 9 Number of pupils / students involved in the implementation of the project activities – 232 / 100
Fulfilment of indicators in cumulative terms from the start of the programming period	Since the indicators began to be fulfilled only in 2009, the same indicator values apply here as those stated above in the item “Fulfilment of indicators for the period monitored”.

*Two pre-financing amounts were provided: €31 102.43 (June 2009) and €22 529 (December 2009). The beneficiary presented the clearance of pre-financing amount of €2 528.84 (November 2009), which was returned to the beneficiary for supplementing and three clearances of pre-financing amounts €1 403.79, €1 640.03 and €17 403.72 – (December 2009) on which formal and substantive check was performed. The beneficiary at the same time submitted an application for an interim payment of €352.15 (October 2009), the application was under the processing process, and applications for an interim payment of €1 024.02 and €1 684.84 (November 2009), which were returned to the beneficiary for supplementing (in 2010 they were rejected).

6) The direct award entitled “**Education of Nursery Teaching Staff as a Component of Education Reform**” was declared on 13.10.2008 with the closing date of 12.1.2009. The direct award focused on education activities designed to develop key professional competences of nursery teaching staff, including those of the nursery management staff and the state and public administration specialists in the area of pre-school education, on developing innovative strategies of upbringing and educating in nurseries, on creating new professional literature for the purposes of making the nursery education process more effective and for the purposes of developing school education programmes for nurseries, on developing new methodologies, professional publications, workbooks and teaching aids, teaching resources also in digital form for the upbringing and education activity at nurseries, on developing innovative teaching materials and aids for the upbringing – education process and on creating interactive education portal for lifelong learning of nursery teaching staff.

Target group

- 90% of nursery teaching staff, including nursery management in the RC&E objective – approx 1 350 nursery teaching staff;
- employees working in the field of education – professional employees of state and public administration working in the field of pre-school education at the Methodological-Pedagogical Centre, at regional school authorities, the ME SR, National School Inspectorate and the National Pedagogical Institute.

The total financial allocation was €19 584 412.14⁸, of which financial allocation for RC&E objective was at maximum €663 878.38.

The 1 AfNFC submitted totalled €663 827.64.

In the period of **12-30.1.2009** a formal accuracy assessment was conducted on the received application. The AfNFC was correctly and completely filled out and the MA for the OPE did not need to request any missing annexes.

Expert assessment was begun on 2.2.2009 and completed on 4.2.2009. The submitted application satisfied the conditions set by the expert assessment.

On 5.3.2009 the **Selection of AfNFC** took place and the AfNFC was approved.

The Decision approving the AfNFC was sent on 17.4.2009.

The total amount of funds approved in the AfNFC selection and approval process was €652 017.86. From the aspect of the approved AfNFC's contribution to the fulfilment of the HP, the AfNFC declared a contribution to the HP Marginalised Roma Communities, HP Equal Opportunities, HP Sustainable Development and HP Information Society.

The NFC contract was signed on 29.4.2009 with an NFC amount of €652 017.86 and on 1.5.2009 the project began to be implemented. In the period monitored 3 monitoring reports were received.

The objective of the national project is to implement reform of education content in the practice of nurseries by way of further education of nursery teaching staff, and to develop an efficient lifelong learning system aimed at developing key competences of nursery school teaching staff in accordance with the current and prospective needs of a knowledge-based society. The main attention in the project is focused on implementation of the National Education Programme into school education and

⁸ Including both objectives; the key for splitting the allocation was the size of the target group for which the national project is designed.



practice, on raising managerial skills and increasing digital literacy. Table 56 gives further information on the national project.

Table 56: State of implementation of the national project as at 31.12.2009

Project title:	Education of Nursery Teaching Staff as a Component Education Reform
Basis for national / regional policy:	Act No. 245/2008 on upbringing and education (Education Act) and on the amendment of certain acts
Project objective:	<p>Implement education content reform and develop a system of lifelong learning focused on developing nursery teachers' key competences in accordance with the needs of a knowledge-based society.</p> <p><i>Project specific objective 1:</i> Focus the preparation and further education of teaching staff on acquiring and developing competences to transform the traditional school to a modern school;</p> <p><i>Project specific objective 2:</i> Innovate the content and methods, raise the quality of education outputs for the labour market needs in a knowledge-based society.</p>
Beneficiary:	Methodological-Pedagogical Centre
Project implementation period:	1.5.2009 – 30.4.2013
State of implementation for the period monitored:	<p>The first activity, entitled "Development of Education Material" – processing of an analysis of requirements from practice began to be implemented on 1.5.2009. Implementation of further activities took place as follows:</p> <p><i>Activity 1.1 Training of the management and professional staff of state and public administration</i> (Beneficiary applied for a postponement in the schedule for this activity from 15.03.2010);</p> <p><i>Activity 1.2 Education of nursery teaching staff</i> has been running since 10/2009;</p> <p><i>Activity 1.3 Education portal</i> has been running since 10/2009;</p> <p><i>Activity 2.1 Development of education material</i> has been running since 10/2009;</p> <p><i>Activity 2.2 Professional stays and professional excursions</i> (Beneficiary applied for a postponement in the schedule for this activity from 15.03.2010);</p> <p><i>Activity 2.3 Professional seminars and professional conferences</i> (Beneficiary applied for a postponement in the schedule for this activity from 15.03.2010);</p> <p><i>Activity 2.4 Equipment and provision for the project</i> has been running since 10/2009.</p> <p>In November pilot education was launched in the framework of the programme Digital Technologies at nurseries in 1 group in the Bratislava region. At the same time 7 education programmes were sent for accreditation to the ME SR. The relevant outputs for the indicator Number of innovated / newly-created teaching materials are 2 publications: 1. <u><i>Methodology for Developing Nursery School Education Programmes</i></u> /Author: PhDr. Viera Hajdúková, PhD. et al.; reviewed by: PhDr. Oľga Mitrová, PaedDr. Silvia Mináriková/ 2. <u><i>How to learn more about a nursery child, or pedagogical diagnostics in nursery</i></u> /author: Doc. PaedDr. Daniela Valachová PhD.; reviewed by: PhDr. Viera Hajdúková, PhD./ Concurrently 1 education programme Digital technologies at nurseries (beginner level) was created.</p> <p>In accordance with the contract, on 6.10.2009 envelopes were opened and bids evaluated for the supplier of the equipment and provision. The purchase agreement was signed with the winner Columbex on 20.11.2009.</p>
State of implementation from the start of the project's implementation:	<p>The beneficiary submitted to the MA a declaration under oath on the start of the project on 1.5.2009, notifying it of the beginning of the first activity's implementation: The creation of education material – processing of an analysis of requirements in practice.</p> <p>Activities proceeded in 2009 as described above in the part "State of implementation for the monitored period". From the start of the project's implementation to</p>

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	31.12.2009 the final beneficiary submitted 3 monitoring reports, on a quarterly basis.
Budget in €:	€18 689 621.32 €652 017.86 (RC&E Objective)
Financial implementation / drawing in € for the period monitored:	€5 630.80 €510.09 (RC&E Objective)
Financial implementation / drawing in € in cumulative terms from the start of the programming period	€5 630.80 €510.09 (RC&E Objective)
Fulfilment of indicators for the period monitored:	Result indicators (planned state / outcome) Number of schools involved in the implementation of the project's activities using information-communication technologies in the teaching process – 185 / 7 Number of teaching staff involved in the project activities using information-communication technologies in the teaching process 1350 / 11 Number of newly-created / innovated education and study programmes 7 / 1 Number of staff involved in the project education activities 1350 / 11 Number of innovated / newly-created teaching materials 200 / 2 Number of schools involved in the implementation of the project activities containing pupils coming from marginalised Roma communities 15 / 0
Fulfilment of indicators in cumulative terms from the start of the programming period	Since the indicators began to be fulfilled only in 2009, the same indicator values apply here as those stated above in the item "Fulfilment of indicators for the period monitored".

7) The direct award "**External Evaluation and School Quality Promoting Self Evaluation Processes and School Development**", was declared on 23.3.2009, with a closing date of 22 May 2009. The direct award was focused on building up an efficient and reliable data collection system and statistical processing of data for external evaluation of school quality; preparing an evaluation and self-assessment model and system for the schools' and school facilities' performance, including its practical use, and the implementation of external evaluation at primary and secondary schools.

Target group in the framework of the direct award:

- primary and secondary teaching staff (including the primary and secondary school management);
- staff working in the field of education – professional staff of central and general government – school inspectors of the State School Inspectorate;
- primary and secondary school pupils and students.

The financial allocation was €960 000⁹, of which allocation for RC&E objective was at maximum €127 000.

The 1 AfNFC submitted totalled €126 933.76.

In the period of 29.5. – 9.6.2009 a **formal accuracy assessment** was conducted on the received application. In the case of the AfNFC missing annexes were requested, which were supplemented within the deadline set.

Expert assessment was begun on 10.6.2009 and completed on 12.6.2009. The submitted application satisfied the conditions set by the expert assessment.

In the period from 12.6. to 15.6.2009 **AfNFC Selection** took place and the AfNFC was approved.

⁹ Including both objectives; the key for splitting the allocation was the size of the target group for which the national project is designed.

The total amount of funds approved in the AfNFC selection and approval process was €124 268.60.

From the aspect of the approved AfNFC's contribution to the fulfilment of the HP, the approved AfNFC declared a contribution to the HP Sustainable Development.

The decision approving the AfNFC was sent to the successful applicant on 17.7.2009.

The NFC contract was signed on 3.8.2009 in the value of €124 268.60 and project implementation began on 1.10.2009. In the period monitored 1 monitoring report was received.

The objective of the national project is to develop a tool for evaluating the quality of upbringing-education activities of schools and school facilities, as well as cooperation in OPE's implementation in assessing its impact on school quality by means of conducting external evaluation of schools involved in the projects funded under the OPE and monitoring their progress. Table 57 gives further information on the national project.

Table 57: State of implementation of the national project as at 31.12.2009

Project title:	External Evaluation of School Quality Promoting Self-Evaluation Processes and School Development
Basis for national / regional policy:	The National School Inspectorate was established by law on 1.1.2000. Act No 596/2003 Coll. on the state administration in the school system and school self-governance and on the amendment of certain acts as later amended, sets out its competences, content and scope of activity. SR Ministry of Education Decree of 31.3.2005 on school inspection
Project objective:	To ascertain by way of external evaluation the level of school quality prior to and following implementation of schools' projects funded by the ESF, and their benefit in improving the school's quality. Develop an evaluation and self-assessment model and system for work at schools and school facilities, including its practical use in practice.
Beneficiary:	National School Inspectorate
Project implementation period:	1.10.2009 – 30.9.2013
State of implementation for the period monitored:	In October 2009 a professional training of school inspectors was held for 96 school inspectors. In November – December 2009, 9 primary schools and 9 secondary schools were externally evaluated prior to the implementation of their projects.
State of implementation from the start of the project's implementation:	Statement under oath on the start of the project: 1.10.2009 Notice on the start of the implementation of the first activity: 16.10.2009 Activities proceeded in 2009 as described above in the part "State of implementation for the monitored period". From the start of the project's implementation to 31.12.2009 the final beneficiary submitted 1 monitoring reports, on a quarterly basis.
Budget in €:	€924 553.00 €124 268.60 (RC&E Objective)
Financial implementation / drawing in € for the period monitored:	€0.00
Financial implementation / drawing in € in cumulative terms from the start of the programming period	€0.00
Fulfilment of indicators for the period monitored:	Result indicators (planned state / outcome) Number of staff involved in the project education activities 12 / 12

	Number of schools involved in implementation of the project activities 4 / 4
Fulfilment of indicators in cumulative terms from the start of the programming period	Since the indicators began to be fulfilled only in 2009, the same indicator values apply here as those stated above in the item "Fulfilment of indicators for the period monitored".

Measure 4.2

1) The direct award entitled "**Further Education for Primary and Secondary School Teachers in the Subject of Informatics**" was declared on 17.3.2008, with the closing date of 16.5.2008. For more detailed information on the direct award, its assessment, approval, contracting process, see the 2008 Annual Report. Table 58 gives further information on the national project.

Table 58: State of implementation of the national project as at 31.12.2009

Project title:	Further Education for Primary and Secondary School Teachers in the Subject of Informatics
Basis for national / regional policy:	The programme declaration of the SR Government from August 2006, proclaimed "to create the preconditions for systematic change in the content of education, connected with deepening language training, developing computer literacy and communication skills, with substantially greater use of modern teaching aids, particularly information technology and multimedia technology in the teaching process." WHITE PAPER FOR EDUCATION & TRAINING DEVELOPMENT in the Slovak Republic for the forthcoming 15 – 20 years (the "Millennium Project"), Strategy of providing access to IT for regional schools (approved in February 2008)
Project objective:	Design, develop and implement modern further education for informatics and IT education teachers at primary and secondary schools, supported by digital technologies.
Beneficiary:	State Pedagogical Institute
Project implementation period:	1.10.2008 – 30.9.2011
State of implementation for the period monitored:	In 2009 there continued the public procurement for the purchase of computer technology necessary for the project implemented under activity 2.1 Equipment and Provision for the Project, which was completed in October 2009. In the framework of Activities 1.1 Education for 1 st Grade Primary School Teachers in Informatics and IT Education, 1.2 Education for Unqualified 2 nd Grade Primary and Secondary Informatics Teachers, and 1.3 Further Education of 2 nd Grade Primary and Secondary Informatics Teachers, the education itself was launched on 13.6.2009 once the target groups had been selected. This education continued with a break in the months of July and August until the end of the year. The activity 1.4 Monitoring and evaluation of the project was ensured by sending project monitoring reports 2 to 5. The project's publicity was conducted in the form of newspaper articles, publishing the project posters and information on the project's website.
State of implementation from the start of the project's implementation:	Statement under oath on the start of the project: 7.10.2008, project start date: 1.10.2008. Brief description of physical implementation of the project: In 2008 the project was launched with the activity 2.1 Equipment and Provision for the Project, and this by preparing a public procurement for the purchase of computer technology necessary for the project's implementation. Activities 1.1 Education for 1 st Grade Primary School Teachers in Informatics and IT Education, 1.2 Education for Unqualified 2 nd Grade Primary and Secondary Informatics Teachers, and 1.3 Further Education of 2 nd Grade Primary and Secondary Informatics Teachers were begun by

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	<p>the preparation of applications for teachers, drafting contracts with participants in the education on the loaning of equipment, the publication of applications for individual target groups and by the creation of databases of the applicants for the education. In the framework of activity 1.4 Project Monitoring and Evaluation a monitoring report was drafted and sent to the MA. The project was publicised by the printing of an article in the Teachers Newspaper, in the framework of a programme EuroEducation and a survey for the television station TA3, and by information on the project's website.</p> <p>Activities proceeded in 2009 as described above in the part "State of implementation for the monitored period". From the start of the project's implementation to 31.12.2009 the final beneficiary submitted 5 monitoring reports, on a quarterly basis.</p>
Budget in €:	<p>€8 082 178.15 €1 053 171.81 (RC&E Objective)</p>
Financial implementation / drawing in € for the period monitored:	<p>€67 996.73 €4 047.22 (RC&E Objective)</p>
Financial implementation / drawing in € in cumulative terms from the start of the programming period	<p>€67 996.73 €4 047.22 (RC&E Objective)</p>
Fulfilment of indicators for the period monitored:	<p>Result indicators (planned state / outcome) Number of newly-created / innovated education and study programmes 3 / 3 Number of schools involved in implementation of the project activities 60 / 60 Number of staff involved in the project education activities 199 / 116 Number of electronic services implemented 3 / 3</p>
Fulfilment of indicators in cumulative terms from the start of the programming period	<p>Since the indicators began to be fulfilled only in 2009, the same indicator values apply here as those stated above in the item "Fulfilment of indicators for the period monitored".</p>

- 2) The direct award entitled "**Professional and career growth of teaching staff**" was declared on 4.5.2009, with a closing date of 3.7.2009.

The project was focused on the creation, innovation and implementation of professional standards and tools for evaluating the development of professional competences for categories, career grades and career positions of teaching and professional staff at schools and school facilities and on the creation and accreditation of continuing education programmes and on developing quality of further education institutes. It is also focused on raising and refreshing key competences of teachers and people working in the field of education in the system of continuing education in accordance with professional standards and the current and prospective needs of a knowledge-based society, and on raising awareness of the learning possibilities and facilitating access to education programmes and learning sources via modern forms of education and technologies.

Target group in the framework of the direct award:

- teaching and non-teaching staff;
- staff (working in the field of education);
- tertiary education teachers.

The financial allocation was €49 800 000¹⁰, of which allocation for RC&E objective was at maximum €5 700 000.

¹⁰ Including both objectives; the key for splitting the allocation was the size of the target group for which the national project is designed.



The 1 AfNFC submitted totalled €5 699 999.28.

In the period of 12.6-29.6.2009 a formal accuracy assessment was conducted on the received application. **The AfNFC was complete and correctly filled out and the MA for the OPE did not need to request any missing annexes.**

Expert assessment began on 29.6.2009 and completed on 1.7.2009. The submitted application failed to satisfy the conditions set by the expert assessment.

Since the presented AfNFC failed to meet the assessment criteria approved by the MC for the OPE in the expert assessment process, the submitted AfNFC was not approved and therefore the AfNFC selection did not proceed.

The decision not approving the AfNFC was sent to the applicant on 1.7.2009.

3) Due to the decision to not approve the AfNFC, the direct award was re-declared under the title “**Professional and Career Growth of Teaching Staff**” on 8.7.2009, with the closing date of 9.9.2009. The direct award had the same focus, target group and allocation as that of the original direct award.

Target group in the framework of the direct award:

- teaching and non-teaching staff;
- staff (working in the field of education);
- tertiary education teachers.

The financial allocation was €49 800 000¹¹, of which allocation for RC&E objective was at maximum €5 700 000.

The 1 AfNFC submitted totalled €5 571 000.

In the period of 27.7-14.8.2009 a **formal accuracy assessment** was conducted on the received application. In the case of the AfNFC missing annexes were requested, which were supplemented within the deadline set.

Expert assessment was begun on 17.8.2009 and completed on 21.8.2009. The submitted application satisfied the conditions set by the expert assessment.

On 24.8.2009 the **Selection of AfNFC** took place and the AfNFC was approved.

The total amount of funds approved in the AfNFC selection and approval process was €5 491 430.

From the aspect of the approved AfNFC's contribution to the fulfilment of the HPs, the AfNFC declared a contribution to the HP Sustainable Development and HP Information Society.

The decision approving the AfNFC was sent to the successful applicant on 12.10.2009.

¹¹ Including both objectives; the key for splitting the allocation was the size of the target group for which the national project is designed.



The NFC contract was signed for the value of €5 491 430 on 15.10.2009, with the project's implementation commencing on the same day. In the period monitored 1 monitoring report was received.

The objective of the project is to create and develop an efficient further education system for teaching and professional staff of schools and school facilities with emphasis placed on the development of key competences, on deepening and raising the qualifications of teaching and professional staff in accordance with the Act on Teaching and Professional Staff and in accordance with the current and prospective needs of a knowledge-based society. Table 59 gives further information on the national project.

Table 59: State of implementation of the national project as at 31.12.2009

Project title:	Professional and career growth of teaching staff
Basis for national / regional policy:	Act No. 317/2009 Coll. on teaching staff and professional staff and on the amendment of certain acts SR Ministry of Education Decree no. 445/2009 Coll. on continuing education, credits and attestations of teaching staff and professional staff.
Project objective:	Develop an efficient system of further education for teaching and professional staff at schools and school facilities with an emphasis on developing key competences.
Beneficiary:	Methodological-Pedagogical Centre
Project implementation period:	15.10.2009 – 14.10.2013
State of implementation for the period monitored:	<p>The main activities of the project started in accordance with the schedule. As at 31.12.2009, 136 education programmes had been created and submitted for accreditation.</p> <p>Main activities of the national project:</p> <p>1.1 Development, innovation and implementation of professional standards and instruments for evaluating the development of professional competences. <i>The activity's implementation started from 10/2009.</i></p> <p>2.1 Analysis of the education needs of individual target groups of teaching and professional staff at schools and school facilities. <i>The activity's implementation started from 10/2009.</i></p> <p>2.2 Development and accreditation of the continuing education programmes of teaching and professional staff under the accreditation system. <i>The activity's implementation started from 10/2009. As at 31.12.2009, 136 education programmes had been created and submitted for accreditation to the ME SR.</i></p> <p>3.1 Creation of teaching resources, methodologies and professional publications, including digital form. <i>The activity has not been started, according to the Contract it is to begin as at 01/2010.</i></p> <p>3.2 Education activities focused on developing key competences of teaching and professional staff and education and training strategies. <i>Under this activity the preparatory tasks have been realised, which are a precondition for the strategic implementation of the education activities themselves. The preparatory tasks began to be implemented as at 10/2010. The education activities themselves in the framework of the newly-created education programmes have not yet been launched, since the education programmes, submitted to the Accreditation Council, had not been accredited as at 31.12.2009.</i></p> <p>4.1 Creation and administration of an interactive education portal promoting continuing education. <i>The activity's implementation started from 10/2009.</i></p>



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	4.2 Equipment and provision for professional activities. <i>The activity's implementation started from 10/2009.</i>
State of implementation from the start of the project's implementation:	Statement under oath on the start of the project on 15.10.2009 Notice on the start of the implementation of the first education activity: no education activities were running as at 31.12.2009, only the preparatory stage for education was under way Activities proceeded in 2009 as described above in the part "State of implementation for the monitored period". From the start of the project's implementation to 31.12.2009 the final beneficiary submitted 1 monitoring reports, on a quarterly basis.
Budget in €:	€48 684 716.00 €5 491 430.00 (RC&E Objective)
Financial implementation / drawing in € for the period monitored:	€0.00
Financial implementation / drawing in € in cumulative terms from the start of the programming period	€0.00
Fulfilment of indicators for the period monitored:	Result indicators (planned state / outcome) Number of newly-created education programmes 625 / 136 Number of newly-created / innovated education programmes for gaining and developing ICT knowledge and skills 30 / 21 Number of staff involved in the project education activities 2000 / 0 <i>The education itself in the framework of the newly-created education programmes has not as yet been launched, since the education programmes, submitted to the Accreditation Council, had not been accredited as at 31.12.2009. For this reason no target group has yet been created.</i> Number of electronic services implemented 1 / 0
Fulfilment of indicators in cumulative terms from the start of the programming period	Since the indicators began to be fulfilled only in 2009, the same indicator values apply here as those stated above in the item "Fulfilment of indicators for the period monitored".

4) The direct award entitled "**National System of Qualifications in the Context of Further Education Supported by a System of Guidance**" was declared on 12.10.2009, with a closing date of 15.1.2010. The direct award was focused on the creation and implementation of a national system of qualifications, the creation and implementation of a further education system for gaining qualification, including the promotion of further education for obtaining qualifications, the creation and implementation of a system of guidance for persons involved in activities in the framework of further education, including the promotion of guidance for persons involved in the activities in the framework of further education. It also focuses on the creation and implementation of an information system for the national system of qualifications, further education for gaining qualifications and guidance for persons involved in activities in the framework of further education and international surveys, assessments and comparisons in the field of measuring key competences of persons involved in activities in the framework of further education

Target group in the framework of the direct award:

- persons involved in activities in the framework of further education (other than employees at risk of redundancy, low-qualified employees and the unemployed);
- lecturers;
- persons working in the field of education.

The financial allocation was €46 500 000¹², of which the allocation for RC&E objective was at maximum €3 900 000. No AfNFC was submitted in the period monitored.

The aim of the national project will be to develop the education system through increasing the quality of lifelong learning and lifelong guidance and the creation of a national system of qualifications. The national project contributes to raising the participation of adults in lifelong learning and in lifelong guidance.

3.4.1.1.2. State of physical progress made under priority axis 4 – demand-driven projects

Measure 4.1

In the framework of calls with codes **OPV-2008/4.1/01-SORO** under measure 4.1 Transformation of the Traditional School to a Modern School for the Bratislava Region, entitled “**The Design and Implementation of Development Programmes for Secondary Schools Promoting Improvement in the Quality of Education in Accordance with Reform of the Education System**”, and **OPV-2008/4.1/02-SORO**, entitled “**The Design and Implementation of Development Programmes for Primary Schools Promoting Improvement in the Quality of Education in Accordance with Reform of the Education System**” (more information on the calls, their assessment, approval and the contracting process are available in the 2008 Annual Report), the contracting process was completed on 26.2.2009. In the framework of the calls, 11 NFC contracts have been signed (5 contracts in 2009 – all under call OPV-2008/4.1/02-SORO) for measure 4.1. In the projects contracted the implementation of the planned activities was commenced from February 2009. The first interim monitoring reports were delivered in March 2009, from which it is possible to monitor the implementation process of these projects.

1) Call for primary schools: OPV-2008/4.1/03-SORO for submitting AfNFCs for primary schools under Measure 4.1 Transformation of the Traditional School to a Modern School for the Bratislava Region, entitled “**Development and Implementation of Primary School Education Programmes**”.

Further information on the call is available in the 2008 Annual Report.

The ASFEU IBMA ended receipt of AfNFCs on 19.1.2009. Under this call 23 AfNFCs were received. The financial allocation of total eligible expenditure of AfNFCs was €2 920 708.45, the level of the requested NFC totalled €2 778 607.96.

The formal accuracy assessment of AfNFCs was made on 20.1.2009 – 23.4.2009. **11** AfNFCs satisfied the formal accuracy assessment conditions and proceeded to the expert assessment phase. The financial allocation of total eligible expenditure of those AfNFCs that fulfilled the formal accuracy assessment conditions and proceeded to the expert assessment phase, represents €1 381 775.78, the total NFC requested in these AfNFCs was €1 316 621.66.

Expert assessment of AfNFCs began on 24.4.2009 with the random selection and assignment of AfNFCs to internal and external assessors in the presence of MA and ASFEU representatives. In total 11 AfNFCs were subject to expert assessment. Of these, **10** AfNFCs achieved at least the minimum score prescribed. The financial allocation of the proposed level of the NFC of those AfNFCs meeting at least the minimum score prescribed amounted to €1 168 216.90. The expert assessment of AfNFCs was completed by the ASFEU general director signing the Summary Expert Assessment Report on 20.5.2009.

¹² Including both objectives; the key for splitting the allocation was the size of the target group for which the national project is designed.



The Selection Committee meeting was held on 21.5.2009. Of the **10** AfNFCs submitted at the Selection Committee meeting, the Selection Committee on the basis of the expert assessment results recommended for approval 6 projects with a requested NFC totalling €644 954.60.

By the end of 2009 the approval process under the call OPV-2008/4.1/03-SORO was completed and was followed by the contracting process, which was completed on 16.9.2009. In the mentioned call, in total **6** NFC contracts were signed. The level of the NFC of the 6 contracted projects totalled €642 422.77.

2) Call for secondary schools: OPV-2008/4.1/04-SORO for submitting AfNFCs for secondary schools under Measure 4.1 Transformation of the traditional school to a modern school for the Bratislava region, entitled **“Development and implementation of Secondary School Education Programmes”**.

Further information on the call is available in the 2008 Annual Report.

The call's closing date was 19.1.2009. The ASFEU received 28 AfNFCs. The financial allocation of total expenditure of AfNFCs was €5 161 582.99, the level of the requested NFC totalled €4 940 716.19.

The formal accuracy assessment of AfNFCs was made on 20.1.2009 – 23.4.2009.

In total **12** AfNFCs satisfied the formal accuracy assessment conditions and proceeded to the expert assessment phase. The financial allocation of total eligible expenditure of those AfNFCs that fulfilled the formal accuracy assessment conditions and proceeded to the expert assessment phase, represents €2 242 115.59, the total requested NFC in these AfNFCs was €2 150 972.32. The formal accuracy assessment of AfNFCs was completed by the ASFEU general director signing the Report on the Formal Accuracy Assessment of AfNFCs on 23.4.2009.

Expert assessment of AfNFCs began on 24.4.2009 by random selection and assignment of AfNFCs to internal and external assessors. In total **12** AfNFCs were subject to the expert assessment. Of these, **3** AfNFCs achieved at least the minimum score prescribed. The financial allocation of the proposed level of the NFC of those AfNFCs meeting at least the minimum score prescribed amounted to €628 400.40. The expert assessment of AfNFCs was completed by the ASFEU general director signing the Summary Expert Assessment Report on 20.5.2009.

The Selection Committee meeting was held on 21.5.2009. Of the 3 AfNFCs submitted at the Selection Committee meeting, the Selection Committee on the basis of the expert assessment results recommended for approval **3** projects with a total requested NFC of €628 400.40.

In the 2nd half of 2009 the approval process under the call OPV-2008/4.1/04-SORO was completed and was followed by the contracting process, which was completed on 23.9.2009. In the mentioned call, in total **3** NFC contracts were signed. The level of the NFC of the 3 contracted projects totalled €628 343.63.

Measure 4.2

1) Call OPV-2009/4.2/01-SORO for AfNFCs under measure 4.2 “Raising the Competitiveness of the Bratislava Region by Developing Tertiary and Further Education”, entitled “Promotion of Innovative Forms of Education at Tertiary Schools and Development of Human Resources in Research & Development ”, was declared on 18.6.2009. The call's closing date was 24.8.2009.

The financial allocation for this call represented €1 000 000. The level of the NFC per project is limited to the interval from at minimum **€250 000** to at maximum **€1 000 000**.

The call was focused on the promotion of higher quality and flexibility at tertiary schools by means of innovations in the forms of education and by linking the content of education to the needs of a knowledge-based society, by applying the principle of a culture of quality and increasing efficiency in university administration and management, by improving the quality and development of human resources and cooperation between the tertiary schools, research & development organisations and the private sector at the national and international level pursuant to SR Government Resolution No 367 of 4.6.2008 to the Modernisation Programme Slovakia 21.

The target group of the call comprised:

- students of state, public and private tertiary schools;
- tertiary education teachers at state, public and private tertiary schools;
- management of state, public and private tertiary schools;
- research & development staff at tertiary schools (including staff at the Slovak Academy of sciences and its institutes);
- doctoral students;
- postdoctoral students.

Geographically the call covered the territory of the Bratislava self-governing region. The following eligible applicants were defined in the call:

- state tertiary schools;
- public tertiary schools;
- private tertiary schools;
- Slovak Academy of Sciences (including its individual institutes).

Under the call **6** AfNFCs had been received as at 24.8.2009. The financial allocation of total expenditure of AfNFCs was €3 549 362.51, the requested NFC totalled €3 425 125.85.

The formal accuracy assessment of AfNFCs took place on 25.8.2009 – 21.10.2009.

Of the total number of the AfNFCs received, **3** applications satisfied the conditions of the formal accuracy assessment and proceeded to the expert assessment phase.

The financial allocation of total eligible expenditure of those AfNFCs that fulfilled the formal accuracy assessment conditions and proceeded to the expert assessment phase, represents €1 586 673.36, the total NFC requested in these AfNFCs was €1 535 571.16.

Expert assessment of AfNFCs began on 22.10.2009 by random selection and assignment of AfNFCs to expert assessors in the presence of representatives of the MA and ASFEU as the IBMA. In total **3** AfNFCs were subject to the expert assessment. Of these, **2** AfNFCs achieved at least the minimum score prescribed. The financial allocation of the proposed level of the NFC of those AfNFCs meeting at least the minimum score prescribed amounted to €1 063 364.16. The expert assessment of AfNFCs was completed by the ASFEU general director signing the Summary Expert Assessment Report on 12.11.2009.

The Selection Committee meeting was held on 19.11.2009. Of the 2 AfNFCs submitted at the Selection Committee meeting, the Selection Committee on the basis of the expert assessment results recommended for approval 1 project with a total NFC amount of €564 629.36.

The process of submitting documents proving the fulfilment of conditions for the provision of assistance from the side of potential beneficiaries had not been completed by 31.12.2009.

2) Call OPV-2009/4.2/02-SORO for submission of AfNFCs under measure 4.2 “Raising the Competitiveness of the Bratislava Region by Developing Tertiary and Further Education”, entitled “**Promoting further education in selected sectors**”, was declared on 12.8.2009. The call’s closing date was 13.10.2009.

The financial allocation for this call represented €500 000. The applicants could apply for an NFC in the interval from **€300 000 to €500 000**.

The call was focused on supporting education that would respond to employers’ changing requirements for the quality of human resources and efficiency of their management. Pursuant to the main objective of measure 4.2, support will be provided for the projects aimed at further education which will lead to deepening and raising qualifications in accordance with the labour market requirements and with the Lifelong Learning and Lifelong Guidance Strategy, adopted in the SR Government Resolution No 382/2007 of 25.4.2007. The activities under the call were concurrently targeted at the framework of activities for lifelong development of competences and qualifications in accordance with Recommendation of the European Parliament and of the Council No 2006/962/EC of 18.12.2006 on key competences for lifelong learning – European Reference Framework.

The target group of the call comprised:

- persons involved in activities in the framework of further education for the sectors of construction, textile, electronics, mechanical engineering and chemical industry, other than employees at risk of redundancy, low-qualified employees and the unemployed.
- further education lecturers.

Geographically the call covered the territory of the Bratislava self-governing region. The following eligible applicants were defined in the call:

- individuals and legal entities eligible to pursue business under § 2 (2) (a) and (b) of the Commercial Code, registered in the territory of the SR, and satisfying the definition of micro, small and medium-sized enterprises as referred to in the wording of this call and are planning to implement individual types of eligible projects.

As at 13.10.2009 the total number of AfNFCs received under the call was **2**. The financial allocation of the eligible expenditure of AfNFCs totalled €911 721.00, the total requested level of the NFC is €866 134.95.

The formal accuracy assessment of AfNFCs took place on 14.10.2009 – 16.11.2009. Of the total number of the **2** AfNFCs received, 1 application satisfied the conditions of the formal accuracy assessment and proceeded to the expert assessment phase. The financial allocation of total eligible expenditure of the AfNFCs that fulfilled the formal accuracy assessment conditions and proceeded to the expert assessment phase, represents €476 998.00, the total NFC amount requested in this AfNFC is €453 148.10.

Expert assessment of AfNFCs began on 18.11.2009 by random selection and assignment of AfNFCs to expert assessors in the presence of representatives of the MA and ASFEU as the IBMA. 1 AfNFC, which achieved at least the minimum score prescribed, was subject to the expert assessment. The financial allocation of the proposed level of the NFC of this AfNFC prescribed totals €436 048.10.

The expert assessment of AfNFCs was completed by the ASFEU general director signing the Summary Expert Assessment Report on 2.12.2009.

The Selection Committee meeting was held on 9.12.2009. Of the 1 AfNFC submitted at the Selection Committee meeting, the Selection Committee on the basis of the expert assessment results recommended for approval 1 project with a total amount of €436 048.10 of the NFC.

The applicant whose AfNFC was recommended by the Selection Committee for approval was subsequently called upon to present documents proving its fulfilment of conditions for the provision of assistance.

The process of submitting documents proving the fulfilment of conditions for the provision of assistance from the side of the potential beneficiary had not been completed by 31.12.2009.

3.4.1.1.3. State of physical progress made under priority axis 4 – Technical assistance projects

Measure 4.3

MA TA projects

Under measure 4.3, 2 MA TA projects for 2009 were submitted and approved as at 31.12.2009, of which 1 project was submitted within priority theme 85 and 1 project within priority theme 86. At the same time 2 MA TA projects for 2010 were submitted, of which 1 project was submitted within priority theme 85 and 1 project within priority theme 86. The approval process of TA projects of the ME SR for 2010 will take place in 2010. Financial implementation of the TA projects for 2007 – 2008 continued in 2009 by means of the processing of submitted AfPs (refunding) to the MA. As at 31.12.2009 none of the MA technical assistance projects had been completed.

1) **Notice OPV/K/RKZ/TP/2009-1: “Notice – technical assistance project, Technical assistance for Convergence/RC&E Objective 2009 – Preparation, implementation, monitoring and inspection (priority theme 85)” was declared on 20.3.2009. The closing date of the notice was 18.6.2009.**

The total financial allocation for the RC&E Objective represents **€100 000.00**. The place of implementation is the Bratislava region. The main objective of the notice was to “ensure efficient implementation of OPE in the framework of the Convergence/RC&E Objective”.

The eligible applicant for this notice is the ME SR.

The assistance is limited, i.e. the maximum level of the NFC per project of the RC&E Objective, for priority theme 85, is **€100 000.00**. The intensity of the assistance is prescribed for the eligible applicant and is defined directly in the notice.

As at the closing date of 18.6.2009, the total number of applications received was **1**, in a total requested NFC of **€71 900.00**. The AfNFC for the TA project entitled – OPE technical assistance for the RC&E Objective for 2009 – I. Preparation, implementation, monitoring and inspection, was submitted on 6.4.2009.

In the period from 17.4.2009 to 24.4.2009 a **formal accuracy assessment** was conducted on the received application. The check included the verification of eligibility criteria, completeness criteria and ex-ante financial check.

The expert assessment of the AfNFC was conducted on 7.5.2009 by two internal assessors – MA project managers. The AfNFC achieved more than the prescribed minimum of the total score. The AfNFC expert assessment was completed on 7.5.2009 by its signing. A Summary Expert Assessment Report is not drawn up in the case of TA projects.

The **AfNFC selection** took place on 14.5.2009, and was performed by the chief manager on the basis of individual expert assessment sheets of the AfNFC. The chief manager applied to the AfNFC selection the selection criteria approved by the MC OPE. The AfNFC met the set selection criteria.

The final report from the AfNFC selection for the notice – Technical assistance project OPV/K/RKZ/TP/2009-1 was signed on 14.5.2009.

The level of funds allocated to the NFC applicant for the **1** approved AfNFC totalled **€71 900.00**.

The application was approved by the approval letter of the Minister of 18.5.2009, with an NFC of **€71 900.00**. The project was implemented during 2009 and its activities were completed as at 31.12.2009. The project's objective was: ensure the efficient implementation of the OPE under the RC&E Objective in accordance with the requirements on the management and administrative structures responsible for OPE implementation. An overview of the use of funds in the framework of TA projects (separately for the RC&E Objective) from 1.1.2007 – 31.12.2009 by priority activity (drawing) is given in Chapter 6 of this 2009 Annual Report. Financial implementation of this project will continue in 2010, with the processing of AfPs (refunds) submitted to the MA.

2) **Notice OPV/K/RKZ/TP/2009-2** entitled: “**Notice – technical assistance project, Technical assistance for the Convergence/RC&E Objective 2009 – Evaluation and studies, information and communication (priority theme 86)**” was declared on 20.3.2009. The closing date of the notice was 18.6.2009.

The total financial allocation for the RC&E Objective represents **€6 000.00**. The place of implementation is the Bratislava region. The main objective of the notice was to “ensure efficient implementation of OPE in the framework of the Convergence/RC&E Objective”.

The eligible applicant for this notice is the ME SR.

The assistance is limited, i.e. the maximum level of the NFC per project of the RC&E Objective, for priority theme 86, is €6 000.00. The intensity of the assistance is prescribed for the eligible applicant and is defined directly in the notice.

As at the closing date of 18.6.2009, the total number of applications received was **1**, in a total requested NFC of **€4 900.00**. The AfNFC for the TA project entitled – OPE technical assistance for the RC&E Objective for 2009 – II. Evaluation and studies, information and communication, was submitted on 6.4.2009.

In the period from 17.4.2009 to 24.4.2009 a **formal accuracy assessment** was conducted on the received application. The check included the verification of eligibility criteria, completeness criteria and ex-ante financial check.

The expert assessment of the AfNFC was conducted on 7.5.2009 by two internal assessors – MA project managers. The AfNFC achieved more than the prescribed minimum of the total score. The AfNFC expert assessment was completed on 7.5.2009 by its signing. A Summary Expert Assessment Report is not drawn up in the case of TA projects.

The **AfNFC selection** took place on 14.5.2009, and was performed by the chief manager on the basis of individual expert assessment sheets of the AfNFC. The chief manager applied to the AfNFC selection the selection criteria approved by the MC of the OPE. The AfNFC met the set selection criteria. The final report from the **AfNFC** selection for the notice – Technical assistance project OPV/K/RKZ/TP/2009-2 was signed on 14.5.2008.

The level of funds allocated to the NFC applicant for the **1** approved AfNFC was **€4 900.00**. The application was approved by the approval letter of the Minister of 18.5.2009, with the NFC of **€4 900.00**. The project was implemented during 2009 and its activities were completed as at 31.12.2009. The project's objective was: ensure efficient implementation of OPE under the RC&E Objective. An overview of the use of funds under TA projects (separately for RC&E Objective) from 1.1.2007 – 31.12.2009 by priority activity (drawing) is given in Chapter 6 of this 2009 Annual Report. Financial implementation of this project will continue in 2010, with the processing of AfPs (refunds) submitted to the MA.

3) Notice OPV/K/RKZ/TP/2009-3 entitled: “Notice – technical assistance project, Technical assistance for Convergence/RC&E Objective 2010 – Preparation, implementation, monitoring and inspection (priority theme 85)” was declared on 30.11.2009. The closing date of the notice was 28.1.2010.

The total financial allocation for RC&E objective represents **€415 000.00**. The place of implementation is the Bratislava region. The main objective of the notice was to “Ensure OPE implementation in accordance with the requirements placed on management, implementation, control, audit, monitoring, on administrative structures responsible for the operational programme's implementation”.

The eligible applicant for this notice is the ME SR.

The assistance is limited, i.e. the maximum level of the NFC per project of the RC&E Objective, for priority theme 85 is €415 000.00. The intensity of the assistance is prescribed for the eligible applicant and is defined directly in the notice.

As at 31.12.2009 the recorded total number of applications received was 1, in a total requested NFC of **€414 645.00**. AfNFC for the TA project entitled – OPE technical assistance for the RC&E Objective for 2010 – I. Preparation, implementation, monitoring and inspection, was submitted on 17.12.2009. With regard to the fact that the closing date for the notice is 28.1.2010, further information on the notice and projects will be available in the 2010 Annual Report.

4) Notice OPV/K/RKZ/TP/2009-4 entitled: “Notice – technical assistance project, Technical assistance for the Convergence/RC&E Objective 2010 – Evaluation and studies, information and communication (priority theme 86)” was declared on 30.11.2009. The closing date of the notice was 28.1.2010.

The total financial allocation for the RC&E Objective represents **€45 000.00**. The place of implementation is the Bratislava region. The main objective of the notice was to “Ensure OPE implementation in accordance with the requirements placed on the assessment of the operational programme, as well as information for the public, promotion and exchange of experience”.

The eligible applicant for this notice is the ME SR.

The assistance is limited, i.e. the maximum level of the NFC per project of the RC&E Objective, for priority theme 86 is **€45 000.00**. The intensity of the assistance is prescribed for the eligible applicant and is defined directly in the notice.

As at 31.12.2009 the recorded total number of applications received was **1**, in a total requested NFC of €44 325.00. The AfNFC for the TA project entitled – OPE technical assistance for the RC&E Objective for 2010 – II. Evaluation and studies, information and communication, was submitted on

17.12.2009. With regard to the fact that the closing date for the notice is 28.1.2010, further information on the notice and projects will be available in the 2010 Annual Report.

IBMA ASFEU technical assistance projects

Under measure 4.3, 2 TA ASFEU projects for 2010 were submitted and approved as at 31.12.2009, of which 1 project was submitted within priority theme 85 and 1 project within priority theme 86. At the same time the year 2009 saw the implementation of TA IBMA projects for 2009, which were approved in 2008:

- project: Technical assistance for OPE, RC&E Objective, priority theme 85 for 2009,
- project: Technical assistance for OPE, RC&E Objective, priority theme 86 for 2009.

The process from their submission through to their contracting is available in the 2008 Annual Report. An overview of the use of funds under TA projects by priority activity is given in Chapter 6 of this 2009 Annual Report. Concurrently financial implementation of TA IBMA projects for 2007 – 2008 continued in 2009. In the case of the project Technical assistance for OPE, RC&E Objective, priority theme 85 for 2007, 2008, the period for submitting the final AfP was extended to the end of 2009 by Addendum 1 of 4.12.2008. This period was subsequently extended to the end of 2010 by Addendum 3 of 21.12.2009. In the case of the project Technical assistance for OPE, RC&E Objective, priority theme 86 for 2007, 2008, the period for submitting the final AfP was extended to the end of 2009 by Addendum 1 of 4.12.2008. The financial implementation of both projects was ensured by means of processing AfPs received at the MA. As at 31.12.2009, under the RC&E Objective, 1 TA IBMA project was duly completed (more information in Chapter 6 of this 2009 Annual Report).

1) Notice OPV/K/RKZ/TP/SORO/2009-1 under measure 4.3 entitled: “**Notice – technical assistance project, Technical assistance for Convergence/RC&E Objective 2010 – Preparation, implementation, monitoring and inspection**” was declared on 26.10.2009. The closing date of the notice was 23.12.2009.

The total financial allocation for RC&E objective represents **€150 000.00**. The place of implementation is the Bratislava region. The main objective of the notice was the “Staffing for the preparation, management and control of the programmes, projects and HPs, including the activities of the established committees and commissions of the Structural Funds, including staff education”.

The eligible applicant for this notice is the ASFEU.

The assistance is limited, i.e. the maximum level of the NFC per project of the RC&E objective, for priority theme 85 is €150 000.00. The intensity of the assistance is prescribed for the eligible applicant and is defined directly in the notice.

As at 23.12.2009, the total number of applications received was **1** in the total level of the requested NFC of **€132 658.06**. The AfNFC for the TA project – TA for OPE, RC&E Objective, priority theme 85 for 2010, was submitted on 20.11.2009.

The **formal accuracy assessment on the AfNFC** was conducted in the period from 24.11.2009 to 3.12.2009. The check included the verification of eligibility criteria, completeness criteria and ex-ante financial check.

The expert assessment of the AfNFC was conducted on 3.12.2009 – 4.12.2009 by two internal assessors – MA project managers. The AfNFC achieved more than the prescribed minimum of the

total score. The AfNFC expert assessment was completed on 4.12.2009 by its signing. A Summary Expert Assessment Report is not drawn up in the case of TA projects.

The selection of the AfNFC took place on 7.12.2009, and was performed by the chief manager on the basis of individual expert assessment sheets of the AfNFC. The chief manager applied to the AfNFC selection the selection criteria approved by the MC OPE. The AfNFC met the set selection criteria.

The final report from the AfNFC selection for the notice – Technical assistance project OPV/K/RKZ/TP/SORO/2009-1 was signed on 7.12.2009.

The funds allocated to the NFC applicant for the **1** approved AfNFC totalled €132 658.06.

The application was approved by the approval letter of the Minister of 9.12.2009, with the NFC of **€132 658.06**.

The AfNFC was contracted on 21.12.2009 with the NFC: **€132 658.06**. The approved project will be implemented in the period from 1.1.2010 to 31.12.2010.

2) Notice OPV/K/RKZ/TP/SORO/2009-2 under measure 4.3 entitled: “**Notice – technical assistance project, Technical assistance for Convergence/RC&E Objective 2010 – Evaluation and studies; information and communication**” was declared on **26.10.2009**. The closing date of the notice was 23.12.2009.

The total financial allocation for RC&E objective represents **€22 000.00**. The place of implementation is the Bratislava region. The main objective of the notice was to “ensure publicity and information of the OPE”.

The eligible applicant for this notice is the ASFEU.

The assistance is limited, i.e. the maximum level of the NFC per project of the RC&E Objective, for priority theme 86 is **€22 000.00**. The intensity of the assistance is prescribed for the eligible applicant and is defined directly in the notice.

As at the closing date of 23.12.2009, the total number of applications received was **1**, in the total level of the requested NFC of **€22 000.00**. The AfNFC for the TA project – TA for OPE, RC&E Objective, priority theme 86 for 2010, was submitted on 20.11.2009.

In the period from 24.11.2009 to 3.12.2009 a **formal accuracy assessment** was conducted on the received application. The check included the verification of eligibility criteria, completeness criteria and ex-ante financial check.

The expert assessment of the AfNFC was conducted on 3.12.2009 – 4.12.2009 by two internal assessors – MA project managers.

The AfNFC achieved more than the prescribed minimum of the total score. The AfNFC expert assessment was completed on 4.12.2009 by its signing. A Summary Expert Assessment Report is not drawn up in the case of TA projects.

The selection of the AfNFC took place on 7.12.2009, and was performed by the chief manager on the basis of individual expert assessment sheets of the AfNFC. The chief manager applied to the AfNFC selection the selection criteria approved by the MC OPE. The AfNFC met the set selection criteria.

The final report from the AfNFC selection for the notice – Technical assistance project OPV/K/RKZ/TP/SORO/2009-2 was signed on 7.12.2009.

The level of funds allocated to the NFC applicant for the **1** approved AfNFC was €22 000.00.

The application was approved by the approval letter of the Minister of 9.12.2009, with the NFC of **€22 000.00**.

The AfNFC was contracted on 21.12.2009 with the NFC: **€22 000.00**. The approved project will be implemented in the period from 1.1.2010 to 31.12.2010.

Detailed information on the state of declaring calls under priority axis 4 is provided in Table 60.

Table 60: State of declaring calls under priority axis 4 in the period from 1.1.2009 to 31.12.2009

Measure	Type of call	Call declared on	Closing date for receiving AfNFCs	Financial allocation per call (NRF) in €		
				Total	Of which	
					SF/CF	SB
4.1	time-limited, national project	23.3.2009	22.5.2009	127 000.00	107 950.00	19 050.00
4.2	time-limited, national project	4.5.2009	3.7.2009	5 700 000.00	4 845 000.00	855 000.00
4.2	time-limited, national project	8.7.2009	9.9.2009	5 700 000.00	4 845 000.00	855 000.00
4.2	time-limited, demand-driven projects	18.6.2009	24.8.2009	1 000 000.00	N/A	N/A
4.2	time-limited, demand-driven projects	12.8.2009	13.10.2009	500 000.00	N/A	N/A
4.2	time-limited, national project	12.10.2009	15.1.2010	3 900 000.00	3 315 000.00	585 000.00
4.3	Notice – technical assistance project	26.10.2009	23.12.2009	150 000.00	N/A	N/A
4.3	Notice – technical assistance project	26.10.2009	23.12.2009	22 000.00	N/A	N/A
4.3	Notice – technical assistance project	20.3.2009	18.5.2009	100 000.00	N/A	N/A
4.3	Notice – technical assistance project	20.3.2009	18.5.2009	6 000.00	N/A	N/A
4.3	Notice – technical assistance project	30.11.2009	28.1.2010	45 000.00	N/A	N/A
4.3	Notice – technical assistance project	30.11.2009	28.1.2010	415 000.00	N/A	N/A
Total for priority axis 4				17 665 000.00	N/A	N/A

Table 61 gives further information on the development of implementation of priority axis 4.

Table 61: Development of implementation of priority axis 4 as at 31.12.2009

Measure	AfNFCs received	AfNFCs rejected	AfNFCs approved	Projects contracted	Projects in implementation	Contracts withdrawn	Projects completed
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4.1	103	76	27	27	27	0	0
4.2	11	7	4	2	2	0	0
4.3	14	2	10	10*	7	0	1
Total	128	85	41	39	36	0	1
Financial quantification of SF/CF and SB in €							
Measure	Contribution requested	Contribution rejected	Contribution approved	Contracted funds	Funds repaid	Projects completed	
4.1	19 446 999.44	12 798 163.04	6 648 836.40	6469859.84	47 634.30	N/A	
4.2	16648185.33	9070152.62	7578032.71	6544601.81	3 045.69	N/A	
4.3	1 211 115.57	317 289.98	434 855.59	434 855.59	75.45	12 678.05	
Total	37 306 300.34	22 185 605.64	14 661 724.70	13 449 317.24	50 755.44	12 678.05	

* In the case of MA TA projects, a contract is not concluded, but a decision approving the AfNFC is issued – the given number includes also approved MA TA projects.

Table 61, the sections “projects contracted”, “projects in implementation” and “contracted funds” do not include data from calls OPV-2009/4.2/01-SORO and OPV-2009/4.2/02-SORO, since no projects were contracted under these calls as at the end of 2009. Measure 4.3 includes also the 2 applications submitted in 2009 in the case of which the approved process had not been completed by the end of 2009.

In the period monitored under measure 4.1, 5 calls from the call OPV-2008/4.1/02-SORO were signed, whose approval process was conducted back in 2008. In accordance with the conditions set for calls OPV-2008/4.1/03-SORO and OPV-2008/4.1/04-SORO, in 2009 there were 51 AfNFCs received, of which 9 NFC contracts were signed, with an NFC totalling €1 270 766.40. As at 31.12.2009, under the calls OPV-2008/4.1/01-SORO, OPV-2008/4.1/02-SORO, OPV-2008/4.1/03-SORO and OPV-2008/4.1/04-SORO, 20 NFC contracts in the total NFC of €2 728 974.96 were concluded.

In the period monitored there was also contracted a project under the direct awards “Teacher Education in Connection with Regard to Developing School Education Programmes” and “Developing New Vocational Education Programmes for the Needs of Automobile Industry II”. 2 applications were approved and 2 projects contracted under the direct awards “Education of Nursery Teaching Staff as Component of Education Reform” and “External Evaluation of School Quality Promoting Self-Assessment Processes and School Development”. The amount of the NFC of the national projects contracted under measure 4.1 during 2009 is €1 206 386.32.

In 2009 under measure 4.2 there were 2 direct awards declared (repeated direct award “Professional and Career Growth of Teaching staff”). In total 2 AfNFCs were received, of which 1 AfNFC was approved and contracted, with a total contracted NFC of €5 491 430. Since the contracting process for calls for demand-driven projects no. OPV-2009/4.2/01-SORO and OPV-2009/4.2/02-SORO had not been closed by the end of 2009, the analyses on the development of both calls under measure 4.2, will be available in the 2010 Annual Report.

Equal opportunities between men and women were ensured in the period monitored the (see Table “Monitoring of target groups by priority axis”).

Fulfilment of measurable indicators

Table 62 gives further information on the fulfilment of physical indicators under priority axis 4.

Table 62: Fulfilment of physical indicators as at 31.12.2009

Indicators		2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	Total
Number of newly-created education programmes of which: primary schools, secondary schools (number)	Result achieved	0	0	27	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	27
	Target	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	80	N/A	80	80
	Baseline	0	0	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0
Number of teachers who completed further education programmes of which: women/men By age: 15-24, 55-64 years old (number)	Result achieved	0	0	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0
	Target	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	7000	N/A	7000	7000
	Baseline	0	0	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0
Number of teacher training courses (number)	Result achieved	0	0	137	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	137
	Target	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	15	N/A	15	15
	Baseline	0	0	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0
Schools successful in repeated quality assessment Of which: primary schools, secondary schools (%)	Result achieved	0	0	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0
	Target	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	90	N/A	90	90
	Baseline	0	0	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0
Share of R&D workers involved in further education of which: women/men By age: 15-24, 55-64 years old (%)	Result achieved	0	0	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0
	Target	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	30	N/A	30	30
	Baseline	0	0	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0
Number of projects promoting human resources at centres of excellence at tertiary schools and at the Slovak Academy of Sciences (number)	Result achieved	0	0	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0
	Target	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	10	N/A	10	10
	Baseline	0	0	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0
The rate of	Result	0	0	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0

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involvement in international research projects among R&D workers (%)	achieved										
	Target	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	20	N/A	20	20
	Baseline	0	0	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0
Number of development and innovation partnerships and networks supported from the OPE (number)	Result achieved	0	0	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0
	Target	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	15	N/A	15	15
	Baseline	0	0	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0
Share of development and innovation partnerships and networks existing after completion of the support from OPE (%)	Result achieved	0	0	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0
	Target	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	80	N/A	80	80
	Baseline	0	0	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0
Tertiary grade degree graduates of tertiary education (number)	Result achieved	0	2.3	2.2	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	2.2
	Target	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	12	N/A	12	12
	Baseline	8.3	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	8.3
Percentage of inhabitants involved in lifelong learning per 100 inhabitants aged 25-64 (%)	Result achieved	0	0	3.3	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	3.3
	Target	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	12.5	N/A	12.5	12.5
	Baseline	4.6	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	4.6
Training and presentations for assistance applicants and for beneficiaries (number)	Result achieved	0	0	35	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	35
	Target	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	10	N/A	10	10
	Baseline	0	0	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0
State of contracting allocated funds (%)	Result achieved	0	0	51.91	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	51.91
	Target	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	90	N/A	100	100
	Baseline	0	0	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0
State of allocated funds drawing (%)	Result achieved	0	0	16.75	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	16.75
	Target	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	70	N/A	90	90
	Baseline	0	0	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0

Values are given on the basis of the fulfilment of result indicators at the level of the implemented projects. Low or zero indicator values are due to the fact that the projects are in most cases under implementation or are only at the start of their implementation and the resultant indicator values will be achieved at the end of the projects' implementation. For this reason the individual data will be provided in the 2010 Annual Report.

The indicator "Number of newly-created education programmes" achieved the a percentage performance of 33.75% of the target state. The indicator "Number of teacher training courses" achieved the rate of percentage performance of 913% of the target state. The value of this indicator was not realistic, which is proven also by the high percentage of performance of 913%. In creating the OPE in 2007, a lower number of general teacher training courses was considered, but following the start of the reform and the change in legislation, there arose the need for an increased volume of education programmes and their specific focusing. The indicator "Tertiary grade degree graduates of tertiary education" reached the rate of 18.3% and the indicator "Percentage of inhabitants involved in lifelong learning per 100 inhabitants aged 25-64" achieved the rate of 26.4% of the target state. The indicator "Trainings and presentations for assistance applicants and for beneficiaries" achieved the percentage rate of 350% of the target state. The value of this indicator is higher than the planned value due to the fact that it mirrors the real needs and interest in trainings and presentations for the assistance applicants and for beneficiaries.

Since the period monitored did not see fulfilment of physical indicators including "Number of teachers who completed further education programmes", "Schools successful in repeated quality assessment", "Share of R&D workers involved in further education", "Number of projects promoting human resources in centres of excellence at tertiary schools and at the Slovak Academy of Sciences", "Rate of involvement in international R&D projects among R&D workers", "Number of development and innovation partnerships and networks supported from OPE", "Share of development and innovation partnerships and networks existing after completion of the support from OPE", these give zero values. Fulfilment of indicators depends on the implementation and on further calls covering the mentioned indicators.

With regard to the assessment of the settings for the accuracy of the system of measurable indicators and of the functioning of the monitoring system the MA is planning to perform over the course of 2010 an evaluation and verification of the setting for the accuracy of the system of OPE measurable indicators. The analysis of the adequacy of the setting of the system of measurable indicators will be a subject of the OPE 2010 Annual Report.

4.4.1.2. Financial implementation of priority axis 4

Further information on fund drawing under priority axis 4 is given in Table 63.

Table 63: Drawing of funds under priority axis 4 as at 31.12.2009

	Commitment 2007-2013 for EU sources	Drawing of funds in year N (EU sources) in €		Cumulative fund drawing (EU sources) in €	
		Total	% of commitment 2007 – 2013	Total	% of commitment 2007 – 2013
Priority axis 4	17 801 578.00	173 699.88	0.98%	214 726.22	1.21%
Measure 4.1	6 911 514.00	92 030.28	1.33%	92 030.28	1.33%
Measure 4.2	10 178 001.00	3 440.15	0.03%	3 440.15	0.03%
Measure 4.3	712 063.00	78 229.45	10.99%	119 255.79	16.75%

As at 31.12.2009 the level of the actual fund drawing for 2009 under priority axis 4 reached the total value of €173 699.88 (source ESF), representing 0.98% of the commitment for 2007-2013. Drawing under priority axis 4 at the 0.98% level may be viewed as appropriate in relation to the indicators attained at the end of the second year of the programming period 2007 – 2013 in part with regard to the fact that the actual implementation of OPE at the level of national and demand-oriented projects began, in connection with the actual fund drawing, only in 2009. From the aspect of the implementation of national and demand-driven projects, the mentioned priority axis may be viewed as the most successful under the OPE, and this both in terms of contracting and drawing of funds. In this regard it should be noted that as at 31.12.2009 the rate of contracting in the total commitment of priority axis 4 for the programming period 2007 – 2009 reached 64.48% (the contracting level would remain approximately unchanged even in the case of abstracting the technical assistance measure 4.3), which may be undoubtedly classified as an excellent basis for ensuring the problem-free drawing of EU structural funds. From the aspect of the commitments for individual years, the commitments for 2007 – 2010 are covered by the contracts, as is in great part also the commitment for 2011 (more than 62%). On the other hand, it must be stated that the absorption ability of priority axis 4, representing the RC&E objective, greatly exceeds the allocations assigned to this priority axis.

From the aspect of the future drawing under the mentioned priority axis it is necessary to take into account also the legal form of beneficiaries and possible methods of financing their projects.

Since a large share of beneficiaries under priority axis 4 are eligible for financing their projects via pre-financing, in 2010 we expect a considerable increase in drawing via clearance of the pre-financing provided. In this regard it must be noted that as at 31.12.2009 the ME SR reported, under priority axis 4, provided but not yet cleared and certified pre-financing totalling **€1 865 000** (of which ESF sources represent the amount of €1 599 000). Though the pre-financing does not represent drawing in relation to the certifying authority or the European Commission, these funds assist beneficiaries in implementing their projects (they are spent in the field by project developers), and are subsequently turned into drawing of the Structural Funds following their clearance and certification.

Fund drawing (use) under measure 4.3, particularly for the Convergence Objective and RC&E Objective, broken down by priority activity is given in Chapter 6 of this 2009 Annual Report.

3.4.1.3 Specifics for ESF programmes

Table 64 gives further information on target groups under priority axis 4.

Assistance by target group and equal opportunities

Table 64: Monitoring of target groups under priority axis 4

a) Number of participants for 2009					
Entering participants		Leaving participants		People involved in the operational programme in the preceding year	
6020		251		0	
b) Breakdown of participants by gender			c) Breakdown of participants by age		
Number of men	Number of women	Number of persons aged 15 – 24		Number of persons aged 55 – 64	
2692	3328	965		162	
d) Breakdown of participants by labour market status					
Number of employed including self-employed persons	Number of self-employed persons	Number of unemployed, including long-term unemployed	Number of long-term unemployed	Number of inactive persons	Inactive persons – studying
1713	0	0	0	3683	3681

e) Breakdown of participants by educational attainment			
Primary or lower secondary education (ISCED 1 and 2)	Upper secondary education (ISCED 3)	Post-secondary non-tertiary education (ISCED 4)	Tertiary education (ISCED 5 and 6)
2194	602	17	1805
f) Breakdown of participants by vulnerability group in accordance with national legislation			
Minorities	Migrants	Disabled persons	Other disadvantaged persons
5	0	20	0

Further information on the monitoring of target groups is available in section 2.1.8.

3.4.2. Serious problems encountered and measures taken to overcome them

On the whole it may be said that during the period monitored and over the course of the implementation of priority axis 4 no serious problems were encountered and therefore there was no need to adopt any measures for their removal (see Table 65).

Table 65: Monitoring of the number of measures adopted for the defined problems

Problems identified	Measures adopted	Number of measures adopted
0	0	0

3.5 Priority axis 5

Technical assistance under OPE forms a separate priority axis 5 for the Convergence Objective.

The ME SR declared in the period monitored 6 TA notices under priority axis 5, of which 2 notices for TA ME SR projects for 2009, 2 notices for TA ME SR projects for 2010, and 2 notices for TA ASFEU projects for 2010. In the framework of the mentioned notices 6 AfNFCs were received, of which 4 were approved as at 31.12.2009. As at 31.12.2009, 2 approval decisions were issued for the TA ME SR projects for 2009 (no contract is signed in the case of MA TA), 2 TA ASFEU projects for 2010 were contracted, and the approval process for the TA ME SR projects for 2010 will take place in 2010.

3.5.1 Achievement of objectives and analysis of progress made

In the period monitored the priority axis 5 Technical assistance for the Convergence Objective was implemented at the MA and IBMA, under the two priority themes 85 Preparation, implementation, monitoring and inspection and 86 Evaluation and studies, information and communication. These priority themes are focused on activities connected with the management, monitoring, control, analysis, provision of information, promotion, evaluation and exchange of experience. The main objective was to ensure the efficient implementation of the OPE in accordance with the demands placed on the management and administrative structures responsible for implementing the operational programme. Section 3.5.1.1 of the Annual Report for 2009 and Chapter 6 of the Annual Report for 2009 give more detailed information on the TA projects, declared notices on TA projects and an overview of the use of TA funds broken down by priority activity under priority themes 85 and 86.

3.1.1.1. State of physical progress made under priority axis 5

In the period monitored, 6 AfNFCs amounting to €8 343 253.44 were received in the framework of the implementation of priority axis 5.

Of these, 4 AfNFCs were approved in the total value of €5 815 693.44, of which 4 TA projects were contracted (or decision approving the AfNFC was issued), and as at 31.12.2009, 9 projects were in the implementation phase.

Measure 5.1

MA TA projects

Under measure 5.1, 2 MA TA projects for 2009 were submitted and approved as at 31.12.2009, of which 1 project was submitted within priority theme 85 and 1 project within priority theme 86. The projects submitted and approved were implemented in 2009. At the same time the year 2009 saw further financial implementation of TA projects for 2007 – 2008 in the processing the submitted applications for payments (refunds) to the MA. None of the MA TA projects had been completed as at 31.12.2009. In the period monitored 2 MA technical assistance projects for 2010 were also submitted, the approval process of which will happen in 2010.

1) Notice OPV/K/RKZ/TP/2009-1 entitled: “**Notice – technical assistance project, Technical assistance for Convergence/RC&E Objective 2009 – Preparation, implementation, monitoring and inspection (priority theme 85)**” was declared on 20.3.2009. The closing date of the notice was 18.6.2009.

The total financial allocation for RC&E objective represents **€2 500 000.00**.

The place of the project's implementation is the Nitra, Trenčín, Trnava, Žilina, Banská Bystrica, Prešov and Košice regions. The main objective of the notice was to “ensure efficient implementation of OPE in the framework of the Convergence/RC&E Objective”.

The eligible applicant for this notice is the ME SR.

The assistance is limited, i.e. the maximum level of the NFC per project of the Convergence Objective, for priority theme 85, is **€2 500 000.00**. The intensity of the assistance is prescribed for the eligible applicant and is defined directly in the notice.

As at the closing date of 18.6.2009, the total number of applications received was **1**, in a total requested NFC of **€2 463 300.00**. **The AfNFC for the TA project** entitled – OPE technical assistance for the Convergence Objective for 2009 – I. Preparation, implementation, monitoring and inspection, was submitted on 6.4.2009.

In the period from 17.4.2009 to 24.4.2009 a **formal accuracy assessment** was conducted on the received application. The check included the verification of eligibility criteria, completeness criteria and ex-ante financial check.

The expert assessment of the AfNFC was conducted on 7.5.2009 by two internal assessors – MA project managers.

The AfNFC achieved more than the prescribed minimum of the total score. The AfNFC expert assessment was completed on 7.5.2009 by its signing. A Summary Expert Assessment Report is not drawn up in the case of TA projects.

The selection of the AfNFC took place on 14.5.2009, and was performed by the chief manager on the basis of individual expert assessment sheets of the AfNFC. The chief manager applied to the AfNFC selection the selection criteria approved by the MC of the OPE. The AfNFC met the set selection criteria.

The final report from the AfNFC selection for the notice – Technical assistance project OPV/K/RKZ/TP/2009-1 was signed on 14.5.2009.

The level funds allocated to the NFC applicant for the **1** approved AfNFC totalled €2 463 300.00.

The application was approved by the approval letter of the Minister of 18.5.2009, with the NFC of €2 463 300.00. The project was implemented during 2009 and its activities were completed as at 31.12.2009. The project objective was to ensure efficient implementation of OPE in the framework of the Convergence Objective in accordance with the requirements on the management and administrative structures responsible for the OPE's implementation. An overview of the use of funds under TA projects (separately for the Convergence Objective) from 1.1.2007 – 31.12.2009 by priority activity (drawing) is given in Chapter 6 of this 2009 Annual Report. Financial implementation of this project will continue in 2010, with the processing of AfPs (refunds) submitted to the MA.

2) **Notice OPV/K/RKZ/TP/2009-2** entitled: “**Notice – technical assistance project, Technical assistance for the Convergence/RC&E Objective 2009 – Evaluation and studies, information and communication (priority theme 86)**” was declared on 20.3.2009. The closing date of the notice was 18.6.2009.

The total financial allocation for the Convergence objective represents **€200 000.00**.

The place of the project's implementation is the Nitra, Trenčín, Trnava, Žilina, Banská Bystrica, Prešov and Košice regions. The main objective of the notice was to “ensure efficient implementation of OPE in the framework of the Convergence/RC&E Objective”.

The eligible applicant for this notice is the ME SR.

The assistance is limited, i.e. the maximum level of the NFC per project of the Convergence Objective, for priority theme 86, is **€200 000.00**. The intensity of the assistance is prescribed for the eligible applicant and is defined directly in the notice.

As at the closing date of 18.6.2009, the total number of applications received was **1** in the total level of the requested NFC of **€157 700.00**. The AfNFC for the TA project entitled – OPE technical assistance for Convergence Objective for 2009 – II. Evaluation and studies, information and communication, was submitted on 6.4.2009.

In the period from 17.4.2009 to 24.4.2009 a **formal accuracy assessment** was conducted on the received application. The check included the verification of eligibility criteria, completeness criteria and ex-ante financial check.

The expert assessment of the AfNFC was conducted on 7.5.2009 by two internal assessors – MA project managers.

The AfNFC achieved more than the prescribed minimum of the total score. The AfNFC expert assessment was completed on 7.5.2009 by its signing. A Summary Expert Assessment Report is not drawn up in the case of TA projects.

The selection of the AfNFC took place on 14.5.2009, and was performed by the chief manager on the basis of individual expert assessment sheets of the AfNFC. The chief manager applied to the AfNFC selection the selection criteria approved by the MC of the OPE. The AfNFC met the set selection criteria. The final report from the AfNFC selection for the notice – Technical assistance project OPV/K/RKZ/TP/2009-2 was signed on 14.5.2009.

The level of funds allocated to the NFC applicant for the **1** approved AfNFC totalled **€157 700.00**.

The application was approved by the approval letter of the Minister of 18.5.2009, with the NFC of **€157 700.00**. The project was implemented during 2009 and its activities were completed as at 31.12.2009. The project objective was to ensure efficient implementation of OPE under the Convergence objective. An overview of the use of funds under TA projects (separately for the Convergence Objective) from 1.1.2007 – 31.12.2009 by priority activity (drawing) is given in

Chapter 6 of this 2009 Annual Report. Financial implementation of this project will continue in 2010, with the processing of AfPs (refunds) submitted to the MA.

3) **Notice OPV/K/RKZ/TP/2009-3** entitled: “**Notice – technical assistance project, Technical assistance for Convergence/RC&E Objective 2010 – Preparation, implementation, monitoring and inspection (priority theme 85)**” was declared on 30.11.2009. The closing date of the notice was 28.1.2010.

The total financial allocation for the Convergence objective represents **€2 290 000.00**.

The place of the project's implementation is the Nitra, Trenčín, Trnava, Žilina, Banská Bystrica, Prešov and Košice regions. The main objective of the notice in question was to “Ensure OPE implementation in accordance with the requirements placed on management, implementation, control, audit, monitoring, administrative structures responsible for the operational programme's implementation, as well as on the exchange of experience.

The eligible applicant for this notice is the ME SR.

The assistance is limited, i.e. the maximum level of the NFC per project of the Convergence objective, for priority theme 85, is **€2 290 000.00**. The intensity of the assistance is prescribed for the eligible applicant and is defined directly in the notice.

As at 31.12.2009, the total number of applications received was **1** in the total level of the requested NFC of **€2 283 385.00**. The AfNFC for the TA project entitled – OPE technical assistance for the Convergence objective for 2010 – I. Preparation, implementation, monitoring and control, was submitted on 17.12.2009. With regard to the fact that the closing date for the notice is 28.1.2010, further information on the notice and projects will be available in the 2010 Annual Report.

4) **Notice OPV/K/RKZ/TP/2009-4** entitled: “**Notice – technical assistance project, Technical assistance for the Convergence/RC&E Objective 2010 – Evaluation and studies, information and communication (priority theme 86)**” was declared on 30.11.2009. The closing date of the notice was 28.1.2010.

The total financial allocation for the Convergence objective represents **€245 000.00**.

The place of the project's implementation is the Nitra, Trenčín, Trnava, Žilina, Banská Bystrica, Prešov and Košice regions. The main objective of the notice was to “Ensure OPE implementation in accordance with the requirements placed on the assessment of the operational programme, as well as information for the public, promotion and exchange of experience”.

The eligible applicant for this notice is the ME SR.

The assistance is limited, i.e. the maximum level of the NFC per project of the Convergence objective, for priority theme 86, is **€245 000.00**. The intensity of the assistance is prescribed for the eligible applicant and is defined directly in the notice.

As at 31.12.2009, the recorded total number of applications received was **1** in a total requested NFC of **€244 175.00**. The AfNFC for the TA project entitled – OPE technical assistance for Convergence Objective for 2010 – II. **Evaluation and studies, information and communication**, was submitted on 17.12.2009. With regard to the fact that the closing date for the notice is 28.1.2010, further information on the notice and projects will be available in the 2010 Annual Report.

IBMA ASFEU technical assistance projects

Under measure 5.1, 2 TA ASFEU projects for 2010 were submitted and approved as at 31.12.2009, of which 1 project was submitted within priority theme 85 and 1 project within priority theme 86. At the same time the year 2009 saw the implementation of TA IBMA projects for 2009, which were approved in 2008:

- project: Technical assistance for OPE, Convergence Objective, priority theme 85 for 2009,
- project: Technical assistance for OPE, Convergence objective, priority theme 86 for 2009.

The process from their submission through to their contracting is available in the 2008 Annual Report. An overview of the use of funds under TA projects by priority theme is given in Chapter 6 of this 2009 Annual Report. Concurrently financial implementation of TA IBMA projects for 2007 – 2008 continued in 2009. In the case of the project Technical assistance for OPE, Convergence Objective, priority theme 85 for 2007, 2008, the period for submitting the final AfP was extended to the end of 2009 by Addendum 1 of 4.12.2008. This period was subsequently extended to the end of 2010 by Addendum 3 of 21.12.2009. In the case of the project Technical assistance for OPE, Convergence Objective, priority theme 86 for 2007, 2008, the period for submitting the final AfP was extended to the end of 2009 by Addendum 1 of 4.12.2008. The financial implementation of both projects was ensured by means of processing AfPs received at the MA. As at 31.12.2009, under the Convergence Objective, 1 TA IBMA project was duly completed (more information in Chapter 6 of this 2009 Annual Report).

1) Notice OPV/K/RKZ/TP/SORO/2009-1 under measure 5.1 entitled: “**Notice – technical assistance project, Technical assistance for Convergence/RC&E Objective 2010 – Preparation, implementation, monitoring and inspection**” was declared on 26.10.2009. The closing date of the notice was 23.12.2009.

The total financial allocation for the Convergence objective represents **€2 700 000.00**.

The place of the project's implementation is the Nitra, Trenčín, Trnava, Žilina, Banská Bystrica, Prešov and Košice regions.

The main objective of the notice was the “Staffing for the preparation, management and control of the programmes, projects and HPs, including the activities of the established committees and commissions of the Structural Funds, including staff education”.

The eligible applicant for this notice is the ASFEU.

The assistance is limited, i.e. the maximum level of the NFC per project of the Convergence objective, for priority theme 85, is **€2 700 000.00**. The intensity of the assistance is prescribed for the eligible applicant and is defined directly in the notice.

As at the closing date of 23.12.2009, the recorded total number of applications received was **1** in the total level of the requested NFC of €2 646 343.44. The AfNFC for the TA project – TA for OPE, Convergence objective, priority theme 85 for 2010, was submitted on 20.11.2009.

The formal accuracy assessment of the AfNFC was conducted in the period from 24.11.2009 to 3.12.2009. The check included the verification of eligibility criteria, completeness criteria and ex-ante financial check.

The expert assessment of the AfNFC was conducted on 3.12.2009 – 4.12.2009 by two internal assessors – MA project managers.

The AfNFC achieved more than the prescribed minimum of the total score. The AfNFC expert assessment was completed on 4.12.2009 by its signing. A Summary Expert Assessment Report is not drawn up in the case of TA projects.

The selection of the AfNFC took place on 7.12.2009, and was performed by the chief manager on the basis of individual expert assessment sheets of the AfNFC. Applied were the selection criteria approved by the MC OPE. The AfNFC met the set selection criteria.



The final report from the AfNFC selection for the notice – Technical assistance project OPV/K/RKZ/TP/SORO/2009-1 was signed on 7.12.2009.

The level of funds allocated to the NFC applicant for the **1** approved AfNFC totalled **€2 646 343.44**.

The application was approved by the approval letter of the minister of 9.12.2009, with the NFC of **€2 646 343.44**.

The AfNFC was contracted on 21.12.2009 with the NFC: **€2 646 343.44**. The approved project will be implemented in the period from 1.1.2010 to 31.12.2010.

2) Notice OPV/K/RKZ/TP/SORO/2009-2 under measure 5.1 entitled: “**Notice – technical assistance project, Technical assistance for Convergence/RC&E Objective 2010 – Evaluation and studies, information and communication**” was declared on 26.10.2009. The closing date of the notice was 23.12.2009.

The total financial allocation for the Convergence Objective represents **€550 000.00**.

The place of the project's implementation is the Nitra, Trenčín, Trnava, Žilina, Banská Bystrica, Prešov and Košice regions. The main objective of the notice was to “Ensure publicity and information of the OPE”.

The eligible applicant for this notice is the ASFEU.

The assistance is limited, i.e. the maximum level of the NFC per project of the Convergence objective, for priority theme 86, is **€550 000.00**. The intensity of the assistance is prescribed for the eligible applicant and is defined directly in the notice.

As at the closing date of 23.12.2009, the total number of applications received was **1** in the total level of the requested NFC of **€548 350.00**. The AfNFC for the TA project – TA for OPE, Convergence objective, priority theme 86 for 2010, was submitted on 20.11.2009.

The formal accuracy assessment of the AfNFC was conducted in the period from 24.11.2009 to 3.12.2009. The check included the verification of eligibility criteria, completeness criteria and ex-ante financial check.

The expert assessment of the AfNFC was conducted on 3.12.2009 – 4.12.2009 by two internal assessors – MA project managers.

The AfNFC achieved more than the prescribed minimum of the total score. The AfNFC expert assessment was completed on 4.12.2009 by its signing. A Summary Expert Assessment Report is not drawn up in the case of TA projects.

The selection of the AfNFC took place on 7.12.2009, and was performed by the chief manager on the basis of individual expert assessment sheets of the AfNFC. The chief manager applied to the AfNFC selection the selection criteria approved by the MC OPE. The AfNFC met the set selection criteria.

The final report from the AfNFC selection for the notice – Technical assistance project OPV/K/RKZ/TP/SORO/2009-2 was signed on 7.12.2009.

The level of funds allocated to the NFC applicant for the **1** approved AfNFC was **€548 350.00**.

The application was approved by the approval letter of the Minister of 9.12.2009, with the NFC of **€548 350.00**.

The AfNFC was contracted on 21.12.2009 with the following NFC: **€548 350.00**. The approved project will be implemented in the period from 1.1.2010 to 31.12.2010.

Measure 5.2

Technical Assistance projects of the IBMA MH SR

In the period monitored no MH SR technical assistance projects were submitted and approved in the framework of the OPE. In the framework of measure 5.2 the ME SR did not declare any notices with regard to the fact that the TA IBMA MH SR projects were approved in 2008 and contracted for the period 2007 – 2015. In 2009 the following projects were implemented (for information on submission and approval see the 2008 Annual Report):

- Technical assistance for Convergence objective – I.
- Technical assistance for Convergence objective – II.

As at 31.12.2009 none of the IBMA– MH SR technical assistance projects had been completed.

An overview of the use of funds under TA projects (separately for the Convergence Objective) from 1.1.2007 – 31.12.2009 by priority activity (drawing) is given in Chapter 6 of this 2009 Annual Report.

Detailed information on the state of declaring calls under priority axis 5 is provided in Table 66.

Table 66: State of declaring calls under priority axis 5 in the period from 1.1.2009 to 31.12.2009

Measure	Type of call	Call declared on	Closing date for receiving AfNFCs	Financial allocation per call (NRF) in €		
				Total	Of which	
					SF/CF	SB
5.1	Notice – technical assistance project	26.10.2009	23.12.2009	2 700 000.00	2 295 000.00	405 000.00
5.1	Notice – technical assistance project	26.10.2009	23.12.2009	550 000.00	467 500.00	82 500.00
5.1	Notice – technical assistance project	20.3.2009	18.5.2009	2 500 000.00	2 125 000.00	375 000.00
5.1	Notice – technical assistance project	20.3.2009	18.5.2009	200 000.00	170 000.00	30 000.00
5.1	Notice – technical assistance project	30.11.2009	28.1.2010	245 000.00	208 250.00	36 750.00
5.1	Notice – technical assistance project	30.11.2009	28.1.2010	2 290 000.00	1 946 500.00	343 500.00
Total for priority axis 5				8 485 000.00	7 212 250.00	1 272 750.00

Table 67 gives further information on the development of implementation of priority axis 5.

Table 67: Development of implementation of priority axis 5 as at 31.12.2009 2009

Measure	AfNFCs received	AfNFCs rejected	AfNFCs approved	Projects contracted	Projects in implementation	Contracts withdrawn	Projects completed
5.1	15	3	10	10	7	0	1
5.2	2	0	2	2	2	0	0
Total	17	3	12	12	9	0	1
Financial quantification of SF/CF and SB in €							
Measure	Contribution requested	Contribution rejected	Contribution approved	Contracted funds	Funds repaid	Projects completed	
5.1	17 271 232.66	2 597 070.84	12 146 601.82	12 146 601.82	1 974.38	420 064.41	

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5.2	1 387 488.22	0.00	1 387 488.22	1 387 488.22	0.00	0.00
Total	18 658 720.88	2 597 070.84	13 534 090.04	13 534 090.04	1 974.38	420 064.41

* In the case of MA TA projects, a contract is not concluded, but a decision approving the AfNFC is issued – the given number includes also approved MA TA projects.

Fulfilment of measurable indicators

Table 68 gives further information on the fulfilment of physical indicators under priority axis 5.

Table 68: Fulfilment of physical indicators as at 31.12.2009

Indicators		2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	Total
Training and presentations for assistance applicants and for beneficiaries	Result achieved	0	0	82	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	82
	Target	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	100	N/A	100	100
	Baseline	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0
State of contracting allocated funds	Result achieved	0	0	47.93	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	47.93
	Target	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	90	N/A	100	100
	Baseline	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0
State of allocated funds drawing	Result achieved	0	0	12.13	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	12.13
	Target	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	70	N/A	90	90
	Baseline	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0

Values are given on the basis of the fulfilment of result indicators at the level of the implemented projects. The indicator “Training and presentations for assistance applicants and for beneficiaries” achieved 82% fulfilment of the target state. The indicator “State of contracting allocated funds” achieved 47.93% fulfilment of the target state. The indicator “State of allocated funds drawing” achieved 12.13% fulfilment of the target state.

With regard to the assessment of the settings for the accuracy of the system of measurable indicators and of the functioning of the monitoring system the MA is planning to perform over the course of 2010 an evaluation and verification of the setting for the accuracy of the system of OPE measurable indicators. The analysis of the adequacy of the setting of the system of measurable indicators will be a subject of the OPE 2010 Annual Report.

3.5.1.2 Financial implementation of priority axis 5

Further information on fund drawing under priority axis 5 is given in Table 69.

Table 69: Drawing of funds under priority axis 5 as at 31.12.2009

	Commitment 2007-2013 for EU sources	Drawing of funds in year N (EU sources) in€		Cumulative drawing of funds (EU sources) in€	
		Total	% of commitment 2007 – 2013	Total	% of commitment 2007 – 2013
Priority axis 5	24 000 000.00	2 181 238.31	9.09%	2 912 061.68	12.13%
Measure 5.1	22 820 635.00	1 964 334.03	8.61%	2 695 014.40	11.81%
Measure 5.2	1 179 365.00	217 047.28	18.40%	217 047.28	18.40%

Fund drawing (use) under priority axis 5, particularly for the Convergence Objective and RC&E Objective, broken down by priority activity is given in Chapter 6 of this 2009 Annual Report.

3.5.1.3 Specifics for ESF programmes

In the framework of priority axis 5 only TA projects for the MA and IBMA projects are implemented. From the above it results that the eligible target groups under the TA projects are:

- central and general government staff at the MA, IBMA, PU and control and audit units;
- other staff ensuring the TA requirements (employees, or contracted entities).

Table 70 gives further information for the period monitored on target groups under priority axis 5.

Table 70: Monitoring of target groups under priority axis 5

a) Number of participants for 2009					
Entering participants		Leaving participants		People involved in the operational programme in the preceding year	
325		325		0	
b) Breakdown of participants by gender			c) Breakdown of participants by age		
Number of men	Number of women		Number of persons aged 15 – 24	Number of persons aged 55 – 64	
88	237		26	19	
d) Breakdown of participants by labour market status					
Number of employed including self-employed persons	Number of self-employed persons	Number of unemployed, including long-term unemployed	Number of long-term unemployed	Number of inactive persons	Inactive persons – studying
325	0	0	0	0	0
e) Breakdown of participants by educational attainment					
Primary or lower secondary education (ISCED 1 and 2)	Upper secondary education (ISCED 3)		Post-secondary non-tertiary education (ISCED 4)	Tertiary education (ISCED 5 and 6)	
0	54		0	271	
f) Breakdown of participants by vulnerability group in accordance with national legislation					
Minorities	Migrants		Disabled persons	Other disadvantaged persons	
0	0		0	0	

More information on the monitored target groups is given in Chapter 2.1.8.

3.5.2. Serious problems encountered and measures taken to overcome them

On the whole it may be said that during the period monitored and over the course of the implementation of priority axis 5 no serious problems were encountered and therefore there was no need to adopt any measures for their removal (see Table 71).

Table 71: Monitoring of the number of measures adopted for the defined problems

Problems identified	Measures adopted	Number of measures adopted
0	0	0

4. HORIZONTAL PRIORITIES

4.1. Horizontal Priority Marginalised Roma Communities

4.1.1. Fulfilment of measurable indicators



Table 72 provides data on the fulfilment of physical indicators of the NSRF for the HP MRC as at 31.12.2009.

Table 72: Fulfilment of physical indicators as at 31.12.2009

Indicators		2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	Total
Number of projects focused on MRCs (number)	Result achieved	0	0	50	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	50
	Target	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
	Baseline	0	0	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0
Value of projects focused on MRCs (€)	Result achieved	0	0	8 420 682.37	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	8 420 682.37
	Target	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
	Baseline	0	0	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0
Number of new and enhanced education programmes focused on MRCs (number)	Result achieved	0	0	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0
	Target	N/A	N/A	47	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	47
	Baseline	0	0	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0
Number of persons who completed further education programmes focused on MRCs (number)	Result achieved	0	0	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0
	Target	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
	Baseline	0	0	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0
Number of MRC students involved in new and enhanced education programmes (number)	Result achieved	0	0	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0
	Target	N/A	N/A	5541	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	5541
	Baseline	0	0	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0
Employment rate of graduates (%)	Result achieved	0	0	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0
	Target	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
	Baseline	0	0	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0

As at 31.12.2009 the number of projects focused on MRCs was 50. These are exclusively the projects implemented under measure 3.1 “Raising education level of the members of marginalised Roma communities”, contracted within the call OPV-2009/3.1/01-SORO. The NFC of these projects totals €8 420 682.37 (EU sources + state budget). In the framework of implementing these 50 projects it is expected that 5 541 students coming from the MRCs will be engaged in 47 new and enhanced education programmes focused on MRCs. Fulfilment of the remaining two indicators “Number of persons who completed further education programmes focused on MRCs” and “Employment rate of graduates” will be ensured in 2010 by means of the

planned declaration of an interim call and direct award for measure 3.1, or, as relevant, declaration of another call for measure 3.1 in 2011.

Table 73 gives the state of the contracting of projects contributing to the HP MRC as at 31.12.2009.

Table 73: State of contracting under NUTS III as at 31.12.2009

NUTS territory	III	Total number of contracted projects	Total value of contracted projects in € (EU sources)	Number of contracted projects contributing to HP MRC	Value of contracted projects in €, contributing to HP MRC (EU sources)	% of contracting in HP MRK in the total volume of funds contracted
A		B	$\Sigma C=D$ in table 7+B in table 8	D	E	F=E/C x100
Bratislava		20	2 365 623.55	0	0	0
Trnava		15	2 573 781.03	2	266 419.95	10.35
Trenčín		41	6 403 247.11	1	224 260.52	3.50
Nitra		35	5 302 438.53	3	414 780.46	7.82
Žilina		65	9 766 648.87	2	272 084.81	2.79
Banská Bystrica		61	9 290 078.22	5	708 364.87	7.62
Prešov		86	11 929 606.89	13	1 949 009.00	16.34
Košice		71	10 695 136.77	13	2 079 258.42	19.44
National project		18	125 330 867.13	8	59 927 670.58	47.81
Supra-regional project		6	2 974 278.68	0	0	0
Total		418*	186 631 706.78*	47**	65 841 848.61	35.28

* Data does not include TA projects

** The reasoning for the difference in the values given in Table 72, i.e. the number of projects targeted at MRCs (50) and the number of contracted projects as stated in the text (47) having a contribution to the HP MRC is as follows: the MA in preparing the OPE Annual Report for 2009 considered projects targeted at MRCs to be those that directly address the MRC issue. There were 50 such projects approved in Measure 3.1, with a direct focus on MRCs, and for 32 of these projects it was stated that they contribute to the HP MRC by means of a result indicator relevant to the HP MRC. The number of 47 projects with a contribution to the HP MRC includes only those projects that in the framework of contracting in accordance with CCB Methodological Instruction no. 3 on the creation and use of project indicators and their classification in ITMS 2007 – 2013 contain a binding indicator result with relevance to the HP MRC. In the period monitored 32 of the aforementioned projects were contracted under measure 3.1, 7 under measure 3.2, and 8 national projects, in total equalling 47 projects. Later, following the submission of the OPE 2009 Annual Report there was communication between the MA, the HP MRC coordinator and the CCB, on the basis of which the consensus was reached that in the next period it will be necessary, also in the framework of projects targeted at MRCs, to state exclusively only projects having a contracted result indicator relevant to the HP MRC. The MA then in the second half of 2010, by means of addenda, added such an indicator into contracts and also requested the CCB to add the HP MRC projects' relevance also in the ITMS. Therefore, the difference in the numbers in the OPE 2009 Annual Report reflects the current state at the end of 2009, which on the basis of the measures adopted by the MA will be removed from the OPE Annual Reports from 2010 onward (the numbers will be identical: a targeted project is a project with a contribution) and will then reflect also the adjusted number of projects in the ITMS.

As at 31.12.2009, in total 47 projects contributing to HP MRC were contracted of which 2 in the Trnava region, 1 in the Trenčín region, 3 in the Nitra region, 2 in the Žilina region and 5 projects in the Banská Bystrica region. The regions of Košice and Prešov had the highest number of contracted projects contributing to the HP MRC, each with the same number of 13 contracted projects. Out of the total number of 47 projects contributing to the HP MRC, 8 national projects declared a contribution to the HP MRC (these are 4 mirror national projects); the level of the contracted funds with a contribution to the HP MRC in the national projects constitutes almost a half (47.81%) of the total amount of the funds contracted in national projects. The total sum of

funds contracted from the Structural Funds of all 46 contracted projects with a contribution to the HP MRC achieved the level of €65 841 848.61, representing more than a third (35.28%) of the total amount contracted for all projects.

Fulfilment of objectives under the NSRF and HP MRC Implementation Coordination System

The objective of HP MRC as defined in the NSRF is **to increase employment and education level of MRC members and to improve their living conditions.**

In the framework of the OPE, the HP MRC is being implemented primarily by means of the specific objective “Education” of the Implementation Coordination System (hereinafter simply “ICS”) for the horizontal priority Marginalised Roma Communities.

With regard to the problems (described below in section 4.1.2 of this 2009 Annual Report) in reporting the contribution of the projects contracted under the calls and direct awards declared in 2009 for measures 1.1, 2.1, 2.2, 4.1 and 4.2, the contribution of these projects to the HP MRC may be monitored by the fact that the applicant declared this contribution to the HP MRC, described it in the AfNFC and subsequently evaluated it in the expert assessment phase. The monitoring of the rate in which the projects under these calls contributed to the HP MRC may constitute subject of an on-the-spot inspection.

Even if the specific measure 2.2 of the OPE did not define any activities explicitly focused on raising the education level of MRCs and as at 31.12.2009 none of the contracted projects declared a contribution to the HP MRC, it may be stated that the results achieved in the projects will indirectly affect the MRCs in the form of providing better healthcare services.

The call under priority axis 3 with the code OPV-2009/3.1/01-SORO was directly focused on raising the education level of the members of MRCs and facilitating access to education for MRCs, which are partially also objectives of the HP MRCs. The activities of the approved projects under this call focus, for example, on the preparation and creation of teaching documentation, textbooks, teaching texts, teaching aids and manuals with the aim of enabling MRCs’ integration in the education system at primary schools, as well as, special projects focused on teaching the Roma language and literature and Roma studies at primary schools, as well as innovating teaching aids for developing key competences in pupils. Under priority axis 3 there was also declared the call OPV-2009/3.2/01-SORO, with re-education centres also included among the eligible applicants. Wards of these facilities also include pupils from MRCs. Through the implementation of activities’ focused on upbringing-education activities and practical skills the level and effectiveness of the education of MRC members, as well as the potential of their employment in the labour market and their inclusion in the society, will be raised.

In the framework of the national project “Education of nursery Teaching Staff as a Component of Education Reform”, contracted in 2009 under measure 1.1, the activities will equally engage teaching staff and nurseries in which MRC children are educated. The education activities will also include multicultural education and upbringing and education of children coming from a social environment offering little stimulation. Attention will be devoted also to strengthening cooperation and the more efficient coordination of activities between the nursery teaching staff and parents of Roma children. In the project teaching staff will gain competences to assist them in improving the upbringing and education in relation to children from MRCs.

Monitoring of the projects' contribution to the HP MRC will be carried out over the course of their implementation, mainly by means of result indicators relevant to the HP MRC, the fulfilment of which is binding for the beneficiary from the NFC contract. The beneficiary must report the values achieved in these indicators in interim monitoring reports. The monitoring of the projects' contribution to the HP MRC will also be subject of on-the-spot inspections.

4.1.2. Problems connected with HP MRC implementation

With regard to measure 3.1, a problem in implementing the HP MRC in 2009 was the low number of applications received at the OGPRC within the framework of the original call for submitting applications for LCAS support, in the result of which the call was re-evaluated and updated. The MA for OPE was forced to respond to this fact and to plan the preparation of an interim call for measure 3.1 OPE, which directly responds to the call for submitting applications for LCAS support, for a later period (forecast for the second half of 2010).

Since the planned national project "Education of Teaching Staff with Regard to the Inclusion of Marginalised Roma Communities", resulting from the agreement between the Methodological-Pedagogical Centre and the National Pedagogical Institute concerning the incorporation of new project activities into the draft project, needs considerable reworking, the direct award for this national project was not declared in 2009. On the basis of the approved schedule for direct awards for submitting national projects, the direct award is planned for 2010.

Another serious problem was the fact that on the basis of CCB Methodological Instruction no. 3 regarding the creation and use of project indicators and their classification in the ITMS 2007 – 2013, which entered into effect on 1.12.2008, and the related changes made in the ITMS public portal, it was necessary to change, or tighten up the method of reporting the project's contribution to the HP pursuant to the rule of the methodological instruction as described in point 13(h) "Projects declaring a contribution to fulfilment of horizontal priority objectives shall use at least one result indicator relevant to the respective horizontal priority in the ITMS". The MA began to apply this principle on the basis of a written statement from the CCB from the calls declared following the date of issue of the methodological instruction, i.e. following 1.12.2008. For this reason the projects contracted in 2009 under the calls and direct awards made prior 1.12.2008 were not bound by the obligation to declare the contribution to an HP via a result indicator. Because the data of the 2008 Annual Report on the projects contributing to HP are identified only on the fact whether the applicant indicated in its AfNFC relevance to an HP, the data in the 2009 Annual Report are based on a different principle and already reflect the new state since the issue of the CCB methodological instruction (a project with contribution to an HP must, both in the ITMS and the contract, contain a result indicator relevant to the HP).

4.2. Horizontal Priority Equal Opportunities

4.2.1. Fulfilment of measurable indicators

Table 74 provides data on the fulfilment of physical indicators of the NSRF for the HP Equal Opportunities (hereinafter simply "HP EO") as at 31.12.2009.

Table 74: Fulfilment of physical indicators as at 31.12.2009

Indicators		2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	Total
Number of projects	Result achieved	0	0	14	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	14

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December 2009*

contributing to HP EO (number)	Target	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
	Baseline	0	0	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0
Value of projects contributing to equal opportunities (€)	Result achieved	0	0	3 980 753.26	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	3 980 753.26
	Target	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
	Baseline	0	0	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0
Number of target group persons involved in the supported projects – men (number)	Result achieved	0	0	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0
	Target	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
	Baseline	0	0	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0
Number of target group persons involved in the supported projects – women (number)	Result achieved	0	0	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0
	Target	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
	Baseline	0	0	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0
Number of target group persons involved in the supported projects, aged 55 – 64 (number)	Result achieved	0	0	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0
	Target	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
	Baseline	0	0	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0
Number of target group persons involved in the supported projects, aged 15 – 24 (number)	Result achieved	0	0	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0
	Target	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
	Baseline	0	0	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0
Number of target group persons involved in the supported projects – disabled	Result achieved	0	0	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0
	Target	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
	Baseline	0	0	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0



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persons (number)											
Number of supported education programmes contributing to equal opportunities (number)	Result achieved	0	0	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0
	Target	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
	Baseline	0	0	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0

As at 31.12.2009, 14 projects contributing to the HP EO were contracted under OPE, with the NFC (EU sources + SB) of €3 980 753.26.

With regard to the fact that the implementation of the projects contributing to the HP EO started only in the second half of 2009, the value of the project indicators relevant to the HP EO have not as yet recorded any fulfilment, which is at the same time reflected in the performance of HP EO indicators at the level of the NSRF. The fulfilment of these values in connection to the project indicators is forecast for 2010.

Table 75 gives the state of contracted projects contributing to the HP EO as at 31.12.2009.

Table 75: State of contracting under NUTS III as at 31.12.2009

NUTS III territory	Total number of contracted projects	Total value of contracted projects in € (EU sources)	Number of contracted projects contributing to HP EO	Value of contracted projects in €, contributing to HP EO (EU sources)	% of contracting in HP EO out of the total volume of funds contracted
A	B	C	D	e	F=(E/C)*100
Bratislava	20	2 365 623.55	0	0	0
Trnava	15	2 573 781.03	0	0	0
Trenčín	41	6 403 247.11	1	224 260.52	3.50
Nitra	35	5 302 438.53	1	94 184.19	1.78
Žilina	65	9 766 648.87	1	131 112.87	1.34
Banská Bystrica	61	9 290 078.22	1	207 583.93	2.23
Prešov	86	11 929 606.89	1	174 589.93	1.46
Košice	71	10 695 136.77	7	1 308 311.83	12.23
National project	18	125 330 867.13	0	0	0
Supra-regional project	6	2 974 278.68	2	1 223 964.01	41.15
Total	418*	186 631 706.78*	14	3 364 007.28	1.80

* Data does not include TA projects

In the period monitored 14 projects contributing to the HP EO were contracted, of which 1 project for each of the following regions: Trenčín, Nitra, Žilina, Banská Bystrica and Prešov. The Košice region achieved the highest number of contracted projects contributing to the HP EO, with the same number of 7 contracted projects. In the period monitored 2 supraregional projects contributing to the HP EO were contracted. No national projects contributing to the HP EO were contracted. The total number of contracted projects contributing to the HP EO was 14, with funds contracted from the EU sources totalling €3 364 007.28, representing 1.80% of the total amount of the EU funds contracted in the OPE projects.

As at 31.12.2009 the MA had not implemented any national project contributing to the HP EO. The IBMA for OPE implemented in total 14 projects contributing to the HP EO – ASFEU 13 projects in the value of €2 288 809.58, the MH SR 1 project in the value of €1 075 197.70. The implementation of the 14 projects was commenced in the 2nd half of 2009.

The data on the projects contributing to the HP EO as given in the 2009 Annual Report differ from the data available in the 2008 Annual Report. The difference results from the problems in defining relevant indicators for the HP EO in the indicator code list. Due to these problems, the MA had to undertake a consistent solution to the issue of data reporting as regards the OPE's contribution to an HP. Following agreement with individual HP coordinators, a project contributing to an HP is deemed to be a project that declared in its AfNFC a contribution to an HP, this contribution was evaluated in the framework of the expert assessment and the project's NFC contract indicates at least one result indicator for the given HP. With regard to the above the number and value of the projects contributing to the HP EO as at 31.12.2009 was lower. For the same reason it was not possible to evaluate the fulfilment of physical indicators for the HP, since monitoring of these indicators, as indicated in the NFC contracts, started only after the CCB Methodological Instruction no. 3 regarding the creation and use of project indicators and their classification in the ITMS 2007 – 2013 had entered into effect.

Fulfilment of objectives under the NSRF

The main HP EO objective under Chapter 4.3.5 of the NSRF is to “Ensure equal opportunities for all and prevent all forms of discrimination”. In achieving this objective the OP focuses on the creation of conditions leading to the strengthening of equal access for all to a certain social environment, or to ensuring equal availability of public services and resources for all. The aim is to remove obstacles which lead to isolation and exclusion of people from the public, social and working life. OPE fulfils the mentioned objective, as defined in the NSRF, by way of monitoring specific objectives of the Implementation Coordination System for the HP EO.

Fulfilment of objectives under the HP EO ICS

In the period monitored, the OPE contributed to fulfilling the specific objectives defined in the ICS for the HP EO with the aid of 14 implemented projects under priority axes 2 (1 project) and 3 (13 projects) as follows:

- Priority Axis 2 Further Education as a Tool for Developing Human Resources:
 - objectives 2.3: Adapting education to the needs of disabled persons from the aspect of their integration among the healthy population (research in the framework of the external assessment); Raising the employment rate among education participants (survey in the framework of external evaluation);
 - objectives 3.1: Raising participation rate in lifelong learning among senior persons, Raising employment rate among senior persons (by raising qualification), Raising employment rate among senior women;
 - objective 4: Improving anti-discrimination mechanisms in relation to these groups.
- Priority Axis 3 Support for education with persons with special education needs:
 - objective 2.1: Decreasing the specific unemployment rate among disabled persons;
 - objective 2.2: Increasing access to information services for disabled persons;

- objectives 2.3: Adapting education to the needs of disabled persons from the aspect of their integration among the healthy population (research in the framework of the external assessment); Raising the employment rate among the education participants (research in the framework of external evaluation);
- objective 4: Improving anti-discrimination mechanisms in relation to these groups.

4.2.2. Problems connected with HP EO implementation

A serious problem in the framework of HP EO implementation was the fact that on the basis of CCB Methodological Instruction no. 3 regarding the creation and use of project indicators and their classification in the ITMS 2007 – 2013, which entered into effect on 1.12.2008, and the related changes made in the ITMS public portal, it was necessary to change, or tighten up the method of reporting the project's contribution to the HP pursuant to the rule of the methodological instruction as described in point 13(h) "Projects declaring a contribution to fulfilment of horizontal priority objectives shall use at least one result indicator relevant to the respective horizontal priority in the ITMS".

The MA began to apply this principle on the basis of a written statement from the CCB from the calls declared following the date of issue of the methodological instruction, i.e. following 1.12.2008. For this reason the projects contracted in 2009 under the calls and direct awards made prior 1.12.2008 were not bound by the obligation to declare the contribution to an HP via a result indicator. Because the data of the 2008 Annual Report on projects contributing to HP are identified only on the fact whether the applicant indicated in its AfNFC relevance to an HP, the data in the 2009 Annual Report are based on a different principle and already reflect the new state since the issue of the CCB methodological instruction (a project with contribution to an HP must, both in the ITMS and the contract, contain a result indicator relevant to the HP).

The mentioned problems were revealed in the course of preparing source documentation for this 2009 Annual Report. At the same time it was found that not all calls and direct awards declared after 1.12.2008 included indicators relevant to the HP EO among their project indicators. Based on the above, the MA adopted measures for future calls declared and written invitations to contain the respective result indicators relevant to the HP EO. On the basis of these findings as well as following agreement with the HP EO coordinator, the following documents were adjusted over the course of April 2010: OPE programme manual, assessor manual, applicant manual, beneficiary manual, specimen AfNFC form. From the applicant's point of view the applicant manual underwent significant change. The manual was supplemented with specific HP EO Objectives, stating relevances for individual OPE priority axes. In cooperation with the HP EO coordinator, specific examples of activities focused on the fulfilment of HP EO Objectives were also incorporated in the manual. The adjustment of the specimen AfNFC form, on the other hand, is intended merely to assist the applicant in correctly filling out an AfNFC and in indicating the relevance to the HP EO and selecting correct and relevant indicators relevant to the HP EO. All these steps are aimed at raising among HP EO applicants awareness of the HP EO objectives and possibilities for fulfilling these objectives in the form of implementing projects funded from the ESF via the OPE and, thus, raising the number of OPE projects relevant to the HP EO.

4.3. Horizontal Priority Sustainable Development

4.3.1. Fulfilment of measurable indicators

Table 76 provides data on the fulfilment of physical indicators of the NSRF for the HP Sustainable Development (hereinafter simply "SD") as at 31.12.2009.

Table 76: Fulfilment of physical indicators as at 31.12.2009

Indicators		2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	Total
Number of projects contributing to HP SD (number)	Result achieved	0	6	76	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	76
	Target	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
	Baseline	0	0	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0
Volume of funds of projects contributing to HP SD (€)	Result achieved	0	54 351 214.86	146 880 818.12	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	146 880 818.12
	Target	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
	Baseline	0	0	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0
Human resources expenditure – (total public expenditure for education), % of GDP (%)	Result achieved	N/A	3.79	4.56	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	4.56
	Target	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	5.2	5.2	5.2	5.2
	Baseline	4.4	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	4.4
Share of inhabitants involved in lifelong learning per 100 inhabitants aged 25-64 (%)	Result achieved	3.9	3.3	-	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	3.3
	Target	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	12.5	12.5	12.5	12.5
	Baseline	4.6	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	4.6

As at 31.12.2009 the number of projects contributing to the HP SD is 76. The total amount of the NFC (EU sources + state budget) in these projects is €146 880 818.12.

Table 77 gives the state of contracted projects contributing to the HP SD as at 31.12.2009.

Table 77: State of contracting under NUTS III as at 31.12.2009

NUTS III territory	Total number of contracted projects	Total value of contracted projects in € (EU sources)	Number of contracted projects contributing to HP SD	Value of contracted projects in €, contributing to HP SD (EU sources)	% of contracting in HP SD out of the total volume of funds contracted
A	B	$\Sigma C=D$ in table 7+B in table 8	D	E	$F=E/C \times 100$
Bratislava	20	2 365 623.55	0	0	0
Trnava	15	2 573 781.03	3	372 888.34	14.49
Trenčín	41	6 403 247.11	0	0	0
Nitra	35	5 302 438.53	4	511 903.73	9.65
Žilina	65	9 766 648.87	3	402 389.31	4.12



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Banská Bystrica	61	9 290 078.22	13	2 016 133.67	21.70
Prešov	86	11 929 606.89	15	2 309 413.80	19.36
Košice	71	10 695 136.77	20	3 194 468.97	29.87
National project	18	125 330 867.13	16	116 040 494.37	92.59
Supra-regional project	6	2 974 278.68	2	261 212.30	8.78
Total	418*	186 631 706.78*	76	125 108 904.49	67.03

* Data does not include TA projects

As at 31.12.2009 there were 76 projects contributing to the HP SD contracted, of which 3 were in the Trnava region, 4 in the Nitra region, 3 in the Žilina region, 13 in the Banská Bystrica region, 15 in the Prešov region and 20 in the Košice region. Of the supra-regional projects, 2 contributing to the HP SD were contracted. Out of the total number of 76 projects contributing to the HP SD, 16 national projects declared a contribution to the HP SD (these are 8 mirror national projects); the level of the contracted funds with a contribution to the HP SD in the national projects represents almost 92.59% of the total amount of the funds contracted in national projects. The sum of funds contracted from the Structural Funds of all 76 contracted projects with a contribution to the HP SD totalled €125 108 904.49, representing more than two thirds (67.03%) of the total amount contracted for all projects.

Fulfilment of objectives under the NSRF

In 2009 the fulfilment of the main HP SD objective as referred to in Chapter 4.3.5. of the NSRF: “Ensure that the resulting effect of all interventions financed under the NSRF is of synergic support to the SD in all its components, i.e., environmental, economic and social components, in compliance with the objectives and indicators of the EU Strategy for Sustainable Development”, was ensured by means of guiding NFC applicants in the issues of declaring a contribution to the fulfilment of HP SD objectives, defining indicators relevant to the HP SD in calls and direct awards, training of expert assessors and provision of information for the general public on the importance and principles of the HP SD.

With regard to the fact that education is a basic prerequisite for promoting sustainable development and for raising human potential for solving environmental, economic and social and cultural development issues, compliance with the above mentioned basic pillars of the SD, especially that of social, is ensured through systematic education implemented in national and demand-driven projects.

In the national project “Education of Nursery Teaching Staff as a Component of Education Reform” implemented by the Methodological-Pedagogical Centre there will, with a view to promoting sustainable development, be an intensification in the democratisation and humanisation of education, in raising the education level of teaching staff (including management), in developing education opportunities and in ensuring equal access to education.

Fulfilment of objectives under the HP SD ICS

The OPE in the framework of priority axes 1 – 4 contributes to the fulfilment of the following specific and sub-objectives of the HP SD, as defined in the Implementation Coordination System of the HP SD:

1. Raising economic prosperity (increasing the level of research, development and education)
3. Social solidarity and inclusion (reducing the unemployment rate, strengthening the position of disadvantaged and marginalised groups, ensuring public health protection).

The specific and sub-objective 1 was fulfilled in 2009 in the framework of priority axes 1, 2 and 4 by means of activities of the contracted projects under measures 1.1 and 4.1 by increasing the education level at primary and secondary schools through innovating and modernising the education content, obtaining and renewing teachers' knowledge and skills and modernising school equipment. The specific and sub-objective was also fulfilled through projects contracted under measures 1.2 and 4.2 focused on increasing the level of research, development and education, but also thanks to project activities under measures 2.1 and 4.2 through the innovation of the knowledge of relevant target groups ensured through further education and subsequent strengthening of the Slovak economy's competitiveness and efficiency.

The fulfilment of the specific objective 3, Social solidarity and inclusion, the sub-objective *"decreasing the unemployment rate"*, in the period monitored was ensured by declaring calls and direct awards focused on acquiring key skills by participants in education activities. Fulfilment of the sub-objective *"strengthening the position of disadvantaged and marginalised groups"* was ensured in 2008 by declaring calls for measures 3.1 and 3.2. The sub-objective is fulfilled via project activities under measure 3.1, focused on the social inclusion of the MRCs in the field of raising the education level by means of facilitating their access to formal education and by means of further education, successful engagement of MRCs in education at primary schools in municipalities with an MRC concentration, including a daylong upbringing process or by means of aids and manuals with the aim of enabling the MRCs' integration in the primary school education system. This objective is likewise fulfilled via projects implemented under measure 3.2, which are focused on the social inclusion of persons with special education needs by means of facilitating their access to formal education, as well as their further education, lifelong guidance, innovating methods and forms of upbringing-education process at special schools, improving teaching materials and implementation of further education programmes for persons working with disabled persons.

Fulfilment of the sub-objective *"ensuring the protection of public health"* was in 2009 supported indirectly through declaring calls under measure 2.2 focused on continuing education of healthcare workers and also through implementing projects targeted at the education of healthcare workers.

Monitoring of the projects' contribution to the HP SD will be carried out over the course of their implementation, mainly by means of result indicators relevant to the HP SD, the fulfilment of which is binding for the beneficiary from the NFC contract. The beneficiary must report the values achieved in these indicators in interim monitoring reports. The monitoring of the projects' contribution to the HP SD will also be subject of on-the-spot inspections.

4.3.2. Problems connected with HP SD implementation

A serious problem in the framework of HP SD implementation was the fact that on the basis of CCB Methodological Instruction no. 3 regarding the creation and use of project indicators and their classification in the ITMS 2007 – 2013, which entered into effect on 1.12.2008, and the related changes made in the ITMS public portal, it was necessary to change, or tighten up the method of reporting the project's contribution to the HP pursuant to the rule of the methodological instruction as described in point 13(h) "Projects declaring a contribution to fulfilment of horizontal priority objectives shall use at least one result indicator relevant to the respective horizontal priority in the ITMS".

The MA began to apply this principle on the basis of a written statement from the CCB from the calls declared following the date of issue of the methodological instruction, i.e. following 1.12.2008. For this reason the projects contracted in 2009 under the calls and direct awards made

prior 1.12.2008 were not bound by the obligation to declare the contribution to an HP via a result indicator. Because the data of the 2008 Annual Report on projects contributing to HP are identified only on the fact whether the applicant indicated in its AfNFC relevance to an HP, the data in the 2009 Annual Report are based on a different principle and already reflect the new state since the issue of the CCB methodological instruction (a project with contribution to an HP must, both in the ITMS and the contract, contain a result indicator relevant to the HP).

4.4. Horizontal Priority Information Society

4.4.1. Fulfilment of measurable indicators

Table 78 provides data on the fulfilment of physical indicators of the NSRF for the HP IS as at 31.12.2009.

Table 78: Fulfilment of physical indicators as at 31.12.2009

Indicators		2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	Total
Number of projects contributing to the Horizontal Priority Information Society	Result achieved	0	4	51	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	51
	Target	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
	Baseline	0	0	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0
Volume of funds of the projects contributing to the Horizontal Priority Information Society (€)	Result achieved	0	46 269 036.71	123 550 888.08	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	123 550 888.08
	Target	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
	Baseline	0	0	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0

In the framework of the HP IS, as at 31.12.2009, 51 projects contributing to the HP IS were contracted under OPE, with an NFC (EU sources + SB) totalling €123 550 888.08.

Table 79 gives the state of contracted projects contributing to the HP IS as at 31.12.2009.

Table 79: State of contracting under NUTS III as at 31.12.2009

NUTS III territory	Total number of contracted projects	Total value of contracted projects in € (EU sources)	Number of contracted projects contributing to HP IS	Value of contracted projects in €, contributing to HP IS (EU sources)	% of contracting in HP IS out of the total volume of funds contracted
A	B	$\Sigma C=D$ in table 7+B in table 8	D	e	F=E/C
Bratislava	20	2 365 623.55	0	0	0
Trnava	15	2 573 781.03	2	266 419.95	10.36
Trenčín	41	6 403 247.11	1	224 260.52	3.50
Nitra	35	5 302 438.53	3	414 780.46	7.82
Žilina	65	9 766 648.87	2	272 084.81	2.79
Banská Bystrica	61	9 290 078.22	5	708 364.87	7.62
Prešov	86	11 929 606.89	14	2 064 369.93	17.30

Košice	71	10 695 136.77	14	2 189 206.18	20.47
National project	18	125 330 867.13	8	96 596 867.92	77.07
Supra-regional project	6	2 974 278.68	2	2 484 767.40	83.54
Total	418*	186 631 706.78*	51	105 221 122.04	56.38

* Data does not include TA projects

As at 31.12.2009, in total 51 projects were contracted, contributing to HP IS, of which 2 in the Trnava region, 1 in the Trenčín region, 3 in the Nitra region, 2 in the Žilina region and 5 projects in the Banská Bystrica region. The regions of Košice and Prešov had the highest number of contracted projects contributing to the HP IS, each with the same number of 14 contracted projects. Of the contracted projects contributing to the HP IS, 8 were national projects and 2 were supraregional projects. The total number of the contracted projects contributing to the HP IS was 51, with contracted funds of €105 221 122.04, representing more than a half (56.38%) of the total amount of the EU funds contracted in the OPE projects.

The MA in the period to 31.12.2009 implemented 8 national projects contributing to the HP IS, for which an NFC contract was concluded in the value of €113 643 374.03.

The IBMA for OPE implemented in total 43 projects contributing to the HP IS, ASFEU implemented 41 projects in the value of €6 984 258.28, and the MH SR implemented 2 projects in the value of €2 923 255.77.

Fulfilment of objectives under the NSRF

The main HP IS objective as referred to in Chapter 4.3.5. of the NSRF “Promoting Greater Efficiency, Transparency and Quality in the Implementation of NSRF Priorities through the Introduction and Use of ICT Resources” is fulfilled within the framework of priority axes 1 to 4, through the project activities by introducing and using ICT resources. Introduction of ICT and streamlining processes through their use contributes considerably to greater efficiency and effectiveness in implementing the elements of a knowledge-based society.

The OPE fulfils the mentioned objective, as defined in the NSRF, by way of monitoring specific objectives of the HP IS ICS.

Fulfilment of objectives under the HP IS Implementation Coordination System

The OPE in the framework of priority axes 1.2 and 4 contributes to the fulfilment of the following specific and sub-objectives of the HP IS, as defined in the Implementation Coordination System of the HP IS:

1. Information literacy (bringing up a flexible and competitive workforce able to be placed in the conditions of an information society, ensure permanent ICT innovation for teachers and students, provide education allowing people to exploit the benefits of informatisation, raise the level of the Slovak tertiary education so that it is competitive with the EU developed countries in terms of quality and forms of education, ensure permanent innovation of knowledge via lifelong learning);

3. Widespread internet availability (modernise infrastructure by means of technical provision of ICT, supporting the extension of Internet access to less-developed regions, promoting access of publicly accessible internet points, supporting school multimedia classrooms).

Priority axis 3 contributes only to the fulfilment of the above mentioned specific and sub-objective 1.

The national projects “*Modernisation of Education Process at Primary Schools*” and “*Modernisation of Education Process at Secondary Schools*” will result in a new multimedia digital content, digital teaching aids and methodological textbooks for teachers for teaching selected subjects, thus considerably improving the education outputs for the labour market needs of a knowledge-based society.

In the national project “*Education of Nursery Teaching Staff as a Component of the Education Reform*” the outcome will be, for example, the creation of innovative teaching materials and aids for the upbringing-education process in digital form, the creation of an education portal. The national project “*Professional and Career Growth of Teaching Staff*” will be targeted at facilitating access to education programmes and teaching resources via modern forms of education and technology.

The supra-regional projects of IBMA MH SR under measure 2.2 contributed to the fulfilment of special objective 1 Information literacy and of specific objective 3 Widespread internet access, defined in the HP IS Implementation Coordination Strategy. This concerns a project of the Slovak Chamber of Medicine of the OPE call 2008/2.2/02, which was contracted in the 1st half of 2009 and the project of the Slovak Chamber of Nurses and Midwives for the OPE call 2009/2.2/01, which was contracted in the 2nd half of 2009.

Fulfilment of the specific objective 1 Information literacy was ensured by the IBMA of ASFEU via calls under priority axis 3 “Support for Education of Persons with Special Education Needs”, specifically via the calls OPV-2009/3.1/01-SORO and OPV-2009/3.2/01-SORO. The projects implemented under measure 3.1 contributed to the modernisation of the education content also by means of ICT. Not only the ICT knowledge of MRC students is innovated, but also that of the teachers in less-developed regions. The specific objective of measure 3.2 is to support the social inclusion of persons with special education needs via facilitating their access to formal education and to acquiring skills necessary for the labour market, which in practice means the use of ICT in the teaching process. A suitable example is the creation of new ICT education programmes or the purchase of computer equipment.

In the framework of the contracted projects of calls under IBMA ASFEU for measures 1.1 and 4.1, declared by the end of 2008, their measurable indicators relevant to the HP IS were not incorporated in the NFC contracts, i.e. the beneficiaries were not obliged to fulfil such indicators. For further information see Section 4.4.2 of the 2009 Annual Report.

Monitoring of the projects’ contribution to the HP IS will be carried out over the course of their implementation, mainly by means of result indicators with relevance to the HP IS, the fulfilment of which is binding for the beneficiary from the NFC contract. The beneficiary must report the values achieved in these indicators in interim monitoring reports. Monitoring of the degree to which projects contribute to the HP IS may be subject to an on-the-spot inspection.

4.4.2. Problems connected with HP IS implementation

A serious problem in the framework of HP IS implementation was the fact that on the basis of CCB Methodological Instruction no. 3 regarding the creation and use of project indicators and their classification in the ITMS 2007 – 2013, which entered into effect on 1.12.2008, and the

related changes made in the ITMS public portal, it was necessary to change, or tighten up the method of reporting the project's contribution to the HP pursuant to the rule of the methodological instruction as described in point 13(h) "Projects declaring a contribution to fulfilment of horizontal priority objectives shall use at least one result indicator relevant to the respective horizontal priority in the ITMS".

The MA began to apply this principle on the basis of a written statement from the CCB from the calls declared following the date of issue of the methodological instruction, i.e. following 1.12.2008. For this reason the projects contracted in 2009 under the calls and direct awards made prior 1.12.2008 were not bound by the obligation to declare the contribution to an HP via a result indicator. Because the data of the 2008 Annual Report on projects contributing to HP are identified only on the fact whether the applicant indicated in its AfNFC relevance to an HP, the data in the 2009 Annual Report are based on a different principle and already reflect the new state since the issue of the CCB methodological instruction (a project with contribution to an HP must, both in the ITMS and the contract, contain a result indicator relevant to the HP).

5. ESF PROGRAMMES: COHERENCE AND CONCENTRATION

The OPE contributes to the implementation of EU Community recommendations for employment in the field of social inclusion, education and vocational training, by which it fulfils Article 4 (1) of EC Regulation No 1081/2006.

Through its orientation it fulfils the EU recommendations on employment, the European Employment Strategy, the EU Lisbon Strategy, and links to the SR strategic documents (Employment Growth Strategy based on reform of the social system and labour market, National Employment Action Plan for 2004-2006), the Commission's work programme: "Education and Training 2010", Memorandum on Lifelong Learning, the Bologna Declaration, and the Recommendation of the European Parliament and of the Council of 18.12.2006 on key competencies for lifelong learning (2006/962/EC). In these strategic documents education constitutes one of the cornerstones supporting economic and social activity and employability. Within this context, the OPE objective seeks to reform the education system and raise labour force qualifications.

The OPE is fully in accordance with Community strategic guidelines on economic, social and territorial cohesion defining the basic framework for member states' NSRFs, with a view to promoting the harmonious, balanced and sustainable development of the Community.

The OP priority axes are based on and fully support the development part of the Competitiveness Strategy for the Slovak Republic to 2010 – the National Lisbon Strategy, which in its introduction declares that "the long-term competitiveness for the SR may be ensured only by creating conditions for the development of a knowledge-based economy". These focus primarily on the themes within the framework of the second and third guideline: "Improving knowledge and innovation for growth" and "More and better jobs".

In connection with the task of the Lisbon Strategy which underlines the important role of education as an integral part of economic and social policy as an instrument for strengthening the competitiveness of Europe in the world and as a guarantee for ensuring the coherence of the European Communities and full development of their citizens, the development of high quality vocational education and training constitutes a crucial factor in issues of promoting social integration, cohesion, mobility and employment. In 2009, the implementation of calls from 2008 was launched (8 calls under Measures 1.1 and 4.1) declared in compliance with the Lisbon

Strategy, focused on the promotion of key competencies of primary and secondary school pupils and teaching staff.

The OPE is also in accordance with the following programmes:

National Reform Programme of the SR for 2006-2008, passed by SR Government Resolution No 797 of 12 October 2005, including the addendum to the draft addendum to the National Reform Programme of the SR for 2006-2008, passed by SR Government Resolution No 1056 of 13 December 2006, underlines the future prosperity and competitiveness of the SR as lying in the conversion of the traditional school to a modern school, in supporting talented youth, in the active mastering of foreign languages, in supporting teaching and learning through IT, in increasing the accessibility and quality of tertiary education, in opening up the further education system, and in integrating children from marginalised communities into the school environment. In 2009 the projects from calls declared in 2008 were being implemented. In accordance with the National Reform Programme of the SR for 2006-2008, OPE calls for AfNFCs in 2008 declared under Measures 1.1 and 4.1 were focused on the creation and implementation of primary and secondary school development programmes, with an emphasis on improving the quality of education on the basis of innovations and school profiling in connection to education system reform. Part III.1 Modern Education Policy of the National Reform Programme of the SR for 2006-2008 has the objective of promoting further education, matching the regional supply of further education programmes to the current demands of the regional labour market.

The National Reform Programme of the Slovak Republic for 2008-2010, approved by SR Government Resolution No 707 of 8 October 8 2008, was drawn up in accordance with the conclusions of the European Council from March 2008. In 2008, the European Union member states entered a new three-year cycle of the Lisbon Strategy, which was reflected in the adoption of the National Reform Programme. The National Reform Programme presents the state of fulfilment of the structural policies comprising the measures of the National Reform Programme of the SR for 2006 – 2008 and the short-term measures of the Modernisation Programme Slovakia 21, and which at the same time presents new measures for 2008 – 2010 in the field of education and employment. The National Reform Programme of the SR for 2008 – 2010 in its relevant parts focuses on the informatisation of schools and creating innovative study materials and aids, and thus seeks to build an adequate communication and information infrastructure systems at all types of schools and school facilities in Slovakia. At the same time education content is to be innovated for the teaching process to develop new material-teaching resources (textbooks and teaching texts), with further education of teaching staff and the implementation of a career system in the professional development of teaching staff in the regional school system. In the field of the tertiary education system, one aim is to make management more flexible. In accordance with the abovementioned measures and with a view to fulfilling the objectives of the National Reform Programme, the following 2009 direct awards for national projects were declared:

- direct award entitled “**Professional and Career Growth of Teaching Staff**” focused on the creation and development of an efficient further education system for teaching and professional staff of schools and school facilities with emphasis placed on the development of key competences, on deepening and raising the qualifications of teaching and professional staff in accordance with the Act on Teaching and Professional Staff and in accordance with the current and prospective needs of a knowledge-based society;

- the direct award “**Digitalisation of the Content of National Education Programmes for Primary and Secondary Schools**” is focused on the creation and efficient use of digital education content in the national education programmes in the teaching process at primary and secondary schools, with the view to modernising and raising the education quality as well as supporting regional education reform at primary and secondary schools.

The period monitored also saw the declaration of several calls for demand-driven projects. The call under measure 3.1 entitled “**Programmes and courses for primary school pupils coming from marginalised Roma communities**” focused on the activation and motivation of MRC pupils and on the implementation of innovative teaching methods as a tool for MRC’s inclusion in the teaching process and society. Moreover, the call in question is in accordance with the **Medium-Term White Paper for Development of the Roma Minority in the Slovak Republic SOLIDARITY – INTEGRITY – INCLUSION 2008 – 2013**, adopted in SR Government Resolution No 183/2008 of 26.3.2008 and the **Upbringing and Education White Paper for Roma Children and Pupils, including the Development of Secondary and Tertiary Education**, adopted in SR Government Resolution No 206 of 2.4.2008.

Under measure 3.2 the call “**Innovation of the Methods and Forms of the Upbringing-Education Process and Developing Further Education Programmes for Disabled Persons**” is focused on the innovation of methods and forms of the upbringing-education process at special secondary schools with the aim of promoting key competences of disabled students and teaching staff of special secondary schools by using new teaching materials and teaching aids and thus on facilitating access to education at secondary schools for disabled persons. Further project activities coming from this call may be aimed at creating and implementing further education programmes for disabled persons and persons working in the field of their integration into society, with the use of innovation of teaching resources developing the key competences in these persons.

The calls under measures 1.2 and 4.2 entitled “**Support for Innovative Forms of Education at Tertiary Schools and Development of Human Resources in Research and Development**” were focused, for example, on promoting improvement in quality and flexibility at tertiary schools by means of innovations in the forms of education and by linking the education content to the needs of a knowledge-based society, as well as on making the administration and management of tertiary schools more flexible, improving the quality and development of human resources and cooperation between the tertiary schools, R&D organisations and the private sector at the national and international level pursuant to **SR Government Resolution No 367 of 4.6.2008 to the Modernisation Programme Slovakia 21**.

The calls under measures 2.1 and 4.2 “**Promoting further education in selected sectors**” were again focused on promoting education responsive to the changing requirements of employers and on the quality of human resources and efficiency of their management. Pursuant to the main objective of measure 2.1 and 4.2, support will be provided for the projects aimed at further education which will lead to deepening and raising qualifications in accordance with the labour market requirements and with the **Lifelong Learning and Lifelong Guidance Strategy**, adopted in the SR Government Resolution No 382/2007 of 25.4.2007. The activities under the call are concurrently targeted at the framework of activities for lifelong development of competences and qualifications in accordance with **Recommendation of the European Parliament and of the Council No 2006/962/EC of 18.12.2006 on key competences for lifelong learning – European Reference Framework**.

The call under measure 1.1 “**Developing and Improving the Efficiency of School Education Programmes of Secondary Vocational Schools**” is focused on increasing the efficiency and effectiveness of school education programmes via the implementation of innovative forms and methods of teaching with the aim of developing pupils’ key competences in accordance with Act No 245/2008 Coll. on upbringing and education (Education Act) and on the amendment of certain acts.

The above listed direct awards and calls for demand-driven projects are based also on the following documents:

Competitiveness Strategy for the Slovak Republic until 2010 (Lisbon Strategy for Slovakia), which was adopted in SR Government Resolution No 140 of 16.2.2005. This is the national Lisbon Strategy emphasising modern education policy targeted particularly at the bringing change in teaching content; improving education in foreign languages and IT skills; enhancing the quality of teachers; expanding instruments for developing talent in children and young people; promoting integration programmes for children from marginalized groups in the normal school environment. Four Action Plans link to the Strategy (Education and Employment Action Plan, Action Plan for Science, Research and Innovations, Information Society Action Plan and Business Environment Action Plan) passed in SR Government Resolution No 557 of 13.7.2005. The OPE is based on the **Education and Employment Action Plan**, which in its section Modern Education Policy defines priorities and sets out tasks deemed as key from the aspect of the overall conversion of the traditional school to a modern school. It puts emphasis on working with talented young people, on raising the accessibility and quality of tertiary education, on implementing an overall change in the teaching and education content, from rote-learning toward the ability to obtain, evaluate and use information. The aim is also to create an accessible, modular and market system of lifelong learning, to strengthen and improve education in foreign languages and IT skills for each secondary school leaver, to improve the quality of teachers, to promote integration programmes for children from marginalised groups in the normal school environment, connected with support, quality and competition in providing tertiary education. The calls for the submission of AfNFCs declared in 2009 under Measures 1.1, 1.2, 2.1, 3.1, 3.2, 4.1 and 4.2 were in accordance with the Education and Employment Action Plan (since they were focused on the development and implementation of school education programmes, the promotion of innovative forms of education at tertiary schools, programmes and courses for primary school pupils from MRCs aimed at their integration into the formal education process, innovation of the methods and forms of the upbringing-education process for disabled persons and the promotion of further education). The same applies in the case of the direct awards.

In OPE Measure 2.2, the proper specialisation and efficient interlinking of lifelong learning to the needs of the local and regional labour market is to be achieved by respecting the requirements of individual regions of the SR and healthcare facilities for providing and raising the possibilities for lifelong learning for healthcare workers. This is to be attained in the form of active involvement of local authorities, education institutions, professional associations and chambers, which is in accordance with the Competitiveness Strategy for the Slovak Republic t 2010. Fulfilling the objectives of this Strategy will lead to improving the access of healthcare workers to further education, creating a functioning model of further education finance for healthcare workers and stabilising healthcare workers by mutual combination of funds from the employer, public finance and employee. In accordance with the above, in 2009 the following calls for demand-driven projects under measure 2.2 were declared: “**Support for Assessment of**

Continuing Education of Healthcare Workers” and “Increasing Other Skills of Healthcare Workers”.

Through its orientation, the OPE fulfils the **European Employment Strategy**. One of its measures for increasing employment and better preparation for the labour market is the adjustment, adaptation and innovation of the education system to labour market requirements. Education and skills improvement form one of the keystones for supporting employability in the European Employment Strategy. In this context, the OPE objective is to reform the education system and to increase the qualified labour force, by means of improving the quality of and access to lifelong learning.

The field of further education was the subject of direct award **“Professional and Career Growth of Teaching Staff”**. This direct award, by creating and developing a further education system for teaching and professional staff affects not only the teaching staff, but secondary also their students, who thanks to their teachers’ better knowledge will, too, possess the knowledge and skills necessary for their better adaptation to the labour market requirements.

Further education was also addressed in demand-driven calls (under measures 2.1 and 4.1). Calls under measures 2.1 and 4.2 **“Promoting further education in selected sectors”** were focused on the promotion of education that responds to employers’ changing requirements for the quality of human resources and efficiency of their management. The eligible activity in these calls was the development and implementation of education programmes for persons involved in activities in the framework of further education and further education teachers, with a focus on deepening and extending qualification, professional skills and developing key competences for construction, textile electro-technical, machinery and chemical sectors with regard to new technologies, innovation processes and their use in practice. The objectives and activities of these calls partially promote innovations and better integration of employees in the labour market. For example, the objective of the project **“PROMETEUS – PROject ManagEmenT of EUropean Standards”**, submitted by the company AJS Management Slovakia s.r.o., is to obtain accreditation and transformation of learning methods with the current and prospective needs of target groups by increasing their quality and education level. The specific objectives include the adaptation of new methodologies in the SR, developing an e-learning portal for new methodologies, obtaining accreditation for 27 new courses. The project seeks to support the creation and development of an efficient further education system focused on increasing and adapting qualifications to the needs of a knowledge-based society and facilitating access to efficient learning throughout one’s life. The target group of the project are further education lecturers and persons involved in the further education activities for the sectors of construction, textile, electronics, mechanical engineering and chemical industry. The start of the project’s implementation is planned for April 2010.

Calls under measures 1.2 and 4.2 **“Promoting innovative forms of education at tertiary schools and developing R&D human resources”** are focused, inter alia, on the creation and innovation of study programmes with an emphasis on the labour market and the needs of a knowledge-based society. However, the labour market cannot be at present taken out of the context of the demands of globalisation. Therefore, for example, learning and mastering a foreign language (mastering it at a general level or more expert knowledge of it in a specific field) is of essential importance from the aspect of preparing graduates to compete not only in the local but also in the European labour market. The calls focus on this objective by means of further eligible activities, by promoting teaching of foreign languages at tertiary schools and by creating study programmes in a world language. From among the activities the mentioned calls target at which

clearly relate to the labour market, the following may be mentioned, for example, the creation of tools for monitoring the graduates' employment in practice, promotion of increased interest in the study of mathematics, natural sciences, informatics and other technical study fields.

In the case of the call under measure 1.1 **“Developing and Improving the Efficiency of School Education Programmes for Secondary Vocational Schools”** as well as in the case of calls focused on the integration of disadvantaged groups into society (call under measure 3.1 **“Programmes and Courses for Primary School Pupils Coming from Marginalised Roma Communities”** and the call under measure 3.2 **“Innovation of methods and forms of upbringing-education process and the creation of further education programmes for disabled persons”**) education has the purpose of delivering the skills necessary for labour market. In the case of the last two calls mentioned it is necessary to point out the fact that the support for the social inclusion of MRC members in the education process and the promotion of key competences of disabled pupils increases their chances for their later professional employment.

In measure 2.2. the calls for demand-driven projects **“Support for Assessment of Continuing Education for Healthcare Workers”** and **“Increasing other skills in healthcare workers”** were focused on the evaluation of continuing education for healthcare workers and for increasing the professionalism of the occupational activities of healthcare workers through further education, with the option of using electronic and other forms of further education. The need for continuing education of healthcare workers results primarily from the need to increase the quality of the health care provided and the quality of patient protection in the transforming healthcare facilities in the process of change. By introducing innovation in the content, methods and forms of further education for healthcare workers there will likewise be an improvement in their professional competence and competence profile.

6. TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

Technical assistance forms a part of the OPE, and its main objective is to ensure efficient implementation of the Operational Programme Education in accordance with the demands placed on the management and administrative structures responsible for the Operational Programme's implementation.

Within the framework of the OPE, TA is:

- a separate priority axis 5 for the Convergence Objective, the purpose of which is to support the implementation of priority axes 1, 2 and 3 of the OPE;
- a separate measure 4.3 for the RC&E Objective, the purpose of which is to support the implementation of priority axis 4 of the OPE.

Council Regulation (EC) No 1083/2006 of 11.7.2006 laying down general provisions on the European Regional Development Fund, the European Social Fund and the Cohesion Fund and repealing Regulation (EC) No 1260/1999, provides individual member states with an initiative possibility of using funds for activities relating to the preparation, management, monitoring, assessment, information and control of the operational programme and at the same time for the activities relating to strengthening administrative capacities for the implementation of programmes (Article 46).

Point 2 of Article 46 (TA of Member States) provides individual member states with the possibility of elaborating OP TA and/or also of disposing of a separate priority axis TA under individual operational programmes. Pursuant to this regulation, the TA of the OPE is separated as an independent priority axis for the Convergence Objective and as a TA measure for the RC&E Objective under the OPE.

The following priority themes apply to TA¹³:

a) Priority theme 85 – Preparation, implementation, monitoring and inspection

Preparation, monitoring, implementation and inspection of the implementation of Structural Funds assistance covers the following activities:

- staffing provision for the preparation, management and control of the programmes, projects and HPs, including the activities of the established SF committees and commissions, including staff education;
- necessary materials and technical provision (such as consumer goods, vehicles, appliances, software and others) relating to the management and inspection of the SF assistance;
- provision of services (documents and others) relating to SF preparation, management and inspection at the level of programmes, projects and HPs.

b) Priority theme 86 – Evaluation and studies; information and communication

Evaluation and studies, information and communication of the SF covers the following activities:

- providing information, spreading awareness of the operational programme and ensuring the operational programme publicity at an adequate level pursuant to Article 69 of Council Regulation (EC) No 1083/2006 and Section 1 of Commission Regulation No 1828/2006 for beneficiaries, potential beneficiaries and the public;
- creating networks of contact points and information and communication channels;
- preparation and implementation of the Communication Plan (hereinafter simply the “CP”);
- provision of methodological and expert advice, support for activities provided in assistance to the applicants, ensuring of training and seminars for experience exchange and spreading best practice examples, support of partnership and mutual cooperation in the preparation and implementation of projects, implementation of the activities for monitoring and evaluation of absorption capacity, etc.;
- ensuring individual evaluations of OP implementation in compliance with the assessment requirements pursuant to Article 47 of Council Regulation (EC) No 1083/2006, including the ex-ante assessment in the process of NSRF and OP preparation;
- elaboration of expert opinions, methodologies, studies, environmental impact assessments, regional analyses and other analyses relating to the OP’s preparation and implementation.

6.1 OPE Technical Assistance projects

In 2009 some 8 OPE TA projects were approved in the framework of the OPE (detailed in Table 80 below), of which 4 were approved in the framework of the Convergence Objective and 4 in the framework of the of the RC&E Objective, specifically for priority theme 85 and 86. In 2009 there were implemented 10 OPE Technical Assistance projects (4 MA, 4 IBMA – ASFEU, 2

¹³Pursuant to Annex II of Commission Regulation (EC) No 1828/2006 (Categorisation of Funds assistance for 2007 – 2013).



IBMA – MH SR). Financial implementation of the technical assistance projects for 2007 – 2008 continued in 2009 with the processing of AfPs (refunds) submitted to the MA. As at 31.12.2009 in total 2 OPE TA projects had been fully completed.

Table 80: Overview of OPE TA projects approved as at 31.12.2009

85/86	project title	project amount (€)	project objectives	project status
85	OPE Technical assistance for the Convergence Objective – I. Preparation and implementation, monitoring, inspection and audit*	1 447 918.74	ensure efficient implementation of OPE in the framework of the Convergence Objective in accordance with the requirements placed on the management and administrative structures responsible for OPE implementation	implementation
85	OPE Technical assistance for RC&E Objective – I. Preparation and implementation, monitoring, inspection and audit*	66 719.78	ensure efficient implementation of OPE in the framework of RC&E Objective in accordance with the requirements placed on the management and administrative structures responsible for OPE implementation	implementation
86	OPE Technical assistance for the Convergence Objective – II. Evaluation and studies; information and publicity *	157 013.88	ensure efficient implementation of OPE in the framework of the Convergence Objective	implementation
86	OPE Technical assistance for RC&E Objective – II. Evaluation and studies; information and publicity *	5 642.97	ensure efficient implementation of OPE in the framework of the RC&E Objective	implementation
85	OPE Technical assistance for the Convergence Objective 2009 – I. Preparation, implementation, monitoring and inspection	2 463 300.00	ensure efficient implementation of OPE in the framework of the Convergence Objective in accordance with the claims on the management and administrative structures responsible for the OPE's implementation	implementation
85	OPE Technical assistance for RC&E Objective 2009 – I. Preparation, implementation, monitoring and inspection	71 900.00	ensure efficient implementation of OPE in the framework of RC&E Objective in accordance with the requirements placed on the management and administrative structures responsible for OPE implementation	implementation
86	OPE Technical assistance for the Convergence Objective 2009 – II. Evaluation and studies; information and communication	157 700.00	ensure efficient implementation of OPE in the framework of the Convergence Objective	implementation
86	OPE Technical assistance for RC&E Objective 2009 – II. Evaluation and studies; information and	4 900.00	ensure efficient implementation of OPE in the framework of the RC&E Objective	implementation

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	communication			
85/86	project title	project amount (€)	project objectives	project status
85	Technical assistance for OPE, Convergence Objective, priority theme 85 for 2007, 2008	1 509 692.62	Ensure the efficient implementation of the Operational Programme Education and support the implementation of priority axes of the Operational Programme Education	implementation
85	Technical assistance for OPE, Regional Competitiveness & Employment Objective, priority theme 85 for 2007, 2008	36 878.44	Ensure the efficient implementation of the Operational Programme Education and support the implementation of priority axes of the Operational Programme Education	implementation
86	Technical assistance for OPE, Convergence Objective, priority theme 86 for 2007, 2008	512 341.40	Ensure the efficient implementation of the Operational Programme Education and support the implementation of priority axes of the Operational Programme Education	project completed
86	Technical assistance for OPE, Regional Competitiveness & Employment Objective, priority theme 86 for 2007, 2008	16 265.02	Ensure the efficient implementation of the Operational Programme Education and support the implementation of priority axes of the Operational Programme Education	project completed
85	Technical assistance for OPE, Convergence Objective, priority theme 85 for 2009	2 192 968.93	Ensure the efficient implementation of the Operational Programme Education and support the implementation of priority axes of the Operational Programme Education	implementation
85	Technical assistance for OPE, Regional Competitiveness & Employment Objective, priority theme 85 for 2009	63 171.94	Ensure the efficient implementation of the Operational Programme Education and support the implementation of priority axes of the Operational Programme Education	implementation
86	Technical assistance for OPE, Convergence Objective, priority theme 86 for 2009	510 972.71	Ensure the efficient implementation of the Operational Programme Education and support the implementation of priority axes of the Operational Programme Education	implementation
86	Technical assistance for OPE, Regional Competitiveness & Employment Objective, priority theme 86 for 2009	14 719.38	Ensure the efficient implementation of the Operational Programme Education and support the implementation of priority axes of the Operational Programme Education	implementation
85	Technical assistance for OPE, Convergence Objective, priority theme 85 for 2010**	2 646 343.44	Ensure the efficient implementation of the Operational Programme Staff education and support for implementation of priority axes of the Operational Programme Education.	project created

85	Technical assistance for OPE, Regional Competitiveness & Employment objective, priority theme 85 for 2010**	132 658.06	Ensure the efficient implementation of the Operational Programme Staff education and support for implementation of priority axes of the Operational Programme Education.	project created
86	Technical assistance for OPE, Convergence Objective, priority theme 86 for 2010**	548 350.00	Ensure the efficient implementation of the Operational Programme Staff education and support for implementation of priority axes of the Operational Programme Education.	project created
86	Technical assistance for OPE, Regional Competitiveness & Employment objective, priority theme 86 for 2010**	22 000.00	Ensure the efficient implementation of the Operational Programme Staff education and support for implementation of priority axes of the Operational Programme Education.	project created

85/86	project title	project amount (€)	project objectives	project status
85	Project for using technical assistance, I. ***	1 188 425.72	Ensure administrative capacities and material-technical equipment at the MH SR as the IBMA with a view to implementing measure 2.2	implementation
85	Project for using technical assistance, II. ***	199 062.50	Ensure administrative capacities and material-technical equipment at the MH SR as the IBMA with a view to implementing measure 2.2	implementation

* The TA projects listed are projects for the period 1.1.2007 – 31.12.2008.

** The listed TA projects for the period 1.1.2010 – 31.12.2010 were approved back in 2009.

*** The TA projects listed are projects for the period 1.1.2007 – 31.12.2015 and were submitted and approved in 2008.

6.2. Overview of the use of funds

An overview of the use of TA funds broken down by priority activity as at 31.12.2009 in the framework of the OPE (jointly for the MA and IBMAs) is given in Table 81 and Table 82.

Table 81: Overview of the use of TA funds broken down by priority activity as at 31.12.2009 – Convergence Objective

Priority activities	amount contracted			amount drawn		
	€	as a % of allocation for TA programme	as a % of the total amount contracted in the TA programme	€	as a % of allocation for TA programme	as a % of the total amount drawn in the TA programme
Training, monitoring, working and coordination groups, committees and commissions (Priority	360 765.23	1.28	2.67	9 220.01	0.03	0.27



theme 85)						
Evaluation and studies (Priority theme 86)	44 199.53	0.16	0.33	0.00	0.00	0.00
Information and publicity (Priority theme 86)	1 490 772.63	5.28	11.01	364 314.24	1.29	10.63
Wages (Priority theme 85)	8 949 448.84	31.70	66.13	2 760 593.93	9.78	80.58
Operational activities and travel expenses (Priority theme 85)	645 317.56	2.28	4.77	30 729.54	0.11	0.90
Technical equipment (hardware, software, furniture, cars, etc.) (Priority theme 85)	1 497 045.00	5.30	11.06	207 332.01	0.73	6.05
Other (General services) (Priority theme 85)	546 541.25	1.93	4.04	53 765.54	0.19	1.57
Total	13 534 090.04	47.93	100	3 425 955.27	12.13	100

As at 31.12.2009 the level of contracting in the framework of the Convergence Objective represented 47.93% of the allocation for the mentioned objective (ESF source), while drawing represented 12.13%. Therefore, the drawing of assistance funds for the Convergence Objective at the level of 12.13% (of the total allocation for technical assistance under the Convergence Objective) may be deemed appropriate in relation to the above mentioned indicators attained at the end of the third year of the programming period 2007 – 2013 (while the actual implementation of the OPE was commenced at the project level only at the turn of the years 2008/2009).

Table 82: Overview of TA funds use broken down by priority activity as at 31.12.2009 – RC&E Objective

Priority activities	amount contracted			amount drawn		
	€	as a % of allocation for TA programme	as a % of the total amount contracted in the TA programme	€	as a % of allocation for TA programme	as a % of the total amount drawn in the TA programme
Training, monitoring, working and coordination groups, committees and commissions (Priority theme 85)	11 637.36	1.39	2.68	180.23	0.02	0.13
Evaluation and studies (Priority theme 86)	448.95	0.06	0.10	0.00	0.00	0.00
Information and publicity (Priority theme 86)	47 583.99	5.68	10.94	10 809.49	1.29	7.70
Wages (Priority theme 85)	266 687.61	31.83	61.33	122 095.52	14.57	87.02

Operational activities and travel expenses (Priority theme 85)	25 246.37	3.01	5.81	1 036.59	0.12	0.74
Technical equipment (hardware, software, furniture, cars, etc.) (Priority theme 85)	50 806.18	6.06	11.68	4 479.98	0.53	3.19
Other (General services) (Priority theme 85)	32 445.13	3.88	7.46	1 699.24	0.20	1.21
Total	434 855.59	51.91	100	140 301.05	16.75	100

As at 31.12.2009 the level of contracting under the RC&E Objective achieved the level of 51.91% of the allocation for the mentioned objective (ESF source), while drawing represented 16.75%. Therefore, the drawing of assistance funds for the RC&E Objective at the level of 16.75% (of the total allocation for technical assistance under the RC&E Objective) may be deemed appropriate in relation to the above mentioned indicators attained at the end of the second year of the programming period 2007 – 2013 (while the actual implementation of the OPE was commenced at the project level only at the turn of the years 2008/2009).

7. INFORMATION AND PUBLICITY

A very important means for promoting the efficient use of finance from the SF and the CF is also accurate and targeted information on EU aid, provided for potential NFC applicants, NFC applicants, NFC beneficiaries and the public.

The MA for the OPE seeks to ensure the most economic, efficient and effective use of information and publicity resources. This process is therefore supported by the cooperation and coordination of work between the MA and IBMA (of the ASFEU and the MH SR) in the framework of the PWG at the level of MA and IBMA officers. At the national level the MA coordinates its activity in the field of information and publicity with the activity of the CCB by means of participation in the PWG and at the international level the MA has a representative in the PWG The Information & Communication Platform – INFORM Network.

7.1. Basic documents, regulations and acts concerning information & publicity

The ME SR as the MA for the OPE in the period monitored pursued information and publicity in accordance with the following documents:

- pursuant to Article 69 of the *General Regulation* and its updates, the CCB and the MA inform EU citizens and beneficiaries with the view of emphasising the Community's role and ensuring transparency of aid from the funds;
- The *Implementing Regulation* in Articles 2 to 10 defines the details of information and communication measures, the provision of information on the use of the SF and the CF, management and control systems with a description of the position and tasks of subjects involved in SF and CF implementation. It defines the particulars of the preparation, performance and monitoring of the CP, as well as its content. It describes the basic details of the CP's implementation, as well as the obligations and competences of entities involved in the CP's implementation, in accordance with which it is necessary to provide beneficiaries clear and detailed information on OPE implementation. It is essential that

beneficiaries be informed of their inclusion in the list of beneficiaries published in accordance with this Regulation. The basic technical characteristics of the information and communication measures that must be respected by all parties involved are listed in Article 9 of the Implementing Regulation;

- System of Management of the SF and the CF 2007 – 2013 (updates – 3.0, 3.1, 3.2) defines the standard basic processes and procedures of SF and CF management, which are binding for all entities responsible for operational programme implementation. It also sets out the minimum standards for information & publicity. The aim is to unify and improve the efficiency of processes also in the implementation of activities for achieving maximum availability of information; enriching information about the objectives and possibilities of aid provided from the SF and CF; improving transparency in connection with the use of the SF and the CF; creating conditions for the maximum possible success in implementation of approved programme documents and for raising the quality of submitted projects in the framework of individual operational programmes; strengthening absorption capacity;
- SR National Council Act no. 211/2000 Coll. on free access to information and on the amendment of certain acts as later amended, governing the conditions, procedure and scope of free access to information;
- Directive No 2/2007-I of 15.1.2007 laying down the ME SR's form of communication with the public;
- Directive No 13/2008-I of 4.4.2008 laying down the procedure of ME SR staff in providing information under Act no. 211/2000 Coll. on free access to information and on the amendment of certain acts (Freedom of Information Act).

7.2. Information & publicity documents

7.2.1 Strategic information & publicity documents

- **Communication plan**

The CP for the OPE and the OP R&D is the principal document of the MA in the field of information & publicity. It is an information and communication strategy containing measures for information & publicity in the framework of the 2007 – 2013 programming period. It sets out the ways and means used for disseminating timely, accurate and comprehensive information intended for target groups, potential NFC applicants, beneficiaries and the public. Potential NFC applicants are entities that may later become NFC applicants.

The ME SR for the period 2007 – 2013 drew up a joint CP for the OPE and the OP R&D, which following the incorporation of comments by the IBMA was submitted to the European Commission on 26.3.2008. It was approved by the European Commission without reservations on 5.5.2008.

For ensuring the continuity of publicity activities the IBMA each year submits to the MA an information & publicity plan for the respective calendar year.

- **Information & Publicity Manual for the OPE and OP R&D**

The Information & Publicity Manual forms a component of the System of Management of the SF and the CF, which sets out minimum standards and uniform procedures in information & publicity as regards the European Communities and programmes supported from the Community funds and as regards operational programmes.

The MA created the joint *Information & Publicity Manual for the OPE and OP R&D*. Over the course of 2009 it was updated twice pursuant to updates to the System of Management of the SF and the CF.

- **Annual operative information & publicity plan for the OPE and OP R&D**

In 2009 the implementation of information & publicity for the MA and the ASFEU was governed by the document *Annual Operative Information & Publicity Plan for the OPE and OP R&D for 2009*. It was drawn up in cooperation between the MA and ASFEU with a view to achieving uniform presentation of the OPE and coordinating individual activities from the timing and financial aspects. The document was updated several times over the course of 2009. It links fully to the information and communication strategy set out in the CP. It contains specific measures for information & publicity in 2009 and sets out the ways and means used for disseminating timely, accurate and comprehensive information intended for target groups, potential NFC applicants, beneficiaries and the public at large.

- **Operative Publicity Plan for Measure 2.2 of the OPE**

The MH SR as the IBMA in carrying out information activities was governed by the document *Operative Publicity Plan for Measure 2.2 of the OPE for 2009*. The document is in accordance with the information & communication strategy set out in the CP. The publicity set out in the document focuses on the provision of comprehensive professional information on measure 2.2 of the OPE and on the options of drawing finance via the ESF under the OPE measure 2.2.

Published strategic documents

- **the publication “Operational Programme Education”** – complete wording of the OPE (approved on 7.11.2009) – the MA in total issued 1000 printed copies and 1x electronic publication,

- **the Programme Manual for the Operational Programme Education** – the MA issued 1x electronic publication,

- **Annual Report on the Implementation of the Operational Programme Education** – the MA issues the electronic publication of the current wording of the annual report for the preceding year 1x yearly (following approval of the document from the side of the MC and the European Commission).

7.3. Publicity coordination at the national and international level

In 2009 the MA and IBMA cooperated and ensure the dissemination of timely, accurate and comprehensive information, efficient information and publicity on aid from the EU SF and OPE. The administrative capacities for ensuring information & publicity have been changed at the MA and IBMA: in total 15 staff devoted to information & publicity are available for the MA and IBMA. The structure of administrative capacities for the purpose of information to the public as at 31.12.2009 is shown in Table 83.

Table 83: Administrative capacities as at 31.12.2009

	Number of job positions for the OPE
MA (Information & Publicity Manager)	2
IBMA ASFEU (Publicity Manager, Head of Publicity Department)	3
IBMA ASFEU (Regional Publicity Manager)	8
IBMA MH SR (Information & Publicity Manager, Coordinating Manager)	2
TOTAL	15

Administrative capacities are adapted according to the allocation of funds for the OPE and in connection to the processes of ensuring information & publicity. For the purposes of coordination in implementing information-communication activities, working groups have been created at various levels. Sufficient dissemination of information is ensured also by means of the Regional Information Offices, which are distributed strategically at the level of the 8 self-governing regions.

Staff working in the field of publicity attend internal and external trainings on an ongoing basis. Information & publicity managers of the MA and IBMA MH SR in the period monitored undertook a training organised by the CCB, entitled “Communication training, rhetoric and presentation for use in information and publicity on SF implementation”.

7.3.1. Publicity working group of the MA/IBMA

The role of the working group for publicity of the MA/IBMA (hereinafter referred to as the “PWG”) is to ensure cooperation in implementing information-communication activities at the level of the MA and IBMA for the OPE and the OP R&D. The PWG is composed of: Information & Publicity Manager of the MA for the OPE and the OP R&D, Information & Publicity Manager for the MH SR, and Publicity Managers for the OPE and OP R&D for the IBMA ASFEU.

The meeting was held on 13.7.2009. The meeting agenda focused primarily on the reporting of monitoring indicators in the field of publicity in the annexes to the half-yearly IBMA monitoring reports. More detailed information is given in Chapter 2.1.7.3 of this 2009 Annual Report.

7.3.2. Regional information offices

The successful operation of RIOs is proven by the now second year of consistent coordination in the procedures of the MA and IBMA in ensuring the provision of information & publicity on the OPE and possibilities for drawing finance from the ESF in the region. The aim of RIOs is to intermediate information and to give personal consultations, allowing more detailed information on the side of NFC applicants. The benefit here is also the direct feedback gained as to what further information the public and potential NFC applicants require, which in turn allows for a more flexible response to requirements regarding the provision of information. The RIOs fulfil the function of a contact point in the region. Information is provided in the form of personal consultations, by telephone, in writing and by e-mail.

Publicity managers provide information on published calls for the submission of AfNFCs, inform the public on the closing dates set for the submission of AfNFCs and also assist in filling out the prescribed forms in the framework of personal consultations focused on ex-ante check of the formal accuracy of the submitted AfNFC and its annexes. An NFC applicant may order a consultation appointment exclusively by means of the reservation system on the ASFEU website www.asfeu.sk, which is accessible approximately 2 weeks prior to the closing date for submission of each call.

The RIOs in the individual self-governing regions provide not only advice, but also focus on the following activities:

- dissemination of information on current calls for the submission of AfNFCs in the regions;
- cooperation in conducting information events (workshops, seminars, information days, conferences) organised in the regions;
- drafting and publication of answers to NFC applicants' frequently asked questions

- publicity of all approved projects from the regions;
- distribution of information materials and promotional objects in the regions;
- advertising services in the regional media.

The use of other information resources, the distribution of publications, and the provision of information on digital media here also proved highly beneficial. This helped disseminate general information on the OPE and also to raise awareness about the European Communities and the SF.

7.3.3. Cooperation with the CCB

The CCB is responsible for coordinating activities in the field of information & publicity at the national level in the framework of the NSRF. The CCB coordinates the PWG, which was created for the purpose of coordinating information-communication activities at the level of the NSRF and of the individual operational programmes. The working group also comprises representatives of the MA – the Information & Publicity Manager (hereinafter referred to as the “IPM”) for the OPE.

The IPMs for the OPE cooperate with the CCB by way of supplying information and documentation concerning the OPE. The respective information is published on the information portal www.nsrr.sk.

Over the course of 2009 two meetings of the PWG were held, on 27.4.2009 and 10.12.2009, focused on the CP of the Operational Programme Technical Assistance for the NSRF and on the information activities of the CCB for 2009, as well as the CP and information activities of the individual MAs and representatives of the HPs for 2009 and planned activities for 2010. Information was also given from the meeting of the COM Committee for Coordination of Funds (COCOF) and from the meeting of the working group at the level of member states – EU INFORM. The meetings also discussed current information concerning the joint information portal www.nsrr.sk and joint information bulletin on the EU funds – Eurokompas. More detailed information is given in Chapter 2.1.7.3 of this 2009 Annual Report.

7.3.4. Cooperation at the international level

At the international level, the IPM of the OPE as the representative of the MA for the OPE is a member of the Information & Communication Platform – the INFORM Network, the aim of which is to affiliate the IPMs of all OPs, with the aim of exchanging experience and identifying ways of improving the quality of communication activities, raising awareness on the advantages of Community interventions among potential beneficiaries and the public and to improve the visibility of EU-financed projects. Communication between members of the group takes place in the form of dissemination of information and exchange of experience by means of e-mail communication and by means of the Internet platform of the INFORM working group on the website: http://forums.ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/inform/.

In the period monitored two meetings of the INFORM working group were held, on 15-16.6.2009 and 1-2.12.2009. Both meetings were held in Brussels.

7.4. Information & publicity activities conducted by the MA and IBMA

Activities in the field of information & publicity were focused on all target groups (potential NFC applicants, NFC applicants, NFC beneficiaries and the public at large, according to the

needs of these target groups. General information on the EU SF and on the operational programmes was provided for the public. Information-communication activities focused on communicating the range of possibilities that the OPE offers were targeted at potential applicants. Applicants were provided with specific information leading to the successful submission of AfNFCs. NFC beneficiaries were familiarised with the correct procedures in implementing a project, including the procedures for carrying out project publicity. For building and strengthening the awareness and good reputation of the EU in connection with the EU SF, communication activities were conducted for ensuring publicity on successfully implemented projects (success stories) for all target group categories.

In conducting individual information-communication activities, particular attention was paid to the benefit for potential beneficiaries and the public at large.

The following information-communication tools and resources listed in Section 7.4.1 were used for conducting the activities.

The implementation of information & publicity activities in 2009 was governed by the CP of the OPE and OP R&D and was guided and specified by the documents *Annual Operative Information & Publicity Plan for the OPE and OP R&D for 2009* for the MA and IBMA ASFEU and the *Operative Publicity Plan for Measure 2.2 of the Operational Programme Education for 2009* for the IBMA MH SR. These documents list the tools and resources used in 2009 for conducting information & publicity activities.

For creating a uniform image and for supporting the good reputation of the OP a uniform **visual identity** is used. Compliance with this identity is primarily via the OPE logo, which was processed in a design manual. The OPE logo is mandatory on all printed materials, as well as other information-communication media, etc.

In the period monitored the MA, with the aim of facilitating the use of mandatory elements in publicity, elaborated the logos (the EU flag, including a reference to the EU and ESF, or the SF and the OPE logo) in vectors. The logos are published and freely available for beneficiaries and the public at large on the MA website www.minedu.sk.

For the needs of designating MA assets with the mandatory publicity elements, the MA in the period monitored had 2 self-soaking stamps made, containing the EU flag, a reference to the EU and ESF (stamp 1) and the OPE logo (stamp 2). It is used in the greatest possible scope in communication with the target groups so that it can be easily identified and associated with the respective OPE issue.

The ASFEU Design Manual, forming the basis of the presentation of the uniform ASFEU visual identity, also serves for the uniform communication strategy for the OPE's presentation.

Compliance with the uniform visual identity is also guided by supporting documents, such as the Publicity Manual for the OPE and OP R&D, which is updated as needed. It defines the technical characteristics of measures in the field of information & publicity. (The EU logo, reference to the EU, reference to the ESF and the strapline emphasising the added value of the Community interventions – in the case of the OPE: “Modern Education for a Knowledge-Based Society/Project Co-financed from Community Funds”).

7.4.1. Information & publicity activities

A) Major information activity of the OPE

A major information activity for 2009 was the *Annual Conference of the ASFEU*. It was held on 4.6.2009 under the auspices of the SR Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Education Ján

Mikolaj. The main theme of the agenda “Promoting Education, Research and Development in Slovakia from EU Funds” was the evaluation of the ASFEU activity to date, as well as the drawing and implementation of the EU SF for 2008 under the OPE and OP R&D. The conference also evaluated national projects implemented by the ME SR, as well as the activity of the MH SR, which oversees measure 2.2 in the framework of the OPE.

Examples of successful demand-driven projects approved within the OPE and OP R&D were presented by representatives from centres of excellence in research, the Slovak Academy of Sciences. As the first example of the implementation of a successful OPE project there was presented the project entitled “Modern School – the Basis of Life” presented by the headmaster of the Ladislav Sár Secondary School in Bratislava.

Presentations on behalf of the MA were made by:

- Promoting education, research and development from the aspect of the ME SR
Ján Mikolaj CSc., SR Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Education
- Priorities in education, research and development in the SR in the framework of the OPE and OP R&D
PhDr. Miriam Kováčiková, General Director of the Section for European Affairs of the ME SR

On behalf of the IBMA ASFEU

- Assessment of the ASFEU’s activities for 2008 and the planned declaration of calls for 2009, Alexandra Drgová, General Director of the ASFEU of the ME SR for the EU SF
- Evaluation of closed calls for the submission of AfNFCs made under the OPE for 2008
Jarmila Barátová PhD., Acting Head of Section for OPE Implementation
- Evaluation of closed calls for the submission of AfNFCs made under the OP R&D for 2008
Katarína Kellenbergerová, Head of Section for OP R&D Implementation

On behalf of the IBMA MH SR for measure 2.2.

- Assessment of the MH SR – IBMA’s activity under OPE measure 2.2 –
Promoting further education in healthcare for 2008 and the planned declaration of calls for 2009

Edmund Škorvaga, EU Programmes Department Director

The total number of participants was 137.

B) 3rd ordinary meeting of the MC OPE

On 9.6.2009 the 3rd ordinary meeting of the MC was held.

The MC OPE was opened by PhDr. Miriam Kováčiková, General Director of the Section for European Affairs of the ME SR, as the secretary of the MC OPE and who was commissioned to chair the meeting in accordance with the rules of procedure in the committee chairman’s absence. The meeting was held in the presence of European Commission representatives Santiago Loranca Garcia, Zuzana Harmathová, Martina Pinková and Natália Dianišková.

The MC OPE discussed and approved, with comments, the *2008 Annual Report*, which monitors the development of the OPE’s implementation. The meeting also approved the minutes from the *2nd Ordinary Meeting of the Monitoring Committee*, held on 4.6.2008, the *OPE Evaluations Plan for the 2007 – 2013 Programming Period* and the update to Annex 5 to the *Operational Programme Education – List of Measurable Indicators of the OPE*. Committee members also took note of the 2nd version of the *Programme Manual for the Operational Programme Education*.

Information was also presented regarding progress in OPE implementation, on the evaluation of calls for the submission of AfNFCs for national projects under declared direct awards and also on

ensuring information & publicity of the OPE. The agenda of the MC OPE also included presentations by beneficiaries of selected national projects.

Number of participants at the MC OPE: **26 MC members**.

C) Annual Report on the OPE Implementation for 2008

The European Commission approved the Annual Report for 2008 on 12.11.2009. The Annual Report was resubmitted to the European Commission for approval following the incorporation of comments on 20.10.2009 (following approval by MC OPE members at the 3rd ordinary meeting of the MC OPE of 9.6.2009). The Annual Report was published on the Internet portal www.minedu.sk in December 2009. It contains data on OPE implementation achieved at the level of priority axes in monitoring and financial indicators. The report likewise contains information on the contribution of OPE fulfilment to the HPs defined in the NSRF for the years 2007 – 2013.

D) Press briefings and conferences regarding the OPE

A *press briefing* was held on 31.3.2009 focused on the presentation of national projects and demand-driven projects. The SR Minister for Education Ján Mikolaj assessed also the successes in drawing finance from the EU SF in both the past and present programming period.

On 4.6.2009 at the occasion of the Annual Conference of the ASFEU, the ASFEU in cooperation with the ME SR organised a press conference, with the participation of the SR Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Education Ján Mikolaj and ASFEU General Director Alexandra Drgová.

A *press briefing* on the topic of assessing the 2008/2009 school year was held on 29.6.2009, at which the SR Minister for Education Ján Mikolaj presented the **basic acts concerning school reform, together with decrees and an overview of finance drawn from the EU funds**. In addition to assessing the Department's work Ján Mikolaj also presented calls under preparation for drawing finance from the EU funds and adjustments to the system of financing tertiary education.

On 12.11.09 in the framework of the event of “Modern School Through the Lens – Award Ceremony” the ASFEU in cooperation with the ME SR organised a press conference, with the participation of the SR Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Education Ján Mikolaj, ME SR spokeswoman Dana Španková and ASFEU General Director Alexandra Drgová.

E) Conferences presenting the OPE

On 20-21.4.2009 the ASFEU in cooperation with the ME SR organised in Horný Smokovec the conference entitled “Conditions for Obtaining Financial Support from the Operational Programme Education”. The conference was held in the presence of the SR Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Education Ján Mikolaj. The aim of the conference was to familiarise the target group with the possibilities for obtaining financial support from the funds of the OPE co-financed from the ESF in the 2007 – 2013 programming period. Conference participants were familiarised with the individual phases of the approval process, with the process of implementing an approved project, with emphasis on the NFC beneficiaries' obligations in the field of project management, monitoring and financial management of the project. PhDr. Miriam Kováčiková, General Director of the Section for European Affairs of the ME SR presented the OPE and national projects in her presentation “Information on the Operational Programme Education and Presentation of National Projects”;

On 4.6.2009 the annual conference of the ASFEU (Major Information Activity) was held in Bratislava, at which PhDr. Miriam Kováčiková, General Director of the Section for European Affairs of the ME SR presented information on the OPE in her presentation “Priorities in education, research and development in the SR in the framework of the OPE and OP R&D”

(further information is given in Section 7.4.1 A) Major Information Activity). MA/IBMA representatives were invited by various organisers of conferences, and at which they presented information on the SF, the OPE and on the possibilities for drawing funds in the framework of the OPE. Information on the events is given in Annex 9.

F) Seminars and events presenting the OPE

The aim of the information and publicity is also to strengthen absorption capacity in connection with the OPE. There are various tools for achieving efficiency in this ancillary activity, e.g. creating possibilities for disseminating success stories from practice, providing trainings and seminars for exchanging experience, as well as arranging activities for monitoring and evaluation, or encouraging partnership and mutual cooperation in the preparation and implementation of projects. In 2009 the MA/IBMAs used the following tools:

Information events and seminars – ASFEU

For the purpose of informing *potential NFC applicants, successful NFC applicants and NFC beneficiaries*, the ASFEU organised in 2009 in total 25 information seminars and working meetings. Information seminars were help for potential applicants, focused on presenting the conditions of calls, eligible activities, eligible place for project implementation, target groups, eligible expenditure and proper budget compilation, project indicators, HP indicators and the detailed project description, as well as filling out of the AfNFC form. The seminars were held in respect of calls for the submission of AfNFCs for measures 3.1, 3.2, 1.2, 4.2, 2.1 and 1.1. For successful NFC applicants and NFC beneficiaries, the information concerned mostly the submission of AfPs, project implementation and submission of monitoring reports.

In total **1301 participants** attended the seminars and working meetings.

Date and place of holding information seminars:

23.3.2009	Nitra;	20.8.2009	Žilina;
25.3.2009	Zvolen;	21.8.2009	Košice;
26.3.2009	Prešov;	24.8.2009	Bratislava;
27.3.2009	Košice;	22.10.2009	Žilina;
30.3.2009	Žilina;	23.10.2009	Košice;
31.3.2009	Trnava;	26.10.2009	Bratislava.
1.4.2009	Trenčín;		
19.6.2009	Bratislava;		
22.6.2009	Žilina;		
23.6.2009	Košice;		

From the aspect of information and publicity an important event was the *Open Day at the Agency of the SR Ministry of Education for the EU Structural Funds*, held on 25.6.2009. The aim of this event was to familiarise visitors with the possibilities of drawing finance from the EU SF, as well as with current and planned calls and approved projects. Visitors had the possibility to get to know the management as well as staff at the individual ASFEU departments. Representatives of the project management & monitoring, expenditure management, administration, information & publicity departments answered visitors' questions concerning structural funds and provided consultations regarding projects. Practical experience from implementing projects was communicated to visitors by successful NFC beneficiaries from the field of science and research, primary education and secondary education, which formed one of the thematic units – success stories from practice. NFC beneficiaries here presented their own practical experience from the



process of implementing the following projects: “Innovation of Education and Key Competences of Primary School Pupils and Teachers in Natural Sciences” (Klačno Primary School in Ružomberok); “Knowledge of Foreign Languages Opens Doors to the World” (Kežmarská Primary School, Košice); “Programme for Developing the Imrich Karvaš Business Academy in Bratislava” (Imrich Karvaš Business Academy in Bratislava)

The total number of **participants was 142.**

Another undertaking “*Modern School in Practice*”, held on 27.8.2009, presented successful projects of the Bratislava borough of Dúbravka – [Innovative and Reform Steps on the Road to the Future of Primary School](#), the Sibírska Primary School in Prešov – [Language Tuition – Learning by Language](#), Tušická Nová Ves Primary School with Nursery- [School of the Third Millennium](#), Nitra self-governing region – [Model of Private Sector Involvement in Practical and Theoretical Training](#) of target groups in the field of agricultural education, Žilina self-governing region – [Pilot Centres of Professional Education in the Žilina Self-Governing Region](#), and the Jablonoňová Secondary Vocational School in Zvolen – [Modern Services](#). The event was attended by **98 participants.**

Modern School through the Lens – evaluation of photography competition held on 12.11.2009. The event gave room for the presentation of successful projects, specifically Modern Measurement Equipment and e-Learning in Teaching Natural Sciences at the Terézia Vansová Secondary School in Stará Ľubovňa and the School of Creative Education of the A. Kmeť Primary School in Levice. The total **number of participants was 46.**

Information seminars regarding calls and other information activities – MH SR

The information seminar to the call “Support for Assessment of Continuing Education for Healthcare Workers” in the framework of measure 2.2 of the OPE was held on 10.6.2009 in Bratislava.

The topic of the seminar was the presentation of the call, the processes of submission and approval of AfNFCs, and expenditure eligibility.

The seminars were attended by **6 representatives** of potential NFC applicants.

The information seminar to the call “Raising Other Skills of Healthcare Workers”, code: OPV 2009/2.2/02, which was held on 14.10.2009 in Bratislava, and was focused on the presentation of the call, the processes of submission and approval of AfNFCs, and expenditure eligibility. It was attended by representatives of government and government-subsidised organisations. The call was declared for the following target groups: professional staff of the Public Health Authority of the Slovak Republic, Regional Public Health Authorities, Healthcare Surveillance Authority and State Institute for Pharmaceuticals Control.

In the last part of the seminar participants were informed about processes connected with the implementation of projects following their approval, particularly in the field of the financial management of projects and monitoring of results achieved.

The seminars were attended by **18 representatives** of potential NFC applicants.

Training for the beneficiary regarding call OPV 2008/2.2/02 was conducted on 26.5.2009 in Bratislava. The eligible beneficiary was the Slovak Chamber of Medicine. The topic of the training was the provision of detailed information to beneficiary’s representatives on the system and processes of implementation at the project level. The training was attended by **10 representatives of the beneficiary.**

For call OPV 2008/2.2/03 declared on 19.11.2008 in total 8 trainings were conducted for the beneficiaries. The trainings were attended in total by **165** participants and were held at the following places and dates:

Nitra 26.8.2009
Žilina 25.8.2009
Trnava 20.8.2009
Prešov 18.8.2009
Košice 19.8.2009
Trenčín 28.8.2009
Banská Bystrica 27.8.2009
Prešov 29.10.2009

On 16.12.2009 a training was held in Bratislava in the premises of the MH SR for the beneficiary's staff regarding implementation of the project, with the aim of presenting aspects of project implementation, the financial aspects of management and project processing, regarding the preparation of an AfP, monitoring and publicity.

Day of structural funds in healthcare

On the 26.11.2009 the 2nd anniversary of the Day of Structural Funds in Healthcare was held in Bratislava. This information activity, in which the IBMA co-participated, was also about successfully implemented best practice projects under measure 2.2 of the OPE. The main organiser was the MH SR. The aim was to raise people's awareness about how the process of implementing measure 2.2 of the OPE is proceeding and what possibilities there are for obtaining funds from the SF for financing projects in the healthcare sector. The event was visited by 65 potential NFC applicants.

The Structural Funds Day took place in two parallel blocks. The first comprised recurrent presentations connected with a discussion. The second parallel block comprised consultations for guests by staff at the Section for European Programmes and Projects and by successful beneficiaries, running the whole day long. For the first time the event was enriched also by presentations given by beneficiaries who shared their experience from implementing successful projects also in the framework of measure 2.2 of the OPE. In line with the programme, an example of best practice was presented for three times by the Manager of the Healthcare and Human Pharmacy Department of the Trenčín self-governing region, Elena Štefíková, and this on the topic "Experience from Implementing the Project Replenishing the Healthcare System with Qualified Specialists in the Trenčín Self-Governing Region". Other two representatives of the Trenčín self-governing region were also available to visitors attending the event with effect that they would share experience from the preparation and implementation of projects under OPE measure 2.2.

Visitors to the open day received a leaflet from the IBMA issued in the framework of measure 2.2 of the OPE and a double issue of the OPE Bulletin.

Information on the events is given in Annex 9. The number of participants visiting the events is monitored in the form of an indicator in Annex 10.

Certain other events organised externally at which the OPE was presented:

- *On 25.11.2009* in Košice PhDr. Miriam Kováčiková, General Director of the Section for European Affairs of the ME SR presented information on the OPE and national projects in the information seminar "Innovations and Modern Teaching Trends at Košice Primary Schools in the framework of OP Education".

Organiser – town of Košice

- *General Meeting of the Association of Secondary Vocational Schools of Slovakia*, 12.10.2009, Poprad

Organiser: Association of Secondary Vocational Schools

A presentation focused on the conditions of the currently declared call for secondary vocational schools was given by Jarmila Barátová, PhD., Acting Head of Section for OPE Implementation;

- *Working meeting with Secretary of State of the ME SR Bibiána Obrimčáková*, 5.11.2009, Krupina

Organiser: Town of Krupina

A presentation focusing on the possibilities for obtaining aid from the SF, and the conditions of the currently declared call for secondary vocational schools was given by Jarmila Barátová, PhD., Acting Head of Section for OPE Implementation;

- *Working meeting of the staff of the Private Secondary Vocational School of Business regarding the preparation of an OPE project*, 30.11.2009, Senica,

Organiser: Private Secondary Vocational School of Business, Hollého 1380, Senica,

Presentation given by: Peter Szabó, OPE Regional Publicity Manager Nitra.

G) Accompanying activities in the week of Europe Day

For the purpose of maintaining awareness about the European Communities, the OPE and the SF, information and promotional materials were distributed at various events. In the week from 4.5. – 10.5.2009, on the occasion of Europe Day (9.5.2009) the European flag was hung in front of the premises of the MA/IBMA.

H) Advertising, articles, PR articles and advertising in daily national newspapers

The advertising space of the MA/IBMA in the national daily business newspaper “Hospodárske noviny” served for informing the public of the declared calls and provided important information concerning the possibility of drawing funds from the EU SF in the framework of the OPE. Numerous full-colour advertisements were published in “Hospodárske noviny”, and informative articles were published in the teachers’ newspaper “Učiteľske noviny”, together with various PR articles.

The IBMA MH SR used primarily the healthcare periodical “Zdravotnícke noviny” and also other print media. Advertising was also made in the form of an invitation to the 2nd anniversary of the Day of Structural Funds in Healthcare – in total 4 adverts were published in the national daily newspapers “Pravda”, “Sme”, “Hospodárske noviny” and in the weekly “Zdravotnícke noviny”.

The MA/IBMA informed the public and target groups of its activities also by means of its website, on which it published current information, press releases, announcements, timetables for calls and much other information.

Data on media outputs is given in Annex 9. The number of published press releases, articles and adverts in all types of media is monitored in the form of an indicator in Annex 10.

7.4.2. Internet

www.minedu.sk: The section “2007 – 2013 programming period” on the ME SR website serves for ensuring the provision of comprehensive information regarding the OPE and its implementation. The activity of the MA and IBMA is also presented here. The structure of the section was supplemented and updated during the course of 2009 according to the MA’s needs. This provided for a more transparent arrangement of the information. The new arrangement of sections is as follows: News and Notices, Calls for the Submission of National Projects, Calls for the Submission of Demand-Driven Projects, List of Approved Projects, Intermediate Body under

the Managing Authority, Documents, Monitoring Committee, Methodological Instructions, Guidelines and Manuals, Publicity, Horizontal Priorities, Frequently Asked Questions, Contacts, Useful Links. All sections are continually updated, if necessary. **The section List of Approved Projects contains the list of beneficiaries of direct awards, which is continually updated. It contains the names of beneficiaries, project names, NFC amounts and is in accordance with Article 4 (2) (b) and Article 7 (2) (d) of Implementing Regulation No 1828/2006. The section displays a direct link to the lists of beneficiaries of both IBMAs.** The section “Useful Links” has been supplemented, on the basis of a request raised by the European Commission during the Annual Meeting, by a reference to other operational programmes co-financed from the ESF, www.esf.gov.sk.

The website enables the public to add their name to a mailing list for receiving current information, alerts to document updates, OPE calls declared and other important information relating to the OPE.

The home page of the Internet portal www.minedu.sk contains a section “EU SF Calls”, which also contains a subsection dedicated to OPE calls. It contains quick and transparent links to calls of the MA and both IBMAs via the Internet portal www.minedu.sk, simplifying access to information on declared OPE calls.

www.asfeu.sk: A broad spectrum of information for potential NFC applicants, beneficiaries and general public, is provided on the ASFEU website: www.asfeu.sk. Besides general information on the programme documents, SF objectives and regulations, visitors to the site in the section News the can learn about calls, updates to key documents, reports on the evaluation of calls, events held by the Agency and other important activities. The section Information Seminars & Conferences shows presentations from information seminars and working meetings for beneficiaries. The part FAQ – frequently asked questions by applicants – is updated on an ongoing basis within the framework of the calls published, and this on the basis of the most frequently asked questions from the side of NFC applicants during telephone, mail, personal consultations and information seminars on individual calls. FAQ – frequently asked questions by beneficiaries – contains answers to questions from the fields such as project activities, eligible expenditure, personnel matrix, labour-law relationships, project budget, pre-financing, project publicity, etc. For this target group there is also the section Documents for beneficiaries. For potential NFC applicants, the website provides a booking system, in which the applicants may at the time of a call’s declaration reserve a date for an ex-ante formal accuracy assessment of the submitted AfNFC and its annexes. This control concerns purely the paper form of the AfNFC and its annexes, pursuant to the Checklist for the formal accuracy assessment of an AfNFC.

In 2009, the News section published **65 notices** for the OPE, and the website was viewed by **290 347 users (cumulative figure)**.

Database mailing – for potential NFC applicants there is available the Newsletter service for obtaining necessary information about the OPE.

The website makes the following lists accessible to the public: List of NFC beneficiaries and List of approved projects.

www.opv.health-sf.sk The MH SR focused on informing the general public primarily via the website www.opv.health-sf.sk.

www.opv.health-sf.sk recorded 13 880 visits from 24 countries of the world. Of these, 13 375 visits were from the Slovak Republic (36 Slovak towns). In total 7 900 registered addresses (persons) showed interest in the website. The website recorded 49 439 page displays (number of materials from the site’s content viewed by visitors).

The MH SR website www.opv.health-sf.sk includes, in accordance with the Commission Regulation No 1828/2007, Article 7 (2) (d), the **List of beneficiaries – supported projects**.

The website is continually updated as necessary. The visitors will find there basic documents, information on calls, their evaluation and lists of projects supported, as well as news on the IBMA activities. For journalists, the site contains the section Information for media, while the section Monitoring Committee Meetings, seminars, trainings and nationwide events is intended for organisational issues.

Information for the public, potential applicants and beneficiaries is published in the sections News, Calls, Evaluated AfNRCs and Events.

Data on the number of media outputs intended for the public, which are published on the internet, is available in Annex 9. The number of addresses in MA/IBMA mailing lists and the number of visits to individual MA/IBMA websites, as well as the number of media outputs intended for the public which were published on the internet, are monitored in the form of indicators in Annex 10.

7.4.3. Personal, telephone, e-mail and written consultations

Information on the OPE, on the bodies responsible for its implementation, eligible activities, eligible and ineligible expenditure, etc. was provided to the potential NFC applicants, NFC applicants and the general public by means of personal, telephone, e-mail and written consultations and answers to the questions of potential beneficiaries and the general public, and this from the side of the MA and the IBMA. The MA/IBMA respected the statutory procedure pursuant to Act no. 211/200 Coll.

MA

Information on the OPE was provided to the potential applicants and the general public by means of personal, telephone, e-mail and written consultations and answers to the questions of potential beneficiaries and the general public. **The MA does not keep any specific records on the number of the answers, information and consultations provided.**

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Information on the possibilities for drawing Structural Funds under the OPE is provided on an ongoing basis by phone, in writing and in the form of personal consultations (personal consultations also apply to the provision of an ex-ante check of the formal accuracy of an AfNFC and its annexes). Consultations are provided by the OPE publicity managers directly at the premises of the ASFEU and at the Regional Information Offices. Data on the number of telephone, written and personal consultations concerning the ASFEU IBMA is given in Table 84.

Table 84: Number of consultations provided in the individual regions

Region	Telephone consultation	Written consultation	Personal consultations	Personal consultations as to the ex-ante formal accuracy assessment of an AfNFC and its annexes
Bratislava	1481	231	18	81
Trnava	163	36	48	10
Nitra	416	42	54	42
Trenčín	179	48	21	16
Zvolen	295	64	14	39
Žilina	321	59	22	33
Košice	417	65	100	61
Prešov	152	39	13	35
TOTAL	3424	584	290	317

IBMA MH SR



Information on the OPE was provided to the potential applicants and the general public by means of personal, telephone, e-mail and written consultations and answers to the questions of potential beneficiaries and the general public. The MA did not keep any records on the number of the answers, information and consultations provided over the period monitored.

7.4.4. Media

Television programmes

TA3

The public was informed of the amounts drawn from the structural funds in the framework of the OPE in the period monitored in the topic-focused programme Euroschool and Research, broadcast by the news TV channel TA3. The programme is specifically focused on information on the Structural Funds in the field of education, research and development. The MA used 5 parts of this TV programme to give information on the structural funds and OPE, while likewise IBMA ASFEU also used 5 parts. The precise data and dates on the broadcast programmes are given in Annex 9.

Evaluation of the number of presented information items in all types of media

In the period monitored, information, press releases and articles concerning both the presentation of the EU and structural funds as well as the presentation of the OPE, MA and both IBMAs were presented in all types of media. Data on the number of individual items (including the data regarding the type of media), expressed in total figures and broken down by contribution to the MA or IBMA, is given in Table 85.

Table 85: Data on the number of items in the media in 2009

	Press releases and information	Press	Radio	TV	Internet	Total
Number of items (MA+IBMA)	75	141	13	46	78	353

Details on the items published (including the issue date, media and author) are given in Annex 9.

7.4.5. Publicity of approved projects

The NFC beneficiaries are obliged in accordance with the NFC contract and relevant documents to publicise the assistance provided from the EU Structural Funds. Article 4 Publicity and information of Annex 1 General contractual conditions to the NFC contract sets out the obligations and commitments of Beneficiaries in the field of publicity and information. The Article also contains the Beneficiary's consent to its inclusion in the list of beneficiaries for the purposes of publicity and information; to the publication of information defined in the contract in the list of beneficiaries, or its consent to the publication of the data in a different manner based on the provider's decision. This concerns information such as the name and seat of the Beneficiary; name, objectives and brief description of the project; place of implementation of the project activities; time of project implementation; total project costs; level of the NFC provided;

project indicators; photographs and video of the place of project implementation; expected date of completion of the project activities.

The responsibility for the project's publicity lies with the beneficiaries. In this regard, the approved budget appropriates an amount for the project's promotion. Publicity forms a mandatory part of the project.

Compliance with the publicity rules during the implementation pursuant to the concluded NFC contract in the case of national projects is under the competence of the MA, while in the case of demand-driven projects the IBMA carries out checks verifying the performance of publicity measures.

Publicity at the national project level

Beneficiaries implementing national projects have the possibility of presenting these projects in articles in the daily business newspaper *Hospodárske noviny* and in the topic-focused TV programme "Euroscool and Research" on the television channel TA3. Costs are covered from the project publicity budget.

In the period monitored the TV programme was broadcast 30 times, focusing on national projects. Details on the date of individual broadcasts of the given programme are given in Annex 9.

Media outputs presenting national projects are available in Annex 9.

Since in the period monitored none of the national projects was completed, it is not possible to provide examples of good practice.

Publicity at the demand-driven projects level – ASFEU

On the basis of the concluded NFC contracts in the framework of the calls declared in 2008 within the OPE, February 2009 saw the start of the implementation process of the approved projects. The first example of the implementation of a successful project was presented at the Annual Conference of the Agency of the Ministry of Education of the SR for the Structural Funds of the EU, of 4.6.2009, held in Bratislava. Project entitled "Modern School – a basis for life". Further projects were presented at the event of "Open Day of the Agency of the Ministry of Education of the SR for the Structural Funds of the EU", held on 25.6.2009, "Modern school in practice", held on 27.8.2009 and also "Modern School through the Lens", held on 12.11.2009. The events are described in detail in Section 7.4.1. Activities in the field of information and publicity, point F.

ASFEU informs the public on a regular basis of examples of good practice (implementation of successful projects of schools) via the media, i.e. printed media: The teachers' newspaper "Učiteľské Noviny", the business newspaper "Hospodárske Noviny", Eurokompas; and electronic media: news TV channel TA3.

The news TV channel TA3, Euroscool and research – topic: Data centre for R&D. The success of the project in the framework of the Operational Programme Education – the approved OPE demand-driven project mentioned in the programme, in the programming period 2007-2013, entitled Teaching in an effective and modern way – innovation of the teaching-learning process in line with the modernisation of school education programme, secondary automobile vocational school SOŠ in Košice, broadcast on 15.12.2009.

Teachers newspaper "Učiteľské Noviny": On the transition of the traditional school to a modern school, printed on 30.11.2009

interviews with: headmasters and project managers of the schools:

- Terézia Vansová Collage in Stará Ľubovňa, project Modern measuring technology and e-learning in teaching natural sciences
- A. Kmet' primary school in Levice, project School of Creative Learning
- secondary automobile vocational school, project Teaching in an effective and modern way – innovation of the teaching process in line with the modernisation of the school education programme

Eurokompas – Modern school – A basis for life, Eurokompas no. 3/2009, an example of a successfully implemented OPE demand-driven project, in the programming period 2007-2013, which is carried out by the Ladislav Sára college in Bratislava.

Publicity of the project implemented in the framework of calls declared by the IBMA MH SR

The implementation of successful projects was presented within the information activity “2nd anniversary of the Day of Structural Funds in healthcare”, by means of presentations by beneficiaries, who shared their experience from the implementation of successful projects under measure 2.2 of the OPE. The events are described in detail in Section 7.4.1. Activities in the field of information and publicity, point F.

7.4.6. Publications and promotional objects

1) MA

In the period monitored the MA did not realise any delivery of publications, printed materials or promotional objects (MA used items procured in the preceding period).

In the period monitored the MA prepared the Annual Report on the Implementation of the Operational Programme Education for the period January – December 2008, which was (following its approval from the MC OPE and the European Commission) published in its electronic form at www.minedu.sk (costs: €0.00).

Table 86: Overview of publications

Publications	Quantity in pcs
Annual report on the Implementation of the Operational Programme Education for the Period January – December 2008	1 (electronic publication)

2) IBMA ASFEU

a) Promotional objects

In the period monitored promotional objects were procured, bearing EU, OPE and ASFEU logo in accordance with the Information and Publicity Manual. An overview of these objects is given in Table 87.

Table 87: Overview of promotional objects procured

Name of promotional objects bearing the OPE, EU and ASFEU logo	Quantity in pcs
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Annual Report on Implementation of Operational Programme Education for January – December 2009

A4 notepads	2500
A5 notepads	1500
Women's T-shirts	50
drawing kit for children	200
diary type – 1	15
diary type – 2	100
weekly personal organiser	20
ballpoint pen with laser pointer	100
ceramic mug with spoon	428
key ring	600
metal set: ballpoint pen and pencil	100
metal ballpoint pen type – 1	25
metal ballpoint pen type – 2	1500
LED torch	300
mechanical umbrella	30
multifunctional metal table clock	100
men's T-shirts	50
business card holder (holding 72 business cards)	50
business card holder	250
stickers	2500
folding umbrella	150
stand for photo and business cards	300
table clock with a rotating display and alarm clock	20
special pen set	15
set of 6 games	60
pen set type – 1	25
pen set type – 2	10
set of 6 highlighters	150
lanyard (neck string)	500
sports cap	50
document folio	150
textile shopping bag	600
USB key	100
folder with rubber band	4000
folder with rubber band and notepad	3500
foldable folder	5500

b) Printed and multimedia information materials

In the period monitored printed and multimedia information materials were issued and procured in the quantity as stated in Table 88.

Table 88: Overview of information materials

Printed and multimedia information materials	Quantity in pcs
CD media "OP Education – Modern Education for a Knowledge-Based Society"	12 000
Publication "Modern education for a knowledge-based society, Modern school in practice – Selection of successful projects"	4 300
Leaflet "Financial support from the Operational Programme Education, How to do	12 000

projects – opportunities and possibilities”	
Leaflet “Monitoring and control of a project”	30 000
Leaflet “Personnel expenses ”	30 000
Leaflet “Project budget”	30 000
Leaflet “Public procurement”	30 000

c) Other information and publicity instruments

The following information and publicity instruments, as referred to in Table 89, were procured in the monitored period.

Table 89: Overview of other instruments

Other information and publicity instruments	Quantity in pcs
Portable stand focused on individual OPE priority axes (6 types)	59

3) IBMA MH SR

a) Promotional objects

The IBMA MH SR did not carry out any delivery of promotional items over the period monitored.

b) Printed material

In the period monitored the printed material as referred to in Table 90 was procured. The printed material bears all the mandatory publicity features.

Table 90: Overview of printed material of IBMA MH SR

Printed material	Quantity in pcs
Information leaflet on the OPE measure 2.2	2000
Publication (periodical) “Bulletin of Measure 2.2 of the Operational Programme Education”	2000

The printed materials were distributed to target groups with the view to raising information on the OPE measure 2.2.

7.5. Monitoring and evaluation of information – communication activities

The global objective of the information – communication activities is defined in the Communication Plan as: “emphasising the Community’s role and ensuring that the assistance provided from the Structural Funds and the Cohesion Fund be transparent for all the target groups through securing broad publicity at all levels of implementation with the use of a broad range of means of communication.”

The aim of the Communication Plan is to ensure:

- distribution of timely, comprehensive, accurate and correct information on the existence of the EU structural funds, underlining the position and benefits of the OPE in order that the

requirements in place regarding information and publicity be carried out in an efficient, timely and financially beneficial manner for each applicant;

- success in the implementation of EU instruments of economic and social cohesion policy by means of a wide range of communications of the existence and possibilities for involvement in the operational programme and on the added value entailing from the operational programme for society. This objective will be attained by means of broader awareness and information on the existence and benefits of the operational programmes and support for the integration of communication-information activities of the Communication Plan into the policies and development dimensions of EU economic and social cohesion
- successful implementation of operational programmes via quality communication in the internal as well as external environment of the given operational programme, mainly at the strategic level affecting its direction, standing and implementation.
- support for the successful implementation of projects through timely, structured and quality communication and information for potential NFC applicants, NFC applicants, beneficiaries and the public.

Based on the MA's consideration, an internal evaluation of information-communication activities was performed over the course of the period monitored. The MA, as a result of this internal evaluation, states that the objectives as defined in the Communication Plan were fully supported by the implemented information activities (carried out in accordance with the documents "Annual information and publicity operative plan for the Operational Programme Education and Operational Programme Research and Development for 2009" for the MA and IBMA ASFEU and "Publicity operative plan for measure 2.2 of the Operational Programme Education for 2009" for IBMA MH SR).

The Communication Plan was, in the period monitored, successfully implemented. There was no need to adjust it or adopt measures for adjusting the planned information and publicity steps.

The data concerning the monitoring of information-communication activities was monitored via the indicators defined in the Communication Plan.

The responsibility for evaluating the information-communication activities lies with the MC OPE (pursuant to the general regulation). The MC OPE, at its ordinary meeting of 9.6.2009, considered and approved the Annual Report on the Implementation of the OPE for 2008, which in accordance with Article 67 of the general regulation contained also the measures adopted for the provision of information on the OP and its publicity.

Fulfilment of the physical indicators as at 31.12.2009 is given in Annex 10.

ANNEXES

- Annex 1: List of abbreviations
- Annex 2: Overview of calls declared as at 31.12.2009 together with an overview of projects
- Annex 3: Payments received from the European Commission
- Annex 4: Summary breakdown of the allocated Community contribution by category in the annual and final implementation report
- Annex 5: Interim applications for payment submitted to the European Commission
- Annex 6: State of implementation – overview of SF and CF drawing compared to commitments
- Annex 7: List of IBMA on-the-spot inspections
- Annex 8: List of MA on-the-spot inspections
- Annex 9: List of activities in the framework of OPE publicity
- Annex 10: Monitoring indicators for publicity
- Annex 11: Comparison of actual and planned drawing in national projects as at 31.12.2009
- Annex 12: Financial data based on certified expenditures