



**Ministry of Education, Science,  
Research and Sports of the SR  
Managing Authority for the  
Operational Programme Education**



**Annual Implementation Report on  
the Operational Programme Education  
January – December 2013**

Bratislava  
*September 2014*

**“Modern education for a knowledge-based society/Project co-financed from EU funds”**

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## INTRODUCTION

This Annual Implementation Report on the Operational Programme Education for the period January – December 2011 (“AIR”) presents data on the implementation of the Operational Programme Education (“OPE”) **at the level of priority axes** as per monitoring and financial indicators as of 31 December 2013.

The AIR has been prepared under Article 67 of 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, as amended (hereinafter referred to as the “General Regulation”), Annex XVII to Commission Regulation (EC) No. 1828/2006 of 8 December 2006 setting out rules for the implementation of Council Regulation (hereinafter referred to as the “Implementing Regulation”) and pursuant to the Methodological Instruction of the Central Coordination Authority No. 9 on the content of annual and final implementation reports on the operational programme (Update No. 5 of 09 April 2013).

The AIR provides information on the state of implementation of the OPE and contains information on:

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

This report also contains information on the contribution of the OPE implementation to the horizontal priorities (“HP”) defined by the National Strategic Reference Framework of the SR 2007–2013 (“NSRF”).

All monitoring and evaluation data of the programme with regard to the priority axes and measures is broken down by priority theme, form of finance, territorial area, industrial classification of economic activities, and NUTS III regions in line with the requirements set out in Annex II to the EU Implementing Regulation.

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**1. IDENTIFICATION**

OPERATIONAL PROGRAMME	Convergence objective & Regional Competitiveness and Employment objective
	NUTS II – Western Slovakia NUTS II – Central Slovakia NUTS II – Eastern Slovakia NUTS II – Bratislava Region
	2007–2013
	2007SK05UPO001
	Operational Programme Education
ANNUAL IMPLEMENTATION	2013
REPORT ON THE OPERATIONAL PROGRAMME	25 June 2014

## 2. OVERVIEW OF THE OPERATIONAL PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION

The aim of this chapter is to provide information on the physical and financial progress made in the implementation of the Operational Programme Education as a whole.

### 2.1. Achievement and analysis of the progress

This chapter presents the progress made in the OPE implementation in 2013 and cumulatively from the beginning of the OPE implementation, both from the physical and financial perspectives and with regard to the fulfilment of measurable indicators and objectives set out in the programme.

#### *Summary data as of 31 December 2013*

From the beginning of the programming period 2007–2013, a total of **114** calls and written invitations were published, specifically: **36** written invitations for national projects; **41** calls for demand-driven projects, and **38** written invitations for TA.

As of 31 December 2013, further to the published calls and written invitations:

- **3,058** grant applications for a total requested amount of EUR **1,552,229,250.60** were submitted;
- **1,000** grant applications in a total approved grant amount of EUR **830,977,769.10** were approved;
- **907** projects with a contracted grant amount of EUR **710,211,253.64** were contracted;
- **497** projects with a contracted grant amount of EUR **639,881,309.36** (including **31** national projects with a total allocation of EUR **403,681,287.44**) were implemented;
- **410** projects were completed, absorbing EUR **70,329,944.28** of allocated funds.

Annex No. 2 to the AIR provides a detailed overview of all published calls and written invitations as of 31 December 2013, including an overview of the projects.

The seventh year of the implementation of the programming period 2007–2013 ended on 31 December 2013. If we consider the year 2008 as the actual start of the OPE implementation when the first calls for demand-driven projects and written invitations for national projects were published, we can speak about the sixth year of implementation.

The spending of financial resources during the reference period cannot be considered satisfactory. From the total commitment 2007–2013, the funds used in 2013 reached EUR 76,232,396.94, which is 13.70%.

The total amount of EU funds absorbed from the OPE allocation during the programming period 2007–2013 as of 31 December 2013 attained EUR **216,835,013.83**, which represents **38.97%** of the total commitment 2007–2013.

Table 1: Absorption of funds by priority axis as of 31 December 2013

OP Education	Commitment 2007–2013 from EU funds in EUR	Absorption of funds in 2013 (EU funds ) in EUR		Absorption of funds – cumulative (EU funds)	
		Total	% of the commitment 2007–2013	Total	% of the commitment 2007–2013
Priority Axis 1	313,314,627.00	38,980,140.25	12.44%	128,128,120.80	40.89%
Priority Axis 2	140,391,205.00	19,367,251.25	13.80%	45,022,284.68	32.07%
Priority Axis 3	63,385,000.00	12,566,952.73	19.83%	20,816,491.36	32.84%
Priority Axis 4	17,801,578.00	1,786,013.98	10.03%	6,858,516.03	38.53%
Priority Axis 5	21,545,451.00	3,532,038.73	16.39%	16,009,600.96	74.31%
<b>Total for the programme</b>	<b>556,437,861.00</b>	<b>76,232,396.94</b>	<b>13.70%</b>	<b>216,835,013.83</b>	<b>38.97%</b>

Source: CA

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The low spending of financial resources was primarily caused by irregularities in public administration, low and inefficient use of allocated funds on the side of beneficiaries, and the high administrative burden, especially in view of the extensive supporting documentation to be submitted to assess the eligibility of personnel expenditure. The low use of funds was also due to the high administrative burden with regard to expenditure, usually personnel expenditure which is characterised by a high number of mandatory supporting documents to be submitted and the low amount of cleared funds. Another reason was increased administrative burden in checking individual payment requests which are not easy to process, in particular in terms of the scope of supporting documentation and the amount of expenditure verified.

The implementation of projects under the OPE ran slower also because of recurrent shortcomings in the preparation and implementation of public procurements by beneficiaries, or the repetition of incorrectly prepared or cancelled tenders. Given the fact that a part of public procurements under the OPE is carried out as over-limit and below-limit contracts, the preparation of which is more time consuming, the entire procurement process is prolonged. The check of the documentation submitted under the OPE is more complicated both in terms of time and personnel, since the respective documents must be repeatedly checked, which extends the period of administrative control with negative effects on the utilisation of funds.

As of 31 December 2013, the planned values were significantly exceeded with respect to the following indicators:

- Number of new education programmes (754% fulfilment);
- Number of training courses for teaching staff (4,020% fulfilment);
- Number of formal education programmes for persons with special educational needs (1,340% fulfilment);
- Number of supported further education programmes (414% fulfilment);
- Number of pupils with special educational needs involved in education programmes (327% fulfilment); and
- Number of further education programmes for persons working for the social inclusion of persons with special educational needs (373% fulfilment).

The performance of indicators as of 31 December 2013 was low with regard to the following selected indicators: number of partnerships and development & innovation networks supported by the OPE; percentage of medical staff having completed further education programmes; placement rate of graduates from formal education programmes for persons with special educational needs; placement rate of graduates from further education programmes for persons with special educational needs; number of projects supporting human resources in centres of excellence at higher education institutions and in the Slovak Academy of Sciences (“SAS”).

Given the contracted planned values related to these indicators as of 31 December 2013, no risk of failure to meet the planned values has been identified.

It is assumed that the target values (indicated in brackets) will not be reached with respect to the following indicators:

- Number of teaching staff participating further education programmes (49,290 teaching staff in the SR as a whole);
- Number of networks created under the learning regions concept (19);
- Number of further education programmes for medical staff (15);
- Number of persons working for the social inclusion of persons with special educational needs, trained under further education programmes (31,500).

The problem in achieving the set indicators is due to too ambitious target values and to the fact that the calls comprising these indicators were launched at a later stage of the OPE implementation. For more information on the performance of physical indicators by priority axis see Chapter 3 and annexes to the AIR.

Overall, the OPE implementation encountered some problems in 2013 and was to a certain extent influenced by addressing the risk of failing to comply with the N+2/N+3 rule. In the end of 2013, the commitment 2010 was decommitted, and the amount of the unspent part of the commitment 2010 reached EUR 13,709,101.07. For more information on significant problems encountered and on the measures taken by the MA to overcome them see sub-chapter 2.3 of the AIR.

In spite of these negative facts, new calls and written invitations continued to be launched under the OPE, and contracted activities under national projects and demand-driven projects were carried out. In 2014, the MA for the OPE will aim to eliminate all problems so that the OPE implementation process runs achieving the set OPE objectives.

### **2.1.1. Physical progress of the Operational Programme**

#### ***Calls published during the reference period***

Table 2 provides an overview of the number of calls for demand-driven projects, written invitations for national projects, and TA projects launched during the reference period.

Table 2: Overview of calls and written invitations from 01 January 2013 to 31 December 2013

Priority axis	Number of calls	Grant allocation per call in EUR
<u>Priority Axis 1</u> Reform of the education and vocational training system	5	118,600,000.00
<u>Priority Axis 2</u> Further education as a tool for HR development	3	48,000,000.00
<u>Priority Axis 3</u> Support for education of persons with special educational needs	1	15,000,000.00
<u>Priority Axis 4</u> Modern education for a knowledge-based society for the Bratislava Region	2	4,600,000.00
<u>Priority Axis 5</u> Technical assistance for the Convergence objective	2	9,227,500.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>195,427,500.00</b>

Source: MA

During 2013, a total of **13** calls for demand-driven projects, national projects and TA projects were published under the OPE. The MA for the OPE extended **8** written invitations for national projects, and **2** written invitations for TA projects at a total allocation of **EUR 184,827,500.00**. The IBMA ASFEU published **3** calls for demand-driven projects at a total allocation of **EUR 10,600,000.00**. During the reference period, the IBMA MoH SR did not launch any call for demand-driven projects under Measure 2.2. For more information about the launched calls, the delivery of grant application, the evaluation and approval process, and about the implementation of projects see Chapter 3 of the AIR.

The calls of the IBMA ASFEU for demand-driven projects were published in line with the current indicative schedule of calls of the IB MA ASFEU, the updates of which were regularly published on the website of the MA for the OPE [www.minedu.sk](http://www.minedu.sk), the website of the IBMA ASFEU [www.asfeu.sk](http://www.asfeu.sk), and on the CCA information portal [www.nsrr.sk](http://www.nsrr.sk).

In 2013, the schedule of calls for demand-driven projects of the IBMA ASFEU was updated twice (on 04 March and 01 August 2013). The main reason for the update of the schedule of calls was the inclusion of two new calls of the IBMA ASFEU in the schedule of calls for 2013 (the calls referred to Measures 1.2 and 2.1 which suffered from low contracting for longer periods of time).



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The reports on the evaluation of calls for grant applications are published on the IBMA websites [www.asfeu.sk](http://www.asfeu.sk) and [www.health.gov.sk](http://www.health.gov.sk).

***Monitoring of the development of the OPE implementation from the start of the programming period***

Tables 3a and 3b provide information on the overall monitoring of the development of the OPE implementation as of 31 December 2013.

Table 3a: Tracking the progress in OP programme implementation as of 31 December 2013

Priority axis/ Measure	Number of received grant applications	Number of approved grant applications	Number of contracted projects	Number of regularly completed projects	Number of exceptionally completed projects
<b>Priority Axis 1</b> Reform of the education and vocational training system	<b>2,335</b>	<b>668</b>	<b>628</b>	<b>321</b>	<b>20</b>
Measure 1.1	2,133	549	514	312	18
Measure 1.2	202	119	114	9	2
<b>Priority Axis 2</b> Further education as a tool for HR development	<b>216</b>	<b>108</b>	<b>78</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>14</b>
Measure 2.1	129	77	58	1	3
Measure 2.2	87	31	20	8	11
<b>Priority Axis 3</b> Support for education of persons with special educational needs	<b>299</b>	<b>134</b>	<b>121</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>11</b>
Measure 3.1	260	110	101	33	8
Measure 3.2	39	24	20	2	3
<b>Priority Axis 4</b> Modern education for a knowledge-based society for the Bratislava Region	<b>178</b>	<b>63</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>2</b>
Measure 4.1	124	37	30	18	1
Measure 4.2	39	13	12	2	1
Measure 4.3	15	13	13	11	0
<b>Priority Axis 5</b> Technical assistance for Convergence objective	<b>30</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>2</b>
Measure 5.1	28	25	23	14	2
Measure 5.2	2	2	2	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,058</b>	<b>1,000</b>	<b>907</b>	<b>410</b>	<b>49</b>

Source: MA

Table 3b: Financial progress of implementation as of 31 December 2013 (in EUR)

Priority Axis/ Measure	Allocation from EU funds + SB*	Amount of requested contribution (NFC)	Amount of approved contribution (NFC)	Amount of contracted funds (NFC)	Value of regularly completed projects **	Value of exceptionally completed projects
<b>Priority Axis 1</b> Reform of the education and vocational training system	<b>368,605,444.00</b>	<b>947,573,392.77</b>	<b>484,480,660.28</b>	<b>409,039,715.02</b>	<b>45,390,564.01</b>	<b>56,044,666.64</b>
Measure 1.1	252,893,679.00	741,597,396.26	366,761,964.71	295,546,542.82	42,076,006.66	54,832,955.42
Measure 1.2	115,711,765.00	205,975,996.51	117,718,695.57	113,493,172.20	3,314,557.35	1,211,711.22
<b>Priority Axis 2</b> Further education as a tool for HR development	<b>165,166,124.00</b>	<b>372,035,753.58</b>	<b>189,960,478.41</b>	<b>173,445,118.85</b>	<b>9,112,139.22</b>	<b>12,148,006.52</b>
Measure 2.1	122,224,947.00	256,589,873.07	149,095,317.62	144,248,481.92	3,933,610.04	919,023.70

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Measure 2.2	42,941,177.00	115,445,880.51	40,865,160.79	29,196,636.93	5,178,529.18	11,228,982.82
<b>Priority Axis 3</b> Support for education of persons with special educational needs	<b>74,570,589.00</b>	<b>122,610,126.66</b>	<b>84,002,825.91</b>	<b>66,755,202.81</b>	<b>4,646,574.90</b>	<b>1,751,113.55</b>
Measure 3.1	57,294,118.00	84,682,258.15	50,086,959.91	48,629,223.37	4,220,850.08	1,233,057.60
Measure 3.2	17,276,471.00	37,927,868.51	33,915,866.00	18,125,979.44	425,724.82	518,055.95
<b>Priority Axis 4</b> Modern education for a knowledge-based society for the Bratislava Region	<b>20,943,034.00</b>	<b>60,390,666.21</b>	<b>25,511,563.96</b>	<b>23,121,486.42</b>	<b>3,368,710.33</b>	<b>692,634.48</b>
Measure 4.1	8,131,193.00	26,210,831.57	10,498,334.79	8,836,243.99	1,813,496.47	257,517.37
Measure 4.2	11,974,119.00	32,743,719.07	13,894,403.58	13,166,416.84	984,118.16	435,117.11
Measure 4.3	837,722.00	1,436,115.57	1,118,825.59	1,118,825.59	571,095.70	0.00
<b>Priority Axis 5</b> Technical assistance for Convergence Objective	<b>25,347,590.00</b>	<b>49,619,311.38</b>	<b>47,022,240.54</b>	<b>37,849,730.54</b>	<b>7,811,955.82</b>	<b>8,922,510.00</b>
Measure 5.1	24,098,031.76	48,231,823.16	45,634,752.32	36,462,242.32	7,811,955.82	8,922,510.00
Measure 5.2	1,249,558.24	1,387,488.22	1,387,488.22	1,387,488.22	0.00	0.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>654,632,781.00</b>	<b>1,552,229,250.60</b>	<b>830,977,769.10</b>	<b>710,211,253.64</b>	<b>70,329,944.28</b>	<b>79,558,931.19</b>

\*The allocation from EU + SB funds includes own public funds.

\*\* Amount of used NFC funds of regularly completed projects.

Source: MA

As of 31 December 2013, a total of **3,058** grant applications (applications for non-repayable financial contribution) were delivered for a total requested grant amount of **EUR 1,552,229,250.60**. From the total number of received grant applications, the number of approved grant applications reached **1,000** with a total amount of approved contribution of **EUR 830,977,769.10**, of which **907** projects were contracted in a total amount of contracted funds of **EUR 710,211,253.64** with **448** projects under implementation as of 31 December 2013. As for the most frequent reasons for rejecting a grant application, the following problem areas were identified during the control and evaluation of grant applications: the grant application did not comply with the call conditions; the delivered grant application was incomplete; the specification of project budget items was inappropriate; the description of the project activities was too general; wrongly defined target group of the project; missing justification of chosen methods and insufficient description; unclear time sequence of activities, etc. One of the measures aimed to prevent the submission of grant applications with such deficiencies included, for example, the introduction of personal consultations at the IBMA ASFEU for all those interested and for potential applicants under launched calls. The IBMA ASFEU staff provides potential applicants with information concerning formal control of their grant applications and annexes thereto, budgets and focus of activities in line with the call.

The number of projects completed as of 31 December 2013 reached **459**, of which 410 were regularly completed projects with NFC spending of **EUR 70,329,944.28**, and **49** exceptionally completed projects with an originally contracted NFC amount of **EUR 79,558,931.19**. The most common reasons for withdrawal from contracts either by the MA/IBMA or by beneficiaries included shortcomings in the implementation of projects by beneficiaries, i.e. breach of the commitments arising from the factual implementation of project activities and deadlines, which automatically leads to a failure to fulfil the measurable indicators and project objectives, as well as the failure to take measures by beneficiaries to remedy the shortcomings identified during on-the-spot inspections pursuant to on-the-spot inspection reports.

Regarding evaluation of the contribution of projects implemented under the OPE to employment as of 31 December 2013, the data from monitoring reports on beneficiaries' national and demand-driven projects suggests that a total of **1,048** jobs were created and **669** jobs were preserved.

Table 4: Contribution of the OPE to employment as of 31 December 2013

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Priority Axis	Number of new jobs	Number of preserved jobs
Priority Axis 1	158	186
Priority Axis 2	264	293
Priority Axis 3	433	7
Priority Axis 4	193	183
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1,048</b>	<b>669</b>

Source: MA/IBMA

As of 31 December 2013, **33** national projects were contracted under the OPE in a total amount of contracted financial resources of **EUR 411,763,465.59**, with **13** national projects for the Convergence objective (total allocation of EUR 223,717,375.97) and **20** mirror projects for the Convergence and Regional Competitiveness and Employment objectives (total allocation of EUR 188,046,089.62). For details on the physical and financial implementation of national projects and about the performance of measurable indicators see Chapter 3 of the AIR broken down by OPE priority axis, and Annex 13 to the AIR.

Based on the programme implementation, Annex 7 to the AIR presents examples of good practice of demand-driven projects implemented under each OPE priority axis by the IBMA ASFEU and IBMA MoH SR.

*Performance of measurable indicators*

Table 5 provides details on the performance of OPE context indicators.

Table 5: Performance Fulfilment of context indicators as of 31 December 2013

Indicators*		2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	Total	Com ment
<b>1. Personnel expenditure (total public expenditure on education) as a share of GDP (%)</b>	<b>Result achieved</b>	3,62%	3,61%	4,09%	4,22%	43,60 6%**	n/a4,6 0%	n/a	n/a	n/a	<b>4,606%</b>	n/a
	<b>Target</b>	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	5.2%	n/a	5.2%	<b>5.2%</b>	n/a
	<b>Baseline</b>	4.4% (2003)	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	<b>4.4%</b>	n/a
<b>2. Total employment rate (%)</b>	<b>Result achieved</b>	60.7%	62.3%	60.2%	58.8%	59.5%	65.0%	n/a	n/a	n/a	<b>65.0%</b>	n/a
	<b>Target</b>	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	63.4%	n/a	63.4%	<b>63.4%</b>	n/a
	<b>Baseline</b>	57.7% (2005)	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	<b>57.7%</b>	n/a
<b>3. Percentage of inhabitants involved in lifelong learning per 100 inhabitants aged 25-64 (%)</b>	<b>Result achieved</b>	3,9%	3,3%	2,8%	2,8%	3,9%	3,14%	2,98% ***	n/a	n/a	<b>2,98%</b>	n/a
	<b>Target</b>	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	12.5%	n/a	12.5%	<b>12.5%</b>	n/a
	<b>Baseline</b>	4.6% (2005)	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	<b>4.6%</b>	n/a
<b>4. Graduates of tertiary grade higher education (number/1000 inhabitants)</b>	<b>Result achieved</b>	1.5	1.8	2.1	3.2	1.9	2.4	n/a	n/a	n/a	<b>2.4</b>	n/a
	<b>Target</b>	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	12	n/a	12	<b>12</b>	n/a
	<b>Baseline</b>	8.3 (2005)	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	<b>8.3</b>	n/a
<b>5. Youth having attained secondary-school education (%)</b>	<b>Result achieved</b>	91.3%	92.3%	93.3%	93.2%	93.3%	92.9%	92.5%	n/a	n/a	<b>92.5%</b>	n/a
	<b>Target</b>	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	92%	n/a	92%	<b>92%</b>	n/a
	<b>Baseline</b>	91.8% (2005)	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	<b>91.8%</b>	n/a
<b>6. Percentage of population (18-24) with</b>	<b>Result achieved</b>	6.5%	6.0%	4.9%	4.9%	5.0%	5.0%	6.3%	n/a	n/a	<b>6.3%</b>	n/a
	<b>Target</b>	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	5.5%	n/a	5.5%	<b>5.5%</b>	n/a

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<b>lower secondary education not receiving further education (%)</b>	<b>Baseline</b>	6.4%(2006)	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	<b>6.4%</b>	<b>n/a</b>
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\*Detailed definitions and the measuring units of indicators are provided in Annex 8 to the AIR.

\*\*[http://appsso.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/nui/show.do?dataset=educ\\_figdp&lang=en](http://appsso.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/nui/show.do?dataset=educ_figdp&lang=en)

\*\*\* [http://appsso.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/nui/show.do?dataset=trng\\_lfse\\_02&lang=en](http://appsso.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/nui/show.do?dataset=trng_lfse_02&lang=en)

Source: Eurostat

At the time of the AIR preparation and submission, the values for context indicators no. 1 for the years 2012 and 2013, and the values for context indicator no. 2 and 4 for the year 2013 were not available. For this relevant reason, the table provides the values of these indicators for the years 2012 and 2011. For this relevant reason, the table provides the values of these indicators for the year 2012. Since these indicators are aggregated by external sources (Eurostat), and not by the MA for the OPE, the values of these indicators will be provided in the next AIRs as available. It should be noted, though, that the achieved context indicator values reflect the situation in the given field achieved under the effect of several factors, policies and measures, and not only under the effect of measures implemented under the OPE. At present, no calculation methodology is available to determine the extent of the contribution of OPE activities to the achieved values.

### *Performance of measurable indicators at the OPE level*

An overview of the performance of the Programme's physical indicators as of 31 December 2013 constitutes Annex 14 and Annex 15 to the AIR. For the purposes of this report and given the specific character of the ESF programme, the values of physical indicators are provided in the tables on output and result indicators, and all indicator values for physically and financially completed projects in the Comments column. The other indicator values refer to all projects, i.e. projects were physically and financially completed, as well as projects under implementation.

A more detailed analysis of the results obtained with regard to physical indicators, the progress made in relation to the advanced stage of the programme period and to the state of contracting and spending funds under the respective priorities is provided in Chapter 3 to the AIR (qualitative and quantitative analysis of the results by priority axis).

## **2.1.2. Financial implementation of the Programme**

### **a) Overall spending of SF and SB funds at national level in 2013**

From 01 January 2013 to 31 December 2013, the Paying Unit (PU) submitted to the Certifying Authority (CA) **51 summary requests for payment (SRPs)** in the total amount of EU and SB funds intended for co-financing of **EUR 88,682,487.73**, of which EUR 76,553,299.89 were EU funds and EUR 12,129,187.84 were SB funds:

- **36 SRPs** were submitted to the **MoESRS SR** in the total amount of EU and SB funds intended for co-financing of **EUR 85,670,309.86**, of which EUR 73,931,402.51 were EU funds and EUR 11,738,907.35 were SB funds;
- **15 SRPs** were submitted to the **MoH SR** in the total amount of EU and SB funds intended for co-financing of **EUR 3,012,177.87 EUR**, of which EUR 2,621,897.38 were EU funds and EUR 390,280.49 were SB funds.

From all 51 SRPs submitted to the CA, 48 SRPs were approved in full amount, and 3 SRPs were approved in a reduced amount. The total amount of approved SRPs in 2013 comprising EU funds and SB funds intended for co-financing reached EUR 88,579,393.53, of which EUR 76,465,364.04 were EU funds and EUR 12,114,029.49 were SB funds.

**b) Cumulative spending of SF and SB funds at national level from the start of the programming period**

From **01 January 2007 to 31 December 2013**, the PU submitted to the CA **196 SRPs** in the total amount of EU and SB funds intended for co-financing of **EUR 256,701,430.46**, of which EUR 222,221,269.28 were EU funds and EUR 34,480,161.18 were SB funds:

- **119 SRPs** were submitted to the **MoESRS SR** in the total amount of EU and SB funds intended for co-financing of **EUR 242,917,076.66**, of which EUR 210,161,250.35 were EU funds and EUR 32,755,826.31 were SB funds;
- **77 SRPs** were submitted to the **MoH SR** in the total amount of EU and SB funds intended for co-financing of **EUR 13,784,353.80**, of which EUR 12,060,018.93 were EU funds and EUR 1,724,334.87 were SB funds.

Of 196 SRPs submitted to the CA:

- 174 SRPs were approved in full amount – 104 for the MoESRS SR and 70 for the MoH SR;
- 20 SRPs were approved in a reduced amount – 15 for the MoESRS SR and 5 for the MoH SR;
- 2 SRPs were rejected, both of them for the MoH SR.

**The total amount of SRPs approved as of 31 December 2013**, comprising both EU funds and SB funds, represents **EUR 256,484,967.45**, of which EUR 222,031,898.17 were EU funds and EUR 34,453,069.28 were SB funds intended for co-financing.

**Funds provided to beneficiaries for project funding**

In addition to the reimbursement of implemented and approved eligible expenditure, beneficiaries also receive advance funding from state budget funds (i.e. advance payments or pre-financing). As of 31 December 2013, a total of EUR 55,254,369.84 were provided to beneficiaries and cleared as of that date (EUR 47,887,711.21 for EU funds and EUR 7,366,658.63 for co-financing from the state budget). The total use of OPE funds as of 31 December 2013 at the Paying Unit level, i.e. the sum of expenditure approved by the CA in SRPs reduced by irregularities and of the funds provided to beneficiaries that were not cleared as of that date totals EUR 305,704,914.82, of which EUR 264,722,725.04 is for EU funds, and EUR 40,982,189.78 is for SB funds intended for co-financing. The share of total EU funds spending at PU level in the total commitment 2007–2013 is 47.57% for the OPE.

**c) Use of the EU commitment, fulfilment of the N+3 and N+2 rules towards the EU, possible risks**

An amendment to Council Regulation (EC) No. 1083/2006 was approved as of 11 December 2013 with respect to the Slovak Republic and Romania, under which the **N+3 rule applies to the commitments 2011 and 2012**. In spite of the amended regulation, the commitment 2010 (EUR 90,884,451) failed to be spent within the deadline for its use and reporting to the EC by 31 December 2013.

The use of EU funds as of 31 December 2013 (including irregularities) in the amount of EUR 216,835,013.83 against the commitment 2010 represents **84.92% (84.65% for the C objective and 92.81% for the RC&E objective)**. Further to the failure to exercise the N+3 rule, the expected amount of unspent funds is **EUR 13,709,101.07 (EUR 13,497,750.65 for the C objective and EUR 211,350.42 for the RC&E objective)**.

The share of EU funds spent as of 31 December 2013 in the total commitment 2007–2013 is 38.97% for the OPE.

**d) Interim requests for payment submitted to the European Commission**

In 2013, the CA submitted to the Commission three interim requests for payment (RfP) for the OPE. The first two of them were withdrawn. At the Commission's recommendation, the Request for

Payment No. 261 13 00 701 was withdrawn on 10 May 2013 to **prevent interruption/potential suspension of the payment period**. The Request for Payment No. 261 13 00 702 was withdrawn because it contained expenditure related to reduced periods for requesting tender documentation in the public procurement procedure. The third Request for Payment No. 261 13 00 703 was submitted to the Commission on 30 December 2013.

Further to the findings of the audit conducted from 02 to 04 April 2013 and from 15 to 19 April 2013 (Mission No. 2013-1595), the Commission **warned** by letter no. ARES (2013) 1789070 of 06 June 2013 **to interrupt the period for interim payments and reserved the right to suspend payments under Art. 92 of Regulation (EC) No. 1083/2006**. The Commission subsequently presented by letter No. ARES (2013) 2305750 of 19 June 2013 the draft audit letter according to which the **OPE management and control system functioned partially** (3rd level of assurance) with respect to both IBMAs and **functioned** (2nd level of assurance) with respect to the MA on the basis of the verification of key requirement no. 4 – Appropriate first-level controls performed by the MA/IBMA. The main findings of the Commission's audit concerned management and control at MA/IBMA level that the MA/IBMA failed to identify under administrative control or on-site inspection and which resulted in ineligible expenditure or expenditure where the principle of sound financial management was not complied with, or where the links to project activities were doubtful or violations of public procurement procedures, including identification of systemic errors in setting a deadline for requesting tender documentation, and potential conflict of interest were identified.

Several working meetings of the CA, MA, AA and EC representatives were held to address this situation. Further to the meeting with the EC representatives of 05 June 2013, at which the MA demonstrated that the management and control system at MA level was functioning, as well as the measures taken by the MA, the Commission granted the 2nd level of assurance to the MA in the draft audit report, and the **CA may submit to the EC expenditures controlled by the MA**.

On **22 November 2013**, the CA received a letter by the EC (of 19 November 2013) in which the Commission informed that it **planned to suspend payments pursuant to Art. 92 of Council Regulation (EC) No. 1083/2006**. The letter also contained a **draft Audit Report No. 2013-1595 in Slovak language**. The SR was requested to present its reply within two months following the delivery of the report (by 22 January 2014 at the latest). The MA for the OPE (in cooperation with the MoF SR as the CA) prepared a reply to the draft report and sent the opinion of the MoESRS SR to the EC on 22 January 2014 (including a report on the fulfilment of the Action Plan and validation of measures by the AA), in which it accepted the findings and recommendations arising from the EC audit and undertook to make financial corrections on the basis of the EC audit to be deducted from the first request for payment by the end of February 2014 at the latest. All requests for payment submitted to the EC would be suspended until the MA takes necessary measures.

With regard to the **failure to use the full commitment and too its cancellation**, the CA sent a **request for payment in the amount of EUR 76,230,384.37 on 30 December 2013**. In order to prevent decommitment, the CA declared to the EC all eligible expenditure approved at national level, reduced by the amount of irregularities.

As of 31 December 2013, the accounting system recorded system irregularities of 5% and 10% of ex-post financial corrections for reduced periods in public procurement procedures in the amount of EUR 109,436.12 (EU funds). Given the complexity of the process of quantifying financial corrections, the RfP No. 2611400701 of EUR 6,838,608.92 (EU funds) was sent to the EC on 07 March 2014. Under this RfP, financial corrections for reduced periods in the public procurement procedure of 5% and 10% in a total amount of EUR 179,228.06 (EU funds) were deducted, as well as financial corrections of the IBMA MoH SR and IBMA ASFEU of 5% in a total amount of EUR 988,883.48 (EU funds).

The share of expenditure reported to the EC in the RfP as of 31 December 2013 from the amount of EUR 216,835,584.86 with respect to the commitment 2010 was 84.92%, from which the spending of financial resources reached 84.65% for objective C and 92.81% for the RC&E objective.

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The total eligible expenditure reported to the EC as of 31 December 2013 in the amount of EUR 216,835,584.86 represents 38.97% from the commitment 2007-2013. Annex 5 provides a detailed overview of eligible expenditure reported to the EC as of 31 December 2013.

Table 6: Cumulative overview of expenditures declared to the EC as of 31 December 2013

OPE	Overall OP funding (at EU level and at national level)	Basis for calculation of the EU contribution (public or total funds)	Total amount of certified eligible expenditure included in requests for payment	Corresponding contribution from public funds	Implementation rate (%)
	(EUR)		(EUR)	(EUR)	
	a	b	c	d	e = d/a
Priority Axis 1	368,605,444.00	Public funds	151,168,221.16	150,739,465.51	40.89%
Priority Axis 2	165,166,124.00	Public funds	53,362,933.21	52,967,455.73	32.07%
Priority Axis 3	74,570,589.00	Public funds	24,521,374.72	24,490,071.07	32.84%
Priority Axis 4	20,943,034.00	Public funds	8,094,735.53	8,068,869.89	38.53%
Priority Axis 5	25,347,590.00	Public funds	18,834,827.33	18,834,827.33	74.31%
<b>Total sum</b>	<b>654,632,781.00</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>255,982,091.95</b>	<b>255,100,689.53</b>	<b>38.97%</b>

Source: CA

**e) Payments received from the European Commission**

In 2013, the Commission reimbursed one interim RfP for the OPE to the CA's extra-budget account in the amount of EUR 36,497,349.81.

For more details on payments received from the EC see Annex 3 to the AIR.

**f) Estimates of anticipated expenditure and details on their fulfilment in relation to requests for payment submitted to the EC**

The estimates of anticipated expenditure ("EAE") for 2013 sent to the Commission as of 30 April 2013 totalled EUR 111,240,000.00, and the updated estimates of anticipated expenditure for 2013 sent to the EC as of 13 September 2013 were reduced to EUR 109,600,000.00.

Having submitted the interim RfP in 2013 in the amount of EUR 76,230,384.37, the EAE attained 69.55% as of 13 September 2013. Having received one interim payment of EUR 36,497,349.81, the EAE evaluation against funds received from the Commission reached 33.30%.

The deviation of the actual spending in 2013 from the planned spending (EAE as of 13 September 2013) was due to the insufficient amount of eligible expenditure submitted through summary requests for payment which could have otherwise been included in requests for payment addressed to the Commission, and by the fact that the Commission warned by its letter of 19 November 2013 to **interrupt under Art. 92 of the General Regulation the period for the payment of funds** which were not released by 31 December 2013.

Table 7a (1): Comparison of the actual and scheduled OPE spending from 01 January to 31 December 2013 – RfP sent to EC in 2013

OPE	Scheduled spending of eligible expenditure in 2013 (in EUR)	Spending of eligible expenditure against the Commission for 2013 (in EUR) (sent to EC)	Deviation	Deviation
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	(EAE sent by the CA to the Commission as of 30/04/2013)		For 2013		(Scheduled spending – against the Commission) in EUR		(EAE fulfilment) (%)	
	EU funds		EU funds		EU funds		EU funds	
	SF	CF	SF	CF	SF	CF	SF	CF
<b>Total for programme</b>	111,240,000.00	x	76,230,384.37	x	35,009,615.63	x	<b>68.53%</b>	x

Source: CA

Table 7a (2): Comparison of the actual and scheduled OPE spending from 01 January to 31 December 2013 – payments received from EC in 2013

OPE	Scheduled spending of eligible expenditure in 2013 (in EUR)		Spending of eligible expenditure against the Commission in 2013 (in EUR) (paid by EC)		Deviation		Deviation	
	(EAE sent by the CA to the Commission as of 30/04/2013)		For 2013		(Scheduled spending - against the Commission) in EUR		(EAE fulfilment) (%)	
	EU funds		EU funds		EU funds		EU funds	
	SF	CF	SF	CF	SF	CF	SF	CF
<b>Total for programme</b>	111,240,000.00	x	36,497,349.81	x	74,742,650.19	x	<b>67.19%</b>	x

Source: CA

Table 7b (1): Comparison of the actual and scheduled OPE spending from 01 January to 31 December 2013 – RfPs sent to the EC in 2013

OPE	Scheduled spending of eligible expenditure in 2013 (in EUR)		Spending of eligible expenditure against the Commission for 2013 (in EUR) (sent to EC)		Deviation		Deviation	
	(EAE sent by the CA to the Commission as of 13/09/2013)		2013		(Scheduled spending – against the Commission) in EUR		(EAE fulfilment) (%)	
	EU funds		EU funds		EU funds		EU funds	
	SF	CF	SF	CF	SF	CF	SF	CF
<b>Total for the programme</b>	109,600,000.00	x	76,230,384.37	x	33,369,615.63	x	<b>69.55%</b>	x

Source: CA

Table 7b (2): Comparison of the actual and scheduled OPE spending from 01 January to 31 December 2013 – payments received from EC in 2013

OPE	Scheduled spending of eligible expenditures in 2013 (in EUR)		Spending of eligible expenditures against the Commission for 2013 (in EUR) (paid by EC)		Deviation		Deviation	
	(EAE sent by the CA to the Commission as of 13/09/2013)		For 2013		(Scheduled spending – against the Commission) in EUR		(EAE fulfilment) (%)	
	EU funds		EU funds		EU funds		EU funds	
	SF	CF	SF	CF	SF	CF	SF	CF
<b>Total for programme</b>	109,600,000.00	x	36,497,349.81	x	73,102,650.19	x	<b>66.70%</b>	x

Source: CA



### *Cross-financing under the OPE*

As of 31 December 2013, 35 projects were contracted under the OPE with expected spending via cross-financing. Cross-financing applies not only to TA projects (19 projects), but also to demand-driven projects (13 projects) and national projects (3 projects).

The total amount of contracted cross-financing funds represents EUR 3,319,915.19 (EUR 2,823,102.69 for ESF, and EUR 496,812.50 for SB funds), which is 0.47% of the total amount of OPE funds contracted so far.

The total amount used via cross-financing as of 31 December 2013 reached EUR 1,268,603.04 (EUR 1,078,446.78 for ESF, and EUR 190,156.26 for SB funds). The share of spending in the total amount of contracted cross-financing funds is 38.21% and 0.51% from the total amount of spent OPE funds.

For TA projects of the MA and both IBMAs (Measures 4.3, 5.1 and 5.2), cross-financing is intended to ensure optimal material and technical conditions (computer equipment, office equipment, furniture, etc.) for MA/IBMA staff involved in the OPE implementation. As of 31 December 2012, the amount of contracted cross-financing for TA projects totalled EUR 1,387,639.99 (EUR 1,179,493.99 for ESF, and EUR 208,146.00 for SB). The use of cross-financing under these projects reached EUR 317,290.73 (EUR 317,290.74 for ESF funds, and 55,992.53 for SB funds).

As for demand-driven projects, cross-financing is used in 13 projects contracted on the basis of the following calls:

- OPV 2009/1.1/05-SORO *Creation and improvement of the effectiveness of school education programmes of secondary vocational schools* (4 projects);
- OPV 2008/2.2/02 – *Developing new forms of further education in healthcare* (1 project);
- OPV 2009/2.2/01 – *Promoting the evaluation of continuous education of medical staff* (1 project);
- OPV 2009/2.2/02 – *Enhancing other skills of medical staff* (1 project);
- OPV-2009/3.2/01-SORO – *Innovating the methods and forms of the education process and creating further education programmes for disabled persons* (6 projects).

As of 31 December 2013, the amount of contracted cross-financing funds for demand-driven projects totalled EUR 246,015.58 (EUR 210,288.03 for ESF and 35,727.55 for SB funds). The spending via cross-financing under these projects represented EUR 112,666.38 (EUR 95,900.66 for ESF and EUR 16,765.72 for SB funds).

In order to ensure quality implementation of projects, cross-financing is also used in three national projects: *Increasing the quality of education at elementary schools and secondary schools using electronic testing* (C and RC&E objectives) and *Supporting the professional orientation of elementary school pupils on vocational education*.

As of 31 December 2013, the amount of contracted cross-financing for national projects totalled EUR 1,686,259.62 (EUR 1,433,320.68 for ESF and EUR 252,938.94 for SB funds). The use of funds via cross-financing of these projects reached EUR 782,653.40 (EUR 665,255.39 for ESF and EUR 117,398.01 for SB funds).

The MA supported the financing of projects via cross-financing in cases where its use is necessary to ensure the implementation of quality projects that have contributed or are expected to contribute to an effective implementation of the OPE.

#### **a) Verification of certification**

The verification of certification at the MA, IBMA and PU was carried out with respect to summary requests for payment. The certified sample of expenditures represents an amount of EUR 3,654.28, which is 0.004% of the amount of submitted SRfP and 0.24% of the amount of verified SRfP.

The verification of certification identified **possible ineligible expenditures** of EUR 226.80, which is 6.21% of the verified sample arising from the reporting of unjustified work performance of the

project's financial manager, as this activity was not agreed on a contractual basis and was also contrary to the project budget. The expenditure was being dealt with as of 31 December 2013.

No irregularities in submitted SRfP were identified at CA level, and no reports on irregularities were drawn. In 2013, the CA did not send any suggestions to the Public Procurement Authority for carrying out control or government audit.

With regard to the finding from the thematic verification of certification in 2012 aimed to verify the procedures of the IBMA MoH SR concerning the grant application evaluation and selection process, specifically the call for grant applications contrary to the section on eligibility of expenditure of the OP Programme Manual, the MA for the OPE was requested to deal with the economy and efficiency of expenditure in projects implemented under Call No. OPV2010/2.2/02.

## **b) Irregularities**

From 01 January 2013 to 31 December 2013, the following irregularities were reported to the CA:

### **1. Irregularities with financial impacts on the EU budget:**

In 2013, **139 irregularities** were reported to the CA in the total amount of **EUR 2,886,958.64**, of which 67 were identified by control under Art. 13 of the Implementing Regulation, 48 under Art. 16 of the Implementing Regulation, 21 irregularities were recorded with respect to the Commission's audit finding, and three irregularities with respect to investigations by the Police Force.

### **2. Irregularities in the programme structure/systemic irregularities:**

In 2013, **6 systemic irregularities** were reported to the CA with financial impacts on the EU budget in the total amount of **EUR 128,747.55**. The systemic irregularities correspond to the approved financial correction of **10%** and **5%** and relate to the problem of reduced deadlines for requesting tender documentation in public procurement procedures. In 2013, no systemic irregularity without financial impacts on the EU budget was presented to the CA.

Table 8: Overview of irregularities with financial impacts by OP measures in 2013

Measure	Irregularities with financial impacts (number)	Irregularities with financial impacts (in EUR)	
		Total amount	EU funds amount
1.1	71	2,057,673.31	1,747,864.17
1.2	17	73,431.68	60,528.72
2.1	13	41,672.34	35,193.19
2.2	10	653,488.19	553,418.83
3.1	6	12,181.68	10,354.43
3.2	1	10.53	8.95
4.1	7	28,020.38	23,817.32
4.2	9	4,653.77	3,955.68
4.3	1	299.29	254.40
5.1	2	10,185.51	8,657.68
5.2	2	5,341.96	4,540.66
<b>Total individual irregularities:</b>	<b>139</b>	<b>2,886,958.64</b>	<b>2,448,594.03</b>
1.1	1	27,654.97	23,506.73
1.2	1	39,911.00	33,924.30
2.1	1	40,514.32	34,437.17
3.1	1	11,256.28	9,568.59
4.1	1	1,211.53	1,029.80
4.2	1	8,199.45	6,969.53

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<b>Total systemic irregularities:</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>128,747.55</b>	<b>109,436.12</b>
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Source: CA

**c) Financial corrections**

From 01 January 2013 to 31 December 2013, the amounts withdrawn from statements of expenditures for the OPE declared to the EC totalled EUR 0. During the reference period, an amount of EUR 255,896.12 was deducted from the amounts provided in the statements of expenditures declared to the EC (of which EU funds totalled EUR 217,511.47). These deductions were carried out after the return of the financial resources, i.e. after crediting these funds to the CA's account. The total irrecoverable amount represents EUR 307.75 (of which EU funds correspond to 261.58). For a detailed overview of financial corrections in 2013 by priority axis see Table 9.

Table 9: Overview of financial corrections made in the statement of expenditure in 2013

<b>Priority Axis</b>	<b>Withdrawals in the statement of expenditures 2013 (in EUR)</b>		<b>Recoveries in the statement of expenditure 2013 (in EUR)</b>		<b>Irrecoverable amounts (in EUR)</b>	
	EU funds	Public funds (EU+SB+POF)	EU funds	Public funds (EU+SB+POF)	EU funds	Public funds (EU+SB+POF)
1	0.00	0.00	60,054.65	70,652.59	178.19	209.64
2	0.00	0.00	103,122.57	121,320.80	7.39	8.70
3	0.00	0.00	21,440.60	25,224.27	8.95	10.53
4	0.00	0.00	24,680.02	29,035.36	67.05	78.88
5	0.00	0.00	8,213.63	9,663.10	0.00	0.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>217,511.47</b>	<b>255,896.12</b>	<b>261.58</b>	<b>307.75</b>

Source: CA

**d) Description of the use of returned or re-used assistance following cancellation of assistance pursuant to Article 98 (2) of Council Regulation (EC) No. 1083/2006**

With regard to amounts of returned sums, the most frequent reason for the return of financial resources was the return of unsettled advance payments, in connection with which 1,131 notifications on the settlement of finance under the "paid" balance item in the amount of EUR 59,131,883.50 (ESF + SB) were recorded in the ITMS system as of 31 December 2013. The second most common reason for the return of financial resources was the repayment of a detected irregularity: 1,027 notifications of the settlement of finance in the "paid" balance items were recorded in the ITMS system in the amount of EUR 7,854,984.65(ESF+SB). With respect to the total amount of returned funds, the return of unsettled advance payments formed the highest share of up to 88.25%; detected irregularities represented 11.72%; and the remaining part were financial resources returned due to unsettled pre-financing and under the contract (a total of 0.03%). Returned financial resources are and will be available again under given measures or priority axes, and are used to finance other funding of eligible project expenditure.

**e) On-the-spot inspections performed by the MA/IBMA in 2013**

From 01 January 2013 to 31 December 2013, a total of **143 on-the-spot inspections** were carried out. The MA for the OPE conducted a total of **31** on-the-spot inspections, and the IB MAs performed **112**

such inspections of demand-driven projects (of which the IBMA ASFEU conducted **107** on-the-spot inspections, and the IBMA MoH SR **5** inspections). Of the total number of all on-site inspections, 117 controls concerned finances, and 26 controls focused on the monitoring of projects without controlling the financial aspects.

The on-site inspections mainly aimed to verify compliance of project implementation with the grant contract and with the decision on approval of the AfNFC, with project objectives, with the fulfilment of project indicators, the timetable of project activities, and other conditions set out in the grant contract.

The most common deficiencies identified during on-the-spot inspections were as follows:

- breach of grant contract provisions under Art.11 Accounting and keeping of accounting documentation of Annex 1 General Terms & Conditions;
- violation of Act No. 553/2003 Coll., Labour Code and Act No. 523/2004 Coll.;
- deficiencies in cumulative timesheets, improper specification of activities in timesheets, overlapping of personnel expenditure;
- inadequate keeping of supporting documentation regarding project activities, incorrect archiving of project documentation;
- failure to archive documentation regarding RfPs in the same orderly sequence as sent to the MA/IBMA;
- incorrect way of stating actual indicator values in the monitoring report;
- inadequate recording of eligibility, efficiency and economy of claimed expenses;
- discrepancy between the keeping of analytical records in accounting and the grant contract;
- breach of rules for publicity and information arising from the grant contract.

Based on individual identified findings, beneficiaries adopted appropriate measures to eliminate the shortcomings, which have now been fulfilled, or are being fulfilled. At the same time, the MA for the OPE in an effort to minimise findings identified during on-the-spot inspections in future and to improve the quality of submitted RfPs under national projects is providing ongoing consultation to individual directly managed organisations. The IBMAs, in order to improve the efficiency of the financial management of projects, provide training for project executors, as well as e-mail and personal consultations regarding specific problem areas.

For more details on individual on-site inspections see Annex 6 to the AIR.

#### **f) Information on compliance with deadlines in the processing of requests for payment in 2013**

##### ***Requests for advance payment and settlement of pre-financing***

A total of 810 requests for advance payment and settlement of pre-financing within the OPE with delivery date from 01 January to 31 December 2012 were recorded in the ITMS system. Of the total number of registered requests for advance payment or requests for settlement of pre-financing in 2013, 790 requests were filed in the ITMS in the status “record on administrative control issued”.

Taking into account the time periods necessary to complete a request, it can be concluded that the period of 14 calendar days from the day of registering the request for advance payment or settlement of pre-financing up to the issuing of a record on administrative control was met in 83.16% of cases, which represents 657 requests for advance payment, while it was exceeded in 16.87% of cases, representing the remaining 133 requests for advance payment. The average period for approving a request was 16.71 calendar days and the maximum one was 189.02 calendar days. In the case of RfPs that were filed in the ITMS more than once with the status „registered“ or “record on administrative

control issued”, only the earliest date of filing in this status was taken into account in evaluating the data.

***Interim and final requests for payment, requests for pre-financing, and requests for settlement of advance payments***

The ITMS system recorded a total of 3,222 requests for interim payment, final payment, requests for pre-financing and requests for settlement of advance payment under the OPE with a date of delivery from 01 January to 31 December 2013. Of the total number of registered requests for interim payment or final payment and requests for pre-financing and for settlement of advance payment in 2013, 3,030 requests were filed in the ITMS with the status “record on administrative control issued”.

Taking into account time periods necessary to complete the requests, it can be concluded that the period of 40 calendar days from the day of registering a request up to issuing a record on administrative control was complied with in 63.17% of cases, which represents 1,914 requests, whilst it was exceeded in 36.83% of cases, representing the remaining 1,116 requests. The period for approving a request was exceeded by 40.68 calendar days in average and by a maximum of 254.95 calendar days. In the case of those requests that were filed in the ITMS more than once with the status “registered” or “record on administrative control issued”, only the earliest date of filing in this status was taken into account in evaluating the data.

The main causes of failure to comply with the time limits for processing RfP include the complicated and time-demanding process of public procurement evaluation carried out under particular projects, as well as the administrative burden of processing and control of personnel expenditure. *As examples of measures aimed to prevent the failure to comply with the deadlines, we can mention the introduction of regular monitoring of deadlines for the verification and approval of RfPs at the MA level, intensified personal and written consultations provided to beneficiaries before submission and during preparation of their RfPs, and the holding of training courses for beneficiaries and the staff administering RfPs. These measures form part of the Action Plan for accelerated spending and implementation of the operational programme, submitted by the MA to the CCA, the CA and the AA on a bi-monthly basis.*

**Circumstances under which beneficiaries are entitled to interest on late payments**

The interest on late payment is not covered by contracts between beneficiaries and providers; however, given the fact that the grant contract is governed by the Commercial Code, the provisions of the Commercial Code concerning the interest on late payment apply.

During the suspension of RfP approval, the periods for approving RfPs are suspended until the time of removal of shortcomings in the RfP by the beneficiary (e.g. completing the supporting documentation for RfP, provision of explanations regarding the expenditure claims, missing monitoring reports); furthermore, the suspension of RfP approval is based on the public procurement control and performance of an on-the-spot inspections; in these cases, the RfP approval is suspended until the on-site inspection, or, as appropriate, the public procurement control is completed.

**2.1.3. Implementation of Structural Funds and of the Cohesion Fund from a regional perspective**

The OPE as a multi-objective OP contributes to the evening out of regional disparities by covering two objectives of the EU Cohesion Policy: Convergence objective (entire territory of the SR except for the Bratislava Self-Governing Region) and Regional Competitiveness and Employment objective (territory of the Bratislava Self-Governing Region). After the OPE revision in 2012, EUR 540,500,180.00 were allocated for the financing of projects under C objective, and EUR

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17,801,578.00 for the financing of projects under the RC&E objective. The funds allocated for the C objective are evenly distributed among NUTS III regions (in line with the programme documents).

Table 10: Physical implementation classified by NUTS III as of 31 December

Priority Axis	NUTS III region	Number of grant applications received	Number of contracted projects	Number of regularly completed projects
Priority Axis 1	Trnava	227	45	17
	Trenčín	220	58	36
	Nitra	304	70	35
	Žilina	344	113	64
	Banská Bystrica	364	83	42
	Prešov	462	125	69
	Košice	380	112	56
	<b>Total</b>	<b>2 301</b>	<b>606</b>	<b>319</b>
Priority Axis 2	Trnava	14	5	1
	Trenčín	8	5	2
	Nitra	12	7	1
	Žilina	21	7	1
	Banská Bystrica	22	9	0
	Prešov	27	15	0
	Košice	18	4	2
	<b>Total</b>	<b>122</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>7</b>
Priority Axis 3	Trnava	9	2	1
	Trenčín	4	1	0
	Nitra	18	5	0
	Žilina	10	5	1
	Banská Bystrica	74	29	7
	Prešov	93	33	11
	Košice	81	40	15
	<b>Total</b>	<b>289</b>	<b>115</b>	<b>35</b>
Priority Axis 4	Bratislava (DDP+NP)	163	42	20
	Bratislava (TA)	15	13	11
	<b>Total</b>	<b>178</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>31</b>
<b>Total</b>		<b>2,890</b>	<b>828</b>	<b>392</b>

Source: MA

With regard to the physical implementation of national and demand-driven projects included in NUTS III regions, 2,890 grant applications (AfNFC) were received as of 31 December 2013, of which 2,301 were submitted under Priority Axis 1 *Reform of the education and vocational training system*, 122 under Priority Axis 2 *Further education as a tool for human resources development*, 289 under Priority Axis 3 *Supporting the education of persons with special educational needs*, and 178 under Priority Axis 4 *Modern education for a knowledge-based society for the Bratislava Region*. Of the total number of 828 contracted projects, 392 projects were regularly completed as of 31 December 2013. Most grant applications (582) were delivered from the Region of Prešov, and least grant applications from the Regions of Trenčín (232) and Trnava (250). Accordingly, the highest number of

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contracted projects originated in the Region of Prešov (173), and the smallest number in the Region of Trnava (52). This result highlights the differences between regions and the fact that the economically weakest regions have most contracted funds and most projects under implementation, which, at least to a certain extent, eliminates the differences between them.

Table 11: Physical implementation of projects not included in NUTS III regions as of 31 December 2013

Priority axis	Number of received grant applications	Number of contracted projects	Number of regularly completed projects
Priority Axis 1	34	22	2
Priority Axis 2	94	26	2
Priority Axis 3	10	6	0
Priority Axis 4	0	0	0
Priority Axis 5	30	25	14
<b>Total</b>	<b>168</b>	<b>79</b>	<b>18</b>

Source: MA

For more details on the financial implementation of projects by NUTS III regions see Table 12.

Table 12: Financial implementation by NUTS III regions as of 31 December 2013

Priority axis	NUTS III region	Indicative allocation from ESF in EUR	Amount of contracted funds from ESF			Amount of spent funds from ESF*		
			€	% of contracting under priority axis	% of allocation per region	EUR	% of spending under priority axis	% of allocation per region
A	B	C	D	$E = D / \sum \text{Priority Axis}$	$F = D / C$	G	$H = G / \sum \text{Priority Axis}$	$I = G / C$
Priority Axis 1	Trnava	33,010,657.00	18,054,613.47	5.76%	54.69%	6,585,185.33	2.10%	19.95%
	Trenčín	34,946,684.00	13,267,711.48	4.23%	37.97%	7,866,541.64	2.51%	22.51%
	Nitra	40,198,868.00	19,891,790.70	6.35%	49.48%	8,562,842.81	2.73%	21.30%
	Žilina	44,252,716.00	31,829,820.96	10.16%	71.93%	14,325,745.35	4.57%	32.37%
	Banská Bystrica	50,880,049.00	21,199,800.14	6.77%	41.67%	8,390,921.28	2.68%	16.49%
	Prešov	59,491,253.00	25,764,760.01	8.22%	43.31%	14,056,581.87	4.49%	23.63%
	Košice	50,534,400.00	32,360,227.56	10.33%	64.04%	14,770,865.99	4.71%	29.23%
	<b>Total</b>	<b>313,314,627.00</b>	<b>162,368,724.32</b>	<b>51.82%</b>	<b>51.82%</b>	<b>74,558,684.27</b>	<b>23.80%</b>	<b>23.80%</b>
Priority Axis 2	Trnava	14,791,560.00	1,943,294.35	1.38%	13.14%	1,272,048.55	0.91%	8.60%
	Trenčín	15,659,004.00	2,511,842.88	1.79%	16.04%	1,312,246.60	0.93%	8.38%
	Nitra	18,012,480.00	1,960,533.60	1.40%	10.88%	1,015,701.30	0.72%	5.64%
	Žilina	19,828,896.00	954,439.60	0.68%	4.81%	351,787.75	0.25%	1.77%
	Banská Bystrica	22,798,553.00	2,283,613.34	1.63%	10.02%	651,491.73	0.46%	2.86%
	Prešov	26,657,082.00	5,226,757.02	3.72%	19.61%	1,177,444.75	0.84%	4.42%
	Košice	22,643,630.00	1,502,907.16	1.07%	6.64%	1,248,730.70	0.89%	5.51%
	<b>Total</b>	<b>140,391,205.00</b>	<b>16,383,387.95</b>	<b>11.67%</b>	<b>11.67%</b>	<b>7,029,451.38</b>	<b>5.01%</b>	<b>5.01%</b>
Priority Axis 3	Trnava	6,678,244.00	239,629.75	0.38%	3.59%	165,674.99	0.26%	2.48%
	Trenčín	7,069,865.00	224,260.52	0.35%	3.17%	200,031.00	0.32%	2.83%
	Nitria	8,132,393.00	628,448.26	0.99%	7.73%	443,935.74	0.70%	5.46%



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	Žilina	8,952,528.00	588,782.19	0.93%	6.58%	487,767.70	0.77%	5.45%
	Banská Bystrica	10,293,271.00	4,112,731.26	6.49%	39.96%	2,230,516.25	3.52%	21.67%
	Prešov	12,035,366.00	5,283,232.39	8.34%	43.90%	2,861,564.31	4.51%	23.78%
	Košice	10,223,333.00	5,842,558.00	9.22%	57.15%	3,391,650.82	5.35%	33.18%
	<b>Total</b>	<b>63,385,000.00</b>	<b>16,919,642.37</b>	<b>26.69%</b>	<b>26.69%</b>	<b>9,781,140.81</b>	<b>15.43%</b>	<b>15.43%</b>
Priority Axis 4	Bratislava (DDP+NP)	17,089,515.00	18,883,019.10	106.07%	110.49%	6,314,793.76	35.47%	36.95%
	Bratislava (TA)	712,063.00	951,001.74	5.34%	133.56%	627,072.61	3.52%	88.06%
	<b>Total</b>	<b>17,801,578.00</b>	<b>19,834,020.84</b>	<b>111.42%</b>	<b>111.42%</b>	<b>6,941,866.37</b>	<b>39.00%</b>	<b>39.00%</b>
<b>Total</b>		<b>534 892 410.00</b>	<b>215,505,775.48</b>	<b>40.29%</b>	<b>40.29%</b>	<b>98,311,142.83</b>	<b>18.38%</b>	<b>18.38%</b>

\*The amount of spent funds from the ESF does not include systemic irregularities in the amount of **EUR 1,659,660.66**.

Source: MA

For more details on the financial implementation of projects not included in NUTS III regions see Table 13 below.

Table 13: Financial implementation of projects not included in NUTS III regions as of 31 December 2013

Priority axis	Allocation	Amount of contracted funds from ESF		Amount of spent funds from ESF*	
		EUR	% of contracting under priority axis	EUR	% of spending under priority axis
A	B	C	D=C/B	E	F=E/B
Priority Axis 1	365,000,000.00	192,807,868.60	52.82%	54,681,890.44	14.98%
Priority Axis 2	146,000,000.00	131,945,301.01	90.37%	38,122,145.31	26.11%
Priority Axis 3	65,000,000.00	40,411,215.67	62.17%	11,137,397.82	17.13%
Priority Axis 4	17,801,578.00	0.00	0.00%	0.00	0.00%
Priority Axis 5	24,000,000.00	32,172,270.94	134.05%	16,242,098.09	67.68%
<b>Total</b>	<b>617,801,578.00</b>	<b>397,336,656.22</b>	<b>64.31%</b>	<b>120,183,531.66</b>	<b>19.45%</b>

\* The amount of spent funds from the ESF does not include systemic irregularities in the amount of **EUR 1,659,660.66**.

Source: MA

Table 12 shows the state of implementation of national and demand-driven projects classified into regions according to NUTS III as of 31 December 2013 from the point of the amount of contracted and spent funds from ESF. Similar to the year 2012, the highest volume of contracted ESF funds was in the Region of Košice (EUR 39,705,692.72), and the lowest one in the Region of Trnava (EUR 16,003,814.88). The highest amount of ESF funds spent was recorded again in Region of Košice (EUR 19,411,247.51), and the lowest one in the Region of Trnava (EUR 8,022,908.87). The spending of projects classified into NUTS III regions as of 31 December 2013 in relation to the total allocation was 18.38%, whilst the highest spending was reached under Priority Axis 4 (39.00%) and the lowest one under Priority Axis 2 (5.01%).

As for projects the activities of which are implemented in several NUTS III regions or which have an impact on more than one NUTS III region, the spending of these projects for all priority axes represents 19.45% of ESF funds spent (Table 13).

At present, the calls for grant applications, as well as the OPE evaluation and selection criteria do not take into account the evening out of regional differences despite the fact that there is a spontaneous



indirect evening out of regional economic differences by means of greater involvement, higher numbers of contracted projects and, hence, higher spending within economically weaker regions of Slovakia.

#### **2.1.4. Financial control and audit**

The tasks of the Audit Authority ("AA") are performed by the Audit and Control Section of the Ministry of Finance of the SR ("MoF SR") in conjunction with cooperating authorities).<sup>1</sup> Pursuant to the Audit Strategy for the Programming Period 2007–2013 for Structural Aid Programmes, approved by the Commission in May 2009, system audits and operation audits under Article 62 of the General Regulation are performed as government audits the basic legislative elements of which are governed by Act no. 502/2001 Coll. on Financial Control and Internal Audit and on changes and amendments to some acts, as amended.

##### **2.1.4.1 Audits of operations**

In accordance with the updated Audit Strategy for 2013, the Audit Authority ensured the performance of operation audits under Article 62(1)(b) of the General Regulation in the 1st half of 2013, the system reliability level for selecting the sample being determined on the basis of the statement on effectiveness of the management and control system (3rd degree of assurance – the system functions partially, substantial improvements are needed), which was provided on the basis of the preliminary conclusions from system audits performed in the 2<sup>nd</sup> half of 2012 and the corresponding level of OP system reliability (80%).

**Government audits no. A523, A524, A525 a A526<sup>2</sup>** were conducted in the period from February to December 2013. The main audit objective was to obtain assurance as to the eligibility of expenditure on a selected sample of operations under the OPE at the level of the MA, PU (MoESRS SR), IB MA ASFEU, IB MA MoH SR and selected beneficiaries.

The audit verified EUR 14,495,856.23, having identified ineligible expenditure in a total amount of EUR 102,502.03. In addition to this ineligible expenditure, the AA included in the total expenditure reported in the Annual Inspection Report under Art. 62 of the General Regulation for the period of 01 July 2012–30 June 2012 ineligible expenditure identified by other national authorities in 2012, which was not accounted or reduced from the expenditure statements to EC in the reference period 2012 (period for which the sample for operation audits was chosen).

#### **Overview of main irregularities identified:**

##### **Government audit A524**

*Random irregularities (with financial impact) in the total amount of EUR 1,367.72:*

- Breach of financial discipline of EUR 32.24 by using the NFC to cover expenses which are not supported with accounting documents under Act No. 431/2002 Coll. on Accounting. The audited entity acted contrary to the Grant Contract, having violated the financial discipline;
- Breach of financial discipline by the use of public funds of EUR 3.80 for 0.5 hour of reported unworked activity, having violated the NFC Beneficiary's Manual and the Grant Contract;
- Unjustified claim of expenses of EUR 244.34 for contributions to supplementary pension saving (SPS), employer's transfers to the health insurance company from SPS, and employer's transfers to the health insurance company and social insurance agency from the social fund – regeneration, social assistance, pocket money for foreign business trips,

<sup>1</sup> Under Art. 2, par. 2, letter g) of Act No. 502/2001 Coll. on Financial Control and Internal Audit, cooperating authorities are, in addition to the Ministry of Finance of the Slovak Republic, authorities executing tasks under Art. 62 of the General Regulation, as managed by the Audit Authority.

<sup>2</sup> Identification number of the government audit generated by the information system of the MoF SR – CEDIS.

wage expenditure for unworked project hours beyond the Manual for NFC Applicants and Grant Contract, having violated the financial discipline;

- Use of personnel expenditure of EUR 12.71 for hours not worked by expert staff / the methodology under Activity 2.1 is contrary to the Manual for NFC Beneficiaries and the Grant Contract, which resulted in violation of the financial discipline;
- Use of expenditure of EUR 139.30 for English language classes/course that did not take place, which is contrary to the Manual for NFC Beneficiaries and the Grant Contract and is qualified as violation of the financial discipline;
- By using EUR 5.58 from the NFC, i.e. public funds in spite of his absence in the project team meeting, the audited person violated Section 7.2. of the Manual for NFC, having violated the financial discipline under the Act on Budgetary Rules of the Public Administration;
- Incompliance between the service provided and the comment on the budget item which does not describe the respective service (technical support for the organisation of courses), as a result of which the service invoiced by the supplier fails to comply with the budget; the Audit Group ("AG") qualified the funds of EUR 40.00 as ineligible expenditure used beyond the eligibility limits, which constitutes violation of the financial discipline under the Act on Budgetary Rules of the Public Administration;
- Incompliance between the number of meals given to participants on the basis of the invoice according to which meals were provided to 16 participants, and the attendance sheet in which 15 participants confirmed the receipt of meals; the AG qualified the funds of EUR 3.60 as ineligible expenditure used beyond the eligibility limits, which constitutes violation of the financial discipline under the Act on Budgetary Rules of the Public Administration;
- According to the invoice, the beneficiary was supplied with a type of paper which was not subject of the purchase contract; hence, the expenditure cannot be considered eligible. The AG qualified the funds of EUR 413.21 as ineligible expenditure used by the audited entity beyond the eligibility limits;
- Payment of the costs of office supplies in an amount exceeding the contracted amount; the AG qualified the funds of EUR 434.76 as ineligible expenditure used by the audited entity beyond the eligibility limits;
- Incorrect calculation of fuel consumption, which resulted in payment of ineligible expenditure of EUR 2.18, which is qualified by the AG as violation of the financial discipline under the Act on Budgetary Rules of the Public Administration, i.e. granting or use of public funds beyond the eligibility limits;
- Inclusion of expenditure of EUR 36.00 for rent in the RfP, which does not relate to the project activities; the AG considered these funds as ineligible expenditure used by the audited entity beyond the eligibility limits.

*Random irregularities (with financial impacts) concerning failure to comply with public procurement rules:*

- Split of the contract for catering and accommodation services and rent of training rooms for training activities, which constitutes breach of the principle of transparency; having inspected the contracts for services (accommodation, catering services, rent of training rooms) provided for two controlled/audited activities, the AG came to the conclusion that the services should have been procured under a single public procurement procedure. This shortcoming is considered violation of the Act on Public Procurement. The AG identified ineligible expenditure of EUR 1,986.09 under Guideline COCOF 07/0037/03-SK, point 21, representing 25% of the value of expenditure reported to the EC with regard to the inspected RfP;
- Split of the contract for office supplies and stationery in two public procurements, which constitutes breach of the principle of transparency; since the subject of both contracts (office supplies and stationery) is identical, the procurement procedure was conducted at the same time, and the value of both contracts is over EUR 30,000.00 excl. VAT, the AG came to the conclusion that the goods should have been procured under a single public procurement

procedure. The AG identified ineligible expenditure of EUR 2,005.51 under Guideline COCOF 07/0037/03-SK, point 21, representing 25% of the value of expenditure reported to the EC with regard to the inspected RfP;

- Split of the contract for catering and accommodation services and rent of training rooms for training activities, which constitutes breach of the transparency principle; since the subject of the contracts “supply of accommodation, catering services and rent of training rooms” is identical in all controlled contracts and the procurement procedure was conducted at the same time, the AG came to the conclusion that the services should have been procured under a single public procurement procedure. The AG identified ineligible expenditure of EUR 25,138.28 under Guideline COCOF 07/0037/03-SK, point 21, representing 25% of the value of expenditure reported to the EC with regard to the inspected RfP;
- Failure to hold adequate tender, which implies incompliance with the principle of transparency and breach of the financial limit for a low-value contract, violation of the basic obligations of the contracting authority under the Act on Public Procurement; the identified ineligible expenditure of EUR 20.73 under Guideline COCOF 07/0037/03-SK, point 21, representing 25% of the value of expenditure declared to the EC with regard to the inspected RfP;
- Audit No. A450 identified shortcoming no. 4.A.1.001 “Discriminatory conditions for the participation of applicants with regard to their technical skills and professional qualification under Art. 9, par. 4 of Act No. 25/2006” under the public procurement for supply of computer and didactic technology, software, education portal and related services for (selected) kindergartens in the SR; further to this shortcoming, the AA made a financial correction under Guideline COCOF 07/0037/03-SK, Section 1, point 8 of 25% of the expenditure reported to the EC, and the MA for the OPE submitted this public procurement for inspection by the Public Procurement Authority. Having inspected RfPs No. 26110130087234 and No. 26110130087260, the AA found out that the MA did not reduce the RfP by 25%, as recommended in Audit No. A450, as a result of which the AA considers this amount ineligible, and identified ineligible expenditure under these RfPs in a total amount of EUR 357,620.43.

*Non-systemic irregularities (with non-financial impacts):*

- Incorrect preliminary financial control of cover sheets;
- Violation of the Grant Contract by failing to account the interest accrued on the project account and all other items concerning the project in analytical records and analytical accounts.

## **Government audit A525**

*Random irregularities (with financial impacts) at a total amount of EUR 2,373.94:*

- Having compared the list of participants to the testing and the attendance sheets of the testing, the AG found out that the reimbursement of costs of three persons who did not participate in the testing represents ineligible expenditure of EUR 105.00; the beneficiary violated the Grant Contract, failing to comply with the principle of economy, efficiency and effectiveness, i.e. the principle of sound financial management in the use of public funds;
- The AG identified unjustified expenditure on lecturer’s work of two hours, as well as overlapping of personnel costs of 1.5 hours. The AG qualified this deficiency as violation of the financial discipline of EUR 35.85;
- Having inspected the work sheet, the AG found out that the supplier reported activities also after delivering the training applications to the beneficiary at an extent of 30 hours; under the Contract on Provision of Services, the remuneration for 30 hours of work represents an amount of EUR 806.82, qualified as ineligible expenditure by the AS;
- Reimbursement of costs by the beneficiary beyond the scope of the contract concluded with the supplier; having checked compliance between accounting documents and the Purchase Contract, the AG members found out that the prices stated in the Purchase Contract were

stated as prices for didactic tools including VAT each, while the price for supplied didactic tools indicated in the invoice is exclusive of VAT, and the VAT is added to the total sum of prices. The prices incl. VAT in the invoice are higher than the prices incl. VAT in the Purchase Contract. On the basis of the Purchase Contract, the AG identified ineligible expenditure of EUR 1,408.92;

- The AG identified the reporting of one hour beyond the actual extent of the activity performed by the activity coordinator as ineligible expenditure of EUR 17.35.

*Random irregularities (with financial impacts) concerning failure to comply with public procurement rules in an amount of EUR 12,816.24:*

- By verification the AG found out that the Beneficiary acted contrary to the Act on Public Procurement by stating a different time period in the tender documentation with regard to the demonstration of technical or professional qualification, thus violating the obligations of the contracting authority under the Act on Public Procurement; the AG qualifies it as financial deficiency – declaration of ineligible expenditure of EUR 167.93, corresponding to 10% of the value of expenditures declared to the EC in the verified RfP under Guideline COCOF 07/0037/03-SK, point 24;
- Awarding of two separate below-limit contracts contrary to the Act on Public Procurement. The annexes to both PPs “Description and specification of the subject of contract” refer to equipment which can be considered both medical tools and project equipment. According to the AS, the Beneficiary acted contrary to the law by having awarded two separate below-limit contracts, and violated its obligations under the Act on Public Procurement. The AG considers it financial deficiency – declaration of ineligible expenditure of EUR 1,761.15 corresponding to 25% of the value of expenditures declared to the EC in the verified RfP under Guideline COCOF 07/0037/03-SK, point 21;
- Setting of discriminatory conditions for participation in PP concerning technical and professional qualifications. During the verification of the eligibility of expenditure claimed in the audited RfPs and the respective PP (public tender – over-limit contract), the AG detected deficiencies concerning the conditions of participation set by the contracting authority with regard to the demonstration of technical or professional qualifications, under which the applicant was expected to prove experience in the management or implementation of training activities for further education of teachers in ICT. A correction of 10% should have been made under Guideline COCOF 07/0037/03-SK, point 6. Given the fact that a correction of 5% had already been made to the PP concerned, the AG determined ineligible expenditure of EUR 8,557.66 corresponding to 5% of the value of expenditure declared to the EC in the verified RfP;
- Setting of discriminatory conditions for participation in PP concerning technical and professional qualifications. Under Guideline COCOF 07/0037/03-SK, point 6, the AG determined a financial correction of 10% of the value of expenditure declared to the EC given the fact that the public tender assumed a high value of the contract that small and medium-sized enterprises would not be able to satisfy. The estimated amount of ineligible expenditure is EUR 2,329.50.

*Non-systemic irregularities (with non-financial impacts):*

- Missing provision on the supplier’s obligation to be subjected to control/audit/on-the-spot inspection related to the supplied goods/works/services under concluded contracts;
- Inappropriate performance of preliminary financial control;
- The Beneficiary failed to archive all relevant documents concerning public procurement.

## **Government audit A526**

*Random irregularities (with financial impacts) at a total amount of EUR 3,528.13:*

- By verification of documents it was found out that the bracket for fixing the arm-chair in the form of a leaf of EUR 120.00, the security rotary suspension unit for the arm-chair in the form

of a leaf of EUR 300.00, and its fixing to the bubble cylinder of EUR 360.00 should have form part of the pricing of these pieces of equipment, representing capital expenditure, i.e. they cannot be considered eligible expenditure, and the AG qualified this expenditure of EUR 780.00 as ineligible;

- By verification of work sheets and job contracts it was detected that the employee worked 600 hours in total in 2011 under both budget items, i.e. he exceeded the extent of work of 250 hours within one calendar year. This implies that the expenditure of EUR 2,490.00 does not comply with the Labour Code, and the AG members consider it ineligible expenditure;
- By verification of support documentation on the expenditure declared in the RfP, the AG detected ineligible expenditure concerning the performance of work of expert staff under the project before concluding the contract for work performed outside of employment. The AG considers the claimed remuneration for work of 10 hours, as declared in the RfP (the period not included in contract for work) as ineligible expenditure of EUR 80.00;
- Ineligibility of expenditure due to unjustified claiming of a higher than the actual number of hours worked of EUR 81.84, EUR 26.60, and EUR 28.09 and EUR 10.53;
- The employee had an agreed unit price (hourly wage) of EUR 8.80, but the hourly wage according to the payslip was higher – EUR 9.58, as a result of which the wage expenditure claimed and recognised by the IBMA was also higher – EUR 383.07. The AG members concluded that the Beneficiary was expected to consider the unit price (hourly wage) of EUR 8.80 specified in the contract budget in the calculation of eligible wage expenditure. The ineligible expenditure thus represents EUR 31.07.

*Random irregularities (with financial impacts) concerning failure to comply with public procurement rules in a total amount of EUR 42,330.39:*

- Split of the contract seeking to avoid the application of procedures for the awarding of contracts under the Act on Public Procurement. The Beneficiary carried out two public procurements with regard to the project implementation. Given the nature of expenditure and the way of its use (the procurement of the respective items was highly similar, and their practical use is almost identical), the AG member are of the opinion that there should have been a single public procurement procedure for a single over-limit contract. Pursuant to Guideline COCOF 07/0037/03, point 21, the AG members estimated ineligible expenditure of EUR 34,888.00 corresponding to 25%;
- By verification of the documentation the AG detected that the Beneficiary procured goods serving the same purpose under two parallel below-limit contracts and one low-value contract. By splitting the contract in three separate parts seeking to avoid the application of procedures for awarding the contract under the law, the Beneficiary violated its obligation as a contracting entity under the Act on Public Procurement. The AG made a financial correction of EUR 3,730.38 and EUR 3,712.01 corresponding to 25% under Guideline COCOF 07/0037/03-SK, point 21.

*Non-systemic irregularities (with non-financial impacts):*

- The AG found out that some goods for the classroom (by making an internet survey) could have been procured in a more economic, efficient and effective way. The AG identified overpricing of some goods, which was evaluated by the AG as uneconomic;

Given the fact that the items were acquired on the basis of a public procurement procedure (below-limit contract named “Teaching tools for the project *New forms of education at the OUI Valaská*”) to which a 25% correction was applied, the AG considered the overpricing of some goods as uneconomic, however, without financial quantification due to the fact that a correction was made with regard to this expenditure under the respective PP. The amount of overpricing identified totalled EUR 2,431.10, which is less than the amount of the financial correction for violating the PP procedure.

This shortcoming resulted in ineligible expenditure concerning RfP No. 26110130280214 under Guideline COCOF 07/0037/03-SK, par. 21 – *Failure to comply with the requirement for an adequate degree of disclosure and transparency* of 25% of the value of

expenditure declared to the EC under the verified RfP in a total amount of EUR 7,442.39 (i.e. EUR 3,730.38 + EUR 3,712.01), of which EUR 6,326.03 from ESF funds (85%) and EUR 1,116.36 from SB funds (15%).

**Corrective measure taken by the beneficiary:** by letter “Settlement of finance under government audit no. A526, no. K3417, Implementation of measures arising from government audit A526, K3417”, delivered to the MoF SR on 26 February 2014, the beneficiary submitted a notice on the settlement of finance of 06 February 2014 (returned amount: EUR 3,730.38 – concerning irregularity no. N21301089), a notice on the settlement of finance of 06 February 2014 (returned amount: EUR 3,712.01 – concerning irregularity no. N21301091), and bank account statement no. 9 of 06 February 2014 of the account no. SK92818000007000098388.

The beneficiary also informed that the OUI Valaská, at its board meeting held on 23 January 2014, appointed Ms. Beata Kuranicová, head of the technical/office staff, to get acquainted with the Methodological Guideline of the Ministry of Education of the SR on Act No. 24/2006 Coll. on Public Procurement by 28 February 2014 (the minutes of the board meeting was attached to the letter). The beneficiary also presented its Internal Guideline No. 1/2013 on ensuring the process of public procurement for the delivery of goods, building works and services, having incorporated a paragraph according to which the commission members will be obliged to make a market survey as part of the public procurement procedure according to the subject of the public procurement.

- By documentary verification, the measures taken to remedy the shortcomings identified were evaluated as fulfilled.
- By physical inspection the AG found out that some tools or teaching aid were not used, as they were packed in their original packages with manufacturer’s tags or stored in the storage rooms for more than 11 months, which implies uneconomic, inefficient and ineffective spending of public funds;

Given the fact that the goods were acquired on the basis of public procurement procedures subject to corrections, the AG did not quantify the expenditure as ineligible, because the financial correction for the violation of the PP procedure was higher than the value of the goods totalling EUR 2,984.16.

**Corrective measure taken by the beneficiary:** The beneficiary informed that the responsible staff members were instructed at the work meeting held on 21 November 2013 about the need to use the goods acquired under the project also after the project completion within the project sustainability period.

The beneficiary also submitted the minutes of the work meeting held on 21 November 2013? including attendance sheet. By letter “Settlement of finance under government audit no. A526, no. K3417, Implementation of measures arising from government audit A526, K3417”, delivered to the MoF SR on 26 February 2014, presented a photo-documentation on the way of ensuring the use of the acquired goods which were packed in their original packages at the time of the audit or were not used (dog cage, pet toys, dog basket, dog-leads, rings, barriers, bowls, tools for horse cleaning, safety jackets, helmets, horse pad handles, saddles), and informed that the tools were fully used in the in therapeutic activities within the teaching process.

By documentary verification, the measures taken to remedy the shortcomings identified were evaluated as fulfilled.

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- Failure to send the public procurement documentation to the provider after the termination of the evaluation of bids submitted by applicants, and failure to send to the provider the amendment to the contract on provision of services before signed;
- Failure to send information on the conclusion of contracts to the Public Procurement Authority;
- Failure to keep analytical records on all synthetic accounts according to verified projects;
- Failure to carry out preliminary financial control with respect to project's personnel expenditure.

#### **Government audit A527**

*Random irregularities (with a financial impact) in a total amount of EUR 10,489.68*

- By verification of expenditure on staff working on the basis of labour contracts and job contracts, the AG found out different wage rates in the total amount of EUR 10,123.51, which was qualified by the AG as violation of the financial discipline;
- The AG identified pay-out of salary under a job contract signed by an unauthorised person. By including this expenditure into the request for payment the Beneficiary violated the financial discipline in the total amount of EUR 271.95;
- By verification of the eligibility of personnel expenditure on a sample, the AG found out that a trainer stated in her work sheet the time of job performance from 10.30 to 11.00 o'clock, but the worksheet field with the number of hours worked indicated 1 hour. According to the worksheet, the total number of actual hours worked and eligible hours was 45 instead of 44.5 hours, which caused ineligible expenditure of EUR 4.45;
- The AG identified the claiming of expenditure beyond the limit – the wage expenditure was EUR 136.14, but the amount claimed in the RfP was EUR 199.31; the difference of EUR 63.17 is qualified as ineligible expenditure;
- The AG found out that the Beneficiary included in the RfP expenditure for the meals of participants who did not take part in the seminar, resulting in ineligible expenditure of EUR 26.60.

*Non-systemic irregularities (with non-financial impacts):*

- Labour Code violation – incorrect job contract; the Beneficiary failed to comply with the maximum extent of work of 350 hours per calendar year under the Labour Code;
- By verification of the chart of accounts and of the accounting of project accounts, the AG found out that the analytical monitoring of accounts was not separated for the project.

No system or systemic irregularities or other deficiencies were identified during the audit.

The verification of the implementation of measures and of taking into account the recommendations on all deficiencies detected by the audit of operations carried out in the 1st half-year 2013 will be the subject of the audit of operations in the 1st half 2014.

Further to the results of the system audit and audit of operations conducted from 01 July 2012 to 30 June 2013, the AA issued an **opinion with objections**, i.e. the management and control systems introduced for the operational programme complied with the requirements under Articles 58 to 62 of the General Regulation and Section 3 of the 3 Implementing Regulation and worked effectively in terms of providing reasonable assurance of the correctness of accounts submitted to the EC and of the legality and eligibility of the transactions, **with the exception** of systemic deficiencies identified by the system audit from 12 September 2012 to 27 March 2013. This opinion of the AA was part of the Annual Control Report sent to the EC on 30 December 2013.

#### **Additional sample**

**A481** – The audit was carried out from July 2012 to February 2013. The government audit checked a sample of eight requests for payment in the total value of EUR 177,695.97 in order to obtain

assurance about the correct and justified use of financial resources from the OPE and the state budget of the SR intended for co-financing. The additional sample was chosen from RfPs which were co-financed from priority axes and had not been checked by government audits within random samples. The government audit identified ineligible expenditure of EUR 1,580.06 for incorrect public procurement procedures, having identified links between bidders, split of contracts in public procurements, unjustified claim of proportionate parts of the total price for work, and unjustified claiming of compensation for leave.

**A526** – During the performance of the audit of operations A526, the AG identified several deficiencies in the public procurement procedures of several beneficiaries, as a result of which the AA decided to check all public procurement procedures of all beneficiaries. During verification of the additional PP sample, the AG identified lack of transparency, prohibited split of contracts, and found a suspicion of collusion in one case. The ineligible expenditure related to respective PPs, as estimated by the AS, reached EUR 26,807.23.

#### **EC Audit No. 2013-1595**

The EC Audit No. 2013-1595 was carried out in April 2013. The audit resulted in suspension of payment for both IBMAs – the MoH SR and the ASFEU. The payments to the MoESRS SR as the MA for the OPE (i.e. payments for national projects) **were not** suspended.

Immediately after termination of the EC audit, the MoESRS SR as the MA in cooperation with both IBMAs took measures to remedy the findings identified by the EC audit. They prepared the *OP Education Action Plan to remedy the findings identified in the draft report on the EC Audit No. 2013-1595*. The MoESRS SR together with the MoF SR held meetings with EC representatives (15 May 2013, 05 June 2013, 16 July 2013, and 05 November 2013). The negotiations resulted in an agreement with the EC concerning actions aimed to release the OPE payments, as well as an agreement about proposals for measures adopted by the MoESRS SR to remedy the findings identified by the EC audit. The MoESRS SR satisfied all EC requirements needed to release the payments. The MA is currently awaiting the EC opinion on the release of payments.

The following actions needed to be taken for the release of payments:

#### **- Take measures to remedy the findings identified by the EC audit (FULFILLED)**

- The measures were adopted in the form of an OPE Action Plan to remedy the findings identified in the draft report on the EC Audit No. 2013-1595 (“OPE Action Plan”): the measures concerned public procurement procedures, control of requests for payment, on-the-spot inspections, strengthening of the control of MA over the IBMA, specific types of expenditure (e.g. expenditure on education portals, personnel expenditure), and verification by the MoESRS SR of all past over-limit public procurements of the ASFEU and MoH SR;
- The OPE Action Plan was officially sent to the EC on 22 January 2014 (within two months from delivery of the draft Report on EC Audit No. 2013-1595 by the EC);
- The EC opinion on the OPE Action Plan is presented in the Audit Report A-Rep No. 2013-1595, delivered to the MoESRS SR on 31 March 2014. The report states: “The Commission appreciates the measures described in the OPE Action Plan. Given the seriousness and the frequency of findings, the Commission requires audit evidence/assurance that the systemic measures aimed to improve the functioning of system management and control are implemented effectively.”

#### **- Deduct from the RfP submitted to the EC corrections arising from EC Audit No. 2013-1595, as well as general corrections for the IBMAs – MoH SR, ASFEU (FULFILLED)**

- On 07 March 2014, the MoF SR submitted to the EC a request for payment with deductions of all corrections arising from EC Audit No. 2013-1595.



**- Perform audit verification of the effectiveness of measures under the OPE Action Plan (FULFILLED)**

- The EC required assurance that the measures taken to improve the functioning of the management and control system would prevent recurrence of findings in the future;
- On the basis of an agreement with the EC, the MoF SR as the AA carried out the audit verification of the OPE Action Plan;
- The MF SR as the AA sent to the EC on 09 May 2014 validation of the OPE Action Plan, having evaluated the measures taken as sufficient; it is up to EC to decide whether the OPE payments will be released.

**2.1.4.2 System audits**

**Government audit No. A466** was carried out from September 2012 to March 2013 by an external audit company KPMG Slovensko s. r. o. The main purpose and aim of the audit was to obtain assurance about the proper and effective functioning of the management and control systems of the OPE under Art. 62, par. 1, letter a) of the General Regulation on the side of the MA (MoESRS SR), IBMA<sup>s</sup> ASFEU and MoH SR, and on the side of the PU (MoESRS SR and MoH SR).

During the government audit, the AG identified the following *systemic deficiencies*:

- formal performance of preliminary financial control of grant applications for technical assistance and evaluation of budgets and cost-effectiveness under expert assessment of grant applications for TA;

and the most serious *non-systemic deficiencies*:

- insufficient procedures to check personal links during PP control and absence of a procedure to be applied in the event of identifying such links;
- failure to fill in evaluation sheets on the national project/TA project under Annex 422-6 to the SF and CF Financial Management System for the Programming Period 2017–2013;
- failure to meet the deadlines for the submission of RfPs to the PU pursuant to the SF and CF Financial Management System for the Programming Period 2017–2013 in 11 cases (delay of 19 to 438 days);
- failure to meet the deadlines (delay of 15 days) for the preparation, registration and sending of reports on irregularities pursuant to the SF and CF Financial Management System for the Programming Period 2017–2013 in 15 verified cases;
- insufficient filling in of evaluation sheets on demand-driven projects;
- insufficient verification of the PP procedure by the IBMA;
- failure to meet the deadline for recording on-the-spot inspections in the ITMS pursuant to the IMP IBMA in 11 cases (delay of 14 to 244 days).

Given the deficiencies identified, the AA issued an opinion on the effectiveness of management and control systems – 2nd level of assurance, i.e. the system works properly, but some improvements are needed.

The appropriateness of measures taken and the taking into account of recommendations to remedy the findings identified under Government Audit No. A466 was verified under Audit A540. The report on the system audit was sent to the EC on 17 May 2013.

In the 2nd half of 2013, **system audit A540** was conducted. As it was not finished by 31 December 2013, its results and findings will be included in the AIR for 2014.

Similarly, based on the result of the system audit carried out in the 2nd half of 2013 and after the completion of the audit of operations in the 1st half of 2013, the AA will issue an opinion on the effectiveness of the functioning of the management and control system of the NSRF SR operation programmes for the reference period 01 July 2013 – 30 June 2014 in accordance with the Art. 62 of the General Regulation, to be sent to the EC by 31 December 2014.

### 2.1.5. Use of funds by category

An overview of the use of funds by category in accordance with Part C of Annex II to the Implementing Regulation and the EU Regulation is detailed in Annex 4 to this report, in the table “Summary breakdown of allocated Community contribution by category in final and annual implementation reports“, which breaks down the allocated contribution from the SF by category, classified into individual code combinations for areas 1 to 5.

As of 31 December 2013, a total amount of **EUR 579,719,159.02** was allocated from the Community contribution for the OPE for each combination of categories. All contributions were allocated under the financing form 01 – non-repayable grant. Under measures 1.1, 1.2, 2.1, 2.2, 3.1, 3.2, 4.1 and 4.2, both national and demand-driven projects were allocated contributions in four priority themes chosen under the Lisbon Activity for the OPE (62, 67, 72, 73 and 74).

### 2.1.6. Contribution to the Lisbon Process / Strategy for Europe 2020

The contribution of the OPE to the Lisbon Process, including its contribution to achieving the objectives of Article 9 (3) of the General Regulation is paid special attention. In order to implement 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 themes, the appropriation for the Lisbon activities in the OPE for 2007–2013 totals EUR 534,180,347.00, i.e. 96% of the total allocation of EUR 556,437,861.00, in equal share of 96% from the Convergence objective and the RC&E objective.

Table 14: Contracting of funds for priority topics in EUR

Code	Priority themes (Annex IV, Regulation 1083/2006)	Contracted funds (EU funds)	% from allocation for Lisbon activities
	Research and technological development (R&TD), innovation and entrepreneurship		
3	Technology transfer and improvement of cooperation networks between small and medium-sized businesses (SMEs), between these and other businesses and universities, post-secondary education establishments of all kinds, regional authorities, research centres and scientific and technological poles (scientific and technological parks, technopoles, etc.)	0.00	0.00%
	Increasing the adaptability of workers and firms, enterprises and entrepreneurs		
62	Development of life-long learning systems and strategies in firms; training and services for employees to step up their adaptability to change; promoting entrepreneurship and innovation	44,273,409.09	8.29%
64	Development of specific services for employment, training and support in connection with restructuring of sectors and firms, and development of 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	4,103,046.23	0.77%
70	Specific action to increase participation of migrants in employment and thereby strengthen their social integration	0.00	0.00%
	Improving the social inclusion of less-favoured persons		

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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 at 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 training personnel with a view to innovation and a knowledge based economy.	278,160,058.31	52.07%
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	149,847,894.47	28.05%
74	Developing human potential in the field of research and innovation, in particular through post-graduate studies and training of researchers, and networking activities between universities, research centres and businesses	103,334,750.92	19.34%

Source: MA

As of 31 December 2013, the overall amount of contracted funds as per priority themes reached **EUR 579,719,159.02**, which represents **108.52%** of the total amount (EUR 534,180,347.00) allocated under the NSRF SR for the period 2007–13 (Objective C and Objective RC&E) to Lisbon Activities under OPE.

### **Europe 2020 strategy and the NRP SR 2013**

The EU 2020 strategy was reflected in the key national plans formulated in the framework of the national reform programmes of the Slovak Republic (“NRP SR”) which defines measures to achieve the objectives of the EU 2020 strategy and implement country-specific Council recommendations for the Slovak Republic. The relevant document for the reference period is the NRP SR 2013, approved by Government Resolution No. 198/2013 of 24 April 2013. The NPR SR 2012 affirms that the quality and productivity of human capital is an important factor influencing economic growth and the quality of life of the population. An educated labour force increases labour productivity and can more flexibly adapt to the increasing work demands and changes in required skills. The priorities of the Slovak Government in 2013 focused on quality improvement of human capital in the field of education, including, in particular, regional education, higher education and science, and further education.

The **national objective of the EU 2020 Strategy** is set

1. at the level of regional education with the intention to keep the dropout rate below 6% (the target at EU level is 10%) and improve the quality of primary education, particularly through raising the level of pupils’ knowledge and skills to an average score of 505 in the OECD – PISA 2018 survey;
2. at the level of higher education with the intention to increase the percentage of the population aged 30–34 with a university degree or equivalent education to at least 40% in 2020 (the target is the same at EU level and at the level of the SR).

In terms of the strategy’s priorities, the OPE contributes mainly to achieving smart and inclusive growth. From the point of view of the Integrated Guidelines for the EU 2020 Strategy, the OPE contributes primarily to fulfilling Guideline no. 9: Improving the performance of education and vocational training systems at all levels and increasing participation in higher education; as well as Guideline no. 8: Developing a skilled workforce responding to the labour market needs, promoting job quality and lifelong learning; and also to Guideline no. 10: Promoting social inclusion and combating poverty.

The OPE contributes to achieving the strategy objectives by means of demand-driven and national projects in the framework of all OPE measures (1.1, 1.2, 2.1, 2.2, 3.1, 3.2, 4.1. and 4.2), which either directly or indirectly support education objectives set out in EU 2020 and priorities set out under NPR 2013 in the part “Education, Science and Innovations” for regional education, higher education and further education.

### **Regional Education**

The OPE supports the development of regional education by means of Priority Axis 1 *Reform of the system of education and vocational training* (Measure 1.1. *Transforming traditional schools to modern ones*), Priority Axis 3 (Measure 3.1 *Increasing the education level of members of marginalised Roma communities* and Measure 3.2 *Increasing the education level of persons with special educational needs*), and Priority Axis 4 (Measure 4.1. *Transforming traditional schools to modern ones for the Region of Bratislava*), in either a direct or indirect way.

Indirect support for regional education is provided also through the support for the further education of teachers (Measures no. 2.1 *Promoting further education* and 4.2 *Raising the competitiveness of the Region of Bratislava by developing higher and further education*).

### **Higher education and science**

The OPE supports higher education and science through Priority Axis 1 (Measure 1.2 *Higher education institutions and research & development as a driving force for the development of a knowledge-based society*) and Priority Axis 4 (Measure 4.2 *Raising the competitiveness of the Region of Bratislava by developing higher and further education*).

### **Further education**

The OPE supports further education via Priority Axis 2 (Measure 2.1. *Promoting further education* and Measure 2.2 *Promoting further education in healthcare*), Priority Axis 3 (Measure 3.2. *Increasing the education level of persons with special educational needs*) and Priority Axis 4 (Measure 4.2 *Raising the competitiveness of the Region of Bratislava by developing higher and further education*).

For an overview of the achievement of national objectives under the EU 2020 in 2013 with respect to the NRP SR 2013 see Annex 10 to the AIR.

### ***Council’s country-specific recommendations for the SR***

On 29 May 2013, the *Council recommendation on Slovakia’s 2013 national reform programme and delivering a Council opinion on Slovakia’s stability programme for 2012–2016* was published, presenting a set of specific recommendations for the SR for 2013. The annex to the updated NRP SR 2013 *Action Plan* contains specific tasks with timetables for the fulfilment of specific recommendations detailed in the NRP SR 2013.

Education is addressed by recommendation no. 4 and partially by recommendation no. 3.

Recommendation no. 3: “Take measures to enhance the capacity of public employment services to provide personalised services to jobseekers and strengthen the link between activation measures and social assistance. More effectively address long-term unemployment through activation measures and tailored training. Enhance the provision of child-care facilities, in particular for children below three years of age. Reduce the tax wedge for low-paid workers and adapt the benefit system.”

The OPE’s contribution to this recommendation is reported through the fulfilment of tasks under the NRP 2013 (*Enhancing the preparedness of children in kindergartens* and *Supporting career guidance for adults*).

Recommendation no. 4: “Step up efforts to address high youth unemployment, for example through a Youth Guarantee. Take steps to attract young people to the teaching profession and raise educational outcomes. In vocational education and training, reinforce the provision of work-based learning in

companies. In higher education, create more job-oriented bachelor programmes. Foster effective knowledge transfer by promoting cooperation between academia, research and the business sector. Step up efforts to improve access to high-quality and inclusive pre-school and school education for marginalised communities, including Roma.”

The OPE’s contribution to this recommendation is reported by means of the fulfilment of tasks arising from the NRP SR (Enhancing the preparedness of children in kindergartens, Full-time education system – Phase 1 and 2, Training for teaching staff, Evaluation the quality of schools, Improving the quality of teachers, Building links between vocational education and practice, Improving the quality of vocational education I and II, and Development of technical fields of study at higher education institutions).

Annex 10 to the AIR provides an overview of the fulfilment of national objectives under the Europe 2020 strategy for 2013 with respect to specific recommendations.

With respect to the reference period, it can be concluded that the OPE contributes to the objectives set out in the Europe 2020 strategy and in the NRP 2013 by means of a range of written invitations for national projects and calls for demand-driven projects which directly or indirectly support the objectives in the field of education, as defined in the Europe 2020 strategy, and the priorities specified in the NRP SR 2013 in the chapter Education, Science and Innovation.

With its focus, the OPE also fulfils the European Employment Strategy. For more details on the OPE’s contribution to the European Employment Strategy see Chapter 5 of the AIR (ESF PROGRAMMES: COHERENCE AND CONCENTRATION).

### ***Examples of good practice***

#### **National project**

The national project implemented by the State Institute for Vocational Education under the title *Developing secondary vocational education* aims to improve the quality of vocational education at secondary vocational schools in selected categories of specialisation of secondary vocational education and training and overall improvement of the quality of vocational education and training in all categories of specialisations in line with employers’ needs and in cooperation with professional organisations.

For more details on the implementation of the national project refer to sub-chapter 3.1.1.1 Physical progress under Priority Axis 1.

#### **Demand-driven project**

The project of the secondary vocational school (SVS) in Žarnovica under the title *Innovated school* is an example of good practice among demand-driven projects. The aim of this project is to ensure quality preparation of experts at the SVS in Žarnovica to meet labour market needs.

Three main activities were implemented in the project framework. Under Activity 1.1 – *Analysis of the requirements of the external environment and innovation of curricula*, the authors of the analysis contacted SVS pupils and teachers with questionnaires. Employers from the given region were asked about their requirements for potentially employed graduates. The analysis also included requirements for admission exams of higher education institutions facing increased interest by pupils. The curricula were innovated after the completion of the analysis, with individual teachers having innovated the curricula for their respective subjects. The innovated curricula represented a reference material for the creation of new and innovated teaching materials for the next activities. The second activity consisted of the installation of the school internet portal and of CNC equipment, and the training of teachers on their use. All teaching materials were created in digital form so that they can be saved and used on a new portal. The portal is actively used during classes. The teaching materials were added to the school internet portal under Activity 3.1. The CNC classroom was also equipped, and the equipment suitable for teaching purposes was supplied on the basis of public procurement. CNC technology represents a modern way of manufacturing, currently prevailing in companies, and its use substantially

increases labour productivity. The special CNC equipment was aimed to be used in the preparation of experts in electric engineering and wood processing. The equipment was installed in a dedicated school classroom. To enable teachers to teach pupils using the CNC technology, it was necessary to train the respective teachers. The training was conducted both at theoretical and practical levels. The last one of the main activities implemented under the project was Activity 3.1 *Modernisation of teaching materials and introduction of new elements into teaching*. The development and innovation of teaching materials were based on the outputs of Activities 1.1 and 2.1 – *Analysis of external conditions, innovation of curricula, and training for teachers*. The creation of innovated contents of teaching materials and e-learning classes also involved teachers with expert knowledge about the given subjects and about the teaching thereof. This provided direct link to the use of innovated materials. Given the extensiveness and complexity of the topics of some subjects, they were elaborated by several pedagogues at the same time, and in cooperation with external experts. The innovated classes underwent pilot testing during the activity, and the applied procedures were subsequently evaluated and changes were incorporated.

### **2.1.7. Description of partnership agreements**

The partnership principle in the implementation, monitoring, evaluation, publicity and awareness of the programme in the reference period was used in collaboration with socioeconomic partners in several working groups of which the MA for the OPE is a member, as well as with the coordinators of individual HPs. Throughout the year 2013, the MA for the OPE cooperated with the coordinators of HPS in the preparation of measurable indicators relevant to the HP with regard to written invitations and calls for demand-driven projects. In line with the SF and CF Management System for the Programming Period 2007–2013, the MA sent the set of indicators to each coordinator for approval before the launch of written invitations and calls.

In the framework of the cooperation between the MA and the IBMAs in 2013, a number of operational staff meetings were held between MA and IBMA representatives, having discussed current issues and problems related to the OPE implementation.

#### **2.1.7.1 Working Group on HP MRC**

The WG on HP MRC approved the Statute of the Working Group on HP MRC by per rollam decision on 09 January 2013, and reviewed the HP MRC Evaluation Plan for the Programming period 2007–2013 by means of a written per rollam procedure on 18 March 2013. The WG on HP MRC approved the updated Coordination System for the Implementation of the Horizontal Priority Marginalised Roma Communities, version 5.0, at its first meeting on 27 August 2013.

#### *Comprehensive approach monitoring group (hereinafter as the CAMG)*

On 07 January 2013, the CAMG approved by per rollam decision the updated CAMG Statute and the CAMG Rules of Procedure.

The 1st meeting of the CAMG in 2013 was held on 12 November 2013. The CAMG members and observers were informed about the current state of implementation of the HP MRC, about the HP MRC Annual Report 2012, about the results of the government audit in 2013, and about the updated strategic documents on the HP MRC in 2013. Under the item on evaluation, a representative of the Good Governance Institute informed the participants to the meeting about the results of the independent evaluation of the comprehensive approach to the inclusion of marginalised Roma communities in the programming period 2007–2013. The complex evaluation results are published on the website [www.governance.sk](http://www.governance.sk). The evaluation pointed out the shortcomings in this field. In its resolution, the CAMG took note of this information and adopted recommendations for the implementation of assistance from EU funds with regard to the inclusion of Roma communities during the programming period 2014–2020. The CAMG also stated that given the limited competences of the HP MRC coordinator, the model of coordination of the comprehensive approach implementation during the programming period 2007–2013 did not prove to be effective.

*Inter-Departmental Evaluation and Selection Committee for LCAS (“IESC LCA”)*

During the reference period, the IESC LCAS did not call any meeting, as it was not necessary to discuss launch of any new calls or any other issues related to the LCAS implementation. Due to changes arising from the delimitation of the Office of the Government Plenipotentiary for Roma Communities at the MoI SR, the statute and the rules of procedures of the IESC LCAS were updated, submitted for comments and approved per rollam in March 2013.

During the reference period, members of the IESC LCAS were continuously informed by e-mail about the requests for modification of the LCAS project plan in the OP E&SI, OP Healthcare, OP Environment and ROP.

#### **2.1.7.2 Working Group on the HP Equal Opportunities**

From 01 January 2013 to 31 December 2013, the WG on the HP Equal Opportunities met twice. The first meeting was held on 12 July 2013. The meeting dealt with information on the state of the HP EO implementation, on the progress made and problems encountered in the HP EO implementation, and information on the fulfilment of recommendations from Government Audit No. A365 K2340 – HP RP. The working group members were also informed about the preparation of the HP EO Annual Report 2012 and about problems concerning incompliance of data on projects relevant to the HP EO between the MA for the OP and ITMS, which causes problems in the preparation of the annual report. The representative of the HP EO coordinator informed the members about the approval of the updated Statute of the WG HP EO. Representatives of higher territorial units were elected as members/permanent observers of the working group. The Statute of the WG HP EO was approved per rollam on 02–08 July 2013. The members of the WG were also informed about the preparation of the programming period 2014–2020, on the state of preparation of the Partnership Agreement of the SR 2014–2020 and about its main aims and implementation mechanism.

The second meeting of the WG HP EO was held on 16 December 2013. The WG members were informed about the implementation of recommendations from the Government Audit No. A365 K2340 – HP RP, about the document “Internal Guidelines on Procedures for the HP EO Coordinator 2007–2013, version 5.0”, and about the programming period 2014–2020 – application of the horizontal principles of non-discrimination, gender equality and disabilities. They were also informed about the project *Ensuring the evaluation and implementation of the HP EO under SFs and CF during the programming period 2007–2013*.

In addition to the meetings referred to above and per rollam voting on the amended Statute, another per rollam voting on another amendment to the WG HP EO Statute was carried out in 2013. The amendment concerned the list of the working group members on the basis of Government Resolution No. 514 of 04 September 2013 on the *Information on the progress of works in the process of negotiations on draft legislation and strategic documents of the EU and of the SR on the Coherence Policy* from 01 January 2013 to 30 June 2013, and CCA guidelines on the amended Single Statute of Working Groups. The voting took place on 18–23 October 2013, having approved the statute.

In line with the SF and CF Management System, the MA sent to the HP EO Coordinator *Information on the OPE’s contribution to the HP EO 2012*.

Besides the activities referred to above, the MA cooperated with the HP EO Coordinator throughout the year 2013 in the preparation of measurable indicators relevant to the HP EO with respect to written invitations and calls for demand-driven projects. In accordance with the SF and CF Management System, before launching the written invitations and calls, the MA sent the set of indicators to the HP EO Coordinator for approval.

#### **2.1.7.3 Working Group on HP IS and HP SD**

The Working Group on the HP Information society (IS) and the Working Group on the HP Sustainable development (“SD”) is managed by the Coordinator (Government Office of the SR, Department for



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Cross-Sectional Priorities) in line with the partnership principle and with the aim to ensure coordinated action of all MAs in the implementation of the HP IS and HP SD.

Table 15: Meetings and activities of the Working Group on HP IS/Working Group on HP SD

Date	Justification	Conclusions
21 January 2013 Voting per-rollam 7/2013	Update of Annex 2 to the Coordination system for the implementation of HP IS 2007–2013, version 6.3 Update of Annex 2 to the Coordination system for the implementation of HP SD 2007–2013, version 6.3	Annex 2 to the Coordination system for the implementation of HP IS 2007–2013, version 6.3, was approved.  Annex 2 to the Coordination system for the implementation of HP SD 2007–2013, version 6.3, was approved.
15 October 2013 Voting per-rollam 8/2013	Update of Annex 2 to the Coordination system for the implementation of HP IS 2007–2013, version 6.4 Update of Annex 2 to the Coordination system for the implementation of HP SD 2007–2013, version 6.4	Coordination system for the implementation of HP IS 2007–2013, version 6.4, was approved.  Annex 2 to the Coordination system for the implementation of HP SD 2007–2013, version 6.4, was approved.

Source: HP IS / HP SD Coordinator

#### 2.1.7.4 Working Group on NSRF

During the reference period, the Working Group on the NSRF Evaluation met four times. The first meeting held on 06 February 2013 dealt with information on the Commission's Methodological Instruction on the performance of ex-ante evaluations for the programming period 2014–2020, information on the state of preparation of ex-ante evaluations of OPs for the programming period 2014–2020, and information on the state of on-going and completed evaluations in 2012.

The second meeting held on 15 May 2013 dealt with updated information from the participants on the state of implementation of ex-ante evaluations of OPs 2014–2020. The CCA also informed the working group members on the draft Commission's guidelines – manuals for the new programming period 2014–2020 concerning monitoring and evaluation.

The third meeting was held on 26 August 2013. The working group members were presented with the draft *Strategy of ESIF Evaluation for the Programming Period 2014–2020*, draft chapter *Evaluation of the ESIF Management System for the Programming Period 2014–2020* and information on the state of implementation of ex-ante evaluations of OPs by the working group members for evaluation.

The fourth meeting was held on 19 November 2013. The working group members were informed about the information on the ESF Evaluation Partnership Meeting held on 12–13 November 2013 in Brussels, about the monitoring and evaluation system during the programming period 2014–2020, and about the state of implementation of ex-ante evaluations of OPs by members of the working group for evaluation.

#### 2.1.7.5 Working Group on Publicity

The MA is a member of the Working Group on Information and Publicity (WG IP) at the level of the CCA, of the Working Group on Publicity (WGP) at the level of the MA and IBMA, and of the Working Group on Communication (WGC) for the European Anti-Fraud Office (OLAF).

The WG on Publicity at the CCA level met twice in 2013 – on 10 June 2013 and on 16 December 2013.

Information on the implementation of the conclusions from the previous meetings of the WGP were presented at the meetings, as well as information on planned and past activities concerning information and publicity for 2013 by the CCA, MA representatives and HP coordinators.

The WGC met three times in 2013: on 01 March 2013, on 19 April 2013, and on 22 November 2013.



The Vice-Chair of the WGC was elected at the first meeting. The working group members got acquainted with the WGC activities and with its main tasks for the forthcoming period under the Communication Plan on the Protection of EU's financial interests in the SR and Action Plan of the National Strategy for the Protection of EU's Financial Interests in the SR.

The Annual Report 2012 was approved at the second meeting. The meeting discussed the measures to encourage the public to become actively involved in the protection of EU's financial interests in the SR. With regard to the proposed measures, the members agreed to launch a joint leaflet and poster campaign on the OLAF Central Contact Point's activities and network partners with regard to the protection of EU's financial interests in the SR, with web links used for the preparation of the awareness-raising campaign on the need to protect the EU's financial interests in Slovakia. Emphasis was placed on improving the quality of press releases on the protection of EU's financial interests by all network partners. The WGC also discussed other planned measures.

The third meeting also dealt with the updating of the Communication Plan for the Protection of EU's Financial Interests in the SR and with the report on its implementation, and also modified the WGC rules of procedure. Regarding the joint leaflet campaign, the WGC members distributed a new leaflet on the activities of the OLAF Central Contact Point and of OLAF. WGC members were also provided with new promotion materials of the OLAF Central Contact Point, and were informed about the training seminar of the OLAF's communication network OAFCN in Rome on 23–24 April 2013.

### **Information & Communication Platform – INFORM Network**

INFORM met twice in 2013. The first meeting was held on 30–31 May 2013 in Budapest, Hungary. The meeting of the INFORM working group focused on the presentation of proposals for new rules on information and publicity by the EC, and on the description and evaluation of good practice used in information and publicity activities towards the public in the framework of the evaluation of the current programming period 2007–2013 and preparation of the new programming period 2014–2020. The participants to the meeting also presented examples of good practice from several EU Member States.

The second meeting was held on 09–10 December 2013 in Brussels, Belgium, and was accompanied by a conference *Telling the Story* organised by the Commission as an initial activity upon the launch of the programming period 2014–2020, focusing on information and publicity issues of the new programming period. The participants from 28 Member States (state administration, self-governments and regional authorities, journalists and representatives of partners) discussed during 24 workshops the most effective ways of communicating support from all ESIF funds through “stories” – communicating achieved success and benefits for EU citizens.

The members of the group communicate via e-mail, spreading information and exchanging experience, and via the internet platform of the INFORM working group [http://ec.europa.eu/regional\\_policy/informing/networking/index\\_en.cfm](http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/informing/networking/index_en.cfm), as well as through the RegioNetwork on the Yammer social network: <https://www.yammer.com/regionetwork/>.

#### **2.1.7.6 Working Group on Irregularities**

During the reference period, the Working Group on Irregularities, established by the Managing Committee for the Protection of Financial Interests of the European Community in the SR under the Government Office of the SR, met twice: on 31 January 2013 and on 04 June 2013. The main points of the agenda of the working group included approval of the Guidelines for Reporting Irregularities, version 5.0 and of the Annual Report on Irregularities 2012.

#### **2.1.8. Specific aspects of ESF programmes**

During the reference period, the specific aspects of ESF programmes within the OPE implementation were applied as follows:

a) Application of the gender dimension and of any special actions with respect to gender equality:

The promotion of fundamental rights, non-discrimination and equal opportunities represent one of the fundamental principles applied by the EU. Pursuant to Art. 10 of Regulation (EC) No. 1081/2006, gender equality and the principles of equal opportunities in general (with a focus on supporting disadvantaged groups due to, for example, disability, age, race, ethnicity, etc.) implemented in the OPE horizontally as part of the HP EO. The MA and both IBMAs provide necessary information on gender equality to all applicants for NFC in their calls for demand-driven projects and written invitations for national projects that are expected to ensure the application of gender equality principles in all implemented projects. The declaration of the positive contribution to the HP EO ensures the prevention and elimination of discrimination on the basis of ethnicity and race, gender, religion or belief, sexual orientation or disability, etc. in national and also demand driven projects implemented under the OPE.

b) Increasing migrant participation in employment, thereby strengthening their social integration:

The strengthening of migrants' social integration and the promotion of their employment are supported under the OP Employment and social inclusion implemented by the MoLSAF SR. **In 2013, the highest number of migrants was reported under Priority Axis 2 of the OPE, which targets further education as a tool for the development of human resources. The aim is to create and develop an effective system of life-long learning and life-long counselling focusing on the development of key competences and on the enhancement and improvement of qualifications in line with the current and future needs of the knowledge-based society available to all citizens of the SR throughout their lifetime.**

c) Strengthening integration in the employment of minorities, thereby improving their social inclusion:

The OPE contributes to the creation of conditions needed to achieve greater progress in the education level of this target group and its success on the labour market via Measure 3.1 *Increasing the education level of member of marginalised Roma communities*. The project activities ensure to activate and encourage pupils from MRCs to be successful in the field of education and to introduce innovative teaching methods as a tool for the inclusion of MRCs in the teaching process and in society.

The project implemented by the Elementary School of Pavol Emanuel Dobšinský in Slavošovce under the title *School for all without distinction* is an example of good practice in this regard. This project aimed to adapt the education of pupils from MRCs to increase their possibilities and willingness to study at secondary schools, with successful completion of studies as a prerequisite for succeeding on the labour market. The project sought to innovate level 1 and level 2 school education programmes satisfying pupils' needs, innovate the curricula in the zero year and English language teaching, and to introduce quality e-learning programmes. A total of 130 pupils were involved in the educational project activities according to their needs (e.g. encouraging pupils to attend school via physical and creative activities, experiential learning, etc.) with the aim to eliminate unwanted habits acquired at home, and to help pupils to learn and have a better life.

d) Strengthening integration in employment and social inclusion, including persons with disabilities:

The enhancement and strengthening of the social inclusion of persons with special educational needs, including persons with disabilities, by facilitating their access to education and involvement in the education system is supported under the OPE via Measure 3.2 *Increasing the education level of persons with special educational needs*. The project activities aim to support the development of key competences of disabled pupils and the teaching staff in special elementary and secondary schools, using new teaching materials and didactic tools, and to facilitate access of disabled persons to education at elementary and secondary schools.

The project implemented by the Vocational School in Liptovský Mikuláš under the title *Disabled individuals can also help others* is an example of good practice. The project aimed to develop the key

competences of disabled pupils and facilitate their access to education. The project comprised the creation and innovation of textbooks for the nursing care subject, the use of interactive forms of teaching (video-sequences, interactive exercises, excursions), and practical teaching in rehabilitation and technical classrooms. The teaching process was enhanced by teachers trained in special training courses on nursing care. After completing the study of nursing care, the graduates of the vocational school are able to work in social and healthcare facilities at the same level as graduates from medical schools.

e) Innovation activities, including presentation of topics, their results, extension and full application:

The innovation theme is implemented in the OPE horizontally under all Priority Axes 1–4. Innovation activities are carried out via projects aimed to innovate the contents and methods of teaching and education programmes at all school levels, improve education outputs to meet the demands of the labour market, and innovate teaching materials and didactic tools using, for example, modern technology in the teaching process.

The mirror national project of the National Institute of Certified Measurements in Education under the title *Improving the quality of education at elementary and secondary school using electronic testing* is an example of good practice. This project focuses on the innovation of tools used for the verification of key competences and quality of education, and on the innovation of the measurement systems used in elementary and secondary schools at national level under ISCED 2 and ISCED 3, enabling the assessment of quality and monitoring of the progress in education. The national project will focus on the implementation of the electronic testing system at schools with the aim to monitor the level of knowledge about general education subjects and key competences of pupils in the education process, providing a feedback to teachers about the quality of education and about the possibilities of its enhancement, and the verification of the possibilities to use electronic on-line testing in implemented national certifying measurements Testing 9, Testing 5 and On-line school-leaving exams.

f) National and/or inter-regional actions:

Trans-nationality is promoted under the OPE horizontally across all priority axes. Trans-national activities are supported via projects including activities with an international dimension, such as transfer of foreign experience or internships in partner institutions abroad, support of international cooperation of higher education institutions, mobility of foreign experts, arrival of internationally renowned experts to the SR with the aim to improve the quality of education, establishing international cooperation, integration of PhD students into the international scientific community, preparation of PhD study programmes in cooperation with foreign universities in EU countries, etc.

The project implemented by the University of Constantine the Philosopher in Nitra under the title *Preparation of a study programme for the inter-department mass media studies – French using ICTs* is an example of good practice in this regard. This project entailed 21 mobilities for 21 teachers in France, and 40 students spent one semester studying at a partner university in France and Belgium as part of practical education. The project aimed to create a study programme for French language teaching for students of mono-field study programmes with specialisation in the expert language of mass media studies, communicology, journalism, and marketing communication. Once awarded dual diplomas, graduates from the newly created interdepartmental studies with links to French language will be competitive on the labour market and their area of work will extend to Francophonic countries.

### **Assistance by target groups**

For more details on the breakdown of participants to national projects, demand-driven projects and TA projects implemented under Priority Axis 1–5 during the reference period see Table 16.

Table 16: Monitoring of target groups from 01 January to 31 December 2013

<b>Breakdown of project participants</b>
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Indicator	Calendar year 2013					
	Incoming project participants		Outgoing project participants		Participants continuing from the previous year	
	Total	Of which women	Total	Of which women	Total	Of which women
Total number of participants	77,903	56,035	47,673	37,838	71,385	50,676
<i>Breakdown of participants by labour market status</i>						
Employed	50,108	40,592	38,298	32,644	47,612	38,651
of which self-employed	414	207	303	149	321	192
Unemployed	590	369	365	214	184	72
of which long-term unemployed	223	160	198	120	170	62
Inactive persons	27,205	15,074	9,010	4,980	23,589	11,953
of which studying / trainees	22,618	12,747	8,382	4,629	21,024	10,579
<i>Breakdown of participants by age</i>						
Youth (15-24 years)	15,050	9,261	7,773	4,620	8,237	4,471
Older persons (55-64 years)	7,535	5,920	4,392	3,650	5,400	3,752
<i>Breakdown of participants by vulnerability group under national legislation</i>						
Migrants	25	15	79	53	99	63
Minorities	4,419	3,023	2,771	1,857	4,301	2,314
Disabled persons	565	325	480	197	601	287
Other disadvantaged persons	1,019	582	460	229	2,711	1,321
<i>Breakdown of participants by attained level of education</i>						
Primary or lower secondary education (ISCED 1 and 2)	12,336	6,833	4,433	2,079	11,613	5,727
Upper secondary education (ISCED 3)	13,596	11,221	11,498	9,770	8,710	6,584
Post-secondary non-tertiary education (ISCED 4)	3,054	2,848	2,003	1,744	2,585	2,348
Tertiary education (ISCED 5 and 6)	37,733	27,190	28,605	23,465	38,835	31,343

Source: MA

According to the data provided in Table 16 on the basis of the evaluated monitoring reports on national projects and demand-driven projects for 2013, it can be said that the number of participants in project implementation during the reference period increased to **77,903**, of whom **55,035** (72%) were women and **21,686** (28%) were men. Compared to the year 2012, it is an increase by **28,353** participants in the calendar year (in 2012, the total number of participants was **49,550**). In general, the participants of the target groups – teaching staff involved in projects contracted in previous years comprise, in terms of gender, more men than women, which is given by the fact that education is one of the areas with lower average remuneration (horizontal professional gender segregation).

In terms of the age distribution of participants, participants aged 25–54 years were highly represented, similar to the previous years (this age group is not monitored separately), with the total number of

participants of **55,318** (70%). The age group of 55–64 years represents **7,535** persons (10%), and the age group of 15–24 accounts for **15,050** pupils or students (20%).

In terms of the breakdown of project participants by labour market status, the table shows that the projects implemented in 2013 focused more on employed persons (**50,108** persons, i.e. 64%) than on studying persons (**22,618** persons, i.e. 30%).

As for the breakdown of participants by attained level of education, the greatest number of participants had university education (**37,733** persons, i.e. 48%).

## **2.2. Information on compliance with Community law**

During the reference period, the OPE implementation complied with the EU and SR legislation, and with the EU and SR activities, policies and priorities. The MA for the OPE and the ASFEU and the MoH SR as the IB MAs did not record any violations of EU or SR legislation or any serious problems related to the EU and SR legislation.

## **2.3. Significant problems encountered and measures taken to overcome them**

### ***Problems identified upon certification verification of summary requests for payment***

The following **most significant** problems were identified or addressed upon the OPE certification verification in 2013:

1. With regard to ineligible expenditure, findings were identified in the category of personnel expenditure given the inappropriate administrative control of RfPs;
2. With regard to compliance with the principle of sound financial management, the “good value for money” principle, and the principle of direct links to the project, several findings were identified concerning the approval of project budget items which do not comply with these principles, such as duplicity expenditure on publicity, excessive number of hours for personnel ensuring project management, excessive expected number of training participants, excessive expected number computers and multimedia technology, etc., which has a substantial impact on the eligibility of expenditures;
3. With regard to the breach of grant contracts by beneficiaries, the deficiencies related to the failure to implement all sub-activities of the project, which has a substantial impact on the complex implementation of project activities and on the eligibility of expenditures;
4. With regard to the process of professional evaluation of grant applications, the deficiencies related to the failure to justify the scores assigned to different evaluation criteria, failure to identify discrepancies between the data provided in the grant applications and in the annexes thereto, failure to justify the appropriateness of the target group given the contents, scope and aim of the project;
5. With regard to the economy and efficiency of the rent of training tools and equipment in projects implemented under Call No. OPV 2010/2.2/02 (IBMA MoH SR), the findings from the thematic certification verification of 2012 were addressed, focusing on the evaluation and selection process of the grant application. The IBMA MoH SR failed to prove that rent as a form of procurement was more economical and effective than the purchase of training tools and equipment. This issue was submitted to the MA of the OPE for solution.

All problems referred to above remained open as of 31 December 2013.

### ***Shortcomings identified by the OPE MA and measures taken to remedy them***

From the point of view of financial implementation of the OPE, the year 2013 can be characterised as a problematic one, as the rules N+3 and N+2 were concurrently applied, which means that in addition to the modified commitment 2010 it was necessary to spend the modified commitment of 2011 in full amount to prevent automatic decommitment, i.e. it was necessary, in order to comply with the rule N+3/N+2, to absorb, besides the modified commitment 2010, the modified commitment 2011, which

represented a requirement for approval of RfPs in a total amount of EUR 187,480,492 (EUR 181,549,317 for C objective and EUR 5,931,175 for RC&E objective).

Due to the possible risk of failure to use the funds in full amount in 2013, the OPE was included in the list of the five operational programmes with the highest risk of automatic decommitment of 2010 and 2011 as of 2013 under the NSRF. In this respect, the MA prepared a background document in the beginning of 2013, identifying the most problematic areas of OPE implementation and spending as a part of the Joint SR and EC Report on practical measures aimed to reduce the risk of a failure to absorb the funds of operational programmes 2007–2013 in full amount in Slovakia, prepared as a support document to the draft amendment to the General Regulation submitted to the EC. In November 2013, an exception was approved for the SR, shifting the financial commitments of 2011 and 2012 to the next years in line with the N+3 rule. Further to the approved amendments to the General Regulation, the entire original commitment of 2011 that was expected to be used in 2013 in the amount of EUR 96,596,041 was shifted to the year 2014. In spite of the approved exception, the SR did not manage to spend the commitment 2010 under the OPE in full amount, and the automatic decommitment constituted an amount of EUR 13,709,101.

Further to the unsatisfactory state of OPE implementation, the MA was imposed the obligation by Government Resolution No. 123 of 07 March 2013 to review and amend the Action Plan with concrete measures, including deadlines and expected effects in 2013, and indicate in the Action Plan the projects having an impact on increasing the spending of EU funds with regard to the decommitments of 2010 and 2011, including figures on the expected use as of each evaluation of the Action Plan in 2013. At the same time, the Action Plan template was updated. The MA continued submitting the report on the Action Plan implementation every two months: as of 30 April 2013, 30 June 2013, 31 August 2013, 31 October 2013 and 31 December 2013.

The MA identified the following main problem areas and risks in the Action Plan with respect to the OPE implementation:

- Insufficient contracting in 2010 and 2011 to ensure absorption of funds allocated under the OPE;
- Public procurement procedures – low quality of preparation and evaluation of public procurement on the side of beneficiaries, which leads to repeated cancellation of tenders or the need to rectify background documents and other documentation, as well as constant extension of public procurement processes due to objections by unsuccessful applicants, as well as errors by MA/IBMAs. Part of PPs under the OPE is executed as over-limit and below-limit procedures which are more time consuming and extend the entire PP process. The check of the PP documentation under the OPE is more demanding also in terms of staff, as the documentation needs to be checked repeatedly, which extends the period of administrative control and affects the amount of used funds. The spending of funds is negatively influenced also in cases where the project implementation requires changes in contracts with suppliers, as beneficiaries submit amendments for control with a delay or after the signing of amendments with suppliers, and in some cases amendments are prepared incorrectly and need to be effected repeatedly, which extends the implementation process;
- Complicated administrative control of RfPs and complicated preparation of RfPs by beneficiaries and related failure to fulfil obligations (e.g. error rate of submitted support documentation for the RfP, etc.); the insufficient quality of RfPs therefore remains a problem, such as missing support documentation in line with the Manual for NFC Beneficiaries or other support documentation requested by the MA/IBMA for the OPE, late reminders for completing missing documents to RfPs;
- Changes in project budgets and comments on budgets, changes in the detailed description of projects related to late start of implementation of activities due to controls of public procurement procedures related to project activities, as well as complicated financial management of state budgetary organisations and accounting of requests for advance payments for state budgetary organisations; the legislation concerning the Labour Code and mandatory transfers for employees working on out-of-employment contracts as of 01 January

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2013 was a reason for changing the budget of almost each national project and in most demand-driven projects;

- The very nature of projects and of subsequent expenditure reported under RfPs – predominantly personnel expenditure accompanied by a high administrative burden; the mandatory support documentation needed to prove the eligibility of personnel costs is extensive as to the number of mandatory support documents, but low as to the amount of reported/accounted funds.

Further to the facts described above, the OPE MA adopted the following measures:

1. Measures to increase the contracting of funds under the OPE

- Increasing the number of calls for demand-driven projects and written invitations for national projects;
- Acceleration of the contracting of new national projects by reducing the periods of grant application procedures beyond the limit set in the Internal Manual of Procedures and the System of SF and CF Management;
- More intense communication of the MA for the OPE with representatives of directly managed organisations of the MoESRS SR (eligible applicants) in the submission and preparation of proposals for national projects by means of regular meetings and comments procedures on project proposals; the MA is proactively, systematically and on a partner basis involved in the preparation of project plans of national projects;
- Provision of voluntary personal consultations, usually 3–4 weeks before the closure of call. Project managers or administration managers provide consultations to ensure formal control of grant applications and of annexes thereto, and on the budget and focus of activities under the respective calls.

2. Measures to increase the use of funds under the OPE

- More intensive personal and written consultations with beneficiaries before submitting their requests for payment and during the process of their processing;
- More intense communication with beneficiaries on errors and deficiencies in public procurements; ex-ante control of selected aspects of public procurements at the MA level;
- Notifying beneficiaries about the need for early submission of the settlement of advance payments to ensure timely clearing of advance payments;
- Notifying beneficiaries about the possibility to submit reports on the funds used forming part of requests for payment through summary sheets for personnel expenditures – internal expenditures, costs of scholarships of full-time PhD, travel reimbursements or compensation for participants' wages;
- Preparation of a document identifying the most common errors of beneficiaries when submitting requests for payment and subsequent distribution of the document to beneficiaries;
- Holding work meetings with newly-contracted beneficiaries to explain them their basic obligations;
- Preparation of an estimate of the financial value of RfPs submitted to the MA/IBMA waiting for being settled.

According to the level of contracting under the OPE, the measures relating to increased launch of calls and written invitations and increased efficiency of the processing of grant applications and project approval can be considered effective, creating a reserve in the event of differences in actual outputs from public procurements against plans.

The measures aimed to increase the absorption of funds via more intensive communication with beneficiaries, the warning of beneficiaries about errors in their documentation, and the monitoring of the amount of submitted requests for payment and regular meetings of the MA and IBAM after repeated automatic decommitments did not lead to any progress in implementation during the reference period. In spite of increased efforts by the MA/IBMA in the 2nd half of 2013, the programme faced a second automatic decommitment of EUR 13,709,101.



Further to the suspension of payments for the OPE by the EC in connection with the findings identified by the EC audit No. 2013-1595 which was conducted from 02 to 04 April 2013 and from 15 to 18 April 2013, the MA and the IBMAs were bound to take measures to eliminate the findings identified in the draft EC Report No. 2013-1595 the Slovak version of which was delivered to the MA on 22 November 2013. Significant shortcomings were identified mainly with respect to first-instance verification at the level of the IBMA (Art. 58, letter c) and Art. 60, letters a) and b) of the General Regulation; and Art. 13, par. 2-4 of the Implementing Regulation). The deficiencies concerned ineligible expenditure, excessive prices, and purchase of equipment at the end of project implementation. The shortcomings identified also related to violation of the provisions of Act No. 25/2006 Coll. on Public Procurement and Directive 2004/18/EC (e.g. setting a deadline for submitting requests for tender documentation which could restrict the number of potential suppliers in the tender and, hence, the selection of the most appropriate supplier; application of improper and discriminatory conditions of participation; application of improper PP procedures; split of purchases to avoid the application of the Act on PP, etc.).

The horizontal problem at national level under the OPE, also identified during the Commission's audit, concerns the setting of excessively short deadlines for requesting tender documentation compared to the period for the submission of bids. Further to the identified finding, the SR carried out financial corrections of the operational programme under the NSRF (including OPE), as described in letter of the Permanent Representation of the SR to the EU of 02 February 2013, applying a 10% correction to over-limit public procurements where the deadline for requesting tender documentation was reduced by 50% compared to the period for the submission of bids set by the contracting authority/entity. In case the period for requesting tender documentation is reduced by 50% and more compared to the period for the submission of bids, and if six and more bids are submitted in an over-limit public procurement procedure, a 5% financial correction applies. The number of days for requesting tender documentation and the number of days for the submission of offers is decisive for determining the financial correction, and is counted from the date of sending the notice on publishing the public procurement to the Official Journal of the EU. By letter No. Ares(2013)3651504 of 05 December 2013, the EC accepted the methodology of applying financial corrections. With regard to the interim RfP No. 2621300704 submitted to the EC via SFC2007 on 27 December 2013, the CA modified the statement of expenditure with financial corrections related to the setting of excessively short periods for requesting tender documentation under the methodology proposed by the SR and accepted by the EC.

Table 17a: Implementation of measures taken to address the problems identified

Problems identified	Measures taken	Summary sheet of the measures taken
High risk of decommitment of the commitments 2010 and 2011 with respect to the application of the rule $n+3/n+2$ .	<p>Series of measures to reduce the risk of decommitment:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Preparation of a background document which formed part of the Joint Report of the SR and EC on practical measure to reduce the risk of insufficient absorption of funds under operational programmes 2007–2013 in Slovakia as a support document to the draft amendments to Council Regulation (EC) No. 1083/2006 presented by the European Commission.</li> <li>- Action Plan and monitoring of the fulfilment of measures to accelerate the absorption of funds and improve the state of OPE implementation: contains measures to increase contracting and the use of funds under the OPE.</li> </ul>	<p>- Approval of amendments to the General Regulation - an exception meaning shift of financial commitments from 2011 and 2012 to the next years under the <math>n+3</math> rule,</p> <p>-The measures were being continuously implemented; the fulfilment was reported to the CCA, CA and AA every two months.</p>



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Suspension of payments for the OPE by the EC with regard to the findings identified by EC Audit No. 2013-1595 carried out on 02–04 April 2013 and 15–18 April 2013.	The MA started adopting concrete measures to improve the functioning of the management and control system by preparing an Action Plan to be submitted together with comments on the draft report within two months from the delivery of the letter with the draft report enclosed to it (by 22 January 2014).	
Horizontal problem concerning the setting of deadlines for requesting tender documentation.	Adoption of financial corrections for operational programmes under the NSRF (including OPE), where a 10% financial corrections will apply to over-limit public procurements, where the deadline for requesting tender documentation is reduced by 50% and more compared to the deadline for the submission of bids set by the contracting authority/entity. In case the deadline for requesting tender documentation is reduced by 50% and more compared to the deadline for submission of bids, and where six and more bids are submitted in over-limit public procurement, financial correction of 5% applies. The number of days for requesting tender documentation and the number of days for the submission of bids decisive for determining the financial correction is counted from the date of sending the notice about the launch of public procurement to the Official Journal of the EU. The Commission accepted the methodology for the application of the financial correction by letter No. res(2013)3651504 of 05 December 2013.	The corrections will be deducted from the first RfP submitted to the EC in 2014.
The EC identified a problem concerning the setting of excessively short deadlines for requesting tender documentation compared to the period for the submission of bids, which is contrary to Art. 39 (1) of Directive No. 2004/18/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council.	Further to this finding, the NFC beneficiaries must be reminded about the ban on reducing the deadline for requesting tender documentation compared to the period for the submission of bids.	The MA immediately reminded the NFC beneficiaries (by e-mail message of 31 May 2013) about the ban on reducing the deadline for requesting tender documentation compared to the period for the submission of bids, and about the obligation to remedy possible restrictions by a corrigendum to the notice on the PP. Concurrently, the amended Act No. 25/2006 Coll. on Public Procurement introduced, with effect from 01 July 2013, the obligation of the contracting authority to publish tender documentation for over-limit contracts in the

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		<p>profile of the contracting authority. The Public Procurement Authority issued an interpreting opinion on 07 July 2013 in which it did not recommend to restrict the period for requesting tendering documentation.</p> <p>The identification of this problem by the Commission with regard to the setting of the deadline for requesting tender documentation and the persistent seeking of ways of making financial corrections for the given public procurement procedures by the authority which identified the finding had a certain impact on the schedule and amount of absorbed funds under the OPE, since the rules determining the types of public procurements to be funded had not been known for a longer period of time.</p> <p>Financial corrections were adopted in line with the methodology agreed with the EC, setting a 10% financial corrections for PPs where the period for taking over the tender documentation is reduced by 50% and more compared to the period for the submission of bids, with the possibility of reducing such correction to 5% for PPs where six and more bids are submitted. Under this methodology, corrections were made for 100% population of eligible expenditure for over-limit PPs declared to the EC from 01 January 2007. It took several months to find a solution for the methodology of calculating financial corrections made for this type of errors at central level, due to which it was necessary to suspend administrative controls of the PPs concerned, which had an impact on the absorption of EU funds.</p>
Common errors in contract notices and in tender documentation causing ineligibility of expenditure related to such PPs or the	Set financial corrections in line with the methodology agreed with the EC.	<p>Adopt measures to reduce the error rates of contract notices and tender documentation.</p> <p>Carrying out ex-ante control of compliance of contract notices and tender</p>

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need to repeat PPs and delayed use of the NFCs by beneficiaries.		<p>documentation and of correct specification of the expected value of contracts before publishing the contract notice on the basis of rules determined by the MA. The beneficiary is obliged to submit to the MA documentation for the purposes of ex-ante control in the cases of contracts with a minimum amount of EUR 1,000,000.00 excl. VAT, and may submit such documentation on its own initiative in the case of contracts with a minimum expected value of EUR 250,000.00 excl. VAT.</p> <p>Continuous reminding of beneficiaries about common errors by providing regular information about the errors identified in PP procedures upon administrative control, and by means of individual consultations with beneficiaries.</p>
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Source: MA

In 2013, seven government audits were carried out under the OPE, having identified several findings. The MA and IBMAs adopted measures with respect to two government audits in 2013; the deadline for the adoption of measures with respect to other four government audits which were completed in December is the first quarter-year of 2014. One government audit continued also after 31 December 2013. The most significant findings identified under the two government audits with subsequent adoption of measures are described in Table 17b below.

Table 17b: Deficiencies identified by government audits

Deficiencies	Adopted measures
Improper procedures for the verification of personal links upon PP control and absence of further procedures at MA and IBMA levels in case such links are identified.	<p>The MA/IBMA ensured an update of the IM by incorporating procedures for the verification of possible personal links between the contracting authority/entity/person under Art. 7 of Act No. 25/2006 Coll. and applicants, and specified the procedure to be applied in case such links are identified by the MA/IBMA. The Manual for NFC Beneficiaries was also updated.</p> <p>The PM/FMs assess and check the personal links between beneficiaries and applicants under a single contract upon each administrative control on the basis of extracts from the Companies Register and other generally available means.</p>
Insufficient verification of the PP process by the MA/IBMA.	The MA/IBMA ensured settlement of the financial correction in the respective amount in line with the COCOF guideline.
Failure to comply with the requirement for adequate level of publishing and transparency in the procurement of goods due to the split of the contract.	The IBMA ensured the return of funds on the basis of the correction concerning the verified RfP, as well as other RfPs related to the given finding after delivery of the request for return of funds by the MA.

Source: audit reports, MA, IBMA

## **2.4. Changes in the context of the operational programme's implementation**

### **2.4.1. Legislative changes in the SR**

The most important legislative changes that had an impact on the OPE in 2013 included amendments to Act No. 25/2006 Coll. on Public Procurement and on changes and amendments to some acts. This act was amended three times in 2013. Act No. 28/2013 Coll. entered into effect on 18 February 2013 with the main aim to speed up and make some public procurement processes more effective. The changes concerned, in particular, the elimination of the administrative burden of applicants and other interested entities upon proving the fulfilment of the conditions of participation in the public procurement procedure, acceleration of review procedures, introduction of ex-ante control of projects financed from EU funds, and ban on participation in public procurement, as well as new obligations for contracting authorities and strict sanctions for failure to comply with them. Act No. 95/2013 Coll. brought along a substantial change in the Act on Public Procurement, divided into two stages. The first stage, in effect from 23 April 2013, detailed the changes introduced with the previous amendment. The dominant part of the amended provisions of the Act on Public Procurement, which entered into effect on 01 July 2013, changed the financial limits of contracts and introduced new procedures to public procurement contracts under over-limit values, made the rules stricter for "extraordinary contracting authorities" which acquired this position only on the basis of subsidies granted, increased the formal requirements for contracting authorities, and created space for broader electronic processes and information on public procurement and participants thereto, including centralisation of the collection and provision of relevant data. This regulation also created a new body of appeal for revision procedures – the Council of the Public Procurement Authority, and modified some administrative offences and the amounts of related fines. Act No. 180/2013 Coll. which entered into effect No. 30 June 2013 was to modify or remove some questionable provisions in the Act on Public Procurement.

### **2.4.2. Changes in managing documents and modification of procedures**

#### **System changes in EU SF coordination**

On 22 April 2013, the MoF SR issued a guideline on the termination of assistance from Structural Funds and from the Cohesion Fund for the programming period 2007–2013 with the aim to define the procedure and ensure an effective system with regard to the termination of assistance for operational programmes financed from Structural Funds and from the Cohesion Fund during the programming period 2007–2013.

On 16 December 2013, the MoF issued an update to the *System of Financial Management of Structural Funds and of the Cohesion Fund for the programming period 2007–2013*, version 7.0.

The Central Coordination Authority updated the *System of Financial Management of Structural Funds and of the Cohesion Fund* three times in 2013 (version 4.6 of 28 March 2013, version 4.7 of 11 July 2013, and version 4.8 of 27 December 2013).

In 2013, the CCA issued two new methodological instructions (CCA Methodological Instruction No. 15 on the procedure of the MA and AA when cooperating with the Public Procurement Authority in controls of public procurements of 22 May 2013, and CCA Methodological Instruction No. 16 on termination of operational programmes of the programming period 2007–2013 of 08 July 2013), and updated four methodological instructions (CCA Methodological Instruction No. 1 on the preparation of descriptions of programme management and control systems No. 1 of 31 January 2013, CCA Methodological Instruction No. 5 on the preparation of OP evaluation plans, Update No. 1 of 27 March 2013; CCA Methodological Instruction No. 9 on the content of annual and final reports, Update No. 5 of 09 April 2013; and CCA Methodological Instruction No. 11 on determining the amount of returned contributions or parts thereof upon breach of public procurement rules and procedures, Update No. 3 of 11 July 2013).

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In 2013, the CCA also issued two methodological interpretations on the *System of Management of Structural Funds and of the Cohesion Fund for the programming period 2007–2013*, version 4.5 (of 07 January and 05 February 2013).

**System changes in the OPE**

During the reference period, several guidelines for NFC beneficiaries entered into effect, which aimed to help beneficiaries to correctly implement their projects and to facilitate better and faster use of funds.

In 2013, the following documents were issued/updated by the MA or IBMA with respect to the implementation of projects:

- Provider's Guideline No. 6 on Grant Contracts of 01 March 2013;
- Provider's Guideline No. 7 on Grant Contracts of 16 August 2013;
- Manual for NFC Beneficiaries (version 7.0, in force from 11 February 2013 and in effect from 12 February 2013, available on the OPE MA's website, including version with tracked changes, making it easier to use for all beneficiaries and facilitating the de-bureaucratisation process);
- Manual for Applicants for NFC from ESF (version 13 of 10 March 2013);
- Methodological Instruction of the OPE MA: Lessons learnt from the most common errors by beneficiaries in the public procurement process;
- Update No. 1 to Guideline No. 3/2010 for Beneficiaries on the Submission of Grant Applications of 28 January 2013;
- Guideline No. 2/2013 for NFC Beneficiaries on the Application of Act of the NC SR No. 9/2013 Coll. on changes and amendments to Act No. 513/1991 Coll. Commercial Code of 23 April 2013;
- Guideline for Beneficiaries No. 3/2013 on the frequency of submission of public procurement plans and schedules and other requirements for the execution of public procurements of 06 May 2013 (Update No. 1 of 26 September 2013);
- Guideline for Beneficiaries No. 4 on accounting a minimum of 50% of advance payment within six months of 15 May 2013;
- Guideline No. 5/2013 for NFC Beneficiaries on the coordination of EU social security systems upon performance of work by employees in the territory of two or more Member States involved in OPE projects of 15 May 2013;
- Guideline No. 6/2013 for Beneficiaries on the eligibility of expenditures for equipment and didactic tools/training materials, training needs and consumables with respect to the state of implementation of the project of 28 August 2013.

The internal manual for MA procedures for the OP Education and of the MA for the OP Research and development was updated once in 2013 (version 15.0 of 09 August 2013); the Internal Manual of Procedures of the IBMA ASFEU was not updated in 2013, and the Internal Manual of Procedures of the IBMA MoH SR was updated five times (version 24.0 of 11 March 2013; version 25.0 of 23 May 2013; version 26.0 of 07 August 2013; version 27.0 of 30 August 2013; and version 28.0 of 01 November 2013).

**2.5. Substantial changes under Article 57 of Regulation (EC) No 1083/2006**

No cases of substantial amendments made under Article 57 of the General Regulation were identified during the reference period.

**2.6. Complementarity with other instruments**

With regard to the ERDF and considering the current state of implementation of the OPE, complementarity can be found between Priority Axis 1 of the OPE and Priority Axis 1 of the Regional

Operational Programme *Developing public facilities infrastructure*, and between OP Research and Development (“OP R&D”) and Priority Axis 1 *Research and development infrastructure*, Priority Axis 2 *Supporting research and development*, and Priority Axis 5 *Infrastructure of higher education institutions*.

Priority Axis 1 of the Regional Operational Programme supports investments into the technical condition of buildings used in the education process, including public procurement of internal equipment of schools and school facilities. Complementary to this priority axis, the OPE supports activities focused on the content and way (content part) of education, mainly through the call OPE-2012/1.1/08-IBMA *Modern secondary school* launched in 2012.

Priority Axis 1 of the OP R&D pursues the promotion of research and development by means of quality technical equipment (devices, laboratories, etc.) at higher education institutions and at R&D institutions, while Priority Axis 5 supports investments in the technical condition of buildings used in the field of education. The support of the technical infrastructure (technical equipment or technical condition of buildings) will contribute to the professional growth of human resources in research and development from the point of view of the education of students, university staff and scientists. Priority Axis 2 of OP R&D provides support to human resources via activities encouraging the professional return of Slovak scientists from abroad to Slovakia or by maintaining them in Slovakia and by financing research projects in which researchers can find professional self-realisation. The human resources of the infrastructures of higher education institutions is supported, in particular, through Priority Axis 1 of the OPE, placing emphasis on creating better conditions for PhD students and young scientists by means of supporting education programmes and creating a system enabling young scientists to remain in research and development. The OPE also aims to ensure permanent professional growth and mobilities of R&D staff. In 2013, these plans were accomplished by means of Measure 1.2 OPE-2013/1.2/07-IBMA *Promoting the quality of higher education institutions*.

With regard to Priority Axis 2 of the OPE, and in particular Measure 2.2, it is necessary to point out complementarity with Priority Axis 1 (*Modernisation of the healthcare system*) and Priority Axis 2 (*Enhancing health and preventing health risks*) of the OP Healthcare. There are clear links between the technical equipment of healthcare facilities (ensured through the OP Healthcare) and the level of knowledge of medical staff.

Through the implementation of investment plans, the OP Healthcare targets new technologies in healthcare, which raises the need to implement and finance educational and training activities through the OPE. Investments in new technologies financed from the OP Healthcare represent a potential in the form of an influx of new healthcare workers, the education of which needs to be financially covered from the OPE.

The concurrence of the two operational programmes has an impact on an effective modernisation of healthcare, ensuring a balance between investments in material and technical conditions and investments in the human capital in healthcare.

The OPE also supports educational activities (financed from the ESF) focused on the improvement and enhancement of the qualification and skills of healthcare workers in the framework of human resources development. The OPH supports investment projects (financed from the ERDF) aimed to satisfy the investment and technical needs of healthcare providers.

In 2013, no call was published aimed to enhance other skills of medical staff.

Priority Axis 3 of the OPE is complementary to Priority Axis 1 of the Regional Operational Programme – *Developing public infrastructure facilities*. The building, modernisation and expansion of new or existing facilities of social services contribute to a comprehensive support of persons with special educational needs, including members of MRCs. In 2013, no call was published under Priority Axis 3 of the OPE.

Priority Axis 4 (Measure 4.1) of the OPE is complementary to Priority Axis 1 *Infrastructure* of the OP Region of Bratislava. Priority Axis Infrastructure pursues the improvement of infrastructure and school equipment in connection with the support of the reform of education in the Region of

Bratislava and of its overall quality, similar to Priority Axis 1 of the Regional Operational Programme under objective C. In 2013, call OPV-2013/4.1/05-SORO was published under Measure 4.1 of the OPE under the title *Modern secondary grammar schools in the Region of Bratislava*.

Pursuant to Art. 9 (4) of the General Regulation which assumes coordination between assistance from funds (the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development and the European Fisheries Fund), interventions of the European Investment Bank and other existing financial instruments, the OPE implementation process is complementary to the Rural Development Programme of the SR 2007–2013 and the OP Fisheries.

## **2.7. Monitoring and evaluation**

### **2.7.1. Monitoring**

Monitoring is carried out at two levels – at project level and at programme level.

#### Monitoring at project level

The monitoring at project level is carried out throughout the term of the Grant Contract, including monitoring of maintaining the purpose of the contribution to the project using physical and financial project result indicators. Measurable result and impact indicators at project level are used to monitor projects in line with the Grant Contract. The aim of the monitoring of projects during their implementation is to consistently and regularly monitor the progress (state) of execution of project activities and of the fulfilment of other beneficiaries' obligations under the Grant Contract. The aim of the monitoring of projects after their completion (during five years after the completion of project implementation) is to monitor beneficiaries' compliance with their obligations related to the sustainability of projects and fulfilment of other beneficiaries' obligations under the Grant Contract. The project is monitored by means of assessment of data contained in beneficiaries' project monitoring reports (interim, final and follow-up monitoring reports) and analysis of findings of on-site project controls, including data entered in the ITMS.

#### Monitoring at programme level

The monitoring at programme level aims to follow the achievement of OPE objectives and progress using measurable indicators. The indicators represent the basic tool for progress monitoring and serve to assess the economic aspects, effectiveness and efficiency of the use of funds allocated to the OPE, priority axis and measure.

Under Art. 67 of the General Regulation, the MA is due to submit to the EC annual implementation reports on the OPE by 30 June of each year for the previous calendar year. The MA is responsible for the collection and aggregation of necessary data and information at the level of projects, measures and priority axes, and reference documents for the AIR are also provided by the IBs MA in the form of half-year monitoring reports of the relevant period.

The OPE AIR for the period January – December 2012 was approved by the EC on 11 December 2013. All OPE AIRs approved so far are published on the MA website <http://www.minedu.sk/1495-sk/vyrocné-spravy/> in Slovak and English language.

#### **2.7.1.1. Monitoring Committee for the OPE**

##### **7<sup>th</sup> Regular Meeting of the Monitoring Committee for the OPE**

On 18 June 2013, the 7th regular meeting of the Monitoring Committee for the OPE (OPE MC) was held in Bratislava with the participation of EC representatives.

The OPE MC discussed and approved Amendment No. 2 to the OPE MC Rules of Procedure (amending Art. 11, par. 1 of the OPE MC to change the limitation to the committee's quorum where over a half of the committee members is represented by other persons), minutes from the 6th regular

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meeting of the OPE MC of 26 June 2012, and the Annual Implementation Report on the OPE for the period January – December 2012.

The members of the OPE MC took note of the updated OPE Programme Manual of 08 October 2012, reports on the implementation of recommendations from the strategic and regular evaluation of the OPE *Evaluation of the progress of implementation of the Operational Programme Education with regard to their relevance and fulfilment of operational programme's objectives* and *Regular evaluation of the Operational Programme Education*, as well as the report on the evaluation of calls for grant applications.

The OPE MC members were subsequently informed about the progress made in OPE implementation. The representatives of the MA, IBMA and MoF SR – CA presented information about the state of contracting and use of funds from 2008 until the present and about automatic decommitment of 2009, and presented measures adopted to accelerate the OPE implementation. In the discussion, the participants highlighted the negative impacts of advance payments and the need to transfer greater responsibility to beneficiaries. The agenda also included presentation of examples of the implementation of selected national projects (State Institute of Vocational Education and the Methodology and Pedagogy Centre), and last but not least, information about the preparation of the new programming period 2014–2020 both from the MA's and EC's perspective. For more details see <http://www.minedu.sk/vii-riadne-zasadnutie-monitorovacieho-vyboru-pre-operacny-program-vzdelavanie/>.

### **3rd informal meeting of the Monitoring Committee for the OPE**

On 16 April 2013, the 3rd informal meeting of the OPE MC was held with the participation of EC representatives.

The programme of the meeting was divided into two parts. The first part dealt with the evaluation of the current programming period 2007–2013, presenting the physical and financial progress, including problem issues of the OPE implementation, information about the state of fulfilment of the N+2/N+3 commitment, and adopted measures. The OPE MC members were provided with information about newly contracted national projects *Developing secondary vocational education*, *Inclusive model of education at pre-primary level of school preparation*, *Increasing the quality of education at elementary and secondary schools using electronic testing*, *Further education and counselling to adults as a tool for better placement on the labour market*, as well as two examples of good practice. *Let's innovate to preserve and help* (Secondary Medical School in Banská Bystrica) and *Staffing the healthcare system with qualified experts* (Trečín Self-Governing Region).

The second part of the meeting dealt with the preparation of the new programming period 2014–2020, presenting information on on-going negotiations, current state of legislative regulations, and preparation of the Operational Programme Human Resources in the field of education on and of the Partnership Agreement. For more details see <http://www.minedu.sk/iii-neformalne-zasadnutie-monitorovacieho-vyboru-pre-operacny-program-vzdelavanie/>.

#### **2.7.1.2. Annual meeting on the OPE**

The annual meeting on the OPE agenda for 2013 was held in Bratislava on 05 December 2013. The participants to the meeting were informed about the current programming period 2007–2013 and about the new programming period 2014–2020 under preparation.

With regard to the current programming period 2007–2013, a MA representative informed about the development of contracting and use of OPE funds during 2008–2013 and about the current state of contracting and use of funds by priority axis, including application of the rule N+2/N+3. The participants were also informed about the progress of OPE implementation in terms of contents, and about the EC audit, its conclusions and actions adopted by the MA to remedy shortcomings. A CA representative presented the amount of used EU and state budget funds under the OPE as of 30 November 2013, and informed about the amount of expenditure to be reported to the Commission with respect to the application of the N+3/N+2 rule, about system irregularities with financial impacts, and about the EC Audit No. 2013-1595, its findings and results.



In connection with the new programming period 2014–2020, the participants were provided with information about the progress of implementation of some national and demand-driven projects that the MA intends to follow up in the next programming period. The State Institute of Vocational Education (SIVE) presented to the audience two newly contracted projects. The presentations informed about the results achieved and about the outputs of each activity, expected outputs and results, and about the impacts of projects on the education system. The Secondary School of Construction and Geodesy in Košice was presented as an example of a demand-driven project aimed to implement a joint programme with employers and companies in the field of geodesy and construction and with higher education institutions of the respective focus. Under project activities, pupils attend practical exercises, technical excursions and lectures on experience in the field of geodesy, cartography, cadastre and building.

#### **2.7.1.3. Use of the ITMS**

Access to the ITMS system in 2013 for the new programming period 2007–2013 was provided to the MA, IBMA MoH SR and IBMA ASFEU, and no technical problem preventing its regular use was recorded in this period.

During the reference period, the ITMS II system was in operation, containing functionalities for communication with the EC, detailed definition of the OP, setting of processes and roles, planning, definition of calls, receipt of grant applications through the public part of the monitoring system, evaluation of grant applications, project contracting, financial management of projects, i.e. receipt and processing of requests for payment and summary requests for payment, as well as control and audit functionalities.

During the reference period, the ITMS Department published on the ITMS homepage information about the validity of the new Manual on ITMS Access Rights. The Manual entered into force in January 2013. In April 2013, the website also published the new contact information of the ITMS Department staff in connection with the shift of the CCA to the Government Office of the SR as of 01 April 2013. In addition to contact information, the new address for sending queries for ITMS support to ITMS administrators was also published.

Guidelines on the control of access to the SFC2007 in the SR, release of build 2.16.2 ITMS, and an overview of new ITMS functionalities of 03 July 2013 were also published, as well as joint guidelines of the CCA and CA on the filling in of the RfP forms and of the administrative and financial irregularities, and a guideline on the conversion of beneficiaries' accounts to IBAN format.

During the last quarter-year of 2013, the new contact information of ITMS Department staff was published in connection with the change of contact persons at the Government Office of the SR as of 09 October 2013. The contact information was accompanied with an address for sending queries for ITMS support to administrators. During the reference period, no technical problems with the ITMS preventing regular use of the system were encountered.

#### **2.7.1.4. Joint Road Map**

In the reference period, the MA for the OPE updated the monitoring chart of the Joint Road Map for 2013 on a quarterly basis. The direct relation between the Joint Road Map and the OPE is only a marginal one. The MA for the OPE updated parts of the Joint Road Map related to OPE evaluation, support for MRCs, and preparation of the programming period 2014–2020 (information on conducted analyses in the field of education needed for the preparation of the OP Human Resources 2014–2020, the state of preparation of the OP HR 2014–2020 concerning education, etc.).

#### **2.7.2. Evaluation**

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From 01 January 2013 to 31 December 2013, the MA did not make any evaluation. In 2013, the MA worked on the definition of evaluation questions for the planned thematic *Evaluation of the implementation of projects focused on members of marginalised Roma communities*. In line with the OPE Evaluation Plan 2013, the MA planned to start the evaluation in 2013, but its implementation was shifted to 2014 due to the fact that most data needed for the evaluation will be available in 2014. The implementation of projects under Measure 3.1, both demand-driven projects and national projects, was fully launched mainly in the period 2012–2013, bringing gradual achievement of the set objectives. The MA seeks to evaluate the projects in as late stage of implementation as possible so that the picture of OPE results achieved with respect to the improvement of the education level of MRC members is comprehensive and realistic.

Table 18: Evaluations made during the reference period

Name of evaluation	Amount (incl. VAT) in EUR	Period of evaluation	Type of evaluation
n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Short description of the evaluation findings: n/a			
Conclusions of evaluation: n/a			
Proposed recommendations: n/a			
Measures adopted by the MA: n/a			
Implementation of the evaluation conclusions: n/a			

*Preparation of the programming period 2014–2020*

The MA for the OPE as the future IB MA for the OP Human Resources 2014–2020 (“OP HR”) cooperates with the MoLSAF SR as the Managing Authority for this OP in the preparation of the OP HR. During the reference period, the MA for the OPE prepared, in cooperation with the respective sections of the MoESRS SR, an analysis of education in Slovakia for the purposes of preparing the OP HR. This analysis also served as a background document for the preparation of the strategic part of the OP and of the Education priority axis.

*Ex-ante evaluation of the OP HR 2014–2020:*

The MoLSAF SR is responsible for executing the ex-ante evaluation of the OP HR. The ex-ante evaluation is carried out by the company IBS SLOVAKIA, s.r.o. on the basis of public procurement result. The contract with the ex-ante evaluator entered into effect on 22 August 2013. The aim of the ex-ante evaluation of the OP HR is to check whether the intervention logics is clearly and comprehensibly defined in the OP HR, and whether the OP HR can demonstrate its contribution to the Europe 2020 strategy. The ex-ante evaluation is also expected to help setting up and introducing a functioning monitoring system meeting all requirements for evaluation under the draft General Regulation. The assessment of the appropriateness of financial allocations per priority axes and investment priorities constitutes an important part of the ex-ante evaluation.

The MoESRS SR as the future IBMA for the Education priority axis provides full concurrence to the ex-ante evaluator both by sending relevant documents and through personal meetings.

IBS SLOVAKIA, s. r. o. submitted the first report on the OP HR ex-ante evaluation on 30 September 2013. The conclusions of this report were incorporated in the OP HR.

## **2.8. National performance reserve**

Not applicable.

## **2.9. Administrative capacities**

### **MA for the OPE**

As for administrative capacities, the MoESRS SR being the Managing Authority (MA) for the implementation of the OPE for the programming period 2007–2013 employed 77 employees in total

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out of the initially planned number of **81** as of 31 December 2013, which represents **95%** of the planned administrative capacities staffing for 2013.

On 20 January 2013, Minister's Order No. 2/2013 entered into effect, changing the Organisational Order and organisation structure of the MoESRS SR. This Order cancelled the Department of Projects Implementation and Control, the Department of Coordination of Public Procurements from EU Funds and the Department of Concepts, Prognoses, Strategies and Planning of the Section of EU Structural Funds, and created a new Department for the Implementation of the Operational Programme Education and Operational Programme Research and Development, the Department of SF Analyses and Methodologies, the Department for Assessment of Irregularities, and the Department of Coordination of Public Procurements from EU Funds.

Minister's Order No. 8/2013 which entered into effect on 14 February 2013 changed the organisation structure and the Organisational Order of the Section for EU Structural Funds of the MoSRS SR, cancelling the Department for the Implementation of the Operational Programme Education and Operational Programme Research and Development, and the Department for Assessment of Irregularities, and created a new Department for the Implementation of the Operational Programme Education, Department for the Implementation of the Operational Programme Research and Development, and a Department for the Assessment of Public Procurements and Irregularities.

Minister's Order No. 33/2013 which entered into effect on 15 May 2013 modified the Organisational Order and organisational structure of the MoESRS SR, cancelling the Department of SF Analyses and Methodologies and the Department of Project Financing of the Section of EU Structural Funds, and creating a new Department of Analyses, Methodologies and Coordination of Audits, Department of Technical Assistance, and Department of Project Payments.

During the reference period, the MA for the OPE enabled its staff to participate at educational activities aimed to increase their professional qualifications. The staff of the MA for the OPE participated at the training activities organised by the CCA, MoESRS SR, the MoF SR, etc., having deepened their knowledge needed for the implementation of the OPE.

The MA for the OPE identifies the need for training activities on an annual basis, and delivers its proposals for the staff training plan to the HR Department of the MoESRS SR. The MA for the OPE is willing to provide its employees with the possibility to attend courses and training activities also in 2014, thus supporting their further education and qualification growth.

In 2013, a total of **33** training activities were held, having trained **117** employees. The training activities with the highest participation rate are provided in Table 19.

Table 19: Overview of training courses for OPE MA staff

Training	Number of participants from the OPE MA (including PU)
New solutions to the problematic provisions of the Act on Public Procurement after the recent amendments – new decisions, methodological guidelines and interpreting opinions of the Public Procurement Authority	8
EXCEL computer skills	32
Amendments to Act No. 25/2006 Coll. on Public Procurement	10
Provision of state aid through EU funds, System of SF and CF management in the programming period 2007–2013, and practical application of Act No. 528/2008 Coll. on Assistance and Support from EU Funds	3
Experience in EC and EDA audits in the programming period 2007–2013	4
System of SF and CF management in the programming period 2007–2013 practical application of Act No. 528/2008 Coll. on Assistance and Support from EU Funds	4
SAP training	5
VAT fraud mechanisms and detection of frauds during tax controls in connection	4

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with the protection of EU's financial interests	
System of SF and CF management 2007–2013: administrative control of public procurement, most common findings, changes in the system, CCA methodological instructions	4
System of Financial Management of SFs and of the CF and preparation of the system of financial management of European Structural and investment Funds 2014–2020	4

Source: MA

Administrative capacities of the MA for the OPE

Table 20: Administrative capacities of the MA for the OPE

Position	Staffing as of 31/12/2012	Planned staffing as of 31/12/2013	Staffing as of 31/12/2013	% of planned staffing	Hiring need
A	B	C	D	E=D/C	F
Director General	1*	1	1	100	0
Department Director	5*	5	5*	100	0
Head of Unit	0	0	0	0	0
Assistant of Department/Section	3*	3	3*	100	0
Programming Manager	2	2	2	100	0
Evaluation Manager	1	1	1	100	0
Monitoring Manager	3	2	2	100	0
Information and Publicity Manager	1	1	1	100	0
Control Manager	0	0	0	0	0
ITMS Manager	0	0	0	0	0
Finance Manager	57*	14	14**	100	0
Project Manager	12*	50	46**	91,8	4
Technical Assistance Manager	1*	2	2*	100	0
Other	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>86</b>	<b>81</b>	<b>77</b>	<b>95</b>	<b>4</b>

\* Employees participate by certain % ratio both in the OPE and the OP R&D.

\*\*The decrease in the number of FMs and the increase in the number of PMs relates to the modification of their job description.

Source: MA

Table 21: Administrative capacities of the PU MA for the OPE

Position*	Staffing as of 31/12/2013	Planned staffing as of 31/12/2013	Staffing as of 31/12/2013	% of planned staffing	Hiring need
A	B	C	D	E=D/C	F
Director General	0	0	0	0	0
Department Director	1	1	1	100	0
Head of Unit	0	0	0	0	0
Assistant of Department/Section	0	0	0	0	0
Financial Certifier	7	6	6	100	0
Financial Manager	7	7	7	100	0
Financial Accountant	2	3	3	100	0
Other (Manager for Irregularities, Budget Manager)	5	5	5	100	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>100 %</b>	<b>0</b>

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Source: PU

### IBMA ASFEU

As of 31 December 2013, the IBMA ASFEU employed, with respect to administrative capacities, 106 employees in total who participated in the implementation of the OPE out of the planned number of 111, which represents **95%** of the planned administrative staffing for 2013.

### Administrative capacities of the IBMA ASFEU

Table 22: Administrative capacities of the IBMA ASFEU

Position	Staffing as of 31/12/2012	Planned staffing as of 31/12/2013	Staffing as of 31/12/2013	% of planned staffing	Hiring need
A	B	C	D	E=D/C	F
Director General	1	1	1	100	0
Department Director	1*	1	1*	100	0
Head of Unit	5**	5	4**	80	1
Assistant of Department/Section	0	0	0	0	0
Programming Manager	0	0	0	0	0
Monitoring *** and Evaluation Manager	1	2	1	50	1
Information and Publicity Manager	2	2	2	100	0
Control Manager	0	0	0	0	0
Financial Manager	0	0	0	0	0
Project Manager	76	76	73	96	3
ITMS Manager	0	0	0	100	0
Technical Assistance Manager	1*	1	1*	100	0
Other (director of section, head of department, administration manager, PR manager*, manager of the administration of requests for payment, methodologist for public procurement***, methodologist for project management, methodologist for financial management, lawyer*, head of the director general's office****, director of the economy department *****)	19	23	23	100	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>106</b>	<b>111</b>	<b>106</b>	<b>95</b>	<b>5</b>

\* The employee also performs OP R&D tasks in equal proportion.

\*\* One of the employees also performs OP R&D tasks in equal proportion.

\*\*\* The name of the position is Monitoring Manager according to the ASFEU organisational rules.

\*\*\*\* ASFEU staff with respective competences.

Source: IBMA ASFEU

The OPE staff continuously participated at educational programmes, seminars and training activities. The training activities were also ensured in cooperation with the MoESRS SR, the CCA, the MoF SR and the Public Procurement Authority. The training focused on the update, improvement and enhancement of the knowledge, competences and skills needed for carrying out the activities related to the OPE implementation.

The training activities were mainly attended by new staff and managers with regard to changes in the managing documentation (SF and CF Financial Management System for the Programming Period 2007–2013) and legislation (changes in Act No. 25/2006 Coll. on Public Procurement).

Regarding staff training, the ASFEU plans to continue enhancing and improving the training of staff in line with the ASFEU Staff Training Concept 2014 and the ASFEU Staff Training Plan 2014.

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Table 23: Overview of training courses for IBMA ASFEU staff

Training	Number of participants
Presentation skills	1
Project management – beginner	4
Financial management – beginner	2
Application of state aid in EU funds, System of Structural Funds and Cohesion Fund Management in the Programming Period 2007–2013, and Act No. 528/2008 Coll. on assistance and support from EU funds in practice	2
Training on personal data protection	9
Training – Labour Code, Public Procurement	72
<b>Total:</b>	<b>90</b>

Source: IBMA ASFEU

### IBMA MoH SR

As of 31 December 2013, the IBMA MoH employed, with respect to administrative capacities, 26 employees in total out of the planned number of 29, which represents **90%** of the planned administrative staffing for 2013.

Table 24: Administrative capacities of the MoH IBMA

Position	Staffing as of 31/12/2012	Planned staffing as of 31/12/2013	Staffing as of 31/12/2013	% of planned staffing	Hiring need
A	B	C	D	E=D/C	F
Director General	1	1	1	100	0
Department Director	4	4	4	100	0
Head of Unit	4	4	4	100	0
Assistant of Department/Section	4	4	4	100	0
Programming and Evaluation Manager	1	1	1	100	0
Monitoring Manager	1	1	1	100	0
Information and Publicity Manager	1	1	1	100	0
Control Manager	1	1	0	100	0
Programming and ITMS Manager	1	1	1	100	0
Financial Manager	0	0	0	0	0
Project Manager	6	10	7	70	3
Technical Assistance	1	1	1	100	0
Other	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>89.65</b>	<b>3</b>

Source: IBMA MoH SR

Table 25: Administrative capacities of MoH SR PU

Position	Staffing as of 31/12/2012	Planned staffing as of 31/12/2013	Staffing as of 31/12/2013	% of planned staffing	Hiring need
A	B	C	D	E=D/C	F
Director General	0	0	0	0	0
Department Director	1	1	1	100	0
Head of Unit	0	0	0	0	0
Assistant of Department/Section	0	0	0	0	0
Financial Certifier	3	4	3	75	1

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Financial Manager	2	2	2	100	0
Financial Accountant	2	2	2	100	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>88,88</b>	<b>1</b>

Source: MoH SR IBMA

In the framework of staff training and improvement of their qualifications, the employees of the IBMA MoH SR and IBMA MoH SR Paying Unit who were involved in the OPE implementation attended training activities organised by the EC, the CCA, the IBMA, the MoF SR and the GO SR during the reference period with the aim to update, improve and deepen their knowledge, abilities and skills needed for the implementation of activities related to the OPE implementation.

Table 26: Overview of training courses for MoH SR IBMA staff

Training	Number o participants
Irregularities in SFs and CF within the SR	2
Financial management	1
Amendment to Act No. 95/2013 on Public Procurement	1
Mutual set-off of claims and liabilities	1
SFs and CF Financial Management System 2007–2013 and preparation of the ESIF financial management system 2014–2020	1
SFs and CF Financial Management System 2007–2013 and preparation for the programming period 2014–2020	2
National Criminal Agency of the PFP and protection of EU's financial interests	1
ITMS training – financial management (beginners)	1
Consultation course for SP clients	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>11</b>

Source: MoH IBMA

Comparison of administrative capacities with the staffing in 2012

Table 27: Comparison with staffing in 2012

	Planned staffing as of 31/12/2012	Staffing as of 31/12/2012	% of the planned staffing	Planned staffing as of 31/12/2013	Staffing as of 31/12/2013	% of the planned staffing
A	B	C	D=C/B	E	F	G=F/E
MA	102	92**	90	81	77**	95
IBMA ASFEU	108	103**	95	108	103**	95
IBMA MoH SR	27	27	100	29	26	89.6
PU	22	22	100	22	22	100
PU (MoH SR)	8	8	100	9	8	88.88
<b>Total</b>	<b>268</b>	<b>253</b>	<b>94,40</b>	<b>249</b>	<b>236</b>	<b>94.77</b>

Source: MA, IBMA, PU

\* Planned number of employees of MA for OPE.

\*\* Employees participating by a certain % ratio both in OPE and OP R&D.

Fluctuation of administrative capacities

Table 28: Fluctuation of administrative capacities

Authority	From 01/01 to 31/12/2013	From 01/01 to 31/12/2013
	Number of terminations*	Number of commencements*

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MA	14/1	10/4
IBMA ASFEU	9/0	9/0
IBMA MoH SR	5/1	5/0
PU	3/2	3/0
PU (MoH SR)	0/0	1/0
<b>Total</b>	<b>31/4</b>	<b>28/4</b>

\* The number of changed positions within state administration in the field of EU funds is indicated after the slash.

Source: MA, IBMA, PU

### 3. IMPLEMENTATION BY PRIORITY AXIS

#### 3.1. Priority Axis 1

##### 3.1.1 Achievement of targets and analysis of the progress made

More details on the achievement of objectives and a detailed analysis of the progress made under Priority Axis 1 which focuses on the reform of education at elementary and secondary schools and on the improvement of quality of higher education are provided in sub-chapters 3.1.1.1 of 3.1.1.3 of this report.

##### 3.1.1.1 Physical progress of Priority Axis 1

Table 29: State of the publishing of calls under Priority Axis 1 from 01 January to 31 December 2013

Measure	Type of call	Date of publishing of call	Closing date for submission of grant applications	Allocation of funds per call (NFC) in EUR
1.1	Time-limited, written invitation for national project	21/01/2013	25/03/2013	26,000,000.00
1.1	Time-limited, written invitation for national project	21/01/2013	25/03/2013	44,000,000.00
1.1	Time-limited, written invitation for national project	01/03/2013	03/05/2013	20,000,000.00
1.2	Time-limited, written invitation for national project	28/02/2013	30/04/2013	21,600,000.00
1.2	Time-limited, demand-driven projects	18/03/2013	20/05/2013	7,000,000.00
<b>Total per Priority Axis 1</b>				<b>118,600,000.00</b>

Source: MA

During the reference period, five calls were published under Priority Axis 1: three written invitations for national projects under Measure 1.1, one written invitation for a national project under Measure 1.2, and one time-limited call for demand-driven projects at a total allocation of **EUR 118,600,000.00**.

#### MA for the OPE

During the reference period, the MA for the OPE published four written calls for grant applications under Priority Axis 1.

1. On 21 January 2013, written invitation no. OPE/K/RKZ/NP/2013-3 *Increasing the quality of education at elementary and secondary schools using electronic testing* was published with closure date of 25 March 2013. The funds allocation reached **EUR 26,000,000.00**.

The written invitation focused in improving the quality of education at elementary and secondary schools using electronic testing, innovations and implementation of the system of measurements at



school level and at national level under lower secondary (ISCED 2) and higher secondary education (ISCED 3) enabling to evaluate the quality of education, monitoring the progress of education at elementary and secondary schools, and influence strategic decisions in the field of education policies, and the introduction and use of a single electronic tool for the evaluation and monitoring of the quality of education under lower secondary and (ISCED 2) higher secondary education (ISCED 3). The National Institute for Certified Measurements in Education was the eligible applicant. For more information on the written invitation refer to <http://www.minedu.sk/21012013-pisomne-vyzvanie-%E2%80%93-narodny-projekt-c-opvkrkznp2013-3-zvysovanie-kvality-vzdelavania-na-zakladnych-a-strednych-skolach-s-vyuzitim-elektronickeho-testovania/>.

One grant application for EUR 25,972,463.34 was submitted. After the evaluation and approval process, the grant application was approved on 01 March 2013 and contracted on 05 March 2013 in a total amount of **EUR 25,654,789.62**. For more details on the national project see Table 40.

2. On 21 January 2013, written invitation no. OPV/K/NP/2013-4 ***Developing secondary vocational education*** was published with closure date of 25 March 2013. The funds allocation totalled **EUR 44,000,000.00**.

The written invitation focused on improving the quality of vocational education at secondary vocational schools in selected categories of vocational study fields, and on overall improvement of the quality of vocational education and training in all specialisation categories, with a focus on building links between vocational education and training and employers' needs, improving the quality and preparedness of future graduates from SVS in connection with their ability to get employment after completing their secondary vocational education, and cooperation between SVS and professional organisations. The State Institute of Vocational Education was the eligible applicant. For more details on the written invitations see <http://www.minedu.sk/21012013-pisomne-vyzvanie-%E2%80%93-narodny-projekt-c-opvknnp2013-4-rozvoj-stredneho-odborneho-vzdelavania/>.

One grant application of EUR 43,999,126.81 was submitted. After the evaluation and approval process, the grant application was approved on 13 March 2013 and contracted on 15 March 2013 for a total amount of **EUR 43,999,014.95**. For more details on the national project see Table 41.

3. On 28 February 2013, written invitation No. OPV/K/ NP/2013-5 ***Higher education institutions as a driving force of the knowledge-based society*** was published with closure date of 30 April 2013. The funds allocation totalled **EUR 21,600,000.00**.

The written invitation concerned adaptation of higher education to the needs of a knowledge-based society via development of innovative forms of education, development of active cooperation between higher education institutions and the private sector in the creation of new study fields and programmes, rationalisation and improvement of existing higher education study fields and programmes, the learning process and increased engagement of higher education institutions in international cooperation. The Institute of Information and Prognoses in Education was the eligible applicant. For more details on the written invitation see <http://www.minedu.sk/28022013-pisomne-vyzvanie-%E2%80%93-narodny-projekt-vysoke-skoly-ako-motory-rozvoja-vedomostnej-spolocnosti/>.

One grant application of EUR 17,189,600.61 was submitted. After the evaluation and approval process, the grant application was approved on 23 May 2013 and contracted on 28 May 2013 in a total amount of **EUR 17,072,300.09**. For more details on the national project see Table 43.

4. On 01 March 2013, written invitation No. OPV/K/ NP/2013-6 ***Supporting the career guidance of elementary school pupils with a focus on vocational education and training through the development of polytechnic education enhancing labour skills and work with talented youth*** was published with closure date of 03 May 2013. The funds allocation totalled **EUR 20,000,000.00**.

The written invitation focused on supporting the career guidance of elementary school pupils with a focus on vocational education and training by developing polytechnic education enhancing labour skills and work with talented youth at elementary schools. The national project will address the current and prospective needs of a knowledge-based society and the preparation of elementary school pupils as a future productive generation for the performance of qualified work in the economy, on the verification of the plan to reform polytechnic education at elementary schools using innovated forms and methods of teaching, and on supporting the development of work with talented youth at elementary school. The State Institute of Vocational Education is the eligible applicant for this project. For more details on the written invitation see <http://www.minedu.sk/01032013-pisomne-vyzvanie-%E2%80%93-narodny-projekt-podpora-profesijnej-orientacie-ziakov-zakladnej-skoly-na-odborne-vzdelavanie-a-pripravu-prostrednictvom-rozvoja-polytechnickej-vychovy-zameranej-na-rozvoj-pracovnych-zrucnosti-a-praca-s-talentami/>.

One grant application of EUR 19,999,971.92 was submitted. After the evaluation and approval process, the grant application was approved on 04 April 2013 and contracted on 08 April 2013 in a total amount of **EUR 19,922,846.31**. For more details on the national project see Table 44.

In 2013, the process of approval of received grant applications for national projects on the basis of written invitations published at the end of 2012 continued.

Written invitation **OPV/K/NP/2012-6** *Developing secondary vocational education* was published on 02 October 2012 with closure date of 03 December 2012 (for more details on the written invitation see the OPE AIR 2012). One grant application for an amount of EUR 43,998,768.76 was submitted. The application was withdrawn by the beneficiary during the approval process on 21 February 2013. The written invitation was re-launched on 21 January 2013 under No. OPV/K/NP/2013-4.

Written invitation **OPV/K/NP/2012-9** *Modern education – digital education for general subjects* was published on 16 October 2012 with closure date of 17 December 2012 (for more details on the written invitation see OPE AIR 2012). One grant application for EUR 27,388,014.01 was submitted. After the evaluation and approval process, the grant application was approved on 07 March 2013 and contracted on 13 March 2013 at a total amount of **EUR 26,980,236.00**. For more details on the national project see Table 39.

Written invitation **OPV/K/RKZ/NP/2012-10** *Increasing the quality of education at elementary and secondary schools using electronic testing* was published on 26 October 2012 with closure date of 27 December 2012 (for more details on the written invitation see OPE AIR 2012). One grant application for EUR 25,942,400.31 was submitted. After the evaluation and approval process, the grant application was approved on 28 January 2013. The application was withdrawn by the beneficiary during the approval process on 28 January 2013. The written invitation was re-launched on 21 January 2013 under no. OPV/K/RKZ/NP/2013-3.

## **IBMA ASFEU**

During the reference period, the IBMA ASFEU published one call for grant applications for demand-driven projects under Priority Axis 1.

On 18 March 2013, call no. OPV-2013/1.2/07-SORO for grant applications was published under Measure 1.2 *Promoting the quality of higher education institutions*, with closure date of 20 May 2013. The amount of assistance represented **EUR 7,000,000.00**.

The call was designed for state, public and private higher education institutions and focused on supporting the development of human resources in research and development, and international cooperation between HIEs, R&D organisations and the private sector at national and international

levels. For more details on the call see <http://www.asfeu.sk/operacny-program-vzdelavanie/archiv/vyzvy/opv-20131207-SORO/>.

Four grant applications in a total requested amount of EUR 5,803,276.78 were received. The process of approval of grant applications was conducted during the reference period, having approved four grant applications in a total amount of approved contribution of EUR 5,244,034.54 as of 31 December 2013, and contracted one project in an amount of EUR 2,432,837.52. Since the contracting process was not conducted during the reference period, details on the contracting of approved projects and on their implementation will be provided in the AIR 2014.

In 2013, the process of approval of grant applications for demand-driven projects under calls launched in the 2nd half of 2012 continued.

#### **OPV-2012/1.1/08-SORO**

The call for grant applications under the title *Modern Secondary School* under Measure 1.1 was published on 30 November 2012, with closure date of 04 March 2013 (for more details on the call see OPE AIR 2012). 302 grant applications were received under the call in a total amount of requested contribution of EUR 88,840,280.22. The process of evaluation and approval of grant applications was conducted during the reference period, having approved 14 grant applications in a total amount of approved contribution of EUR 3,598,375.40 as of 31 December 2013 (the process continued in 2014). Since the contracting process was not carried out during the reference period, more details on the contracting of approved projects and on their implementation will be provided in the AIR 2014.

#### **OPV-2012/1.2/04-SORO**

The call for grant applications under the title *Supporting improved quality of higher education institutions* under Measure 1.2 was launched on 27 July 2012, with closure date of 15 October 2012 (for more details on the call see OPE AIR 2012). Five grant applications were received under the call in a total amount of requested contribution of EUR 8,737,176.63. The process of evaluation and approval of grant applications was conducted during the reference period, having approved four grant applications in a total amount of approved contribution of EUR 5,876,423.43 as of 31 December 2013. Four projects in an amount of EUR 5,980,253.63 were contracted.

#### **OPV-2012/1.2/05-SORO**

The call for grant applications under the title *Improving the quality of higher education institutions and Slovak Academy of Sciences* under Measure 1.2 was published on 15 October 2012, with closure date of 17 December 2012 (for more details on the call see OPE AIR 2012). 42 grant applications were received under the call for a total amount of requested contribution of EUR 51,901,796.91. The process of evaluation and approval of grant applications was conducted during the reference period, having approved 23 grant applications at a total amount of approved contribution of EUR 24,440,067.64 as of 31 December 2013. 23 projects were contracted in an amount of EUR 24,437,459.79.

#### **OPV-2012/1.2/06-SORO**

The call for grant applications under the title *Improving the teaching of Slovak language and literature at schools with the language of national minorities as the language of instruction using the method of foreign language teaching and improving the quality of education programmes of higher education institutions* under Measure 1.2 was launched on 31 October 2012, with closure date of 28 January 2013 (for more details on the call see OPE AIR 2012). Five grant applications were received under the call at a total amount of requested contribution of EUR 1,191,104.31. The process of evaluation and approval of grant applications was conducted during the reference period, having approved three grant applications at a total amount of approved contribution of EUR 652,594.29 as of 31 December 2013. Three projects were contracted at an amount of EUR 652,594.29.

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Tables 30 and 31 present more information on the monitoring of the progress of implementation under Priority Axis 3.

Table 30: Monitoring of the progress of implementation under Priority Axis 1 as of 31 December 2013

Measure	Number of received grant applications	Number of approved grant applications	Number of contracted projects	Number of projects completed regularly	Number of projects completed exceptionally
1.1	2,133	549	514	312	18
1.2	202	119	114	9	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,335</b>	<b>668</b>	<b>628</b>	<b>321</b>	<b>20</b>

Source: MA

Table 31: Financial progress of implementation under Priority Axis 1 as of 31 December 2013 (in EUR)

Measure	Allocation for EU+SB funds	Amount of requested contribution (NFC)	Amount of approved contribution (NFC)	Amount of contracted funds (NFC)	Value of projects completed regularly	Value of projects completed exceptionally
1.1	252,893,679.00	741,597,396.26	366,761,964.71	295,546,542.82	42,076,006.66	54,832,955.42
1.2	115,711,765.00	205,975,996.51	117,718,695.57	113,493,172.20	3,314,557.35	1,211,711.22
<b>Total</b>	<b>368,605,444.00</b>	<b>947,573,392.77</b>	<b>484,480,660.28</b>	<b>409,039,715.02</b>	<b>45,390,564.01</b>	<b>56,044,666.64</b>

Source: MA

As of 31 December 2013, a total of **34** calls were published under Priority Axis 1 with a total allocation of **EUR 754,912,849.07**. 26 calls were launched under Measure 1.1 (in a total amount of EUR 588,312,849.07), and eight calls under Measure 1.2 (in a total amount of EUR 166,600,000.00),

As of 31 December 2013, **2,335** grant applications were delivered under Priority Axis 1, where the total requested amount of contributions reached EUR **947,573,392.77**. Of this number, **668** grant applications were approved with a total contribution of EUR **484,480,660.28**, and **628** projects were contracted with a total amount of contracted funds from ESF, including co-financing from the state budget, of EUR **409,039,715.02** (this data does not cover exceptionally completed projects). Of all priority axes, Priority Axis 1 accounts for the highest number of regularly completed projects (321 projects) using NFCs in a total amount of EUR 45,390,564.01 EUR, as well as the highest number of exceptionally completed projects (20 projects) at the originally contracted NFC amount of EUR 56,044,666.64. The main reasons of beneficiaries to withdraw from contracts were personal changes in schools, wrongly planned budgets, increased amount of ineligible expenditure, problem with project staffing, incorrectly classified expenditure in project budgets, absence of external experts expected to participate in the project, etc.

During the reference period, 295 demand-driven projects were implemented under Priority Axis 1 with respect to 14 calls for demand-driven projects.

#### **- Under Measure 1.1**

1. *Creation and implementation of development programmes of secondary schools promoting the quality of education in line with the reform of the education system (OPV-2008/1.1/01-SORO) – 1 project;*
2. *Creation and implementation of development programmes of elementary schools promoting the quality of education in line with the reform of the education system (OPV-2008/1.1/02- SORO) – 2 projects;*
3. *Creation and implementation of school education programmes of elementary schools (OPV-2008/1.1/03- SORO) – 8 projects;*

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4. *Creation and implementation of school education programmes of secondary schools (OPV-2008/1.1/04- SORO) – 9 projects;*
5. *Creation and increasing the effectiveness of school education programmes of secondary vocational schools (OPV-2009/1.1/05- SORO) – 11 projects;*
6. *Innovating the content and methods of education for elementary schools (OPV-2011/1.1/06-SORO) – 110 projects;*
7. *Innovating the content and methods of education for secondary schools to meet labour market needs (OPV-2011/1.1/07-SORO) – 50 projects;*

**- Under Measure 1.2**

8. *Supporting innovative forms of education at higher education institutions and developing human resources in research and development (OPV-2009/1.2/01-SORO) – 30 projects;*
9. *Improving the quality of higher education institutions and of the Slovak Academy of Sciences (OPV-2010/1.2/02- SORO) – 23 projects;*
10. *Improving the quality of higher education institutions and of the Slovak Academy of Sciences (OPV-2011/1.2/03- SORO) – 20 projects;*
11. *Improving the quality of higher education institutions (OPV-2012/1.2/04- SORO) – 4 projects;*
12. *Improving the quality of higher education institutions and of the Slovak Academy of Sciences (OPV-2012/1.2/05- SORO) – 23 projects;*
13. *Improving the teaching of Slovak language and literature at schools with the language of national minorities as the language of instruction using the method of foreign language teaching and improving the quality of education programmes of higher education institutions (OPV-2011/1.2/06-SORO) – 3 projects;*
14. *Improving the quality of higher education institutions (OPV-2013/1.2/07- SORO) – 1 project.*

Twelve national projects were implemented in 2013. For more details see Tables 32 to 43. Annex 13 to the AIR provides an overall evaluation of national projects and their benefits to the area of education.

Table 32: State of implementation of the national project as of 31 December 2013

Project name:	<b>Foreign language training for elementary school teachers in the context of the Concept of foreign language teaching at elementary and secondary schools</b>
Measure:	1.1
Beneficiary:	National Institute of Education
Budget in EUR:	EUR 12,751,021.05
Project implementation period:	16/09/2008 - 31/03/2014
Basis in national/regional policy:	The basis for the national project is Act No. 245/2008 Coll. on Education (School Act) and on changes and amendments to some acts, and the Concept of Foreign Language Teaching at Elementary and Secondary Schools, approved by Government Resolution No. 767/2007 on 12 September 2007.
Project objective:	<p>The objective of the project is to achieve, in a long-term planning horizon, a 100% share of qualified foreign language teachers at the 1st school grade for the target group of students of younger school age, innovate the content and methods, and increase the quality of education outputs meeting labour market needs in a knowledge-based society.</p> <p>The specific project objective is supplementary foreign language training at B2 SERR level for qualified teachers at 1st grade of elementary schools and training on the pedagogical and psychological bases of foreign language teaching for the target group of pupils of younger school age, and extension training on the pedagogical and psychological bases and didactics for foreign language teaching of the target group of pupils of younger school age for foreign language teachers with 2nd level university education specialised in foreign languages and working at 2nd grade of elementary schools.</p>
Target groups:	<p>1st grade teachers of elementary schools (employed qualified 1st grade teachers of elementary schools without qualification to teach a foreign language).</p> <p>2nd grade teachers of elementary schools (employed 2nd grade teachers of elementary schools qualified to teach a foreign language as a general education subject/academic subject, interested in extending their qualification with pedagogical and psychological elements and didactics of foreign language teaching at 1st grade of elementary schools).</p>

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Activities implemented:	<p>The Grant Contract was signed on 16 September 2008.</p> <p>The Beneficiary submitted a notice about the start of implementation of project activities which were launched in September 2008.</p> <p>The following activities were implemented in 2013:</p> <p><b>1.1 Supplementary foreign language training for qualified teachers of the 1st grade of elementary schools of A2 SERR level to obtain B2 SERR level</b></p> <p><b>1.2 Supplementary foreign language training for qualified teachers of the 1st grade of elementary schools of A2 SERR level to obtain B2 SERR level</b></p> <p><b>1.3 Supplementary specialised foreign language training for qualified teachers of the 1st grade of elementary schools</b></p> <p><b>1.4 Development and accreditation of a study programme for supplementary training for the target group of teachers</b></p> <p><b>2.1 Extension study of the pedagogical and psychological bases of foreign language teaching for teachers of the 2nd grade of elementary schools</b></p> <p><b>2.2 Extension study of the didactics of foreign language teaching for teachers of the 2nd grade of elementary schools</b></p> <p><b>2.3 Development and accreditation of a study programme for extension study for the target group of teachers</b></p>
Financial implementation/cumulative absorption of funds in EUR from the start of the programming period	EUR 9,442,643.05
Cumulative performance of indicators from the start of the programming period	<p><u>Result indicators (planned/actual):</u></p> <p>Number of schools involved in the implementation of project activities – 1,950/1,842</p> <p>Number of employees involved in mobility programmes – 160/431</p> <p>Number of employees involved in the project's education activities – 4,500/5,020</p> <p>Number of newly created/innovated education and study programmes – 3/3</p>
Contribution to HP:	-
Project website:	<a href="http://www.educj.sk">www.educj.sk</a>

Source: MA

Table 33: State of implementation of the national project as of 31 December 2013

Project name:	Modernisation of the education process at elementary schools
Measure	1.1
Beneficiary:	Slovak Centre for Scientific and Technical Information of the SR*
Budget in EUR:	EUR 32,395,334.86
Project implementation period:	01 December 2008 – 30 November 2013
Basis in national/regional policy:	Act No. 245/2008 Coll. on Education as amended
Project aims:	The projects aims to prepare teachers for an active implementation of the school reform – adaptation of the education system to the needs of a knowledge-based society.
Target groups:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Teachers of grade 1 of elementary schools</li> <li>- Teachers of grade 2 of elementary schools</li> </ul>
Activities implemented:	<p>The Grant Contract was signed on 01 December 2008.</p> <p>The Beneficiary submitted a notice about the start of implementation of project activities; the project activities were launched with project publicity activities on 01 December 2008.</p> <p>The following activities were implemented in 2013:</p> <p><b>1.1. Multimedia and digital content of teachers' training towards the modernisation of education;</b></p> <p><b>1.2. Development of textbooks and teaching aids for teachers towards the modernisation of education;</b></p> <p><b>2.1. Training for teachers on the modernisation of the education process using ICT.</b></p> <p>The Beneficiary submitted a notice on the completion of the project activities; the project activities ended on 30 November 2013.</p>
Financial implementation/cumulative absorption of funds in EUR from the start of the programming period	EUR 19,250,938.24
Cumulative performance of	<u>Result indicators (planned/actual):</u>

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indicators from the start of the programming period	Number of newly created education programmes – 10/10 Number of schools involved in the implementation of project activities – 1,960/2,034 Number of training courses for teaching staff – 306/392 Number of employees involved in educational project activities – 3,670/4,669 Number of newly created/innovated education programmes using ICT in the teaching process – 10/10 Number of schools involved in the implementation of project activities using ICT in the teaching process – 1,960/2,032 Number of teaching staff involved in project activities using ICT in the teaching process – 3,670/5,205 Number of schools involved in the implementation of project activities with pupils from MRCs – 500/1,210
Contribution to HP	IS, SD, MRC
Project website	<a href="http://www.modernizaciavzdelavania.sk">www.modernizaciavzdelavania.sk</a>

\*Until 31 December 2013, the national project was implemented by the Institute of Information and Prognoses in Education of the SR; from 01 January 2014, the NFC Beneficiary changed due to the merge of organisations (IIPE and SCSTI), and the national project implementation was taken over by the Slovak Centre of Scientific and Technical Information in Bratislava.  
Source: MA

Table 34: State of implementation of the national project as of 31 December 2013

Project name:	Modernisation of the education process at secondary schools
Measure	1.1
Beneficiary:	Slovak Centre of Scientific and Technical Information*
Budget in EUR:	EUR 12,733,347.87
Project implementation period:	02 December 2008 – 30 November 2013
Basis in national/regional policy:	The national project was prepared concurrently with the draft Act on Education (School Act) and on changes and amendments to some acts, approved by Government Resolution No. 147/2008 of 05 March 2008. The national project aims to change the form of teaching at secondary schools, leading to the modernisation of the teaching process.
Project aims:	To redesign the education process at secondary school and to prepare school graduates, through innovated forms and methods of teaching, to meet the current and prospective needs of a knowledge-based society and for subsequent education within the higher education system and further education; To prepare teachers for an active implementation of the school reform – adapting the education system to meet the needs of the knowledge-based society; To innovate and modernise the content, methods and outputs of the teaching process to meet the new labour skills in Modern Schools of the 21st century; To increase the share of teachers participating in further education programmes in order to acquire and develop their competences needed in the knowledge-based society.
Target groups:	Secondary school teachers Secondary school pupils
Activities implemented:	The Grant Contract was signed on 02 December 2008. The Beneficiary submitted the notice about the project start and the notice about the launch of the first activity on 02 December 2008.  The following activities were implemented in 2013: <b>Activity 1.1 Multimedia and digital content of teachers' training towards the modernisation of education;</b> <b>Activity 1.2 Development of textbooks and teaching aids for teachers towards the modernisation of education;</b> <b>Activity 2.1 Training for teachers on the modernisation of the education process using ICT.</b>  The Beneficiary submitted a notice on the completion of the project activities on 02 December 2013; the project activities ended on 30 November 2013.
Financial implementation/cumulative absorption of funds in EUR from the start of the programming period	EUR 7,703,410.99
Cumulative performance of indicators from the start of the programming period	<u>Result indicators (planned/actual):</u> Number of newly created education programmes – 7/7 Number of schools involved in the implementation of project activities – 665/687 Number training courses for teaching staff – 130/174

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	Number of employees involved in educational project activities – 1,560/1,997 Number of newly created / innovated education programmes using ICT in the teaching process – 7/7 Number of schools involved in the implementation of project activities using ICT in the teaching project – 665/687 Number of teachers involved in the project activities using ICT in the teaching process – 1,560/2,208 Number of schools involved in the implementation of project activities with pupils from MRCs – 200/391
Contribution to HP	IS, SD, MRC
Project website	<a href="http://www.modernizaciavzdelavania.sk">www.modernizaciavzdelavania.sk</a>

\* By 31 December 2013, the national project was implemented by the Institute of Information and Prognoses in Education of the SR; from 01 January 2014, the NFC Beneficiary changed due to the merge of organisations (IIPE and SCSTI), and the national project implementation was taken over by the Slovak Centre of Scientific and Technical Information in Bratislava.  
Source: MA

Table 35: State of implementation of the national project as of 31 December 2013

Project name:	Training of teachers in connection with the development of school education programmes
Measure	1.1
Beneficiary:	State Institute of Vocational Training
Budget in EUR:	EUR 3,207,400.00
Project implementation period:	02 January 2009 – 28 February 2014
Basis in national/regional policy:	On 22 May 2008, parliamentary deputies approved the Act on Education. This act entered into effect on 01 September 2008 and replaced the previous School Act from 1984. On 19 June 2008, after signing the Act on Education by the President of the SR, state education programmes were approved for each level of education, including model school education programmes and methodology for the creation of such programmes, on the basis of which schools could start preparing their own education programmes. 13 decrees related to the Act on Education came into force in August 2008 and entered into effect on 01 September 2009. From that date, schools started to teach according to their own school education programmes in the first and the fifth year of elementary schools and in the first year of secondary schools, elementary art schools and language schools.
Project aims:	General retraining and training for the teaching staff of elementary and secondary schools for the purposes of the implementation of the education content reform and the creation of school education programmes.
Target groups:	<u>Multipliers (trained lecturers)</u> – all active members of the teaching staff of elementary and secondary schools under the objective Regional Competitiveness and Employment, employees working in the field of education (in directly managed organisations of the MoESRS SR – the National Institute for Education (NIE), SIVT, the Methodology and Pedagogy Centre (MPC), the Regional School Office (RSO), higher territorial units (HTUs) and others; <u>Participants to continuous learning courses</u> – all active members of the pedagogical staff of elementary and secondary schools under the objective Regional Competitiveness and Employment <u>Participants to distance learning courses</u> – all active members of the pedagogical staff of elementary and secondary schools under the objective Regional Competitiveness and Employment, employees working in the field of education (in directly managed organisations of the MoESRS SR – NIE, SIVT, MPC, RSO; HTUs, and others)
Activities implemented:	The Grant Contract was signed on 02 January 2009. The Beneficiary submitted the notice about the project start on 05 January 2009. The project was launched on 02 January 2009 with activity 1.1 Setting up and staffing or changing of the investigation team (internal and external staff, contractors).  The following activities were implemented in 2013: <b>1.1 Setting up and staffing or changing of the investigation team (internal and external staff, contractors);</b> <b>1.2 Work of expert working groups;</b> <b>2.1 Preparation, update and evaluation of the education programme (courses);</b> <b>2.2 Delivery of education programme (courses);</b> <b>3.1 Content creation, production/publishing and distribution of Učiteľské noviny;</b> <b>3.2 Content creation, production/publishing and distribution of a multi-media training DVD;</b> <b>3.3 Content creation, programming and moderation of e-Learning portal.</b>



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	<p>The NFC amount was reduced by EUR 1,891,352.78 by Annex No. 14 to the Grant Contract in April 2013 due to the failure to use the funds for some budget items. The reduction of the amount of funds in the NP budget led to the reduction of the value of the measurable indicator <i>Number of schools involved in the implementation of project activities</i> from 1,500 to 1,200.</p> <p>In November and December 2013, the process related to a contract amendment was conducted with regard to the Beneficiary's request to extend the project implementation by ten months – until 31 December 2014. The Beneficiary stated in the justification that the MoESRS SR approved revised state education programmes for secondary vocational schools and was preparing a revision of state education programmes for elementary schools and secondary grammar schools. As the revised programmes were reflected in the entire state curricula structure, it is necessary to modify the content of education programmes and to prepare education materials with revised changes. The education materials would be distributed via Učiteľské noviny magazine which represents the most effective way of providing materials with revised changes in the state education programmes to schools, thus raising their awareness about the respective changes. The reviewed content of education programmes will also be reflected in the content of distance learning of teaching staff as one of the project activities. Elementary and secondary school teachers showed big interest in distance learning, and the Beneficiary would not be able to satisfy this interest as of the original date of project termination to the required extent. The process of amending the contract was not finished by the end of 2013.</p>
Financial implementation/cumulative absorption of funds in EUR from the start of the programming period	EUR 1,976,189.56
Cumulative performance of indicators from the start of the programming period	<p><u>Result indicators (planned/actual):</u></p> <p>Number of schools involved in the implementation of project activities – 1,200 /1,074</p> <p>Number of schools involved in the project implementation with pupils from MRCs – 150/436</p> <p>Number of training courses for teaching staff – 220/375</p> <p>Number of employees involved in educational project activities – 6,000/7,018</p>
Contribution to HP	SD, MRC
Project website	<a href="http://www.siov.sk/narodny-projekt-vzdelavania-ucitelov-v-suvistlosti-s-tvorbou-skolskych-vzdelavacich-programov/11406s#projects">http://www.siov.sk/narodny-projekt-vzdelavania-ucitelov-v-suvistlosti-s-tvorbou-skolskych-vzdelavacich-programov/11406s#projects</a>

Source: MA

Table 36: State of implementation of the national project as of 31 December 2013

Project name:	Training for the teaching staff of kindergartens as part of the reform of education
Measure	1.1
Beneficiary:	Methodology and Pedagogy Centre
Budget in EUR:	EUR 16,659,908.11
Project implementation period:	01 May 2009 – 30 September 2014
Basis in national/regional policy:	Act No. 245/2008 Coll. on Education as amended
Project aims:	To implement the content reform and develop a system of lifelong education aimed at developing key competences of the teaching staff in kindergartens to meet the needs of the knowledge-based society. To focus on further education of the teaching staff and on the acquisition and development of competences required for the transformation of traditional schools to modern ones. To innovate the content and methods and improve the quality of education outputs to meet the needs of the labour market in the knowledge-based society.
Target groups:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Teaching staff of kindergartens, including kindergarten management – approx. 10,000 members of kindergarten staff;</li> <li>- Employees working in the field of education – experts working in state and public administration in the field of pre-school education (MPC, RSO, MoESRS SR, SSI, NIE)</li> </ul>
Activities implemented:	<p>The Grant Contract was signed on 29 April 2009.</p> <p>The Beneficiary submitted the notice about the start of implementation of project activities; the project was launched with the activity Creation of education material – carrying out an analysis of practical requirements, preparation of public procurement on 01 May 2009.</p>

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	<p>The following activities were implemented in 2013:</p> <p>1.1 <b>Training for the management and expert staff of state and public administration;</b></p> <p>1.2 <b>Training for the teaching staff of kindergartens;</b></p> <p>1.3 <b>Education portal;</b></p> <p>2.1 <b>Creation of educational material;</b></p> <p>2.2 <b>Mobilities and excursions; the activities related to mobilities and excursion were terminated, as all expenditure on mobilities abroad under the project 26110130087 were classified as ineligible on the basis of the conclusions of the EC audit;</b></p> <p>2.3 <b>Expert seminars and expert conferences.</b></p>
Financial implementation/cumulative absorption of funds in EUR from the start of the programming period	EUR 9,969,537.10
Cumulative performance of indicators from the start of the programming period	<p><u>Result indicators (planned/actual):</u></p> <p>Number of schools involved in the implementation of project activities using ICT in the teaching process – 2,730/2,730</p> <p>Number of teaching staff involved in project activities using ICT in the teaching process – 10,000/8,371</p> <p>Number of newly created/innovated education and study programmes – 8/18</p> <p>Number of employees involved in educational project activities – 10,000/8,371</p> <p>Number of innovated/newly created teaching materials – 200/18</p> <p>Number of schools involved in the implementation of project activities with pupils from MRCs – 700/725</p>
Contribution to HP	IS, SD, MRC
Project website	<a href="http://www.mat.iedu.sk">www.mat.iedu.sk</a>

Source: MA

**Table 37: State of implementation of the national project as of 31 December 2013**

Project name:	External evaluation of school quality encouraging self-assessment processes and school development
Measure	1.1
Beneficiary:	State School Inspection
Budget in EUR:	EUR 412,583.08
Project implementation period:	03 August 2009 – 30 September 2013
Basis in national/regional policy:	The State School Inspection was established by law on 01 January 2000. Act No. 596/2003 Coll. on State Administration in Education and Education Self-Governments and on changes and amendments to some acts, as amended, defines the competences, job and extent of its activities. Decree of the MoE SR of 31 March 2005 on School Inspection.
Project aims:	<p>The main project objective is to provide for external evaluation of schools involved in ESF projects and to monitor its progress, and to create an external evaluation model and a model of self-assessment of school activities.</p> <p>The specific project objectives include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- to identify the quality of schools by means of external evaluation before implementing their projects financed from ESF funds, and of the contribution of projects to improving the school quality;</li> <li>- to develop a model of evaluation and self-assessment of the activities of schools and school facilities, including their practical application;</li> </ul>
Target groups:	Elementary and secondary school pupils, teaching staff of elementary and secondary schools, including management and staff working in the field of education – experts of the state and public administration – SSI school inspectors.
Activities implemented:	<p>The Grant Contract was signed on 03 August 2009.</p> <p>The Beneficiary submitted the notice on the start of implementation of project activities on 21 September 2009. The project was launched on 01 October 2009.</p> <p>The following activity was implemented in 2013: <b>External evaluation of elementary and secondary schools after the implementation of projects from ESF funds</b></p>
Financial implementation/cumulative absorption of funds in EUR	EUR 365,869.25

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from the start of the programming period	
Cumulative performance of indicators from the start of the programming period	Result indicators (planned/actual): Number of employees involved in mobility programmes – 5/5 Number of employees involved in educational project activities – 84/84 Number of schools involved in the implementation of project activities – 17/17
Contribution to HP	SD
Project website	<a href="http://www.ssiba.sk/Default.aspx?text=g&amp;id=25&amp;lang=sk">http://www.ssiba.sk/Default.aspx?text=g&amp;id=25&amp;lang=sk</a>

Source: MA

Table 38: State of implementation of the national project as of 31 December 2013

Project name:	Evaluation of the quality of education at elementary and secondary schools in the SR in the context of the on-going content reform of education
Measure	1.1
Beneficiary:	National Institute for Certified Educational Measurements
Budget in EUR:	EUR 4,263,960.00
Project implementation period:	15 June 2010 – 30 November 2013
Basis in national/regional policy:	Draft Act on Education (School Act) and on changes and amendments to some acts, approved by Government Resolution No. 147/2008 of 05 March 2008. The act entered into effect on 01 September 2008.
Project aims:	The main project objective is to innovate and implement the system of national measurements enabling the evaluation of the quality and the monitoring of progress of education at elementary and secondary schools in the context of the reform of education in the SR. The specific project objectives are: create and verify the model of the system of monitoring and evaluation of the results of education at national level for ISCED 1 – ISCED 3, innovate the testing tools and methods for the evaluation of the results of measurement, implement the methods of quantitative pedagogical research in the educational practice of schools, train teachers on the objective ways of evaluation of learning results, define quality indicators for education, and monitor the possibilities of their implementation in the system of the education quality assessment at elementary and secondary schools in the SR.
Target groups:	Pupils of elementary and secondary schools, teachers, employees working in the field of education.
Activities implemented:	The Grant Contract was signed on 15 June 2010. The Beneficiary presented the statutory declaration about the start of project and a notice about the start of the first project activity on 15 June 2010.  The following activities were implemented in 2013: <b>Activity 1.1 External evaluation of the level of education at ISCED 1 level in languages of instruction and mathematics</b> <b>Activity 1.2 External evaluation of the level of education at ISCED 2 level in languages of instruction, mathematics and English, and comparison of the level of education of 9th year pupils of elementary schools and 4th year pupils of eight-year secondary grammar schools in Slovak language and literature and mathematics</b> <b>Activity 1.3 External evaluation of the level of education at ISCED 3 in the group of subjects comprising foreign languages, languages of instruction and the following fields of study: Mathematics and work with information, Man and nature, and Man and society</b> <b>Activity 1.4 Research on interventions to enhance the statistical and financial literacy of Slovak pupils at ISCED 2 level</b> <b>Activity 1.5 Cooperation with international partners in the field of national testing in education</b> <b>Activity 2.1 Testing tools for the group of subjects comprising languages of instruction to evaluate the level of education at ISCED 1 to ISCED 3 levels</b> <b>Activity 2.2 Testing tools for the group of subjects comprising foreign languages according to the Common European Reference Framework for Languages to evaluate the level of education at ISCED 2 and ISCED 3 levels</b> <b>Activity 2.3 Testing tools to evaluate the level of education in mathematics at ISCED 1 level and in mathematics and mathematic literacy at ISCED 2 level</b> <b>Activity 2.4 Testing tools to evaluate the level of education in in the following fields of education: Mathematics and work with information, Man and nature, and Man and society at ISCED 3 level</b>

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	<b>Activity 2.5 Development and innovation of electronic tests in mathematics and English language (B1) at ISCED 3 level</b> <b>Activity 2.6 Cooperation with international partners in the development of testing tools for external evaluation of the level of education</b> <b>Activity 2.7 Development and application of a new methodology for the processing of results from national measurements using IRT</b> <b>Activity 3.1 Training for teachers on nation-wide monitoring of the level and quality of education, on the creation and evaluation of test items, and on the possibilities of measurement of key competences at ISCED 1–3 levels</b> <b>Activity 3.2 Expert conference on evaluation of the quality of education</b> <b>Activity 3.3 Enhancing reading literacy</b> <b>Activity 4.1 Indicators of the quality of education in evaluation of schools</b> <b>Activity 4.2 Analysis of civic stances of Slovak pupils and of the perspectives of active citizenship in the light of the IEA ICCS 2009 study results</b> <b>Activity 4.3 Monitoring of the education process and of the conditions of work of teachers in the SR in the international context</b>
Financial implementation/cumulative absorption of funds in EUR from the start of the programming period	EUR 2,236,347.15
Cumulative performance of indicators from the start of the programming period	<u>Result indicators (planned/actual):</u> Number of persons from the target group involved in supported projects – disabled persons – 20/18 Number of employees involved in educational project activities – 1,000/1,010 Number of schools involved in the implementation of project activities – 1,500/1,821 Number of schools involved in the implementation of project activities using ICT in the teaching process – 10/12 Number of pupils/students involved in the implementation of project activities – 26,600/34,650
Contribution to HP	TUR,IS
Project website	<a href="http://www.nucem.sk/sk/projekt_esf/project/13">http://www.nucem.sk/sk/projekt_esf/project/13</a>

Source: MA

Table 39: State of implementation of the national project as of 31 December 2013

Project name:	Modern education – digital education for general subjects
Measure	1.1
Beneficiary:	Slovak Centre of Scientific and Technical Information*
Budget in EUR:	EUR 19,564,573.89**
Project implementation period:	15 December 2012 – 30 November 2015
Basis in national/regional policy:	Act No. 245/2008 Coll. on Education (School Act) and on changes and amendments to some acts
Project aims:	Perform a redesign of education at elementary and secondary schools using innovative forms and methods of teaching.
Target groups:	Elementary school pupils Secondary school pupils Teaching staff of elementary and secondary schools
Activities implemented:	<p>The Grant Contract was signed on 13 March 2013. The Beneficiary submitted a notice about the start of implementation of project activities, and the project was launched with Project management activity on 13 December 2012.</p> <p>The following activities were implemented in 2013:  <b>1.1. Modern education – innovation of the content and methods of teaching of general subjects for pupils of elementary and secondary schools.</b>  Problems identified:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Reduction of the total number of elementary and secondary schools by 21 (other five schools informed about their intention to cancel the project or merge it with other projects in the forthcoming period), which has an impact on the indicator of the number of schools involved;</li> <li>- Low interest by almost 20% of schools in participating in the project, which has an impact on the indicator of the number of schools involved;</li> <li>- Cancellation of the public procurement for insuring assets, which has an impact on the date of distribution of laptops and audio technology under the contract with the selected supplier of 10 December 2013.</li> </ul> <p>As of 31 December 2013, activity 1.1 was cancelled due to the cancellation of the public</p>

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	<p>procurement for the supply of 30,000 digital training objects (DTOs) and creation of access to DTOs.</p> <p><b>1.2. Modern education – creation of local contents for pupils of elementary and secondary schools</b></p> <p>It was not possible to obtain the consent of the Data Centre (DC) to cooperate in making the services available (given the fact that the DC uses the services of an external provider) – after negotiations with the DC representatives, the MoESRS SR created the portal2.iedu.sk/digi locality with project accounts and prepared it for teachers' accounts. Delayed delivery of graphical software.</p> <p><b>1.3. Modern education – Promoting the popularisation and motivation of pupils to study natural sciences and technical subjects and fields.</b></p>
Financial implementation/cumulative absorption of funds in EUR from the start of the programming period	EUR 1,997,990.91
Cumulative performance of indicators from the start of the programming period	<p><u>Result indicators (planned/actual):</u></p> <p>Number of innovated/newly created teaching materials – 14,200/0</p> <p>Number teaching staff involved in the project activities using ICT in the teaching process – 42,100/2,514</p> <p>Number of schools involved in the implementation of project activities – 2,659/2,364</p> <p>Number of schools involved in the implementation of project activities using ICT in the teaching process – 2,659/2,307</p>
Contribution to HP	IS
Project website	<a href="http://www.digitalnevdzdelavanie.sk">www.digitalnevdzdelavanie.sk</a>

\* By 31 December 2013, the national project was implemented by the Institute of Information and Prognoses in Education of the SR; from 01 January 2014, the NFC Beneficiary changed due to the merge of organisations (IIPE and SCSTI), and the national project implementation was taken over by the Slovak Centre of Scientific and Technical Information in Bratislava.

\*\* The original amount was EUR 26,980,236.00; the NFC amount was reduced as a result of the failed public procurement process.

Source: MA

Table 40: State of implementation of the national project as of 31 December 2013

Project name:	Improving the quality of education at elementary and secondary schools using electronic testing
Measure	1.1
Beneficiary:	National Institute for Certified Educational Measurements
Budget in EUR:	EUR 25,654,789.62
Project implementation period:	05 March 2013 – 31 December 2015
Basis in national/regional policy:	Act No. 245/2008 Coll. on Education (School Act) and on changes and amendments to some acts
Project aims:	<p>The aim of the national project is to increase the quality of education at elementary and secondary schools.</p> <p>The specific project aim is to improve the teaching process of pupils at ISCED 2 and ISCED 3 levels by creating and implementing a set of electronic evaluation tools (tasks, tests and questionnaires) to check the knowledge and key competences of pupils, introducing new forms of evaluation of the knowledge of pupils, and monitoring the factors influencing the quality of schools.</p>
Target groups:	Pupils of elementary and secondary schools, teaching staff, employees working in the field of education, university students.
Activities implemented:	<p>The Grant Contract was signed on 05 March 2013.</p> <p>The Beneficiary started to implement the project activities on 21 January 2013.</p> <p>The following activities were implemented in 2013:</p> <p><b>1.1 Creating tasks and tests for continuous school testing (school database of tasks) and for objective evaluation of testing (NICEM database of tasks);</b></p> <p><b>1.2 Implementing electronic testing to monitor the level of knowledge, skills and key competences of pupils, monitoring the trends in the quality of schools.</b></p> <p>During the reference period, the project activities period was extended by two months on the basis of a request for amending the grant contract of 16 August 2013.</p>

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Financial implementation/cumulative absorption of funds in EUR from the start of the programming period	EUR 1,759,487.00
Cumulative performance of indicators from the start of the programming period	<b>Result indicators (planned/actual):</b> Number innovated/newly created teaching materials – 5/1 Number of persons aged 15–24 from the target group involved in supported projects – 47,000/0 Number of persons involved in the implementation of project activities – 145,636/50 Number of schools involved in the implementation of project activities using ICT in the teaching process – 1,820/1,253 Number of electronic services implemented – 1/0 Number of pupils/students involved in the implementation of project activities – 145,000/0
Contribution to HP	IS
Project website	<a href="http://www.nucem.sk/sk/projekt_esf/project/21#905_o906">http://www.nucem.sk/sk/projekt_esf/project/21#905_o906</a>

Source: MA

Table 41: State of implementation of the national project as of 31 December 2013

Project name:	Developing secondary vocational education
Measure	1.1
Beneficiary:	State Institute of Vocational Training
Budget in EUR:	EUR 43,999,014.95
Project implementation period:	03/2013 – 10/2015
Basis in national/regional policy:	<p>The national project supports the fulfilment of the Slovak Government's objectives as set out in the Government Manifesto 2012–2016 by improving the quality and use of didactic tools for pupils and teachers in vocational education and vocational training subjects, by building links between vocational education and vocational training and employers' needs, and by involving employers and strengthening the career guidance of pupils of secondary vocational schools</p> <p>The national project responds to the initiative Opportunities for the Youth – a set of actions for the years 2012 and 2013 aimed to reduce the unemployment of young people.</p>
Project aims:	<p>The main aim is to improve the quality of vocational training at SVS in selected categories of specialisation of secondary vocational education.</p> <p>The specific project aims are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- redesign the content of education at SVS using innovated forms and methods of teaching;</li> <li>- creating links between SVS and needs of the practice with the involvement of the representatives of professional organisations;</li> <li>- supporting career guidance at SVS to prepare pupils for the labour market.</li> </ul>
Target groups:	<p>Pupils of SVS in the following categories of specialisation: metallurgy, machinery and other metal-working production, electrotechnics, technical chemistry of silicates, technical and applied chemistry, food industry, wood processing, construction, geodesy and cartography, agriculture and forest management, and rural development.</p> <p>Teaching staff – teachers of technical subjects and masters of vocational training – guidance counsellors, career counsellors on SVS study fields and specialisations in the above-mentioned categories of specialisation</p>
Activities implemented:	<p>The Grant Contract No. OPV/34/2013 was signed on 15 March 2013.</p> <p>The Beneficiary presented a notice on the start of implementation of project activities; the project was launched on 19 March 2013.</p> <p><b>The following activities were implemented in 2013:</b>  <b>Activity 1.1 Developing vocational education and training, and supporting the redesign of education at secondary vocational schools;</b>  <b>Activity 2.1 Involving employers' representatives through professional organisations;</b>  <b>Activity 3.1 Preparing pupils to meet practical needs through career guidance and counselling;</b>  <b>Support activities: Project management, and Publicity and information.</b></p>
Financial implementation/cumulative absorption of funds in EUR from the start of the	EUR 1,436,669.34

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programming period	
Cumulative performance of indicators from the start of the programming period	<p><u>Result indicators (planned/actual):</u></p> <p>Number of graduates from secondary schools that participated in the project activities – 7,500/0</p> <p>Number of innovated/newly created teaching materials – 1/0</p> <p>Number newly created education programmes – 14/0</p> <p>Number of teaching staff involved in the project activities using ICT in the teaching process – 800/0</p> <p>Number of schools involved in the implementation of project activities – 400/237</p> <p>Number of schools involved in the implementation of project activities using ICT in the teaching process – 400/0</p> <p>Number of employees involved in educational project activities – 1,121/0</p> <p>Number pupils/students involved in the implementation of project activities – 35,000/0</p>
Contribution to HP	IS
Project website	<a href="http://www.rsovs.sk">www.rsovs.sk</a> ; <a href="https://www.facebook.com/narodnyprojekt.RSOV">https://www.facebook.com/narodnyprojekt.RSOV</a> ; <a href="http://www.siov.sk/rozvoj-stredneho-odborneho-vzdelavania-rsovs/24505s">http://www.siov.sk/rozvoj-stredneho-odborneho-vzdelavania-rsovs/24505s</a> ; <a href="https://twitter.com/npRSOV">https://twitter.com/npRSOV</a>

Source: MA

Table 42: State of implementation of the national project as of 31 December 2013

Project name:	Supporting the career guidance of elementary school pupils with a focus on vocational education and training through the development of polytechnic education enhancing labour skills and work with talented youth
Measure	1.1
Beneficiary:	State Institute of Vocational Training
Budget in EUR:	EUR 19,922,846.31
Project implementation period:	01 April 2013 – 31 October 2015
Basis in national/regional policy:	Act No. 184/2009 Coll. on Vocational Education and Training and on changes and amendments to some acts, Act No. 245/2008 Coll. on Education (School Act) and on changes and amendments to some acts as amended, and Act No. 317/2009 Coll. on Teaching Staff and Professional Staff and on changes and amendments to some acts.
Project aims:	The projects brings modernisation to the content of education of elementary school pupils concerning subjects under Man and Nature (biology, physics, chemistry), and Man and the World of Labour (technics), with the aim to support the professional focus of pupils on vocational education and training. The labour skills of elementary school pupils will be developed throughout the teaching process by means of polytechnic education using new didactic tools for practical lessons and by innovating the forms and methods of teaching in these fields, which will also be possible thanks to classroom equipment in 49 elementary schools in seven Slovak regions. An important part of the project is further continuous education of the teaching staff of elementary school in the fields mentioned above, and their approach to pupils, making the forms and methods of teaching chemistry, physics biology and technical subjects more attractive. The aim is to redesign the content of education at elementary and secondary schools with a focus on the practice. Pupils will thus get prepared to meet the current and future needs of the society using innovative forms, methods and aids.
Target groups:	Pupils of elementary school Teaching staff of elementary schools
Activities implemented:	<p>The Grant Contract was signed on 08 April 2013.</p> <p>The Beneficiary submitted the notice about the start of implementation of project activities on 15 April 2013.</p> <p>The project was launched on 01 April 2013 by Project Management activity and on 09 April 2013 by other activities.</p> <p>The following activities were implemented in 2013:</p> <p><b>1.1 Supporting the polytechnic education of elementary school pupils and further education of the teaching staff of elementary schools in the field of polytechnic education</b></p> <p>Under partial task 1.1.1. <i>Procurement and delivery of material and technical equipment and use of didactic tools for special classrooms for the subjects under Man and Nature (biology, chemistry, physics), and Man and the World of Labour (technics) with the aim to support the professional focus of pupils on vocational education programmes at SVS,</i> the detailed project description was completed due to the new situation that occurred</p>

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	<p>during the implementation of project activities with regard to the selection of the number of schools per regions (7 schools/1 HTU). During the inspections of selected elementary schools, it was found out that not all selected schools met the criteria for the implementation of project activities.</p> <p>Under partial task 1.1.2. <i>Methodological support – consultations, counselling during the process of teaching of the subjects under Man and Nature (biology, chemistry, physics) and Man and the World of Labour (technics) for all classes of the 2nd grade of elementary schools, also beyond pilot verification, in order to understand the subject in relation to the future professional orientation of pupils with the aim to encourage the professional focus of pupils on technical education programmes at the SVS</i>, the detailed project description was completed with regard to foreign business trips. In the original project description, the Beneficiary listed countries visited during the project implementation, yet the situation in the different countries is changing, as a result of which it is not possible to determine which of them would be most suitable for the project. The Beneficiary does not know the exact schedule of seminars held abroad, and will only participate at events which are most appropriate for the implementation of activities. It is also necessary to bring in line the dates of events and project activities.</p> <p><b>2.1 Supporting the professional orientation of pupils of elementary schools on vocational education and training</b></p> <p>The changes in the partial task 2.1.1. <i>Methodology for the professional orientation of pupils of elementary schools to PE at SVS and further education of teaching staff of elementary schools dealing with the career guidance of pupils of elementary schools</i> are identical to changes in partial tasks 1.1.1 and 1.1., as they are interrelated.</p> <p><b>3.1 Work with talented pupils of elementary schools by organising and attending national and international competitions in technical education subjects and in special categories of joint teams of pupils of elementary schools and secondary vocational schools.</b></p>
Financial implementation/cumulative absorption of funds in EUR from the start of the programming period	EUR 6,708,465.46
Cumulative performance of indicators from the start of the programming period	<p><u>Result indicators (planned/actual):</u></p> <p>Number newly created education programmes – 5/3</p> <p>Number of schools involved in the implementation of project activities – 500/163</p> <p>Number of schools involved in the implementation of project activities using ICT in the teaching process – 49/48</p> <p>Number of employees involved in educational project activities – 1,000/0</p> <p>Number of pupils/students involved in the implementation of project activities – 4,960/249</p>
Contribution to HP	IS
Project website	<a href="http://www.zsodborne.sk/">http://www.zsodborne.sk/</a>

Source: MA

Table 43: State of implementation of the national project as of 31 December 2013

Project name:	Higher education institutions as a driving force of the knowledge-based society
Measure	1.2
Beneficiary:	Slovak Centre of Scientific and Technical Information*
Budget in EUR:	EUR 17,072,300-09
Project implementation period:	01 March 2013 – 30 November 2015
Basis in national/regional policy:	Act No. 245/2008 Coll. on Education (School Act) as amended; Act No. 131/2012 on Higher Education Institutions and on changes and amendments to some acts
Project aims:	Redesign education at elementary and secondary schools using innovative forms and methods of teaching
Target groups:	- Students of higher education institutions (full-time studies) (levels I, II and III)
Activities implemented:	<p>The Grant Contract was signed on 28 May 2013.</p> <p>The Beneficiary submitted a notice about the start of implementation of project activities; project was launched with the Project Management support activity on 01 March 2013.</p>



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	<p>The following activities were implemented in 2013:</p> <p><b>Activity 1.1: Assessing the effectiveness of the study programmes of higher education institutions from the point of view of current and future needs of the labour market and cooperation with the business sector</b></p> <p>This activity included public procurement to select an external supplier of the service; the public procurement procedure was submitted for control to the Public Procurement Authority on 22 October 2013. As of 31 December 2013, the public procurement procedure was still subject to control, pending the signing of the contract by the Public Procurement Authority, as a result of which the contract with the supplier was not signed as of that date.</p> <p><b>Activity 1.2: Active building of cooperation networks between higher education institutions and the business sector</b></p> <p><b>Activity 1.3: Improving the content of education and supporting innovative forms of education to meet labour market needs in selected perspective fields of study</b></p> <p><b>Activity 1.4: Popularisation of study in perspective fields of study and cooperation between higher education institutions and the business sector</b></p>
Financial implementation/cumulative absorption of funds in EUR from the start of the programming period	EUR 545,731.00
Cumulative performance of indicators from the start of the programming period	<p>Result indicators (planned/actual):</p> <p>Number of persons involved in the implementation of project activities – 9,350/0</p> <p>Number of partnerships and development &amp; innovation networks – 1/0</p> <p>Number of created studies, analyses and materials – 260/4</p>
Contribution to HP	-
Project website	<a href="http://www.vysokoskolacidopraxe.sk/">http://www.vysokoskolacidopraxe.sk/</a>

\* By 31 December 2013, the national project was implemented by the Institute of Information and Prognoses in Education of the SR; from 01 January 2014, the NFC Beneficiary changed due to the merge of organisations (IIPE and SCSTI), and the national project implementation was taken over by the Slovak Centre of Scientific and Technical Information in Bratislava.  
Source: MA

**Performance of measurable indicators**

Table 44: Fulfilment of measurable indicators as of 31 December 2013

Indicators*		2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	Total	Comments**
1. Number of newly created education programmes – output	Result achieved	0	0	58	422	792	907	988	N/A	N/A	988	7,964
	Target	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	120	N/A	120	120	N/A
	Baseline	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0	N/A
2. Number of teaching staff having completed further education programmes – output	Result achieved	0	0	0	0	19	57	3,440	N/A	N/A	3,440	1414
	Target	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	42,290	N/A	42,290	42,290	N/A
	Baseline	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0	N/A
3. Number of training courses for teaching staff – output	Result achieved	0	0	310	587	861	966	1,111	N/A	N/A	1,111	1
	Target	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	15	N/A	15	15	N/A
	Baseline	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0	N/A
4. Schools successful in repeated quality evaluation (%) – result	Result achieved	0	0	0	0	0	0	100	N/A	N/A	100	0
	Target	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	90	90	90	90	N/A
	Baseline	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

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<b>5. Placement rate of secondary school graduates (%) – result</b>	<b>Result achieved</b>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	N/A	N/A	0	0
	<b>Target</b>	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	80	N/A	80	80	N/A
	<b>Baseline</b>	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0	N/A
<b>6. Share of R&amp;D staff involved in further education (%) - output</b>	<b>Result achieved</b>	0	0	0	0,58	4,35	6,01	6,01	N/A	N/A	6,01	0
	<b>Target</b>	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	26,82	N/A	26,82	26,82	N/A
	<b>Baseline</b>	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0	N/A
<b>7. Number of projects supporting human resources in centres of excellence at higher education institutions and the SAS – output</b>	<b>Result achieved</b>	0	0	0	0	0	5	5	N/A	N/A	5	0
	<b>Target</b>	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	18	N/A	18	18	N/A
	<b>Baseline</b>	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0	N/A
<b>8. Rate of involvement of R&amp;D staff in transnational research projects (%) – output</b>	<b>Result achieved</b>	0	0	0	0	0	6	15	N/A	N/A	15	0
	<b>Target</b>	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	20	N/A	20	20	N/A
	<b>Baseline</b>	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0	N/A
<b>9. Number of partnerships and research &amp; innovation networks supported under the OPE (output)</b>	<b>Result achieved</b>	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	N/A	N/A	3	0
	<b>Target</b>	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	27	N/A	27	27	N/A
	<b>Baseline</b>	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0	N/A
<b>10. Share of higher education institutions having increased the effectiveness and quality of their management (%) – result</b>	<b>Result achieved</b>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	N/A	N/A	0	0
	<b>Target</b>	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	44,71	N/A	44,71	44,71	N/A
	<b>Baseline</b>	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0	N/A
<b>11. Share of partnerships and development &amp; innovation networks in existence after expiry of assistance from the OPE (%) – result</b>	<b>Result achieved</b>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	N/A	N/A	0	0
	<b>Target</b>	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	80	N/A	N/A	80	N/A
	<b>Baseline</b>	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0	N/A
<b>12. Placement rate of university graduates on the labour</b>	<b>Result achieved</b>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	N/A	N/A	0	0
	<b>Target</b>	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	90	N/A	90	90	N/A
	<b>Baseline</b>	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0	N/A

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<b>market (%) – output</b>												
<b>13. PISA Index - impact</b>	<b>Result achieved</b>	0	0	1,464	1,464	1,464	1,464	1,416	N/A	N/A	1,416	0
	<b>Target</b>	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	1,500	N/A	1,500	1,500	N/A
	<b>Baseline</b>	1,462	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	1,462	N/A
<b>14. Graduates from the tertiary grade of university education (number/1000 inhabitants) – impact</b>	<b>Result achieved</b>	1.5	1.8	2.1	3.2	1.9	2.4	2.4	N/A	N/A	2.4	0
	<b>Target</b>	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	12	N/A	12	12	N/A
	<b>Baseline</b>	8.3	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	8.3	N/A

Source: MA/IBMA/EUROSTAT/SSSI/NICEM

\*Detailed definitions and measuring units of individual indicators are specified in Annex 8.

\*\*The values of indicators in the “Comments” column refer to physically and financially completed projects.

Details on physical progress under Priority Axis 1 for each indicator in 2013 is provided in the final part of this chapter called “Quality analysis of the results achieved at the level of priority axis”.

Table 45: Target values of indicators set by beneficiaries on the basis of contracts at the level of Priority Axis 1 indicators as of 31 December 2013

<b>Indicator</b>	<b>Target set by beneficiaries on the basis of contracts concluded as of 31 December 2013</b>	<b>Indicator value as of 31 December 2013</b>	<b>Target value</b>	<b>Comments*</b>
<b>1. Number of newly created education programmes – output</b>	1,361	988	120	796
<b>2. Number of teaching having completed further education programmes - output</b>	7,724	3,440	42,290	1,414
<b>3. Number of training courses for teaching staff - output</b>	1,450	1,111	15	1
<b>4. Schools successful in repeated quality assessments (%) – result</b>	100	100	90	0
<b>5. Placement rate of secondary school graduates – result</b>	N/A	0	80	0
<b>6. Number of research and development staff involved in further education (%) – output</b>	N/A	6.01	26.82	0
<b>7. Number of projects supporting human resources in centres of excellence of HEI and SAS - output</b>	7	5	18	0
<b>8. Rate of involvement of R&amp;D staff in transnational projects (%) – output</b>	20	15	20	0
<b>9. Number of partnerships and development &amp; innovation networks</b>	54	3	27	0
<b>10. Number of HEI that improved their effectiveness and quality through the OPE (%) – result</b>	5	0	44.71	0
<b>11. Number of partnerships and development &amp; innovation networks in existence after expiry of support under OPE (%) – result</b>	N/A	0	80	0
<b>12. Placement rate of HEI graduates on the labour market (%) – result</b>	3 033	0	90	0
<b>13. PISA Index (number) – impact</b>	N/A**	1,464	1,500	0

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Indicator	Target set by beneficiaries on the basis of contracts concluded as of 31 December 2013	Indicator value as of 31 December 2013	Target value	Comments*
<b>14. Graduates from tertiary level of higher education (number) – impact</b>	N/A***	2.4	12	0

\*The Comments column provides the values of indicators for physically and financially completed projects.

\*\*The value is not added from projects, but from OECD assessments.

\*\*\* The indicator is monitored by EUROSTAT.

Source: MA/IBMA/EUROSTAT/SSI/NUCEM

### 3.1.1.2 Financial implementation of Priority Axis 1

Table 46: Absorption of funds under Priority Axis 1 as of 31 December 2013

	Commitment 2007-2013 for EU funds in EUR	Absorption of funds in 2013 (EU funds) in EUR		Cumulative absorption of funds (EU funds) in EUR	
		Total	% of commitment 2007–2013	Total	% of commitment 2007–2013
<b>Priority Axis 1</b>	<b>313,314,627.00</b>	<b>38,980,140.25</b>	<b>12.44%</b>	<b>128,128,120.80</b>	<b>40.89%</b>
<b>Measure 1.1</b>	214,959,627.00	27,729,710.58	12.90%	105,549,043.12	49.10%
<b>Measure 1.2</b>	98,355,000.00	11,250,429.67	11.44%	22,579,077.68	22.96%

Source: MA

Information on cross-financing is provided in sub-chapter 2.1.2 of the AIR

### 3.1.1.3 Specific aspects of ESF programmes

#### *Assistance by target groups for ESF programmes*

Table 47: Monitoring of target groups under Priority Axis 1 from 01 January to 31 December 2013

Breakdown of project participants						
Indicator	Calendar year 2013					
	Participants entering the project		Participants leaving the project		Participants from the previous year	
	Total	Whereof women	Total	Whereof women	Total	Whereof women
Total number of participants	30,045	19,113	19,195	14,976	36,218	24,113
<i>Breakdown of participants by their labour market status</i>						
Employed	12,411	9,874	12,789	11,430	17,257	14,758
Whereof : self-employed persons	193	98	71	29	125	81
Unemployed	22	4	6	3	0	0
Whereof: long-term unemployed persons	0	0	0	0	0	0
Inactive persons	17,612	9,235	6,400	3,543	18,961	9,355
Whereof students /participants to professional training	14,706	7,942	5,958	3,307	17,296	8,536
<i>Breakdown of participants by age</i>						
Youth (15–24 years)	8,148	4,863	5,111	3,071	5,548	2,842,

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Elder persons (55–64 years)	1,963	1,587	1,563	1,336	1,229	891
<i>Breakdown of participants by vulnerability groups in line with national legislation</i>						
Migrants	4	0	71	46	47	35
Minorities	560	489	407	572	753	455
Disabled persons	173	85	92	62	147	97
Other disadvantaged persons	313	189	91	39	642	285
<i>Breakdown of participants by attained level of education</i>						
Primary or lower secondary education (ISCED 1 and 2)	6,682	3,354	2,312	887	9,609	4,619
Higher secondary education (ISCED 3)	6,220	5,168	7,091	6,066	3,647	2,297
Post-secondary non-university education (ISCED 4)	540	528	377	356	126	114
University education (ISCED 5 and 6)	7,495	5,273	8,789	7,242	15,255	13,347

Source: MA

For more details on the target groups see sub-chapter 2.1.8 to the AIR.

### 3.1.2 Significant problems encountered and measures taken to overcome them

Table 48 describes the problems encountered during the implementation of Priority Axis 1 with regard to the implementation of demand-driven projects during the reference period.

The significant problems encountered with respect to the implementation of the OPE as a whole, the measures taken, and the implementation of measures are detailed in sub-chapter 2.3 of the AIR.

Table 48: Implementation of measures taken to address the problems identified

Problems identified	Measures taken	Summary sheet of the measures taken
The use of funds is negatively influenced by an increased error rate of first requests of payments for projects contracted under Measure 1.1.	Beneficiaries are provided with personal consultations and information by phone and by e-mail.	The increased frequency of personal consultations at the ASFEU or directly at beneficiaries had a positive impact on reducing the error rate in most beneficiaries submitting their RfPs for administrative control.
During administrative control of final RfPs, PMs often face the problem of reimbursement of unsettled advance payments or funds for irregularities due to exceeding the limit for indirect expenditure monitored on the basis of actual use of funds.	Given the lack of funds, beneficiaries often ask for instalment calendars with regard to requests for return of funds in the case of unsettled advance payments or irregularities. In some cases, the ASFEU made agreements on instalments.	In some cases, the ASFEU made agreements on instalments.
ASFEU recorded an increased error rate in the public procurement documentation submitted for control, having identified violations of the Act on Public Procurement on the basis of findings of audit authorities.	In order to eliminate errors and adopt immediate measures to overcome deficiencies in setting deadlines for the submission of tender documentation during public procurement procedures, beneficiaries were sent an e-mail message in which they were requested not to limit the periods for taking over the tender documentation under public procurement procedures carried out by beneficiaries, and an e-mail message about the Guideline of the Central Coordination Authority on the same issue. In order to reduce the error rate of submitted documentation, the ASFEU	The guidelines met with a positive response in beneficiaries, though it is not possible to determine the actual impact of this measure due to the short time period. In this regard, the planned update of the management system and the amendment to the Act on Public procurement can be helpful in the forthcoming period.

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	continuously issues guidelines to beneficiaries, published on the ASFEU website. Beneficiaries are informed about these guidelines also via e-mail. Another measure taken was the introduction of pilot verification - ex-ante control of the correctness of draft notices on public procurement and tender documentation before being published, also including check of the way of determining the estimated contract values.	
Several violations of the beneficiaries' obligation were detected concerning the sending of public procurement documentation separately for the OP Education and for the OP Research and Development (according to the Manual for OPE Beneficiaries) in the case of contracts concerning both operational programmes.	In order to facilitate communication between the section for OP Education and for OP Research and Development and for the purposes of a single control of submitted public procurement documentation, an independent Public Procurement Department was established.	From the establishment of the Public Procurement Department, no problem has been detected related to the failure to send the public procurement documentation for both operational programmes.
Further to the launch of project activities contracted under Measure 1.1, the ASFEU detected an increased error rate in the public procurement documentation submitted for control.	In order to reduce the error rate of submitted documentation, the ASFEU continuously issues guidelines to beneficiaries which are published on the ASFEU website. Beneficiaries are informed about these guidelines also via e-mail. Another measure taken was the introduction of pilot verification - ex-ante control of the correctness of draft notices on public procurement and tender documentation before being published, also including check of the way of determining the estimated contract values.	Given the fact that during the respective period repeated control of public procurements entering funding after 30 June 2013 was carried out with the aim to eliminate any errors from the past period, the ASFEU is not able to assess the extent of positive impacts of the guidelines on the quality of public procurements performed by the Beneficiary in the 2nd half of 2013. The public procurements published by the Beneficiary after the issuance of the ASFEU guidelines were not submitted for control to such extent so that to be able to clearly assess their error rate.
The ASFEU identified a problem related to the purchase of equipment, training materials and consumables, and didactic tools at the end of the project, which is contrary to the condition of their effective use for the project during the project implementation period, as well as a problem of a split of a contract with the aim to avoid the awarding of the contract in line with the procedures defined in the Act on Public Procurement.	The ASFEU issued Update No. 1 to Guideline No. 3/2013 on the submission of public procurement plans and schedules and other conditions for the execution of public procurement procedures in order to ensure correct implementation of public procurements in line with the schedule of project activities and to avoid the split of contracts.	The ASFEU carried out an in-depth control of public procurement schedules for each project, and will inform the Beneficiary in the case of any irregularities in order to prevent ineligible expenditure and to ensure correct use of funds.
During the implementation of activities, problems occurred in complying with the Grant Contract in some projects. Beneficiaries fail to comply with the following items: - deadline for the settlement of 50% of advance payment; - schedule of implementation of project activities (the activities are performed after the end of project, without asking for a change in the Grant Contract according to the Manual for Beneficiaries); - failure to submit monitoring reports within the set deadlines.	Beneficiaries are reminded by project managers in advance about the date of settlement of 50% of the advance payment. In case the deadline is not met, the ASFEU prepares an amendment to the Grant Contract to reduce the total eligible expenditure. The ASFEU also sends reminding letters to risk beneficiaries calling them to comply with the contract conditions, and provides individual consultations to facilitate successful implementation of project activities.	The increased frequency of personal consultations by the ASFEU and frequent phone consultations contributed to a more responsible approach to the implementation of projects by beneficiaries. Beneficiaries seek to solve possible problems or irregularities with project managers in advance to avoid any errors that can be prevented.
The ASFEU observed an increased number of requests for contract change in connection with delayed project	In order to reduce the submission of requests for contract change by beneficiaries and support as effective	The intensification of the communication with beneficiaries had an impact on reviewing the requests for

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schedules and extended dates of termination of project activities.	project implementation as possible in line with the original schedule, the ASFEU intensified phone and e-mail communication with beneficiaries. For approved requests for contract change with regard to repeated extension of project activities, the ASFEU requests from beneficiaries the submission monthly reports on the state of project implementation and on the progress made.	contract change or of the extended date of completion of project activities.  Due to the short period of time that elapsed from the introduction of monthly reports on the state of project implementation and on the progress made in connection with repeated extension of the end date of project activities, it is not possible to provide relevant information on the impacts of this measure.
Due to the involvement of many employees in projects implemented by higher education institutions, the submitted RfPs contain many personnel expenditure items, some of them with errors.	In order to eliminate errors in personnel expenditure reported in RfPs, the ASFEU has intensified phone communication with beneficiaries, and prepared and published the document <i>Most common errors in assessing the eligibility of personnel expenditure</i> .	The publishing of the document and increased communication with beneficiaries had an impact on reducing the error rate in most beneficiaries submitting their requests for payment for administrative control.

Source: IBMA

### **Quality and quantity analysis of the results achieved under Priority Axis 1**

As of 31 December 2013, the actual absorption of funds under Priority Axis 1 reached EUR 128,128,120.80 in total (ESF), which represents 40.89 % of the commitment 2007–2013. In spite of the fact that it is the best result of all priority axes with the exception of Priority Axis 5 – Technical assistance, this absorption rate of funds cannot be considered appropriate given the amount of contracted funds of 113.41% of the allocation and the remaining time period for recognising the eligibility of expenditure for projects under implementation. With regard to the amount of contracted funds, the absorption rate under this priority axis attained 36.06%, which is a result comparable to the one achieved under Priority Axis 3 or Priority Axis 4.

It is appreciated that the development in the spending of funds under this priority axis saw a growing tendency during the reference period, and the amount of funds used in 2013 was 1.37-times higher compared to the previous year.

National projects constituted over a half (51.71%) of the total amount contracted under Priority Axis 1 as of 31 December 2013; the remaining part were demand-driven projects of the ASFEU (48.29%). The contracted amount was used to a greater extent in demand-driven projects (44.63%) compared to national projects (28.68%). The different absorption rate in projects implemented by the MA and the IBMA was mainly caused by the significant increase in the contracted sum for national projects of over EUR 113 million from ESF funds in 2013, which anticipates higher absorption by these projects in the rest of the financial implementation period 2014–2015.

As of 31 December 2013, the values of measurable indicators were fulfilled in terms of the progress and physical implementation of projects as follows:

Indicator 1 *Number newly created education programmes* reached 988 during the reference period, which highly exceeds the indicator value compared to its planned value of 120. This growth can be attributed to the fact that the authors of the OPE in 2007 expected a smaller number of newly created and innovated education programmes; however, the launch of the school reform and related new legislation (Act No. 245/2008 Coll. on Education (School Act) and on changes and amendments to some acts, as amended) showed the need to increase the number of education programmes and of their specific focus. As of 31 December 2013, the value of the indicator reached 796 newly created education programmes for completed projects.

Indicator 2 *Number of teaching staff having completed further education programmes* reached the value of 3,440 in the reference period compared to the planned value of 42,290, which is due to the

fact that it is an impact indicator at project level. Hence, it can be reported after the completion of projects – after the submission of follow-up monitoring reports (the beneficiary is due to submit the 1st follow-up monitoring report 12 months after the project completion). As of 31 December 2013, the indicator value reached 1,414 teachers for completed projects.

Indicator 3 *Number of training courses for teaching staff* achieved the value of 1,111 in the reference period, which is far above the planned value of 15. The reason for exceeding the planned indicator value to such a great extent is the actual needs and interest in training courses on the side of teachers. A smaller number of general training courses for teaching staff was anticipated during the preparation of the OPE in 2007, but the launch of the school reform and the related legislation (Act No. 317/2009 Coll.) showed the need to increase the number of education programmes and their specific focus. As of 31 December 2013, the indicator value reached 1 training course for completed projects.

Indicator 4 *Schools successful in repeated quality evaluations* has reached 100% of the planned value of 90%. The indicator value is fulfilled by means of the national project *External evaluation of school quality encouraging self-assessment processes and school development*, implemented by the State School Inspection. This organisation carried out complex inspections on a chosen sample of schools in 2009, having identified the initial quality of the conditions, results and management. Complex inspections were performed under implementation of the national project *External evaluation of school quality encouraging self-assessment processes and school development* one to three years after the completion of projects. As of 31 December 2013, the SSI completed repeated inspections which were successfully performed in all seven regions under the C objective – in one secondary school and one elementary school, i.e. 7 regions x 2 schools = 14 schools. Hence, the indicator value was fulfilled 100% with respect to the national project.

Indicator 5 *Rate of placement of graduates from secondary schools* – the value of this indicator achieved in the reference period is 0. Since the value of this indicator is based on the calculation of two other indicators – result and impact, it is expected to be fulfilled after the completion of projects in which this indicator was used as an impact indicator.

Indicator 6 *Percentage of research and development staff participating in further education* – the current value represents 6.01%, which represents 711 out of 11,820 R&D staff during the reference period under objective C. From the target value of 26.82%, the fulfilment of this indicator represents 22.40%. Further progress is expected in the future after completion of projects under the calls launched so far.

Indicator 7 *Number projects in support of human resources in centres of excellence at higher education institutions and the Slovak Academy of Sciences* - during the reference period, the value of this indicator reached 5. Relative to its target value of 18, this indicator has reached 30%, but is expected to be further fulfilled after the completion of the projects in which this result indicator is mandatory.

Indicator 8 *Rate of involvement of research and development staff in transnational research projects* reached the value 15, which is 75% of the target value 20. Since the contracted target value of this indicator on the basis of contracts concluded as of 31 December 2013 is 20, this indicator is expected to be performing at 100%.

Indicator 9 *Number partnerships and research & innovation networks supported by OPE* – the value of this indicator reached during the reference period is 3 partnerships, which is approx. 11% of the target value of 27. This indicator is expected to be further fulfilled after the completion of projects applying this result indicator.

Indicator 10 *Percentage of HEI that improved the effectiveness and quality of their management* and  
Indicator 11 *Percentage of partnerships and development & innovation networks in existence after*



*expiry of assistance from OPE* – during the reference period, the fulfilment of these indicators reached a zero value. These indicators will start to perform after the completion of projects in which they were used as impact indicators.

Indicator 12 *Placement rate of graduates from higher education institutions on the labour market* - during the reference period, the fulfilment of these indicators reached a zero value. Since it is an impact indicator the value of which can be monitored after the completion of projects, it is expected to be performing gradually, as the target value of the indicator set by beneficiaries on the basis of contracts concluded as of 31 December 2013 is 3,033.

It should be noted with respect to indicators 7 to 12 that the zero value attained so far is due to the fact that calls to support HEIs were launched in 2010 and 2011, and the selection of the indicators depended on the very nature and focus of the calls. It was therefore not possible to ensure that each call comprises indicators related to HEIs to be supported under Measure 1.2.

Indicator 13 *PISA Index* – the OECD PISA study examines the results of education from the perspective of labour market needs (i.e. functional literacy of pupils from the point of view of the theory of lifelong learning), and focuses on pupils of the last years of compulsory school attendance. The testing is carried out in three-year cycles (the last cycle so far is 2012–2014). The new indicator value as of 31 December 2013 is 472; this value was officially published on 03 December 2013 on the website of the National Institute for Certified Educational Measurements on the basis of the results of the PISA 2012 testing. The value of the indicator was calculated on the basis of the set methodology as the arithmetic average of the sum of three parts of the PISA 2012 testing: reading literacy – 463 points, mathematical literacy – 482 points, and scientific literacy – 471 points. The MA follows the results of testing published in the PISA 2012 National Report ([http://www.nucem.sk/sk/medzinarodne\\_merania/project/5](http://www.nucem.sk/sk/medzinarodne_merania/project/5)). Since the data of 2009–2012 was provided as sums of the values of all three PISA elements, the respective values were calculated as arithmetical average and modified in the relevant tables and annexes.

Indicator 14 *Graduates from tertiary level of higher education* provides the value 2.4; the data of the previous years have been modified on the basis of updated statistical data of Eurostat.

## 3.2. Priority Axis 2

### 3.2.1. Achievement of targets and analysis of the progress achieved

The achievement of the targets and a detailed analysis of the progress made under Priority Axis 2 which aims to support the system of informal and life-long learning are presented in the following sub-chapters 3.2.1.1 to 3.2.1.3 of the AIR.

#### 3.2.1.1. Physical progress of Priority Axis 2

Table 49: State of publishing of calls under Priority Axis 2 from 01 January to 31 December 2013

Measure	Type of call	Date of launch of call	Closing date for submission of grant applications	Allocation of funds per call (NFC) in EUR
2.1	Time-limited, national project	14/01/2013	01/04/2013	28,000,000.00
2.1	Time-limited, national project	10/04/2013	10/06/2013	18,000,000.00
2.1	Time-limited, demand-driven project	27/08/2013	28/10/2013	2,000,000.00
<b>Total per priority</b>				<b>48,000,000.00</b>

Source: NA

During the reference period, **3** calls were launched under Priority Axis 2 (Measure 2.1) during the reference period, one of them being a time-limited call for demand-driven projects, and two of them were written invitations for national projects at a total amount of allocation of **EUR 48,000,000.00**.

#### **MA for the OPE**

During the reference period, the MA for the OPE published two written invitations for grant applications under Priority Axis 2.

1. On 14 January 2013, written invitation No. OPV/K/NP/2013-1 was published under the title ***Further education and counselling to adults as a tool for higher opportunities on the labour market*** with closure date of 01 April 2013. The funds allocation totalled **EUR 28,000,000.00**.

The written invitation focused on the development of the further education system and counselling for adults by increasing their quality, on ensuring better preparedness and opportunities for graduates on the labour market through modern forms and methods of education, and on the provision of further specialised education in selected industrial sectors, crafts and services. The National Institute of Lifelong Learning was the eligible applicant for this call. For more details on the written invitation see <http://www.minedu.sk/14012013-pisomne-vyzvanie---narodny-projekt-dalsie-vzdelavanie-a-poradenstvo-pre-dospelych-ako-nastroj-lepsej-uplatnitelnosti-na-trhu-prace/>.

One grant application for an amount of EUR 27,993,607.83 was submitted. After evaluation and approval processes, the grant application was approved on 14 March 2013 and contracted on 15 March 2013 in a total amount of EUR **27,993,607.83**. For more details on the national project see Table 57.

2. On 10 April 2013, written invitation No. OPV/K/NP/2013-1 was published under the title ***Activation methods in education*** with closure date of 10 June 2013. The funds allocation totalled **EUR 18,000,000.00**.

The written invitation pursued the targeted and active investments into enhancing the competences of staff working in the field of education to increase and improve the use of activation methods of education with a focus on emotional intelligence and media literacy as prerequisites for the development of a knowledge-based society. The Methodology and Pedagogy Centre was the eligible applicant for this call. For more details on the written invitation see <http://www.minedu.sk/10042013-pisomne-vyzvanie-opvknp2013-7---narodny-projekt-aktivizujuce-metody-vo-vychove/>.

One grant application for an amount of EUR 17,999,915.13 was submitted. After evaluation and approval processes, the grant application was approved and contracted on 13 June 2013 in a total amount of EUR **17,970,644.89**. For more details on the national project see Table 58.

At the same time, the process of approval of grant applications for national projects on the basis of written invitations launched at the end of 2012 continued in 2013.

Written invitation **OPV/K/NP/2012-3 PRAKTIK – Practical skills through informal education in youth work** was published on 18 September 2012 with closure date of 19 November 2012 (for more details on the written invitation see OPE AIR 2012). One grant application for an amount of **EUR 5,697,416.13** was submitted. After the evaluation and approval process, the grant application was approved and contracted on 18 February 2013 in a total amount of **EUR 5,236,011.61**. For more details on the national project see Table 54.

Written invitation **OPV/K/NP/2012-5 Increasing the qualifications of teachers of physical and sports education** was published on 26 September 2012 with closure date of 26 November 2012 (for more details on the written invitation see OPE AIR 2012). One grant application for an amount of **EUR 5,295,216.20** was submitted. After the evaluation and approval process, the grant application

was approved and contracted on 31 January 2013 in a total amount of **EUR 5,065,310.80**. For more details on the national project see Table 55.

Written invitation **OPV/K/NP/2012-7 *Further education and counselling for adults as a tool for higher chances on the labour market*** was published on 08 October 2012 with closure date of 10 December 2012 (for more details on the written invitation see OPE AIR 2012). One grant application in an amount of **EUR 27,999,114.87** was submitted. During the approval process, the grant application was withdrawn by the applicant on 10 January 2013.

Written invitation **OPV/K/RKZ/NP/2012-8 *Development of the National Qualifications System*** was published on 16 October 2012 with closure date of 17 December 2012 (for more details on the written invitation see OPE AIR 2012). One grant application for an amount of **EUR 21,175,425.79** was submitted. After the evaluation and approval process, the grant application was approved and contracted on 27 February 2013 in a total amount of **EUR 21,442,896.78**. For more details on the national project see Table 56.

#### **IBMA ASFEU**

During the reference period, the IBMA ASFEU published one call for grant applications for demand-driven projects under Axis 2.

Call No. OPV-2013/2.1/04-SORO for grant applications under Measure 2.1 ***Supporting further education in the field of industry*** was published on 27 August 2013. The closure date of the call was 28 October 2013, and the allocation totalled EUR 2,000,000.00.

The call was designed for micro, small, medium-sized and large enterprises, and focused on the creation/innovation and implementation of education programmes that deepen or extend the knowledge, skills and competences of workers in the national economy with the aim to increase their qualification also on the basis of requirements defined, for example, by employers' associations, social partners, regional self-governments, thus increasing the engagement of employers in informal education programmes. For more details on the call see <http://www.asfeu.sk/operacny-program-vzdelavanie/archiv/vyzvy/opv-20132104-SORO/>.

Under this call, 29 grant applications were delivered for a total requested amount of contribution of EUR 4,775,373.73. During the reference period, the evaluation and approval process was conducted. As of 31 December 2013, 16 grant applications were approved in a total amount of approved contribution of EUR 1,682,142.54. AIR 2014 will provide more details on the contracting process and implementation of projects.

In 2013, the process of approval of grant applications for demand-driven projects continued under the call published in the 2nd half of 2012.

#### **OPV-2012/2.1/03-SORO**

The call for grant applications ***Active ageing by enhancing knowledge and skills that improve the quality of life of senior people*** under Measure 2.1 was published on 28 August 2012 with closure date of 29 October 2012 (for more details on the call see OPE AIR 2012).

51 grant applications were delivered under the call for a total amount of EUR 7,585,350.08. The evaluation and approval process was conducted during the reference period, having approved 36 grant applications in the total amount of approved contribution of EUR 4,585,757.61 as of 31 December 2013, and contracted 36 projects in the amount of EUR 4,585,757.59.

#### **IBMA MoH SR**

During the reference period, the MoH SR IBMA did not launch any call for grant applications under Measure 2.2.

For more details on the monitoring of the progress of implementation of Priority Axis 2 see Tables 50 and 51.

Table 50: Monitoring of the progress in the implementation of Priority Axis 2 as of 31 December 2013

Measure	Number of received grant applications	Number of approved grant applications	Number of contracted projects	Number of projects completed regularly	Number of projects completed exceptionally
Measure 2.1	129	77	58	1	3
Measure 2.2	87	31	20	8	11
<b>Priority Axis 2</b>	<b>216</b>	<b>108</b>	<b>78</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>14</b>

Source: MA

Table 51: Financial progress of implementation as of 31 December 2013 (in EUR)

Measure	Allocation for EU+SB funds	Amount of requested contribution (NFC)	Amount of approved contribution (NFC)	Amount of contracted funds (NFC)	Value of projects completed regularly	Value of projects completed exceptionally
Measure 2.1	122,224,947.00	256,589,873.07	149,095,317.62	144,248,481.92	3,933,610.04	919,023.70
Measure 2.2	42,941,177.00	115,445,880.51	40,865,160.79	29,196,636.93	5,178,529.18	11,228,982.82
<b>Priority Axis 2</b>	<b>165,166,124.00</b>	<b>372,035,753.58</b>	<b>189,960,478.41</b>	<b>173,445,118.85</b>	<b>9,112,139.22</b>	<b>12,148,006.52</b>

\* The allocation of EU+SB funds includes public own funds.

\*\* Amount of used NFC funds for regularly completed projects.

Source: MA

As of 31 December 2013, **23** calls were published under Priority Axis 2 with total allocation of **EUR 339,797,617.35**. 15 calls were launched under Measure 2.1, and 8 calls under Measure 2.2.

As of 31 December 2013, **216** grant applications were delivered under Priority Axis 2, where the total requested amount of contributions reached EUR **372,035,759.58**. Of this number, **108** grant applications were approved with a total contribution of EUR **189,960,478.41**, and **78** projects (this data does not cover exceptionally completed projects) were contracted in a total amount of contracted funds from ESF, including co-financing from the state budget, of EUR **173,445,118.85**. Of this number, **55** projects are under implementation, and **23** projects were completed (**14** projects were completed exceptionally, and **9** projects were completed regularly). The reason for exceptional completion of projects were deficiencies in the implementation of projects on the side of the beneficiary, i.e. insufficient project administration capacities, violation of commitments arising from the implementation of project activities, which automatically results in a failure to fulfil the measurable indicators and project targets, and a failure to take measures by beneficiaries to remedy the deficiencies detected during on-the-spot inspections under the respective reports.

In 2013, the measures under Priority Axis 2 comprised the implementation of **62** demand-driven projects under **10** calls:

Measure 2.1 (calls of the IBMA ASFEU)

1. *Supporting further education in selected sectors*“ (OPV 2009-2.1/01-SORO) – **6** projects;
2. *Supporting further education in tourism* (OPV-2010/2.1/02-SORO) – **8** projects;
3. *Active ageing by enhancing knowledge and skills that improve the quality of life of senior people* (OVE-2012/2.1/03-SORO) – **36** projects;

Measure 2.2 (calls of the IBMA MoH SR)

1. *Developing new forms of further education in healthcare* (OPV 2008/2.2/02) – **1** project;
2. *Staffing the healthcare system with qualified experts* (OPV 2008/2.2/03) – **3** projects;

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3. *Supporting the evaluation of continuous education of medical staff* (OPV 2009/2.2/01) – **1** project;
4. *Enhancing other skills of medical staff* (OPV 2009/2.2/02) – **1** project;
5. *Enhancing other skills of medical staff* (OPV 2010/2.2/01) – **1** project;
6. *Enhancing other skills of medical staff* (OPV 2010/2.2/02) – **4** projects;
7. *Enhancing other skills of medical staff* (OPV 2011/2.2/01) – **1** project.

Seven national projects were implemented in 2013; for more details see Tables 52 to 58. As of 31 December 2013, one national project was regularly completed – *Further education of elementary and secondary school teachers in informatics*. Annex 13 to the AIR provides an overall evaluation of the national projects and of their contribution to education.

Table 52: State of implementation of the national project as of 31 December 2013

Project name:	Professional and career growth of teaching staff
Measure	2.1
Beneficiary:	Methodology and Pedagogy Centre
Budget in EUR:	EUR 41,156,561
Project implementation period:	15 October 2009 – 31 December 2014
Basis in national/regional policy:	Act No. 317/2009 Coll. on Teaching Staff and Professional Staff and on changes and amendments to some acts. Decree of the MoE SR No. 445 on continuous education, credits and attestations of teaching staff and professional staff
Project aims:	The main aim of the project is to create an effective system of further education of teaching staff and professional staff of schools and school facilities with an emphasis on developing their key competences. The specific project aims include: - to create tools to improve the quality of schools and schools facilities; - to create and accredit continuous education programmes, thereby enhancing the quality of further education institutions; - to enhance and refresh the key competences of the target group in the continuous education system in line with professional standards and future needs of a knowledge-based society; - raise awareness about the possibilities of education and facilitate access to education programmes and learning sources through modern forms of education.
Target groups:	Teaching staff Professional staff of schools and school facilities
Activities implemented:	The Grant Contract was signed on 15 October 2009. The Beneficiary submitted the notice about the start of the implementation of project activities on 23 October 2009. The project was launched on 15 October 2009.  The following activities were implemented in 2013: <b>Activity 1.1 Development, innovation and implementation of professional standards and tools for evaluating the development of professional competences;</b> <b>Activity 2.2 Development and accreditation of continuous education programmes for teaching staff and professional staff according to the accreditation system;</b> <b>Activity 3.1 Development of teaching sources, methodologies and expert publications, including in digital form;</b> <b>Activity 3.2 Education activities aimed to enhance the key competences of teaching staff and professional staff and to develop education strategies;</b> <b>Activity 4.1 Development and administration of an interactive education portal to support continuous education.</b> Due to the delayed public procurement procedure, no outputs have so far been observed under this activity.
Financial implementation/cumulative absorption of funds in EUR from the start of the programming period	EUR 17,662,586.00
Cumulative performance of indicators from the start of the programming period	Result indicators (planned/actual) Number of newly created education programmes - 625/451 Number of newly created/innovated education programmes aimed to acquire and enhance ICT knowledge and skills - 30/51

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	Number of employees involved in educational project activities – 18,000/37, 405 Number of implemented electronic services - 1/0
Contribution to HP	IS, SD
Project website	<a href="http://www.mpc-edu.sk/projects/profesijny-a-karierovy-rast-pedagogickych-zamestnancov">http://www.mpc-edu.sk/projects/profesijny-a-karierovy-rast-pedagogickych-zamestnancov</a>

Source: MA

Table 53: State of implementation of the national project as of 31 December 2013

Project name:	KomPrax – Competences for practice
Measure	2.1
Beneficiary:	IUVENTA – Slovak Youth Institute
Budget in EUR:	EUR 8,071,713.27
Project implementation period:	15.12.2010 – 30.06.2015
Basis in national/regional policy:	Act No. 245/2008 Coll. on Education, as amended; Act No. 282/2008 Coll. on Supporting Youth Work and on changes and amendments of some acts, as amended.
Project aims:	<p>The main aim of the project is to ensure access of young people and youth workers to acquire skills for work with youth in a flexible way and using comprehensive counselling services.</p> <p>The specific project aims include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- to support the quality of education programmes in youth work with the aim to prepare graduates for lifelong learning and study;</li> <li>- to support the social recognition of youth work and ensure the development of information channels and databases on youth work and on the training system in this field;</li> <li>- to develop the key competences of youth leaders and youth workers to facilitate their access to the labour market;</li> <li>- to contribute to the recognition by employers of skills acquired in youth work in formal education.</li> </ul>
Target groups:	<p>Leaders in the field of work with youth;</p> <p>Professional and voluntary workers with youth;</p> <p>Employees (working in the field of education).</p>
Activities implemented:	<p>The Grant Contract was signed on 15 December 2010. The Beneficiary submitted the notice on the start of implementation of project activities on 25 December 2010; the project was launched on 03 January 2011.</p> <p>The following activities were implemented in 2013:</p> <p><b>Activity 1.1 Training for young leaders to work with youth;</b></p> <p><b>Activity 1.2 Basic training for voluntary and professional workers with youth</b></p> <p><b>Activity 2.1 Extended, complementary and interest training for youth leaders and youth workers</b></p> <p><b>Activity 3.2 Regional roundtables on the recognition of informal education and informal learning</b></p> <p><b>Activity 4.1 “Recognition” campaign</b></p> <p><b>Activity 4.2 Conducting missing surveys and researches on youth</b></p> <p><b>Activity 4.3 Setting up a database for recognition of youth work</b></p>
Financial implementation/cumulative absorption of funds in EUR from the start of the programming period	EUR 2,475,040.57
Cumulative performance of indicators from the start of the programming period	<p>Result indicators (planned/actual)</p> <p>Number of defined qualification and evaluation standards - 3/3</p> <p>Number newly created education programmes - 23/39</p> <p>Number of persons aged 15–24 from the target group involved supported projects – 7,128/3,866</p> <p>Number of persons involved in the implementation of project activities – 11,728/5,482</p> <p>Number of supported education programmes contributing to equal opportunities – 2/10</p> <p>Number of publications – 16/16</p> <p>Number of established local partnerships within learning regions – 7/7</p> <p>Number of employers involved in the implementation of project activities in regions with high concentration of MRCs - 10/21</p> <p>Number of introduced electronic services – 1/1</p> <p>Number of participants to awareness-raising events – 500/0</p>
Contribution to HP	IS, SD, MRC, RP
Project website	<a href="http://www.komprax.sk">www.komprax.sk</a>

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Source: MA

Table 54: State of implementation of the national project as of 31 December 2013

Project name:	PRAKTIK – Practical skills through informal education in youth work
Measure	2.1
Beneficiary:	IUVENTA – Slovak Youth Institute
Budget in EUR:	EUR 5,236,011.61
Project implementation period:	01 October 2012 – 31 July 2015
Basis in national/regional policy:	Act No. 245/2008 Coll. on Education, as amended; Act No. 282/2008 Coll. on Supporting Youth Work and on changes and amendments of some acts, as amended
Project aims:	<p>The main objective of the project is to create an effective system of further education for youth workers to ensure practical use of informal education tools in the development of youth interests.</p> <p>The specific project aims include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- to improve and innovate the quality and content of further education of professional and voluntary youth workers active in the respective fields of interest with an emphasis on developing key competences of youth;</li> <li>- To improve the quality and innovate the content of further education of professional and voluntary youth workers (active in the field of spare-time activities);</li> <li>- To ensure the implementation and dissemination of youth programmes using innovative methods of experiential learning.</li> </ul>
Target groups:	<p>Professional and voluntary youth workers</p> <p>Persons involved in further education activities</p>
Activities implemented	<p>The Grant Contract was signed on 18 February 2013. The Beneficiary submitted the notice on the start of implementation of project activities on 20 February 2013; the project was launched with the activity Project Management on 01 October 2012, the other project activities started on 20 February 2013.</p> <p>The following activities were implemented in 2013:</p> <p><b>Activity 1 – Creating a network of thematic youth centres for youth work</b></p> <p><b>Activity 2 – Training professional youth workers and voluntary youth workers to support and develop youth interests by means of informal education in youth work</b></p> <p><b>Activity 3 – Ensuring the implementation and dissemination of youth programmes using innovative methods of experiential learning.</b></p>
Financial implementation/cumulative absorption of funds in EUR from the start of the programming period	EUR 614,633.03
Cumulative performance of indicators from the start of the programming period	<p>Result indicators (planned/actual)</p> <p>Number newly created education programmes – 9/9</p> <p>Number newly created / innovated education programmes focused on acquiring and enhancing ICT knowledge and skills – 1/1</p> <p>Number of persons involved in the implementation of project activities – 500/0</p> <p>Number of employees involved in educational project activities – 250/0</p> <p>Number of pupils from marginalised Roma communities involved in the implementation of project activities – 250/0</p> <p>Number of publications – 8/0</p> <p>Number of supported education programmes contributing to equal opportunities – 1/1</p>
Contribution to HP	IS, SD, MRC, EO
Project website	<a href="http://www.projektpraktik.sk">www.projektpraktik.sk</a>

Source: MA

Table 55: State of implementation of the national project as of 31 December 2013

Project name:	Increasing the qualification of teachers of physical and sports education
Measure	2.1
Beneficiary:	National Sports Centre
Budget in EUR:	EUR 5,065,310.80
Project implementation period:	31 January 2013 – 31 May 2015
Basis in national/regional policy:	Act No. 245/2008 Coll. on Education, as amended; Concept of Education of Sports Professionals in the Slovak Republic
Project aims:	The main project aim is to increase the qualification of teachers of physical and sports education with an emphasis on innovating the forms and methods of teaching physical education at elementary and secondary schools.

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	<p>The specific project aims include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- creation of further education programmes for teaching staff with the aim to adapt the teaching of physical and sports education to the needs of the present generation of pupils;</li> <li>- development of key competences of teachers in Health and Movement through innovative further education.</li> </ul>
Target groups:	<p>Teachers of physical education at elementary schools (grade 1 and 2) and secondary schools with at least 1st attestation under Art. 27, par. 2, letter c) of Act No. 317/2009 Coll. on Teaching Staff;</p> <p>Teachers of elementary schools, grade 1</p> <p>Teachers of physical education of elementary schools (grade 2) and secondary schools without qualification for physical education;</p>
Activities implemented	<p>The Grant Contract was signed on 31 January 2013. The Beneficiary submitted the notice on the start of implementation of project activities; the project was launched with the activity Project Management on 01 December 2012.</p> <p>The following activities were implemented in 2013:</p> <p><b>1.1 Creation of further education programmes;</b></p> <p><b>1.2 Ensuring teaching tools and aids;</b></p> <p><b>1.3 Creation and use of e-Learning content;</b></p> <p><b>2.1 Training for trainers</b></p> <p>This activity faced the problem of the lack of trainers participating in the training. The Beneficiary contacted all elementary and secondary schools in Slovakia and informed them about the start of the project. This action was followed by the recruitment of potential trainers and by the training course from 28 August to 20 October 2013. 149 persons were trained. Given the failure to ensure the planned number of trainers (the condition of at least 1st attestation, considerable burden in terms of time, etc.), the Beneficiary plans to launch a new training round in 2014 (04-05/2014).</p> <p><b>2.2 Training for participants</b></p> <p>The main problem is to ensure sufficient numbers of participants due to lack of information on the training programme; another problem that the Beneficiary faced was that school directors did not allow the participants to attend the training activities. The Beneficiary launched its own information campaign to attract the target group, mainly in the regions of Prešov, Banská Bystrica, Trenčín and Nitra. The NSC plans to carry out the main information campaign after the completion of the public procurement procedure for rent of premises and accommodation for participants.</p>
Financial implementation/cumulative absorption of funds in EUR from the start of the programming period	EUR 359,537.77
Cumulative performance of indicators from the start of the programming period	<p>Result indicators (planned/actual):</p> <p>Number of newly created education programmes using ICT in the teaching process - 4/4</p> <p>Number of introduced electronic services - 1/0</p> <p>Number of persons from the target group involved in supported projects – men – 2,080/86</p> <p>Number of persons from the target group involved in supported projects – women – 1,320/63</p>
Contribution to HP	IS, SD, EO
Project website	<a href="http://www.mat.iedu.sk">www.mat.iedu.sk</a>

Source: MA

Table 56: State of implementation of the national project as of 31 December 2013

Project name:	Development of the National Qualifications System
Measure	2.1
Beneficiary:	State Institute of Vocational Training
Budget in EUR:	EUR 21,442,896.78
Project implementation period:	01 February 2013 – 31 October 2015
Basis in national/regional policy:	<p>2nd European meta-framework for the implementation of the European Qualifications Framework for lifelong learning approved by the European Parliament and the Council in 2008</p> <p>Act No. 568/2009 Coll. on Lifelong Learning and on changes and amendments to some acts</p>



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Project aims:	The aim of the project is to create and develop an effective system of lifelong learning focused on the development of key competences, and on the deepening and enhancement of qualifications in line with the current and perspective needs of a knowledge-based society throughout the whole life of all citizens of the SR.
Target groups:	Teaching and non-teaching staff Teachers of higher education institutions Staff working in the field of education Persons involved in further education activities
Activities implemented	<p>The Grant Contract was signed on 27 February 2013. The Beneficiary submitted the notice on the start of implementation of project activities on 12 March 2013; the project was launched on 01 February 2013.</p> <p>The following activities were implemented in 2013:</p> <p><b>1.1 Setting up of managing, expert and methodological structures for the creation of NQF, NQS and IS</b></p> <p>Partial task <i>1.1.2 Setting up of the National Council for Education and Qualifications (NCEQ)</i>: During the fulfilment of this task, a problem occurred in connection with the conclusion of contracts, as it was necessary to get appointments for representatives of sectoral ministries and other social partners. The contractual relations (labour contracts) represented a problem for government staff. Another problem was late submission of documents by some individuals. As a result, this partial task could not be fulfilled in line with the schedule in 2013.</p> <p>Partial task <i>1.1.3 Setting up of NQS sectoral councils and departmental expert groups</i>: Given the fact that this partial activity is performed on a supplier basis, the different expert tasks can start after the completion of all public procurement processes. The public procurement procedure was delayed against the plan due to problems (objections) that arose during the electronic auction. The electronic auction had to be repeated in line with the recommendations of the Public Procurement Authority and the MA. The planned date of the repeated electronic auction is 23 January 2014. For these reasons, the respective partial task did not start in 2013 in line with the plan.</p> <p>Partial task <i>1.1.4 Setting up of working groups</i>: This partial activity required the contacting of a wide range of government and self-government institutions, education institutions and other entities (social partners, employers' representatives). Over 4,000 organisations were contacted to present proposals for members of working groups: 1. for the preparation of the National Qualification Framework (NQF), 2. for analysis of the school education programmes and study programmes of HEIs, 3. for analysis of the completion of studies. Since the process of selection of candidates for work in the group for the preparation of the National Qualification Framework, for analysis of school education programmes and study programmes of higher education institutions and for analysis of the completion of studies involved 320 candidates from different types of schools, this activity represented a significant administrative burden leading a delay of three months in the end date of the activity.</p> <p><b>2.1 Creation of analyses and methodologies</b></p> <p>Partial task <i>2.1.1 Analysis of the European Qualifications Framework and National Qualifications Frameworks in selected EU countries</i>: The performance of this task was delayed on the basis of an analysis of the logical sequence of steps needed to carry out the analysis of the European Qualifications Framework, national qualifications frameworks in selected EU countries, and of the National Qualifications Network of the SR. For these reasons, this partial task did not start in 2013 as originally planned.</p> <p>Partial task <i>2.1.3 Analysis of existing occupations under the National System of Occupations and identification of complete and partial qualifications</i> is tied to the public procurement procedure along with partial task 1.1.3. For this reason, this partial task did not start in 2013 as originally planned.</p> <p>Partial task <i>2.1.4 Development of methodologies</i>: The implementation of this partial task was delayed by two months due to the extended process of appointing the working group members. This extension resulted from the need to cover all levels of education by relevant experts to ensure that the development of methodologies involves representatives of primary, secondary and tertiary education.</p> <p><b>3.1 Preparation of the National Qualifications Framework and the National Qualifications System</b></p> <p>Partial task <i>3.1.2 Creation of qualifications cards</i> is tied to public procurement along</p>

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	<p>with partial task 1.1.3. For this reason this partial task did not start in 2013 as originally planned.</p> <p>Partial task 3.1.3 Work with NCEQ is linked to partial task 1.1.3 this partial task did not start in 2013 as originally planned.</p> <p><b>4.1 Creation of an information system for the National Qualifications Framework and the National Qualifications System</b></p> <p>Partial task 4.1.1 Design, creation and filling up of the information system</p> <p>Partial task 4.1.2 Pilot testing of the information system for the National Qualifications Framework and the National Qualifications System</p> <p>Partial task 4.1.3 Implementation of the information system for the National Qualifications Framework and the National Qualifications System</p> <p>Since almost the entire partial activity is implemented on a supplier basis (see partial task 1.1.3.), it did not start in 2013 as originally planned.</p> <p><b>5.1 Further education of target groups on the creation and use of the NQF, NQS and IS</b></p> <p>Partial task 5.1.1 <i>Preparation of an accredited education programme:</i> the preparation of education programmes for their accreditation faced the problem related to the existence of two laws dealing with lifelong learning and further education: Act No. 568/2009 Coll. on Lifelong Learning and on changes and amendments to some acts, and Act No. 317/2009 Coll. on Teaching Staff and Specialised Staff and on changes and amendments to some acts. The target groups of the national project include teaching staff and specialised staff the further education of which is governed by the provisions of Act No. 317/2009 Coll., as well as social partners (employers, government and self-government representatives) that cannot be trained under these provisions. This problem could not be solved in 2013, and will be subject to a change in the contract in 2014.</p>
Financial implementation/cumulative absorption of funds in EUR from the start of the programming period	EUR 291,662.30
Cumulative performance of indicators from the start of the programming period	<p>Result indicators (planned/actual)</p> <p>Number of defined qualification and evaluation standards – 900/0</p> <p>Number of newly created education programmes – 2/0</p> <p>Number of persons involved in the implementation of project activities – 4,095/0</p> <p>Number of introduced electronic services – 1/0</p>
Contribution to HP	IS, SD
Project website	<a href="http://www.tvorbansk.sk/">http://www.tvorbansk.sk/</a>

Source: MA

Table 57: State of implementation of the national project as of 31 December 2013

Project name:	Further education and counselling for adults as a tool for increasing the chances on the labour market
Measure	2.1
Beneficiary:	National Institute of Lifelong Learning
Budget in EUR:	EUR 27,993,607.83
Project implementation period:	15 March 2013 – 30 September 2015
Basis in national/regional policy:	Act No. 568/2009 Coll. on Lifelong Learning and on changes and amendments to some acts.
Project aims:	<p>The main aim of the project is to create a system of further education and counselling for adults by increasing its quality.</p> <p>The specific aim is to increase the participation of persons in further education activities.</p>
Target groups:	<p>Persons participating in further education activities</p> <p>Lecturers</p> <p>Tutors</p> <p>Employees working in the field of education</p>
Activities implemented	The Grant Contract was signed on 15 March 2013. The Beneficiary submitted the notice on the start of implementation of project activities; the project was launched on 14 January 2013.

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	The following activities were implemented in 2013: <b>Activity 1.1 Developing the further education system</b> <b>Activity 1.2 Developing the system of counselling to adults</b> <b>Activity 1.3 Support tools for the development of further education and counselling for adults.</b>
Financial implementation/cumulative absorption of funds in EUR from the start of the programming period	EUR 11,086,053.78
Cumulative performance of indicators from the start of the programming period	Result indicators (planned/actual) Number of innovated/newly created teaching materials - 45/44 Number of newly created education programmes – 45/44 Number of persons involved in the implementation of project activities – 26,972/2,705 Number of introduced electronic services – 1/1
Contribution to HP	IS, SD
Project website	<a href="http://www.nuczv.sk">www.nuczv.sk</a> , <a href="http://www.cvanu.sk">www.cvanu.sk</a> , <a href="http://www.registerdv.sk">www.registerdv.sk</a>

Source: MA

Table 58: State of implementation of the national project as of 31 December 2013

Project name:	Activation methods in education
Measure	2.1
Beneficiary:	Methodology and Pedagogy Centre
Budget in EUR:	EUR 17,970,644.89
Project implementation period:	15 April 2013 – 30 November 2015
Basis in national/regional policy:	Act No. 245/2008 on Education (School Act) and on changes and amendments to some acts, education of teaching staff as defined in Act No. 317/2009 Coll. on Teaching Staff and Specialised Staff
Project aims:	The main aim of the project is targeted and active investment into enhancing the competences of staff working in the field of education to increase and improve the use of activation methods of education and with a focus on emotional intelligence and media literacy as prerequisites for the development of a knowledge-based society. The specific project aims include: innovation of professional competences by improving the skills, competences and knowledge of professionals working in the field of education with an emphasis on improving the competences for the use of activation methods in education as a tool for elimination of education problems, creation of basic value systems and for enhancing media literacy.
Target groups:	Staff working in the field of education in directly managed organisations of the MoESRS SR Teaching staff and specialised staff of kindergartens, elementary art schools, educational school facilities under Art. 113 of the School Act – school clubs for children, school centres for hobbies, spare-time centres, dormitories, special schools, special educational facilities, conservatories, secondary vocational art schools
Activities implemented	The Grant Contract was signed on 12 June 2013. The Beneficiary submitted the notice on the start of implementation of project activities; the project was launched with the activity Project Management on 15 April 2013, and the other project activities started on 15 June 2013.  The following activities were implemented in 2013: <b>Activity 1.1 Training for staff working in the field of education</b> <b>Activity 1.2 Activation methods in education</b> <b>Activity 1.3 Technical support for the project</b>
Financial implementation/cumulative absorption of funds in EUR from the start of the programming period	EUR 296,866.91
Cumulative performance of indicators from the start of the programming period	Result indicators (planned/actual) Number of newly created education programmes – 1/0 Number of innovated/newly created teaching materials – 33/0 Number of employees involved in educational project activities – 7,665/578 Number of introduced electronic services – 1/0
Contribution to HP	IS, SD
Project website	<a href="http://www.amvprojekt.sk">www.amvprojekt.sk</a>

Source: MA

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**Performance of measurable indicators**

Table 59: Performance of measurable indicators as of 31 December 2013

Indicators*		2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	Total	Comments**
1. Percentage of population participating in lifelong learning per 100 inhabitants aged 25–64 (%) - result	Result achieved	3,9 %	3,3%	2,8%	2,8%	3,9%	3,14%	2,98%	N/A	N/A	2,98%	N/A
	Target	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	12,50 %	NA/	12,50 %	12,50 %	N/A
	Baseline	4,6 %	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	4,6%	N/A
2. Number of lecturers having completed further education programmes - output	Result achieved	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	N/A	N/A	0	0
	Target	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	960	N/A	960	960	N/A
	Baseline	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0	N/A
3. Number of supported further education programmes – output	Result achieved	0	0	3	131	215	360	622	N/A	N/A	622	3
	Target	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	150	N/A	150	150	N/A
	Baseline	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0	N/A
4. Number of newly established networks under the learning regions concept – output	Result achieved	0	0	0	0	0	0	7	N/A	N/A	7	0
	Target	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	19	N/A	19	19	N/A
	Baseline	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0	N/A
5. Percentage of networks created under the learning regions concept in existence after the expiry of support from OPE - result	Result achieved	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	N/A	0%	0%
	Target	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	80%	N/A	80%	80%	N/A
	Baseline	0%	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0%	N/A
6. Percentage of medical staff having completed further education programmes for medical staff (%) – output	Result achieved	N/A	0,15 %	0,12%	0,12%	0,12%	0,12%	0,12%	N/A	N/A	0,12%	0,12 %
	Target	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	7%	N/A	7%	7%	N/A
	Baseline	0%	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0%	N/A
7. Number of further education programmes for medical staff - output	Result achieved	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	NA	NA	1	0
	Target	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	15	N/A	15	15	N/A
	Baseline	0%	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0%	N/A
8. Percentage of medical personnel remaining in the health care system after completing	Result achieved	0%	0%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	N/A	N/A	100%	100%
	Target	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	80%	N/A	80%	80%	N/A
	Baseline	0%	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0%	N/A

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further education programmes (%) – result												
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\* For detailed definitions and measuring units of indicators see Annex 8.

\*\*The Comments column indicates indicator values for physically and financially completed projects.

Source: MA/IBMA

Details on physical progress under this priority axis for each indicator in 2013 is provided in the final part of this chapter called “Quality analysis of the results achieved at the level of priority axis”.

Table 60: Target values of indicators set by beneficiaries on the basis of contracts at the level of Priority Axis 2 as of 31 December 2013

Indicator (measuring unit, type)	Target set by beneficiaries on the basis of contracts concluded as of 31 December 2013	Indicator value as of 31 December 2013	Target value	Comments*
1. Percentage of population participating in lifelong learning per 100 inhabitants aged 25–64 (%) - context	N/A	2,9	12,5	N/A**
2. Number of lecturers having completed further education programmes - output	2 953	0	960	0
3. Number of supported further education programmes - output	934	622	150	3
4. Number of newly established networks under the learning regions concept – output	7	7	19	0
5. Percentage of networks created under the learning regions concept in existence after the expiry of support from OPE – result	0	0	80	0
6. Percentage of medical staff having completed further education programmes for medical staff - output	27.52	0.12	7	0.12
7. Number of further education programmes for medical personnel - output	5	1	15	0
8. Percentage of medical personnel remaining in the health care system after completing further education programmes (%) - result	99.44	100	80	100

\* The Comments column indicates indicator values for physically and financially completed projects.

\*\* The indicator is a context indicator which is not contracted directly in projects.

Source: MA/IBMA

### 3.2.1.2. Financial implementation of Priority Axis 2

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Table 61: Use of funds under Priority Axis 2 as of 31 December 2013

	Commitment 2007-2013 for EU funds in EUR	Use of funds in 2013 (EU funds) in EUR		Cumulative use of funds (EU funds) in EUR	
		Total	% from commitment 2007–2013	Total	% from commitment 2007–2013
<b>Priority Axis 2</b>	140,391,205.00	19,367,251.25	13.80%	45,022,284.68	32.07%
<b>Measure 2.1</b>	103,891,205.00	17,062,403.56	16.42%	34,231,342.29	32.95%
<b>Measure 2.2</b>	36,500,000.00	2,304,847.69	6.31%	10,790,942.39	29.56%

Source: CA

For more details on cross-financing see sub-chapter 2.1.2 of the AIR.

### 3.2.1.3. Specific aspects of ESF programmes

#### *Assistance by target groups for ESF programmes*

Table 62: Monitoring of target groups under Priority Axis 2 from 01 January to 31 December 2013

Breakdown of project participants						
Indicator	Calendar year 2013					
	Participants entering the project		Participants leaving the project		Participants from the previous year	
	Total	Whereof women	Total	Total	Whereof women	Total
Total number of participants	38,203	29,615	22,853	18,286	28,608	22,182
<i>Breakdown of participants by their labour market status</i>						
Employed	31,136	25,007	21,024	17,151	27,207	21,185
Whereof : self-employed persons	173	75	227	116	189	105
Unemployed	386	237	112	68	12	4
Whereof: long-term unemployed persons	115	76	40	24	10	0
Inactive persons	6,681	4,371	1,717	1,067	1,389	993
Whereof students /participants to professional training	5,887	3,740	1,708	1,062	1,385	899
<i>Breakdown of participants by age</i>						
Youth (15–24 years)	6,425	4,101	1,935	1,205	1,593	1,086
Elder persons (55–64 years)	4,625	3,546	2,139	1,724	3,666	2,501
<i>Breakdown of participants by vulnerability groups in line with national legislation</i>						
Migrants	15	13	0	0	0	0
Minorities	1,509	1,187	1,194	1,000	466	374
Disabled persons	171	129	28	22	24	17
Other disadvantaged persons	222	149	17	10	22	16
<i>Breakdown of participants by attained level of education</i>						
Primary or lower secondary education (ISCED 1 and 2)	4,673	3,002	1,430	877	616	407

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Higher secondary education (ISCED 3)	6,299	5,050	3,368	2,726	4,728	3,950
Post-secondary non-university education (ISCED 4)	2,180	1,992	1,326	1,117	2,290	2,074
University education (ISCED 5 and 6)	25,051	17,571	16,729	13,566	20,974	15,751

Source: MA

For more details on the monitored target groups see sub-chapter 2.1.8 of the AIR.

### 3.2.2. Significant problems encountered and measures taken to overcome them

Table 63 describes the problems encountered during the implementation of Priority Axis 2 with regard to the implementation of demand-driven projects during the reference period.

The significant problems encountered with respect to the implementation of the OPE as a whole, the measures taken, and the implementation of measures are detailed in sub-chapter 2.3 of the AIR.

Table 63: Implementation of measures taken to address the problems identified

Problems identified	Measures taken	Summary sheet of the measures taken
Lowest rate of absorption of all priority axes relative to the allocation (32.07%).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Regular weekly monitoring of the progress made in the administration of RfPs at MA+IBMA level (on the basis of the number and amount of RfPs registered in the ITMS system);</li> <li>- More intense communication with beneficiaries of projects on the planned amounts of RfPs submitted by the end of 2013 before submission and during control of public procurements;</li> <li>- Faster and more effective administration of RfPs – increased effectiveness of RfP processing for existing projects;</li> <li>- Proactive approach by the MA for the OPE – meetings with the beneficiaries of national projects at the level of the MA and ministry management.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Administration of most unprocessed RfPs submitted to the MA/IBMA</li> <li>- Better compliance with deadline for submission of RfPs by the beneficiaries of national/demand-driven projects</li> </ul>
The results of Commission Audit No. 2013-1595 stating level of assurance 3 with regard to the control of the IBMA.	The IBMA MoH SR is due to submit RfPs to the MA for the OPE for 100% control of expenditure. The RfPs are included in the summary RfPs after carrying out 100% control of expenditure and after submission of a statutory declaration of the MA for the OPE on having conducted 100% control of expenditure under the RfP. Representatives of the MA for the OPE are also present in on-the-spot inspections of implemented projects.	The measure is being implemented.

Source: MA

### Quality and quantity analysis of the results achieved under Priority Axis 2

As of 31 December 2013, the actual absorption of funds under Priority Axis 2 reached EUR 45,022,284.68 in total (ESF), which represents 32.07% of the commitment 2007–2013. This absorption rate relative to the allocation is the lowest one of all priority axes. With regard to the amount of contracted funds, the absorption rate under this priority axis attained 30.35%, which is again the lowest absorption rate of all OPE priority axes.

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National projects constituted 76.77% of the total amount contracted under Priority Axis 2 as of 31 December 2013; the remaining part was demand-driven projects of the MoH SR (17.20%). The contracted amount was used to a greater extent in demand-driven projects of the MoH SR (42.67%) and of the ASFEU (34.13%) compared to national projects (27.41%). The different absorption rate in projects implemented by the MA and the IBMA was mainly caused by the significant increase in the contracted sum for national projects of over EUR 66 million from ESF funds in 2013, which anticipates higher absorption by these projects in the rest of the financial implementation period 2014–2015.

As of 31 December 2013, the values of measurable indicators were fulfilled, in terms of the progress and physical implementation of projects, as follows:

Indicator 1 *Percentage of population participating in lifelong learning per 100 inhabitants aged 25–64* reached 2.9% according to Eurostat as of 31 December 2013. It should be noted that this value reflects the situation in the given field achieved on the basis of several factors and measures, and not only on the basis of the measures implemented under the OPE. At present, no such method of calculation exists that could determine the impact of OPE activities on the achieved value.

The achieved value of Indicator 2 *Number of lecturers having completed further education programmes* and its zero value results from the fact that this indicator having links to the above-mentioned programme indicator was not monitored in 2012. After the introduction of this indicator as a mandatory one under projects contracted in 2013, the contracted indicator value is 2,953, which indicates exceeding of the planned value by the end of the programming period.

In 2013, Indicator 3 *Number of supported further education programmes* was largely exceeded, having reached 414% of the target value. This value is largely due to the implementation of the national project *Professional and career growth of teaching staff*. The contracted value of this indicator is 783 programmes, which indicates that the planned value will be significantly exceeded by the end of the programming period.

During the reference period, Indicator 4 *Number of newly established networks under the learning regions concept* was fulfilled with 7 networks under the learning regions concept (37% of the target). Since the value contracted as of 31 December 2013 is 7 networks, the target value are not expected to be achieved by the end of the programming period.

During the reference period, Indicator 5 *Percentage of networks created under the learning regions concept in existence after the expiry of support from OP Education* was not fulfilled, and the values are zero. Indicator 5 is expected to perform after the completion of the national project KomPrax – Competences for practice which will be implemented by 2015 and which applies the indicator *Number of new networks created under the learning regions concept*, serving as a basis for calculating the percentage of networks as a result indicator at the programme level after expiry of assistance under the OPE.

The value of Indicator 6 *Percentage of medical staff having completed further education programmes for medical staff* achieved in the reference period is identical to the value of 2012; 8 out of 20 projects launched under calls focusing on the *Staffing of the healthcare system with qualified experts* were regularly completed. Under these projects, 89 medical staff attended further education, which means 0.12% of the indicator value from the total number of all medical staff. The value of this indicator is expected to grow in the 1st half of 2014 when data on regularly completed projects will be available on the basis of follow-up monitoring reports. Given the high planned value of contracted project indicators (27.52%), no risk of failure to meet the target value of this programme indicator has been identified.



Indicator 7 *Number of further education programmes for medical personnel* has so far been fulfilled to a minimum extent compared to the target (15), i.e. this indicator has only been fulfilled with respect to one out of 20 contracted projects. The contracted value of this indicator represents 5 training programmes, and does not reach the target value of the indicator. After adoption of a measure by the IBMA MoH SR under which all calls starting from 2010 include a mandatory activity concerning the creation or updating of education programmes, this indicator is expected to be fulfilled with successful projects under the call planned in 2014 (for the remaining allocation under Measure 2.2).

As for result Indicator 8 *Percentage of medical personnel remaining in the health care system after completing further education programmes*, the programme indicator value is monitored on the basis of the values of the impact project indicator monitored in follow-up reports on completed projects. The value did not change against 2012, as no new projects were completed in 2012. The current indicator value (100%) means the staying of all 89 medical staff supported under the pilot projects of the first call in the healthcare system of the SR after 12 months from the termination of project activities. Given the high planned value of contracted project impact indicators, no risk of failure to meet the target value of this programme indicator has been identified.

### 3.3. Priority Axis 3

#### 3.3.1. Achievement of targets and analysis of the progress made

The achievement of the objectives and a detailed analysis of the progress made under Priority Axis 3 which aims to increase the education level of persons with special educational needs with respect to MRCs are described in sub-chapters 3.3.1.1 to 3.3.2 below.

##### 3.3.1.1. Physical progress of Priority Axis 3

Table 49: State of publishing of calls under Priority Axis 3 from 01 January to 31 December 2013

Measure	Type of call	Date of launch of call	Closing date for submission of grant applications	Allocation of funds per call (NFC) in EUR
3.2	Time-limited, national project	17/01/2013	19/03/2013	15,000,000.00
<b>Total for Priority Axis 3</b>				<b>15,000,000.00</b>

Source: MA

During the reference period, one written invitation for national projects was published under Priority Axis 3 (Measure 3.2) at a total amount of the allocation of **EUR 15,000,000.00**.

#### MA for the OPE

During the reference period, the MA for the OPE published one written invitation for grant applications under Priority Axis 3.

1. Written invitation **OPV/K/NP/2012-2 – Comprehensive counselling system for preventing and influencing socio-pathological phenomena in school environments** was published on 17 January 2013 with closure date of 19 March 2012 (repeated written invitation No. OPE/K/NP/2012-4 under which the grant application submitted by the Research Institute of Child Psychology and Pathopsychology was withdrawn during the approval process). The allocation totalled **EUR 15,000,000.00**.

The written invitation sought to increase the education level of persons with special educational needs through lifelong counselling and with professional counselling support of professionals working in the education counselling and prevention system. The Research Institute of Child Psychology and Pathopsychology was the eligible applicant. For more details on the written invitation see <http://www.minedu.sk/17012013-pisomne-vyzvanie—narodny-projekt-komplexny-poradensky-system-prevencie-a-ovplyvnovania-socialno-patologickych-javov-v-skolskom-prostredi/>.

One grant application for an amount of **EUR 14,999,436.96** was submitted. After the evaluation and approval process, the grant application was approved and contracted on 13 March 2013 in a total amount of **EUR 14,780,699.22**. For more details on the national project see Table 69.

In 2013, the process of approval of a grant application for a national project continued on the basis of a written invitation published at the end of 2012.

Written invitation OPE/K/NP/2012-1/*Inclusive model of education at pre-primary level of the school system* was published on 11 December 2012 (for more details also refer to AIR 2012) with closure date of 11 February 2013. The allocation totalled EUR **7,400,000.00**. One grant application for an amount of **EUR 7,397,053.00** was submitted. After the evaluation and approval process, the grant application was approved on 25 February 2013 and contracted on 27 February 2013 in a total amount of **EUR 7,372,029.00**. For more details on the national project see Table 68.

### **IBMA ASFEU**

In 2013, no call for grant applications was published under Priority Axis 3.

Under Measure 3.1, the process of approval of a grant application was conducted in 2013, followed by the contracting of projects under call OPV-2012/3.1/04-SORO published in 2012 with closure date of 31 January 2013 (for more details see AIR 2012 or <http://www.asfeu.sk/operacny-program-vzdelavanie/archiv/vyzvy/opv-20123104-IBMA/>). 14 projects were contracted, one of them having been exceptionally completed. The total amount of the NFC for 13 contracted projects reached EUR 2,075,585.68.

Under Measure 3.2, no call was published in 2013, and no new contracting was made. Two projects were regularly completed as of 31 December 2013.

For more details on the monitoring of the progress of implementation of Priority Axis 3 see Tables 65 and 66.

Table 65: Monitoring of the progress of implementation of Priority Axis 3 as of 31 December 2013

Measure	Number of received grant applications	Number of approved grant applications	Number of contracted projects	Number of projects completed regularly	Number of projects completed exceptionally
Measure 3.1	260	110	101	33	8
Measure 3.2	39	24	20	2	3
<b>Priority Axis 3</b>	<b>299</b>	<b>134</b>	<b>121</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>11</b>

Source: MA

Table 66: Financial progress of implementation as of 31 December 2013 (in EUR)

Measure	Allocation for EU+SB funds	Amount of requested contribution (NFC)	Amount of approved contribution (NFC)	Amount of contracted funds (NFC)	Value of projects completed regularly	Value of projects completed exceptionally
Measure 3.1	57,294,118.00	84,682,258.15	50,086,959.91	48,629,223.37	4,220,850.08	1,233,057.60
Measure 3.2	17,276,471.00	37,927,868.51	33,915,866.00	18,125,979.44	425,724.82	518,055.95
<b>Priority Axis 3</b>	<b>74,570,589.00</b>	<b>122,610,126.66</b>	<b>84,002,825.91</b>	<b>66,755,202.81</b>	<b>4,646,574.90</b>	<b>1,751,113.55</b>

\*The allocation from EU + SB funds includes own public funds.

\*\* Amount of used NFC funds of regularly completed projects.

Source: MA

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As of 31 December 2013, a total of **11** calls were published under Priority Axis 3 with a total allocation of **EUR 141,100,000.00**. 8 calls were launched under Measure 3.1 (with a total allocation of EUR 102,300,000.00), and three calls under Measure 3.2 (with a total allocation of EUR 800,000,000.00),

As of 31 December 2013, **299** grant applications were delivered under Priority Axis 3, where the total requested amount of contributions reached EUR **122,610,126.66**. Of this number, **134** grant applications were approved with a total contribution of EUR **84,002,825.91** and **121** projects were contracted with a total amount of contracted funds from ESF, including co-financing from the state budget, of EUR **66,755,202.81**, with 75 projects under implementation and 46 completed projects (35 projects were regularly completed and 11 projects were completed exceptionally).

As of 31 December 2013, the contract for demand-driven projects was withdrawn in eight cases. The main reasons for withdrawals were beneficiaries' concerns about the failure to meet the project activities and objectives, the enormous administrative burden to the detriment of the project implementation, lack of staff needed to set up project teams, lack of own funds for the implementation of the project, and planned cancellation of the class for MRCs and related failure to meet the project aims.

As of 31 December 2013, **83** demand-driven projects of the IBMA ASFEU were implemented under **5** calls of Priority Axis 3:

Measure 3.1:

1. *Programmes and courses for elementary school pupils from marginalised Roma communities* (OPV-2009/3.1/01-SORO) – **16** projects;
2. *Enhancing the reading literacy of socially disadvantaged pupils of elementary schools from MRCs* (OPV-2011/3.1/02-SORO) – **25** projects;
3. *Facilitating the access of members of marginalised Roma communities to education, including further education* (OPV-2011/3.1/03- SORO) – **12** projects;
4. *Promoting the education of members of marginalised Roma communities by supporting allocated workplaces of secondary vocational schools* (OPV-2012/3.1/04- SORO) - **13** projects

Measure 3.2:

1. *Innovation of the methods and forms of the educational process and creation of further education programmes for disabled persons* (OPV-2009/3.2/01- SORO) – **17** projects.

During the reference period, **3** national projects were implemented under Priority Axis 3. For more details on these national projects see Tables 67 to 69. Annex 13 to the AIR provides an overall evaluation of national projects and of their contribution to education.

Table 67: State of implementation of the national project as of 31 December 2013

Project name:	Through education of teaching staff towards inclusion of marginalised Roma communities
Measure	3.1
Beneficiary:	Methodology and Pedagogy Centre
Budget in EUR:	EUR 24,989,002.00
Project implementation period:	01 October 2011 – 31 January 2015
Basis in national/regional policy:	Act No. 245/2008 on Education (School Act) and on changes and amendments to some acts; education of teaching staff as defined in Act No. 317/2009 Coll. on Teaching Staff and Specialised Staff
Project aims:	The main aim of the project is to improve the education level of people from MRCs through training for teaching staff and specialised staff, thus developing the necessary competences for their further education and successful adaptation on the labour market. The project places increased emphasis on enhancing the key competences of workers working in the field of education, such as competences needed in a knowledge-based society, information and media literacy and digital competences, the ability to evaluate, propose solutions, control, establish quality relations, cooperate, and manage and solve conflicts.

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	The specific project aims include: - to improve the professional competences of teaching staff and specialised staff involved in the education of pupils from MRCs;
Target groups:	Teaching staff Specialised staff Elementary school teachers from MRCs Parents Government and self-government staff working with MRCs
Activities implemented:	The Grant Contract No. OPV/24/2011 was signed on 28 September 2011. The Beneficiary submitted the notice on the start of implementation of project activities on 01 October 2011.  The following activities were implemented in 2013: <b>Activity 1.1 Training for teaching staff and specialised staff</b> <b>Activity 1.2 Supporting a full-time education system at elementary schools</b> <b>Activity 1.3 Technical support for national project activities</b>  The implementation of education of teaching staff and specialised staff was delayed due to the long process of accreditation of continuous education programmes, long summarisation of a big number of school requests concerning the contents of didactic packages, and subsequent preparation of the public procurement process. The planned date of the completion of the activity on 31 January 2015 is considered unrealistic. In some regions, awareness-raising programmes are not conducted due to the lack of interest on the side of parents, or the unwillingness of potential lecturers to commute to remote locations.
Financial implementation/cumulative absorption of funds in EUR from the start of the programming period	EUR 8,729,642.79
Cumulative performance of indicators from the start of the programming period	Result indicators (planned/actual) Number of newly created education programmes - 12/8 Number of innovated/newly created teaching materials – 1,005/95 Number of teaching staff involved in project activities using ICT in the teaching process – 400/400 Number of persons working for the social inclusion of persons from MRCs trained under further education programmes – 4,200/401 Number of further education programmes for persons working for the social inclusion of persons from MRCs – 12/8 Number of pupils from marginalised Roma communities involved in the implementation of project activities – 15,000/20,779
Contribution to HP	IS, SD, MRC
Project website	<a href="http://www.eduk.sk">www.eduk.sk</a>

Source: MA

Table 68: State of implementation of the national project as of 31 December 2013

Project name:	Inclusive model of education at pre-primary level of the school system
Measure	3.1
Beneficiary:	Methodology and Pedagogy Centre
Budget in EUR:	EUR 7,372,029
Project implementation period:	27 February 2013 – 30 November 2015
Basis in national/regional policy:	Draft Act on Education (School Act) and on changes and amendments to some acts, approved by Government Resolution No. 147/2008 of 05 March 2008. The act entered into effect on 01 September 2008.
Project aims:	The aim of the project is to improve the education level of children from MRCs through training of teaching staff and specialised staff, thus developing the necessary competences for entering the primary level of education. The specific aim is to improve the professional competences of teaching staff and specialised staff involved in the education of children from marginalised Roma communities, thus promoting their social inclusion at the pre-primary level of the school system.
Target groups:	Teaching staff Specialised staff Members of MRCs Parents Government and self-government staff working with MRCs

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Activities implemented:	<p>The Grant Contract was signed on 27 February 2013. The Beneficiary started to implement the project activities on 01 February 2013.</p> <p>The following activities were implemented in 2013:</p> <p><b>1.1 Training for teaching staff and specialised staff</b></p> <p><b>1.2 Supporting an inclusive model of education for the purposes of the pre-primary level of the school system</b></p> <p><b>1.3 Technical support to the national project activities</b></p>
Financial implementation/cumulative absorption of funds in EUR from the start of the programming period	EUR 448,921.03
Cumulative performance of indicators from the start of the programming period	<p>Result indicators (planned/actual)</p> <p>Number of newly created education programmes (2/0)</p> <p>Number of persons working for the social inclusion of persons from MRCs trained in further education programmes (550/0)</p> <p>Number of teaching staff involved in project activities using ICT in the teaching process (500/0)</p> <p>Number of supported education programmes contributing to equal opportunities (2/0)</p> <p>Number of further education programmes for persons working for the social inclusion of persons from MRCs (2/0)</p> <p>Number of innovated /newly created teaching materials (224/0)</p>
Contribution to HP	IS, SD, MRC, EO
Project website	<a href="http://www.npmrk2.sk/">http://www.npmrk2.sk/</a>

Source: MA

Table 69: State of implementation of the national project as of 31 December 2013

Project name:	Comprehensive counselling system for preventing and influencing socio-pathological phenomena in school environments
Measure	3.2
Beneficiary:	Research Institute of Child Psychology and Pathopsychology
Budget in EUR:	EUR 14,780,699.22
Project implementation period:	18 March 2013 – 31 October 2015
Basis in under national/regional policy:	Act No. 245/2008 Coll. on Education as amended, Act No. 282/2008 Coll. on Supporting Youth Work and on changes and amendments to some acts as amended.
Project aims:	<p>The aim of the national project is to increase the education level of elementary school pupils with special educational needs by improving the effectiveness of educational counselling and prevention to ensure their social integration and raise their chances on the labour market.</p> <p>Increasing the education level of persons with special educational needs through lifelong counselling, and professional counselling support by workers of the educational counselling and prevention system. Counselling support in handling socio-pathological phenomena in pupils, in their social integration, support of their study and professional interests, adequate educational aspirations and effective preparation of pupils for entering the labour market.</p> <p>Supporting further education of workers of the educational counselling and prevention system, innovation of counselling methods, methodologies and tests.</p> <p>Increasing long-term competitiveness of the SR through the support and integration of pupils with special educational needs in society and in the labour market, meeting the needs of a knowledge-based society. Optimisation of the professional decision-making process, enhancing pupils' chances on the labour market, and prevention of unemployment (especially long-term one).</p> <p>The specific aim is to support the social inclusion of persons with special educational needs by facilitating their access to acquiring skills needed on the labour market, and to support further education of persons working for their integration in society.</p>
Target groups:	<p>Pupils of elementary schools with special educational needs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) pupils diagnosed with special educational needs;</li> <li>b) pupils who have not been diagnosed with special educational needs but whose behaviour requires special care of the educational counselling and prevention system according to teacher's expert opinion;</li> <li>c) pupils integrated in regular classes;</li> <li>d) pupils of special schools</li> </ul> <p>Teaching staff</p> <p>Specialised staff of pedagogy and psychology counselling and prevention centres, and</p>

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	specialised staff of special pedagogy counselling centres Parents Government and self-government staff working with persons with special educational needs – under Act No. 596/2003 Coll.
Activities implemented:	The Grant Contract was signed on 18 March 2013. The Beneficiary launched the project activities on 17 January 2013.  The following activities were implemented in 2013: <b>1.1 Innovation of comprehensive diagnostics processes in the educational counselling and prevention system for pupils with special educational needs</b> <b>1.2 Training of teaching staff and specialised staff of the educational counselling and prevention system</b> <b>1.3 Innovation of counselling methods in the educational counselling and prevention system for pupils with special educational needs in increasing their chances on the labour market</b>
Financial implementation/cumulative absorption of funds in EUR from the start of the programming period	EUR 3,753,255.51
Cumulative performance of indicators from the start of the programming period	Result indicators (planned/actual) Number of measures for the prevention and elimination of discrimination and reconciliation of working life (1/0) Number of persons from the target group involved in supported projects – disabled persons (400/0) Number of persons involved in the social inclusion of persons with special educational needs trained under further education programmes (1,900/169) Number of further education programmes for persons working for the social inclusion of persons with special educational needs (3/0) Number of schools involved in the implementation of project activities (1 300/0) Number of pupils from marginalised Roma communities involved in the implementation of project activities (400/0)
Contribution to HP	MRK, EO
Project website	<a href="http://www.vudpap-projekt.sk/">http://www.vudpap-projekt.sk/</a>

Source: MA

*Performance of measurable indicators*

Table 70: Performance of measurable indicators as of 31 December 2013

Indicators		2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	Total	Comments
<b>1. Number of pupils with special educational needs participating in education programmes - result</b>	<b>Result achieved</b>	0	0	0	4,595	5,899	8,748	32,761	N/A	N/A	32,761	4,165
	<b>Target</b>	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	10,000	N/A	10,000	10,000	N/A
	<b>Baseline</b>	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0	N/A
<b>2. Number of formal education programmes for persons with special educational needs – result</b>	<b>Result achieved</b>	0	0	0	14	59	121	201	N/A	N/A	201	42
	<b>Target</b>	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	15	N/A	15	15	N/A
	<b>Baseline</b>	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0	N/A
<b>3. Number of persons working for the social inclusion of persons with special educational needs trained in further education programmes - result</b>	<b>Result achieved</b>	0	0	0	0	0	158	1,067	N/A	N/A	1,067	0
	<b>Target</b>	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	31,500	N/A	31,500	31,500	N/A
	<b>Baseline</b>	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0	N/A

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<b>4. Number of further education programmes for persons working for the social inclusion of persons with special educational needs – result</b>	<b>Result achieved</b>	0	0	0	0	1	15	112	N/A	N/A	112	0
	<b>Target</b>	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	30	N/A	30	30	N/A
	<b>Baseline</b>	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0	N/A
<b>5. Placement rate of graduates from formal education programmes for persons with special educational needs (%) – impact</b>	<b>Result achieved</b>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	N/A	N/A	0	0
	<b>Target</b>	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	40	N/A	40	40	N/A
	<b>Baseline</b>	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0	N/A
<b>6. Placement rate of graduates from further education programmes for persons with special educational needs (%) - impact</b>	<b>Result achieved</b>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	N/A	N/A	0	0
	<b>Target</b>	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	40	N/A	40	40	N/A
	<b>Baseline</b>	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0	N/A
<b>7. Low achievers in primary schools from socially disadvantaged backgrounds (%) - impact</b>	<b>Result achieved</b>	67.04	66.90	60.91	62.96	65.09	63.49	64.35	N/A	N/A	64.35	N/A
	<b>Target</b>	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	50	N/A	50	50	N/A
	<b>Baseline</b>	65.4	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	65.4	N/A

\* For detailed definitions and measuring units of indicators see Annex 8.

\*\*The Comments column indicates indicator values for physically and financially completed projects.

Source: MA/IBMA

Details on physical progress under this priority axis for each indicator in 2013 is provided in the final part of this chapter called “Quality analysis of the results achieved at the level of priority axis”.

Table 71: Target values of indicators set by beneficiaries on the basis of contracts at the level of Priority Axis 3 indicators as of 31 December 2013

<b>Indicator</b>	<b>Target set by beneficiaries on the basis of contracts concluded as of 31 December 2013</b>	<b>Indicator value as of 31 December 2013</b>	<b>Target value</b>	<b>Comments*</b>
<b>1. Number of pupils with special educational needs participating in education programmes - result</b>	28,175	32,761	10,000	4,165
<b>2. Number of formal education programmes for persons with special educational needs - result</b>	257	201	15	42
<b>3. Number of persons working for the social inclusion of persons with special educational needs trained in further education programmes – result</b>	7,400	1,067	31,500	0

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Indicator	Target set by beneficiaries on the basis of contracts concluded as of 31 December 2013	Indicator value as of 31 December 2013	Target value	Comments*
4. Number of further education programmes for persons working for the social inclusion of persons with special educational needs - result	226	112	30	0
5. Placement rate of graduates from formal education programmes for persons with special educational needs (%) - impact	1,135	0	40	0
6. Placement rate of graduates from further education programmes for persons with special educational needs (%) - impact	879	0	40	0
7. Low achievers in elementary schools from socially disadvantaged backgrounds (%) – impact	0**	64.35	50	n/a

\*The Comments column provides indicator values for physically and financially completed projects.

\*\*Context indicator which is not added from projects.

Source: MA

### 3.3.1.2. Financial implementation of Priority Axis 3

Table 72: Use of funds by priority axis as of 31 December 2013

	Commitment 2007-2013 for EU funds in EUR	Use of funds in 2013 (EU funds) in EUR		Cumulative use of funds (EU funds) in EUR	
		Total	% from commitment 2007–2013	Total	% from commitment 2007–2013
<i>Priority Axis 3</i>	<b>63,385,000.00</b>	<b>12,566,952.73</b>	<b>19.83%</b>	<b>20,816,491.36</b>	<b>32.84%</b>
Measure 3.1	48,700,000.00	9,114,837.90	18.72%	15,561,424.16	31.95%
Measure 3.2	14,685,000.00	3,452,114.83	23.51%	5,255,067.20	35.79%

Source: CA

For more details on cross-financing see sub-chapter 2.1.2 of AIR.

### 3.3.1.3. Specific aspects of ESF programmes

#### *Assistance by target groups for ESF programmes*

Table 73: Monitoring of target groups under Priority Axis 3 from 01 January to 31 December 2013

Breakdown of project participants						
Indicator	Calendar year 2013					
	Participants entering the project		Participants entering the project		Participants entering the project	
	Total	Total	Total	Total	Total	Total



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Total number of participants	6,332	4,394	2,103	1,340	3,696	1,940
<i>Breakdown of participants by their labour market status</i>						
Employed	3,570	2,987	1,005	848	369	308
Whereof: self-employed persons	46	32	1	0	7	6
Unemployed	178	127	247	143	172	68
Whereof: long-term unemployed persons	108	84	158	96	160	62
Inactive persons	2,584	1,280	851	349	3,155	1,564
Whereof students /participants to professional training	1,705	885	678	239	2,259	1,103
<i>Breakdown of participants by age</i>						
Youth (15–24 years)	386	211	648	266	1,067	517
Elder persons (55–64 years)	597	483	237	204	125	47
<i>Breakdown of participants by vulnerability groups in line with national legislation</i>						
Migrants	6	2	6	5	50	26
Minorities	2,316	1,313	1,123	540	3,060	1,460
Disabled persons	218	109	351	107	419	164
Other disadvantaged persons	458	221	331	163	2,043	1,018
<i>Breakdown of participants by attained level of education</i>						
Primary or lower secondary education (ISCED 1 and 2)	981	477	691	315	1,388	701
Higher secondary education (ISCED 3)	161	127	74	39	37	31
Post-secondary non-university education (ISCED 4)	74	68	47	18	4	3
University education (ISCED 5 and 6)	3,103	2570	797	675	328	281

Source: MA

For more details on the monitored target groups see sub-chapter 2.1.8 to the AIR.

### 3.3.2. Significant problems encountered and measures taken to overcome them

Table 74 describes the problems encountered during the implementation of Priority Axis 3 with regard to the implementation of demand-driven projects during the reference period.

The significant problems encountered with respect to the implementation of the OPE as a whole, the measures taken, and the implementation of measures are detailed in sub-chapter 2.3 of the AIR.

Table 74: Implementation of measures taken to address the problems identified

Problems identified	Measures taken	Summary sheet of the measures taken
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During administrative control of final RfPs, PMs often face the problem of reimbursement of unsettled advance payments on the basis of requests for return of funds, or requests for return of funds for irregularities due to exceeding the limit for indirect expenditure. This process is time consuming and represents a large administrative burden, which leads to delays in the financial settlement and completion of projects.	Given the lack of funds to cover the requests for return of financial resources, beneficiaries are offered the possibility of instalment calendars that they can use to be able to pay the unsettled advance payments and irregularities due to exceeding the limits for indirect expenditure.	In some cases, the ASFEU made agreements on instalments.
The low absorption rate of funds on the side of beneficiaries and also MA/IBMA due to the nature of submitted and settled expenditure under RfPs, predominantly personnel expenditure characterised by high administrative burden. The mandatory supporting documents needed to prove the eligibility of personnel expenditure is large in size but low in the amount of submitted/cleared funds.	In order to accelerate the settlement of funds in this field, the MA/IBMA simplified the reporting and submission of some personnel expenditure by updating the Manual for NFC Beneficiaries under the OPE. According to this update, the beneficiary may present simplified work sheets for certain group of employees, and use a new summary overview upon consent of the MA/IBMA. The use of simplified supporting documentation is expected to accelerate the processing of RfPs with regard to personnel expenditure on the side of beneficiaries, and to faster and more effective administrative control on the side of the MA/IBMA.	Updated Manual for NFC Beneficiaries under the OPE, version 7.0 of 11 February 2013, in effect from 12 February 2013.
Underspending of funds due to irregular submission of RfPs, with long intervals between individual RfPs. In addition to that, RfPs are submitted in very low quality, and their processing requires one to two reminders to complete the required documents.	Beneficiaries are provided with personal consultations by PMs, or phone consultations and e-mail communication. A Guideline for Beneficiaries was issued, which enabled beneficiaries to submit RfPs more frequently than within deadlines set in grant contracts in order to accelerate the use of funds.	The increased frequency of personal consultations at the IBMA ASFEU or directly at beneficiaries had a positive impact on reducing the error rate in most beneficiaries submitting their RfPs for administrative control. The issuance of the guideline increased the number of RfPs submitted for administrative control with less expenditure declared, which enabled more flexible and faster processing of RfPs.

Source: MA

### **Quality and quantity analysis of achieved results under Priority Axis 3**

As of 31 December 2013, the actual absorption of funds under Priority Axis 3 reached EUR 20,816,491.36 in total (ESF), which represents 32.84% of the commitment 2007–2013. This absorption rate relative to the allocation is the second lowest one of all OPE priority axes (the absorption rate was slightly smaller in Priority Axis 2). With regard to the amount of contracted funds, the absorption rate under this priority axis attained 36.31%, which is comparable to the result achieved in Priority Axis 1 and 4. In spite of these results relative to the total absorption rate of this priority

axis, it is positive that the number of requests for payment approved by the CA in 2013 is almost 2.7-times higher than in the year before.

National projects constituted 69.89% of the total amount contracted under Priority Axis 3 as of 31 December 2013; the remaining part was demand-driven projects of the ASFEU (30.11%). The contracted amount was used to a greater extent in demand-driven projects (57.51%) compared to national projects (27.43%). The different absorption rate in projects implemented by the MA and the IBMA was mainly caused by the significant increase in the contracted sum for national projects of over EUR 19 million from ESF funds in 2013, which anticipates higher absorption by these projects in the rest of the financial implementation period 2014–2015.

As of 31 December 2013, the values of measurable indicators were fulfilled, in terms of the progress and physical implementation of projects, as follows:

Indicator 1 *Number of pupils with special needs involved in education programmes* reached 32,761 in the reference period, thanks to which the target value of 10,000 pupils was not only fulfilled, but was significantly exceeded (327.61%) yet before the end of the programming period. The indicator value set on the basis of contracts as of 31 December 2013 is 28,175 pupils (the contracted value is 15,000 pupils for the MPC national project).

Indicator 2 *Number of formal education programmes for persons with special educational needs* reached 201 of the planned value of 15 programmes in the reference period, which is largely beyond the planned target (1,340%). The contracted value of this indicator as of 31 December 2013 is 257 programmes, which means considerable exceeding of the planned value by the end of the programming period.

Indicator 3 *Number of persons working for the social inclusion of persons with special educational needs trained in further education programmes* has so far performed to a minimum extent with 1,067 persons, which is 3.39% of the planned value 31,500. The contracted value of this indicator as of 31 December 2013 is 7,400, which indicates that the target will not be met by the end of the programming period.

Indicator 4 *Number of further education programmes for persons working for the social inclusion of persons with special educational needs* reached 112 in the reference period, while the planned value was 30 programmes. This means considerable exceeding of the target value (up to 373.33% of the target). The contracted value of this indicator as of 31 December 2013 is 226 programmes in total, which has already been largely exceeded.

Indicator 5 *Placement rate of graduates from formal education programmes for persons with special educational needs* and Indicator 6 *Placement rate of graduates from further education programmes for persons with special educational needs* did not perform in the reference period, since it is impact indicator at project level. These indicators are expected to be fulfilled after the completion of projects. The contracted value of both indicators indicates considerable exceeding of the planned value by the end of the programming period.

Indicator 7 *Low achievers in elementary schools from socially disadvantaged backgrounds* is not monitored directly in projects, but is provided on the basis of external statistics (SCSTI). With respect to the current indicator value of 64.35% it should be noted that it is lower (i.e. more positive from the point of view of percentage share) than the value at the beginning of the programming period 2007–2013, though it is still higher than the target. It should be taken into consideration, however, that, similar to context indicators, the achieved value reflects the situation in the given field which is due to several measures, as a result of which it is difficult to specify the direct impacts of the OPE.

### **3.4 Priority Axis 4**

### 3.4.1 Achievement of targets and analysis of the progress achieved

The achievement of the objectives and a detailed analysis of the progress made under Priority Axis 4 which aims to enhance the quality and access to further education with an emphasis on the transformation of the content of education to develop key competences and ensure long-term competitiveness of the Region of Bratislava are described in sub-chapters 3.4.1.1 to 3.4.1.3 below.

#### 3.4.1.1. Physical progress of Priority Axis 4

Table 49: publishing of calls under Priority Axis 4 from 01 January to 31 December 2013

Measure	Type of call	Date of launch of call	Closing date for submission of grant applications	Allocation of funds per call (NFC) in EUR
4.1	Time-limited, written invitation for national project	21/01/2013	25/03/2013	3,000,000.00
4.1	Time-limited, demand-driven project	31/01/2013	15/04/2013	1,600,000.00
<b>Total for Priority Axis 4</b>				<b>4,600,000.00</b>

Source: MA

During the reference period, **2** calls were published under Priority Axis 4, Measure 3.1 *Transforming traditional schools to modern ones in the Region of Bratislava*: one written invitation for a national and one time-limited call for demand-driven projects with total allocation of **EUR 4,600,000.00**.

#### MA for the OPE

During the reference period, the MA for the OPE published one written invitation for grant applications under Priority Axis 4.

On 21 January 2013, written invitation No. OPV/K/RKZ/NP/2013-3 *Improving the quality of education at elementary and secondary schools using electronic testing* was published with closure date of 25 March 2013. The project allocation totalled EUR 3,000,000.00.

The written invitation pursued the improvement of the quality of education at elementary and secondary schools using electronic testing, innovations and implementation of the system of measurements at school level and at national level under lower secondary (ISCED 2) and higher secondary education (ISCED 3) enabling to evaluate the quality of education, monitoring the progress of education at elementary and secondary schools, and influence strategic decisions in the field of education policies, and the introduction and use of a single electronic tool for the evaluation and monitoring of the quality of education at lower secondary and (ISCED 2) higher secondary education (ISCED 3) level. The National Institute for Certified Measurements in Education was the eligible applicant. For more information on the written invitation refer to <http://www.minedu.sk/21012013-pisomne-vyzvanie-%E2%80%93-narodny-projekt-c-opvkrkznp2013-3-zvysovanie-kvality-vzdelavania-na-zakladnych-a-strednych-skolach-s-vyuzitim-elektronickeho-testovania/>.

One grant application for EUR 2,597,238.64 was submitted. After the evaluation and approval process, the grant application was approved on 01 March 2013 and contracted on 05 March 2013 in a total amount of **EUR 2,565,452.98**. For more details on the national project see Table 86.

In 2013, the process of approval of received grant applications for national projects on the basis of written invitations published at the end of 2012 continued.

Written invitation **OPV/K/RKZ/NP/2012-8 *Development of the National Qualifications System*** was published on 16 October 2012 with closure date of 17 December 2012 (for more details on the written

invitation see OPE AIR 2012). One grant application for an amount of **EUR 2,791,507.29** was submitted. After the evaluation and approval process, the grant application was approved and contracted on 26 February 2013 in a total amount of **EUR 2,637,530.82**. For more details on the national project see Table 85.

Written invitation **OPV/K/RKZ/NP/2012-10** *Improving the quality of education at elementary and secondary schools using electronic testing* was published on 26 October 2012 with closure date of 27 December 2012 (for more details on the written invitation see OPE AIR 2012). One grant application of EUR 2,594,234.46 was submitted. During the approval process, the application was withdrawn by the beneficiary on 28 January 2013. The written invitation was re-launched on 21 January 2013 under no. OPV/K/RKZ/NP/2013-3.

#### **IBMA ASFEU**

During the reference period, the IBMA ASFEU published one call for grant applications for demand-driven projects under Priority Axis 4.

Call No. **OPV-2013/4.1/05-SORO** for grant applications under Measure 4.1 *Modern secondary grammar schools in the Region of Bratislava* was launched on 31 January 2013 with closure date of 15 April 2013. The allocation totalled EUR 1,600,000.00.

The call was designed for state, church and private secondary grammar schools in the Region of Bratislava, and pursued the modernisation of education by supporting innovations in the content and methods of teaching with an emphasis on teaching mathematics and natural sciences with the aim to increase pupils' interest in technical study fields in line with the Government Manifesto 2012–2016 of May 2012. For more details on the call see <http://www.asfeu.sk/operacny-program-vzdelavanie/archiv/vyzvy/opv-20134105-IBMA/>.

20 grant applications were delivered under the call for a total requested amount of EUR 4,175,330.13. The evaluation and approval process was conducted during the reference period, having approved 9 grant applications with an approved total contribution of EUR 1,286,634.00 as of 31 December 2013, and contracted three projects in the amount of EUR 435,518.14. The contracting process will continue in 2014.

For more details on the progress of implementation of Priority Axis 4 see Tables 76 and 77.

Table 76: Monitoring of the implementation of Priority Axis 4 as of 31 December 2013

Measure	Number of grant applications received	Number of grant applications approved	Number of contracted projects	Number of regularly completed projects	Number of exceptionally completed projects
4.1	124	37	30	18	1
4.2	39	13	12	2	1
4.3	15	13	13	11	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>178</b>	<b>63</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>2</b>

Source: MA

Table 77: Financial progress of the implementation of Priority Axis 4 as of 31 December 2013 (in EUR)

Measure	Allocation for EU+SB funds	Amount of requested contribution (NFC)	Amount of approved contribution (NFC)	Amount of contracted funds (NFC)	Value of projects completed regularly	Value of projects completed exceptionally
4.1	8,131,193.00	26,210,831.57	10,498,334.79	8,836,243.99	1,813,496.47	257,517.37
4.2	11,974,119.00	32,743,719.07	13,894,403.58	13,166,416.84	984,118.16	435,117.11
4.3	837,722.00	1,436,115.57	1,118,825.59	1,118,825.59	571,095.70	0.00

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<b>Total</b>	<b>20,943,034.00</b>	<b>60,390,666.21</b>	<b>25,511,563.96</b>	<b>23,121,486.42</b>	<b>3,368,710.33</b>	<b>692,634.48</b>
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Source: MA

As of 31 December 2013, **38** calls were published under Priority Axis 4 with total allocation of **EUR 41,387,261.72**. 14 calls were published under Measure 4.1 (total allocation of EUR 15,442,904.10), 9 calls under Measure 4.2 (total allocation of EUR 24,981,357.62), and 15 calls under Measure 4.3 (total allocation of EUR 963,000.00).

As of 31 December 2013, **178** grant applications were delivered under Priority Axis 4, where the total requested amount of contributions reached EUR **60,390,666.21**. Of this number, **63** grant applications were approved with a total contribution of EUR **25,511,563.96** and **55** projects were contracted with a total amount of contracted funds from ESF, including co-financing from the state budget, of EUR **23,121,486.42** (this figure does not cover exceptionally completed projects), with 31 regularly completed projects absorbing EUR 3,368,710.33 and two exceptionally completed projects with an originally contracted contribution of EUR 692,634.48.

During the reference period, the contract for demand-driven projects was withdrawn in one case, and one project was exceptionally completed. The reason for exceptional completion of the project was the failure to meet the project indicators in line with the schedule of project activities, as well as irregularities identified during on-the-spot inspection and breach of other obligations arising from the grant contract.

As of 31 December 2013, **13** demand-driven projects were implemented under **5** calls of Priority Axis 4:

**- under Measure 4.1**

1. *Creation and implementation of development programmes of elementary schools promoting the quality of education in line with the reform of the education system (OPV-2008/4.1/01-SORO) – 1 project*
2. *Creation and implementation of school education programmes of secondary schools (OPV-2008/4.1/01-SORO) – 1 project*
3. *Modern secondary grammar schools in the Region of Bratislava (OPV-2013/4.1/05-SORO) – 3 projects.*

**- under Measure 4.2**

4. *Improving the quality of higher education institutions and of the Slovak Academy of Sciences in the Region of Bratislava (OPV-2010/4.2/03-SORO) – 3 projects;*
5. *Improving the quality of higher education institutions and of the Slovak Academy of Sciences in the Region of Bratislava (OPV-2012/4.2/04-SORO) – 5 projects.*

**TA projects of the MA for the OPE**

No written invitations for projects of the MA for the OPE were published under Measure 4.3, no TA projects of the MA for the OPE were submitted or signed, and no activities of any TA project under the OPE were performed in 2013. In the same year, the financial implementation of TA projects of 2009, 2010 and 2012 continued to be carried out through the processing of RfPs (reimbursement) by the MA. Chapter 6 of the AIR provides an overview of the use of funds under TA projects by priority theme. The activities of all TA projects of the MA were completed as of 31 December 2013, with six projects completed regularly and one project was in the process of financial settlement.

**TA projects of the IBMA – ASFEU**

No written invitations for projects were published under Measure 4.3, no TA projects of the IBMA ASFEU were submitted or signed, and no activities of any TA project were performed in 2013. In the

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same year, the financial implementation of TA projects of the IBMA of 2010 continued to be carried out through the processing of RfPs (reimbursement) by the MA. Chapter 6 of the AIR provides an overview of the use of funds under TA projects by priority theme. The activities of all TA projects of the MA were completed as of 31 December 2013, with five projects completed regularly and one project was in the process of financial settlement.

In 2013, nine national projects were implemented; for more details see Tables 78 to 86. As of 31 December 2013, one national project was regularly completed – *Further education of elementary and secondary school teachers in informatics*. Annex 13 to the AIR presents an overall evaluation of national projects and of their contribution to education.

**Table 78: State of implementation of the national project as of 31 December 2013**

Project name:	Foreign language training for elementary school teachers in the context of the Concept of Foreign Language Teaching at Elementary and Secondary Schools
Measure:	4.1
Beneficiary:	National Institute for Education
Budget in EUR:	EUR 1,142,864.51
Project implementation period:	16 September 2008 – 31 March 2014
Basis in national/regional policy:	Act No. 245/2008 Coll. on Education (School Act) and on changes and amendments to some acts, and Concept of Foreign Language Teaching at Elementary and Secondary Schools approved by Government Resolution No. 767/2007 of 12 September 2007.
Project aims:	<p>The aim of the project is to achieve, in a long-term planning horizon, a 100% share of qualified foreign language teachers at elementary schools, grade 1, for the target group of students of younger school age, innovate the content and methods, and increase the quality of education outputs meeting labour market needs in a knowledge-based society.</p> <p>Specific project aim 1: Supplementary foreign language training at B2 SERR level for qualified teachers of elementary schools, grade 1, and training on the pedagogical and psychological bases of foreign language teaching for the target group of pupils of younger school age;</p> <p>Specific project aim 2: Extension training on the pedagogical and psychological bases and didactics for foreign language teaching of the target group of pupils of younger school age for foreign language teachers with 2nd level university education specialised in foreign languages and working at elementary schools, grade 2.</p>
Target groups:	<p>Teachers of elementary schools, grade 1 (employed qualified teachers of elementary schools, grade 1, without qualification to teach foreign language);</p> <p>Teachers of elementary schools, grade 2 (employed 2nd grade teachers of elementary schools qualified to teach foreign language as a general subject/academic subject, willing to extend their qualification with pedagogical and psychological elements and didactics of foreign language teaching at elementary schools, grade 1).</p>
Activities implemented:	<p>The Grant Contract OPV/2/2008 was signed on 16 September 2008.</p> <p>The Beneficiary submitted a notice about the start of implementation of project activities which were launched in September 2008.</p> <p>The following activities were implemented in 2013:</p> <p><b>1.1 Supplementary foreign language training for qualified teachers of elementary schools, grade 1, of A2 SERR level to obtain B2 SERR level;</b></p> <p><b>1.2 Supplementary foreign language training for qualified teachers of elementary schools, grade 1, of A2 SERR level to obtain B2 SERR level;</b></p> <p><b>1.3 Supplementary specialised foreign language training for qualified teachers of of elementary schools, grade 1;</b></p> <p><b>1.4 Development and accreditation of a study programme for supplementary training for the target group of teachers;</b></p> <p><b>2.1 Extension study of the pedagogical and psychological bases of foreign language teaching for teachers of elementary schools, grade 2;</b></p> <p><b>2.2 Extension study of the didactics of foreign language teaching for teachers of elementary schools, grade 2;</b></p> <p><b>2.3 Development and accreditation of a study programme for extension study for the target group of teachers.</b></p>
Financial implementation/cumulative absorption of funds in EUR from the start of the programming period	EUR 704,039.51

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Cumulative performance of indicators from the start of the programming period	Result indicators (planned/actual): Number of schools involved in the implementation of project activities – 50/126 Number of staff involved in mobility programmes – 44/59 Number of employees involved in educational project activities – 500/406 Number of newly created/innovated education and study programmes – 3/3
Contribution to HP:	-
Project website:	<a href="http://www.educj.sk">www.educj.sk</a>

Source: MA

Table 79: State of implementation of the national project as of 31 December 2013

Project name:	Modernisation of the education process at elementary schools
Measure	4.1
Beneficiary:	Slovak Centre of Scientific and Technical Information*
Budget in EUR:	EUR 681,952.20
Project implementation period:	01 December 2008 – 30 November 2013
Basis in national/regional policy:	Act No. 245/2008 Coll. on Education, as amended
Project aims:	The aim of the project is to prepare teachers for active implementation of the school reform – to adapt the education system to the needs of a knowledge-based society.
Target groups:	- teachers of elementary schools – grade 1 - teachers of elementary schools – grade 2
Activities implemented:	The Grant Contract was signed on 01 December 2008. The Beneficiary submitted a notice on the start of project activities, and the project was launched with the Project Publicity activity on 01 December 2008.  The following activities were implemented in 2013: <b>1.1. Multimedia – digital contents for the training of teachers for the purposes of modernisation of education</b> <b>1.2. Preparation of textbooks and teaching aids for teachers for the purposes of modernisation of education</b> <b>2.1. Training of teachers in the field of modernisation of the education process using ICT.</b>  The Beneficiary delivered a notice on the completion of project activities which ended on 30 November 2013.
Financial implementation/cumulative absorption of funds in EUR from the start of the programming period	EUR 264,695.94
Cumulative performance of indicators from the start of the programming period	Result indicators (planned/actual): Number of newly created education programmes – 10/10 Number of schools involved in the implementation of project activities – 158/161 Number of training courses for teaching staff – 25/38 Number of employees involved in educational project activities – 320/445 Number of newly created/innovated education programmes using ICT in the teaching process – 10/10 Number of schools involved in the implementation of project activities using ICT in the teaching process – 158/161 Number of teaching staff involved in project activities using ICT in the teaching process – 320/519 Number of schools involved in the implementation of project activities with pupils from MRCs – 5/66
Contribution to HP	IS, SD, MRC
Project website	<a href="http://www.modernizaciavzdelavania.sk">www.modernizaciavzdelavania.sk</a>

\*Until 31 December 2013, the national project was implemented by the Institute of Information and Prognoses in Education of the SR; from 01 January 2014, the NFC Beneficiary changed due to the merge of organisations (IIPE and SCSTI), and the national project implementation was taken over by the Slovak Centre of Scientific and Technical Information in Bratislava.

Source: MA

Table 80: State of implementation of the national project as of 31 December 2013

Project name:	Modernisation of the education process at elementary schools
Measure	4.1
Beneficiary:	Slovak Centre of Scientific and Technical Information*
Budget in EUR:	EUR 458,401.78



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Project implementation period:	02 December 2008 – 30 November 2013
Basis in national/regional policy:	The national project was prepared further to the draft Act on Education (School Act) and on changes and amendments to some acts, approved by Government Resolution No. 147/2008 of 05 March 2008. The aim of the national project was to change the form of teaching at secondary school, leading to the modernisation of the teaching process.
Project aims:	<p>The aim of the project is to redesign the content of education of secondary schools using innovated forms and methods of teaching, and to prepare school graduates to meet the current and future needs of a knowledge-based society and of subsequent higher education and further education.</p> <p>To prepare teachers for active implementation of the school reform – adaptation of the education system to the needs of the knowledge-based society;</p> <p>To innovate and modernise the content, methods and outputs of the teaching process to comply with the new work competences in Modern Schools of the 21st century;</p> <p>To increase the share of teachers participating in further education programmes to acquire and enhance competences needed to meet the challenges of the knowledge-based society.</p>
Target groups:	<p>Teachers of secondary schools</p> <p>Pupils of secondary schools</p>
Activities implemented:	<p>The Grant Contract was signed on 02 December 2008.</p> <p>The Beneficiary submitted a notice about the start of implementation of project activities on 02 December 2008.</p> <p>The following activities were implemented in 2013:</p> <p><b>Activity 1.1. Multimedia and digital content of teachers' training towards the modernisation of education;</b></p> <p><b>1.2. Development of textbooks and teaching aids for teachers towards the modernisation of education;</b></p> <p><b>2.1. Training for teachers on the modernisation of the education process using ICT.</b></p> <p>The Beneficiary submitted a notice on the completion of the project activities 02 December 2013; the project activities ended on 30 November 2013.</p>
Financial implementation/cumulative absorption of funds in EUR from the start of the programming period	EUR 172,611.59
Cumulative performance of indicators from the start of the programming period	<p>Result indicators (planned/actual):</p> <p>Number of newly created education programmes – 7/7</p> <p>Number of schools involved in the implementation of project activities – 119/112</p> <p>Number of training courses for teaching staff – 21/31</p> <p>Number of employees involved in educational project activities – 260/317</p> <p>Number of newly created/innovated education programmes using ICT in the teaching process – 7/7</p> <p>Number of schools involved in the implementation of project activities using ICT in the teaching process – 119/112</p> <p>Number teaching staff involved in project activities using ICT in the teaching process – 260/375</p> <p>Number of schools involved in the implementation of project activities with pupils from MRCs – 30/40</p>
Contribution to HP	IS, SD, MRC
Project website	<a href="http://www.modernizaciavzdelavania.sk">www.modernizaciavzdelavania.sk</a>

\*Until 31 December 2013, the national project was implemented by the Institute of Information and Prognoses in Education of the SR; from 01 January 2014, the NFC Beneficiary changed due to the merge of organisations (IIPE and SCSTI), and the national project implementation was taken over by the Slovak Centre of Scientific and Technical Information in Bratislava.  
Source: MA

Table 81: State of implementation of the national project as of 31 December 2013

Project name:	Training of teachers for the preparation of school education programmes
Measure	4.1
Beneficiary:	State Institute of Vocational Training
Budget in EUR:	EUR 104,230.00
Project implementation period:	02 January 2009 – 28 February 2014
Basis in national/regional	On 22 May 2008, parliamentary deputies adopted the Act on Education with effect

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policy:	from 01 September 2008. This act replaced the original School Act of 1984. On 19 June 2008, after signed by President of the SR, state education programmes were approved for each level of education, including model school education programmes and methodologies for their preparation. Schools could officially start developing their own education programmes. In August 2008, 13 decrees came into force with respect to the Act on Education, and entered into effect on 01 September 2008. Since that date, schools could start teaching according to their own school education programmes in the 1st and 5th years of elementary schools and in the 1st year of secondary schools, elementary art schools and language schools.
Project aims:	Nation-wide re-training and training of teaching staff of elementary and secondary schools to implement the content reform of the school system and for the development of school education programmes.
Target groups:	<u>Multipliers (trained lecturers)</u> – teaching staff of elementary and secondary schools, staff working in the field of education (in directly managed organisations of the MoE SR – NIE, SIVT, MPC, RSO, HTUs and others) <u>Participants to continuous learning courses</u> – teaching staff of elementary and secondary schools <u>Participants to distance learning courses</u> – teaching staff of elementary and secondary schools working in the field of education (in directly managed organisations of the MoE SR – NIE, SIVT, MPC, RSO, HTUs and others)
Activities implemented:	<p>The Grant Contract was signed on 02 January 2009. The Beneficiary submitted the notice about the start of project implementation on 05 January 2009.</p> <p>The following activities were implemented in 2013:</p> <p><b>1.1 Setting up and staffing or changing of the investigation team (internal and external staff, contractors);</b>  <b>1.2 Work of expert working groups;</b>  <b>2.1 Preparation, update and evaluation of the education programme (courses);</b>  <b>2.2 Delivery of education programme (courses);</b>  <b>3.1 Content creation, production/publishing and distribution of Učiteľské noviny;</b>  <b>3.2 Content creation, production/publishing and distribution of a multi-media training DVD;</b>  <b>3.3 Content creation, programming and moderation of e-Learning portal.</b></p> <p>The NFC amount was reduced by EUR 64,708.86 by Annex No. 14 to the Grant Contract in April 2013 due to the failure to use the funds for some budget items. The reduction of the amount of funds in the NP budget led to the reduction of the value of the measurable indicator <i>Number of schools involved in the implementation of project activities</i> from 100 to 80.</p> <p>In November and December 2013, the process related to contract change was conducted with regard to the Beneficiary's request to extend the project implementation by ten months – until 31 December 2014. The Beneficiary stated in the justification that the MoESRS SR approved revised state education programmes for secondary vocational schools and was preparing a revision of state education programmes for elementary schools and secondary grammar schools. As the revised programmes were reflected in the entire state curricula structure, it was necessary to modify the content of education programmes and to prepare education materials with revised changes. The education materials would be distributed via Učiteľské noviny magazine which represents the most effective way of providing materials with revised changes in the state education programmes to schools, thus raising their awareness about the respective changes. The reviewed content of education programmes will also be reflected in the content of distance learning of teaching staff as one of the project activities. Elementary and secondary school teachers showed big interest in distance learning, and the Beneficiary would not be able to satisfy this interest as of the original date of project termination to the required extent. The process of amending the contract was not finished by the end of 2013.</p>
Financial implementation/cumulative absorption of funds in EUR from the start of the programming period	EUR 72,285.94
Cumulative performance of indicators from the start of the programming period	<p>Result indicators (planned/actual):</p> <p>Number of schools involved in the implementation of project activities – 80/113</p> <p>Number of schools involved in the implementation of projects with pupils from MRCs</p>

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	– 10/29 Number of training courses for teaching staff – 35/36 Number of employees involved in educational project activities – 700/639
Contribution to HP	SD, MRC
Project website	<a href="http://www.siov.sk/narodny-projekt-vzdelavania-ucitelov-v-suvistlosti-s-tvorbou-skolskych-vzdelavacich-programov/11406s#projects">http://www.siov.sk/narodny-projekt-vzdelavania-ucitelov-v-suvistlosti-s-tvorbou-skolskych-vzdelavacich-programov/11406s#projects</a>

Source: MA

Table 82: State of implementation of the national as of 31 December 2013

Project name:	Training of kindergarten teaching staff as part of the reform of education
Measure	4.1
Beneficiary:	Methodology and Pedagogy Centre
Budget in EUR:	EUR 639,124.28
Project implementation period:	01 May 2009 – 30 September 2014
Basis in national/regional policy:	Act No. 245/2008 Coll. on Education, as amended
Project aims:	To implement a content reform and develop the lifelong learning system aimed to enhance the key competences of kindergarten teaching staff to meet the needs of a knowledge-based society. To focus on further education of teachers and on acquiring and developing competences to transform traditional schools to modern ones. To innovate the contents and methods and to improve the quality of education outputs to meet the labour market needs in a knowledge-based society.
Target groups:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Teaching staff of kindergartens, including kindergarten management – approx. 1,350 persons;</li> <li>- Staff working in the field of education – specialised state and public administration staff working in the field of pre-school education at MPC, RSO, MoESRS SR, SSI, NIE</li> </ul>
Activities implemented:	<p>The Grant Contract was signed on 29 April 2009. The Beneficiary submitted the notice about the start of project activities; the project was launched on 01 May 2009.</p> <p>The following activities were implemented in 2013:</p> <p><b>1.1 Training for the management and specialised staff of state and public administration;</b>  <b>1.2 Training for kindergarten teaching staff;</b>  <b>1.3 Education portal;</b>  <b>2.1 Development of education material;</b>  <b>2.2 Mobilities and expert excursions;</b>  The activities under mobilities and professional excursions were completed, as all expenditure on foreign mobilities under project 26140130017 was declared ineligible on the basis of EC audit findings.  <b>2.3 Expert seminars and conferences</b></p>
Financial implementation/cumulative absorption of funds in EUR from the start of the programming period	EUR 237,780.36
Cumulative performance of indicators from the start of the programming period	<p><b>Result indicators (planned/actual):</b>  Number of schools involved in the implementation of project activities using ICT in the teaching process – 185/216  Number of teaching staff involved in the project activities using ICT in the teaching process – 1,350/1,460  Number of newly created/innovated education and study programmes – 8/18  Number of employees involved in educational project activities – 1,350/1,148  Number innovated/newly crated teaching materials – 200/18  Number of schools involved in the implementation of project activities with pupils from MRCs – 15/17</p>
Contribution to HP	IS, SD, MRC
Project website	<a href="http://www.mat.iedu.sk">www.mat.iedu.sk</a>

Source: MA

Table 83: State of implementation of the national project as of 31 December 2013

Project name:	External evaluation of the quality of schools encouraging self-assessment processes and school development
Measure	4.1

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Beneficiary:	State School Inspection
Budget in EUR:	EUR 87,681.71
Project implementation period:	03 August 2009 – 30 September 2013
Basis in national/regional policy:	The State School Inspection was established by law on 01 January 2000. Act No. 596/2003 Coll. on State Administration in Education and Education Self-Governments and on changes and amendments to some acts, as amended, defines the competences, job and extent of its activities. Decree of the MoE SR of 31 March 2005 on School Inspection.
Project aims:	The main project aim is to provide for external evaluation of schools involved in ESF projects and to monitor its progress, and to develop an external evaluation model and a model of self-assessment of school activities. The specific project objectives include: - to identify the quality of schools by means of external evaluation before implementing their projects financed from ESF funds, and of the contribution of projects to improving the school quality; - to develop a model of evaluation and self-assessment of the activities of schools and school facilities, including their practical application;
Target groups:	Elementary and secondary school pupils, teaching staff of elementary and secondary schools, including management and staff working in the field of education – experts of the state and public administration – SSI school inspectors.
Activities implemented:	The Grant Contract was signed on 03 August 2009. The Beneficiary submitted the notice on the start of implementation of project activities on 21 September 2009. The project was launched on 01 October 2009.  The following activity was implemented in 2013: <b>External evaluation of elementary and secondary schools after the implementation of projects from ESF funds</b>
Financial implementation/cumulative absorption of funds in EUR from the start of the programming period	EUR 62,571.42
Cumulative performance of indicators from the start of the programming period	<b>Result indicators (planned/actual):</b> Number of staff involved in mobility programmes – 5/5 Number of staff involved in educational project activities – 12/12 Number of schools involved in the implementation of project activities – 5/5
Contribution to HP	SD
Project website	<a href="http://www.ssiba.sk/Default.aspx?text=g&amp;id=25&amp;lang=sk">http://www.ssiba.sk/Default.aspx?text=g&amp;id=25&amp;lang=sk</a>

Source: MA

Table 84: State of implementation of the national project as of 31 December 2013

Project name:	Professional and career growth of teaching staff
Measure	4.2
Beneficiary:	Methodology and Pedagogy Centre
Budget in EUR:	EUR 5,232,830.82
Project implementation period:	15 October 2009 – 31 December 2014
Basis in national/regional policy:	Act No. 317/2009 Coll. on Teaching Staff and Specialised Staff and on changes and amendments to some acts. Decree of the MoE SR No. 445 on continuous education, credits and attestations of teaching staff and specialised staff
Project aims:	The main aim of the project is to create an effective system of further education of teaching staff and professional staff of schools and school facilities with an emphasis on developing their key competences. The specific project aims include: - to create tools to improve the quality of schools and schools facilities; - to create and accredit continuous education programmes, thereby enhancing the quality of further education institutions; - to enhance and refresh the key competences of the target group in the continuous education system in line with professional standards and future needs of a knowledge-based society; - raise awareness about the possibilities of education and facilitate access to education programmes and learning sources through modern forms of education.
Target groups:	Teaching staff Professional staff of schools and school facilities
Activities implemented:	The Grant Contract was signed on 15 October 2009. The Beneficiary submitted the

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	<p>notice about the start of the implementation of project activities on 23 October 2009. The project was launched on 15 October 2009.</p> <p>The following activities were implemented in 2013:  <b>Activity 1.1 Creation, innovation and implementation of professional standards and tools for evaluating the development of professional competences;</b>  <b>Activity 2.2 Creation and accreditation of continuous education programmes for teaching staff and specialised staff according to the accreditation system;</b>  <b>Activity 3.1 Creation of teaching sources, methodologies and expert publications, including in digital form;</b>  <b>Activity 3.2 Education activities aimed to enhance the key competences of teaching staff and professional staff and to develop education strategies;</b>  <b>Activity 4.1 Creation and administration of an interactive education portal to support continuous education.</b></p> <p>Due to the delayed public procurement procedure, no outputs have so far been observed under this activity.</p>
Financial implementation/cumulative absorption of funds in EUR from the start of the programming period	EUR 2,116,081.93
Cumulative performance of indicators from the start of the programming period	<p><u>Result indicators (planned/actual)</u></p> <p>Number of newly created education programmes - 625/451</p> <p>Number of newly created/innovated education programmes aimed to acquire and enhance ICT knowledge and skills - 30/51</p> <p>Number of employees involved in educational project activities – 122,000/3,773</p> <p>Number of implemented electronic services - 1/0</p>
Contribution to HP	IS, SD
Project website	<a href="http://www.mpc-edu.sk/projects/profesijny-a-karierovy-rast-pedagogickych-zamestnancov">http://www.mpc-edu.sk/projects/profesijny-a-karierovy-rast-pedagogickych-zamestnancov</a>

Source: MA

Table 85: State of implementation of the national project as of 31 December 2013

Project name:	Development of the National Qualifications System
Measure	4.2
Beneficiary:	State Institute of Vocational Training
Budget in EUR:	EUR 2,637,530.82
Project implementation period:	01 February 2013 – 31 October 2015
Basis in national/regional policy:	The national project is based on the initiative of the European Union to create a European-wide system of qualifications and on the Act on Lifelong Learning No. 568/2009 Coll.
Project aims:	<p>The national project addresses the situation in the entire school system and in all economic sectors. It also creates the space for the creation of education programmes at state and school level by adapting vocational education to practical needs and to real life. The existence of the NQS results from Act No. 568/2009 Coll. on Lifelong Learning.</p> <p>The NQS will also strengthen the flexibility and adaptability of the labour force, consolidate the labour market, and will enable people to find a job not only in the SR.</p>
Target groups:	<p>Teaching and non-teaching staff</p> <p>Teachers of higher education institutions</p> <p>Staff working in the field of education</p> <p>Persons involved in further education activities</p>
Activities implemented:	<p>The Grant Contract was signed on 27 February 2013. The Beneficiary submitted the notice on the start of implementation of project activities on 12 March 2013; the project was launched on 01 February 2013 with the activities Project Management and 1.1 Setting up of managing, expert and methodological structures for the creation of NQF, NQS and IS, and on 01 March 2013 with the activities Publicity and information and 2.1 Creation of analyses and methodologies.</p> <p>The following activities were implemented in 2013:</p> <p><b>1.1 Setting up of managing, expert and methodological structures for the creation of NQF, NQS and IS</b></p> <p>Partial task <i>1.1.2 Setting up of the National Council for Education and Qualifications (NCEQ)</i>: During the fulfilment of this task, a problem occurred in connection with the</p>

	<p>conclusion of contracts, as it was necessary to get appointments for representatives of sectoral ministries and other social partners. The contractual relations (labour contracts) represented a problem for government staff. Another problem was late submission of documents by some individuals. As a result, this partial task could not be fulfilled in line with the schedule in 2013.</p> <p>Partial task <i>1.1.3 Setting up of NQS sectoral councils and departmental expert groups</i>: Given the fact that this partial activity is performed on a supplier basis, the different expert tasks can start after the completion of all public procurement processes. The public procurement procedure was delayed against the plan due to problems (objections) that arose during the electronic auction. The electronic auction had to be repeated in line with the recommendations of the Public Procurement Authority and the MA. The planned date of the repeated electronic auction is 23 January 2014. For these reasons, the respective partial task did not start in 2013 in line with the plan.</p> <p>Partial task <i>1.1.4 Setting up of working groups</i>: This partial activity required the contacting of a wide range of government and self-government institutions, education institutions and other entities (social partners, employers' representatives). Over 4,000 organisations were contacted to present proposals for members of working groups: 1. for the preparation of the National Qualification Framework (NQF), 2. for analysis of the school education programmes and study programmes of HEIs, 3. for analysis of the completion of studies. Since the process of selection of candidates for work in the group for the preparation of the National Qualification Framework, for analysis of school education programmes and study programmes of higher education institutions and for analysis of the completion of studies involved 320 candidates from different types of schools, this activity represented a significant administrative burden leading a delay of three months in the end date of the activity.</p> <p><b>2.1 Creation of analyses and methodologies</b></p> <p>Partial task <i>2.1.1 Analysis of the European Qualifications Framework and National Qualifications Frameworks in selected EU countries</i>: The fulfilment of this task was delayed on the basis of an analysis of the logical sequence of steps needed to carry out the analysis of the European Qualifications Framework, national qualifications frameworks in selected EU countries, and of the National Qualifications Network of the SR. For these reasons, this partial task did not start in 2013 as originally planned.</p> <p>Partial task <i>2.1.3 Analysis of existing occupations under the National System of Occupations and identification of complete and partial qualifications</i> is tied to the public procurement procedure along with partial task 1.1.3. For this reason, this partial task did not start in 2013 as originally planned.</p> <p>Partial task <i>2.1.4 Development of methodologies</i>: The implementation of this partial task was delayed by two months due to the extended process of appointing the working group members. This extension resulted from the need to cover all levels of education by relevant experts to ensure that the development of methodologies involves representatives of primary, secondary and tertiary education.</p> <p><b>3.1 Preparation of the National Qualifications Framework and the National Qualifications System</b></p> <p>Partial task <i>3.1.2 Creation of qualifications cards</i> is tied to public procurement along with partial task 1.1.3. For this reason this partial task did not start in 2013 as originally planned.</p> <p>Partial task 3.1.3 Work with NCEQ is linked to partial task 1.1.3 this partial task did not start in 2013 as originally planned.</p> <p><b>4.1 Creation of an information system for the National Qualifications Framework and the National Qualifications System</b></p> <p>Partial task <u>4.1.1 Design, creation and filling up of the information system</u></p> <p>Partial task <u>4.1.2 Pilot testing of the information system for the National Qualifications Framework and the National Qualifications System</u></p> <p>Partial task <u>4.1.3 Implementation of the information system for the National Qualifications Framework and the National Qualifications System</u></p> <p>Since almost the entire partial activity is implemented on a supplier basis (see partial task 1.1.3.), it did not start in 2013 as originally planned.</p>
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	<p><b>5.1 Further education of target groups on the creation and use of the NQF, NQS and IS</b></p> <p>Partial task 5.1.1 <i>Preparation of an accredited education programme</i>: the preparation of education programmes for their accreditation faced the problem related to the existence of two laws dealing with lifelong learning and further education: Act No. 568/2009 Coll. on Lifelong Learning and on changes and amendments to some acts, and Act No. 317/2009 Coll. on Teaching Staff and Specialised Staff and on changes and amendments to some acts. The target groups of the national project include teaching staff and specialised staff the further education of which is governed by the provisions of Act No. 317/2009 Coll., as well as social partners (employers, government and self-government representatives) that cannot be trained under these provisions. This problem could not be solved in 2013, and will be subject to a change in the contract in 2014.</p>
Financial implementation/cumulative absorption of funds in EUR from the start of the programming period	EUR 46,484.11
Cumulative performance of indicators from the start of the programming period	<p>Result indicators (planned/actual):</p> <p>Number of defined qualification and evaluation standards – 100/0</p> <p>Number newly created education programmes – 2/0</p> <p>Number of persons involved in the implementation of project activities – 455/0</p> <p>Number of introduced electronic services – 1/0</p>
Contribution to HP	IS, SD
Project website	<a href="http://www.tvorbansk.sk/">http://www.tvorbansk.sk/</a>

Source: MA

**Table 86: State of implementation of the national project as of 31 December 2013**

Project name:	Increasing the quality of education at elementary and secondary schools using electronic testing
Measure	4.1
Beneficiary:	National Institute for Certified Educational Measurements
Budget in EUR:	2 565 452,98 EUR
Project implementation period:	5.3.2013 – 31.12.2015
Basis in national/regional policy:	Draft Act on Education (School Act) and on changes and amendments to some acts, approved by Government Resolution No. 147/2008 of 05 March 2008. The Act entered into effect on 01 September 2008.
Project aims:	<p>The aim of the national project is to increase the quality of education at elementary and secondary schools.</p> <p>The specific project aim is to improve the teaching process of pupils at ISCED 2 and ISCED 3 levels by creating and implementing a set of electronic evaluation tools (tasks, tests and questionnaires) to check the knowledge and key competences of pupils, introducing new forms of evaluation of the knowledge of pupils, and monitoring the factors influencing the quality of schools.</p>
Target groups:	Pupils of elementary and secondary schools, teaching staff, employees working in the field of education, university students.
Activities implemented:	<p>The Grant Contract was signed on 05 March 2013.</p> <p>The Beneficiary started to implement the project activities on 21 January 2013.</p> <p>The following activities were implemented in 2013:</p> <p><b>1.3 Creating tasks and tests for continuous school testing (school database of tasks) and for objective evaluation of testing (NICEM database of tasks);</b></p> <p><b>1.4 Implementing electronic testing to monitor the level of knowledge, skills and key competences of pupils, monitoring the trends in the quality of schools.</b></p> <p>During the reference period, the project activities period was extended by two months on the basis of a request for amending the grant contract of 16 August 2013.</p>
Financial implementation/cumulative absorption of funds in EUR from the start of the programming period	EUR 176,407.99
Cumulative performance of indicators from the start of the	<p>Result indicators (planned/actual):</p> <p>Number innovated/newly created teaching materials – 5/1</p>

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programming period	Number of persons aged 15–24 from the target group involved in supported projects – 47,000/0 Number of persons involved in the implementation of project activities – 14,564/5 Number of schools involved in the implementation of project activities using ICT in the teaching process – 180/146 Number of electronic services implemented – 1/0 Number of pupils/students involved in the implementation of project activities – 14,500/0
Contribution to HP	IS
Project website	<a href="http://www.nucem.sk/sk/projekt_esf/project/21#905_o906">http://www.nucem.sk/sk/projekt_esf/project/21#905_o906</a>

Source: MA

**Performance of measurable indicators**

Table 87: Performance of measurable indicators as of 31 December 2013

Indicators*		2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	Total	Comments**
1. Number of newly created education programmes - output	Result achieved	0	0	27	192	234	313	520	N/A	N/A	520	0
	Target	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	80	N/A	80	80	N/A
	Baseline	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0	N/A
2. Number of teaching staff having completed further education programmes – output	Result achieved	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	N/A	N/A	0	0
	Target	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	7,000	N/A	7,000	7,000	N/A
	Baseline	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0	N/A
3. Number of training courses for teaching staff – output	Result achieved	0	0	137	78	84	105	105	N/A	N/A	105	0
	Target	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	15	N/A	15	15	N/A
	Baseline	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0	N/A
4. Schools successful in repeated quality evaluation (%) - result	Result achieved	0	0	0	0	0	0	100	N/A	N/A	100	0
	Target	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	90	N/A	90	90	N/A
	Baseline	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0	N/A
5. Percentage of R&D staff participating in further education (%) – output	Result achieved	0	0	0	0.32	1.84	2.89	2.89	N/A	N/A	2.89	0
	Target	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	30	N/A	30	30	N/A
	Baseline	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0	N/A
6. Number of projects in support of human resources in centres of excellence at higher education institutions and SAS – output	Result achieved	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	N/A	N/A	0	0
	Target	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	10	N/A	10	10	N/A
	Baseline	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0	N/A
7. Rate of involvement of R&D staff in transnational	Result achieved	0	0	0	0	0	11	18	N/A	N/A	18	0
	Target	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	20	N/A	20	20	N/A
	Baseline	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0	N/A



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research projects - output												
8. Number of partnerships and development and innovation networks supported by OPE – output	Result achieved	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	N/A	N/A	0	0
	Target	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	15	N/A	15	15	N/A
	Baseline	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0	N/A
9. Percentage of partnerships and development & innovation networks in existence after the expiry of support from OPE (%) – result	Result achieved	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	N/A	N/A	0	0
	Target	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	80	N/A	80	80	N/A
	Baseline	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0	N/A
10. Graduates from tertiary level of higher education (number/1,000 inhabitants) – impact	Result achieved	1.5	1.8	2.1	3.2	1.9	2.4	2.4	N/A	N/A	2.4	0
	Target	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	12	N/A	12	12	N/A
	Baseline	8.3	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	8.3	N/A
11. Percentage of population participating in lifelong learning per 1,000 inhabitants aged 25–64 (%) – impact	Result achieved	3.9	3.3	2.8	2.8	3.9	3.4	2.8	N/A	N/A	2.8	0
	Target	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	12,5	N/A	12,5	12,5	N/A
	Baseline	4,6	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	4,6	N/A
12. Training courses and presentations for applicants for assistance and beneficiaries (number) – result	Result achieved	0	0	35	46	48	48	48	N/A	N/A	48	48
	Target	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	10	N/A	10	10	N/A
	Baseline	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0	N/A
13. State of contracting of allocated funds (%) – impact	Result achieved	0	0	64.2 2	70.9 8	79.2 2	89.4 3	111. 42	N/A	N/A	111.4 2	20.26
	Target	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	90	N/A	100	100	N/A
	Baseline	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0	N/A
14. Use of allocated funds (%) – impact	Result achieved	0	0	1.32	10.7 5	18.8 0	31.6 7	42.8 1	N/A	N/A	42.81	18.08
	Target	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	70	N/A	90	90	N/A
	Baseline	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0	N/A

\* Detailed definitions and the measuring units of indicators are provided in Annex 8 to the AIR

\*\*The Comments column provides indicator values for physically and financially completed projects.

Source: MA/IBMA

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Information on the physical progress under Priority Axis 4 for each indicator for 2013 and for previous reported years is provided in the final part on Priority Axis 4 Quality analysis of achieved results at the level of the priority axis.

Table 88: Target values of indicators set by beneficiaries on the basis of concluded contracts at the level of Priority Axis 4 as of 31 December 2013

Indicator	Target set by beneficiaries on the basis of contracts concluded as of 31 December 2013	Indicator value as of 31 December 2013	Target value	Comments*
1. Number of newly created education programmes – output	385	520	80	27
2. Number of teaching staff having completed further education programmes (number) – output	42	0	7.000	0
3. Number of training courses for teaching staff – output	83	105	15	0
4. Schools successful in repeated quality evaluations (%) - result	100	100	90	0
5. Percentage of R&D staff participating in further education (%) – output	534	314	30	314
6. Number of projects supporting human resources in centres of excellence at HIEs and the SAS – output	20	0	10	0
7. Rate of involvement of R&D staff in transnational research projects (%) - output	30	18	20	0
8. Number of partnerships and development & innovation networks supported by OPE	3	0	15	0
9. Percentage of partnerships and development & innovation networks existing after expiry of support from OPE (%) – result	0	0	80	0
10. Graduates from tertiary level of higher education (number/1000 inhabitants) - impact	N/A**	2.4	12	0
11. Percentage of population participating aged 25-64 participating in lifelong learning per 100 inhabitants (%) – impact	0	2.8	12.5	0
12. Training and presentations for applicants for assistance and beneficiaries - result	22	48	10	0
13. Amount of contracted funds (EUR) - impact	16,162,607.65	23,334,142.19	20,943,034.00	4,7301,857.72

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Indicator	Target set by beneficiaries on the basis of contracts concluded as of 31 December 2013	Indicator value as of 31 December 2013	Target value	Comments*
<b>14. Amount of paid funds (EUR) - impact</b>	1,500,000.00	8,068,869.89	18,848,731.00	3,408,243.08

\* The Comments column provides values of indicators for physically and financially completed projects.

\*\* Indicator monitored by Eurostat.

Source: IBMA, MA

### 3.4.1.2. Financial implementation of Priority Axis 4

Table 89: Use of funds under Priority Axis 4 as of 31 December 2013

	Commitment 2007–2013 for EU funds	Use of funds in 2013 (EU funds) in EUR		Cumulative use of funds (EU funds) in EUR	
		Total	% of commitment 2007–2013	Total	% of commitment 2007–2013
<b>Priority Axis 4</b>	<b>17,801,578.00</b>	<b>1,786,013.98</b>	<b>10.03%</b>	<b>6,858,516.03</b>	<b>38.53%</b>
Measure 4.1	6,911,514.00	707,986.23	10.24%	3,129,509.10	45.28%
Measure 4.2	10,178,001.00	1,078,027.75	10.59%	3,118,826.53	30.64%
Measure 4.3	712,063.00	0.00	0.00%	610,180.40	85.69%

Source: CA

Information on cross-financing is provided in sub-chapter 2.1.2 of the AIR.

### 3.4.1.3. Specific aspects of ESF programmes

#### *Assistance by target groups for ESF programmes*

Table 90: Monitoring of target groups under Priority Axis 4 from 01 January to 31 December 2013

Breakdown of project participants						
Indicator	Calendar year 2013					
	Participants entering the project				Participants entering the project	
	Total		Total		Total	
Total number of participants	3,254	2,868	3,449	3,190	2,603	2,256
<i>Breakdown of participants by their labour market status</i>						
Employed	2,922	2,679	3,407	3,169	2,519	2,215
Whereof: self-employed persons	2	2	4	4	0	0
Unemployed	4	1	0	0	0	0
Whereof: long-term unemployed persons	0	0	0	0	0	0
Inactive persons	328	188	42	21	84	41
Whereof: students /participants to professional training	320	180	38	21	84	41
<i>Breakdown of participants by age</i>						
Youth (15–24 years)	84	81	64	114	26	24

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Elder persons (55–64 years)	341	296	443	378	355	299
<i>Breakdown of participants by vulnerability groups in line with national legislation</i>						
Migrants	0	0	2	2	2	2
Minorities	34	34	47	45	22	25
Disabled persons	3	2	9	6	11	9
Other disadvantaged persons	25	22	19	16	0	0
<i>Breakdown of participants by attained level of education</i>						
Primary or lower secondary education (ISCED 1 and 2)	0	0	0	0	0	0
Higher secondary education (ISCED 3)	911	872	964	938	280	291
Post-secondary non-university education (ISCED 4)	260	260	253	253	165	157
University education (ISCED 5 and 6)	2,020	1,735	2,218	1,937	2,036	1,794

Source: MA

For more details on the target groups refer to sub-chapter 2.1.8 to the AIR.

### 3.4.2. Significant problems encountered and measures taken to overcome them

Table 91 describes the problems encountered during the implementation of Priority Axis 4 with regard to the implementation of demand-driven projects during the reference period.

The significant problems encountered with respect to the implementation of the OPE as a whole, the measures taken, and the implementation of measures are detailed in sub-chapter 2.3 of the AIR.

Table 91: Implementation of measures taken to address the problems identified

Problems identified	Measures taken	Summary sheet of the measures taken
The ASFEU registers 20 projects under Measure 4.1, of which 17 are completed. During administrative control of final RfPs for incomplete projects, PMs often face the problem of reimbursement of unsettled advance payments on the basis of requests for return of funds, or requests for return of funds for irregularities due to exceeding the limit for indirect expenditure. This process is time consuming and represents a large administrative burden. In some cases, beneficiaries were not able to pay the full amount of unsettled advance payment, which led to repeated issuance of requests for return of funds.	The processing of final RfPs is a priority for PMs, which is taken into consideration in the ASFEU remuneration system. Given the lack of funds, many beneficiaries ask for instalment calendars with regard to requests for return of funds in the case of unsettled advance payments or irregularities, which leads to further delays in the financial settlement of projects.	These problems are addressed promptly, on a case by case basis. In the case of action by the beneficiary, the problem can be solved within a short period of time. In many cases, however, beneficiaries are not willing to solve the problem and communicate with the ASFEU, which considerable extends the process of completion and financial settlement of the project. In the event of lack of finances on the side of the beneficiary, it is recommended to use the possibility of an instalment calendar, which was used several times in the given monitoring period.
The ASFEU recorded an increased error rate in the public procurement documentation submitted for control, having identified violations of the Act on Public Procurement on the basis of findings of audit authorities.	In order to eliminate errors and adopt immediate measures to overcome deficiencies in setting deadlines for the submission of tender documentation during public procurement procedures, beneficiaries were sent an e-mail message in which they were requested not to limit the periods for taking over the tender documentation under public	The guidelines met with a positive response in beneficiaries, though it is not possible to determine the actual impact of this measure due to the short time period. In this regard, the planned update of the management system and the amendment to the Act on Public procurement can be helpful in the forthcoming period.

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	procurement procedures carried out by beneficiaries, and an e-mail message about the Guideline of the Central Coordination Authority on the same issue. In order to reduce the error rate of submitted documentation, the ASFEU continuously issues guidelines to beneficiaries, published on the ASFEU website. Beneficiaries are informed about these guidelines also via e-mail. Another measure taken was the introduction of pilot verification - ex-ante control of the correctness of draft notices on public procurement and tender documentation before being published, also including check of the way of determining the estimated contract values.	
Several violations of the beneficiaries' obligations were detected concerning the sending of public procurement documentation separately for the OP Education and for the OP Research and Development (according to the Manual for OPE Beneficiaries) in the case of contracts concerning both operational programmes.	In order to facilitate communication between the section for OP Education and for OP Research and Development and for the purposes of a single control of submitted public procurement documentation, an independent Public Procurement Department was established.	From the establishment of the Public Procurement Department, no problem has been detected related to the failure to send the public procurement documentation for both operational programmes.
Due to the involvement of many employees in projects implemented by higher education institutions, the submitted RfPs contain many personnel expenditure items, some of them with errors.	In order to eliminate errors in personnel expenditure reported in RfPs, the ASFEU has intensified phone communication with beneficiaries, and prepared and published the document <i>Most common errors in assessing the eligibility of personnel expenditure</i> .	The publishing of the document and increased communication with beneficiaries had an impact on reducing the error rate in most beneficiaries submitting their requests for payment for administrative control.

Source: IBMA

#### **Quality and quantity analysis of achieved results under Priority Axis 4**

As of 31 December 2013, the actual absorption of funds under Priority Axis 4 reached EUR 6,858,516.03 in total (ESF), which represents 38.53% of the commitment 2007–2013. Relative to the amount of contracted funds, the absorption rate under this priority axis attained 34.58%, which is comparable to the result achieved in Priority Axis 1 and 3.

National projects constituted 62.58% of the total amount contracted under Priority Axis 4 as of 31 December 2013; the remaining part was demand-driven projects of the ASFEU (32.62%) and technical assistance projects for the RC&E objective (4.79%). The contracted amount was used to a greater extent in demand-driven projects (40.58%) compared to national projects (29.66%). The different absorption rate in projects implemented by the MA and the IBMA was mainly caused by the significant increase in the contracted sum for national projects of over EUR 4.4 million from ESF funds in 2013, which anticipates higher absorption by these projects in the rest of the financial implementation period 2014–2015.

The absorption rate (use) of TA funds under Measure 4.3, RC&E objective, by priority axis is presented in Chapter 6 of the Report.

As of 31 December 2013, the values of measurable indicators were fulfilled, in terms of the progress and physical implementation of projects, as follows:

Indicator 1 *Number of newly created education programmes* reached **520** in the reference period, which is far above the target value 80. This increase can be attributed to the fact that a smaller number of new and innovated education programmes was envisaged upon preparation of the OPE in 2007;

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after the launch of the school reform and related change of legislation (accompanied with the possibility to develop school education programmes), the need arose to increase the number of education programmes and of their specific focus.

The failure to fulfil Indicator 2 *Number of teaching staff having completed further education programmes* is due to the fact that it is an impact indicator at project level. Hence, it cannot be reported before the completion of projects, specifically before the submission of follow-up monitoring report (beneficiaries are supposed to present the 1st follow-up monitoring report 12 months after completion of project).

The value of Indicator 3 *Number of training courses for teaching staff* reached during the reference period is the same as in 2012 (**105**) and considerably exceeds the target 15. The reason behind is that it reflects the actual needs and interest in training on the side of teachers. A smaller number of general training courses for teaching staff was envisaged upon preparation of the OPE in 2007, but after the launch of the school reform and related change of legislation (Act No. 317/2009) the need arose to increase the number of education programmes and of their specific focus.

Indicator 4 *Schools successful in repeated quality evaluations* – this indicator reached 100% of the target 90%. The indicator value is being fulfilled through the national project *External evaluation of school quality encouraging self-assessment processes and school development* implemented by the State School Inspection. The SSI carried out comprehensive inspections on a sample of schools in 2009, having identified the initial state of the quality of conditions, results and management. Such inspections were performed one to three years after the completion of national projects. As of 31 December 2013, the SSI completed repeated inspections which successfully ended at two elementary schools and two secondary schools within the Region of Bratislava. Hence, the indicator value was fulfilled 100% with respect to the national project.

Indicator 5 *Percentage of research and development staff involved in further education* – the performance of this indicator is identical with the performance in 2012 and reached **2.89%**, which represents 314 R&D staff of the total number of 10,843 R&D staff under the RC&E objective. This indicator performs at 9.63% of the target 30%. This indicator is expected to further perform in the future, after completion of projects under the calls published so far.

Indicator 6 *Number projects in support of human resources in centres of excellence at HEI and the SAS* - the performance of this indicator in the reference period is zero. This indicator is expected to perform after the completion of projects submitted under Call No. OPV-2010/4.2/03-SORO in which this result indicator was used.

Indicator 7 *Rate of involvement of research and development staff in transnational research projects* reached **18%** during the reference period, which represents 90% performance of this indicator against the target (20%).

Indicator 8 *Number of partnerships and development & innovation networks supported by OPE* – the performance of this indicator in the reference period is zero. This indicator is expected to perform after the completion of projects submitted under Call No. OPV-2010/4.2/03-SORO in which this result indicator was used.

Indicator 9 *Number of partnerships and development & innovation networks after expiry of support from the OPE* – the performance of this indicator in the reference period is zero. This indicator is expected to perform after the completion of projects submitted under Call No. OPV-2010/4.2/03-SORO in which this result indicator was used.

Indicator 10 *Graduates from tertiary level of higher education* shows the value 2.4; the data of the previous years were changed on the basis of updated Eurostat statistics.

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Indicator 11 *Percentage of population participating in lifelong learning per 100 inhabitants aged 25–64* reached **2.8%** in 2013 according to statistics obtained on the basis of EUROSTAT methodology. The performance of this indicator is 0.6% lower compared to the year 2012.

Indicator 12 *Training and presentations for grant applicants and beneficiaries* reached 48 as of 31 December 2013 against the target of 10. This result arises from the actual needs related to the OPE implementation, and the performance of this indicator can be considered appropriate.

Indicator 13 *State of contracting of allocated funds* reached **111.42%** under the RC&E objective as of 31 December 2013, which represents EUR 23,334,142.19 of this objective's allocation of EUR 20,943,034.00. As of 31 December 2013, the rate of contracting of allocated funds for regularly completed projects reached 20.26%, which corresponds to EUR 4,730,857.72.

Indicator 14 *Absorption rate of allocated funds* reached **42.81%** as of 31 December 2013 against the target value of 90%. Given the fact that many projects are still at the stage of implementation, the absorption rate is expected to increase in the next year 2014 through the processing of RfPs. As of 31 December 2013, the absorption rate of allocated funds for regularly completed projects reached 18.08%, which represents an amount of EUR 3,408,243.08. The results achieved by 31 December 2013 do not threaten the fulfilment of the set OP objectives under Priority Axis 4; on the contrary, they contribute to their achievement.

### **3.5 Priority Axis 5**

#### **3.5.1. Achievement of targets and analysis of the progress achieved**

The achievement of the objectives and a detailed analysis of the progress made under Priority Axis 5 which aims to ensure effective implementation of the OPE in line with the requirements for management and administrative structures responsible for the OPE implementation are described in sub-chapters 3.5.1.1 to 3.5.1.3 below.

##### **3.5.1.1. Physical progress of Priority Axis 5**

Table 49: Publishing of calls under Priority Axis 5 from 01 January to 31 December 2013

Measure	Type of call	Date of launch of call	Closing date for submission of grant applications	Allocation of funds per call (NFC) in EUR
5.1	Written invitation – technical assistance project (MA)	24/04/2013	26/06/2013	4,465,000.00
5.1	Written invitation – technical assistance project (IBMA-ASFEU)	24/04/2013	26/06/2013	4,762,500.00
<b>Total for Priority Axis 5</b>				<b>9,227,500.00</b>

Source: MA

During the reference period, Priority Axis 5 Technical assistance for Convergences objective was implemented by the MA for the OPE and the IBMA under two priority themes: 85 Preparation, implementation, monitoring and control; and 86 Evaluation and studies, information and communication. These priority themes focus on activities related to the management, monitoring, control, analysis, provision of information, promotion, evaluation, and exchange of experience. The principal aim was to ensure an effective implementation of the OPE in line with the requirements for management and administrative structures responsible for the OPE implementation. Sub-chapter 3.5.1.1 and Chapter 6 of the AIR provide details on TA projects, written invitations for TA projects, and an overview of the use of TA funds by priority activities under priority themes 85 and 86.

The process of approval of grant applications conducted during the reference period concerned five written invitations for TA projects under Priority Axis 5. The first three written invitations for TA projects were published in 2012, and grant applications referring to these written invitations were submitted in December 2012. The following written invitations were in place: OPV/K/TP/2012-1 on TA of the MA, and OPV/K/TP/IBMA/2012-2 and OPV/K/TP/IBMA/2012-3 on TA of the IBMA ASFEU. The approval process was carried out in January 2013, having approved all three grant applications. One decision on a TA project of the MA was issued, and two grant contracts for TA projects of the IBMA ASFEU were signed. The approved TA project of the MA is *OPE technical assistance for the Convergence objective 2013–2015 – I. Preparation, implementation and control*, and the TA projects of the IBMA ASFEU are: *OPE technical assistance for the Convergence Priority theme 85 for the period 2013–2015*, and *OPE technical assistance for the Convergence objective, Priority theme 86 for the period 2013–2015*. Due to increased personnel expenditure, it was necessary to reduce the publicity expenditure under the project *OPE technical assistance for the Convergence objective, Priority theme 86 for the period 2013–2015* of the IBMA ASFEU, having modified the budget by means of an amendment to the Grant Contract. It was also necessary to exceptionally complete the projects *OPE technical assistance for the Convergence objective 2013–2015 – I. Preparation, implementation and control* of the MA, and *OPE technical assistance for the Convergence objective, Priority theme 85 for the period 2013–2015* of the IBMA ASFEU. Two new written invitations for TA were subsequently published under Priority Axis 5: one for the TA project of the MA No. OPV/K/TP/RO/2013-2 and one for the TA project of the IBMA ASFEU No. OPV/K/TP/IBMA/2013-1.

Two grant applications in the amount of EUR 9,172,510.00 were received under the respective written invitations, both of them approved in the total amount of EUR 9,172,510.00. Accordingly, one decision on approval of grant application for TA of the MA was issued, and one grant contract for TA projects for the period 2013–2015 was signed.

As of 31 December 2013, three projects were under implementation, two projects were exceptionally completed, eight projects were physically completed (including financial completion), and 14 projects were regularly completed.

For more details on the progress of implementation of Priority Axis 5 see Tables 93 and 94.

Table 93: Progress of implementation of Priority Axis 5 as of 31 December 2013

Priority Axis/ Measure	Number of grant applications received	Number of grant applications approved	Number contracted projects*	Number of regularly completed projects	Number of exceptionally completed projects
Measure 5.1	28	25	23	14	2
Measure 5.2	2	2	2	0	0
<b>Priority Axis 5</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>2</b>

\*In the case of TA of the MA, no contracts are concluded, but a decision on approval of a TA grant application is issued – the number includes approved TA projects for the MA.

Source: MA

Table 94: Financial progress of implementation as of 31 December 2013 (in EUR)

Measure	Allocation for EU+SB funds*	Amount of requested contribution (NFC)	Amount of approved contribution (NFC)	Amount of contracted funds (NFC)	Value of projects completed regularly**	Value of projects completed exceptionally
Measure 5.1	24,098,031.76	48,231,823.16	45,634,752.32	36,462,242.32	7,811,955.82	8,922,510.00
Measure 5.2	1,249,558.24	1,387,488.22	1,387,488.22	1,387,488.22	0.00	0.00
<b>Priority Axis 5</b>	<b>25,347,590.00</b>	<b>49,619,311.38</b>	<b>47,022,240.54</b>	<b>37,849,730.54</b>	<b>7,811,955.82</b>	<b>8,922,510.00</b>

\* The EU + SB allocation also includes own public funds.

\*\* Amount of spent NFC funds on regularly completed projects.



Source: MA

## **Measure 5.1**

### **TA projects of the MA**

One TA project for the period 2013–2015 was approved and implemented in 2013: OPE technical assistance for the Convergence objective 2013–2015 – I. Preparation, implementation, monitoring and control. In the same year, the financial implementation of TA projects of 2012 continued to be carried out through the processing of RfPs (reimbursement) by the MA. Chapter 6 of the AIR 2013 provides an overview of the use of funds under TA projects by priority theme. Eight TA projects of the MA were completed as of 31 December 2013.

### **TA projects of the IBMA ASFEU**

In 2013, the IBMA implemented the following TA project activities for the period 2013–2015 under Measure 5.1, approved in 2013: Technical assistance for the Convergence objective 2013–2015 – Preparation, implementation, monitoring and control; and Technical assistance for the Convergence objective 2013–2015 – Evaluation and studies, information and communication. In the same year, the financial implementation of TA projects of the IBMA of 2010, 2011 and 2012 continued to be carried out. Chapter 6 of the AIR 2013 provides an overview of the use of funds under TA projects by priority theme. Six TA projects of the IBMA – ASFEU were completed as of 31 December 2013.

## **Measure 5.2**

### **TA projects of the IBMA – MoH SR**

During the reference period, TA projects of the MoH SR were submitted or approved under the OPE. Under Measure 5.2, the MoESRS SR did not publish any written invitation due to the fact that the TA projects of the IBMA – MoH SR approved in 2008 were contracted for the period 2007–2015. The following projects were implemented in 2013 (information on the submission and approval of TA projects of the IBMA MoH SR is presented in the AIR 2008): Use of technical assistance I, and Use of technical assistance II. As of 31 December 2013, no TA project of the TA IBMA – MoH SR was completed.

Chapter 6 of the AIR shows an overview of the use of funds for TA projects (separately for the Convergence objective) from 01 January 2007 to 31 December 2013 by priority actions (absorption).

### ***Performance of measurable indicators***

Table 95: Performance of measurable indicators as of 31 December 2013

<b>Indicators</b>		<b>2007</b>	<b>2008</b>	<b>2009</b>	<b>2010</b>	<b>2011</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>2013</b>	<b>2014</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Comments*</b>
<b>1. Training and presentations for grant applicants and beneficiaries (number) – result</b>	<b>Result achieved</b>	0	0	82	89	142	175	252	N/A	N/A	252	105
	<b>Target</b>	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	100	N/A	100	100	N/A
	<b>Baseline</b>	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0	N/A
<b>2. Contracting of allocated funds (%) – impact**</b>	<b>Result achieved</b>	0	0	31.55	41.82	49.84	77.48	127.12	N/A	N/A	127.12	26.28
	<b>Target</b>	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	90	N/A	100	100	N/A
	<b>Baseline</b>	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0	N/A
<b>3. Absorption rate of</b>	<b>Result achieved</b>	0	0	0.91	8.84	14.40	29.3	45.18	N/A	N/A	45.18	18.24

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<b>allocated funds (%) – impact**</b>	<b>Target</b>	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	70	N/A	90	90	N/A
	<b>Baseline</b>	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0	N/A

\*The Comments column shows the values of indicators for physically and financially completed projects.

\*\* The indicator Contracting/spending of allocated funds refers to the contracting/spending under the entire C objective of the OPE, including TA – Priority Axes 1, 2, 3 and 5.

Source: MA/IBMA

The final part on Priority Axis 5 “Quality analysis of achieved results by priority axis” contains information on the physical progress under Priority Axis 5 for each indicator for 2013.

Table 96: Target values of indicators set by beneficiaries on the basis of concluded contracts under Priority Axis 5 as of 31 December 2013

Indicator (measuring unit, type)	Target set by beneficiaries on the basis of concluded contracts as of 31 December 2013	Indicator value as of 31 December 2013	Target value	Comments**
<b>1. Number of training and presentations for grant applicants and beneficiaries (number) - result</b>	202	252	100	105
<b>2. Amount of contracted funds (EUR) – impact</b>	687,089,767.22	687,089,767.22	540,500,000.00	142,090,251.08
<b>3. Amount of reimbursed funds* (EUR) – impact</b>	538,636,283.00	244,238,176.83	540,500,000.00	,,,98,602,430.90

\*The indicator name *Amount of reimbursed funds* corresponds to the indicator name *Absorption rate of allocated funds*.

\*\*The Comments column provides indicator values for physically and financially completed projects.

Source: MA

For more details on the state of TA projects (completed/under implementation) see Chapter 6 of the AIR. The activities of TA projects for the years 2007–2008, 2009, 2010, 2011 and 2012 were all completed as of 31 December 2013. The dates of their financial completion take into account the actual needs of the reimbursement of funds spent in TA – 14 TA projects were completed under Priority Axis 5 as of 31 December 2013.

### 3.5.1.2. Financial implementation of Priority Axis 5

Table 97: Use of funds under Priority Axis 5 as of 31 December 2013

	Commitment 2007–2013 for EU funds	Absorption of funds in 2013 (EU funds ) in EUR		Cumulative absorption of funds (EU funds) in EUR	
		Total	% of commitment 2007–2013	Total	% of commitment 2007–2013
<b>Priority Axis 5</b>	21,545,451.00	3,532,038.73	16.39%	16,009,600.96	74.31%
<b>Measure 5.1</b>	20,483,326.00	3,313,881.83	16.18%	15,113,159.00	73.78%
<b>Measure 5.2</b>	1,062,125.00	218,156.90	20.54%	896,441.96	84.40%

Source: CO

For more details on the use of funds under Priority Axis 5 by priority activities see Chapter 6 of the AIR. For information on cross-financing see sub-chapter 2.1.2 of the AIR.

### 3.5.1.3. Specific aspects of ESF programmes

#### *Assistance by target groups for ESF programmes*

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Table 98: Monitoring of target groups under Priority Axis 5 from 01 January to 31 December 2013

<b>Breakdown of project participants</b>						
<b>Indicator</b>	<b>Calendar year 2013</b>					
	<b>Participants entering the project</b>		<b>Participants entering the project</b>		<b>Participants entering the project</b>	
	<b>Total</b>	<b>Whereof women</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Whereof women</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Whereof women</b>
Total number of participants	69	45	73	46	260	185
<i>Breakdown of participants by their labour market status</i>						
Employed	69	45	73	46	260	185
Whereof: self-employed persons	0	0	0	0	0	0
Unemployed	0	0	0	0	0	0
Whereof: long-term unemployed persons	0	0	0	0	0	0
Inactive persons	0	0	0	0	0	0
Whereof students /participants to professional training	0	0	0	0	0	0
<i>Breakdown of participants by age</i>						
Youth (15–24 years)	7	5	0	0	3	2
Elder persons (55–64 years)	9	8	10	8	25	14
<i>Breakdown of participants by vulnerability groups in line with national legislation</i>						
Migrants	0	0	0	0	0	0
Minorities	0	0	0	0	0	0
Disabled persons	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other disadvantaged persons	1	1	2	1	4	2
<i>Breakdown of participants by attained level of education</i>						
Primary or lower secondary education (ISCED 1 and 2)	0	0	0	0	0	0
Higher secondary education (ISCED 3)	5	4	1	1	18	15
Post-secondary non-university education (ISCED 4)	0	0	0	0	0	0
University education (ISCED 5 and 6)	64	41	72	45	242	170

Source: MA

For more details on the target groups refer sub-chapter 2.1.8 to the AIR.

### 3.5.2. Significant problems encountered and measures taken to overcome them

Overall, no significant problems were encountered during the implementation of Priority Axis 5 in the reference period, as a result of which it was not necessary to adopt any measures to overcome them. The significant problems encountered with respect to the implementation of the OPE as a whole, the measures taken, and the implementation of measures are detailed in sub-chapter 2.3 of the AIR.

Table 99: Implementation of measures taken to address the problems identified

<b>Problems identified</b>	<b>Measures taken</b>	<b>Summary sheet of the measures taken</b>
0	0	0

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Source: MA

### Quality and quantity analysis of achieved results under Priority Axis 5

As of 31 December 2013, the actual absorption of funds under Priority Axis 5 reached EUR 16,009,600.96 (ESF), which is 74.31% of the TA allocation under Convergence objective for the period 2007–2013, representing the highest absorption rate of all OPE priority axes.

As of 31 December 2013, in terms of the progress of implementation and physical implementation, the values of measurable indicators performed as follows:

Indicator 1 *Training and presentations for grant applicants and beneficiaries* under Convergence objective reached 252 of the target value 100 at programme level as of 31 December 2013, as a result of which the planned value was largely exceeded considering the actual needs in the framework of the OPE implementation.

Indicator 2 *State of contracting of allocated funds* recorded over-contracting as of 31 December 2013, i.e. 127.12% of the allocation to the C objective, and the indicator value reached in the 6th year of the OPE implementation largely exceeded the planned value.

Indicator 3 *Absorption rate of allocated funds* achieved 45.18% of the allocation for the given objective as of 31 December 2013; given the fact that some projects were not yet completed and that it was the 6th year of implementation, the absorption rate is expected to increase in 2014 with the processing of submitted RfPs.

The results achieved as of 31 December 2013 do not threaten the fulfilment of the OPE objectives under Priority Axis 5; on the contrary, they contribute to their fulfilment.

## 4. HORIZONTAL PRIORITIES

### 4.1. Horizontal priority Information society

Table 100: Performance of measurable indicators as of 31 December 2013

Indicators		2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	Total	Comments
1. Number of projects contributing to HP Information society	Result achieved	0	4	51	131	150	364	429	N/A	N/A	429	64
	Target	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
	Baseline	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0	N/A
2. Amount of funds contributing to HP Information society (EUR)	Result achieved	0	46,269,036.71	123,550,888.08	156,555,955.11	188,402,852.43	250,090,348.13	440,346,062.87	N/A	N/A	440,346,062.87	511,881,597.67* 13,894,739.58**
	Target	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
	Baseline	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0	N/A

\*Total eligible expenditure on contracted projects (EU funds + SB + own funds).

\*\*Total used amount for regularly completed projects (EU funds).

Source: MA/IBMA

As of 31 December 2013, **429** projects contributing to the HP IS under the OPE were contracted in a total amount of **EUR 440,346,062.87** (EU funds). The total amount of eligible expenditure on projects contributing to the HP IS is **EUR 511,881,597.67** (EU funds + SB + own funds). During the reference period, 64 projects were completed regularly at a total amount of EUR 13,894,739.58 (EU funds).

*Target values of indicators set by beneficiaries on the basis of concluded contracts as of 31 December 2013*

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Annex 11 to the Report shows the target values of HP IS indicators (Annex 2, SCI HP IS) set by beneficiaries on the basis of contracts concluded with beneficiaries as of 31 December 2013. The Comments column provides values of measurable indicators for regularly completed projects.

Table 101: Contracting of projects by NUTS III, as of 31 December 2013

NUTS III region	Total number of contracted projects	Total amount of contracted funds in EUR (EU funds)	Number of contracted projects contributing to HP IS	Amount of contracted funds in EUR contributing to HP IS (EU funds)*	% contracting for the HP IS from the total amount of contracted funds
A	B	$\Sigma C=D$ in Table 7+B in Table 8	D	E	F=E/C
Bratislava	55	19,834,020.84	15	13,095,620.00	66.03%
Trnava	52	20,237,537.57	31	10,723,853.46	52.99%
Trenčín	64	16,003,814.88	23	9,445,022.87	59.02%
Nitra	82	22,480,772.56	40	12,961,154.85	57.65%
Žilina	125	33,373,042.75	54	22,660,914.16	67.90%
Banská Bystrica	121	27,596,144.74	54	14,271,958.82	51.72%
Prešov	173	36,274,749.42	94	22,815,922.35	62.90%
Košice	156	39,705,692.72	90	25,895,162.83	65.22%
Projects not included in NUTS III	79	397,336,656.22	28	308,476,453.53	77.64%
<b>Total</b>	<b>907</b>	<b>612,842,431.70</b>	<b>429</b>	<b>440,346,062.87</b>	<b>71.85%</b>

\*The amount of contracting for EU funds contributing to the HP is indicated for total eligible project expenditure with defined relevance to the HP. The amount of contracted funds contributing to the HP only comprises projects with a relevance to the respective HP at project level defined in the ITMS.

Source: MA/IBMA/ITMS

As of 31 December 2013, **429** projects contributing to the HP IS were contracted. Most contracted projects contributing to the HP IS were recorded in the Region of Prešov (94) the Region of Košice (90). During the reference period, 23 national projects contributing to the HP IS were under implementation (with 6 mirror projects implemented under both objectives, and 11 projects implemented only under the Convergence objective).

In the same period, **11** national projects contributing to the HP IS were contracted (with 2 mirror national implemented under both objectives, and 7 only under the Convergence objective). As for demand-driven projects, the IBMA ASFEU contracted during the reference period **63** new projects contributing to the HP IS, and four such projects were completed exceptionally. In this category of projects, the AFSEU declared 399 projects contributing to the HP IS as of 31 December 2013. Regarding demand-driven projects of the MoH SR, no new projects contributing to the HP IS were contracted during the reference period, and two projects were completed exceptionally, as a result of which 7 projects with a contribution to the HP IS were reported as of 31 December 2013.

The total amount of funds under 429 contracted projects contributing to the HP IS reached **EUR 440,346,062.87 EUR** (EU funds), which is **71.85%** of the total contracted amount of all 907 projects. This suggests that a large part of funds (3/4) is allocated to projects which have a potential impact on the HP IS.

Annex 9 to the report provides an overview of the achievement of HP IS objectives through measurable indicators defined in the SCI HP IS.

Overall, values with a progressive increase were achieved as of 31 December 2013 with regard to all indicators under the different priority axes. Given the target values set by beneficiaries and the values achieved so far, it can be concluded that all indicators stated in the SCI HP IS have already reached their target values set in the OPE, and have even been exceeded in some cases, which is considered very positive considering the advanced stage of project implementation.

With regard to the fulfilment of objectives set out at the beginning of the programming period, the performance of indicators under Priority Axis 1 can be considered positive thanks to the exceeding of

the target values of indicators, in particular with respect to measurable indicator *Number of teaching staff involved in project activities using ICT in the teaching process* – **33,193** against the target 17,800, and *Number of schools involved in the implementation of project activities using ICT in the teaching process* – **14,571** against the target 5,400. This progress is mainly due to two factors: increased interest of teaching staff in engaging in project activities and the related need to increase the support to the target group, and the fact that Priority Axis 1, Measure 1.1 is supported with the highest amount of financial resources from the OPE allocation for the programming period 2007–2013.

Other measurable indicators under Priority Axes 2 to 4 perform proportionately to the objectives set out at the start of the programme in this stage of the OPE implementation. It can be concluded that all measurable indicators will be achieved given their performance so far and the contracted target values set by beneficiaries.

### ***Fulfilment of objectives under the NSRF***

The main objective of the HP IS under sub-section 4.3.5 of the NSRF „to increase the efficiency, transparency and quality of implementation of NSRF priorities further to the implementation and use of ICT“ is fulfilled under Priority Axes 1 to 4 through activities of both national and demand-driven projects by implementing and using ICTs. The implementation of ICTs and increased effectiveness of their use significantly contributes to an even higher efficiency and effectiveness of the implementation of elements of a knowledge-based society.

Under OPE projects, this objective can be achieved, *inter alia*, by monitoring concrete objectives in the field of information literacy, educating competitive labour forces able to succeed in the information society, supporting multi-media classrooms at schools, and also in the field of permanent innovation of the ICT knowledge of teachers and pupils.

The projects declaring a contribution to the HP IS under Measure 2.2 of the OPE contribute, at the level of the NSRF, to the fulfilment of the HP objective *Developing an inclusive information society* through framework activity *Creation and updating of education programmes* under specific objective 2, Measure 2.2.

### ***Fulfilment of objectives under SCI HP IS***

Under Priority Axes 1, 2 and 4, the OPE contributes to the fulfilment of the following specific and partial HP IS objectives defined in the SCI HP IS:

1. Information literacy (bring up flexible and competitive labour force able to succeed in the information society, ensure permanent innovation of the ICT of teachers and pupils, provide education enabling the population to use the benefits brought by informatisation, increase the level of Slovak higher education to become competitive with developed EU countries in terms of quality and forms of education, ensure permanent innovation of knowledge of people through lifelong learning);
3. Wide availability of internet (modernise the infrastructure through ICT technical support, support the expansion of internet access in less developed regions, promote internet access of public places, support multi-media classrooms at schools).

Four mirror national projects contributing to the HP IS were implemented under Priority Axes 1 and 4 in 2013: *Modernisation of the education process at elementary schools*; *Modernisation of the education process at secondary schools*; *Training for kindergarten teaching staff as a part of the reform of education*; and *Increasing the quality of education at elementary and secondary schools using electronic testing*, involving, along with the implementation of activities of demand-driven projects contributing to the HP IS, **15,692** schools and **37,080** teaching staff.

The mirror national project *Professional and career growth of teaching staff*, implemented under Priority Axes 2 and 4, seeks to facilitate access to education programmes and teaching sources through modern forms of education and technology. As of 31 December 2013, **51** newly created/innovated

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education programmes were reported under this national project, with a focus on acquiring and developing ICT knowledge and skills.

The projects implemented under Measure 2.2 of the OPE and declaring an impact on the HP IS contribute with their focus to the fulfilment of the HP IS objective 1 *Information literacy*, and objective 3 *Wide availability of internet*, as defined in the SCI HP IS. At project level, the contribution to HP IS is ensured through the result indicator *Number of introduced electronic services*, which reached the value **11**.

Priority Axis 3 contributes to the fulfilment of the SCI specific and partial objective 1 *Information literacy*. The fulfilment of specific objective 1 under Priority Axis 3 was ensured by demand-driven projects implemented under Measure 3.1 which focus on the modernisation of the content of education also through ICT. These projects ensure innovation of ICT knowledge not only of pupils from MRCs, but also of teachers in less developed regions. The specific objective of Measure 3.2 is supporting the social inclusion of persons with special educational needs by facilitating their access to formal education and to the acquisition of skills needed on the labour market, which practically means ICT use in the teaching process. The designing of new ICT education programmes or the purchase of computer technology is a good example in this regard.

The table below shows the amounts of financial resources spent directly in ICT as of 31 December 2013 irrespective of whether beneficiaries declare in their projects contribution to the HP IS.

Table 102: Amount of financial resources spent in ICT as of 31 December 2013

Expenditure category (ICT) 2013	Amount under contracted projects (EUR)	Used amount(EUR)
633002 Material Computer technology	81,233,383.14	45,280,446.22
633003 Material Telecommunication technology	2,546,012.72	1,595,055.08
633013 Material Software	26,360,694.32	8,463,445.53
<b>633</b>	<b>110,140,090.18</b>	<b>55,338,946.83</b>
711003 Purchase of software	16,115,499.13	39,160.83
<b>711</b>	<b>16,115,499.13</b>	<b>39,160.83</b>
713002 Purchase of computer technology	281,553.07	62,095.71
<b>713</b>	<b>281,553.07</b>	<b>62,095.71</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>126,537,142.38</b>	<b>55,440,203.37</b>

Source: HP IS Coordinator

### ***Problems related to the implementation of the HP IS***

No problems were identified in the implementation of the HP IS during the reference period.

## **4.2. Horizontal priority Marginalised Roma communities**

Table 103: Performance of measurable indicators HP MRC at OP level as of 31 December 2013

Indicators		2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	Total	Comments*
<b>1. Number projects addressing MRCs (number) - output</b>	<b>Result achieved</b>	0	0	50	49	50	93	101	N/A	N/A	101	N/A
	<b>Target</b>	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	
	<b>Baseline</b>	0	0	0	0	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0	



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<b>2. Value of projects addressing MRCs (EUR) – output</b>	<b>Result achieved</b>	0	0	7,461 724.05	7, 207, 979. 41	28.4 48.6 30.5 0	34,570, 885.65	41, 923, 775.53	N/A	N/A	41, 923, 775.53	0
	<b>Target</b>	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	
	<b>Baseline</b>	0	0	0	0	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0	
<b>3. Number of new and improved education programmes focusing on MRCs (number) - output</b>	<b>Result achieved</b>	0	0	0	14	35	43	86	N/A	N/A	86	0
	<b>Target</b>	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	
	<b>Baseline</b>	0	0	0	0	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0	
<b>4. Number of persons having completed further education programmes focusing on MRCs (number) - output</b>	<b>Result achieved</b>	0	0	0	0	0	0	898	N/A	N/A	898	0
	<b>Target</b>	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	
	<b>Baseline</b>	0	0	0	0	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0	
<b>5. Number pupils from MRCs involved in new and improved education programmes (number) - output</b>	<b>Result achieved</b>	0	0	0	4,595	5,739	7,998	31,312	N/A	N/A	31,312	0
	<b>Target</b>	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	
	<b>Baseline</b>	0	0	0	0	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0	
<b>6. Placement rate of graduates (%) - output</b>	<b>Result achieved</b>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	N/A	N/A	0	0
	<b>Target</b>	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	
	<b>Baseline</b>	0	0	0	0	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0	

Source: Internal records of MA +IBMA/ITMS

\*The Comments column provides values of indicators of physically and financially completed projects.

As of 31 December 2013, MRCs were addressed by 101 projects. All these projects are implemented under Measure 3.1 *Increasing the education level of members of marginalised Roma communities* contracted under Calls No. OPV-2009/3.1/01-SORO, OPV-2011/3.1/02- SORO, OPV-2011/3.1/03-SORO (preliminary call, 2 rounds), OPV-2012/3.1/04- SORO and Written Invitations No. OPV/K/NP/2011-1 and OPV/K/NP/2012-11. The total amount of the NFC for these projects is EUR 41,923,775.53 (EU funds). During the reference period, increased values of some indicators can be observed compared to the previous monitoring period. Among 101 contracted projects, the value of the indicator *Number of pupils from MRCs involved in new and improved education programmes* significantly increased from 7,998 to 31,312. The same applies to the indicator *Number of new and improved education programmes with a focus on MRCs* with 86 programmes, which represents a several-fold increase of this value. The performance of the indicators *Number of persons having completed further education programmes with a focus on MRCs* reached 898 trained persons. The fulfilment of the indicator *Placement rate of graduates* will be ensured in the next years of the implementation of projects under Preliminary Call No. OPV-2011/3.1/03-SORO and through the



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national project which was launched in October 2011. Since it is an impact indicator at project level, its performance is reported after the completion of projects under which it was contracted. The Comments column in Table 103 indicates the values of measurable indicators for regularly completed projects.

**Target values of indicators set by beneficiaries on the basis of concluded contracts**

Table 104 shows the target value of NSRF indicators (Annex 13, approved by the National Monitoring Committee for the NSRF (“NMC”) on 30 November 2009) set by beneficiaries on the basis of contracts concluded with beneficiaries by 31 December 2013. The Comments column indicates the values of measurable indicators for regularly completed projects.

Table 104: Target values of indicators set by beneficiaries under contracts concluded at OP level as of 31 December 2013

Indicator, measuring units, type	Target set by beneficiaries under contracts concluded as of 31 December 2013	Indicator value as of 31 December 2013	Target value	Comments*
1. Number of projects targeting MRCs – output	N/A	101	N/A	0
2. Value of projects addressing MRCs (EUR) – output	N/A	41,923,775.53	N/A	0
3. Number of new and improved education programmes focusing on MRCs – output	198	121	N/A	29
4. Number of persons having completed further education programmes with a focus on MRCs – output	5,500	898	N/A	0
5. Number of pupils from MRCs involved in new and improved education programmes – output	26,841	31,312	N/A	3,658
6. Placement rate of graduates (%) – output	1,346	0	N/A	0

\*The Comments column provides indicator values for physically and financially completed projects.

Source: MA

Table 105: State of contracting of projects directly supporting the HP MRC by NUTS III regions as of 31 December 2013

NUTS III region	Total number of contracted projects	Total amount of contracted funds in EUR (EU funds)	Number of contracted projects contributing to the HP MRC	Amount of contracted funds in EUR contributing to the HP MRC	% of contracting for HP MRC from the total amount of contracted funds
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				(EU funds)	
A	B	$\Sigma C = D \text{ in Table 8} + B \text{ in Table 8}$	D	E	F=E/C
Bratislava	55	19,834,020.84	0	0.00	0.00
Trnava	52	20,237,537.57	1	106,468.40	0.53
Trenčín	64	16,003,814.88	0	0.00	0.00
Nitra	82	22,480,772.56	2	214,962.16	0.96
Žilina	125	33,373,042.75	1	46,982.65	0.14
Banská Bystrica	121	27,596,144.74	29	4,112,731.26	14.90
Prešov	173	36,274,749.42	31	4,946,356.36	13.64
Košice	156	39,705,692.72	35	4,989,398.35	12.57
Projects not classified by NUTS III	79	397,336,656.22	2	27,506,876.35	6.92
<b>Total</b>	<b>907</b>	<b>612,842,431.70</b>	<b>101</b>	<b>41,923,775.53</b>	<b>6.84</b>

Source: ITMS, MA/IBMA

As of 31 December 2013, 101 projects were contracted under Measure 3.1. Most projects contributing to the HP MRC were contracted in the Region of Košice (35 projects) and Prešov (31 projects). These regions also report statistically the highest representation of MRCs. National projects under the Convergence objective are implemented in all regions of the SR. The amount of contracted funds (EU funds) of all 101 contracted projects reached EUR 41,923,775.53, which represents 6.84% of the total contracted amount of all projects. The value of projects implemented in the Region of Košice was EUR 4,989,398.35, which is 12.57% of all funds contracted within the Region of Košice. The value of projects from the Region of Prešov reached EUR 4,946,356.36 (EU funds), which is 13.64% of the total amount of contracted funds within this region. The smallest number of contracted projects which contribute to the HP MRC was reported in the Regions of Žilina and Trnava. One project in the amount of EUR 46,982.65 (EU funds) was reported in the Region of Žilina, representing 0.14% of the total amount of contracted funds, and one project in the Region of Trnava in the amount of EUR 106,468.40 (EU funds), representing 0.53% of the total amount of funds contracted for projects contributing to the HP MRC.

Table 106: State of contracting of LCAS projects by NUTS III as of 31 December 2013

NUTS region III	LCAS allocation in OP (EU + SB funds)	Number of contracted LCAS projects	Amount of LCAS contracted funds (EU + SB funds)	% of contracting from allocation (%)	Use of the NFC from LCAS allocation	Use of NFC from LCAS allocation (%)
A	B	C	D	E=D/B	F	G=F/B
Bratislava	-	0	0		0.00	
Trnava	-	0	0		0.00	
Trenčín	-	0	0		0.00	
Nitra	-	1	141,252.47		34,841.68	
Žilina	-	1	52,510.02		13,768.06	
Banská Bystrica	-	8	828,124.58		284,897.71	
Prešov	-	6	939,966.99		64,128.23	
Košice	-	9	1,132,920.75		143,919.92	
Projects not classified by NUTS III	-	1	7,372,029.00		0.00	
<b>Total for OP</b>	17,000,000.00	26	10,466,803.81	61.57%	1,402,383.39	8.25%

Source: ITMS, MA

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Under Amendment 1 to the Contract on Cooperation and Coordination in the Implementation of the HP MRC, the contracted allocation of EUR 17 million (ESF+SB) is used for the implementation of projects from supported LCAS and of demand-driven projects and national projects which are relevant to the HP MRC and which directly support MRCs under Priority Axis 3, Measure 3.1.

The Preliminary Call No. OPV-2011/3.1/03-SORO which directly related to Pilot Call for Grant Applications No. LSKxP-ÚSVRK-2008/01.2, updated pursuant to Government Resolution No. 431/2009, was launched in May 2011 (1st round), and a 2nd round of the preliminary call with closure date in January 2012 was subsequently published on 21 November 2011 due to the failure to use the entire allocation for the LCAS.

Five projects were approved and contracted in the 1st round of the preliminary call, and 13 projects in the 2nd round. 12 projects were under implementation during the reference period.

Table 107: Contracting of projects with indirect support of the HP MRC<sup>3</sup> by NUTS III as of 31 December 2013

NUTS III region	Total number of contracted projects	Total amount of contracted funds in EUR (EU funds)	Number of contracted projects contributing to HP MRC	Amount of contracted funds in EUR contributing to HP MRC (EU funds)	% of contracting for HP MRC from the total amount of contracted funds
A	B	C	D	E	F=E/C
Bratislava	55	19,834,020.84	5	2,137,928.08	10.78%
Tnava	52	20,237,537.57	3	,457,107.49	2.26%
Trenčín	64	16,003,814.88	1	224,260.52	1.40%
Nitra	82	22,480,772.56	2	316,362.83	1.41%
Žilina	125	33,373,042.75	8	1,176,066.62	3.52%
Banská Bystrica	121	27,596,144.74	12	2,612,417.03	9.47%
Prešov	173	36,274,749.42	17	3,605,525.39	9.94%
Košice	156	39,705,692.72	9	1,675,651.21	4.22%
Projects not classified by NUTS III	79	397,336,656.22	10	80,141,012.42	20.17%
<b>Total</b>	<b>907</b>	<b>612,842,431.70</b>	<b>67</b>	<b>92,346,331.59</b>	<b>15.07%</b>

Source: MA

As of 31 December 2013, 67 projects were contracted under all OPE measures, except for Measure 3.1 with indirect contribution to the HP MRC. Of the total number of 67 projects, 11 national projects declared Contribution to the HP MRC (four mirror national projects implemented under both objectives, and two projects implemented exclusively under the Convergence objective). The total amount of contracted funds (EU funds) of all 67 contracted projects contributing to the HP MRC reached EUR 92,346,331.59, which is 15.07% of the total contracted amount of all projects. This suggests that a negligible part of funds is allocated to projects with a potential impact on MRCs.

### **Fulfilment of objectives under the NSRF and SCI HP MR**

The projects implemented under the OPE largely contribute to the fulfilment of the main HP MRC objective defined in the NSRF: “To increase the employment and education level of members of MRCs and improve their living conditions”. This objective can be achieved under the OPE by monitoring particular aims of contracted projects which directly contribute to the HP MR under Measure 3.1 and projects with indirect contribution to the HP MRC.

The implementation of the HP MRC under the OPE is ensured mainly through specific objective *Education* of the SCI HP MRC.

<sup>3</sup> Projects with indirect contribution to the HP MRC are projects the activities do not have a direct focus on MRCs, but the side effects of projects contribute significantly to improving the employment, education, health or the living conditions of MRCs. It is projects implemented in the framework of activities or measures under the OPE priority axes which are not directly focused on MRC issues.

The projects under the call OPV-2012/3.1/04-SORO seek to increase the education level of members of MRCs by supporting the acquisition of practical skills and through vocational education and training at workplaces for MRCs in order to facilitate the integration of members of MRCs in the education system in line with the Strategy of the Slovak Republic for Roma Integration until 2020 and the Concept of Education of Roma Children and Pupils, Including Development of Secondary and Higher Education.

The national projects implemented under Measure 3.1 of the OPE significantly contribute to the HP MRC objective. For more details on the projects see Annex 13 to the AIR.

The project activities implemented under Measure 3.1 contribute, through the implementation of newly created or innovated activities and forms of education, to increasing the education level of the members of MRCs and of persons working for their education with the aim to improve their access to education, increase the quality of education, and facilitate their integration in the labour market. In most cases, the projects focus on the introduction of new preparatory and remedial courses for pupils from MRCs, development of alternative curricula that can be used by elementary schools in adapting the content of education of children from MRCs (reduced contents, more practical focus, experiential learning, alternative forms of education). Innovative ways of teaching require material and technical equipment, which is also addressed by the respective projects. The projects focus on increasing the education level and on the acquisition of basic skills needed on the labour market by pupils from MRCs. The fact that the project activities also address the needs of this target group is proven by the fact that most projects are implemented in the Regions of Košice, Prešov and Banská Bystrica, which are regions with the highest concentration of poverty and social exclusion.

The contribution of projects to the HP MRC is monitored throughout their implementation by means of measurable result indicators relevant to the HP MRC, the fulfilment of which is mandatory for beneficiaries under grant contracts and the achieved values of which must be reported by beneficiaries in interim monitoring reports. The monitoring of the contribution of projects to the HP MRC is also subject to on-the-spot inspections.

The fulfilment of the HP MRC objectives through measurable indicators defined in the SCI HP MRC is provided in Annex 9 to the AIR.

As of 31 December 2013, the cumulative target value of the indicator *Number of pupils from MRCs involved in education programmes* was 26,841. Under this indicator, the performance reached 31,312 pupils. The fulfilment of this indicator is largely due to the implementation of the national project addressing the full-time education system for elementary school pupils. The planned number of formal education programmes for pupils from MRCs which aim to increase the level and effectiveness of education is 198. The result achieved in the reference period is 121 programmes. The progress in the performance of this indicator is influenced by the advanced stage of implementation of demand-driven projects. The indicator *Number of further education programmes for persons working for the social inclusion of persons from MRCs* reached the value 14. The indicator *Number of persons working for the social inclusion of persons from MRCs, trained in further education programmes* was fulfilled with 898 persons, and the indicator *Number of further education programmes for persons working for the social inclusion of persons from MRCs* reached performance with 8 programmes.

The Education Centre at the Elementary School with Hungarian as the language of instruction in Filákov is an example of good practice in this regard. This project aimed to create an education centre at the elementary school with Hungarian as the language of instruction, facilitating access to education for members of MRCs and preventing the exclusion of this community. The school is located within an area with concentrated Roma population, and most pupils come from a socially disadvantaged environment. It is necessary to create specific education conditions for these children through individual integration and individual approaches, which brings along increased demands on the work of teachers. The project aimed to gradually eliminate the differences in the level of knowledge of low achievers attending grade 1 of elementary schools and coming from little motivating family environments where there is a lack of appropriate conditions for home preparation and where parents are not prepared to help their children with homeworks. Another reason for the implementation of this project is insufficient duration of lessons needed to understand the matter by

pupils, which creates in them the feeling of failure in learning, reflected in the evaluation of their knowledge, and reduces their motivation to learn. Teachers do not dispose of sufficient time during classes to work with pupils individually, which further deepens the differences. Remedial classes are run after the fourth and fifth class in eight classrooms of elementary schools (grade 1), applying an individual approach to pupils, mainly in the form of explanation of the matter taught at previous classes, using an interactive board. This activity is expected to improve the understanding of the matter by pupils, observed in the evaluation of pupils, thus removing the differences between low achievers and other pupils.

The project *Education – Path to the integration of marginalised Roma Communities* implemented in Brezno is also a good example in this regard. This project aimed to support the personal development of children and parents from MRCs by means of educational and awareness-raising activities, thereby contributing to successful integration of MRCs into the general population. The Beneficiary sought to reduce the social deprivation of the target group through permanent community social work, work of local activists from among MRCs, psychologists, tutors, teachers of pre-school preparation, lecturers and supervisors. The project managed to create a functioning community centre covering complex cooperation with institutions implementing development programmes in the region, and mobilisation of clients from the MRC and its surroundings with the aim to prevent the deepening and recurrence of psychological, physical and social defects and increased socio-pathological phenomena in this target group. Another aim is to fully or partially eliminate negative stereotypes in MRC families. Civil amenities are being developed in Roma settlements and segregated areas, as well as transport links with Brezno, thus mitigating or eliminating social segregation. The members of MRCs in Brezno are characterised by low education level and an increased number of pupils attending special elementary schools, which is caused, among other things, by a missing positive attitudes of parents to education, little motivating community environment, and absolute unpreparedness of children in pre-school age for entering elementary school. The lack of elementary knowledge and undeveloped abilities cause their failure to understand the matter, their placement in special schools, unwillingness to learn, and early leaving of school without completed education.

The main aim of this project is preventative educational work with children of various age categories (pre-school children, pupils attending elementary schools) and, in cooperation with parents, joint elimination of negative examples from the home environment. The aim is to support the integration of pupils with special educational needs into the standard teaching process, to create a school culture accompanied by the culture of the local community, and to implement acceleration school education programmes. The activities target pupils of elementary schools, teachers, parents and members of MRCs. They will also support the system of levelling out of individual differences among pupils. From the point of view of ensuring effective and stimulating spending of spare time, equally important is the preparation of young leaders and workers of the community centre focusing on work within the community.

The national project *Professional and career growth of teaching staff* implemented under Measure 2.1 also includes education programmes for teachers with a focus on inclusion, such as “Roma language in education”, “Cooperation between the families and schools of pupils from marginalised Roma communities”, “Masters of vocational training working with pupils from socially disadvantaged environments” and many more. By attending training courses, teachers will acquire competences and knowledge that can help them improve education in relation to children from MRCs.

### **Problems related to the implementation of the HP MRC**

No problems were identified in the implementation of the HP MRC during the reference period.

### **Informing about HP MRC**

Awareness of applicants and beneficiaries about the HP MRC is ensured in several ways. The MA informs about the HP MRC through the website [www.minedu.sk](http://www.minedu.sk) which provides information on the

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HP MRC. The text on the website also includes direct links to the website of the HP MRC coordinator. Information on the HP MRC also forms part of the *Manual for Applicants* as a separate chapter dedicated to this HP. Relevant information can also be found in the *Manual for Beneficiaries*. Expert evaluators are informed about the HP MRC issues by means of training courses for expert evaluators, and can also use a separate chapter on the HP MRC in the *Manual for Evaluators*, Annex 1.

### 4.3. Horizontal priority Equal opportunities

Table 108: Performance of measurable indicators as of 31 December 2013

Indicators		2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	Total	Comments
1. Number of projects contributing to HP Equal opportunities (output)	Result achieved	0	0	14	30	56	182	241	N/A	N/A	241	12
	Target	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
	Baseline	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0	N/A
2. Value of projects contributing to equal opportunities (EUR, output)	Result achieved	0	0	3,729,792.26	22,655,868.47	35,689,525.26	71,874,144.32	126,189,143.55	N/A	N/A	126,189,143.55	3,754,792.28
	Target	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
	Baseline	0	0	0	0	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0	N/A
3. Number of persons from the target group involved in supported projects – men (output)	Result achieved	0	0	0	65	655	1,863	3,632	N/A	N/A	3,632	702
	Target	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
	Baseline	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0	N/A
4. Number of persons from the target group involved in supported projects – women (output)	Result achieved	0	0	0	4,980	22,451	27,326	31,135	N/A	N/A	31,135	1,092
	Target	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
	Baseline	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0	N/A
5. Number of persons aged 55-64 from the target group involved in supported projects (output)	Result achieved	0	0	0	0	0	1,789	3,181	N/A	N/A	3,181	6
	Target	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
	Baseline	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0	N/A
6. Number of persons aged 15-24 from the target group involved in supported projects (output)	Result achieved	0	0	0	0	329	2,108	4,282	N/A	N/A	4,282	0
	Target	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
	Baseline	0	0	0	0	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0	N/A
7. Number of persons from the target group involved in supported projects – disabled persons (output)	Result achieved	0	0	0	0	0	206	485	N/A	N/A	485	0
	Target	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
	Baseline	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0	N/A
8. Number of supported education programmes contributing to equal opportunities (output)	Result achieved	0	0	0	21	45	52	72	N/A	N/A	72	29
	Target	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
	Baseline	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0	N/A

\* The total eligible expenditure of contracted projects (EU funds + SB + own funds) is EUR 148,457,815.94.

\*\*The Comments section provides indicator values for physically and financially completed projects.

Source: internal records of MA+IBMA/ITMS

The OPE contributes to the main objective of the HP EO, as declared in sub-section 4.3.5 of the NSRF “to ensure equal opportunities for all and prevent all forms of discrimination”, through the monitoring and fulfilment of specific objectives defined in the SCI HP EO.

Table 108 shows the achieved values of NSRF indicators (Annex 13, approved by the NM for NSRF on 30 November 2009) as of 31 December 2013. At present, 241 projects contributing to the HP EO are being implemented under the OPE in a total amount of EUR 126,189,143.55 (EU funds). The

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number of projects contributing to the HP EO thus increased by 59 against the previous period, and the value of projects grew by more than EUR 54 million.

An increase in the values of all monitored indicators can be observed with respect to the reference period. No NSRF indicator showed zero performance as of 31 December 2013. As of the same date, 12 projects in the total amount of EUR 3,754,792.28 (EU funds) were completed. The Comments column in Table 108 shows the values of indicators for completed projects.

The indicators monitored with respect to completed projects referred to the *Number of persons from the target group involved in supported projects – men* with 702 persons, *Number of persons from the target group involved in supported projects – women* with 1,092 persons, and *Number of supported education programmes contributing to equal opportunities* with 29 programmes.

***Target values of indicators set by beneficiaries on the basis of concluded contracts***

Table 109 shows the target values of NSRF indicators (Annex 13, approved by the NMC for NSRF on 30 November 2009) set by beneficiaries on the basis of contracts concluded as of 31 December 2013.

Table 109: Target values of indicators set by beneficiaries on the basis of concluded contracts at OP level as of 31 December 2013

Indicator (measuring unit, type)	Target set by beneficiaries on the basis of contracts concluded as of 31 December 2013	Indicator value as of 31 December 2013	Target value	Comments*
1. Number projects contributing to HP Equal opportunities (output)	N/A	241	N/A	0
2. Value of projects contributing to equal opportunities (EUR, output)	N/A	126,189,143.55	N/A	0
3. Number of persons from the target group involved in supported projects – males (output)	11,939	3,632	N/A	702
4. Number of persons from the target group involved in supported projects – females (output)	42,085	31,135	N/A	1 092
5. Number of persons from the target group aged 55 – 64 involved in supported projects (output)	4,651	3,181	N/A	6
6. Number of persons from the target group aged 15–24 involved in supported projects (output)	10,032	4,282	N/A	0
7. Number of persons from the target group involved in supported projects - disabled persons (output)	1,085	485	N/A	0



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Indicator (measuring unit, type)	Target set by beneficiaries on the basis of contracts concluded as of 31 December 2013	Indicator value as of 31 December 2013	Target value	Comments*
<b>8. Number of supported education programmes contributing to equal opportunities (output)</b>	127	72	N/A	29

\*The Comments column provides indicator values for physically and financially completed projects.

Source: internal records of MA+IBMA/ITMS

Table 110: State of contracting by NUTS III as of 31 December 2013

NUTS region	Total number of contracted projects	Total amount of contracted funds in EUR (EU funds)	Number of contracted projects contributing to HP EO	Amount of contracted funds in EUR contributing to HP EO (EU funds)	% of contracting for hP EO from the total amount of contracted funds
A	B	$\Sigma C=D$ in Table 7+B in Table 8	D	E	F=E/C
Bratislava	55	19,834,020.86	10	3,758,089.84	18.95
Trnava	52	20,237,537.57	24	11,996,749.68	59.28
Trenčín	64	16,003,814.88	8	3,780,077.70	23.62
Nitra	82	22,480,772.56	22	8,245,228.77	36.68
Žilina	125	33,373,042.75	26	10,957,687.33	32.83
Banská Bystrica	121	27,596,144.74	35	10,853,173.11	39.33
Prešov	173	36,274,749.42	50	12,790,074.85	35.26
Košice	156	39,705,692.72	51	18,478,009.52	46.54
Projects not classified by NUTS III	79	397,336,656.22	15	45,330,052.75	11.41
<b>Total</b>	<b>907</b>	<b>612,842,431.70</b>	<b>241</b>	<b>126,189,143.55</b>	<b>20.59</b>

Source: Internal records of MA+IBMA/ITMS

Table 110 shows the total number and value of all projects contracted under the OPE by NUTS III, and the number and value of contracted projects contributing to the HP EO by NUTS III as of 31 December 2013. As of this date, 907 projects were contracted under the OPE in a total value of EUR 612,842,431.70 (EU funds). Of this number, 241 projects in the amount of EUR 126,189,143.55 (EU funds) declare contribution to the HP EO. This amount of contracted funds contributing to the HP EO represents 20.59% of the total amount of contracted funds. The share of the value of contracted projects in the total amount of contracted funds increased by 1.64% against the previous period, but the number of projects grew by a third (59 projects) against the previous reference period.

Table 110 also shows an increase against the previous period in the number of contracted projects and funds contributing to the HP EO in all regions. Most projects contributing to the HP EO were contracted in the Region of Košice – 13 projects and in the Region of Prešov – 16 projects. Overall, 101 projects were contracted in these regions as of 31 December 2013. These regions are followed by the Region of Banská Bystrica with 35 projects, the Region of Žilina with 26 projects, the Region of Trnava with 24 projects, the Region of Nitra with 22 projects, the Region of Bratislava with 10 projects, and the Region of Trenčín with 8 projects. As for regions that cannot be classified by NUTS III, 15 projects contributing to the HP EO were contracted as of 31 December 2013, including 5 national projects in the amount of EUR 34,446,899.32 (EU funds).

***Contribution of the OPE to the fulfilment of the HP EO specific objectives by SCI HP EO***

Under SCI HP EO, the OPE contributes to the fulfilment of the following specific and partial objectives:



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- *Objective 2.1:* Reduce the specific unemployment rate of disabled persons;
- *Objective 2.2:* Improve access of disabled people to information services;
- *Objectives 2.3:*
  - Adapt education to the needs of disabled persons with respect to their integration in the healthy population (survey conducted in the framework of external evaluation);
  - Increase the placement rate of graduates (survey conducted in the framework of external evaluation);
- *Objectives 3.1:*
  - Increase the employment rate of senior people (by increasing qualifications);
  - Increase the employment rate of senior females;
  - Increase the participation of senior people in lifelong learning; CŽV;
- *Objectives 3.2:*
  - Reduce the unemployment rate of school graduates aged 15–24;
  - Increase the placement rate of graduates from secondary schools and higher education institutions;
- *Objective 4:* Improve anti-discrimination mechanisms with respect to disadvantaged groups.

The OPE contributes to the above-mentioned HP EO specific and partial objectives through priority axes as follows:

- Priority Axis 1 Reform of the education and vocational training system – objectives 2.3, 3.2 and 4;
- Priority Axis 2 Further education as a tool for HR development – objectives 2.3, 3.1 and 4;
- Priority Axis 3 Support for education of persons with special educational needs – objectives 2.1, 2.2, 2.3 and 4;
- Priority Axis 4 Modern education for a knowledge-based society for the Bratislava Region – objectives 2.3, 3.1, 3.2 and 4.

The contribution of OPE projects to the HP EO objectives through the performance of indicators which are relevant to the HP EO per priority axis is provided in Annex 9 to the AIR. This data suggest an increase in the values of individual contracted indicators, which corresponds to the increase in the total number of projects contributing to the HP EO and to the progress made in the implementation of projects. The highest increase in the number of projects can be observed under Priority Axis 1 where the number of projects contributing to the HP EO grew by 24 during the reference period. The increased number of projects and the progress made in their implementation is also reflected in the performance of indicators under all priority axes. At the level of priority axes, such growth can be observed, for example, in the indicator *Number of persons from the target group aged 15–24 involved in supported projects*, where the value reached as of 31 December increased more than six times against the previous period from 283 to 1,740. Similarly, the value of the indicator on the number of involved persons with disabilities increased from zero to 111. The performance progress is similar under other priority axes; for instance, the value of the indicator *Number of persons from the target group aged 55–64 involved in supported projects* under Priority Axis 2 grew from 1,783 to 3,093 during 12 months, and the indicator *Number of measures for the prevention and elimination of discrimination and reconciliation of working life* under Priority Axis 3 increased from zero to 3 measures. As for Priority Axis 4, the number of projects contributing to the HP EO compared to other priority axes increased to a lesser extent (by two projects), as a result of which the increase in the values of indicators is not that significant compared to other priority axes.

***Target values of indicators set by beneficiaries on the basis of contracts per priority axis***

The target values of project indicators relevant to the HP EO (under Annex 4 SCI HP EO) set on the basis of contracts with beneficiaries, broken down by priority axes, are provided in Annex 11 to the AIR.

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Table 111: Contracted projects contributing to the HP EO at the level of the OP and priority axes as of 31 December 2013

Priority axis	Total number of projects	Number of projects contributing to the HP EO objectives	Total amount of project funds in EUR (EU funds)	Amount of funds of projects contributing to the HP EO in EUR (EU funds)
1.	628	152	355,176,592.92	71,755,386.99
2.	78	29	148,328,688.96	24,036,759.28
3.	121	50	57,330,858.04	26,638,907.44
4.	55	10	19,834,020.84	3,758,089.84
5.	25	0	32,172,270.94	0.00
<b>Total for the OP</b>	<b>907</b>	<b>241</b>	<b>612,842,431.70</b>	<b>126,189,143.55</b>

Source: Internal records of MA+IBMA/ITMS

During the reference period, the OPE contributed to the fulfilment of the HP EO specific objectives through 241 contracted projects at the amount of EUR 126,189,143.55 (EU funds) under all relevant priority axes. The number of projects contributing to the HP EO at level of priority axes is provided in Table 111. As of 31 December 2013, most projects were contracted under Priority Axis 1 – 152 projects contributing to the HP EO at a total value of EUR 71,755,386.99. As for Priority Axis 2, a total of 29 projects of EUR 24,036,759.28 (EU funds) contribute to the fulfilment of the HP EO, including three national projects – *KomPrax – Competence for practice*, *PRAKTIK – Practical skills through informal education in youth work*, and *Increasing the qualification of teachers of physical and sports education*. Under Priority Axis 3, 50 projects contribute to the fulfilment of the HP EO objectives at a total value of EUR 26,638,907.44 (EU funds), including two national projects – *Inclusive education model at the pre-primary grade of the school system*, and *Complex counselling system for preventing and influencing socio-pathological phenomena in school environments* in a total amount of EUR 18,829,818.99 (EU funds). A total of ten projects in an amount of EUR 3,758,089.84 (EU funds) contribute to the fulfilment of the HP EO objectives at the level of Priority Axis 4. The OPE does not implement HP EO objectives under Priority Axis 5, as a result of which the number and value of projects under this priority axis is zero.

#### ***Problems related to the implementation of the HP EO***

No problems were identified in the implementation of the HP EO during the reference period.

#### ***Informing about HP EO***

Awareness of applicants and beneficiaries about the HP EO is ensured in several ways. The MA informs about the HP EO through the website [www.minedu.sk](http://www.minedu.sk) which provides information on the HP EO together with a *Manual of Application of the Horizontal Priority Equal Opportunities in Structural Funds*. The text of the manual also includes links directly to the website of the HP EO coordinator. Information on the HP EO also forms part of the *Manual for Applicants* as a separate chapter dedicated to this HP. Relevant information can also be found in the *Manual for Beneficiaries*. Expert evaluators are informed about the HP EO issues by means of training courses for expert evaluators, and can also use a separate chapter on the HP EO in the *Manual for Evaluators*, Annex 1.

#### **4.4. Horizontal priority Sustainable development**

Table 112: Fulfilment of measurable indicators as of 31 December 2013

Indicators		2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	Total	Comments
<b>1. Number of projects contributing to horizontal priority SD</b>	<b>Result achieved</b>	0	6	76	167	179	368	438	N/A	N/A	438	76
	<b>Target</b>	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
	<b>Baseline</b>	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0	N/A

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<b>2. Value of projects contributing to horizontal priority Information SD (EUR)</b>	<b>Result achieved</b>	0	54,351,214.86	146,880,818.12	171,064,480.35	205,672,213.72	259,696,255.19	356,333,386.07	N/A	N/A	356,333,386.07	420,329,839.55 * 19,421,028.52*
	<b>Target</b>	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
	<b>Baseline</b>	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0	N/A
<b>3. Personnel expenditure (total public expenditure on education) as % of GDP (%)</b>	<b>Result achieved</b>	3.62	3.79	4.09	4.22	3.06	4.06	4.06	N/A	N/A	4.06	N/A
	<b>Target</b>	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	5.2	N/A	5.2	5.2	N/A
	<b>Baseline</b>	4.4	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	4.4	N/A
<b>4. Share of inhabitants involved in life-long learning per 100 inhabitants aged 25-64 (%)</b>	<b>Result achieved</b>	3.9	3.3	2.8	2.8	3.9	3.1	2.9	N/A	N/A	2.9	N/A
	<b>Target</b>	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	12.5	N/A	12.5	12.5	N/A
	<b>Baseline</b>	4.6	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	4.6	N/A

\*Total eligible expenditure on contracted projects /EU funds + SB funds + own funds).

\*\*Total used amount of regularly completed projects (EU funds)

Source: MA/IBMA

As of 31 December 2013, **438** projects contributing to the HP SD were contracted under the OPE in the amount of **EUR 356,333,386.07** (EU funds). The total amount of eligible expenditure of projects contributing to the HP SD is **EUR 420,329,839.55** (EU funds + SB+ own funds). During the reference period, 76 projects were regularly completed with a total amount of used funds (EU funds) of EUR 19,421,028.42. The values of the context indicator no. 3 *Human resources expenditure as a percentage of GDP* for 2013 were not available at the time of the preparation and submission of this AIR. For this relevant reason the indicator value provided in the table refers to the year 2012. Since this indicator is aggregated by external sources (Eurostat), and not by the MA for the OPE, its value will be provided in the next AIRs, as available. The context indicator *Share of population involved in lifelong learning per 100 inhabitants aged 25-64* reached 2.9% in 2013. It should be noted, though, that given the target values of context indicators, the achieved values reflect the situation in the given field on the basis of several factors, policies and measures, and not only on the basis of the measures implemented under the OPE. At present, no calculation methodology is available to determine the extent of the contribution of OPE activities to the achieved values.

***Target values of indicators set by beneficiaries on the basis of concluded contracts***

Annex 11 to the AIR provides the target values of HP SD indicators (Annex 2, SCI HP SD) set by beneficiaries on the basis of contracts concluded with beneficiaries by 31 December 2013. The Comments column indicates the values of measurable indicators for regularly completed projects.

Table 113: Contracting of projects by NUTS III, as of 31 December 2013

NUTS III region	Total number of contracted projects	Total amount of contracted funds in EUR (EU funds)	Number of contracted projects contributing to the HP SD	Amount of contracted funds in EUR contributing to the HP SD (EU funds)	% contracting for the HP SD from the total amount of contracted funds
A	B	$\sum C=D$ in Table 7+B in Table 8	D	E	F=E/C
Bratislava	55	19,834,020.84	15	11,294,580.49	56.95%
Trnava	52	20,237,537.57	28	12,565,335.00	62.09%
Trenčín	64	16,003,814.88	18	6,451,432.65	40.31%
Nitra	82	22,480,772.56	39	12,491,911.34	55.57%
Žilina	125	33,373,042.75	50	20,186,189.75	60.49%
Banská Bystrica	121	27,596,144.74	67	18,831,109.36	68.24%
Prešov	173	36,274,749.42	93	24,014,164.08	66.20%
Košice	156	39,705,692.72	91	26,906,926.39	67.77%
Projects not included in NUTS III	79	397,336,656.22	37	223,591,737.01	56.27%
<b>Total</b>	<b>907</b>	<b>612,842,431.70</b>	<b>438</b>	<b>356,333,386.07</b>	<b>58.14%</b>

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Notes: The amount of contracting for EU funds contributing to the HP is indicated for total eligible project expenditure with defined relevance to the HP. The amount of contracted funds contributing to the HP comprises only projects with a relevance to the respective HP at project level defined in the ITMS.

Source: MA/IBMA/ITMS

As of 31 December 2013, **438** projects with a contribution to the HP SD were contracted. Most projects contributing to the HP SD were contracted in the Regions of Prešov (93) and Košice (91). During the reference period, 22 national projects with a contribution to HP SD were implemented (including 7 mirror projects implemented under both objectives, and 8 projects implemented only under C objective), and one national project implemented under both objectives (Measures 2.1 and 4.2) *Further education of elementary and secondary school teachers in informatics* was regularly completed; the project activities terminated in 2011, and the project was financially completed in 2013.

During the reference period, **six** national projects were contracted with a contribution to the HP SD (one mirror national projects implemented under both objectives, and four projects only under the objective C). As for demand-driven projects, the IBMA ASFEU contracted **70** new projects with a contribution to the HP SD, and two projects with a contribution to the HP SD were exceptionally completed. As of 31 December 2013, the ASFEU reported 406 demand-driven projects with a contribution to the HP SD. As for the same category of projects, the MoH did not contract any new projects with a contribution to the HP SD; and two projects were completed exceptionally. Hence, the MoH reports eight projects in total with a contribution to the HP SD.

The total amount of contracted funds of 438 contracted projects contributing to the HP SD reached **EUR 356,333,386.07** (EÚ funds), which represents **58.14%** of the total contracted amount of all 907 projects. This suggests that, in terms of percentage, in more than half of projects a part of funds is allocated in projects with a potential impact on the HP SD.

Annex 9 to this report describes the concrete fulfilment of HP SD objectives through measurable indicators defined in the SCI HP SD.

Cumulatively, a progressive increase in all indicator values under each priority axis was observed as of 31 December 2013.

Further to the fulfilment of the objectives set out in the beginning of the programming period, the performance of indicators under Priority Axis 1 is considered positive; the target values of these indicators have been exceeded, in particular with respect to the measurable indicator *Number of newly created education programmes* – 337 against the target 100, and *Number of employees involved in educational project activities* – 57,867 against the target 25,500. Such progress is mainly due to two factors: increased interest of staff in participating in project activities and the related need to expand the supported target group, and the fact that Measure 1.1 of Priority Axis 1 is supported to the highest extent, with the highest rate of absorption of funds from the OPE allocation for the programming period 2007–2013.

The value of the indicator under Priority Axis 1 *Number of staff having completed an education programme* is **0** against 385 in 2011 due to incorrect performance in the monitoring period 2011 as a result of wrongly entered data in the ITMS, which was subsequently displayed in the CCA report.

In addition to that, it is an impact indicator which is expected to start performing after the completion of projects. According to contracts, the target value of this indicator, as set by beneficiaries, is 3,894 staff as of 31 December 2013.

Zero values can also be observed in indicators under Priority Axis 3: *Number of persons involved in the implementation project activities* (result indicator) and *Number of staff using the project results after project completion* (impact indicator). These indicators were used in the calls during the current implementation of the OPE Education, but applicants for NFC preferred, according to their convenience and purpose, choosing indicators which reflected the specific project aim. It is therefore expected that the indicators will not be fulfilled, as they were not even contracted as of 31 December 2013.

The indicator under Priority Axis 4 *Number of staff having completed an education programme* also shows a zero value. Since it is an impact indicator, it is expected to perform after the completion of projects. According to the contracts, the target value of this indicator, as set by beneficiaries, is 314 staff as of 31 December 2013.

The final values of measurable impact indicators are also influenced by the external environment (e.g. demand, changes in legislation, etc.), i.e. these values represent a qualified estimate that will not be necessarily fulfilled.

### ***Fulfilment of objectives under the NSRF***

The fulfilment of the main objective of the HP SD, as declared in sub-section 4.3.5 of the NSRF: *“To ensure that every activity in projects under NSRF supports sustainable development in all its dimensions and therefore supports the improvement of environmental, economic and social sustainability in line with the objectives and indicators of the EU Sustainable Strategy”* was ensured by providing guidance to NFC beneficiaries in calls and written invitations on declaring contribution to the fulfilment of HP SD objectives by defining indicators that are relevant to the HP SD in calls and written invitation, training courses for expert evaluators, and by informing the public about the very meaning and principles of the HP SD.

With a view to the fact that education is the prerequisite for supporting a sustainable development and for enhancing the human potential in addressing environmental, economic and socio-cultural development issues, systematic education provided under national and demand-driven projects ensures compliance with the aforementioned basic pillars of sustainable development, in particular with the social one.

### ***Fulfilment of objectives under SCI HP SD***

The implementation of the HP SD in the OPE is ensured primarily through specific objectives *Increasing economic prosperity* and *Social solidarity and inclusion* of the SCI HP SD.

The specific objective *Increasing economic prosperity* and its partial objective *Increasing the level of research, development and education* is being fulfilled thanks to projects under Measures 1.2 and 4.2 which seek to elevate the level of research development and education, as well as project activities under Measures 2.1 and 4.2 with the innovation of knowledge of relevant target groups through further education and subsequent strengthening of the competitiveness and efficiency of the Slovak economy.

Under Priority Axis 2 (Measure 2.2), the HP SD is supported by trans-regional projects of the Slovak Medical Chamber and the Public Health Authority of the SR. The results of these projects can be used in all Slovak regions under the Convergence objective in the future.

The fulfilment of the HP SD objective can also be observed under Priority Axis 3 *Supporting the education of persons with special educational needs*. The objective pursued in the field of the HP SD *Social solidarity and inclusion* and the partial objective *Strengthening the position of disadvantaged and marginalised population groups* is fulfilled by project activities via national projects and demand-driven projects under Measure 3.1 which focus on the social inclusion of MRCs in the field of increasing the education level of members of MRCs by facilitating their access to formal education and by further education, successful education activities of MRCs in elementary schools in municipalities with higher concentrations of MRCs, including full-time educational process or preparation and creation of teaching documentation, textbooks, teaching tests, teaching tools and manuals with the aim to enable MRC integration into the education system of elementary schools. These objectives are also fulfilled by means of projects implemented under Measure 3.2, focusing on the social inclusion of persons with special educational needs by facilitating their access to formal education, their further education, lifelong counselling, innovation of the methods and forms of the

education process in special schools, improvement of teaching materials, and implementation of further education programmes for individuals working with disabled persons.

### ***Problems accompanying the implementation of the HP SD***

No problems accompanying the implementation of the HP SD were observed during the reference period.

## **5. ESF PROGRAMMES: COHERENCE AND CONCENTRATION**

The OPE contributes to the implementation of the EU recommendations for employment in the area of social inclusion, education and training, whereby implementing Article 4, par. 1 of EU Regulation No. 1081/2006.

With its focus it pursues the EU recommendations on employment and the European Employment Strategy (detailed in national reform programmes) with the aim to increase the quality and number of jobs in accordance with the EU 2020 strategy. One of the measures to increase employment and improve preparation for the labour market is to modify or adjust/innovate the education system to meet the requirements of the labour market. Education and skills improvement represent one of the cornerstones of employability support in the European Employment Strategy. Along these lines, the OPE aims to reform the education system and increase the qualification skills of the workforce, including through improving the quality and access to lifelong learning. The European Employment Strategy under OPE is implemented through projects under Priority Axes 1 and 4, which are aimed at the reform of the education and training system, and Priority Axis 2 aimed at lifelong learning as an instrument of human resources development (including training of medical staff in healthcare). One of the measures to increase employment and improve preparation for the labour market referred to in the above strategy is the reform or innovation of the education system. Education and skills improvement are deemed to be the bearing pillars of employment support.

The OPE builds on the strategic documents of the Slovak Republic on employment (the Strategy of support for employment growth on the basis of the reform of the social system and the labour market, the National Action Plan of Employment 2004–2006), the Working Programme of the European Commission *Education and Training 2010*, Memorandum on Lifelong Learning, or the Bologna Declaration, Recommendation of the European Parliament and Council of 18 December 2006 on the key competences for lifelong learning (2006/962/EU). In all these strategic documents education is one of the cornerstones of the support for economic and social activity and employment. The OPE objective is to reform the education system in this respect and to increase the qualification of the workforce.

The OPE is fully consistent with the EU Strategic Guidelines on Economic, Social and Territorial Cohesion, defining the indicative framework for the Member States for the preparation of NSRF, with a view to promoting harmonious, balanced and sustainable development of the EU.

The OPE is implemented in accordance with the Lisbon Strategy and the EU 2020 Strategy that highlight the important role of education as an integral component of the economic and social policies and a tool for strengthening the competitiveness of the EU Member States globally.

Sub-chapter 2.1.6 and Annex 10 to the AIR provide an overview of the OPE's contribution to the national objectives under the EU 2020 strategy.

The OPE is equally implemented in accordance with the following strategic documents:

1. The Concept of Upbringing and Education of Roma Children and Pupils, including the Development of Secondary and Higher Education – in line with this concept, projects designed to support social inclusion of members of the MRCs and persons with special educational needs are implemented in line with this concept under the OPE by facilitating their access to formal education and the acquisition of skills required in the labour market, as well as projects designed to further educate members of MRCs, persons with special educational needs, as well as persons working in the area of their integration in the society.

**2.** The National Action Plan of the Slovak Republic for the Decade of Roma Inclusion 2005–2015 – with regard to the initiative of the Decade of Roma Inclusion 2005-2015 the plan pursues the following objectives: improve education achievements of the Roma, improve the pre-school enrolment and preparedness of Roma children, increase the percentage of Roma pupils attending secondary schools, reduce the percentage of Roma children attending special elementary schools and special educational facilities, and support lifelong learning of the Roma with incomplete education from the point of view of their labour market integration (including career guidance). In line with this plan, projects are implemented under Measure 3.1 of the OPE.

**3.** The National Action Plan of Gender Equality the Slovak Republic for 2010–2013 – adopted by Government Resolution No. 272/2009 of 8 April 2009 as a basic programme document to implement the policy of gender equality. The strategy represents a platform of activities regarding the implementation of gender equality until 2013.

The document introduces education as one of the most significant tools for the elimination of gender stereotypes. The precondition for finding a solution is to prepare an education concept defining the basic frameworks and standards of gender sensitive education in schools, i.e. set of its principles. The National Action Plan is implemented under OPE measures 1.1, 1.2, 2.1, 3.1 and 4.2.

Examples of good practice include the project implemented by the secondary vocational schools for handicapped pupils in Žilina under the title *Changing the lives of our pupils by changing the ways of learning*.

The project is implemented under Measure 3.2, and its aim is to innovate the education process of the school developing pupils' skills demanded by the labour market and supporting their social inclusion. Another aim is to improve teachers' abilities to educate handicapped pupils for a knowledge-based society, innovate the contents, and modernise the methods of work with handicapped pupils.

The secondary vocational school for pupils with disabilities in Žilina is one of the few schools in Slovakia providing education to disabled persons, and also to pupils with mental and multiple disabilities since 2004. The SVS for pupils with disabilities has 12 fields of study preparing pupils for their future job. The school equipment is in very good condition after the project completion, and can be further used in educating pupils, enhancing their life competences and enabling their integration into society.

After successful completion of the projects, the methods and forms of education in this special secondary school were innovated with a focus on pupils' needs in the respective fields of study of the vocational school. Pupils with physical and mental disabilities are better prepared to enter the society and the labour market, which contributes to their development. Five education programmes were innovated, using 11 new teaching materials supported with new ICT, didactic tools and practical teaching tools. The project enhanced not only the competences of pupils, but also those of teachers through lifelong continuous learning in specialised courses and know-how transfer from foreign schools to the SVS for pupils with disabilities and by the adaptation and use of knowledge acquired abroad.

The specific project objectives and, hence, the strategic aim of the project were achieved by means of the following main activities: training for teachers; experience from other countries; innovation and modernisation of the study field Food manufacturing – confectionery; innovation and modernisation of the study field Business operations – preparation and storage of goods and nursing; innovation and modernisation of work with materials; innovation and modernisation of general subjects; and support activities: project management, administration, accounting and publicity, monitoring and evaluation, public procurement.

## **6. TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE**

Technical assistance is part of the OPE and its main objective is to ensure effective implementation of

the OPE, in accordance with the demands for the management and administrative structures responsible for the implementation of the operational programme.

Within the OPE technical assistance is:

- a separate Priority Axis 5 for the C 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.

## 6.1. OPE TA projects

In 2013, five projects of OPE TA were approved under the OPE (as specified in Table 114) under the C objective; under the RC&E objective, no OPE TA projects were approved. In 2013, the implementation of activities was underway with respect to five OPE TA projects (1 MA, 2 IBMAs – ASFEU and 2 IBMA - MoH SR). At the same time, the financial implementation continued for the OPE TA projects in 2013 (except for projects completed financially by 31 December 2012) for the years 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012 and 2013 through the processing of submitted grant applications. As of 31 December 2013, 25 OPE TA projects were completed, of which 0 projects were completed financially in 2013. As of the same date, two OPE TA projects were completed exceptionally.

Table 114: Overview of OPE TA projects approved as of 31 December 2013

85/86	Project name	Beneficiary	Project amount (EUR)	Project objectives	State of project
85	Technical assistance for OPE, Convergence objective – I. Preparation and implementation, monitoring, control and audit*	MoESRS SR	1,447,918.74	Ensure effective OPE implementation under C objective in line with the requirements for management and administrative structures responsible for the OPE implementation	Completed
85	Technical assistance for OPE, RC&E objective – I. Preparation and implementation, monitoring, control and audit*	MoESRS SR	66,719.78	Ensure effective OPE implementation under RC&E objective in line with the requirements for management and administrative structures responsible for the OPE implementation	Completed
86	Technical assistance for OPE, Convergence objective – II. Evaluation and studies; information and publicity*	MoESRS SR	157,013.88	Ensure effective OPE implementation under C objective	Completed
86	Technical assistance for OPE, RC&E objective – II. Evaluation and studies; information and publicity*	MoESRS SR	5,642.97	Ensure effective OPE implementation under RC&E objective	Completed
85	Technical assistance for OPE, Convergence objective 2009 – I. Preparation, implementation, monitoring and control	MoESRS SR	2,463,300.00	Ensure effective OPE implementation under C objective in line with the requirements for management and administrative structures responsible for the OPE implementation	Completed
85	Technical assistance for OPE, RC&E objective 2009 – I. Preparation, implementation, monitoring and control	MoESRS SR	71,900.00	Ensure effective OPE implementation under RC&E objective in line with the requirements for management and	Completed



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				administrative structures responsible for the OPE implementation	
86	Technical assistance for OPE, Convergence objective 2009 – II. Evaluation and studies; information and communication	MoESRS SR	157,700.00	Ensure effective OPE implementation under C objective	Completed
86	Technical assistance for OPE, RC&E objective 2009 – II. Evaluation and studies; information and communication	MoESRS SR	4,900.00	Ensure effective OPE implementation under RC&E objective	Completed
85	Technical assistance for OPE, Convergence objective 2010 – I. Preparation, implementation, monitoring and control	MoESRS SR	2,283,385.00	Ensure effective OPE implementation under C objective in line with the requirements for management and administrative structures responsible for the OPE implementation	Completed
85	Technical assistance for OPE, RC&E objective 2010 – I. Preparation, implementation, monitoring and control	MoESRS SR	414,645.00	Ensure effective OPE implementation under RC&E objective in line with the requirements for management and administrative structures responsible for the OPE implementation	Completed
86	Technical assistance for OPE, Convergence objective 2010 – II. Evaluation and studies; information and communication	MoESRS SR	244,175.00	Ensure effective OPE implementation under C objective	Completed
86	Technical assistance for OPE, RC&E objective 2010 – II. Evaluation and studies; information and communication	MoESRS SR	44,325.00	Ensure effective OPE implementation under RC&E objective	Completed
85	Technical assistance for OPE, Convergence objective 2011 – I. Preparation, implementation, monitoring and control	MoESRS SR	2,372,335.00	Ensure effective OPE implementation under C objective in line with the requirements for management and administrative structures responsible for the OPE implementation	Completed
85	Technical assistance for OPE, RC&E objective 2011 – I. Preparation, implementation, monitoring and control	MoESRS SR	225,000.00	Ensure effective OPE implementation under RC&E objective in line with the requirements for management and administrative structures responsible for the OPE implementation	Under implementation
86	Technical assistance for OPE, Convergence objective 2011 – II. Evaluation and studies; information and communication	MoESRS SR	298,846.00	Ensure effective OPE implementation under C objective	Completed
85	Technical assistance for OPE, Convergence objective 2012 – I.	MoESRS SR	2,355,000.00	Ensure effective OPE implementation under C objective in line with the	Under implementation

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	Preparation, implementation, monitoring and control			requirements for management and administrative structures responsible for the OPE implementation	
86	Technical assistance for OPE, Convergence objective 2012 – II. Evaluation and studies; information and communication	MoESRS SR	145,500.00	Ensure effective OPE implementation under C objective	Under implementation
85	Technical assistance for OPE, Convergence objective 2013-2015 – I. Preparation, implementation, monitoring and control	MoESRS SR	4,275,000.00	Ensure effective OPE implementation under C objective in line with the requirements for management and administrative structures responsible for the OPE implementation	Exceptionally completed
85	Technical assistance for OPE, Convergence objective 2013-2015 – I. Preparation, implementation, monitoring and control	MoESRS SR	4,465,000.00	Ensure effective OPE implementation under C objective in line with the requirements for management and administrative structures responsible for the OPE implementation	Under implementation
85	Technical assistance for OPE, Convergence objective PT 85 for the years 2007, 2008	ASFEU	1,509,692.62	Ensure effective OPE implementation and support the implementation of OPE priority axes	Completed
85	Technical assistance for OPE, RC&E objective PT 85 for the years 2007, 2008	ASFEU	36,878.44	Ensure effective OPE implementation and support the implementation of OPE priority axes	Completed
86	Technical assistance for OPE, Convergence objective PT 86 for the years 2007, 2008	ASFEU	512,341.50	Ensure effective OPE implementation and support the implementation of OPE priority axes	Completed
86	Technical assistance for OPE, RC&E objective PT 86 for the years 2007, 2008	ASFEU	16,265.02	Ensure effective OPE implementation and support the implementation of OPE priority axes	Completed
85	Technical assistance for OPE, Convergence objective PT 85 for the year 2009	ASFEU	2,192,968.93,	Ensure effective OPE implementation and support the implementation of OPE priority axes	Completed
85	Technical assistance for OPE, RC&E objective PT 85 for the year 2009	ASFEU	63,171.94	Ensure effective OPE implementation and support the implementation of OPE priority axes	Completed
86	Technical assistance for OPE, Convergence objective PT 86 for the year 2009	ASFEU	510,972.71	Ensure effective OPE implementation and support the implementation of OPE priority axes	Completed
86	Technical assistance for OPE, RC&E objective PT 86 for the year 2009	ASFEU	14,719.38	Ensure effective OPE implementation and support the implementation of OPE	Completed

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				priority axes	
85	Technical assistance for OPE, Convergence objective, PT 85 for the year 2010	ASFEU	2,646,343.44	Ensure effective OPE implementation and support the implementation of OPE priority axes OPE	Under implementation
85	Technical assistance for OPE, RC&E objective, PR 85 for the year 2010	ASFEU	132,658.06	Ensure effective OPE implementation and support the implementation of OPE priority axes	Under implementation
86	Technical assistance for OPE, Convergence objective, PT 86 for the year 2010	ASFEU	548,350.00	Ensure effective OPE implementation and support the implementation of OPE priority axes OPE	Completed
86	Technical assistance for OPE, RC&E objective, PT 86 for the year 2010	ASFEU	22,000.00	Ensure effective OPE implementation and support the implementation of OPE priority axes	Completed
85	Technical assistance for OPE, Convergence objective, PT 85 for the year 2011	ASFEU	2,786,162.50	Ensure effective OPE implementation and support the implementation of OPE priority axes	Under implementation
86	Technical assistance for OPE, Convergence objective, PT 86 for the year 2011	ASFEU	387,500.00	Ensure effective OPE implementation and support the implementation of OPE priority axes	Completed
85	Technical assistance for OPE, Convergence objective, PT 85 for the year 2012	ASFEU	3,611,514.00	Ensure effective OPE implementation and support the implementation of OPE priority axes	Under implementation
86	Technical assistance for OPE, Convergence objective PT 86 for the year 2012	ASFEU	395,000.00	Ensure effective OPE implementation and support the implementation of OPE priority axes	Under implementation
85	Technical assistance for OPE, Convergence objective, PT 85 for the years 2013-2015	ASFEU	4,647,510.00	Ensure effective OPE implementation and support the implementation of OPE priority axes	Exceptionally completed
85	Technical assistance for OPE, Convergence objective, PT 85 for the years 2013-2015	ASFEU	4,707,510.00	Ensure effective OPE implementation and support the implementation of OPE priority axes	Under implementation
85	Technical assistance for OPE, Convergence objective, PT 86 for the years 2013-2015	ASFEU	263,713.00	Ensure effective OPE implementation and support the implementation of OPE priority axes OPE	Under implementation
85	Project of technical assistance use, I. **	MoH SR	1,188,425.72	Ensure administrative capacities and equipment at the MoH SR as the IBMA for the implementation of measure 2.2	Under implementation
85	Project of technical assistance use, II. **	MoH SR	199,062.50	Ensure administrative capacities and	Under implementation

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				equipment at the MoH SR as the IBMA for the implementation of measure 2.2	
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\* The TA projects refer to the period 01 January 2007 – 31 December 2008.

\*\* The projects refer to the period 01 January 2007 – 31 December 2015.

Source: MA

## 6.2. Overview of the use of funds

Tables 115 and 116 provide an overview of the use of TA funds by priority axis as of 31 December 2013 under the OPE (jointly for MA and IBMA).

Table 115: Overview of the use of TA funds by priority axis as of 31 December 2013 – C objective

Priority activities	Contracted amount (EU + SB funds)			Used amount (EU + SB funds)*		
	EUR	% of the allocation for the TA of the programme	% of the total contracted amount for TA of the programme	EUR	% of the allocation for the TA of the programme	% of the total contracted amount for TA of the programme
Training, monitoring, working and coordination groups, committees and commissions (Priority theme 85)	942,310.22	3.72	2.49	140,556.50	0.56	0.74
Evaluation and studies (Priority theme 86)	339,949.53	1.34	0.90	11,028.00	0.04	0.06
Information and publicity (Priority theme 86)	2,600,695.64	10.26	6.87	829,974.17	3.27	4.34
Wages (Priority theme 85)	26,775,664.97	105.63	70.74	16,755,874.34	66.11	87.60
Operating activities and travel compensations (Priority theme 85)	3,315,598.44	13.08	8.76	564,581.55	2.23	2.95
Technical equipment (hardware, software, furniture, cars, etc.) (Priority theme 85)	3,220,552.52	12.71	8.51	669,888.55	2.64	3.50
Other (General services) (Priority theme 85)	654,959.25	2.58	1.73	154,731.86	0.61	0.81
<b>Total</b>	<b>37,849,730.57</b>	<b>149.32</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>19,126,634.97</b>	<b>75.46</b>	<b>100</b>

\*The used amount has not been adjusted by settled irregularities.

Source: MA

As of 31 December 2013, the rate of TA contracting (Priority Axis 5) under C objective reached 149.32% of the allocation of the said objective, with spending reaching 75.46% (Table 115). The spending of funds for technical assistance under C objective of 75.46% (of the entire allocation for TA under C objective) can be regarded adequate in view of the indicators achieved by the end of the seventh year of the programming period 2007–2013, and considering that the actual implementation of OPE at the level of projects commenced in 2008.

The over-contracting under Priority Axis 5 reflects the actual need to ensure an effective implementation of Priority Axis 5. Since the funds contracted under TA projects for the years 2007–2008, 2009, 2010, 2011 and 2012 were not used in full amount, the possibility arose to launch written calls for the years 2013–2015 up to the amount of unused funds for Priority Axis 5. The funds for Priority Axis 5 can be used maximum to the amount of the allocation to Priority Axis 5.

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Table 116: Overview of the use of TA funds by priority axis as of 31 December 2013 – RC&E objective

Priority activities	Contracted amount (EU + SB funds)			Used amount (EU + SB funds)*		
	EUR	% of the allocation for the TA of the programme		EUR	% of the allocation for the TA of the programme	
Training, monitoring, working and coordination groups, committees and commissions (Priority theme 85)	13,521.86	1.61	1.21	3,739.79	0.45	0.51
Evaluation and studies (Priority theme 86)	19,948.95	2.38	1.78	0.00	0.00	0.00
Information and publicity (Priority theme 86)	64,784.00	7.73	5.79	23,276.00	2.78	3.15
Wages (Priority theme 85)	898,495.49	110.26	80.31	690,892.78	82.47	93.61
Operating activities and travel compensations (Priority theme 85)	56,295.49	6.73	5.03	4,288.06	0.51	0.58
Technical equipment (hardware, software, furniture, cars, etc.) (Priority theme 85)	54,136.68	6.46	4.84	13,056.20	1.56	1.77
Other (General services) (Priority theme 85)	11,643.12	1.39	1.04	2,807.94	0.34	0.38
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,118,825.59</b>	<b>133.56</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>738,060.77</b>	<b>88.10</b>	<b>100</b>

\*The used amount has not been adjusted by settled irregularities.

Source: MA

As of 31 December 2013, the rate of TA contracting (Measure 4.3) under RC&E objective reached the same level as in 2012, i.e. 133.56% of the allocation of the said objective, with use of funds reaching 88.10% (Table 115), which is the same as in 2012 (Table 116). In spite of that, the use of funds for technical assistance under RC&E objective of 88.10% (of the entire allocation for TA under RC&E objective) can be regarded adequate in view of the indicators achieved by the end of the seventh year of the programming period 2007–2013, and considering that the actual implementation of OPE at the level of projects commenced in 2008.

The over-contracting under Measure 4.3 reflects the actual need to ensure an effective implementation of Priority Axis 4. Since the funds contracted under TA projects for the years 2007–2008, 2009 and 2010 were not used in full amount, the possibility arose to launch written calls up to the amount of unspent funds under Measure 4.3. Hence, a MA TA project for 2011 was submitted and approved in 2010, resulting in over-contracting (the submission and approval process is described in the AIR 2010). The funds for Measure 4.3 can be used maximum to the amount of the allocation to Measure 4.3. The financing of other expenditure related to the implementation of Priority Axis 4 is ensured from the state budget funds.

## 7. INFORMATION AND PUBLICITY

During the reference period, publicity was divided into three levels. The MoESRS SR as the MA focused mainly on the 1st level of the operational programme and structural funds; the ASFEU as the IBMA on 2nd level of calls, and beneficiaries are responsible for the 3rd level of projects which is not covered by this AIR:

## 7.1. Strategic documents on information and publicity

- **Manual on information and publicity of OPE and OP R&D**

The manual on information and publicity forms part of the Management System which defines the minimum standards and single procedures for information and publicity on the EU, on programmes supported from EU funds, and on the OP. The MA created the joint *Manual on information and publicity of OPE and OP R&D*, updated on 09 August 2013.

- **Annual Operative Plan of Information and Publicity for OPE and OP R&D**

In 2013, information and publicity activities by the MA and IBMA followed the documents: *Annual operative plan of information and publicity for the Operational Programme Education and Operational Programme Research and Development 2013 (MA)*; *Annual operative plan of information and publicity for the Operational Programme Education and Operational Programme Research and Development 2013 (IBMA ASFEU)*; and *Annual operative plan of information and publicity for Measure 2.2 of the OPE (IBMA MoH SR)*. These documents, separately for MA and IBMA, were developed with the aim to ensure quality and coordinated presentation of the OPE. They build on the information and communication strategy set in the Communication Plan, provide concrete information and publicity measures for 2013, and set the way and tools to be used in distributing timely, accurate and comprehensive information to potential applicants for NFC, beneficiaries and the general public.

### **Strategic documents published**

**Annual Implementation Report on the OPE** – the MA publishes once a year the electronic version of the current annual report for the previous calendar (after approval of the document by the MC for the OPE and the EC).

The latest strategic documents on information and publicity and an archive of documents are available on the MA website: <http://www.minedu.sk/op-vzdelavanie-esf/>.

## 7.2. Coordination of publicity at national and transnational level

In 2013, the RO MA and IBMA cooperated and ensured the distribution of timely, accurate and comprehensive information and provided effective information and publicity about the assistance from the EU SF and OPE. The structure of the administrative capacities for information and publicity at the MA and IBMA as of 31 December 2013 is provided in Table 101.

Table 117: Administrative capacities as of 31 December 2013

	Number of positions for the OPE
MA (Information and Publicity Manager)	1
IBMA – ASFEU (Director of the Information and Publicity Department, Head of the OPE Unit, Publicity Manager)	4
IBMA – MoH SR (Information and Publicity Manager, Coordination Manager)	1
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>6</b>

Source: MA/IBMA

MA and IBMA staff in the field of publicity takes part, on a continuous basis, in internal and external training events, including in the area of information and publicity.

With regard to cooperation with the CCA, the CCA is responsible for the coordination of activities related to information and publicity at national level in the framework of the NSRF. The CCA coordinates the Working Group on Publicity which was established for the purpose of coordinating

information and communication activities at the level of the NSRF and OPs. The Working Group also includes two representatives of the MA. The MIP for the OPE cooperate with the CCA by providing information and reference documents concerning the OPE. The respective information is published on the website [www.nsrr.sk](http://www.nsrr.sk). For more information see sub-chapter 2.1.7.5 of this AIR.

As for cooperation at national level, a MA representative is member of the INFORM Network working group. For more details see such-chapter 2.1.7.5 of this AIR.

### **7.3. Information and publicity activities performed by the MA and IBMA**

The information and publicity activities addressed all target groups (potential applicants for NFC, applicants for NFC and beneficiaries of NFC and the general public) in accordance with the needs of the target groups concerned. The public was provided with general information about the EU Structural Funds and about the OPE. Potential applicants were approached through information and communication activities presenting a range of possibilities that OPE offers. Applicants were provided with specific information leading to successful submissions of grant applications. NFC beneficiaries were instructed on correct procedures in project implementation, including publicity actions for the implemented projects. To promote and foster the credit of the European Union with regard to the EU SFs, communication activities were undertaken to give publicity to success stories of implemented projects addressing all categories of the target groups.

The implementation of activities in the area of information and publicity in 2013 was governed by the CoP for OPE and OP R&D, and was guided and specified in particular by the *Annual operative plan of information and publicity for OPE and OP R&D 2013* for the MA and IBMA ASFEU and the *Annual operative plan of information and publicity for Measure 2.2 of the OPE 2013* for the IBMA – MoH SR. These documents list the tools and means that have been used in 2013 to implement activities in the area of information and publicity.

#### **7.3.1. Information and publicity activities**

##### **A) Major information activity on the OPE**

The media campaign focused on printed media in the form of PR articles and articles published in the CCA's newsletter EUROKOMPAS. The articles present information on the SFs, on the OPE, examples of good practices and activities of the MA and IBMA.

The website contains an interactive map of implemented projects (<http://www.minedu.sk/interaktivna-mapa-projects/>) as an equivalent to the list of OPE beneficiaries in a well-arranged visual form. The map provides an overview of all implemented demand-driven projects and national projects co-financed from the ESF funds through the OPE in a transparent way. It ensures simpler orientation for the public in projects implemented at particular places or by particular entities. In 2013, the OPE interactive map was continuously updated on a quarterly basis.

##### **B) 7th regular meeting of the MC for the OPE**

On 18 June 2013, the 7th regular meeting of the MC for the OPE was held. More information is provided in sub-section 2.7.1.1 of the AIR. For more details see also <http://www.minedu.sk/vii-riadne-zasadnutie-monitorovacieho-vyboru-pre-operacny-program-vzdelavanie/>.

##### **C) Annual Implementation Report on the OPE 2012**

The AIR 2012 was submitted to the EC for approval on 28 June 2013. The Commission approved the OPE AIR for the period from January to December 2012 approved letter of 11 December 2013. The document contains information on the OPE implementation at the level of priority axes as per monitoring and financial indicators. The AIR also contains information on information and publicity measures taken in 2012 (<http://www.minedu.sk/1495-sk/vyrocné-spravy/>).

##### **D) Seminars and events presenting the OPE**

In 2013, the MA/IBMA used the following instruments:



**Information events and seminars – IBMA ASFEU**

For the purposes of informing potential applicants for NFC, successful applicants for NFC, and NFC beneficiaries, the IBMA ASFEU organised six information seminars and 17 work meetings in 2013. The information seminars designed for potential applicants focused on the presentation of the conditions of calls, eligible activities, eligible places of project implementation, target groups, eligible expenditure and correct setting up of budgets, project indicators, HP indicators and detailed description of projects, as well as on the filling in of the grant application form. The seminars concerned calls for grant applications with respect to Measures 1.1, 1.2, 2.1 and 4.1. The seminars designed for successful applicants for NFC and beneficiaries of NFC presented mainly information on requests for payment, project implementation and the submission of monitoring reports.

*Information seminars* were held at the following dates and in the following cities:

- 16 January 2013, Žilina, number of participants: 47;
- 17 January 2013, Košice, number of participants: 73;
- 18 January 2013, Zvolen, number of participants: 41;
- 28 February 2013, Bratislava, number of participants: 15;
- 10 April 2013, Bratislava, number of participants: 7;
- 24 September 2013, Bratislava, number of participants: 46;

*Work meetings* were held at the following dates and in the following cities:

- 28 January 2013, Bratislava, number of participants: 22;
- 29 January 2013, Bratislava, number of participants: 61;
- 31 January 2013, Bratislava, number of participants: 31;
- 15 April 2013, Bratislava, number of participants: 42;
- 23 May 2013, Bratislava, number of participants: 37;
- 11 September 2013, Bratislava, number of participants: 86;
- 12 September 2013, Bratislava, number of participants: 33;
- 04 November 2013, Bratislava, number of participants: 238;
- 05 December 2013, Bratislava, number of participants: 13.

The IBMA ASFEU held a series of events in 2013:

*Information days for NFC beneficiaries* during which NFC beneficiaries were acquainted with the Manual for NFC Beneficiaries, OPE, version 7.0, with the most common errors in requests for payment and with the findings of audits and certifying verifications of projects implemented by NFC beneficiaries under demand-driven OPE projects. The events were held at the following dates and in the following cities:

- 28 May 2013, Žilina, number of participants: 63;
- 29 May 2013, Košice, number of participants: 137;
- 30 May 2013, Zvolen, number of participants: 81;
- 31 May 2013, Bratislava, number of participants: 35.

*Information seminars for NFC beneficiaries on public procurement* under which NFC beneficiaries were informed about changes in Act No. 25/2006 Coll. in effect from 01 July 2013 and about the implementation of low-value contracts. The events were held at the following dates and in the following cities:

- 30 September 2013, Žilina, number of participants: 32;
- 01 October 2013, Košice, number of participants: 87;
- 02 October 2013, Banská Bystrica, number of participants: 45;
- 03 October 2013, Bratislava, number of participants: 32.

On 15 April 2013, the ASFEU launched a competition *Teach me about nature* for students of higher education institutions which implement(ed) projects financed from the ESF under the OPE. The aim of



the competition was to create an educative tool for 1st grade pupils of elementary schools about nature and ecology. The information campaign for the competition was supported via internet by publishing notices about the competition at [www.asfeu.sk](http://www.asfeu.sk) and [www.minedu.sk](http://www.minedu.sk), and also by beneficiaries via universities' websites.

On 13 November 2013, the foreign language competition entitled *Welcome to Our Region!* was launched for teams of eight-year students of elementary schools which implement(ed) projects financed from the ESF under the OPE. The competition aimed at creating a multimedia presentation in the form of a tourist guide for foreign students. The information campaign on the launch of the competition was supported via the internet by publishing notices about the competition at [www.asfeu.sk](http://www.asfeu.sk) and [www.minedu.sk](http://www.minedu.sk), and also by beneficiaries via elementary schools' websites, and also by placing posters on school noticeboards. The information on the competition was also disseminated by means of an e-mail message to elementary schools – NFC beneficiaries under the OPE.

***Information seminars on calls, training for beneficiaries and other information activities – MoH SR***

The IBMA MoH SR did not launch any call in 2013, as a result of which it did not organise any information seminars or training courses for beneficiaries.

***Accompanying information events presenting the OPE:***

**E) Accompanying activities during the week celebrating the Day of Europe**

In order to keep awareness about the EU, the OPE and EU SFs, information and promotion materials were distributed at various events. During the first week of May, on the occasion of the Day of Europe, the European flag was displayed in front of the MA/IBMA premises.

**F) Advertising, articles, PR articles and advertisements in dailies with national coverage**

The advertising space for the MA/IBMA in *Hospodárske noviny*, a daily with national coverage, served to inform the public about launched calls, and also provided important information on the possibilities of the use of funds from EU SFs under the OPE. Numerous full-coloured advertisements were published in *Hospodárske noviny*, as well as informative articles in *Učiteľské noviny*, in the *EUROKOMPAS* newsletters, and various PR articles in other media.

The IBMA MoH SR used *Zdravotnícke noviny* and *Hospodárske noviny* newspaper for advertising.

The MA/IBMA informed the public and the target group about their activities also via their websites, publishing up-to-date information, press releases, notices, timetables of calls and many other pieces of information.

The number of press releases, articles and advertisements published in all kinds of media is followed by means of the indicator described in Annex 12 to the AIR.

**7.3.2. Internet**

The MA published information on the OPE on the MoESRS SR website [www.minedu.sk](http://www.minedu.sk) under the OP Education (ESF) section.

<http://www.minedu.sk/op-vzdelavanie-esf/>: The EU Structural Funds section and its part on Education serves for providing comprehensive information on the OPE and on its implementation, as well as on the MA and IBMA activities. The websites also includes an interactive map of implemented projects.

All sections are updated regularly or as needed. The List of approved and rejected projects contains a list of beneficiaries under written invitations, which is also continuously updated and states the names of beneficiaries, names of projects and NFC amounts. This list complies with Art. 4, par. 2b and Art. 7, par. 2d of the Implementing Regulation. There is also a direct link to the lists of beneficiaries of both IBMAs.

The website enables the public to sign up for the mailing list which is used to disseminate up-to-date information, notifications about updated documents, OPE calls and other important information on the OPE.

The homepage of the [www.minedu.sk](http://www.minedu.sk) website contains a section Calls under EU SFs with a part dedicated to OPE calls. This section contains fast and transparent links to calls launched by the MA and the IBMAs via [www.minedu.sk](http://www.minedu.sk) website, which facilitates access to information on OPE calls. In 2013, the MA website <http://www.minedu.sk/> recorded a total of 1,561,818 visits and 6,656,478 views. During the same period, the OPE homepage <http://www.minedu.sk/op-vzdelavanie-esf/> had a total of 33,906 views and 21,486 unique visits.

<http://www.asfeu.sk/>: The website of the IBMA ASFEU [www.asfeu.sk](http://www.asfeu.sk) offers a wide range of information for potential applicants for NFC, beneficiaries and the general public. In addition to general information on programme documents, SF objectives and regulations on the SFs, website visitors can find information on updates of important documents, reports on evaluation of calls, events organised by the IBMA ASFEU and other major activities. The FAQ section for applicants and the FAQ for beneficiaries are continuously updated along with published calls on the basis of most common inquiries of NFC applicants and beneficiaries during their phone, e-mail and personal consultations and information seminars on particular calls. The FAQ sections provide answers to questions relating to the preparation of grant applications and project implementation as such. In 2013, the website was visited by a total of 188,939 users.

Database mailing – potential applicants for NFC can use the Newsletter service through which they get necessary information relating to the OPE. They can also communicate via e-mail, using the following e-mail addresses: [opv@asfeu.sk](mailto:opv@asfeu.sk) and [info@asfeu.sk](mailto:info@asfeu.sk). These e-mail addresses are also published in informational materials, correspondence, on the website and promotion materials. The website also presents the Lists of NFC Beneficiaries available to the public.

<http://www.health.gov.sk/>: The MoH SR focused on informing the public mainly via the website [www.opv.health-sf.sk](http://www.opv.health-sf.sk).

The website [www.opv.health-sf.sk](http://www.opv.health-sf.sk) recorded 9,545 entries from 20 countries. 9,182 visitors were from Slovakia (36 Slovak towns). 6,106 registered addresses (persons) were interested in the website. The website had 29,312 views (number of documents from the website contents that visitors browsed).

The website is continuously updated. Visitors can find on the website basic documents, information on calls, their evaluations, and the lists of supported projects, as well as the latest news on the IBMA activities. The section Information for media is designed for journalists, and the section Meetings of the MC for OPE concerns organisational affairs, seminars, training and national events.

Information for the public, potential applicants and beneficiaries is posted under the sections News, Calls, Evaluation of grant applications, and Events.

The number of addresses in the MA/IBMA mailing lists and the number of visits to particular MA/IBMA pages, as well as the number of media outputs for the public posted on the internet are monitored by means of indicators listed in Annex 12 to the AIR.

### **7.3.3. Personal, phone, e-mail and written consultations**

Information on the OPE, on the bodies responsible for its implementation, eligible activities, eligible and ineligible expenditure, etc. has been provided to potential applicants for NFC, applicants for NFC, NFC beneficiaries and the general public by means of personal, phone, e-mail and written consultations and answers to the questions raised by potential beneficiaries and the public, both on the part of the MA and the IBMA. The MA/IBMA adhered to the legal procedure under Act No. 211/2000 Coll.

#### **MA**

Information on the OPE has been provided to potential beneficiaries and the general public by means of personal, phone, e-mail and written consultations and answers to the questions raised by potential applicants and the public. The MA does not keep special records of the number of answers, information and consultations provided.

#### **IBMA ASFEU**

Information on the possibilities to use funding from the SF within the demand-driven projects under the OPE is provided continuously by phone, in writing, and by personal consultations offered by MIP OPE directly in the premises of IBMA ASFEU. Preliminary checks for formal accuracy of grant applications and annexes thereto are also provided in the form of personal consultations, as well as consultations on the budget and on the focus of activities under each call. In 2013, 696 phone consultations, 170 written consultations and 33 personal consultations were provided, and 23 information seminars, presentations and training events were held.

#### **IBMA MoH SR**

Information on the OPE has been provided to potential beneficiaries, beneficiaries and the general public by means of personal, phone, e-mail and written consultations and answers to the questions raised by potential applicants and the public. An e-mail address was created for the purposes of e-mail communication with potential applicants and persons interested in information about the OPE [info.opv@health.gov.sk](mailto:info.opv@health.gov.sk). The IBMA MoH SR does not keep special records of the number of answers, information and consultations provided.

#### **7.3.4. Publicity of approved projects**

The NFC beneficiary's obligation, in accordance with the Grant Contract and other relevant documents, is to inform about the assistance provided from the EU Structural Funds. Article 4 Publicity and Information of Annex 1 to the General Terms and Conditions for the Grant Contract stipulates the duties and obligations of beneficiaries regarding information and publicity.

This article also contains the beneficiary's consent to being included in the List of Beneficiaries for the purposes of publicity and information; to publishing the information defined in the Contract in the List of Beneficiaries, or the consent to publishing the said data in other ways on the basis of the provider's decision. It involves information such as the name and registered office of the beneficiary; the name, objectives and brief description of the project; the place of the project's activities implementation; the time of the project's implementation; total project cost; the amount of non-repayable financial contribution (NFC), project indicators; photos and video shots from the place of the project implementation; and expected end of implemented activities of the project.

Publicity at project level falls under the responsibility of beneficiaries who have an appropriation set aside in their approved budget for the publicity of the project. Publicity is a mandatory project component.

The MA and IBMA websites also provide EU logos available for downloading, including links to the EU, ESF, SF and the OPE logos. The IBMA ASFEU website provides the possibility to download the IBMA ASFEU logo. The website of the MA/IBMA also contains the Manual for OPE and oP R&D Information and Publicity, defining the minimum standards and unified procedures in the area of information and publicity about the EU and the OP that are binding for all MAs and for all SF and CF management processes.

Compliance with the rules of publicity under the Grant Contract in relation to national projects is in the remit of the MA; in the case of demand-driven projects, the control of the implementation of publicity is carried out by the IBMA.

#### *Publicity at the level of national projects*

Beneficiaries inform the public on a regular basis about the actual state of implementation of national projects by means of information activities that mediate the information on the project results and outputs. Conferences and information campaigns are also organised. Information is also made available through the websites of beneficiaries, either by creating a website for the project or a

dedicated area on the website of the beneficiary. Beneficiaries submit this information periodically to the MA through their project monitoring reports.

*Publicity at the level of demand-driven projects – IBMA ASFEU*

In 2013, the website [www.asfeu.sk](http://www.asfeu.sk) published on the page Examples of Good Practice information sheets on successful demand-driven projects (<http://www.asfeu.sk/agentura/priklady-dobrej-praxe/operacny-program-vzdelavanie-informacne-listy-uspesnych-projects/>).

During the reference period, the projects of NFC beneficiaries were promoted in Učiteľské noviny magazine as part of the series of articles *EU Projects Changing Our Schools*, in Eurokompas magazine and in the brochure Examples of Good Practice.

### **7.3.5. Publications and small promotional items**

#### **MA for the OPE**

During the reference period, no supply of small promotional items was made (the MA used the publications and promotional items purchased in the previous period).

In 2013, the MA prepared the Annual Implementation Report on the OPE 2012 which was (after approval by the MC for the OPE and by the EC) published in electronic form on the website <http://www.minedu.sk/1495-sk/vyročne-spravy/> (cost: EUR 0).

#### **IBMA ASFEU**

In 2013, the IBMA ASFEU purchased a total of 1,400 pcs of the following promotional materials bearing the EU, OPE and IBMA ASFEU logos: ball pens (500 pcs), paper bags (500 pcs), weekly diaries 2014 (150 pcs) and A5 office pads (250 pcs).

In 2013, the brochure *Examples of Good Practice* was prepared for the OPE as part of printed information materials (1,000 pcs).

#### **IBMA MoH SR**

During the reference period, no small promotional items were supplied, and the IBMA did not provide for the printing or production of promotional items, as no such need arose in 2013.

### **7.4. Monitoring and evaluation of information and communication activities**

The global objective of the information and communication activities was defined in the CoP as “*to highlight the role of the European Community and ensure that assistance provided from the SF and CF be transparent for all target groups by ensuring wide publicity at all levels of implementation, using a broad spectrum of communication tools*”.

The data related to monitoring of the information and communication activities are monitored against the indicators defined in the CoP. Internally, the MA has undertaken an appraisal exercise to see which information and communication activities have been implemented against the Programme Document. It can be concluded that the activity of the MA for the OPE and the IBMA has brought about the achievement of objectives, as set in the CoP, by implementing the tasks directly arising from the campaign itself. Both the MA for the OPE and the IBMA have been effectively using all available tools and means for the campaign, as identified in the CoP. The activities that particular entities set themselves to achieve in the AOP IP 2013 clearly addressed the target groups falling in their competence and jurisdiction.

Positive results of particular evaluation criteria, which are defined by concrete indicators set in the CoP, point to the correct selection of communication strategy tools, as well as its successful implementation. The evaluation criteria are monitored at the level of the OP and information and publicity measures (impact indicators) and at the level of CoP activities (output and result indicators).

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On the basis of the progress made, as referred to in Annex 12 to the report, we may conclude that the MA and IBMA tasks arising from the programme documents are fulfilled along the set intentions.

The MA for OPE focus should aim at the improvement of the visibility of the MA for the OPE and of national projects. On the basis of the summary of activities performed by the MA for the OPE, it is recommended to intensify the measures in the field of information and publicity targeted specifically for the SF presentation, the results achieved in the OPE implementation, examples of good practice of national projects, as well as activities of the MA for the OPE.

The MA for the OPE and the IBMA were expected to concentrate on increasing the number of information and communication activities related to reminding campaigns, on support of the reputation of the SF EU, and on the spreading of examples of successfully implemented OPE projects. Closer cooperation in the implementation of individual measures between the MA for the OPE and the IBMA to ensure a comprehensive view of the OPE (demand-driven projects and national projects) would also be appropriate.

The MC for the OPE is responsible for the annual evaluation of information and communication activities (pursuant to the General Regulation). At its 7th regular meeting held on 18 June 2013, the MC for the OPE approved the Annual Implementation Report on the OPE 2012 which, in line with Article 67 of the General Regulation, also contained measures adopted to provide information about the operational programme and its publicity.

The fulfilment of physical indicators as of 31 December 2013 is provided in Annex 12 to the AIR.

## **GENERAL REMARKS**

1) Following text refers to tables on administrative capacities (sub-chapter 2.9):  
To assign the employees into individual categories we recommend following the positions<sup>4</sup> below:

### *Programming Manager*

- The employee ensures the preparation and update of programme documents, such as the operational programme, programme manual, manual for beneficiaries, internal manual of procedures, guidelines, implementation of coordinating activities between partners involved in the programme implementation, administration of IBMA authorisation for completing MA tasks, managing and supervising of performance of delegated tasks, creation of appropriate system of programme implementation, administrative and organisational arrangement of the procedures related to training of the MA and IBMA employees;

### *Monitoring and Evaluation Manager*

- The employee ensures the procedures relating to the monitoring of the OP implementation, preparation and approval of annual, preliminary or final OP implementation reports, activities concerning MC meetings, OP monitoring via ITMS system; the employee also ensures processes related to OP evaluation, and the preparation and implementation of OP evaluation plans.

### *Publicity and Information Manager*

- The employee ensures information on the possibilities and progress of fund used from SF and CF, the preparation, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of communication plans, the preparation and update of information published on websites, and the monitoring of communication activities.

### *Control Manager*

- The employee ensures verification of public procurement processes, administrative control of requests for payment, on-the-spot inspection of RfPs, control of RfPs concerning technical

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<sup>4</sup> The definition of positions is only informative. The MA can adapt job categories according to its own conditions.

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assistance, control of compliance of project implementation with SR and EU legislation, detection of irregularities.

*ITMS Manager*

- The employee is responsible for initialising system settings at the level of OPs, and manages the assignment of user roles under their department.

*Financial Manager*

- The employee ensures the receiving of requests for payment under the OP, the preparation of requests for returning funds, the registration and sending of requests to beneficiaries, the PU and the CA, the preparation of reports on irregularities, the receiving of notices on settlement of financial relations, the preparation and submission of financial plans for the use of funds, the preparation of regular overviews of the contracting and use of funds.

*Project Manager*

- The employee ensures processes relating to the receiving, registration and control of formal correctness of grant applications, the documentation and outputs for professional evaluation and selection of grant applications, the processes regarding the receiving and assessment of letters of acceptance, the preparation of draft contracts between beneficiaries and the MA, and ensures the conclusion of grant contracts with beneficiaries under the project implementation, the receiving and evaluation of monitoring reports, and communication with applicants/beneficiaries within project implementation.

*Technical Assistance Manager*

- The employee is responsible for the preparation of grant applications related to technical assistance, and for the implementation of TA projects, including preparation of requests for payment, etc.

2) Information on sending annual reports via SFC2007

Member States submit their annual implementing reports on operational programmes to the EC via electronic system SFC2007 under Art. 40(2)(f) of Regulation (EC) No. 1828/2006 of 08 December 2006, under which the computer system for data exchange pursuant to Art. 39 of the Regulation shall contain, among other things, “the implementing reports in accordance with Annex XVIII, including data concerning categorisation following the model set out in Part C of Annex II and in accordance with the tables set out in Part A of Annex II”.

The annual and final reports are created in the “monitoring” module of the SFC2007, under the part “ERDF/CF, ESF, EFF Annual/Final Implementing Report”). Before creating an annual report, a set of indicators must be created and sent to the EC for the given OP.

With the aim to facilitate the submission of annual reports by Member States via SFC, the EC prepared the following two guides:

- a) Guide for the creation of annual reports (“How to create the Annual/Final implementation Report for ERFD/CF, ESF EFF”), available at:

[http://ec.europa.eu/employment\\_social/sfc2007/sfc2007\\_help/documents/sfc2007\\_ms\\_howto\\_create\\_sfcf\\_air.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/employment_social/sfc2007/sfc2007_help/documents/sfc2007_ms_howto_create_sfcf_air.pdf);

- b) Guide for the creation of indicators (“How to create the Indicators for ERDF/CF and ESF”) available at:

[http://ec.europa.eu/employment\\_social/sfc2007/sfc2007\\_help/documents/sfc2007\\_ms\\_howto\\_create\\_sfcf\\_indicators.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/employment_social/sfc2007/sfc2007_help/documents/sfc2007_ms_howto_create_sfcf_indicators.pdf).

## **ANNEXES**

Annex 1: List of abbreviations

Annex 2: Overview of calls launched as of 31 December 2013 and overview of projects

Annex 3: Payments received from the EC

Annex 4: Aggregate breakdown of Community contributions by category

Annex 5: Requests for payment submitted to the EC

Annex 6: List of on-the-spot inspection by the MA and IBMA

Annex 7: Examples of good practice

Annex 8: List of OPE measurable indicators

Annex 9: Fulfilment of HP physical indicators by priority axis

Annex 10: Overview of the OPE contribution to national objectives within the EU 2020

Annex 11: Contracted values of HP indicators by SCI and priority axis

Annex 12: Publicity monitoring indicators

Annex 13: Analysis of the progress of OPE national projects

Annex 14: Performance of indicators at OPE level as of 31 December 2013

Annex 15: Target values of OPE indicators on the basis of concluded contracts as of 31 December 2013