



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



**Annual Report on the Implementation of the
Operational Programme Education
for January – December 2008**

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INTRODUCTION

The Annual Report on the Implementation of the Operational Programme Education (hereinafter referred to as “AR”) contains the data on the implementation of the Operational Programme Education (hereinafter referred to as “OPE”) achieved in the monitoring and financial indicators **at the level of priority axes**.

AR has been produced on the basis of Article 67 of the Regulation (EC) No. 1083/2006 and Annex XVIII of the implementing regulation (EC) No. 1828/2006 and contains the following information:

1. information on the progress made in implementation of OPE;
2. on the state in the financial implementation of OPE;
3. on programmes of the European Social Fund (hereinafter referred to as “ESF”): Coherence and Concentration;
4. on the monitoring arrangements for OPE;
5. on Technical Assistance (hereinafter referred to as “TA”);
6. on measures for information and publicity on OPE.

The report also contains the information on the contribution of the OPE implementation to horizontal priorities (hereinafter referred to as “HP”) as defined in the SR National Strategic Reference Framework for 2007-2013 (hereinafter referred to as “NSRF”).

All the monitoring and evaluation data of the programme with regard to priority axes and measures are broken down by the area of priority’s theme, form of financing, territorial area, branch classification of economic activities and territorial location at the level of NUTS III, in accordance with the requirements defined in Annex II of Regulation (EC) No. 1828/2006.

SUMMARY

In 2008, the Ministry of Education of the SR as the Managing Authority for the Operation Programme Education fully set the OPE implementation in motion. The MA declared direct awards for national projects. The calls for the submission of applications for the non-repayable financial contribution for demand-driven projects were also equally declared. The calls were declared by the Agency of the Ministry of Education of the SR for the EU Structural Funds and the Ministry of Health of the SR as the Intermediary Body under the Managing Authority..

The Managing Authority declared 7 awards in the course of the year. Directly managed organizations of the Ministry of Education of the SR were the eligible applicants. Due to the fact that the national projects cover the entire territory of the Slovak Republic, the applicants elaborated mirror projects covering both Objectives, i.e., the Objective Convergence and the Objective Regional Competitiveness and Employment. The majority of direct awards were targeted on Priority Axes 1 and 4, the goal of which is to support the reform of education at ES and SS. Only one direct award was targeted on further education. The orientation of direct awards was related to the launching of the school reform on September 1, 2008. The national project target groups were comprised of pedagogical staffs and students of ES and SS, staffs working in the field of education and pedagogical staffs of kindergartens. As of December 31, 2008, a total of 12 AFNFC were submitted, of which 4 mirror national projects were contracted as of December 31, 2008 and 3 national project implementations were commenced (8 Agreements on the Provision of Non-returnable Financial Contributions were concluded).

The **ASFEU** equally targeted its calls on Priority Axes 1 and 4. The calls were oriented on the design and implementation of ES and SS education programmes and their goal was to support the implementation of ES and SS education system reform on the entire territory of the SR. The target groups in the declared calls were comprised of ES students and pedagogical staffs and SS students and pedagogical staffs. Calls declared in the first half of the year were marked by the high occurrence of mistakes in the AFNFC; that is why identical calls were declared in the second half of 2008. A total of 8 calls were declared, within the framework of which 952 AFNFC were submitted. 81 projects were approved as of December 31, 2008, of which 25 projects were contracted. Project implementation will commence in the first quarter of 2009. The selection and contracting of projects from calls declared in the second half of 2008 will continue in 2009.

The Ministry of Health of the SR, which as the Intermediary Body under the Managing Authority exclusively implements OPE Measure 2.2 targeted on the healthcare staff, declared 3 calls in the course of 2008. The first call was a pilot call and 5 of the 7 upper-tier territorial units which were eligible applicants reacted to this call. Therefore 5 projects were implemented for a period of 3 months. These projects resulted in the stabilizing of 110 healthcare workers and the provision of funds for the elaboration of an analysis of healthcare staff educational needs. The acceptance of the AFNFC of two other calls was in progress as of December 31, 2008.

Due to the fact that in 2008 the ME SR was oriented on school reform support, no implementation of Priority Axis 3 dealing with the MRC and persons with special educational needs was carried out. Calls for this Priority Axis will be declared in the first quarter of 2009.

In connection with financial drawing, one advance payment from the EC was obtained in 2008 (May) in the amount of EUR 18,534,047.34, i.e., 3% of the overall undertaking for 2007 – 2013. As of December 31, 2008, the funds in the form of advance payments to beneficiaries implementing national and demand-driven projects within Priority Axes 1, 2 and 4 in the overall volume of EUR 273,503.07, of which EUR 233,886.10 constituted SF funds and EUR 39,616.97 constituted state budget funds for co-financing, were released by the PU of the ME SR and the PU of the MH SR. But since applications for advance payment settlements or refund requests were not delivered within the established deadline, these funds have not been certified yet. As a result, we can not talk about the actual drawing. The only drawn funds were in the area of Technical Assistance in the amount of EUR 907,890.28, of which EUR 771,706.73 constituted SF funds and EUR 136,183.55 constituted state budget funds for co-financing.

Within the framework of socio-economic development and legislative changes, the most significant change affecting OPE implementations in the area of ES and SS was the passing of the Act on Upbringing and Education (Act No. 245/2008 on Upbringing and Education) the School Act, which entered into effect on September 1, 2008. The School Act replaced Act No. 29/1984 (Digest) on the System of Elementary and Secondary Schools and established the conditions for the necessary changes in the school system and instruction. It re-defined the school system in the SR and set the Slovak education system within the European framework. It also introduced the school education programme obligatory for all schools and provided schools with the opportunities to create their own school education programmes at its base. The calls for demand-driven projects declared by the ASFEU and some direct awards for national projects were oriented on school reform support.

The end of 2008 was marked by the beginning of the financial crisis. In connection with this, the OPE MA has not considered any changes in orientation, allocations or target groups within the framework of the OPE since individual OPE Objectives sufficiently reflect the basic disparities between the education system and labour market. Also, due to the prepared simplifying of administrative processes for the drawing funds in the ESF programmes, there is a prequalification of sufficient interest of subjects in using the full allocation within the framework of the OPE. In the upcoming period, the OPE MA will try to concentrate ESF financing on target groups at greatest risk due to the crisis, i.e., MRC, citizens with disabilities, persons who need to acquire knowledge and skills necessary for finding jobs, etc.

The area of Horizontal Priorities is a significant area for the OPE. It concerns the HP EO, HP MRC, HP IS and HP SD. The Coordination and Implementation Systems of individual HP were approved throughout 2008. The MRC are the significant OPE target group; they have a separate OPE Measure 3.1 allocated for them. That is why the signing of the trilateral agreement among the Office of the Plenipotentiary of the SR Government for Roma Communities, the Managing Authority and the Intermediary Body under the Managing Authority – the Agency of the Ministry of Education of the SR for the EU Structural Funds on November 19, 2008, constituted a significant step.

The representation of the MA and IBMA in working groups and commissions created at the OPGSRRC serving for ensuring cooperation in the HP MRC implementation is explicitly incorporated into the Agreement. The agreed upon indicative allocation of EUR 17 million designated in *OPE* Measure 3.1 for implementing projects within the framework of a comprehensive approach forms part of this Agreement.

The exact and goal-directed information and publicity on EU assistance provided to the potential applicants for NFC, applicants for NFC, beneficiaries of NFC and the general public constitutes a significant tool for supporting effective SF and CF funds use.

The MA created the network of Regional Information Offices (RIO) on the level of eight self-governing regions through the IBMA – ASFEU. The RIO fulfil the role of contact points in the regions for informing potential applicants for NFC, applicants for NFC, beneficiaries of NFC and the general public. They provide information on the OPE Objectives and possibilities for drawing funds from the ESF in the region. The ASFEU organized 8 regional conferences on the occasion of the opening of the RIO. Regarding large information activities, the *Slovakia and European Research Space National Conference* took place on November 27, 2008 within the framework of Science and Technology Week 2008. A Structural Funds Day in the Healthcare Sector was organized at the MH SR on November 20, 2008.

Furthermore, within the framework of informing the general public, press conferences were organized regarding individual direct awards. The ASFEU organized 19 information seminars in 2008 in order to inform potential applicants for NFC.

Problems that occurred in 2008 were particularly connected with Horizontal Priority implementation, the functioning of ITMS and the insufficient quality of submitted AFNFC. However, these problems were not serious and do require changes in the OP.

Overall, we can state that in 2008 the OPE implementation was launched by declaring first calls and direct awards. Their activities will take place in the upcoming years after contracting the pertinent projects. At the same time, the process of declaring further direct awards and demand-driven calls will continue so that the established OPE objectives will be gradually completed.

1. IDENTIFICATION

OPERATIONAL PROGRAMME	Convergence objective and Regional Competitiveness and Employment objective
	NUTS II – West Slovakia NUTS II – Central Slovakia NUTS II – East Slovakia NUTS II – Bratislava Region
	2007 – 2013
	2007SK05UPO001
	Operational Programme Education
ANNUAL REPORT ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE OPERATIONAL PROGRAMME	2008
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2. AN OVERVIEW OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE OPERATIONAL PROGRAMME

2.1. The achieved outcome and the analysis of the progress made

In 2008 the OPE started to be fully implemented. Over the course of 2008 the Managing Authority (hereinafter referred to as “MA”) announced direct awards for so-called national projects. Equally calls for submission of applications for non-repayable financial contribution (hereinafter referred to as “AF NFC”) were published for so-called demand driven projects. The calls were published by the Agency of the Ministry of Education of the Slovak Republic for the Structural Funds of the European Union “ASFEU”) and the Ministry of Health of the SR (hereinafter referred to as “MH SR”), in their capacity of Intermediate Bodies under the Managing Authority (hereinafter referred to as “IBMA”), in accordance with the effective delegation of authority.

In the period under review MA announced **7 direct awards** from February to October 2008. Since they involved so-called national projects, there were mirror submissions of AF NFC concurrently covering the Convergence objective (hereinafter referred to as “C”) and the Regional Competitiveness and Employment objective (hereinafter referred to as “RCE”).

Six direct awards were announced for the priority axis 1 - Reform of the education and vocational training system, Measure 1.1 Transformation of the traditional school to the modern school and for the priority axis 4 - Modern education for information society for the Bratislava Region, Measure 4.1 Transformation of the traditional school to the modern school for the Bratislava Region.

One direct award was aimed at the priority 2 - Life-long learning as an instrument of human resources development, Measure 2.1 Support to lifelong learning, and the priority axis 4 - Modern education for the knowledge society for the Bratislava Region, Measure 4.2 Raising competitiveness of the Bratislava Region by developing tertiary education and lifelong learning. In the period under review, 12 AF NFC were submitted of which the Selection Committee approved 12 AF NFC and, at 31 December 2008, 8 projects were contracted.

In the period under review, ASFEU published **8 calls** for demand driven projects. In mid-year 2008, on 11 March 2008 and 18 March 2008, it published **4 calls** for submissions of AF NFC, of which 2 were for the priority axis 1, Reform of the education and vocational training system, Measure 1.1 Transformation of the traditional school to the modern school, and 2 calls were for the priority axis 4, Modern education for the knowledge society for the Bratislava Region, Measure 4.1 Transformation of the traditional school to the modern school for the Bratislava Region.

The calls under Measures 1.1 and 4.1 were aimed at the design and implementation of school development programmes of primary schools (hereinafter referred to as “PS”) and secondary schools (hereinafter referred to as “SS”) with the view to undertaking curricular transformation of education in PS and SS and by using innovative forms and methods of teaching prepare school graduates for present and prospective needs of a knowledge society, as well as for the subsequent education in the system of tertiary schools and lifelong learning.

The target groups in the published calls included pupils of PS, pedagogic workers of PS (including special primary schools), or pupils of SS and pedagogic workers of SS (including special secondary schools).

The activities at which the calls were aimed were defined as follows:

- design and implementation of development programmes for SS (with emphasis on 1st grade) and PS (with emphasis on 1st and 5th grades) supporting the key competences of pupils, using new teaching materials within the upbringing and education process and preparing the pupils for a knowledge society (for example, design of the education programme of the school, innovation of methods and forms of teaching);
- innovation of didactic means developing the key competences of pupils.

These calls were drawn up in consistency with the Timetable of calls for 2008. The delay in publication of the calls relative to the planned date occurred with regards to the preparation of legislation in the area of education – the Act No.245/2008 Coll. on upbringing and education (the so-called School Act), whose implementation in schools the content of the call was to support. In the interest of providing correct information to the public on anticipated dates of the publication of calls for 2008, on 18 March 2008 and 12 June 2008 the updating was made of the Timetable for calls, which was posted on the web page of ASFEU www.asfeu.sk, the website of the Ministry of Education of SR (hereinafter referred to as “ME SR”) www.minedu.sk and on the information portal of the Central Coordination Authority (hereinafter referred to as “CCA”) www.nsrr.sk. The originally planned and elaborated January call for Measure 1.1. Transformation of Traditional School to a Modern School of the OPE was prepared with the aim to focus on foreign languages. However after the evaluation of the current situation in the field of the language competences and preparedness of pedagogues at elementary and secondary schools, the Managing Authority proceeded to the solution of the language issues in form of proclaiming the national project “*Training of Elementary School Teachers in the Field of Foreign Languages in Connection with the Concept of Teaching Foreign Languages at Elementary and Secondary Schools*” in February 2008.

With the purpose of making provision for effective implementation of OPE and effective set-up of calls, on 11 February 2008 and 15 February 2008, meetings were held of the working groups for the preparation of the call, with members including representatives of MA, directly managed organisations (hereinafter referred to as “DMO”) and relevant sections of the ME SR, as well of the professional staff of ASFEU. The cited meetings focused on the issues of eligibility of activities for the call as well as eligibility of target groups and potential applicants for non-repayable financial contribution (hereinafter referred to as “NFC”).

On 27 May 2008 a working meeting was held of professional workers of MA and ASFEU addressing the issues arising from high incidence of errors by applicants in completing application forms for NFC. The conclusions adopted at the meeting were transferred and taken on board also in the process of expert assessment of AF NFC.

On 24 June 2008 a working group of members of MA and ASFEU met addressing controversial issues that occurred during ex-ante financial control of the calls at hand.

A total financial amount of 25, 393, 347.94 EUR was allocated for the first four calls published in the first half of 2008 for Measures 1.1 and 4.1 (for SS, 11, 119, 962.82 EUR, for PS 14, 273, 385.12 EUR). From this amount, the Selection Committee approved 11, 910, 186.77 EUR for successful AF NFC, which is a **47% success rate** (for SS 4, 307, 682.22 EUR, for PS 7, 602 504.55 EUR).

In the latter half of 2008, ASFEU published, on 6 October 2008, **4 additional calls** that focused on the design and implementation of PS and SS school education programmes. These calls were published for the same measures and identical target groups as the previous 4 calls

published on 11 March 2008 and 18 March 2008, i.e. the priority axes 1 and 4 and Measures 1.1 and 4.1, and for identical target groups, i.e. pupils and pedagogic employees of PS and SS (including special PS/SS). The new calls were announced chiefly because almost 40% of the projects handed in under the preceding calls were eliminated from the approval procedure by reason of formal deficiencies and thus the funding allocated for those calls was not fully exhausted.

The low number of approved applications in comparison to the number of accepted NFC applications was due to the high error rate of applicants in the process of completing NFC applications. The Agency excluded from the further approval process NFC Applications which minimally failed to comply with one of the eligibility criteria. The Agency also excluded from the further approval process NFC Applications which minimally failed to comply with one of the completeness criteria, even after sending a request to supplement the requirements within the established time frame. The most frequent errors when elaborating the NFC Applications were the following: the requested amount of the NFC for the actual projects was not in compliance with the minimum or maximum limits established pursuant to the terms and conditions defined in the call for the submission of NFC applications; the time frame of the implementation of the projects did not comply with the minimum or maximum project implementation lengths pursuant to the terms and conditions defined in the call for the submission of NFC Applications; applicants failed to indicate the correct amount of co-financing; they did not specify the baseline and planned values of the measurable indicators; or they did not complete the NFC Application form correctly (absence of the length and implementation of main and support project activities, failure to name the main project activities, failure to define the expenditure groups of the project budget pursuant to the code list of eligible expenditures, etc.)

In order to inform the applicants regarding the most frequent errors and at the same time with a view to eliminate such errors, the Agency regularly publishes articles, organizes information seminars and provides personal, written and telephone consultations in eight regional information offices. Applicants may use the service provided by the Agency staff – the preliminary control of the formal accuracy of the NFC Applications and its annexes, by which they can increase the success of their project. Since the beginning of 2009, the ITMS portal has enabled the trouble-free electronic completion and submission of NFC applications; this portal was not functional for applicants in the course of 2008.

With a view to providing information to the public on anticipated dates of the publication of calls for 2008, on 31 July 2008, 13 October 2008 and 10 December 2008 the Timetable for calls for 2008 was updated and posted on the web page of ASFEU www.asfeu.sk, the website of the Ministry of Education of SR www.minedu.sk and the information portal of the Central Coordination Authority www.nsrr.sk.

Within the delegated Measure 2.2 - Support to lifelong learning in the health sector, of the priority axis 2 – Lifelong learning as an instrument of human resources development MH SR, originally planned to make 2 calls for 2008, one in the first half and one in the second half of 2008. In the end however, MH SR published 2 calls in the second half of 2008, **bringing up the number of published calls to 3**. In consequence of these changes IBMA updated, on 26 August 2008, the indicative timetable of calls for Measure 2.2 for 2008. In the timetable was included the call coded OPE 2008/2.2/02 and, on 15 October 2008, the date for the publication of call coded OPE 2008/2.2/03 was updated from October 2008 to November 2008. The

timetable update was posted on the website of the MH SR www.health-sf.sk, the website of the ME SR www.minedu.sk and the information portal CCA www.nsrr.sk.

2.1.1. State of physical progress of the operational programme

In the course of 2008, the MA announced the direct awards for so-called national projects. Equally, the IBMA published calls for the submission of AF NFC for the so-called demand-driven projects. Section 2.1.1.1. summarises the direct awards and section 2.1.1.2. summarizes the calls for submission of AF NFC.

2.1.1.1. Evaluation of direct contract awards

In 2008, the direct awards were proclaimed gradually from February to October 2008.

85% of the direct awards were aimed at the support of activities within the framework of Priority Axis 1: Reform of the System of Education and Vocational Training; these activities were also supported through Priority Axis 4: Modern Education for the Knowledge Society for the Region of Bratislava. 15 % of the direct awards were oriented to Priority Axis: 2 Further Education as an Instrument for Human Resources Development; these activities were again supported through Priority Axis 4: Modern Education for the Knowledge Society for the Region of Bratislava.

The role of the national projects designed in this way was to serve as an instrument for implementing the reform of the school system of the Slovak Republic. Since it pertains to comprehensive projects, the condition for direct awards is the direct link to the legislation or concept documents of the SR Government.

The first direct award entitled “Training of Elementary School Teachers in the Field of Foreign Languages in Connection with the Concept of Teaching Foreign Languages at Elementary and Secondary Schools” was based on the Concept of Teaching Foreign Languages at Elementary and Secondary Schools. The Concept guarantees quality language training to each student which will contribute to a more effective education system of the SR. It strives to ensure that secondary education graduates will master two foreign languages on a sufficient communication level for their full assertion on the European labour market.

The second direct award entitled “Further Elementary and Secondary School Teacher Training in the Subject Informatics” was based in particular on the Regional School System Informatization Strategy. Its implementation will help the SR to close the gap in this area and enable the new generation of young people to be literate digitally and be prepared for life in the information society, which will have an essential affect on labour productivity growth, employment, competitiveness, social cohesion and the quality of life. The aim of the Strategy is to approximate the Slovak school system to that of modern European schools preparing students for knowledge-based society. In addition to improving the current computer literacy of teachers the Strategy will also extend the information system in the education resort.

The following direct awards were based in particular on Act No. 245/2008 Coll. on Upbringing and Education (the so-called School Act). The national projects “Modernizing the Education Process at Elementary Schools” and “Modernizing the Education Process at Secondary Schools” were aimed at training teachers on how to master new methods in teaching in connection with ICT use and content restructuring. They will contribute to the fulfilment of the Manifesto of the SR Government, which within the area of regional school systems, aims to create the foundation for a system change in the content of the school system connected with the deepening of language preparation and the development of computer literacy and communication skills with substantially more extensive use of modern didactic aids, in particular, information technologies and multi-media technology in the teaching process.

The fifth direct award entitled “Teacher Training in Connection with the Design of School Education Programmes” is also connected to the School Act and school reform. The design of school education programmes constitutes the content reform of the school system. Within the framework of the national project, the training of multipliers is conducted for pedagogical staffs at ES and SS for the implementation of the content reform of the school system and the design of school education programmes, as well as for the training of pedagogical staffs of ES and SS in the implementation of the content reform of the school system and the design of school education programmes.

The sixth direct award entitled “Design of New Education Programmes in Vocational Training for the Needs of the Automobile Industry II” is based on the school system reform, in concrete terms, a two-level model of design of education programmes on the national level – national education programme (national curriculum) and on the regional level – school education programme.

The final direct award proclaimed in 2008 entitled “Training of Pedagogical Staff of Kindergartens as Part of the School System Reform” was based on the Concept in the area of pre-school education in connection with the preparation of children for entering elementary school, pursuant to which, to date, kindergartens do not have sufficient possibilities for acquiring information via internet because they do not have computers. The qualified management of kindergartens is not ensured by some Regional School Authorities and the professional management of kindergartens is not ensured by every municipality – the pedagogical qualification requirements for employees of the school authority is not adequate for the performance of the professional and quality management of kindergartens. One of the conclusions of this Concept is to incorporate the kindergartens within the Concept of the Informatization of School Systems with ICT project programmes of the ME SR in order to improve the quality of managing and upbringing and education activities at kindergartens. Through the Act on Upbringing and Education, kindergartens were included in the system of schools and as such, they are obliged to elaborate their school education programmes.

The average length of proclaiming one direct award was 2 months (60 days) with the exception of the last direct award proclaimed in October 2008, which lasted for 3 months (90 days). The length for proclaiming direct awards was fully in compliance with the terms and conditions established by version 2.0 of the Structural Funds and Cohesion Fund Management System for the Programme Period 2007 – 2013 (hereinafter the “SF/CF Management System”) valid in 2008¹.

The average length of the approval process (i.e., from the deadline for the direct award up to the sending of the Notification on Approval of AFNFC and Acceptance Letter) was 3 months; it means that the MA, in compliance with the SF/CF Management System, ensured the informing of all applicants whose AFNFC constituted the subject of the approval process on the approval of the AFNFC within 100 days from the final deadline for the submission of AFNFC.

The overall financial allocation for all direct awards proclaimed in 2008 was EUR 112,527,384.93. From this amount, EUR 91,881,875.69 was approved by the Selection Commission⁶ for successful AFNFC, which constitutes a **81.65% share of the allocated sum of the direct awards**.

The amount claimed by the applicants was based on the terms and conditions included in the direct award in which the amount is indicated as the maximum amount, i.e., the applicant may claim a lower amount than indicated in the direct award. The MA conducts preliminary financial control of the submitted national projects (mentioned above) within the framework of the formal assessment, in order to assess the eligibility of expenditures pursuant to the terms and conditions

¹ The minimum length of publicizing the call for ESF projects is established to 60 calendar days.

of the call. After conducting preliminary financial control, the MA elaborates the control list for the preliminary financial control in which it identifies the shortcomings ascertained by the above mentioned control and the above mentioned shortcomings are further submitted to the expert evaluators. The outputs from the preliminary financial control (based on the control list for the preliminary financial control) and the evaluation sheet (output from the expert evaluation of the national project) are subsequently forwarded to the applicant so that based on them it can modify the shortcomings identified in the budget of the submitted national project. The differences between the claimed amount of the applicant and the contracted amount are due to the following grounds:

- ineligible expenditures (the applicant indicates expenditures in the national project which are not eligible pursuant to the terms and conditions of the call);
- mathematical errors (incorrect sum or product of the budget items);
- discrepancy between data indicated in the budget, in the commentary to the budget and the detailed project description (such as the number of person/hours indicated in the detailed project description – the section staffing matrix does not reflect the number of person/hours indicated in the budget);
- non-existence of the link between expenditures and activities (the applicant fails to completely indicate the expenditures necessary for implementing the subject matter activity in the detailed description of the national project activities but such expenditures are indicated in the budget);
- failure to adhere to the financial limits for the performance of work determined by the terms and conditions for the call;
- non-economic character (for example duplicate claiming of expenditures in several budget items).

The success rate of the applicants and submitted AFNFC is 100 %, but the reason is especially the character of direct awards and national projects².

In terms of regional coverage and the multi-goal character of the Operation programme, since the national projects are elaborated and submitted for Objective Convergence as well as Objective Regional Competitiveness and Employment) they cover the entire territory of the SR.

The reports on the assessment of direct awards are available at the website of MA www.minedu.sk.

Table 1: State in publishing direct awards, as of 31 December 2008

Priority axis	Number of direct awards	Financial allocation for direct award (NFC) in €		
		Total	Of which	
			SF/CF	SB
1	6	104, 228, 905.22*	88, 594, 569.44	15, 634, 335.78
2	1	8, 298, 479.71	7, 053, 707.75	1, 244, 771. 96
3	0	0	0	0
4	7	104, 228, 905.22*	88, 594, 569.44	15, 634, 335.78
Total	14	112, 527, 384.93	95, 648, 277.19	16, 879, 107.74

- Allocation was for both objectives, C and RCE, cannot be divided in PO 1 and PO 4.

² The direct award does not pertain to the competition of several subjects; an eligible applicant is a directly managed organization of the ME SR whose orientation and competence is unique in connection with the orientation of the national project.

Of the seven direct awards, 6 awards were oriented to Priority Axis 1 and mirror wise to Priority Axis 4, one direct award was proclaimed for Priority Axis 2 and mirror wise for Priority Axis 4.

Table 2: Monitoring the development in the implementation of national projects, as of 31 December 2008

Priority axis	AFNFC received	AFNFC rejected	AFNFC approved	Projects contracted	Projects implemented	Contracts backed out	Projects completed
1. Reform of education and vocational training system	5	0	5	3	3	0	0
2. Lifelong learning as an instrument of human resources development	1	0	1	1	1	0	0
3. Support to education of persons with special educational needs	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
4. Modern education for the knowledge society for the Bratislava Region	6	0	6	4	4	0	0
Total	12	0	12	8	8	0	0
Financial quantification of SF and CF in thousand €							
Priority axis	Amount of requested contribution from SF/CF	Amount of declined contribution requested from SF/CF	Amount of approved contribution requested from SF/CF	Amount of contracted funds from SF/CF	Amount of reclaimed /returned funds from SF/CF	Amount of completed projects from SF/CF	
1. Reform of education and vocational training system	80,443. 77	0.03319	80,443. 74	55, 698. 56182	0	0	
2. Lifelong learning as an instrument of human resources development	7,212. 55	183. 55	7,029.00	5, 974. 65539	0	0	
3. Support to education of persons with special educational needs	0	0	0	0	0	0	
4. Modern education for the knowledge society for the Bratislava Region	3,139.59	0	3,139.59	3, 196. 21494	0	0	
Total	90,795.92	183.58128	90,612.34	64, 869,432.14	0	0	

By the end of 2008, a total of 12 AFNFC were accepted within the framework of 6 direct awards (the deadline of 1 direct award was in 2009). As of 31 December 2008, a total of 4 national projects were contracted, i.e., 8 Agreements on the Provision of NFC were concluded.

Comparison of the planned and actual drawing of national projects, as of 31 December 2008, is given in more detail in Annex 8.

2.1.1.2. Evaluation of the calls for demand driven projects

2.1.1.2.1. Priority axis 1 – Reform of education and vocational training system

Measure 1.1. Transformation of the traditional school to the modern school

In the first half of 2008, under Measure 1.1, two calls for submission of AFNFC were published whose target measures and eligible activities were identical but they were aimed at two different target groups:

- pedagogic staff and pupils of secondary schools (including special SS);
- pedagogic staff and pupils of primary schools (including special PS).

Activities at which the calls were aimed were defined as follows:

- development and implementation of development programmes of PS (with emphasis on grades 1 and 5) and SS (with emphasis on grade 1) supporting key competences of pupils using new teaching materials within the upbringing and education process and preparing pupils for knowledge society (for example, development of the educational programme of the school, innovation of methods and forms of teaching);
- innovation of didactic means developing the key competences of pupils.

For the Call OPE-2008/1.1/01-IBMA designed for secondary schools, the total designated sum amounted to 9,958,175.66 EUR; the financial contribution per one AFNFC was limited by the interval minimum of 99,581.76 EUR and the maximum of 331,939.19 EUR.

Within the framework of the call, as of 19 May 2008, an overall number of **119** AFNFC were accepted in the overall amount of eligible expenditures of 22,712,534.38 EUR and the claimed NFC amount of 21,663,986.75 EUR. From the overall number of 119 accepted AFNFC, the Selection Commission approved 17% of the applications (i.e., 20 projects). The most successful were applicants from the Self-governing Region of Banská Bystrica, who had a 30% success rate.

The number of concluded agreements is **18**³ and the overall allocation of the NFC of the concluded agreements is 2,810,621.72 EUR, which constitutes 28% of the original allocation.

For the Call OPE-2008/1.1/02-IBMA designed for primary schools, the total designated sum amounted to 13,277,567.55 EUR and the financial contribution per one AFNFC was limited by the interval minimum of 66,387.84 EUR and the maximum of 165,969.59 EUR.

Within the framework of the call, as of 9 June 2008, an overall number of **192** AFNFC were accepted in the overall amount of eligible expenditures of 24,102,182.66 EUR and the claimed amount of NFC of 23,005,670.99 EUR. Of the overall number of 91 AFNFC which were submitted at the session of the Selection Commission, **61** projects amounting to a total of 6,869,978.69 EUR of requested NFC were approved. The Selection Commission approved 31.8%⁴ of the originally accepted 192 AFNFC. The most successful were the applicants from the Prešov Self-governing Region who had a success rate of 26.2%.

The process of contracting was not completed until the end of 2008. The number of concluded agreements as of 31 December 2008 was **7** and the overall allocation of the NFC for the concluded agreements is 657,983.75 EUR. Of the original allocation of 13,277,567.55 EUR as of 31 December 2008 a total amount of 657,983.75 EUR, i.e. 4.9% was contracted.

Insofar as the greater part of projects under these calls were eliminated for formal deficiencies and the financial resources allocated for the calls were thus not depleted, identical calls were published in the second half of the year with the same financial allocation. Equally, on 2 October 2008, ASFEU held a conference in Žilina titled “The transformation of the traditional school to the modern school from the Structural Funds of the European Union” with a view to assessing the completed calls that were opened on 11 March 2008 and 18 March 2008 for PS/SS, and presenting the most common flaws and deficiencies in the submitted AFNFC. Also in October 2008, eight information seminars were held for the calls published in the latter half of 2008.

³ In the course of the contracting process, 2 AfNFC were excluded from the list of successful applicants due to their failure to adhere to time limits for potential recipients in the Call for supplementing the missing requirements to the Acceptance Letter.

⁴ More detailed reasons for the low success rate of the submitted AfNFC are indicated on page 14 in Part 2.1

For the Call OPE-2008/1.1/03-IBMA designed for primary schools, the total designated sum amounted to 13, 277, 567.55 EUR. The amount of NFC per one AFNFC was limited by the minimum interval of 66,387.84 EUR and maximum interval of 165,969.59 EUR.

For the Call OPE-2008/1.1/04-IBMA designed for secondary schools, the total designated sum amounted to 9, 958, 175.66 EUR. The amount of NFC per one AFNFC was limited by the minimum interval of 99,581.76 EUR and maximum interval of 331,939.19 EUR.

At 31 December 2008 the applications for NFC were being received and registered.

For 2008, a total of **311** AFNFC were accepted, of which **ŽoNFP 81** AFNFC were eventually approved. As of 31 December 2008, a total of **25** projects⁵ were contracted.

Measure 1.2. Tertiary schools and research and development as the driving forces in the development of the knowledge society

According to the planned Timetable of calls for 2008, calls for Measure 1.2 were not reckoned with in 2008. Insofar as there was no call published for Measure 1.2, there were no serious difficulties encountered and no measures needed for tackling them.

2.1.1.2.2. Priority axis 2 – Life-long learning as an instrument of human resources development

Measure 2.1 Support to life-long learning

According to the planned Timetable of calls for 2008, the relevant call within the framework of Measure 2.1 was planned only for the second half of 2008.

In the period under review, only preparatory work was done for the call for submission of AFNFC aimed at Measure 2.1. Due to the passing of Act No. 245/2008 Coll. on Upbringing and Education (the School Act) in May 2008, instead of the calls for Measure 2.1 OPE the ASFEU preferred proclaiming calls for the Design and Implementation of School Education Programmes for Elementary and Secondary Schools which in this period were supposed to support the implementation of new School Act. Proclaiming the call for Measure 2.1 OPE was postponed to 2009.

Insofar as there was no call published by the end of 31 December 2008, it is not possible to identify problems or remedial action.

Measure 2.2 Support to lifelong learning in the health sector⁶

In the period under review, there were three calls for projects published under Measure 2.2., Support to lifelong learning in the health sector.

1) For the call for submission of AFNFC titled **"Replenishing the health sector with qualified specialists,"** code **OPE 2008/2.2/01**, the total allocation for the call was 464, 714. 86 EUR. The financial contribution per one AFNFC was limited by the minimum interval of 16,596.96 EUR and the maximum interval of 66,387.84 EUR.

⁵ The contracting process will continue in 2009.

⁶ Implementation of this measure has been delegated to the MH SR.

The call defined the upper-tier territorial units (hereinafter referred to as “UTUs”) as eligible beneficiaries of NFC, with the exception of the Bratislava Self-governing Region. The duration of the project activities was fixed at 3 months.

At the time of the deadline for the call, of the total 7 potential applicants, 5 AFNFC were received. The Banská Bystrica Region and the Trnava Region did not become involved in the call.

The total amount of requested NFC for all submitted AFNFC was 314, 574.41 EUR, which is **67.7 %** of the total financial allocation for the call.

The Selection Commission, based on the outcome of the expert assessment, **approved** unanimously the proposed amount of NFC for all 5 AFNFC submitted.

IBMA signed the contracts on the provision of NFC with all successful applicants for NFC.

As of 31 December 2008, all five beneficiaries have also handed in the final monitoring reports stating that on behalf of all of the beneficiaries, the objectives of both the call and the projects had been achieved.

During the implementation of the projects under the cited call no serious problems have been reported.

Insufficient organisational, expert and personnel provision in projects administration in some self-governing regions was a common denominator for the greater part of administrative and technical problems and weaknesses in all phases of project implementation.

IBMA focused on systematic assistance to self-governing regions in project administration taking the form of comprehensive information seminars, on-the-spot verification and individual consultations. Despite the problems in project administration, IBMA rates the cooperation of MH SR and self-governing regions as highly positive.

One problem of technical and professional nature was the objection raised by healthcare workers involved in the project against the length of contractual pledge (for one year) upon completion of the 3-month financial support of the specialisation study. IBMA acknowledged the objection as legitimate and in the background materials for Call OPE 2008/2.2/03, took account of it (remaining in the healthcare facility on the territory of Conversion objective for a period equal to at least the duration of financial support of the specialisation, but for minimum 1 year).

From the financial aspect, it will be possible to evaluate the projects only after they will have presented the request for payment (hereinafter referred to as “RFP”) in 2009.

2) For the Call for submission of AFNFC titled **”Developing new forms of lifelong learning in the health sector,” code OPE 2008/2.2/02**, the total allocation for the call was 1, 659, 695.94 EUR. The financial contribution per 1 AFNFC was limited in the range of minimum 995, 817.57 EUR and maximum 1, 659, 695.94 EUR.

The duration of the project activities was fixed at 36 months.

In the period under review, 1 AFNFC was submitted within the prescribed date, with total eligible expenditure amounting to 1, 745, 597.16 EUR, of which the amount of NFC is 1, 658, 317.30 EUR. By the end of 2008, the process of formal accuracy check was in progress for the call.

3) For the Call for submission of AFNFC titled **”Replenishing the health sector with qualified specialists,” code OPE 2008/2.2/03**, the total allocation was 10, 456, 084.45 EUR. The financial contribution per 1 AFNFC was limited in the range of minimum 995, 817.57 EUR and maximum 1, 493, 726.35 EUR. This call continued in the Call OPE 2008/2.2/01.

The duration of project activities was fixed at 36 months. The call continued throughout 2008.

In pursuance of Article 34 paragraph 2 of the Regulation (EC) No. 1083/2006, complementarity principle in financing was not applied. In the published calls “Developing new forms of lifelong learning in the health sector”, code OPE 2008/2.2/0.2 and “Replenishing the health sector with qualified specialists,” OPE 2008/2.2/0.3, IBMA made it possible for submitting candidates to use cross financing.

2.1.1.2.3. Priority axis 3 – Support to education of persons with special educational needs **Measure 3.1 – Raising the educational level of members of the marginalized Roma communities**

According to the planned Timetable of calls for 2008, the relevant call was planned for the second half of 2008 (December 2008). Based on the distinctive demand from the elementary and secondary schools that the calls of Measures 1.1 and 4.1 OPE be proclaimed in October 2008, the ASFEU, anticipated the acceptance of a large number of NFC applications. Due to the administrative capacities and demands of the overall process of accepting, registering and approving NFC applications, it postponed the proclaiming the calls for Measure 3.1 OPE to February 2009. On November 26, 2008, the session of the Working Group dealt with the preparation of the terms and conditions for proclaiming the call for Measure 3.1 OPE.

Members of the Working Group included representatives of relevant substantive sections of ME SR, the Office of the Government Plenipotentiary for Roma Communities (hereinafter referred to as “OGPRC”), MA, experts of ASFEU and a representative of the Association on of Towns and Communities of Slovakia, the latter presenting how towns and communities saw the needs of the marginalized Roma communities. The purpose of the meeting was to define eligible activities, eligible target groups and eligible beneficiaries for the prepared call.

Insofar as there was no call published in the period under review for Measure 3.1, no serious problems have been reported or measures needed to overcome them.

Measure 3.2 – Raising the educational level of persons with special educational needs

For Measure 3.2 no call for projects was made in the first half of 2008. In the planned Timetable of calls for 2008 such call was not even reckoned with until end of 2008. Insofar as the call for Measure 3.2 has been planned for Q1 of 2009, on 19 December 2008, a working meeting was held with representatives of the Department of special schools, special educational facilities and counselling facilities of ME SR and the experts of ASFEU. The purpose of the meeting was to define eligible activities, eligible target groups and eligible beneficiaries for the prepared call.

Insofar as there was no call published for Measure 3.2, no serious problems have been reported or measures needed to overcome them.

2.1.1.2.4. Priority axis 4 – Modern education for the knowledge society for the Bratislava Region

Measure 4.1 – Transformation of the traditional school to the modern school for the Bratislava Region

In the first half of 2008, 2 calls were published under Measure 4.1 inviting submissions of AFNFC whose target measures and eligible activities were identical but which were designed for two different target groups:

- pedagogic workers and pupils of secondary schools (including special SS);
- pedagogic workers and pupils of primary schools (including special PS).

-For Call OPE-2008/4.1/01-IBMA – the total allocated amount designated amounted to 1,161,787.16 EUR; and the financial contribution per one AFNFC was limited by the minimum interval of 99,581.76 EUR and the maximum interval of 331,939.19 EUR. Within the framework of the call, **26 AFNFC** were recorded as of 19 May 2008 in the overall amount of eligible expenditures of 4,738,503.45 EUR and the requested NFC amount of 4,535,401.02 EUR.

The number of concluded agreements from this call is **5** and the overall NFC allocation of the concluded agreements is 727,426.32 EUR, which constitutes **62%** of the allocation to this call.

The beginning of the implementation of activities from the majority of the projects is planned for the first quarter of 2009.

- For Call OPE-2008/4.1/02-IBMA – the total allocated amount was 995,817.57 EUR; and the financial contribution per one AFNFC was limited by the minimum interval of 66,387.84 EUR and the maximum interval of 165,969.59 EUR. Within the framework of the call, **19 AFNFC** were recorded as of the deadline in the overall amount of eligible expenditures of 2,553,046.67 EUR and the requested NFC amount of 2,465,265.69 EUR. From the overall number of applications, only **8 AFNFC** complied with the terms and conditions of the formal accuracy check and advanced to the expert evaluation phase (42% success rate). Based on the results of the expert evaluation, the Selection Commission approved **6** projects with a total sum of 732,525.86 EUR of requested NFC. It means that the Selection Commission approved 31.6% of the originally submitted AFNFC. The contracting process of the approved AFNFC was not completed by the end of 2008. **One** agreement with the beneficiary was concluded by 31 December 2008 and the overall allocation of the NFC for the concluded agreements was 70,345.51 EUR. It is anticipated that all AFNFC from the calls for the EE approved by the Selection Commission will be contracted by the end of February 2009.

Insofar as the great part of projects under these calls was eliminated for formal deficiencies and the financial resources allocated for the calls were thus not depleted, identical calls were published in the second half of the year. On 2 October 2008, , In an effort to point out to the most frequent errors and to prevent their repeating, the ASFEU held a conference in Žilina titled "Transformation of the traditional school to the modern school from the Structural Funds of the European Union" with a view to assessing the completed calls that were opened on 11 March 2008 and 18 March 2008 for PS/SS, and presenting the most common flaws and deficiencies in the submitted AFNFC. Also in October 2008, eight information seminars were held for the calls published in the latter half of 2008.

For Call OPE-2008/4.1/03-IBMA – proclaimed in the second half of 2008, the allocated sum constituted 663,878.38 EUR. The amount of the NFC per one AFNFC was limited by the minimum interval of 66,387.84 EUR and the maximum interval of 165,969.59 EUR.

For Call OPE-2008/4.1/04-IBMA – the allocated overall amount constituted 663,878.38 EUR. The amount of the NFC per one AFNFC was limited by the minimum interval of 99,581.76 EUR and the maximum interval of 331,939.19 EUR.

As of 31 December 2008 the calls were valid and the receipt and registration of AFNFC was in progress.

As of 31 December 2008, the total number of accepted AFNFC was 45, from which 11 AFNFC were eventually approved. As of 31 December 2008, a total of 6 projects⁷ were contracted.

The projects, which will be implemented within the framework of the calls of Measures 1.1 and 4.1 OPE, are oriented on the content restructuring of elementary and secondary school education towards the development of the key competences for the use of the innovative teaching forms and methods, which is also related to the professional and further training of pedagogical staff who significantly participate in the transformation of the traditional school to the modern school. The implementation of the approved projects will contribute to the reform of the education system through the design and implementation of the school education programmes with an emphasis on the support of enhancing the quality of education based on school innovations and profiling in connection with the reform of the education system pursuant to Act No. 245/2008 Coll. on Upbringing and Education and on changes and amendments to certain Acts. The above mentioned enhancement of the quality of the education system will enable students to learn the key competences and skills which will enhance their competitiveness at the labour market. Thus, at the same time, the OPE contributes to the development of the knowledge-based society as part of the Lisbon Strategy.

Due to the fact that the process of concluding agreements on the provision of the NFC within the framework of the calls of Measures 1.1 and 4.1 OPE took place by the end of 2008 and the first projects will began their implementation only at the beginning of 2009, it is not possible to talk about the experience or best practice of the implemented projects.

The reports on the evaluation of individual calls for the submission of demand-driven projects are available at the websites of the relevant IBMA, i.e., www.asfeu.sk and www.health-sf.sk (Measure 2.2).

Measure 4.2 – Raising competitiveness of the Bratislava Region by developing the tertiary education and lifelong learning

For Measure 4.2 no call was published in the first half of 2008. Neither was any call planned in the Timetable of calls for 2008. .

Insofar as there was no call published for Measure 4.2, no serious problems related to it could be reported or measures adopted for tackling them.

Measure 4.3 – Technical Assistance for Objective Regional Competitiveness and Employment

Pursuant to version 2.0 of the SF and CF Management System, the MA with TA did not proclaim any calls for the submission of the AFNFC for TA projects; as a result, it is impossible to indicate any information or data in this part.

The implementation of the TA is described in a separate chapter of the AR. (Part 3.4. and Chapter No.6)

⁷ The contracting process will continue in the course of 2009.

2.1.1.2.5. Priority axis 5 –Technical Assistance for Objective Convergence

Pursuant to version 2.0 of the SF and CF Management System, the MA with the TA did not proclaim any calls for the submission of the AFNFC for TA projects; as a result, it is impossible to indicate any information or data in this part.

The implementation of TA is described under a separate chapter of the AR. (Part 3.5. and Chapter No.6)⁸

Table 3: The state in opening of calls for demand driven projects, as of 31 December 2008

Priority axis	Number of calls	Financial allocation per call (NFC) in €		
		Total	Of which	
			SF/CF	SB
1	4	46, 47,1 486.42	- *	- *
2	3	12, 580, 495.25	11, 181, 983.04	1, 398, 512.21
3	0	0	- *	- *
4	4	3, 485, 361.48	- *	- *
Total	11	62, 537, 343.15	- *	- *

*The allocation of funding for calls split into ESF and SB resources cannot be completed since the calls were designed for applicants with different financing ratios.

In 2008, the ASFEU proclaimed 4 calls for Priority Axis 1 and 4 calls for Priority Axis 4. The MH SR proclaimed 3 calls for Priority Axis 2.

Table 4: Monitoring of the implementation development in demand-driven projects, as of 31 December 2008

Priority axis	AFNFC received	AFNFC rejected	AFNFC approved	Projects contracted	Projects implemented	Contracts backed out	Projects completed
1. Reform of education and vocational training system	311	230	81	25	0	0	0
2. Lifelong learning as an instrument of human resources development	6	0	5	5	5	0	5
3. Support to education of persons with special educational needs	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
4. Modern education for the knowledge society for the Bratislava Region	45	34	11	6	0	0	0
Total	362	264	97	36	5	0	5
Financial quantification of SF and CF in thousands €							
Priority axis	Amount of requested contribution from SF/CF	Allocation of funds for Priority Axis in €	Amount of declined contribution requested from SF/CF	Amount of approved contribution requested from SF/CF	Amount of contracted funds from SF/CF	Amount of reclaimed /returned funds from SF/CF	Amount of completed projects from SF/CF
1. Reform of education and vocational training system	38,612.47723	46,471.48642	29,341.43747	9,271. 03976	3,091. 91873	0	0
2. Lifelong learning as		12,580,495.2	3. 06519	278. 39612		3.97617	

⁸ Due to the specific character of the Technical Assistance, it is not possible to indicate the data in the same structure as with the national and demand-driven projects.

an instrument of human resources development	1,691. 03102	5			278. 39612		0
3. Support to education of persons with special educational needs	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
4. Modern education for the knowledge society for the Bratislava Region	6,052. 58830	3,485.36148	4,667. 14518	1,385. 4431 2	686. 35853	0	0
Total	46,356.10	62,537,343.1 5	34,011.64	10,934.87	4,056.67	3.97	0

Within the framework of Priority Axis 1, a total of 119 NFC applications were accepted for the call Design and Implementation of the Development Programmes of Secondary Schools in Support of the Enhancement of Quality in Compliance with the Reform of the Education System with the code OPE-2008/1.1/01-IBMA, from which 20 NFC applications were approved and 99 were rejected, as of 31 December 2008, the ASFEU contracted 18 projects.

Regarding the call Design and Implementation of the Development Programmes of Elementary Schools in Support of the Enhancement of Quality in Compliance with the Reform of the Education System with the code OPE-2008/1.1/02-IBMA, a total of 192 NFC applications were accepted, from which 61 NFC applications were approved and 131 applications were rejected. As of 31 December 2008, the ASFEU contracted 7 projects.

Within the framework of Priority Axis 2, a total of 5 AFNFC applications were accepted, approved and contracted based on the call, Replenishing the Healthcare System by Qualified Professionals with the code OPV 2008/2.2/01, based on the call, Development of New Forms of Further Education in the Healthcare Sector with the code OPE 2008/2.2/02. One AFNFC application whose approval process was not completed as of 31 December 2008 was submitted and the call, Replenishing the Healthcare System by Qualified Professionals with the code OPE 2008/2.2/03 was in progress as of 31 December 2008.

No call was proclaimed in the course of 2008 within the framework of Priority Axis 3.

Within the framework of the Priority Axis 4, a total of 26 NFC applications were accepted based on the call Design and Implementation of the Development Programmes of Secondary Schools in Support of the Enhancement of the Quality of Education in Compliance with the Reform of the Education System with the code OPE-2008/4.1/01-IBMA, of which 5 applications were approved and 21 were rejected. As of 31 December 2008, a total of 5 projects were contracted. Based on the call, Design and Implementation of the Development Programmes of Elementary Schools in Support of the Enhancement of the Quality of Education in Compliance with the Reform of the Education System with the code OPE -2008/4.1/02-IBMA, a total of 19 NFC applications were accepted, of which 6 applications were approved, 13 were rejected, and as of 31 December 2008, only 1 project was contracted.

In 2008, the ASFEU did not register any projects under implementation or any withdrawal from the agreement or completed projects. The MH SR had 5 projects under implementation which due to their pilot character and length (3 months) were not completed in 2008. No project was withdrawn from.

The data in Table 5 – Allocation of the Priority Axis Funds in € - incorporates the financial allocations of 8 calls of the ASFEU and 3 calls of the MH SR proclaimed in 2008. The statistical

data (the number of accepted applications for the NFC, the approved AFNFC and the contracted projects) from the calls OPE-2008/1.1/03-IBMA; OPE-2008/1.1/04-IBMA; OPE-2008/4.1/03-IBMA; OPE-2008/4.1/04-IBMA proclaimed in October 2008 with the deadline in January 2009 and the call OPE 2008/2.2/03 proclaimed in November 2008 with the deadline in February 2008 will be indicated in the Annual Report on the Implementation of the Operation Programme Education for the Period January – December 2009.

Table 5: Fulfilment of contextual indicators, as of 31 December 2008

Indicators		2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	Total
1. expenditure on human resources (total public expenditure on education as a share of GDP)	Result achieved	-	-	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
	Target	-	-	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	5.2%	5.2%	5.2%	-
	Baseline	4.4%	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
2. total rate of employment	Result achieved	-	62.9%*	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
	Target	-	-	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	63.4%	63.4%	63.4%	n/a
	Baseline	57.7%	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
3. % population involved in lifelong learning per 100 citizens aged 25-64 years	Result achieved	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	12.5%	12.5%	12.5%	n/a
	Target	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
	Baseline	4,6%	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
4. graduates of tertiary level of higher education	Result achieved	-	-	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
	Target	-	-	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	12	12	12	n/a
	Baseline	8.3	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
5. youth with secondary education	Result achieved	91,3%	92,3%*	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
	Target	-	-	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	92%	92%	92%	n/a
	Baseline	91.8%	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
6. percentage of population (18 - 24) with lower secondary education no longer in education	Result achieved	-	-	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
	Target	-	-	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	5.5%	5.5%	5.5%	n/a
	Baseline	6.4%	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a

* Source: Statistical Office of the SR

As of the date of submission of the Annual Report on OPE Implementation for the Period of January – December 2008, the values for most of the context indicators for 2008 or for 2007 were not available. Since this pertains to the indicators which are aggregated by external sources and not by the Managing Authority, the values of these indicators will be indicated in the following annual reports depending on their availability.

Table 6: The state in opening of calls and direct awards, as of 31 December 2008

Priority axis	Number of calls	Financial allocation per call (NFC) in €	
		Total	Of which

			SF/CF	SB
1	10	150, 700, 391.64**	- *	- *
2	4	20, 878, 974.96	18, 235, 690.79	2, 643, 284.17
3	0	0	0	0
4	11	3, 485, 361.48	- *	- *
Total	25	175, 064, 728.08	- *	- *

*Financial allocation split into ESF and SB cannot be filled out since the calls for demand-driven projects were designed for applicants with different financing ratios.

** Including the allocation for PO1 and PO 4 that cannot be broken down (together the allocation for both PO: 104, 228, 905.22 €)

Table 7: Monitoring the development in the implementation of national and demand-driven projects, as of 31 December 2008

Priority axis	AFNFC received	AFNFC rejected	AFNFC approved	Projects contracted	Projects implemented	Contracts backed out	Projects completed
1. Reform of education and vocational training system	316	230	86	28	3	0	0
2. Lifelong learning as an instrument of human resources development	7	0	6	6	6	0	5
3. Support to education of persons with special educational needs	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
4. Modern education for the knowledge society for the Bratislava Region	51	34	17	10	4	0	0
Total	374	264	109	44	13	0	5
Financial quantification of SF and CF in thousand €							
Priority axis	Amount of requested contribution from SF/CF	Amount of declined contribution requested from SF/CF	Amount of approved contribution requested from SF/CF	Amount of contracted funds from SF/CF	Amount of reclaimed /returned funds from SF/CF	Amount of completed projects from SF/CF	
1. Reform of education and vocational training system	119,056.25	29,341.47	89,714.78	58, 790.48	0.00	0.00	
2. Lifelong learning as an instrument of human resources development	8,903.58	1,596.18	7,307.40	6, 253.05	3.98	0.00	
3. Support to education of persons with special educational needs	0	0	0	0	0.00	0.00	
4. Modern education for the knowledge society for the Bratislava Region	9 ,192.18	4,667.14	4,525.04	3,882.57	0.00	0.00	
Total	124,455.66	238,699.23	101,547.22	68, 926.11	3.98	0.00	

2.1.2. Financial implementation of the programme

In the period under review, 3 summary requests for payment (SRP) were approved by the Ministry of Finance of the SR (hereinafter referred to as “MF SR”) as the certifying authority, totalling 907, 890.28 EUR⁹ for the European Union source (hereinafter referred to as “EU”) and co-financing from the State Budget, i.e. 771, 706.73 EUR for EU source and 136, 183.55 EUR for state budget source.

The proportion of the overall drawing of EU resources at 31 December 2008 (the amount: 771, 706.73 EUR) in the 2007 commitment, reduced by the total amount of advance payment

⁹ Recalculated by ECB exchange rate as of the date of approval.

(32 127 560 EUR)¹⁰ for OPE, accounts for 2.4 % and in the 2007 – 2013 commitment (617, 801, 578 EUR), accounts for 0.12 %.

On 30 November 2007, the Certifying authority (CA) received first advance for OPE at 12, 356, 031.56 EUR, i.e. 2 % of the total 2007 – 2013 commitment (617, 801, 578 EUR) and on 23 May 2008, the Certifying authority received the second advance at 18, 534, 047.34 EUR, i.e. 3% of the total 2007 – 2013 commitment. MF SR, in 2008, had available at its extra-budgetary account 30, 890, 078.90 EUR from advance payments.

As of 31 December 2008, the Certifying authority did not send any request for payment to the European Commission (hereinafter referred to as “EC”).

The estimate of the anticipated expenditure for 2008 was communicated to the EC in April 2008 and for OPE amounted to 18, 534, 047 EUR, i.e. 18,000,000 EUR for Conversion objective and 534, 047 EUR for RCE objective.

An overall overview of the payments accepted from the EC and ongoing payment requests submitted to the EC is incorporated in Annexes 1 and 3.

Evaluation of the certification verification at the CA

In the period under review, the Paying Unit (hereinafter referred to as “PU”) of **ME SR** submitted 3 summary RFP with the Certifying Authority, totalling 907, 890.28 EUR for all sources of financing.

In the period under review, PU **MH SR** did not submit any summary RFP.

Ex-ante certification verification was conducted within 2 summary RFP immediately at the MA and PU. The verified expenditure sample amounted to 64, 169.96 EUR, which is 7.06% of the volume of summary RFP, and 10.61% of the volume of the verified summary requests for payment.

No ineligible expenditure was identified.

The Certifying Authority did not identify any **irregularities**, and no report of irregularities was produced.

Over the course of 2008 the Certifying Authority did not send any instance for the conduct of ex-post financial control/Government audit, or any instance to the Public Procurement Office.

The following findings were identified from the certification verifications of the Summary RFP in 2008:

1. **Weaknesses in the Internal Manual (hereinafter referred to as “IM”), non-compliance of IM and audit trail** – in the Internal Manual of Procedure of MA, procedures for assessing RFP within the projects of Technical Assistance were not processed to the level of job positions; they were general and it was necessary to supply detailed procedures; the description of the job position for a TA manager was missing;

¹⁰ In the calculation the receipt of additional advance is taken into account which will be paid to the Member State for the operational programme in 2009 upon the approval of the modification of Council Regulation (EC) No. 1083/2006.

- incorrect Control List used for the formal accuracy check of AFNFC; incompliance with periods set by the audit trial,
2. **Incorrect or missing recording of data in ITMS** – items not filled out correctly, or were not completed at all: timetable, indicators, contract with the applicant for NFC, estimate of disbursement plan,
 3. **Other** – refund of unused holiday; incorrect numbering of sections of the General Contractual Terms and Conditions to the Contract on the provision of NFC.

From the above findings, outstanding still remain the findings 1 and 3. They concern the implementation of a particular project. MA adopted adequate measures, as of 31 December 2008, to all the remaining findings, which the Certifying Authority accepted.

Irregularities

As of 31 December 2008, no irregularities were communicated or financial resources returned to the Certifying Authority.

Table 8: Comparison of actual and planned drawing, as of 31 December 2008

	Planned drawing of eligible expenditure as of 31 December 2008 in €				Actual drawing of eligible expenditure as of 31 December 2008 in €				
	EU resources		SB	Total	EU resources		SB	Total	Difference in €
	SF	CF			SF	CF			
Priority axis 1	14,273,385.12		2,518,832.67	16,792, 217.78	0		0	0	16,792, 217.78
Priority axis 2	4,315,209.45		761,507.55	5,076,717.00	0		0	0	5,076,717.00
Priority axis 3	663,878.38		117,155.01	781,033.39	0		0	0	781,033.39
Priority axis 4	780,570.40		137,747.72	918,318.12	41,026.36		7,239.95	48,266.31	870,051.81
Priority axis 5	1,626,502.02		287,029.77	1,913, 531.79	730,680.38		128,943.60	859,623.98	1,053,907.82
Total for programme	21,659,545.37		3, 822,272.71	25,481, 818.09	771 706,73		136,183.55	907,890.28	24,573,927.80

The data on the planned drawing of eligible expenditures as of 31 December 2008, based on the estimate of expected expenditures compiled as of 31 March 2008 and sent in compliance with the financial management system of SF and CF for the programme period 2007 - 2013 to the CA, and 6 calls (of which 2 were direct awards) were publicized in the above mentioned period for the submission of applications for NFC provision. At that time, no project was in the real implementation phase and it was only possible to indicatively estimate the drawing of funds. We based the establishing the drawing estimates as of the end of 2008 on the prequalification of the higher volume of contracted projects within the framework of the individual Priority Axes and related planned drawing of funds in relation to the CA. It will be possible to base the estimates of the fund drawing for the upcoming year on the actually contracted volume of financial means and on experience with the implementation and financial administration of individual implemented projects.

Table 9: Overview of paid expenditure, as of 31 December 2008

Priority axes by source of financing (EUR)

	column (a)	column (b)	column (c)	column (d)	column (e)
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	Expenditure paid by beneficiaries and included in applications for payment sent to the Managing Authority	Corresponding state contribution	Private contribution (1)	Expenditure paid by the entity responsible for executing payment to beneficiaries	Total payments received from Commission
Priority axis 1	0	0	n/a	185,472.65	0
ESF					
— Of which expenditure of ESF type	0	0	n/a	185,472.65	0
— Of which expenditure of ERDF type	0	0	n/a		0
Priority axis 2	0	0	n/a		0
ESF				64,374.87	
— Of which expenditure of ESF type	0	0	n/a	64,374.87	0
— Of which expenditure of ERDF type	0	0	n/a		0
Priority axis 3	0	0	n/a		0
ESF					
— Of which expenditure of ESF type	0	0	n/a		0
— Of which expenditure of ERDF type	0	0	n/a		0
Priority axis 4	48,266.31	48,266.31	n/a	71,921.86	0
ESF					
— Of which expenditure of ESF type	47,332.61	47,332.61	n/a	70,988.16	0
— Of which expenditure of ERDF type	933.70	933.70	n/a	933.70	0
Priority axis 5	859,623.98	859,623.98	n/a	859, 623.98	0
ESF					
— Of which expenditure of ESF type	815,869.29	815,869.29	n/a	815, 869.29	0
— Of which expenditure of ERDF type	43,754.69	43,754.69	n/a	43,754.69	0
ESF type of expenditure in total aggregate when the OP is co-financed from ERDF (2)					
ERDF type of expenditure in total aggregate when the OP is co-financed from ESF	44,688.38	44,688.38		44 688,38	0

Note: Column i (d) includes apart from paid interim payments also the advance payments provided.

As of 31 December 2008, under the OPE, a total amount of **907,890.28 EUR** was paid to beneficiaries through RFP (refund), of which 771,706.73 EUR were the Structural Funds resources (hereinafter referred to as “SF”) and 136,183.55 EUR were the state budget funds designated for co-financing. With regard to MF SR as the Certifying Authority, it only involves the drawing of funding under TA projects, since in 2008, owing to the start of implementation of so-called national and demand-driven projects MA or IBMA did not receive yet applications for payment (for refunds) and requests for final payments that could have been included, until 14

November 2008¹¹ in the Summary requests for payment and sent to the Certifying Authority (due to this, within Priority Axes 1 and 2 the data is only indicated in column (d) – which indicates the volume of advance payments to the beneficiaries in 2008). Within the above drawing, **4.92% of the resources** was used by means of cross financing (Article 34 paragraph 2 of the Council Regulation (EC) No. 1083/2006) in the case of two TA projects. Within priority axis 4 (Measure 4.3) complementary financing comprised **1.93%** of the overall drawing and within priority axis 5 (Measure 5.1) **5.09%**, respectively. As of 31 December 2008, PU ME SR and PU MH SR released funding by means of advance payments to the beneficiaries implementing national and demand-driven projects under priority axes 1, 2 and 4 at a total amount of **273,503.07 EUR**, of which 233,886.10 EUR were the resources from SF and 39,616.97 EUR were the state budget resources designated for co-financing.

No calls for the submission of applications for NFC provision were proclaimed within the framework of Priority Axis 3 in the course of 2008, thus no agreements were signed and no eligible expenditures were implemented.

The overview of drawing of SF and CF in comparison to undertakings is incorporated in Annex No. 4.

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

OPE is a multi-objective operational programme (hereinafter referred to as “OP”), geographically covering 2 objectives of the cohesion policy of the European Union – Convergence objective (entire SR save the Bratislava Self-governing Region) and the Regional Competitiveness and Employment objective (territory of the Bratislava Self-governing Region), whereby it contributes to reducing disparities in the regional development.

Through the C objective support can be given to lagging regions whose per capita gross national product (GNP) measured by purchasing power parities and calculated on the basis of the data in the European Community averaged for 2000 – 2002, is less than 75% of the EU-25 average and, through RCE objective, the support can be provided to regions save the least developed regions.

For the implementation of OPE, for financing the projects coming under RCE objective, the amount of 17,089,515 EUR is allocated with regard to GDP, and for financing the projects coming under C objective, 576,000,000 EUR. The resources allocated under C objective are split equally among the regions of NUTS II (within the meaning of the programme documents). Compliance with the indicative regional allocation, referred to in the OPE or in the Programme Manual (hereinafter referred to as “PM”) in the process of making calls and direct awards for submissions of AFNFC is ensured in a number of ways:

- both the calls for AFNFC and direct awards are published in a mirror fashion for the entire SR and offer equal opportunities to all potential eligible applicants to get involved in the process of AFNFC submissions;

¹¹ The last date for sending in summary RFP for OP to the Certifying Authority, as laid out in the document “Guideline for procedures in financing projects of the Structural Funds, the Cohesion Fund, and the European Fisheries Fund in connection with the end of the budget year 2008 and the introducing of the euro currency in the Slovak Republic within the programming period 2004 – 2006 and the programming period 2007 – 2013” in consequence of blocking the information systems associated with the transition to a single EURO currency.

- MA and IBMA apply the same assessment and selection criteria in the process of approving and selecting AFNFC (approved by the Monitoring Committee on 14 November 2007), the purpose of which is to select the best projects in terms of their quality;
- the drawing up of high-quality demand-driven projects in each region is supported by the IBMA ASFEU regional information centres (hereinafter referred to as “RIC”) located in every regional city;
- information seminars and training in the submission of AFNCF for opened calls take place in parallel in all regions of the SR within the OPE. Information seminars are designed for eligible applicants defined in the calls concerned, with a view to familiarising applicants with the conditions under which non-repayable contribution may be applied for in the published OPE calls.

Pursuant to Article 22 of Council Regulation (EC) No. 1083/2006, the non-transferability of funds between both Objectives is ensured as follows:

- proclaiming individual calls for the submission of applications for the provision of NFC proclaimed separately for individual Priority Axes;
- submitting individual applications for NFC, including separate budgets;
- orientation of projects exclusively on target groups and implementation sites eligible within the framework of the pertinent Objective;
- signing agreements on the provision of NFC separately for both Objectives;
- drawing funds in the project implementation phase allocated exclusively from the budget of the pertinent Objective;
- progress monitoring in implementation through annual reports and a final report on implementation on the level of Priority Axes that are structured in compliance with EU aims.

Table 10: Physical implementation of demand-driven projects and national projects falling within the scope of RCE objective by NUTS II, as of 31 December 2008

Priority axis	Region NUTS II	AFNFC received	Projects contracted	Projects under implementation
1. Reform of education and vocational training system	West Slovakia	102	4	0
	Central Slovakia	86	13	0
	East Slovakia	123	8	0
2. Lifelong learning as an instrument of human resources development	West Slovakia	2	2	2
	Central Slovakia	1	1	1
	East Slovakia	2	2	2
3. Support to education of persons with special educational needs	West Slovakia	0	0	0
	Central Slovakia	0	0	0
	East Slovakia	0	0	0
4. Modern education for the knowledge society for the Bratislava Region				
	Bratislava Region	51	11	5
Total		367	41	10

With regard to the so-called national projects coming under RCE objective, the physical implementation as of 31 December 2008 was as follows:

Under priority axis 4, in 2008, 4 national projects were contracted that are implemented in the territory of the Bratislava Self-governing Region.

Table 11: Financial implementation of the demand-driven projects and national projects falling within the scope of RCE objective by NUTS II, as of 31 December 2008

Priority axis	NUTS II region	Indicative allocations	Amount of contracted resources from SF and CF	Amount of resources drawn from SF and CF
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		from SF and CF in €	€	% of contracting within priority axis	% of allocati on for region	€	% of drawing within priority axis	% of allocat ion for region
A	B	C	D	$E=D/\sum \text{priority axis}$	$F=D/C$	G	$H=G/\sum \text{priority axis}$	$I=G/C$
1. Reform of education and vocational training system	West Slovakia	125,998,000	542,220.90	17.54	0.43	0	0	0
	Central Slovakia	110,826,200	1,707,690.34	55.23	1.54	0	0	0
	East Slovakia	128,175,800	842,007.49	27.23	0.66	0	0	0
	Total	365,000,000	3,091,918.73	100.00	0.85	0	0	0
2. Lifelong learning as an instrument of human resources development	West Slovakia	50,399,200	125,482.82	40.32	0.25	0	0	0
	Central Slovakia	44,330,500	62,152.06	19.98	0.14	0	0	0
	East Slovakia	51,270,400	123,513.70	39.70	0.24	0	0	0
	Total	146,000,000	311,148.60	100.00	0.21	0	0	0
3. Support to education of persons with special educational needs	West Slovakia	22,438,000	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Central Slovakia	19,736,100	0	0	0	0	0	0
	East Slovakia	22,825,800	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Total	65,000,000	0	0	0	0	0	0
4. Modern education for the knowledge society for the Bratislava Region	Bratislava Region	17,089,515*	3,882,573.46	100.00	22.70	0	0	0
	Total	17,089,515*	3,882,573.46	100.00	22.70	0	0	0
Total		593,089,515*	7,285,640.79	-	25.96	0	0	0

* Data excluding Technical Assistance.

Table 12: Financial implementation of projects not included in regions at the level of NUTS II, as of 31 December 2008 (so-called national projects falling within the scope of C objective)

Priority axis	Amount of contracted resources from SF and CF		Amount of drawn resources from SF and CF	
	€	% o contracting within priority axis (item together within Table 8)	€	% o drawing within priority axis (item together within Table 8)
A	B	$C=B/\sum \text{priority axis}$	D	$E=D/\sum \text{priority axis}$
1. Reform of education and vocational training system	55,698,561.82	90.31	0	0
2. Lifelong learning as an instrument of human resources development	5,974,655.39	9.69	0	0
Total	61,673,217.21	100.00	0	0

With regard to the so-called national projects falling within the scope of C objective, the physical implementation as of 31 December 2008 was as follows:

Under priority axis 1, in 2008, 3 so-called national projects were contracted that are implemented in the regions of West, Central and East Slovakia.

Under priority axis 2, in 2008, 1 so-called national project was contracted that is implemented in the regions of West, Central and East Slovakia.

Insofar as during the period under review only a small number of projects were being implemented it will be possible to evaluate the contribution to reducing regional disparities and the progress of OPE made only in the AR for 2009.

2.1.4. Financial control and audit

Over the course of the period under review, no ex-post financial control was conducted at the level of MA within the implementation of OPE, i.e. within the processing of applications for payment and no irregularities were found by MA.

Section 2.1.4.1. specifies in more detail the verification of management and control systems (audit), and section 2.1.4.2. specifies in more the information on the verification of eligibility of expenditure.

2.1.4.1. Compliance audit

Compliance audit was conducted in pursuance of Article 71 of the general regulation in the organisational units of ME SR discharging the tasks of MA and PU, the organisational units of ASFEU and MH SR discharging the task of IBMA. The audit was carried out by the audit group of internal auditors of MF SR, ME SR and the audit company KPMG Slovensko L.t.d. in the period from 14 April 2008 to 19 August 2008, as audit exercise No. AA 028.

The main purpose of the compliance audit was to get assurance of the compliance of managing and controlling systems for OPE with the requirements of Articles 58 to 60 of the general regulation.

The inception meeting with MA and IBMA representatives took place on 14 April 2008. The audit group was presented with all requested documents (particularly updated PM) and updated IM of entities being audited containing the incorporated systems audit recommendations¹², the confirmation of measures fulfilled as adopted on the basis of findings and recommendations following out of the systems audit and a thorough description of the management and control systems, as drawn up for OPE in accordance with Article 71 of the general regulation).

On 30 September 2008 a working meeting was held to discuss the interim reports of the compliance audit. The audited entity used the right to give a position on the shortcomings and recommendations of the audit. Based on these statements certain findings were either withdrawn or corrected. MA was also imposed the obligation to submit to the audit entity (MF SR) a written report confirming the fulfilment of adopted recommendations and measures within 23 October 2008.

Following are the areas in which the audit group identified shortcomings:

- definition of the competences of the authorities involved in the management and control and the distribution of competences within each body;
- procedures regarding the applications for grants, evaluation of applications, selection for financing and the instructions, guidelines and measures planned with a view to ensuring compliance with relevant rules and procedures in the area of public procurement;

¹² Systems audit was carried out by the firm KPMG Slovensko L.t.d., in the period of 15 June 2007 to 15 December 2007.

- procedure to ensure accuracy and correctness of expenditure reported under OP;
- verification of the supply of goods and services and eligibility of expenditure;
- systems and procedures to ensure adequate audit trail.

The main aim of the audit exercise has been achieved; the **affirmation of compliance** of the set-up of management and control systems with relevant EC and SR regulations was obtained.

The audit group issued a positive opinion for the PU ME SR and PU MH SR. A positive opinion with reservations was issued by the audit group to MA and both IBMA for OPE (see the reservations referred to in the preceding paragraph).

The report of the result of the Audit No. AA 028 was sent to the audited entity on 15 October 2008.

The audited entity sent the written report on the implementation of recommendations and adopted measures to remedy the shortcomings detected by the audit group within the agreed date, on 23 October 2008. Subsequently the audit group verified fulfilment of recommendations and measures between 24 October 2008 and 20 November 2008. Verifications took the form of documents verification, on the basis of updated documents that were presented between 23 October – 20 November 2008.

From the subsequent verification followed a **favourable opinion** for OPE that applies to MA, both IBMA, PU ME SR, and PU MH SR.

The audit authority then drew up a joint report for all MA that were subject of compliance audit verification and will send this report to the European Commission via the system SFC2007 within 12 months of the approval of the last OP.

The audit authority, in cooperation with the authorities participating in the audit and internal audit of the Government Office of the SR and the independent expert company KPMG Slovensko spol. s r. o., carried out the compliance audit pursuant to Article 71 of Council Regulation (EC) No. 1083/2006 from April to November 2008, the main aim of which was to acquire for each authority:

- a central coordination authority
- a managing authority
- an intermediary body
- a payment unit
- a certification authority
- an audit authority and authorities participating in governmental audits
- coordinators of Horizontal Priorities

and a verified area of ITMS and ISUF information systems assuring compliance of the managing and control system (hereinafter the “MCS”) with the requirements of Articles 58 up to 62 of Council Regulation (EC) No. 1083/2006, which establishes the general provisions for the European Regional Development Fund, the European Social Fund and Cohesion Fund and which abrogates Council Regulation (EC) No. 1260/1999 (hereinafter “Council Regulation (EC) No. 1083/2006”) and with the requirements of Section 3 of Council Regulation (EC) No. 1828/2006, which establishes the general provisions for the European Regional Development Fund, the European Social Fund and Cohesion Fund and the European Parliament and Council Regulation (EC) No. 1080/2006 on the European Regional Development Fund (hereinafter “Council Regulation (EC) No. 1828/2006”) with a view to ensuring information for the EC

pursuant to the above mentioned regulations within the framework of the Operation Programmes implemented in the Slovak Republic for the programme period 2007 - 2013.

On December 03, 2008, the audit authority sent the Report on the Compliance Evaluation Results to the EC pursuant to Article 71 of Council Regulation (EC) No. 1083/2006 for Structural Funds and Cohesion Fund, the Standpoint on the Compliance of Managing and Control Systems issued based on Article 71 Section 2 of this Regulation and the Common Description of the Managing and Control System in compliance with NSRF SR pursuant to Article 21 based on ANNEX XII of Commission Regulation (EC) No. 1828/2006 for Operation Programmes, including the OPE, for the programme period 2007-2013. Within the framework of the compliance audit documents, the audit authority issued a favourable standpoint with reservations for the common system of the programme period 2007 - 2013 for the OP which are part of the NSRF SR.”

2.1.4.2. Verification of eligibility of expenditure

In the period under review, on-the-spot verifications were undertaken only within Measure 2.2. Support to lifelong learning in the health sector.

MH SR as IBMA implemented five projects under Call OPE 2008/2.2/01, in which the beneficiaries included the self-governing regions of Nitra, Žilina, Košice, Prešov and Trenčín. In the second half of 2008 there were 6 on-the-spot verifications regarding these projects.

The on-the-spot verifications were aimed at the verification of the compliance of the project implementation with the Agreement on NFC Provision, the project objectives, the fulfilment of the data indicator values and the timetable of the project activities implementation or other terms and conditions incorporated in the Agreement on NFC Provision. In some cases, the actual supply of goods and provision of services declared in the documents submitted by the beneficiary was verified at the administrative verification of the documents regarding the PP. During controls, the aspects of project and financial management as well as the details of the submission of payment requests were consulted. The project manager and the financial verifier from the PU who participate in the on-the-spot verification proceeded with the on-the-spot verification in compliance with the provisions of the Agreement of NFC Provision.

On-the-spot verifications of individual projects were conducted as needed and their frequency is indicated in Table No. 13.

Table No. 13: Frequency of performance of on-the-spot verifications of individual projects of the call OPE 2008/2.2/01

Project	Title of the Beneficiary	Verification Date from - to	Date of Elaboration of the On-the-spot Project Verification Report
Replenishing of the Healthcare System by Qualified Professionals at the NSR	Nitra Self-governing Region	17.10. 2008	17.10. 2008
Enhancement of Physicians' Qualifications at the ŽSR	Žilina Self-governing Region	16.10. 2008	16.10. 2008
Replenishing of the Healthcare System by Qualified Professionals at TSR	Trenčín Self-governing Region	23.10. 2008	23.10. 2008
Enhancement of the	Košice Self-governing	21.10. 2008	21.10.2008

Education Level of Healthcare Staff at the Territory of the Košice Region	Region		
Enhancement of the Education Level of Healthcare Staff at the Territory of the Košice Region	Košice Self-governing Region	12.11. 2008	12.11. 2008
Preparation of Human Resources for the Healthcare Sector at the PSR	Prešov Self-governing Region	21.10.2008	21.10.2008

During the on-the-spot verifications, no serious findings related to the lack of compliance with the provisions of the Agreement on NFC Provision were recorded. The rules for Publicity and Information were consequently adhered to during the project implementation and all outputs which arose from Article 4 of Annex No. 1 to the Agreement on NFC Provision – General Contractual Terms and Conditions.

One of the intents of the call OPE 2008/2.2/01, which had the character of a pilot call and in which the call OPE 2008/2.2/03 continued, was also the verification of the preparedness of individual self-governing regions for the implementation of the projects of the specialization study support. During the implementation of the pilot projects, it was noted that individual self-governing regions and separate healthcare facilities had different organization and staffing backgrounds to ensure the management of such projects. The on-the-spot verifications revealed insufficient preparedness of relevant administrative capacities for processing specific required documents; at the same time they revealed the most frequent errors in their processing. More detailed information regarding individual self-governing regions is indicated below.

The on-the-spot verifications highlighted the obligation for the MH SR to simplify the administrative processes and to ensure in the future the introductory training of the relevant staff of the beneficiaries and affected healthcare facilities which will be involved in the project implementation.

More detailed information regarding individual on-the-spot verifications:

On 17 October 2008, an on-the-spot verification was performed at the beneficiary Nitra Self-governing region. It focused on the control of accounting documents for the public procurement of the production of the information board in compliance with the publicity and information requirements. The conclusions and findings from the on-the-spot verification and proposals of measures for the causes and correction of detected shortcomings are as follows:

- During the on-the-spot verification the compliance of the project implementation and the terms and conditions of the Agreement for Provision of the NFC was manifested.
- No irregularities were identified during the on-the-spot verification.

On 16 October 2008, the on-the-spot verification with the beneficiary Žilina Self-governing Region was conducted. It was aimed at the control of accounting documents for the public procurement of services – State Analysis of Human Resources of Healthcare Staff. During the on-the-spot verification, the following accounting documents were verified: invoices from suppliers, orders, employment contracts of physicians, wages statements, bank statements and other relevant documents related to the PP. The conclusions and findings from the on-the-spot verification and proposals of measures for the causes and correction of detected shortcomings are as follows:

- During the on-the-spot verification, the compliance of the project implementation and the terms and conditions of the Agreement for Provision of the NFC was manifested.
- No irregularities were identified during the on-the-spot verification.

On 23 October 2008, the on-the-spot verification with the beneficiary Trenčín Self-governing Region was conducted. It was aimed at detecting the progress in project implementation. During the on-the-spot verification, the following types of documents were verified: employment contracts of physicians, wage statements, bank statements and other materials related to the project implementation.

The conclusions and findings from the on-the-spot verification and proposals of measures for the causes and correction of detected shortcomings are as follows:

- During the on-the-spot verification, the compliance of the project implementation and the terms and conditions of the Agreement for Provision of the NFC was manifested.
- No irregularities were identified during the on-the-spot verification.

On 21 October 2008 and 12 November 2008, the on-the-spot verification with the beneficiary Košice Self-governing Region was conducted. It was aimed at detecting the progress in project implementation and the preparation of the settlement of the advance payment. The second on-the-spot verification was conducted in connection with the submission of the request for the settlement of the provided advance payment; consultations with the project managers as well as the representatives of all involved healthcare facilities involved in the project in the Košice Region also took place in order to verify the course of specialized study (course of instruction, method of registering the attendance of participants and their performance related to the SS). The following types of documents were controlled: employment contracts of physicians, wage statements, bank statements and other documents which constituted the attachment to the request for payment.

The conclusions and findings from the on-the-spot verification and the proposals of the measures for correction of detected shortcomings and causes of their occurrence are as follows:

- During the on-the-spot verification, the compliance of the project implementation and the terms and conditions of the Agreement for Provision of the NFC was manifested.
- It was stated that there is insufficient staffing within the beneficiary Košice Self-governing region and that replenishing of human resources were necessary.

On 21 October 2008, the on-the-spot verification with the beneficiary Prešov Self-governing Region took place. It was aimed at establishing the progress in the project implementation.

The conclusions and findings from the on-the-spot verification and the proposals of measures for correction of found out shortcomings and cause of their occurrence are as follows:

- During the on-the-spot verification the compliance of the project implementation and the terms and conditions of the Agreement on the Provision of the NFC was manifested. The project was implemented in compliance with the timetable of the activities implementation.
- No irregularities were identified. Insufficient administrative capacities of the beneficiary in project management and implementation were identified.

Annex 5 also gives a more detailed overview of the findings from on-the-spot verifications.

2.1.5. Drawing of funds by category

Annex 2 gives an overview of the funds use by particular categories, which is consistent with Part C of Annex II of the Council Regulation 1828/2006.

2.1.6. Contribution to the Lisbon process

A special attention is paid to the contribution of OP to the Lisbon process, including its contribution to the achievement of the objectives of Article 9 paragraph 3 of the Council Regulation (EC) No. 1083/2006.

In her NSRF the Slovak Republic set aside 59.35% of expenditure within the C objective for the implementation of the Lisbon activities, and within the RCE objective 85.57% of expenditure. Based on the information on the distribution of contributions from funds among particular categories of expenditure by priority themes, the amounts designated for the so-called Lisbon activities in particular OP, and their amount for the NSRF for 2007 - 2013 are as follows:

Table 14: allocations by programmes under C objective (in €, current prices)

	Operational programme	Lisbon activities (L.A.)	Total allocation	% L.A.
1.	Regional OP	0	1,445,000,000	0.00%
2.	OP Environment	53,850,000	1,800,000,000	2.99%
3.	OP Transport	2,853,715,498	3,206,904,595	88.99%
4.	OP Information society	961,713, 590	993,095,405	96.84%
5.	OP Competitiveness and economic growth	573,383,840	772,000,000	74.27%
6.	OP Research and development	660,795,134	883,000,000	74.84%
7.	OP Education	576,000,000	600,000,000	96.00%
8.	OP Employment and social inclusion	796,177,667	864,000,000	92.15%
9.	OP Health	0	250,000,000	0.00%
10.	OP Technical assistance	0	97,601,421	0.00%
Total Convergence objective		6,475,635,729	10,911,601,421	59.35%

Table 15: Allocation by OP under RCE objective (in €, current prices)

	Operational programme	Lisbon activities (L.A.)	Total allocation	% L.A.
1.	OP Research and development	315,966,024	326,415,373	96.80%
2.	OP Education	17,089,515	17,801,578	96.00%
3.	OP Employment and social inclusion	16,285,341	17,801,578	91.48%
4.	OP Bratislava Region	34,880,460	87,000,000	40.09%
Total RCE objective		384,221,340	449,018,529	85.57%

Table 16: Drawing of financial resources for priority themes in €

Code	Priority themes (Annex IV, Regulation 1083/2006)	Financial drawing from the appropriation for (L.A.) – cumulatively	% of the appropriation for L.A.
Research and technological development (R+TD), innovation and entrepreneurship			
03	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	0
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	0	0

	employees to step up their adaptability to change; promoting entrepreneurship and innovation		
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	0
	Improving access to employment and sustainability		
67	Measures encouraging active ageing and prolonging working lives	0	0
70	Specific action to increase participation of migrants in employment and thereby strengthen their social integration	0	0
	Improving the social inclusion of less-favoured persons		
71	Pathways to integration and re-entry into employment for disadvantaged people; combating discrimination in accessing and progressing in the labour market and promoting acceptance of diversity at the workplace	0	0
	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 or training personnel with a view to innovation and a knowledge based economy	0	0
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	0	0
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.	0	0

In 2008, the financial drawing from the allocation for so called Lisbon Activities was zero. Due to the beginning implementations of the so called national and demand-driven projects, no Payment Requests (refunds) or settlement requests for advance payments were delivered to the MA or IBMA which could be included in the summary PR and sent to the Certifying Authority by 14 November 2008.

The zero drawing in 2008 and the overall shift of the implementation procedures are the consequences of modification of the programme documents in particular. The SR Government decided to modify the National Strategic Referential Framework of the SR for the Period 2007-2013 and the number of Operation Programmes. The Change in the number of Operation Programmes took place pursuant to SR Government Resolution No. 832 of 8 October 2006 regarding the Updated Draft of the National Strategic Referential Framework of the SR for the Period 2007 – 2013. The OPE was officially approved by decision No. K(2007) 5476 of the

European Commission on 7 November 2007. In 2008, the preparation of the OPE managing documentation, implementation procedures and administrative capacities for the OPE implementation was in progress. Due to the above mentioned reasons, the first calls and direct awards could only be proclaimed in 2008.

The first call of the IBMA (ASFEU) was proclaimed on 11 March 2008, and the first Agreements after the completion of the approval processes were concluded by December 2008. The first call of the IBMA (MH SR) was proclaimed on 7 April 2008, and the first Agreements after completion of the approval processes were concluded in August 2008. The first direct award was proclaimed on 22 February 2008 and the Agreement for the first national project was signed on 16 September 2008.

All calls and direct awards proclaimed in the monitored period of 2008 were aimed in compliance with the objectives of the Lisbon Strategy in support of the knowledge-based society, life-long learning, increasing of the ability of assertion on the labour market, better links between vocational training and labour market needs, improvement of the knowledge and skills of students and approximation of vocational training and preparation for the labour market requirements, etc.

The fulfilment of the Lisbon Strategy objectives was implemented within the individual implemented Priority Axis as follows:

- Priority Axis 1 – content restructuring of education at SS and ES; transformation of the traditional school to the modern school /6 direct awards of the MA, 4 calls of the IBMA ASFEU/;
- Priority Axis 2 – deepening of qualifications, further education /1 direct award of the MA, 3 calls of the IBMA MH SR/;
- Priority Axis 4 – content restructuring of education at SS and ES, transformation of the traditional school to the modern school /7 direct awards of the MA, 4 calls of the IBMA ASFEU/.

More detailed information regarding individual calls and direct awards can be found in Chapter 3 of the Annual Report.

Based on the above, the real evaluation of the use of OPE sources designed for the fulfilment of the Lisbon Strategy objectives will constitute the subject of the AR for 2009.

2.1.7. Description of partnership agreements

The partnership principle in the area of preparation, implementation, monitoring, evaluation of programme, publicity and information was pursued in cooperation with social and economic partners in several working groups, and with coordinators of particular HP.

2.1.7.1 Horizontal priorities

MA is a member of 4 working groups for relevant HP: HP MRC, HP EO, HP SD and HP IS.

2.1.7.1.1 HP MRC Working group

At the political level, the responsibility for the HP MRC rests with the Deputy Prime Minister of the Government of the SR for Knowledge-based Society, European Affairs, Human Rights and Minorities. The HP MRC coordinator is the Office of the Government Plenipotentiary for Roma

Communities of the GO SR, which has set up a Department for HP MRC Coordination for the performance of activities relating to administrative and methodological provision for the HP MRC.

In view of the direct focus of the OPE on MRC, in 2008, the MA intensely cooperated with the coordinator for the HP MRC – OGPRC in the preparation of institutional and process procedures with a view to ensuing effective HP MRC implementation, including a comprehensive approach via Measure 3.1 OPE. In cooperation with the OGPRC and ASFEU, it prepared a trilateral Agreement on mutual cooperation and coordination in pursuing the HP MRC, which was signed on 19 November 2008. The Agreement makes explicit reference to the representation of the MA in the Working Groups and Committees created in the OGPRC, which are to ensure cooperation in implementing the HP MRC. The MA official is a member of the Working Group for the HP MRC, the Inter-ministerial Evaluation and Selection Commission of local comprehensive approach strategies (hereinafter referred to as “IESC LCAS”) and the Comprehensive Approach Monitoring Group (hereinafter referred to as “CAMG”).

The HP MRC Working Group met four times in 2008, on 11 April 2008, 18 April 2008, 27 October 2008 and 21 November 2008. The purpose of these meetings was to prepare and approve the System of HP MRC Coordination and Implementation, including measurable indicators, the Communication Plan, (hereinafter referred to as the “CoP”) for the HP MRC, selection criteria for local comprehensive approach strategies and an evaluation sheet of the expert assessment of the application for the provision of support for a local comprehensive approach strategy. IESC LCAS met three times in 2008, on 24 October 2008, 13 November 2008 and 27 November 2008. The purpose of these meetings was the preparation and approval of the statutes and rules of procedure for the IESC LCAS and the calls for the submission of applications for the provision of support to the Local Comprehensive Approach Strategy. The LCAS met 3 times in 2008, on 18 June 2008, 23 October 2008 and 7 November 2008, with a view to preparing and approving the statute and rules of procedure for the MCAS and the Evaluation Strategy for the HP MRC.

2.1.7.1.2 HP EO Working Group

At the political level, the responsibility for the coordination of HP EO implementation rests with the Minister of Labour, Social Affairs and Family of the SR, who, within the approved NSRF, discharges tasks vis-à-vis the HP EO. The executive coordination unit ensuring the processes of coordination of HP OE implementation was delegated to the Department of Gender Equality and Equal Opportunities of the Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family of the SR (hereinafter referred to as the “MOLSAF SR”). To this effect, within the Department of Gender Equality and Equal Opportunities, the MOLSAF SR set up a Support Centre for Equal Opportunities which is comprised of a team of coordinators. Their role is to closely cooperate with contact points /persons at the particular MA.

In 2008, the **HP EO Working Group** met three times. At the first meeting on 13 March 2008, the HP EO Working Group discussed the changes of the System of Coordination of HP EO Implementation and Cooperation with the MA for individual OP.

On 27 March 2008, the HP EO Working Group met again and decided on the approval of the modified System of Coordination of HP EO Implementation (version 3.0). Another topic of the meeting was the amendment of the statute of the HP EO Working Group. After discussing the changes, the new text of the statute was approved.

The last meeting of the Working Group was held on 15 October 2008, during which the changes of the Working Group statute following from the HP EO Government audit were analysed. The changes to the statute were agreed by the Working Group members and the new version of the statute was subsequently approved. The Working Group also dealt with the comments of the first draft of the Plan of evaluations by the HP EO coordinator, that also had to be drawn up in response to the Government audit. The third point on the meeting's agenda was the change of Annex 4 of the System of HP EO Coordination and Implementation, Measurable Indicators for HP EO. In light of persisting problems with the HP EO indicators, the coordinator informed the Working Group that she was sending a request to the CCA with a view to identifying the exact ways of entering HP EO indicators in the ITMS so as to subsequently develop the analytical outputs.

Apart from the above meeting, there was also a separate HP EO Coordinator Working Group meeting on 15 January 2008 with the representatives of the Department for the OPE and the Operational Programme Research and Development (hereinafter referred to as "OPRD"). The purpose of the joint meeting was to specify the HP EO indicators in the OPE and OPRD.

2.1.7.1.3 Working Group for HP SD

On the political level, the responsibility for the coordination of HP SD implementation rests with the Deputy Prime Minister of the Government of the SR for Knowledge-based Society, European Affairs, Human Rights and Minorities. He exercises this responsibility with regard to sustainable development as the Chairman of the Council of the SR Government for Sustainable Development. At the executive level, HP SD coordination is entrusted to the Department of Coordination of Priorities of the Knowledge Society, Section of European Policy and Knowledge Society at the Government Office of the SR.

The HP SD Working Group had joint meetings with the HP IS Working Group (see section 2.1.7.1.4 for more details).

2.1.7.1.4 IS Working Group

On the political level, the responsibility for the coordination of the implementation rests with the Deputy Prime Minister of the Government of the SR for Knowledge-based Society, European Affairs, Human Rights and Minorities. Generally, he discharges this task, with regard to the information society as the Chairman of the Commission for Information Society. On the working level, HP IS coordination is entrusted to the Department of Coordination of Priorities of the Knowledge-based Society, the section of European Policy and the Knowledge-based Society at the Government Office of the SR (hereinafter referred to as the "GO SR").

The HP IS and HP SD Working Groups, which had their common meetings at the GO SR, met four times in 2008, and held one working consultation. The first working meeting, which took as its objective the addition of the already selected list of HP IS and HP SD indicators to the PM and manuals for beneficiaries, was held on 10 January 2008. At the working meeting on 17 January 2008, the supplemented list of HP IS and HP SD indicators was agreed. On 17 March 2008, a joint meeting was held regarding the approval/non-approval of the System of HP IS and HP SD Coordination and Implementation for 2007 – 2013 (version 2.0). Comments that were raised were incorporated, and the System of HP IS and HP SD Coordination and Implementation for 2007 – 2013 was approved at the Working Group meeting on 26 March 2008. Official versions 2.0 were forwarded to the MA.

The Working Groups' Members commented on the draft Annual Report of the HP IS and HP SD sent by the coordinator for January – December 2007.

In connection with the change to the organisation system of the GO SR, effective from 1 May 2008, and linking the audit exercise completed for the purpose of ensuring the adequate set-up of HP IS and HP SD implementation, the materials which were affected by the change, i.e., the statutes of the HP IS and HP SD Working Groups and the System of HP IS and HP SD Coordination and Implementation for 2007 – 2013 (version 3.0) with annexes were commented on. The aim of the last joint HP IS and HP SD meeting, held on 14 October 2008, was to look at the materials at hand, namely the recommendations of Government Audit No. AAA253 and the organisational change of the HP IS and HP SD coordinator. Official versions 3.0 were dispatched to the MA.

Working Group members raised comments on the HP IS and HP SD Information and Publicity Plan, and it was approved on 28 October 2008. The HP IS and HP SD coordinator also drew up the HP IS and HP SD Evaluation Plan for 2007 - 2013 and sent it to the Working Group members for comment.

2.1.7.2 Central Evaluation Committee for NSRF and the Evaluation Working Group

As an advisory body to the CCA, the **Central Evaluation Committee for NSRF** (hereinafter referred to as "CEC") was set up. Members of CEC include representatives of MA of all OP. Within the preparation of the OPE Evaluation Strategy, an **Evaluation Working Group** was set up at the Department for OPE. For more information on the CEC and on the Evaluation Working, Group, see Section 2.7.5 Evaluation.

2.1.7.3 The Publicity Working Group

MA is member of the **Working Group for Information and Publicity** at the level of CCA, meeting on 7 October 2008, with the agenda of preparing the Communication Plan and information activities of MA, and representatives of HP, information portal www.nsrf.sk, information bulletin on EU funds – *Eurokompas*, as well as the education activities directed at the programming period 2007 -2013.

The Working Group for Information and Publicity at the level of officers met on 11 November 2008. The agenda included the evaluation of information and publicity activities of MA and IBMA in 2008, updating of the Information and Publicity Manual, EU logos and promotion items.

2.1.7.4 Cooperation of IBMA ASFEU with social and economic partners and other working groups

Within the cooperation of IBMA ASFEU with OGPRC the agency officials took part in the meeting of IESC LCAS for the evaluation and selection of local comprehensive approach strategy and the working group for HP MRC. Within the preparation of calls ASFEU worked with relevant policy departments of ME SR, according to the call's substantive focus. Social and economic partners, such as the Association of Towns and Communities of Slovakia and the Union of Cities of Slovakia were represented in the meetings of the selection commission for the selection and approval of AFNFC.

2.1.8. Specific features for the ESF programmes

Pursuant to Article 10 of Regulation (EC) No. 1081/2006, the issue of gender equality as part of HP EO is implemented in OPE horizontally. MA/IBMA provides potential applicants for NFC with the necessary information on gender equality in its calls and direct awards, which should help ensure observance of gender equality in every project. In view of problems with defining appropriate HP EO indicators discussed in 2008 with the CCA, this area is no longer monitored in the already implemented projects via binding indicators, but rather, through submission of quarterly monitoring reports by beneficiaries, who must quantify numbers of men/women involved in the project activities as well as describe the state of implementation of HP EO in the project. Within the approved AFNFC, 39 out of 44 projects declared their contribution to HP EO, which is 88%. (of the above mentioned number, 8 were national projects for which the Agreement on Provision of NFC was also concluded in the monitored period). By declaring the positive contribution to the HP PG, the national and demand-driven projects declared the ensuring of mechanisms for preventing and eliminating discrimination based on ethnicity and race, gender, religion or faith, sexual orientation and health disability.

As of 31 December 2008, from the contracted national projects in the monitored period, only the monitoring report was submitted within the framework of the national project *“Elementary Teacher Training in the Area of Foreign Languages in Connection with the Concept of the Teaching of Foreign Languages at Elementary and Secondary Schools”*. However, regarding the fact that the project target group will only be constituted at the beginning of 2009, the monitoring report does not include the data related to the target group (number, age composition of the target group and its division according to gender).

In general, there are more women than men among the participants of the target groups – the pedagogical staffs of the projects contracted in 2008 (within the framework of the calls and direct awards for Measures 1.1, 4.1, the direct award for Measures 2.1, 4.2) which is particularly due to the fact that the school system is one of the areas of lower average remuneration (it pertains to horizontal profession gender segregation). In terms of age, this target group is predominantly composed of individuals in the 25- 54 age group. However graduates from the 55-64 age group who were given the opportunity to strengthen their skills in the use of ICT and digital aids in the teaching process through the project implementation are also represented. The participants have higher secondary education (ISCED 3) up to university (ISCED 6) education.

Due to the fact that the activities of the national projects *“Modernizing of the Education Process at Elementary Schools”* and *“Modernizing of the Education Process at Secondary Schools”* cover the entire territory of Slovakia including the regions with a high concentration of MRC, they also provide space for teachers from the MRC who will participate in education in the area of education process modernization on the basis of the use of ICT. They will participate in the introduction of modern systems and content of education in the teaching process at elementary and secondary schools and they will learn to actively use the ICT and modern digital teaching aids. The participating Roma teachers and students will inform their community about the new modern system of education at ES and SS through the use of ICT. Both national projects will also provide space for education of marginalized groups, for example to qualified teachers of Roma language, qualified teachers of foreign languages with university education of the second level and teachers of universal subjects who are of Roma nationality. The participating Roma teachers will inform their community about the necessity to learn and speak foreign languages which will contribute to their inclusion in society.

The demand-driven projects from the calls of IBMA - ASFEU (calls for Measures 1.1 and 4.1) will be focused on the implementation of school system reform at the first and the fifth grades of ES and at the first grade of the SS since this pertains to the grades in which the reform of the

school system begins. The target group includes students and pedagogical staff of ES and SS, including the pedagogical staff and students of special schools. Several minorities are also represented in the target group and in some regions there is high concentration of students from the MRC.

The healthcare staff was included in the specialization study without any limitation or favouritism in the activities of the implemented demand-driven pilot projects IBMA – MH SR from the call code OPE 2008/2.2/01 while respecting the terms and conditions incorporated in the call, in compliance with the principles of the equality of opportunities. In the case of the beneficiaries from the self-governing regions of Banská Bystrica, Prešov and Košice, the target group participating in activities was employed in districts with high Roma concentrations. After completion of the project activities, the physicians educated through the project continue to work at their current sites and thus they can ensure the healthcare for all of the inhabitants of the region, including the marginalized Roma communities.

Migrants are not an OPE target group; they are supported under OP Employment and Social Inclusion.

OPE supports the solution of the problem of insufficient involvement of persons with special educational needs in the education system and the risk of social exclusion. The main objective of the priority axis 3 of OPE is to “increase the education level of persons with special educational needs with regard to MRC. In the effort to address the needs of members of MRC directly, this group of Roma population was singled out into a separate Measure 3.1, Raising the educational level of members of the marginalized Roma communities. Within the earmarked financial appropriation and the so-called “comprehensive approach” the OPE objective is to facilitate change of unsustainable models persisting in these communities preventing their full integration in the education system and the society. Through Measure 3.1 it is possible to concentrate assistance sufficiently promptly to attain visible progress in the educational level of MRC and their integration in the labour market.

In 2008 no call or direct award was opened for Measure 3.1; these will be announced in consistency with the planned timetable for OPE calls and direct awards, in the course of 2009.

The theme of innovation and transnationality defined in Article 3, Sections 5 and 6 of the Regulation of the European Parliament and Council (EC) No. 1081/2006 is horizontally implemented in the OPE within the framework of all Priority Axes.

All calls proclaimed in 2008 for demand-driven projects as well as direct awards for national projects contained the element of innovation since they were aimed at the support of education system reform which on all levels necessarily incorporates the transformation of approaches and innovation of methods and forms of education. The theme of innovation was also monitored in the process of the expert evaluation of the submitted AFNFC within the criterion “Can it be assumed based on the data provided by the applicant that the methods and procedures applied in the project on the national/international level are new?”. Innovation of didactic means, developing the key competencies of students and the design and implementation of school education programmes supporting the key competencies of students with the use of new teaching materials were the eligible activities within the framework of the call for the submission of AFNFC for Measures 1.1 and 4.1 in 2008. Thus we can state that all contracted and implemented projects will have an innovative character for the education system in the SR from the perspective of direct and indirect target groups (general public).

One of the objectives of the national project *“Elementary School Teacher Training in the Area of Foreign Languages in Connection with the Concept of Foreign Language Teaching at Elementary and Secondary Schools”* is to enable the qualification for teaching foreign languages for teachers of the first level of ES who lack this qualification, which is an innovative element

within the framework of the education system of the SR. Within the framework of the national project *“Design of New Education Programmes in Vocational Training for the Needs of Automobile Industry II”* new school education programmes will be designed at schools which will incorporate the use of virtual technology (3D modules, virtual enterprises). The aim of the national projects *“Modernizing of the Education Process at Elementary Schools”* and *“Modernizing of the Education Process at Secondary Schools”* is to use the multimedia/digital content of education for universal subjects at ES and SS in the teaching process, which constitutes the innovation element for the pedagogical staff and students. The national project *“Teacher Training in Connection with the Design of School Education Programmes”* contributes to the content reform of the school system. Within the framework of this programme, training for educating the pedagogical staff of ES and SS will take place in order to implement the content reform of the school system and the design of the school education programmes.

Transnationality was supported in 2008, especially through the national projects which based on direct awards containing activities with an international dimension also included in their activities the transfer of international experience especially through foreign stays and mobility at partnership institutions. The international dimension of the project was also assessed in the process of the expert evaluation of the submitted AFNFC within the framework of the criterion “Does the project build on existing foreign experience or approaches?”.

The national project *“Elementary School Teacher Training in the Area of Foreign Languages in Connection with the Concept of Foreign Language Teaching at Elementary and Secondary Schools”* can serve as an example of incorporating the elements of innovation and transnationality within the framework of which it is necessary to comprehensively innovate the issues of foreign language teaching at ES. Due to low number of experts in Slovakia for the given area, the beneficiary – State Pedagogical Institute, will cooperate with international institutions who promised cooperation (the British Council, Goethe Institut, Oesterreich Institut, Institut Français). At the same time, the cooperation with the international text book publishing houses will take place. Lecturers from Oxford University Press, Cambridge University Press, Didier, Langenscheidt will conduct methodological seminars regarding the methodology of work with foreign language text books. In the course of the project implementation, close cooperation will also take place on the level of bilateral relations with the embassies of Canada, the U.S., the U.K., Germany, Italy, Spain, Russia, France and Australia (in Vienna). In order to achieve high effectiveness within the framework of the project resolution, intensive communication between the project implementors, universities and European institutions will take place. Since the issues of the low qualification level of foreign language teaching pertain to several EU member states, it is a problem related to the entire society which has not been resolved for a long time; the project outputs will be intermediated to the EU after their completion through reports in several foreign languages which will provide the methodology for the solution of the given issues.

Within the framework of implementing the national project *“Design of New Education Programmes in Vocational Training for the Needs of Automobile Industry II”* the organizing of foreign business trips will be organized in order to support and motivate the target group. This pertains to such events (working seminars, conferences, exhibitions, etc.) where the project objectives and outputs will be presented. Either the direct task researchers or expert workers mastering the design and purpose of the given project output or the employees of the target schools should participate in these trips. The lecturers for the national project *“Teacher Training in Connection with the Design of School Education Programmes”* will be carefully selected based on their professional and research work, activities and publication activities. With this in mind, all possibilities to involve foreign experts and researchers in these activities will be considered for intermediating the current information from the various EU countries and the whole world. The monitoring of the relevant projects at home and abroad will contribute to the

fact that our teachers can use newly acquired knowledge and skills for the improvement of the upbringing and education process itself.

Assistance by target groups and equal opportunities

Table 17: Monitoring of the target groups (the data excluding TA)

a) Annual number of participants					
In-coming participants		Out-going participants		People involving in the operational programme in the preceding year	
110					
b) Breakdown of participants by gender			c) Breakdown of participants by age		
Number of men	Number of women		Number of persons aged 15 - 24	Number of persons aged 55 - 64	
42	68		0*	0*	
d) Breakdown of participants by labour market status					
Number of employed including self-employed	Number of self-employed	Number of unemployed including long-term unemployed	Number of long-term unemployed	Number of inactive or ¹³	Inactive persons – studying ¹⁴
110	-	-	-	-	-
e) Breakdown of participants by education attained					
Primary or lower secondary education (ISCED 1 and 2)	Upper secondary education (ISCED 3)		Post secondary non-tertiary education (ISCED 4)	Tertiary education (ISCED 5 and 6)	
-	-		-	110	
f) Breakdown of participants by vulnerability groups in compliance with national legislation					
Minorities	Migrants		Persons with disabilities	Other disadvantaged persons	
-	-		-	-	

*All participants of the target group belonged to the 25 – 54 age group, which is not monitored separately.

The data in Table 17 are cumulative from the start of the programming period. It shows the data, as defined by the implementing regulation 1828/2006, Annex XXIII.

The data monitoring the target groups in Table 17 are only for the priority axis 2, Measure 2.2. It involves a target group of projects that were contracted under the call for projects titled “Replenishing the health sector with qualified specialists”, code OPE 2008/2.2/01. Project participants included health professionals studying in specialisation study programmes of training establishments in selected specialisation branches: general medicine, stomatology, anaesthesiology and intensive medicine, clinical oncology and clinical immunology and allergology. In the table, they are broken down by gender, labour market status, and attained education.

The data for the other priority axes will be available only in 2009 and will be reported in AR for 2009.

2.2. Information on compliance with the Community legislation

During the period under review, both ME SR as MA for OPE, and ASFEU and MH SR as IBMA have not been reported any infringements of the Community legislation, which, within the implementation of OPE, includes in particular:

¹³ Total number of inactive persons, including studying, participants in vocational training or pensioners, persons abandoning entrepreneurship, persons with permanent disabilities, persons permanently staying in households or others.

¹⁴ Number of inactive persons – students or participants in vocational training.

- Regulation of the Council (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 and repealing Regulation (EC) No.1260/1999., as amended by Regulation of the Council (EC) No. 1341/2008 of 18 December 2008;
- Regulation of the European Parliament and the Council (EC) No.1081/2006 of 5 July 2006 on the European Social Fund and repealing Regulation (EC) No 1784/1999;
- Regulation of the Commission (EC) No. 1828/2006 of 8 December 2006, laying down the implementing rules for Regulation of the Council (EC) No. 1083/2006 laying down general provisions on the European Regional Development Fund, the European Social Fund and the Cohesion Fund, and for Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council (EC) No. 1080/2006 on the European Regional Development Fund;
- Regulation of the Council (EC) No. 1605/2002 on the Financial Regulation applicable to the general budget of the European Communities;
- Regulation of the European Commission (EC) No. 2342/2002 laying down detailed rules for the implementation of Council Regulation (EC) No. 1605/2002 on the Financial Regulation applicable to the general budget of the European Communities;
- Council Regulation (EC) No. 2185/96 concerning on-the-spot checks and inspection carried out by the Commission in order to protect the European Communities' financial interests against fraud and other irregularities;
- Decision of the Council No. 702/2006 of 6 October 2006 on Community strategic guidelines on cohesion.

ASFEU and MH SR responding to the Council Regulation EC No. 1083/2006 of 11 July 2006, laying down general provisions on the European Regional Development Fund, the European Social Fund and the Cohesion Fund, in accordance with the System of Structural and Cohesion Funds management for the programming period 2007–2013 and with regard to the Authorisation on delegating powers, are responsible at the respective levels for the efficiency of management of OPE, complying with the EU provisions, the institutional and financial systems of the SR.

In the case of potential conflict between a particular provision of the national law of the SR and a provision of the EC, the Community law shall prevail, on the basis of the application of the principle of direct effect.

2.2.1 Legislative changes in the SR

A major change in the area of primary and secondary schooling in the first half of 2008 was the fulfilment of one of the key goals of the National Reform Program, namely the **adoption of the Act on upbringing and education (Act No. 245/2008 on upbringing and education)**. After the bill was approved by the Government of the SR on 5 March 2008, the so-called School Act was approved in the National Council of the SR and was signed by Ivan Gašparovič, President of the SR, together with the Act on support for research and development on 17 June 2008.

The act went into force on 1 September 2008, save the provision on normative financing of teacher assistants for pupils from socially disadvantaged settings, which will fall effective from 1 January 2009. The new act superseded the Act No. 29/1984 Coll. on the system of primary and secondary schools, and should create conditions for the changes needed in the education system and in teaching. It defines anew the school system of the SR and fits the Slovak education system in the European framework. It introduces the state education programme as binding for

all schools while giving schools a possibility to design their own school education programmes on its basis.

By resolution of SR Government No.112 of 20 February 2008, the Government approved the **strategy for ensuring regional schools' access to ICT**. Within four years, the objective is to bring Slovak education system closer to modern European schools preparing pupils for knowledge based society. The ICT infrastructure should improve significantly, and so should the ICT-supported teaching and the present level of teachers' ICT literacy. Also connection of schools to high-speed Internet should be improved.

The draft concept for upbringing and education of Roma children and pupils, including developing secondary and tertiary education was approved by the Government resolution No. 206, of 2 April 2008. The concept is drawn up on the basis of the requirements and needs of practice. Members of the Council of Experts of ME SR for upbringing and education of Roma have co-participated in developing the document. Conceptual goals in the area of education were consulted with representatives of GO SR and OGPRC. The concept is made up of three basic parts: the current state analysis, conceptual goals, and proposed recommendations and measures to improve the educational level.

The Act No. 175/2008 Coll. on higher education. The act went into force on 22 May 2008. The draft amendment of the act on higher education was discussed by the Government on 21 January 2009. Following approval of the amendments also in the Parliament, the public higher education institutions will be able to use their property as a contribution to commercial companies. Student mobility will also be increased by allowing recognition of a part of studies at another Slovak or foreign university. Another new aspect will be the possibility of foreign higher education institutions to apply for a subsidy in Slovakia.

By resolution No. 367, of 4 June 2008, the Government of the SR approved the **Modernisation Programme Slovakia 21** that should create room for economic growth, employment, eliminate bureaucratic obstacles in small and medium-sized enterprise, support education and research. The proposed action is divided into **four priority areas** of public policy: research, development and innovation; education employment and improving of business environment; improved regulation and enhanced transparency.

The Act No. 282/2008 Coll. on supporting work with the youth, of 2 July 2008. This act makes provision for the work with the youth, accreditation of education facilities in the area of working with youth and voluntary service in the area of work with youth. The act went into force on 1 September 2008.

The Act on vocational education and training, after approval by the Government on 17 December 2008, is currently in the parliamentary committee stage of being discussed in the NC SR within second reading.

On 1 January 2009 the **Act No. 528/2008 Coll. on the assistance and support from the funds of the European Community** went into force, which was agreed upon on 4 November 2008 in the National Council of the SR. This act regulates the position and power of the Government of the SR, ministries and other central bodies of state administration and self-governing regions in the area of the system of management and control of the assistance provided from the Funds of the EC and in the area of the protection of European Communities' financial interests. In addition, the act regulates the rights and obligations of applicants for NFC, beneficiaries of NFC

and partners co-participating in project preparation with the applicant, and in the project implementation with the beneficiary.

2.3. Serious problems encountered and measures adopted to tackle them

Insofar as, during the period under review, there were no serious problems (legislative changes precluding the achievement of global objective of OPE, changes to eligible activities, target groups, or applicants and to eligible expenditure under OPE, PM changes for OPE, changes within NSRF SR, etc) encountered within the procedures referred to in Article 62 paragraph 1 sub-paragraph d) point i) of the Regulation (EC) No. 1083/2006, and also under Article 10 of the Regulation (EC) No. 1081/2006, neither MA for OPE, nor MC for OPE had to adopt any special measures to address them

The problems following out of the OPE implementation in the monitored period are given in relevant chapters of particular priority axes.

Table 18: Monitoring of the implementation of measures adopted for defined problems

Identified problems	Adopted measures	Verification of the implementation of measures adopted
have not occurred	have not been adopted	-

2.4. Changes in the context of the operational programme implementation

The end of 2008 was marked by the onset of the financial crisis that occurred in the banking system of the USA and the Member States of the EUROPE. The European Central Bank and the European Commission responded by taking concerted action for stabilisation of the European banking system and restoring confidence in the financial markets.

On 26 November 2008, the European Commission issued COM (2008) 800, so-called European Economic Recovery Plan designed to restore consumer and business confidence, re-start the access to credit and support of investment in the economies of the EU countries, create new jobs and support the mechanisms for re-integrating the unemployed in the working process. The Plan includes a fiscal support in the order of minimum 200 billion EUR (1.5% of GDP) from the EU budget and from national budgets with a view to increasing the demand, reverting the economic activity to its previous rising trend and protect existing and create new jobs. This recovery plan clearly highlights the link between the cohesion policy and the ESF priorities in mitigating the impacts of the economic crisis on jobs. For this reason the plan urges to step up investment to support real economy. To this effect the EU put in place five important legislative and administrative changes regarding the Structural Funds – ERDF, ESF and Cohesion Fund: ensuring direct liquidity, greater financing of investments, flexible provision of funding in support of new projects, easing administrative burdens and assistance to small projects.

SR, as all the other counties, feels the consequences of the economic crisis, which include in particular, growing unemployment resulting from dismissals due to declining production. The Slovak Republic will mitigate the impacts of this situation in the SR in accordance with the Proposed Measures of the SR Government for overcoming the impacts of the global financial crisis, which were approved by the Government Resolution No. 808, of 6 November 2008, and the Updating of Measures of the SR Government for overcoming the impacts of the global financial crisis, approved by the Government Resolution No. 969, of 17 December 2008) in the area of labour market policy. Although MOLSAF SR is responsible for active labour market

policies, and also deals with forecasting of unemployment developments, it is also a priority of ME SR to contribute through OPE to increasing employment and supporting the knowledge based society with its calls focused on social security, employment and growth of the whole society.

Moreover, on 25 December 2008, the Regulation of the Council (EC) No. 1341/2008 went into force, which amends the Council Regulation No. 1083/2006 laying down general provisions on the European Regional Development Fund, the European Social Fund and the Cohesion Fund, with respect to certain revenue generating projects in such a way as to make sections 1 through 4 of Article 55 of that regulation applicable only to the operations co-financed from the European Regional Development Fund or from the Cohesion Fund whose total costs exceed 1 million EUR.

Due to the development of the situation, the ME SR as the MA for OPE focused on the implementation of measures which could reduce the impacts of the world economic crisis, especially with the respect to the economy and the social economic conditions of the Slovak population. In connection with the beginning of the crisis and threatening risks, the MA for OPE adopted measures through more effective implementation of investments in education and innovations of the design of the education programmes. The MA for OPE focused its efforts on more intense implementation of the OPE by proclaiming calls for the submission of the application of the NFCV and direct awards for the national projects aimed at the pedagogical staff as bearers of the reform and innovators of education by providing comprehensive, straight, understandable and current information for applicants/beneficiaries and by creating conditions in compliance with the OPE objectives for the effective, fair and quick provision of assistance. Since the impact of the economic crisis has not affected the implementation of the OPE, the ME SR as the MA for OPE does not plan for any modifications of allocations for OP or the content modification of the OP itself.

In connection with the impact of the financial and economic crisis, the MA for OPE positively perceives the passing of Council Regulation (EC) No. 1341/2008 of 18 December 2008, through which in connection with certain income generating projects, Regulation (EC) No. 1083/2006 on the European Regional Development Fund, the European Social Fund and the Cohesion Fund is changed and amended so that Paragraphs 1 to 4 of Article 55 of this Regulation are applied only for operations co-financed from the European Regional Development Fund (hereinafter the “ERDF”) or Cohesion Fund (hereinafter the “CF”) the overall costs of which exceed 1 million EUR.

The requirements pursuant to the new passed legislation of the SR and the prepared updating of the SF and CF management system in December 2008 constituted the object of the prepared updating of the programme and management documentation of the OPE (IM MA for OPE or IB/MA, Programme Manual, Handbook for Applicants).

In the course of 2008, the Central Coordination Authority passed several guidelines:

- Methodological Directives of CCA No. 1 of 29 January 2008 regarding the elaboration of descriptions of the management and control system of the programmes which are co-financed from the Structural Funds and Cohesion Fund in the programme period 2007 – 2013;
- Methodological Directives of CCA No. 2 of 14 February 2008 regarding the elaboration of the financial analysis of the project, the analysis of the project costs and benefits and the financial analysis of the NFC applicant in the programme period 2007 – 2013;
- Methodological Directives of the CCA No. 3 of 1 December 2008 regarding the design and use of the project indicators and their incorporation in the ITMS 2007 – 2013;

- Methodological Directives of CCA No. 4 of 2 September 2008 regarding the use of the code list of eligible expenditures in the programme period 2007 – 2013;
- Methodological Directives of CCA No. 5 of 19 September 2008 regarding the elaboration of the evaluation plan of the operation programmes for the programme period 2007 – 2013.

In the course of 2008, the Ministry of Finance as the Auditing Authority passed several guidelines:

- Guideline No. 18/2008-U regarding the end of year working procedures for the statements of accounts and regarding the Euro-conversion for the users of ISFA – valid as of 19 December 2008;
- Guideline No. 16/2008-U regarding irregularities within the framework of the financial management of the Structural Funds and Cohesion Fund for the programme period 2004 - 2006 and the programme period 2007 - 2013 – valid as of 9 September 2008;
- Guideline No. 15/2008-U regarding the procedure of financing the projects of the Structural Funds, Cohesion Fund and European Fishery Fund in connection with the completion of the budget year 2008 and the introduction of the Euro currency in the Slovak Republic within the framework of the programme period 2004 – 2006 and the programme period 2007 – 2013 – valid as of 16 September 2008,
- Guideline No. 13/2008-U regarding the credit accounts of the Payment Unit for the programme period 2004 - 2006 and the programme period 2007 - 2013 – valid as of 12 June 2008;
- Guideline No. 11/2008-U regarding the procedures of settling the return of contributions in the amount of the income from project from the final beneficiary / assistance beneficiary / beneficiary on the level of the Payment Unit in the ISFA system – valid as of 16 April 2008;
- Guideline No. 10/2008-U regarding the procedure of the settlement of returns arising from the nature of the project from the final beneficiary / assistance beneficiary / beneficiary on the level of the Payment Unit within the framework of the ISFA system – valid as of 10 April 2008;
- Guideline No. 9/2008-U regarding the procedure of settling in the case of the return of funds of unsettled advance payments and unsettled advance financing from the final beneficiary / assistance beneficiary / beneficiary on the level of the Payment Unit within the framework of the ISFA system – valid as of 8 April 2008;
- Guideline No. 8/2008-U regarding the procedure of settling the irregularities of the Structural Funds and Cohesion Fund from the final beneficiary / assistance beneficiary / beneficiary on the level of the Payment Unit within the ISFA system – valid as of 7 April 2008;
- Guideline No. 7/2008-U regarding the procedure of settling the repeated implementation of returned payments from the final beneficiary / assistance beneficiary / beneficiary to the budget expenditure account of the Payment Unit of the Structural Funds and Cohesion Fund – valid as of 7 April 2008;
- Guideline No. 5/2008-U regarding the procedure of settling accepted error payments and their return in the ISFA for the Payment Unit – valid as of 27 March 2008.

Pursuant to these guidelines, the MA for OPE updated or elaborated the OPE programme and managing documents.

2.5. Substantial changes pursuant to Article 57 of Regulation (EC) No. 1083/2006



During the period under review no cases were identified of substantial changes made in pursuance of Article 57 of the general regulation of the Council (EC) No. 1083/2006 of 11 July 2006.

2.6. Complementarity with other instruments

In accordance with Article 34 (2) of the Council Regulation (EC) No. 1083/2006, within all priority axes of OPE, financing of actions is assumed falling within the scope of assistance from ERDF in a complementary manner and subject to a limit of 10% of Community funding for each OPE priority axis. The percentage ratio of complementary co-financing per project is given in the call or in the direct award.

The use of the cross-financing within OPE is assumed for capital expenditure that are not eligible from the ESF (particularly those that beneficiaries cannot apply in the form of write offs).

Within this complementary (cross-financing) financing it is possible to purchase for example IT, audio/video technology, furnishing, machines and equipment for the purposes of vocational training practice in schools, aids for persons with special educational needs, etc.

In 2008 cross-financing was used by IBMA ASFEU, namely under priority axis 4 (Measure 4.3), where it comprised 1.93% of the total drawing, and under priority axis 5 (Measure 5.1) 5.09%, respectively.

MH SR enabled the applicants for NFC to use complementary financing in its two last calls published in the second half of 2008. This possibility was also given to MA within the direct contract award under the title “Design of new education programmes in vocational training for the needs of the automobile industry II”. Due to the fact that as of 31 December 2008, the Agreement on Provision of the NFC was not signed, the evaluation of the activities of the above mentioned national project implemented within the framework of the cross financing will constitute the subject of the Annual Report for 2009.

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

In compliance with Article 9 (4) of Council Regulation (EC) No.1083/2006, which anticipates the coordination between the assistance from the funds, the European Agricultural Fund for the Development of Rural Areas, the European Fishery Fund, interventions of the European Investment Bank and other existing financial instruments, the OPE will be complementary in the process of the implementation with the Rural Area Development Programme SR 2007-2013 and the OP Fishery.

Priority Axis 2 and Priority Axis 4 OPE are complementary with Axis 1 – Increasing the Competitiveness of the Sector of Agriculture and Forest Management and with Axis 3 – the Quality of Life in Rural Areas and the Diversification of the Rural Economy within the framework of the Rural Areas Development Programme 2007-2013. The common aim followed by the OPE and the Rural Area Development Programme 2007-2013 is the strengthening of the competitiveness of the SR and the growth of employment through the development of competencies, capabilities and skills to enable the labour force to flexibly react to the new requirements on the labour market which are required by the knowledge-based society, especially in compliance with the development of the production with high added value and applying new

technologies (including the ICT). Both strategic documents strive to solve common universal issues of the SR in the area of human resources, which include the low qualification of the labour force, insufficient qualifications and information, insufficient pace of innovations and shortage of capital and funds to keep qualified professionals. Multifunctional education and the information level of the subjects has a complementary effect on economic growth, improvement of social conditions and quality of life of the population of rural areas. Priority Axis 2 and Priority Axis 4 of OPE are complementary to Axis 2 – Aquaculture, Processing and Introduction of Products of Fishery and Aquaculture on the Market within the framework of the OP Fisheries. Within the framework of the OP Fisheries, the support of education activities in Axis 2 constitutes supplementary education for the beneficiaries in pertinent measures or improvement of the use of new knowledge and the transfer of outcomes of research in practice and strictly includes only matters in the area of fisheries.

Due to the fact that in the monitored period, the implementation of Priority Axis 1 and 4 occurred only at the end of 2008 and Priority Axis 3 was not implemented at all in 2008, it is so far impossible to evaluate the coordination between the assistance from the funds, the European Agricultural Funds for the Development of Rural Areas, the European Fishery Fund, the interventions of the European Investment Bank.

In connection with Priority Axis 2, only 5 demand-driven projects completed their implementation in the monitored period, which were complimentary with the Operation Programme Healthcare pursuant to the proclamation of the call OPE 2008/2.2/01 with an orientation on building and stabilizing human resources in healthcare in selected specialization fields.

Based on the above, the evaluation of complementarity with other instruments will constitute the object of the Annual report for 2009.

2.7. Monitoring arrangements

Monitoring is the principal instrument to ensure efficient set-up and subsequent implementation of OPE and the projects implemented under this programme. Monitoring ensures the collection of data and makes available summary information on the actual state in the implementation process. The OPE monitoring covers all basic processes and aspects of OPE implementation, and allows the MC for OPE and MA to closely follow the OPE implementation with regard to its objectives and binding processes. The system of monitoring must be directly linked to the key management processes to allow identification of any risks involved in the implementation and the achievement of set OPE targets and in the implementation of particular projects, thus allowing to take action for adequate and effective remedy.

Measurable indicators are the basic vehicle for monitoring the progress. They serve to evaluate the value for money, effectiveness and cost-efficiency of using the funds allocated for OPE, the priority axis and the measure.

In 2008 there was intense communication of CCA, MH SR and ASFEU in the area of preparation of project indicators for the purposes of published calls and direct awards for so-called national projects. In the absence of written binding instructions of CCA on procedures in the preparation of project indicators for calls/awards and some other methodological contradictions regarding the correct definition of project indicators (the level of results and impact, relevance to HP), at the initiative of MA for OPE, a meeting was held with the head of Methodology Department and his staff in which the project indicators for the then prepared OPE

calls and awards were discussed from methodological aspects, including the indicators having relevance for HP.

On 10 July 2008, the CCA sent a Methodological guideline No. 3 on the development and use of project indicators and their inclusion in ITMS 2007-2013 for commenting procedure. Based on comments and observations from MA/IBMA, CCA published that methodological guideline with effect from 1 December 2008.

2.7.1. Submission of annual and semi-annual monitoring reports on the implementation of OPE

Subject to Article 67 of the Council Regulation (EC) No. 1083/2006, of 11 July 2006, MA is obliged to send the Commission, by 30 June each year, an annual report for calendar year on the implementation of the operational programme Education for the relevant period. The background materials for AR have also been provided by particular IBMA. In view of the specificity of the 1st year of OPE implementation, MA and IBMA representatives have agreed that the data for 2007 will be given in the monitoring reports of IBMA cumulatively for the whole year of 2007¹⁵.

IBMA MH SR drew up and sent, on 22 February 2008, to MA the draft Monitoring report for 2007 for comment. After comments were incorporated, the final version was presented to MA on 10 March 2008.

IBMA ASFEU drew up and sent, on 15 February 2008, to MA the draft Monitoring report for 2007 for comment. After comments were incorporated, the final version was presented to MA on 3 March 2008.

Subsequently MA drew up a draft annual report for the period January – December 2007 and submitted to particular IBMA and members of MC OPE. The draft AR was presented at the second regular meeting of MC OPE held on 4 June 2008. Following discussion of the raised comments at MC OPE meeting the AR was approved by members of MC OPE. It was transmitted to the Commission via the SFC2007 system for official judgment on 25 June 2008.

Based on the letter from the European Commission No. 16677, of 18 September 2008, the MA was informed that AR was produced in accordance with the main points of the Regulation No. 1083/2006 and was approved by the Commission. The AR was publicized in Slovak and English at the ME SR website: www.minedu.sk.

As already in 2008 the implementation of OPE was fully under way, IBMA ASFEU drew up, in accordance with the Authorisation on delegation of powers, a Semi-annual Monitoring Report for 1st half of 2008. This report was presented to MA on 31 July 2008. After incorporating its observations, the MA approved its final version on 29 September 2008. The Semi-annual Monitoring Report of IBMA ASFEU for the second half of 2008 was handed in to MA on 30 January 2009.

IBMA MH SR produced its Semi-annual Monitoring Report for the 1st half of 2008 and presented it to the MA on 1 August 2008. MA sent observations on the report in a letter of 13 August 2008. Following incorporation of the comments, MA approved its final version on 14 October 2008. The Semi-annual Monitoring Report for 2nd half of 2008 of IBMA MH SR was handed in to MA on 4 February 2009.

¹⁵ Within authorisations on delegation of powers IMBA produce semi-annual monitoring reports.

2.7.2. The Monitoring Committee

2.7.2.1. The Second regular meeting

In the presence of the Deputy Prime Minister and the Minister of Education of the SR, EC officials, and other members of MC,¹⁶ on 4 June 2008, the Second regular meeting of MC for OPE was held.

After approval of the agenda for MC OPE second regular meeting which contained the addresses of the MC chair and EC officials, the approval of the Minutes' verifier, of the Minutes of the first regular MC OPE meeting, and the presentation of AR on the implementation of OPE for January to December 2007, the presented AR was discussed. After the discussion MC OPE members approved the AR 2007 with comments. After incorporating the comments, ME SR as MA, transmitted the annual report to the Commission for official judgment on 25 June 2008.

MC OPE also approved the Minutes of its first regular meeting held on 14 November 2007, and took note of the revision of the Programming Manual for OPE. The revision concerned the eligible and ineligible expenditure, eligible beneficiaries and a group of eligible activities.

Committee members were also informed of the progress in the implementation of OPE and the provision made for the information and publicity on it, as well as on the implementation of the education reform in the SR.

2.7.2.2. Decision-making “per rollam”

In the period from 25 August 2008 to 9 September 2008, so-called approval per rollam was undertaken. The subject matter of the written procedure for the approval was the Strategy of OPE Evaluation since MA had, in compliance with the System of Structural and Cohesion Funds Management for the programming period 2007-2013 (version 2.0), an obligation to draw up a Plan of strategic external evaluations within 12 months of the acceptance of OP by EC, and send it to CCA and MC OPE for approval.

The actual approval of the document was preceded by a round of comments. The final text of the Evaluation Strategy was transmitted to the MC OPE members by e-mail, in accordance with Article 12 of the MC Rules of Procedure, on 2 August 2008. Within the meaning of paragraph 2 of Article 12 of the MC Rules of Procedure, committee members were invited to give their opinion on the submitted material within 10 working days from the date of receipt of the material, i.e. until 9 September 2008.

Within the prescribed date, the MC Secretariat received by e-mail positive opinions on the content of the submitted document from 7 members of MC OPE (MH SR, MF SR, the Slovak Academy of Sciences, Ministry of Education – Economy Section for Structural Funds of the European Union, UTU Bratislava, the Association of Industrial Research and Development Organisations, and the Union of Cities of Slovakia). No other member of the committee would hand in other comments or express disagreeing opinion. In accordance with Article 12 paragraph 3 of the Rules of Procedure, the absence of expression of opinion is deemed to be the expression of agreement with the material.

¹⁶ In the MC for OPE also the representatives of employers, employees, UtTU are participating and they have a chance to present their proposals.

The Evaluation Strategy for OPE was approved by MC OPE on 9 September 2008. The relevant documents were subsequently posted on the MA website www.minedu.sk.

2.7.3. Evaluation

In accordance with the System of Structural and Cohesion Funds Management for the programming period 2007-2013 (version 2.0), the MA had an obligation to draw up a Plan of strategic external evaluations within 12 months of the acceptance of OP by EC, and send it to CCA and MC OPE for approval. To the effect of preparing this document, at MA a Working Group for Evaluation was set up from among the MA staff¹⁷.

The Working Group for Evaluation drew up in May 2008 a first draft of the OPE Evaluation Strategy, containing also the Plan of strategic external evaluations of OPE.

In the preparation process, the OPE Evaluation Strategy was consulted also with the European Commission officials. Subsequently the OPE Evaluation Strategy was sent, on 30 June 2008, to both IBMA – ASFEU and MH SR for comment. The comments raised were incorporated or, where in conflict, consulted.

On 24 July 2008, the OPE Evaluation Strategy was transmitted via e-mail to MC OPE members seeking their comments within the deadline at 7 August 2008. Comments were handed in by 8 MC OPE members. Most of them were accepted, two were accepted in part, and two were not accepted. Insofar as the incorporation of comments partially changed and extended the content of the OPE Evaluation Strategy, the strategy was again sent for comments to MC members on 15 August 2008 with the deadline for comments at 22 August 2008. Comments from 4 MC members were submitted within prescribed date, most of them of formal nature, only one of them requiring amending of the text of the strategy.

Following incorporation of comments of IBMA a MC members, the final text of the OPE Evaluation Strategy was submitted to MC members for approval procedure per rollam. The OPE Evaluation Strategy was approved by MC OPE on 9 September 2008.

On 19 September 2008 (with effect from the following day) CCA issued a Methodological guideline No. 5 on the elaboration of the plan of evaluations of operational programmes for the programming period 2007 – 2013. The Methodological guideline set a date for reworking plans of evaluations of OP also to those bodies that had already handed in their evaluation plans before the date of issuing that Methodological guideline. Subsequently, on 16 December 2008, MA was sent observations of CCA on the OPE Evaluation Strategy. On the basis of the observations and of the methodological guideline No. 5 a new Plan of evaluations of OPE was prepared for the programming period 2007 – 2013¹⁸.

An indicative plan of OPE evaluations is part of the new Plan of evaluations of OPE for programming period 2007 – 2013. MA plans in 2011 to undertake a strategic evaluation of OPE that will examine the progress made in implementing OPE from the aspect of the relevance and achievement of OP objectives. In addition to this strategic evaluation, for the years 2010-2011, two thematic evaluations have been planned. The former, which should take place in 2010 will have for its objective the “Evaluation of accuracy of the set-up of the system of measurable indicators.” The latter titled “Evaluation of the implementation of the projects designed for members of the marginalized Roma communities” is planned for the turn of 2010 and 2011. The

¹⁷ Based on comments from IBMA, the Working Group was gradually extended with representatives of IMBA.

¹⁸ The Plan of evaluations of OPE will be subject of approval at the third regular MC OPE meeting.

exact date of evaluation will be specified on the basis of availability of outputs of the implementation of the cited projects and the information required for its conduct.

Insofar as the OPE was approved on 7 November 2007 and contracts on provision of NFC were signed and projects implemented only in the second half of 2008, MA did not do any evaluations in 2008 owing to lack of required data and information.

Table 19: Evaluation conducted in the period under review

Evaluation title	Amount (including VAT) in thousand €	Date of evaluation	Type of evaluation
Brief description of findings of the evaluation:		-	-
Conclusions from evaluation:		-	-
Proposed measures:		-	-
Measures adopted by MA/IBMA:		-	-
Implementation of conclusions of evaluation:		-	-

Central Committee for the Evaluation of NSRF

As an advisory body for CCA, CCE NSFR was set up. Its members include representatives of MA of all OP. MA for OPE appointed on 25 August 2008 its representative and his/her deputy for the cited committee. However, no meeting of CCE took place over the course of 2008.

Working Group for the evaluation of OPE

Within the preparation of the OPE Evaluation Strategy, a Working Group for Evaluation was formed at the Department for OPE. Its members were 2 managers of evaluation from MA OPE, the programming manager from MA OPE, and the monitoring manager from MA OPE. After Evaluation Strategy was completed, representatives from IBMA – MH SR and ASFEU were also invited to this Working Group. At a later date the composition was again altered and now its members include: 2 evaluation managers (MA OPE), 2 programming managers (MA OPE), and 2 IBMA - MH SR and ASFEU representatives. This is also the way this Working Group is defined in the OPE Plan of Evaluations.

Apart from the work on the Plan of evaluations, the Evaluation Working Group's remit includes also training and information in the field of evaluation. On 29 October 2008 training was held for members of the Evaluation Working Group. On that occasion 1 member of the Working Group shared with other members the knowledge she gained during her foreign business trip.

2.7.4. ITMS in the monitoring process

ITMS is a central information system serving for registration, processing, export and monitoring of the data on programming, project and financial management, control and audit of the Structural Funds and Cohesion Fund for the programming period 2007 - 2013. ITMS's role is to ensure uniform and compatible system of monitoring, project management and financial management of programmes financed from SF and CF.

ITMS is divided into three main parts:

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

ITMS is developed, operated, maintained and managed by CCA, while it consults proposed procedures with the ITMS Steering Committee with a view to ensuring proper functioning. ITMS SC members are representatives of CCA, MF SR, Datacentrum and ITMS supplier. The role of the ITMS Steering Committee is to manage and control the creation of ITMS for the programming period 2007-2013.

The role of the ITMS Expert Committee whose members include representatives of CCA, MF SR and MA administrators is to ensure the involvement of MA in the development and administration of ITMS, while the role of the Access Rights Committee, whose members include representatives of CCA, MF SR and the system's administrator is to methodologically guide and approve the roles of the ITMS bodies and users.

The Ministry of Construction and Regional Development (MCRD SR) and MF SR are responsible for general initialling of ITMS data, while the relevant MA are responsible for the initialling of data of particular programmes. MA communicates with CCA via sectoral ITMS administrators that are mutually substitutable.

ITMS is used by all MA and IBMA to equal extent. Access to ITMS in 2008 for new programming period 2007 - 2013 was ensured for MA ME SR and IBMA MH SR and IBMA ASFEU.

During the period under review, the operations of ITMS II were effective. ITMS II contains the functionalities for communication with the European Commission, detailed specification of OP, set-up of processes and roles, planning, calls defining, the receipt of AFNFC via public section of the monitoring system, the assessment of AFNFC, project contracting, project financial management, i.e. receipt and processing of applications for payment and summary requests for payment, as well as the functionalities of control and audit.

For MA and IBMA the MCRD SR - as CCA - ensured in cooperation with the University of Pavol Jozef Šafárik in Košice and Siemens, ITMS II training events that were held throughout 2008 with the objective to give an overview of the system of management of the assistance from the EU for the new programming period 2007-2013. The subject matter of training included also the system of project and financial management, as well as special computer skills required for the work with ITMS II. Training consisted of methodological and practical parts.

In accordance with the conclusions of the coordination meeting of CCA of 4 July 2008, CCA prepared blanket presentations of ITMS, with an emphasis on comparing ITMS I and ITMS II and discussing the differences, at two dates. The former meeting took place on 28 July 2008 and the latter on 18 August 2008.

2.8. National performance reserve

The information described in Article 50 of the Council Regulation (EC) No. 1083/2006 on the national performance reserve will be only subject of the AR for 2010.

2.9. Administrative capacity

MA

Within the administrative capacities, ME SR, as MA for the implementation of OPE for the programming period 2007 – 2013, as of 31 December 2008, employed a total of 56 employees from the originally planned 94, which is 59.9% of the planned administrative staffing for 2008. This number of employees referred to above is still insufficient, as MA has to simultaneously deal with both programming periods, which increases the demands on employees and the need to increase their number. Even despite the increase, as of 31 December 2008, by 64%, compared with the preceding year (2007), it is still necessary to hire 37 employees for the positions of “financial manager” in order to reduce the workload and make the implementation of both programming periods more effective.

During 2008, there were 17 new employees hired in the MA that are included in the overall number of administrative capacities at 31 December 2008, and 6 employees terminated their employment relationship. That is due to natural staff turnover, which was operatively addressed and the MA always strove to fully fill the vacated positions within a short time to make the staffing level full and prevent complications in the OPE implementation.

Within staff training and increasing of their skills the employees of MA that involved in the OPE implementation in the period under study, took part in several training activities, in which they were able to deepen their qualification and professional knowledge required for the implementation of OPE. Training was ensured in cooperation of ME SR, MCRD SR, MF SR and DMA ME SR.

This involved primarily the following training activities:

- Language learning (English, German, French);
- Decision-making processes in the European Union and coordination of European affairs at national level in the SR;
- Programme budgeting;
- EXCEL – advanced;
- Course in trainer skills for civil servants;
- Training on the Building Act;
- Information system Web Manager;
- Employees appraisal;
- Training for the applications of Editor of legal provisions and Portal of legal provisions;
- Process and documenting of drawing of funds from the aspect of public procurement;
- National project “ Horizontal education/training of civil servants focused on legislative skills and drafting of strategic, conceptual, and legislative documents, including impact assessment”;
- Project management – elementary course;
- Project management – consultation course;
- ITMS MET1 course;

- System of project management for the programming period 2007-2013, procedures, processes, documents;
- Comparing ITMS I and ITMS II;
- Project management;
- Time management;
- Special adaptation training.

To make the processes of financial accounting for particular projects more efficient and faster the financial managers also participated in the following training activities:

1st half 2008

- Training for financial analyses;
- Concept of the financial management of the structural funds - version 7.0;
- Most common findings from the on-the-spot checks, ex-post financial checks and certification verifications for 2007;
- Training in ITMS – elementary course;
- Training in ITMS – special computer skills;
- Irregularities (manual for irregularities);
- Irregularities with regard to applications for payment – ITMS.

2nd half 2008

- Case study - Administrative control of applications for payment, the certification system, PU findings from certification verifications of SF ensured by the Paying Authority;
- Using beneficiaries' accounts for the purposes of the project co-financed from the SF EU;
- Identification of findings within the execution of ex-ante financial control, selected problems of the verification of eligible expenditure.

MA also enabled its staff involved in the implementation of OPE to take part in the seminars of the European Institute of Public Administration (EIPA), since EIPA is the main centre of European education/training and development in the public sector. EIPA seminars fulfil their basic mission in providing relevant and high-quality services for the development of administrative capacities dealing with EU affairs. Equally it contributes to better knowledge of the European integration process and European policies. MA responded on a regular basis to seminars and training offered, enabling its staff to apply for participation in the training events and seminars directly from the offer periodically posted on the website www.eipa.eu. Participation in relevant EIPA courses was financed through the World Bank.

There has been a major progress forward, relative to 2007, in terms of enabling the staff to improve their qualification through further education, particularly improving their foreign language command, project and financial management skills, IT training, etc. which in turn resulted in increased interest on the part of employees to participate in foreign business trips and the associated positive representation of Slovakia and the OPE itself in the European Union.

For the next year, too, MA is keen to allow its staff to participate in the above courses and training activities and thus support their lifelong learning and professional growth.

Table 20: Administrative capacity of MA

Position	State at 31 December 2007	State at 31 December 2008	Needed to hire

general director	2	2	0
department director	3	3	0
assistant of department/section	1	2	0
programming manager	2	3	0
monitoring manager	8	8	0
evaluation manager	2	2	0
information and publicity manager	1	2	0
financial manager	9 ¹	23 ¹	37 ²
project manager	4	9	0
technical assistance manager	2	2	0
Total	34	56	37

¹ In addition to the OPE, the above mentioned employees also participate in projects from the programme period 2004 – 2006 and possibly in the OPR&D.

² The above mentioned administrative capacities need not be hired; the above mentioned number of employees is already modified within the framework of the systemized state of the MA employees. The above mentioned employees currently participate in the completion of the programme period 2004 – 2006 and subsequently they will begin to implement the OPE or OPR&D or both OP. Currently it is impossible to establish which employee will work within the programme period 2007 – 2013 only in OPE, OPR&D or in both OP at the MA or will ensure the activities of the PU. This will depend on the difficulty of the tasks within the framework of implementation of both OP.

Table 21: Administrative capacity of PU MA

Position	State at 31 December 2007 ¹	State at 31 December 2008 ¹	Needed to hire ²
department director	1	1	0
unit head	0	0	0
assistant of department/section	0	0	0
financial manager	3	11	13
Total	4	12	13

¹ The above workers participate apart from OPE also in the projects from the programming period 2004 – 2006 or also OP Science and Research.

² The above administrative capacities do not have to be hired, the above staffing has been already adjusted within the systematisation state of MA staff. The above employees currently participate in winding up of the programming period 2004 – 2006 after which they will start implementing OPE, or OP S&D, or both OP. It is not possible to determine at present which of the employees will be involved within the new programming period 2007 - 2013 solely in OPE, OP S&D, or both OP RA, or will discharge the activities of the PU. That will depend on the difficulty of procedures involved within the implementation of both OP.

IBMA - ASFEU

Within the administrative capacities ASFEU, as of 31 December 2008, employed a total of 147 employees of which 68 participated in the implementation of OPE; this number includes also 8 employees of RIK¹⁹.

As of 31 Dec.2008, ASFEU hired in employment 67 employees who were directly involved with the implementation of OPE and 21 employees terminated their employment relationship.

¹⁹ In the interest of securing efficiency of the OPE implementation, the public has access to a network of RIC at the level of 8 self-governing regions, with a view to ensuring direct contact with potential applicants for NFA, applicants for NFC, and beneficiaries, as well as the public of any given region, and providing them with all available and relevant information on the options and opportunities of SF use.

Following eligible employees of ASFEU are also involved in the implementation of OPE: general director, director of the GD office, advisor for European affairs and the director of financing and administration.

Individual job positions were filled gradually in response to the needs of the implementation of assistance. Within the Section of the OPE Implementation, seven employees terminated their employment relationship as of 31 December 2008.

The system of training for the ASFEU staff was implemented in accordance with the Labour Code and was drawn up in accordance with the SR Government Resolution No. 454 of 23 May 2007 and the Strategy of Human Resources Management at the ME SR for 2005 – 2009. ASFEU developed a Concept for ASFEU employees' training, which also contained a Plan of training for ASFEU staff for 2008. This concept relied on the Concept of staff training of employees of the Service Office of ME SR designed to improve and make training for civil servants and public sector employees more efficient, and contributed to the professional development and career advancement of the employees. The Concept of ASFEU staff training is made more specified and complete in accordance with the timely training requirements and ASFEU needs.

ASFEU employees participated on on-going basis in the training programmes focused in particular on:

- project management;
- financial management;
- ITMS;
- computer skills;
- training in SR and EU legislation;
- public procurement.

Training was ensured through cooperation with ME SR, MCRD SR, MF SR and DMO ME SR. Staff training (Internal procedures of ASFEU, Labour Code, health and safety protection at work) was offered and implemented on the basis of directives and internal regulations of ASFEU. To support the filing cabinet code, ASFEU continued to use the filing system of documents GINIS. Several training events were organised for ASFEU employees by the software firm itself developing this computer software.

In accordance with the needs of the implementation process, a new organisational structure of the OPE Implementation Section was proposed, which in the period under review was going through the approval procedure and is in place after approval by MA from 1 February 2009.

The problems related to achieving the administrative capacities were due mainly to the inadequate financial remuneration of employees, their inadequate professional expertise or unsatisfied work expectations with regard to the required work performance. For the elimination of shortcomings, IBMA ASFEU adopted action, namely raising salaries of their staff, and improving the social programme.

Table 22: Administrative capacity of IBMA - ASFEU

Position	State at 31 December 2007	State at 31 December 2008	Needed to hire
general director	1	1	0
section director	1	1	0
head of department	2	4	0

monitoring manager	0	0	4
publicity manager	9	10	0
ITMS manager	0	1	0
expenditure manager	3	19	12
project manager	4	18	13
technical assistance manager	1	1	0
administration manager	2	13	0
payment applications manager	0	1	3
Total	23	69	32

IBMA - MH SR

Within the administrative capacities, MH SR as IBMA for the implementation of OPE for the programming period 2007 – 2013, at 31 December 2008, employed a total of 16 employees of the originally planned 24, which is a 67% fulfilment of the staffing plan for 2008. In order to comply with the administrative capacity as necessary, still 8 employees will need to be hired which should make the implementation of OPE smoother and more effective.

Within the PU MH SR, IBMA, as of 31 December 2008, employed 4 employees of the originally 7 employees planned, which is a fulfilment at 57% of the staffing plan for 2008. The overall planned number of employees at the PU MH SR is 9, that is why it is necessary to hire 5 new employees in the upcoming years of implementation.

In the second half of 2008 one worker – a project manager was transferred from the agenda of OPE to the agenda of OP Healthcare. For that reason a new worker was hired for the cited job position. At 1 July 2008, the general director of the Section of European Programmes and Projects of MH SR appointed the director of the Department for Projects Implementation. As of 1 July 2008, the assistant of Project Implementation Department changed position becoming the assistant to the section general director of the Section of European Programmes and Projects. For that reason, the number of positions filled in the department of projects implementation, is reduced by 2.

On 14 January 2008, within the change to the organisational structure of MH SR, organisational units for management and implementation of structural funds for the programming period 2007 – 2013, namely the Department for EU Programmes, Development for Project Assessment, Department for Project Implementation and Technical Assistance were withdrawn from the Section of financing of MH SR.

A separate Section of European Programmes and Projects was formed. At the same time the title of the Sub-department of Financing and Project Payments changed into the Paying Unit, and the former title of the Department of Projects Implementation and Technical Assistance changed into the Project Implementation Department.

Within the Department of Project Assessment the title changed of the former Investment Project Sub-department into the Investment Project Assessment Sub-department and of the Non-investment Project Sub-department into the Non-investment Project Assessment Sub-department. Technical assistance was transferred under the agenda of the EU Programmes Department.

The employees of the Section of European Programmes and Projects ensure and discharge the tasks relating to both the implementation of the OP Healthcare and Measure 2.2. of the OPE, whose implementation was entrusted in the MH SR as IBMA.

Within staff training and qualification enhancement the employees of MH SR that were involved in the implementation of OPE in the period under review have participated in the following training activities:

- Amendment of the Act No. 25/2006 Coll. on public procurement and on amending of certain acts, as amended, - Act No. 232/2008 Coll.;
- ITMS project management – elementary course;
- Act No. 576/2004 Coll.;
- Ex-ante financial control;
- Act No. 577/2004 Coll.;
- Act No. 578/2004 Coll.;
- Act No. 579/2004 Coll.;
- System of financial management for the programming period 2007-2013 – elementary course;
- System of financial management for the programming period 2007-2013 – methods, procedures, processes, documents;
- Management of public construction works;
- Investment projects in the health sector;
- Training of employees of ASFEU, ME SR and MH SR (Financial management and control 3F using a case study);
- Act No. 222/2004 Coll. on the VAT;
- Financial management of projects co-financed from the ESF;
- Financial management system for the programming period 2007-2013 – consultation course of ESF;
- Research in the area of Structural Funds of the EU – new challenges for MNO;
- New legislation in the area of investments and prices, investment construction management;
- Irregularities;
- Methodological training on ITMS II;
- ITMS training – Special computer skills (OLAP cubes);
- Legal provisions portal;
- ESF financial management - elementary course - (ITMS);
- ITMS training – Financial management – elementary course – ERDF;
- New methodology of accounting for public administration organisations;
- Procedures of accounting resources /funds of EU budget in the accounting methodology applicable to budgetary organisations as of 1 January 2008;
- Workshop – Finance – internal documents, cash in hand, state treasury – link to MANEX, budget – link to RIS;
- accounting of the state and self-government according to the principles of international accounting standards for public sector;
- Accounting for long-term tangible and intangible assets and accounting of stock in an organisation of the state and self-government according to new accounting methodology with effect from 1 January 2008 with practical examples;
- Amendment of the Act on financial control and internal audit;
- Cost and revenue accounting, including detailed explanation of creation and accounting for adjustments, provision, accruals in the organisations of state administration and self-

government according to the new accounting methodology effective from 1 January 2008 with presentation of practical examples;

- Seminar “Portugal – Expert consultations in the area of drawing EU funds”;
- Payment orders in ISUF and debtors journal;
- System of EC funds control;
- Act on budgetary rules and budget classification;
- Additionality;
- Returning CPR funds in the RIS information system;
- Addressing timely issues in the area of ITMS;
- State aid system;
- ISUF 2007-2013;
- First financial statement compiled according to new accounting methodology for 2008 and transition to EURO from 1 January 2008 in state administration;
- Presentation of successful projects in media;
- Designing web pages, evaluation of communication activities, work with media.

Table 23: Administrative capacity of IBMA - MH SR

Position	State as of 30 June 2008	State as of 31 December 2008	Needed to hire
general director	0	1	0
department director	3	2	0
head of sub-department	3	3	0
assistant of department/section	3	3	1
programming and technical assistance manager	1	1	0
programming and evaluation manager	1	1	0
information and publicity manager	1	1	0
monitoring and ITMS manager	0	0	2
project manager	4	4	5
Total	16	16	8

Table 24: Administrative capacity of PU (IBMA MH SR)

Position	State as of 31 December 2007	State as of 31 December 2008	Needed to hire
general director	0	0	0
department director	0	0	0
head of sub-department	1	1	0
assistant of department/ section	0	0	0
officer	3	3	5
Total	4	4	5

Table 25: Comparison of administrative capacity with the state in 2007

	Planned state as of 31 December 2007	State as of 31 December 2007	% of planned state	Planned state as of 31 December 2008	State as of 31 December 2008	% of planned state
MA	89	34	38.2%	94 ³	56	59.5%
IBMA (ASFEU)	23	23	100%	69	69	100%
IBMA	23	15	65%	24	16	67%

(MH SR)						
Project	21	4	19.05%	25	12	48%
PU (MH SR)	6	4	67%	7	4	57%
Total	162	79	48.7%	219	158	72.15%

³ Systemised staffing of MA

At present it is not possible to state which of the employees will work only within OPE, OPS+R or both OP programmes in the programming period 2007 – 2013.

Table 26: Turnover of administrative capacities

Authority/body	from 1 January 2008 to 31 December 2008	from 1 January 2008 to 31 December 2008
	Number of out-going	Number of in-coming
Managing Authority	6	17
Intermediate Body under the Managing Authority - ASFEU	21	67
Intermediate Body under the Managing Authority - MH SR	2/1	3
Paying Unit	1	0
Paying Unit (IBMA MH SR)	0	0
Total	31	87

Among most common reasons of high staff turnover in MA and IBMA (ASFEU) is:

- insufficient financial motivation of employees associated with high workload, long-term overtime work, diversity of tasks requiring detailed knowledge of a vast range of regulations and guidelines;
- lower financial remuneration compared with certain sectors implementing SFs;
- problem of having to commute to work;
- high demands involved in processing of the agenda, in terms of expertise and time demands;
- insufficient expert knowledge of the staff (ASFEU);
- unsatisfied work expectations in view of the required work performance.

To reduce the administrative capacities turnover, MA, IBMA (ASFEU) have embarked upon remedial action which should prevent high fluctuation and thus ensure smooth course of the implementation of OPE.

As first, the issue of financial motivation was addressed, i.e. the system of remuneration of employees at monthly intervals, personal premiums, possibility to participate in foreign business trips, professional courses and training also according to the employees' demands, a system of cost refunds for foreign language courses, as well as team-building activities.

Last but not least, the introduction of flexitime and overall improvement of working conditions in terms of new working spaces and IT equipment (purchase of notebooks with connection to Internet for work outside the workplace) also contribute to staff motivation.

Since at IBMA MH SR no fluctuation was seen in the period under review, IBMA MH SR did not address related problems and does not reckon with any remedial action to reduce staff turnover.

3. IMPLEMENTATION BY PRIORITY AXIS

3.1. Priority axis 1

In the period under review MA published 6 direct awards for priority axis 1 Reform of the education and vocational training system, Measure 1.1. Transformation of the traditional school to the modern school.

The themes of direct awards stemmed from the themes of the national projects that were approved by the minister of education in 2007. Direct awards were published in the period from February to October 2008.

Following were the direct awards:

- **Primary School Teacher Training in the Area of Foreign Languages with regard to the Foreign Language Teaching Concept in Primary and Secondary Schools, OPE/C/RCE/NP/2008-1** – focused on supplementing qualification of teachers of first stage of basic education with a foreign language;
- **Modernisation of education process in primary schools, OPE/C/RCE/NP/2008-3** – focused on training of pedagogic employees of primary schools in the area of ICT;
- **Modernisation of education process in secondary schools, OPE/C/RCE/NP/2008-4** – focused on training of pedagogic employees of secondary schools in the area of ICT;
- **Teacher training with regard to developing school education programmes, OPE/C/RCE/NP/2008-5** – focused on trainer training for PS/SS pedagogic employee training for the implementation of the curricular education reform of and design of school education programmes, training for pedagogic workers of PS and SS for the implementation of the curricular education reform and design of school education programmes;
- **Developing new education programme in vocational training for the needs of automobile industry II, OPE/C/RCE/NP/2008-6** – focused on creating secondary school graduates profiles relevant to the needs of production of automobile components and accessories, with a view to increasing employment in this group of SS school leavers;
- **Kindergarten pedagogic staff training as part of the education reform, OPE/C/RCE/NP/2008-7** – focused on training activities developing professional key competences of pedagogic staff in kindergartens.

As of 31 December 2008, five (5) applications for NFC were received, of which 4 projects have been contracted ²⁰.

In the period under review, ASFEU published 4 calls for demand-driven projects for priority axis 1 Reform of the education and vocational training system, Measure 1.1. Transformation of the traditional school to the modern school.

The total appropriation for the calls amounted to 46,471,486.42 EUR. As of 31 December 2008 311 AfNFC were received of which 81 were approved and 25 projects have been contracted. In 2009 the process of selection of AfNFC and contracting will continue.

The ASFEU proceeded in the process of AfNFC approval pursuant to the valid Structural Funds and Cohesion Fund Management System for the programme period 2007 – 2013 (version 2.0) i.e., it verified the fulfilment of the eligibility and completeness criteria of the registered AfNFC

²⁰ The selection and contracting process will continue in 2009.

according to the AfNFC Formal Accuracy Control List. The ASFEU excluded those AfNFC which failed to comply with at least one eligibility criteria from the further process of AfNFC approval. The ASFEU also excluded those AfNFC from the further process of AfNFC approval which failed to comply with at least one of the completeness criteria even after the ASFEU called for their completion within the established deadline.

The low number of contracted projects in comparison to the number of accepted AfNFC arises from the high incidence of errors committed by first time AfNFC applicants. The following errors were most frequent in the AfNFC :

- the requested amount of NFC for actual projects was not in compliance with the established minimum and maximum limits pursuant to the terms and conditions defined in the call for AfNFC submission
- the time framework of project implementation did not comply with the minimum and maximum lengths of project implementation pursuant to the terms and conditions defined in the call for AfNFC submissions;
- applicants failed to include the correct amount of co-financing;
- applicants failed to specify the baseline and planned values of measurable indicators;
- applicants failed to fully complete the AfNFC form (absence of the length of implementing of the main and support project activities, failure to name the main project activities, failure to define the project budget expenditure groups pursuant to eligible expenditures code list, etc.).

Activities on which the calls focused were defined as follows:

- design and implementation of development programmes of secondary schools (with emphasis on 1st grade) and of primary schools (with emphasis on 1st and 5th grade) supporting key competences of pupils while using new teaching materials in the teaching/learning process and preparing pupils for knowledge based society (e.g. design of an education programme for a school, innovation of methods and forms of teaching) ;
- innovation of didactic aids developing key competences of pupils.

Target groups for which the calls were designed have been defined as:

- pedagogic employees and pupils of SS (including special secondary schools);
- pedagogic employees and pupils of PS (including special primary schools).

Appropriations for the relevant calls in the first half-year were:

- for call OPE-2008/1.1/01-IBMA focused on SS, the total appropriation amounted to 9,958,175.66 EUR;
- for call OPE-2008/1.1/02-IBMA focused on PS, the total appropriation amounted to 13,277,567.55 EUR.

A total of 311 AFNFC was received of which in the end 81 AFNFC were approved. As of 31 December 2008, 25 projects were contracted.²¹

Insofar as most of the projects handed in under these calls were eliminated from approval procedure by reason of formal deficiencies and thus the funding allocated for those calls was not fully exhausted, in the second half of the year identical calls were published with the same financial allocation.

²¹ The contracting process will continue in 2009.

Allocations for the calls of the second half of the year:

- for call OPE-2008/1.1/03-IBMA focused on PS, the total appropriation amounted to 13,277,567.55 EUR;
- for call OPE-2008/1.1/04-IBMA focused on SS, the total appropriation amounted to 9,958,175.66 EUR.

As of 31 December 2008, AFNFC submitted under the calls of the second half-year 2008 were being received and registered.

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

Section 3.1.1.1.1 describes the individual direct awards from the direct award publishing to the project contracting. Section 3.1.1.1.2 describes the calls for demand driven projects, from their publishing to project contracting.

3.1.1.1. State of physical progress achieved under priority axis 1

In the monitored period, 316 AFNFC/national projects and demand-driven projects in the overall amount of 106,989,683.23 EUR were accepted within the framework of the implementation of Priority Axis 1.

A total of 86 AFNFC were approved in the overall amount of 77,648,245.76 EUR, of which 28 projects were contracted, and as of 31 December 2008, a total of 3 projects were in the implementation phase.

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

1) The first direct award titled “**Primary School Teacher Training in the Area of Foreign Languages with regard to the Foreign Language Teaching Concept in Primary and Secondary Schools**” was published on 22 February 2008 and the deadline for submission was 22 April 2008. The direct award was focused on supplementing the qualification of teachers of first stage of basic education with a foreign language at A2 or B2 of the Common European Frame of Reference for Languages and supplementing of the qualification of foreign language teachers with the general pedagogy and the foreign language didactics for the target children’s group.

The allocation of funds amounted to 16,596,959.43 EUR²². The allocated sum for Objective Convergence was determined based on the share of the size of the target group – ES teachers outside the region of Bratislava (approximately 32,600 teachers) and ES teachers in Slovakia (approximately 35,600 teachers). This was based on the data from the Statistical Yearbook for 2007 (www.uips.sk).

Groups that were targeted by this direct award included teachers of 1st and 2nd stage of basic education.

One AFNFC was submitted at 15,027,135.70 EUR. The project was elaborated based on the conducted analyses of the current status of foreign language teaching and in connection with the new *Concept of the Teaching of Foreign Languages at Elementary and Secondary Schools*

²² Including both objectives; in splitting the allocation, the size of the target group on which the national project concentrates was used as a key.

approved by the SR Government on 12 September 2007 through SR Government Resolution No. 767/2007. For the effective and global solution of the given issues it is also necessary to ensure the training of teachers for first level of ES for the teaching of foreign language with an orientation on students of a younger school age and with an emphasis on communication skills (dialogues and independent speaking) within the framework of study of the specialization pre-school and elementary pedagogy. At the same time, it is necessary to support the use of information communication technologies (hereinafter “ICT”) in teaching. Implementation of the national project arises from the need for the implementation of *The Concept of the Teaching of Foreign Languages at Elementary and Secondary Schools* and making the teaching of foreign languages more effective in formal education.

In the period from 12 – 23 May 2008, the **formal accuracy check** of AFNFC was carried out, within which the criteria of eligibility and completeness were verified and ex-ante financial control conducted. The missing annexes had to be additionally requested and those were supplied within the set date.

Based on the results of formal accuracy check the shortcomings found may be classified as follows:

- incompleteness of AFNFC (obligatory annexes were missing)
- shortcoming identified in ex-ante financial control.

Expert assessment started on 13 May 2008 and ended on 28 May 2008. The application for NFC achieved the necessary minimum score within each group of assessment criteria (50%) and achieved more than the fixed minimum overall score (70%).

Expert assessors identified the following problematic areas in the process of expert assessment:

- the size of the target groups was not unequivocally defined;
- the outcome of particular activities was not defined from the aspect of volume;
- the budget was general;
- sustainability of the project insufficiently specified.

The **Selection Commission of ME SR for the selection and approval of AFNFC** met on 18 June 2008 and approved the application with comments.²³

The total amount of funds approved by the Selection Commission was **15,027,135.70 EUR**.

From the aspect of the contribution of the approved AFNFC to the attainment of HP, the application declared its contribution to HP MRC, HP EO and HP IS.

On 8 July 2008 the Notification of Approval of AFNFC was sent together with the Letter of Acceptance.

The contract on the provision of NFC was signed²⁴ on 16 September 2008 and on the same day the project implementation started. In the period under review the first monitoring report was received on 15 December 2008.

Table 27: State of the implementation of the national project, as of 31 December 2008

²³ Individual recommendations of the Selection Commission were taken into consideration and incorporated in the project prior to signing of the Agreement on NFC Provision due to achieving successful project implementation. More detailed information regarding the content comments of the Selection Commission can be found at the website of the ME SR: www.minedu.sk.

²⁴ The shortcomings identified during the expert evaluation were eliminated before the signing of the agreement.

Project title:	Primary School Teacher Training in the Area of Foreign Languages with regard to the Foreign Language Teaching Concept in Primary and Secondary Schools
Basis from national /regional policy ²⁵ :	the Concept of teaching foreign languages in primary and secondary schools, approved by the Government of the SR on 12 September 2007 by Government Resolution No. 767/2007
Project objective:	The project aims to achieve, in the horizon of long-term planning, a state where 100% of first-stage basic education teachers will be qualified for foreign language teaching for the target group of pupils of younger school age.
Beneficiary:	State Pedagogic Institute
State of implementation for the monitored period:	17-19 October 2008 – coordination meeting in Piešťany (compiling the list of training places, division of participants, designing the criteria for VO, organisational instructions) 21 November 2008 – information campaign through a conference (presentation of the project and its objectives) 16 December 2008 – meeting of expert team 17 December 2008 – solemn opening of the project office
Budget:	15, 027,135.70 € (total for Objective C and RC&E 16,421,280.29 €, Objective C constitutes 91.51 % of the overall budget)
Financial implementation/drawing:	0
Fulfilment of indicators:	n/a

2) The direct award titled “**Modernisation of education process in primary schools**” was published on 14 May 2008, with the deadline by 14 July 2008. The direct award focused on PS pedagogic staff training in the area of information and communication technologies, the design of multimedia /digital content of education for state education programme for general education subjects in PS; developing textbooks and editorial activity and subsequent testing and monitoring of the acquired competences and skills of PS pedagogic staff.

The allocation of the financial resources amounted to 33,193,918.87 EUR²⁶. Due to the limited allocation of funds for Objective RC&E, the amount of the allocation was limited only for this Objective. In the direct award it was determined that the target group would be constituted by approximately 4,300 teachers outside the region of Bratislava from the overall number of the eligible group outside the region of Bratislava (approximately 32,600 teachers for 2007). Since Objective RC&E is financially undersized, which arises in the fact that the ratio of target groups established in the call does not mirror the ratio which defines the financial allocation for Objective C and Objective RC&E, the MA proceeded to finance the part of Objective 2 that is not covered from the state budget in order to preserve the ratio determined in the call between the target groups of Objective C and Objective RC&E.

The groups at which the direct award was targeted were the pedagogic employees of PS and pupils of PS.

One application for NFC was submitted at 32, 510, 497.11 EUR.

The creation of experimental multimedia/digital content for ES teacher training, which will be implemented in the state education programme for selected subjects at ES and the design of new

²⁵ According to the definition of the national project in the system of SF and CF Management for the programming period 2007 – 2013.

²⁶ Including both objectives; in splitting the allocation, the size of the target group on which the national project concentrates was used as a key.

methodological textbooks and digital teaching aids for ES teacher training with the use of ICT aids in the teaching process will constitute the output of the national project implementation. Thus, the national project will contribute to the fulfilment of the Manifesto of the Government of the SR which proclaims to create the prequalification for a system transformation in the content of the regional school system connected with deepening language preparation, development of computer literacy and communication skills, a substantially broader use of modern didactic aids, information technologies and multimedia technology in the teaching process. By the use of a two-level upbringing and education programme (the state education programme and the school education programme) the national project will also contribute to the support of school system reform and thus to the fulfilment of the School Act.

In the period from 14 to 28 July 2008 the **formal accuracy check** was carried out for the AFNFC within which the criteria of eligibility and completeness were verified and ex-ante financial control conducted. The application was fully and correctly completed so MA OPE did not have to request additional materials.

Based on the results of formal accuracy check we can classify the shortcoming identified as follows:

- non-compliance with the Manual for applicants for NFC;
- difference between the printed form of the budget and its electronic form;
- several shortcomings relating to the budget.

The expert assessment started on 11 August 2008 and was completed on 15 August 2008. The application for NFC achieved the necessary minimum score within each group of assessment criteria (50%) and achieved more than the fixed minimum of max. overall score (70%).

Expert assessors identified the following problematic areas in the process of expert assessment:

- certain activities defined generally;
- not all indicators are measurable;
- methodology of the implementation of activities is not described specifically;
- the sustained results of the implemented activities are not demonstrated;
- project's goals are not lucid and transparent;
- the budget is not transparent and unequivocal;
- professional personnel participating in the project implementation is not specified;
- sustainability of the project is not demonstrated.

The **Selection Commission of ME SR for the selection and approval of AFNFC** met on 18 September 2008 and approved the application with comments²⁷.

The total amount of funds approved by the Selection Commission was 32,510,497.11 EUR.

From the aspect of the contribution of the approved AFNFC to the attainment of HP, the application declared its contribution to HP MRC, HP EO, HP IS and HP SD.

On 23 September 2008 both successful applicants were sent Notifications of Approval of AFNFC and Letters of Acceptance.

²⁷ Individual recommendations of the Selection Commission were taken into consideration and incorporated in the project prior to the signing of the Agreement on NFC Provision due to successful project implementation. More detailed information regarding the content comments of the Selection Commission can be found at the website of the ME SR www.minedu.sk.

The contract on provision of NFC was signed²⁸ on 1 December 2008 amounting to 32,395,334.86 EUR, and on the same day the implementation of both projects started. In the period under review no monitoring report was received.

Table 28: State of implementation of the national project, as of 31 December 2008

Project title:	Modernisation of education process in primary schools
Basis from national /regional policy ²⁹ :	Act No. 245/2008 Coll. on upbringing and education (School Act) and on amending of certain acts approved by the Government of the SR by Resolution No. 147/2008 of 5 March 2008
Project objective:	Prepare teachers for active implementation of school reform – adjusting the education system to the needs of a knowledge based society
Beneficiary:	Institute of Education Information and Forecasting
State of implementation for the monitored period:	n/a – No monitoring report received in the period under review
Budget:	32,395,334.86 € (in total for Objective C and RC&E 33,077,287.06 €, Objective C constitutes 97.94 % of the overall budget)
Financial implementation/drawing:	0
Fulfilment of indicators:	n/a

3) The direct award titled “**Modernisation of education process in secondary schools**” was announced on 14 May 2008, with the deadline was on 14 July 2008. The direct award focused on SS pedagogic staff training in the area of ICT, on the design of multimedia /digital content of education for state education programme for general education subjects in SS; on writing textbooks and on editorial activity and subsequent testing and monitoring of the acquired competences and skills of SS pedagogic staff.

The allocation of the financial resources amounted to 13,277,567.54 EUR³⁰. Due to the limited allocation of funds for Objective RC&E, the amount of allocation was only limited for this Objective. In the direct award it was determined that the target group would be constituted by approximately 1,950 SS teachers outside the region of Bratislava from the overall number of the eligible group outside the region of Bratislava. Since Objective RC&E is financially undersized, which arises due to the fact that the ratio of target groups established in the call does not mirror the ratio which defines the financial allocation for the Objective C and Objective RC&E, the MA proceeded to finance the part of Objective RC&E that is not covered from the state budget in order to preserve the ratio determined in the call between the target groups of Objective C and Objective RC&E.

The groups at which the direct award was targeted were the pedagogic employees of SS and pupils of SS.

One application for NFC was submitted at 12,812,468.49 EUR.

The goal of the national project is to implement the content restructuring of education at SS with the use of new innovative forms and methods of teaching.

²⁸ The shortcomings identified during the expert evaluation were eliminated before the signing of the agreement.

²⁹ According to the definition of the national project in the system of SF and CF Management for the programming period 2007 – 2013.

³⁰ Including both objectives; in splitting the allocation, the size of the target group on which the national project concentrates was used as a key.

The creation of experimental multimedia/digital content, preparation of methodology for skills, technology and didactics modules, the design of new textbooks – didactic modules for alternative and effective ICT application in selected subjects of teaching at SS constitute the output of the national project implementation.

Thus, the national project will contribute to the fulfilment of the Manifesto of the Government of the SR which proclaims its intent to create the prequalification for a system transformation in the content of the regional school system connected with deepening language preparation, the development of computer literacy and communication skills, with a substantially broader use of modern didactic aids, information technologies and multimedia technology in the teaching process. By use of a two-level upbringing and education programme (the state education programme and the school education programme) the national project will also contribute to the support of the school system reform and thus to the fulfilment of the School Act.

In the period from 14 to 25 July 2008 the **formal accuracy check** of AFNFC was carried out, within which the criteria of eligibility and completeness were verified and ex-ante financial control conducted. The missing annexes had to be additionally requested and those were supplied within the set date.

Based on the results of formal accuracy check the shortcomings found may be classified as follows:

- errors in the budget;
- discrepancy in the number of participants of the target group with the detailed project description because the purchase of IT is linked to the given numbers;
- discrepancy between the time sequence of the project implementation and the execution of particular project activities;
- incompliance with the Manual for applicants for NFC.

The expert assessment started on 11 August 2008 and was completed on 15 August 2008. The application for NFC achieved the necessary minimum score within each group of assessment criteria (50%) and achieved more than the fixed minimum overall score (70%).

Expert assessors identified the following problematic areas in the process of expert assessment:

- indicators;
- project budget;
- insufficiently covered and thought out risks of the project;
- failure to present specified personnel matrix;
- impossibility to define the project's sustainability.

The **Selection Commission of ME SR for the selection and approval of AFNFC** met on 18 September 2008 and granted the application with comments³¹.

The total amount of funds approved by the Selection Commission was 12,812,468.49 EUR

³¹ Individual recommendations of the Selection Commission were taken into consideration and incorporated in the project prior to the signing of the Agreement on NFC Provision due to successful project implementation. More detailed information regarding the content comments of the Selection Commission can be found at the website of the ME SR www.minedu.sk.

From the aspect of the contribution of the approved AFNFC to the attainment of HP, the application declared its contribution to HP MRC, HP EO, HP SD and HP IS.

On 23 September 2008 the applicant was sent the Notification of Approval of AFNFC and the Letter of Acceptance.

The contract on provision of NFC was signed³² on 2 December 2008 amounting to 12,733,347.87 EUR, and on the same day the implementation of the project started. In the period under review no monitoring report was received.

Table 29: State of the implementation of the national project, as of 31 December 2008

Project title:	Modernisation of education process in secondary schools
Basis from national/regional policy: ³³	Act No. 245/2008 Coll. on upbringing and education (School Act) and on amending of certain acts approved by the Government of the SR by Resolution No. 147/2008 of 5 March 2008.
Project objective:	Prepare teachers for active implementation of school reform – adjusting the education system to the needs of a knowledge based society
Beneficiary:	Institute of Education Information and Forecasting
State of implementation for the monitored period:	n/a – No monitoring report received in the period under review
Budget:	12,733,347.87 € (in total for Objective C and RC&E 13,191,749 €, of which Objective C constitutes 96.53 % of the overall budget)
Financial implementation/drawing:	n/a
Fulfilment of indicators:	n/a

4) The direct award titled **”Teacher training with regard to developing school education programmes”** was published on 29 May 2008 with the deadline on 28 July 2008. The direct award focused on multiplier training of PS and SS pedagogic staff for the implementation of curricular reform of education and developing of school education programmes, training of all active pedagogic staff of PS and SS under Convergence objective, and the training of a section of active pedagogic staff of PS and SS under RCE objective for the implementation of the curricular reform of the education sector and the development of school education programmes, publishing a PS and SS teacher periodical as a vehicle for education and information dissemination, and the support of pedagogic research via scientific articles and pedagogic research outputs under the expert guarantor guidance of professors from the scientific discipline of pedagogy.

The allocation of financial resources was 10,622,054.03 EUR³⁴. Due to the limited allocation of funds for Objective RC&E, the amount of the allocation was only limited for this Objective (RC&E). In the direct award it was determined that the target group would be constituted by all of the active pedagogical workers of ES and SS outside the region of Bratislava (over 50,000 teachers). Since Objective RC&E is financially undersized, which arises due the fact that the

³² The shortcomings identified during the expert evaluation were eliminated before the signing of the agreement.

³³ According to the definition of the national project in the system of SF and CF management for the programming period 2007 – 2013.

³⁴ Including both objectives; in splitting the allocation, the size of the target group on which the national project concentrates was used as a key.

ratio of target groups established in the call does not mirror the ratio which defines the financial allocation for Objective C and Objective RC&E, the MA proceeded to finance the part of Objective RC&E that is not covered from the state budget in order to preserve the ratio determined in the call between the target groups of Objective C and Objective RC&E.

The direct award was designed for the target groups of active pedagogic employees of PS and SS and employees working in the area of education (in DMO ME SR).

One application for NFC was received amounting to 9,478,882.02 EUR.

In connection with the passed Act on Upbringing and Education, the aim of the national project, i.e., the design of school education programmes, constitutes the content of the school system reform. The content reform of the school system is understood as the transformation of the content of education from the form of pedagogical documentation in the form of state and school programmes of education with the simultaneous involvement of modern methods, instruments and procedures for the labour market.

In the period from 5 to 22 august 2008 the **formal accuracy check** of AFNFC was carried out, within which the criteria of eligibility and completeness were verified and ex-ante financial control conducted. The missing annexes had to be additionally requested and those were supplied within the set date.

Based on the results of the formal accuracy check the shortcomings found may be classified as follows:

- incompleteness of submitted AFNFC (obligatory annexes missing)
- shortcoming identified in the ex-ante financial control

The expert assessment started on 25 August 2008 and was completed on 27 August 2008. The application for NFC achieved the necessary minimum score within the group assessment criteria (50%) and achieved more than the fixed minimum overall score (70%).

Expert assessors identified the following problematic areas in the process of expert assessment:

- the target group defined in very general terms;
- methods and procedures not sufficiently described or specified;
- absence of the link between the objectives of the direct award and the defined need of the target group;
- risks/assumptions of the project's implementation not sufficiently specified;
- measurable outputs and measurable result indicators insufficiently defined for all specific objectives;
- shortcomings in the budget;
- all members of professional personnel are not precisely fixed;
- project sustainability not sufficiently specified.

On 22 Sep 2008 the meeting was held of the **Selection Commission of ME SR for the selection and approval of AFNFC**. The Selection Commission approved the application on condition that the project budget and the detailed project description will be modified within the meaning of the ex-ante financial control findings and the recommendations of the expert assessors.

The total amount of financial resources approved by the Selection Commission was 9,478,882.02 EUR.

From the aspect of the contribution of the approved AFNFC to the attainment of HP, the application declared its contribution to HP MRC, HP EO, HP SD and HP IS.

The Notification of Approval of AFNFC and the Letter of Acceptance were sent off on 23 September 2008.

The contract on the provision of NFC was signed³⁵ on 2 January 2009 for the amount of NFC at 5,371,901.35 EUR.

Table 30: State of the implementation of the national project, as of 31 December 2008

Project title:	Teacher training with regard to developing school education programmes
Basis from national/regulation policy: ³⁶	Act No. 245/2008 Coll. on upbringing and education (School Act) and on amending of certain acts approved by the Government of the SR by Resolution No. 147/2008 of 5 March 2008
Project objective:	Blanket training for pedagogic employees of PS and SS and attendance courses for pedagogic employees of secondary vocational schools and employees in the area of education and activities supporting the curricular reform of education and the design of new school education programmes.
Beneficiary:	State Vocational Training Institute
State of implementation for the monitored period:	n/a – Contract on the provision of NFC was signed on 2 January 2009.
Budget:	5,371,901.35 € (in total for Objectives C and RC&E 5,544,483.84 €, of which Objective C constitutes 96.89%)
Financial implementation/drawing:	n/a
Fulfilment of indicators:	n/a

5) The fifth direct award in the period under review titled **“Developing new education programmes in vocational training for the needs of automobile industry II”** was published on 19 August 2008, with the deadline on 20 October 2008. The direct award focused on developing the secondary school graduate profiles relevant to the needs of production of automobile components and accessories with a view to achieving higher employment of this group of SS graduates, the development and implementation of education programme /programmes for the needs of the production of automobile components and automobile accessories, including the development of a system of secondary school graduates evaluation and on the secondary school teacher training for developing and implementing the education programme, as well as designing teaching texts and textbooks.

The allocation of funds amounted to 10,953,993.22 EUR³⁷. Due to the limited allocation of funds for Objective RC&E, the amount of the allocation was only limited for this Objective

³⁵ The shortcomings identified during the expert evaluation were eliminated before the signing of the agreement.

³⁶ According to the definition of the national project in the system of the Structural Funds and the Cohesion Fund management for the programming period 2007 – 2013.

(RC&E). In the direct award it was determined that the target group would be constituted by the pedagogical staff of SS and SS students. Since Objective RC&E is financially undersized, which is due to the fact that the ratio of the target group (the target group outside the region of Bratislava to the overall target group of the SR) does not mirror the ratio which defines the financial allocation in the direct award for Objective C and Objective RC&E, the MA proceeded to financing the part of Objective RC&E that is not covered from the state budget in order to preserve the ratio determined in the call between the target groups of Objective C and Objective RC&E.

The direct award was designed for the target groups of pupils and pedagogic employees of secondary schools.

One application for NFC was submitted amounting to 10,614,788.02 EUR.

The national project will be a continuation of the national project, Design of New Education Programmes in Vocational Training for the Needs of Automobile Industry I and is based on the reform of the school system, in concrete terms on the two-level model of the design of education programmes on the national level – state education programme (national curriculum) and the regional level – school education programme. The directly managed organizations of the ME SR – SPI and SIVT (State Institute of Vocational Training) are responsible for the design of state education programmes. The state education programmes constitute the basis for the design of school education programmes which are designed on the school level.

49 school education programmes (5 vocational specializations within the framework of new fields of studies) will be designed based on this reform of the school system within the framework of the national project which will directly continue in the state education programmes 23 and 24 Mechanical Engineering and Other Metalworking Production.

In the period from 22 October to 6 November 2008 the **formal accuracy check** of AFNFC was carried out, within which the criteria of eligibility and completeness were verified and ex-ante financial control conducted. The missing annexes had to be additionally requested and those were supplied within the set date.

Based on the results of the formal accuracy check the shortcomings found may be classified as follows:

- incompleteness of the AFNFC submitted (obligatory annexes missing)
- shortcomings identified in the ex-ante financial control.

The expert assessment started on 10 November 2008 and was completed on 12 November 2008. The application for NFC achieved the necessary minimum score within each group of assessment criteria (50%) and achieved also the fixed minimum overall score (70%).

Expert assessors identified particularly the following problematic areas in the process of expert assessment:

- the target group not specified in detail;
- absence of detailed analysis of the baseline state;
- methodology of the implementation of activities incomplete and insufficient;
- errors in the budget;
- the personnel matrix not complete;
- project sustainability inadequately specified;

³⁷ Including both objectives; in splitting the allocation, the size of the target group on which the national project focuses was used as a key.

- indirect target groups.

On 3 December 2008 the meeting was held of the **Selection Commission of ME SR for the selection and approval of AFNFC**. The Selection Commission approved the application on condition that the project budget and the detailed project description will be modified within the meaning of the ex-ante financial control findings and the recommendations of the expert assessors.

The total amount of financial resources approved by the Selection Commission was 10,614,754.83 EUR.

From the aspect of the contribution of the approved AFNFC to the attainment of HP, the application declared its contribution to HP MRC, HP EO, and HP IS.

On 4 December 2008 the Notification of Approval of AFNFC and the Letter of Acceptance were sent off.

As of 31 December 2008 the incorporation of the comments raised by the Selection Commission was under way.

6)) The last direct award titled “**Kindergarten pedagogic staff training as part of the education reform**” was published on 13 October 2008 with the deadline on 12 January 2009. The direct award focused on training activities designed to develop the key professional competences of pedagogic staff of kindergartens, including KG management staff and the state and public administration specialists in the area of pre-school education, developing of new professional literature with a view to making KG education process more effective and developing school education programmes for KG, developing new methods, specialist publications, workbooks, and teaching aids, teaching resources also in digital form for the upbringing and education activity in KG, creation of innovative teaching materials and aids for teaching and learning process and creation of interactive educational portal for lifelong learning of KG pedagogic staff.

The total financial allocation was 19,584,412. 13 EUR.³⁸ The AFNFC was submitted in January 2009.

The target groups for which the direct award was designed were the KG pedagogic employees and the employees working in the area of education (professional workers in state administration and public administration dealing with pre-school education).

The aim of the national project will be to implement the content reform of the school system in the practice of kindergartens and to develop an effective system of lifelong learning aimed at developing key competencies of pedagogical staffs of kindergartens in compliance with the current and perspective needs of knowledge-based society through the further education of the pedagogical staffs of kindergartens. The project will focus on the implementation of the State Education Programme in the education practice of schools, the enhancement of managerial skills and the increasing of digital literacy.

³⁸ Including both objectives; in splitting the allocation the size of the target group for which the national project is designed shall be used as a key.

The reports on the evaluation of direct awards are available at the MA website www.minedu.sk

3.1.1.1.2. State of physical progress under priority axis 1 – demand driven projects

1) Call for SS: OPE-2008/1.1/01-IBMA

Call for projects designed for SS under Measure 1.1, Transformation of the traditional school to the modern school, under the title **"Design and implementation of secondary school development programmes in support of the enhancement of the quality of education in accordance with the reform of the educational system"** was published on 11 March 2008. The deadline of the call was on 19 May 2008.

The call was designed for the design and implementation of secondary school development programmes with an emphasis on the support of the enhancement of the quality of education through innovation and school profiling, in line with the reform of the education system.

The financial allocation for this call amounted to 9,958,175.66 EUR. The call geographically covered the entire territory of the SR save the Bratislava Self-governing Region.

The call defined the following eligible applicants:

- SS in the founding responsibility of self-governing regions and regional school offices;
- SS in the founding responsibility of other central bodies of state administration;
- church and private secondary schools;
- Self-governing region as the founder of SS;
- Regional school office as the founder of special (needs) SS and secondary schools in which education and instruction is in a foreign language, subject to a special regulation.

As of 19 May 2008, in total **119** AFNFC were received under the call.

The formal accuracy check and the registration of AFNFC in ITMS started on 20 May 2008 and was completed on 10 July 2008.

Of 119 AFNFC received, only **35** satisfied the conditions of the formal accuracy check and were referred to the expert assessment phase, i.e. that successful were only 29% of the AFNFC received. The financial amount of the overall eligible expenditure of AFNFC that satisfied the formal accuracy criteria and made it to the expert assessment phase is 7,187,396.03 EUR, the overall amount of requested NFC of these AFNFC is 6,828,024.38 EUR.

Of 35 AFNFC satisfying the formal accuracy criteria, in 26 AFNFC the possibility to supply the missing requisites was resorted to.

84 AFNFC failed to satisfy the formal accuracy criteria, of which 25 AFNFC failed to meet the eligibility criteria and 59 AFNFC failed on those of completeness.

Expert assessment of AFNFC started on 11 July 2008 by drawing of lots and assigning AFNFC to internal and external assessors in the presence of MA representatives and was completed on 30 July 2008.

35 AFNFC were subject to expert assessment, of which **20** applications achieved at least the minimum score prescribed. 15 AFNFC did not achieve the minimum score prescribed. The financial allocation of the proposed NFC of the AFNFC achieving at least the minimum score

amounts to 3,491,771.64 EUR. Since there arose the need to elaborate a third opinion in respect of three AFNFC, in accordance with the selection criteria, on 28 July 2008, a drawing of a third assessor was held in the presence of MA representatives from amongst the group of external assessors. Third opinions of the AFNFC concerned were produced on 29 July 2008. The expert assessment of AFNFC was completed by signing of the Summary report from the expert assessment by the ASFEU general director on 30 July 2008.

The Selection Commission meeting was held on 6 August 2008. The Selection Commission judged AFNFC in accordance with the selection criteria approved by the MC for OPE. Based on the results of expert assessment, the Selection Commission approved **20** projects with the total amount of 3,491,771.64 EUR of non-repayable financial contribution requested.

The amount of contracted financial resources for the projects from SS is lower, namely 2,810,621.72 EUR. In view of formal errors and identified ineligible expenditure, as well as of exceeding the limits in the budgets, several AFNFC were approved with a condition, and thus the overall amount of NFC in signed contracts was lower than the amount of NFC in the approved AFNFC.

The average amount of allocated funding per one contracted project for SS applicants from the whole territory of SR save the Bratislava Self-governing region, is 156,145.65 EUR, while the maximum limit for NFC defined in the call per one project was 331,939.19 EUR.

The contracting process started on 15 August 2008 when the Notification of Approval of AFNFC was sent off together with the Letter of Acceptance to successful applicants and the process was completed on 16 December 2008, when the last contract for secondary schools became valid and went into effect.

The number of concluded contracts is **18**. The start of the implementation of activities for the majority of projects has been planned for Q1 2009.

During the contracting process, 2 AFNFC were eliminated from the list of successful applicants by reason of non-compliance with the time limits prescribed for potential beneficiaries in the Call for supplying the missing requisites for the Letter of Acceptance, in accordance with the System of Structural Funds and Cohesion Fund Management for the programming period 2007 – 2013; version 2.0. The following schools were involved:

1. **Combined school**, Nové Zámky, NFP26110130058, project title: Design and implementation of the development programme Information and network technologies: IT school, amount of NFC: 313,677.78 EUR;
2. **Sports grammar school**, Košice, NFP26110130070 project title: Collection of mathematical problems in dialogues, amount of NFC: 304,843.86 EUR.

2) Call for PS: OPE-2008/1.1/02-IBMA

Call for projects designed for **PS** under Measure 1.1, Transformation of the traditional school to the modern school, under the title **"Design and implementation of primary schools development programmes in support of the enhancement of the quality of the education in accordance with the reform of the education system"** was published on 18 March 2008. The deadline of the call was on 9 June 2008.

The financial allocation for this call amounted to 13,277,567.55 EUR and the financial contribution per 1 AFNFC was limited and was in the range of minimum 66,387.84 EUR and maximum 165,969.59 EUR.

The call was aimed at the design and implementation of primary schools development programmes with an emphasis on enhancement of the quality of education through innovation and school profiling, in line with the reform of the education system

Geographically the call covered the whole territory of the SR save the Bratislava Self-governing Region.

Following eligible applicants have been defined in the call:

- PS in the founding responsibility of municipalities and regional school offices;
- church and private primary schools;
- municipality as the founder of the PS;
- regional school office as the founder of special PS and PS in which the education and instruction is carried out in a foreign language, subject to a special regulation.

As of 9 June 2008, a total number of **192** AFNFC was received under the call.

The formal accuracy check and the registration of AFNFC started on 10 June 2008 and was completed on 18 August 2008.

Of the total number of 192 AFNFC received **91** AFNFC satisfied the criteria of formal accuracy check and moved forward to the expert assessment phase. Of this 82 AFNFC did not make use of the option to supply the missing requisites. After formal accuracy check then, only 47.4% of AFNFC were successful. 101 AFNFC did not meet the formal accuracy criteria, of which 25 did not satisfy the eligibility criteria and 76 those of completeness.

The overall financial allocation of the eligible expenditure of AFNFC, having satisfied the formal accuracy criteria and proceeding to the expert assessment phase amounts to 11,192,439.90 EUR, the total requested amount of NFC of these AFNFC is 10,658,680.57 EUR. The formal accuracy check of AFNFC was completed on 18 August 2008 by signing of the Report from the formal accuracy check of AFNFC by the general director of ASFEU.

Expert assessment of AFNFC began on 19 August 2008 by drawing of lots and assigning AFNFC to internal and external assessors in the presence of MA representatives and was completed on 5 September 2008.

In all, 91 AFNFC were subject to the expert assessment, of which **61** AFNFC achieved at least the minimum score prescribed. 30 AFNFC did not reach the minimum prescribed score.

The financial allocation of the proposed amount of NFC of AFNFC that achieved at least the minimum score prescribed is 6,845,169.50 EUR. Since there arose the need to elaborate a third opinion in respect of twelve AFNFC, in accordance with the selection criteria, on 28 August 2008, a drawing of the third assessor was held in the presence of MA representatives from amongst the group of external assessors. Third opinions of the AFNFC concerned were produced between 1 September and 4 September 2008. The expert assessment of AFNFC was completed by signing of the Summary report from the expert assessment by the ASFEU general director on 5 September 2008.

The Selection Commission meeting was held on 8 – 9 September 2008.

Of the total 91 AFNFC submitted to the Selection Commission on 8 and 9 September 2008, based on the results of expert assessment, the Selection Commission approved **61** projects with a total amount of 6,869,978.69 EUR of requested NFC.

The contracting process started on 16 September 2008 by sending off the Notification of Approval of AFNFC together with the Letter of Acceptance to successful applicants. The contracting process was not completed by the end of 2008. As of 31 December 2008, 7 contracts were concluded and the total allocation of NFC of the financial resources for concluded contracts is 657,983.75 EUR.

3) Call **OPE-2008/1.1/03-IBMA** for PS projects applying for NFC under Measure 1.1, Transformation of the traditional school to the modern school, titled **“Design and implementation of school education programmes of primary schools”** was published on 6 October 2008. The call’s deadline was on 19 January 2009.

The call focused on the design and implementation of school education programmes of the primary school, with an emphasis on supporting the enhancement of the quality of education on the basis of innovation and school profiling, in line with the reform of the education system, within the meaning of the Act No. 245/2008 Coll. on upbringing and education (so-called School Act) and on amending of certain acts.

The financial allocation for the call was 13, 277, 567.55 EUR. Geographically, the call covered the whole territory of the SR save the Bratislava Self-governing Region.

Following eligible applicants have been defined in the call:

- PS in the founding responsibility of municipalities and regional school offices;
- church PS
- private primary schools;
- municipality as the founder of the PS;
- regional school office as the founder of special PS, including special PS.

As of 31 December 2008 the call was in progress and AFNFC were received.

4) Call **OPE-2008/1.1/04-IBMA** for submission of AFNFC for SS under Measure 1.1 Transformation of the traditional school to the modern school titled **“Design and implementation of school education programmes of secondary schools”** was published on 6 October 2008. The deadline was on 19 January 2009.

The call was aimed at the design and implementation of school education programmes of SS with an emphasis on supporting the enhancement of the quality of education on the basis of innovation and school profiling with respect to the reform of the education system within the meaning of the Act No. 245/2008 Coll. on upbringing and education (the School Act) and on amending of certain acts .

The financial allocation for this call was 9,958,175.66 EUR. Geographically, the call covered the entire SR territory except the Bratislava Self-governing Region.

The following eligible applicants have been defined in the call:

- SS in the founding responsibility of the self-governing regions and regional school offices;
- SS whose founders are other central v bodies of state administration;
- church secondary schools;
- private secondary schools;

- self-governing region as founder of SS;
- regional school office as founder of SS, including special SS.

As of 31 December 2008, the call was in progress and AFNFC were received.

Table 31: State of opening calls and direct awards of priority axis 1, as of 31 December 2008

Measure	Type of call	Date of publication of call	Deadline for receipt of applications for NFC	Financial allocation per call (NFC) in thousand €		
				Total	Of which	
					SF/CF	SB
1.1 Transformation of the traditional school to the modern school	Direct award	22-02-2008	22-04-2008	16,596. 95943*	14,107,415.52	2,489,543.91
1.1 Transformation of the traditional school to the modern school	Direct award	14-05-2008	14-07-2008	33,193. 91887*	28,214, 831.04	4,979,087.83
1.1 Transformation of the traditional school to the modern school	Direct award	14-05-2008	14-07-2008	13, 277. 56754*	11,285,932.41	1,991,635.13
1.1 Transformation of the traditional school to the modern school	Direct award	29-05-2008	28-07-2008	10,622. 05403*	9,028,745.93	1,593,308.10
1.1 Transformation of the traditional school to the modern school	Direct award	19-08-2008	20-10-2008	10,953,993.22*	9,310,894.24	1,643,098.98
1.1 Transformation of the traditional school to the modern school	Direct award	13-10-2008	12-01-2009	19,584. 412 13*	16,646,750.31	2,937,661.82
1.1 Transformation of the traditional school to the modern school	Time limited	11-03-2008	19-05-2008	9,958. 17566	-**	-**
1.1 Transformation of the traditional school to the modern school	Time limited	18-03-2008	09-06-2008	13,277. 56755	-**	-**
1.1 Transformation of the traditional school to the modern school	Time limited	06-10-2008	19-01-2009	13,277. 56755	-**	-**
1.1 Transformation of the traditional school to the modern school	Time limited	06-10-2008	19-01-2009	9,958. 17566	-**	-**
Total for priority				150,700.3916	-	-

* Including both objectives

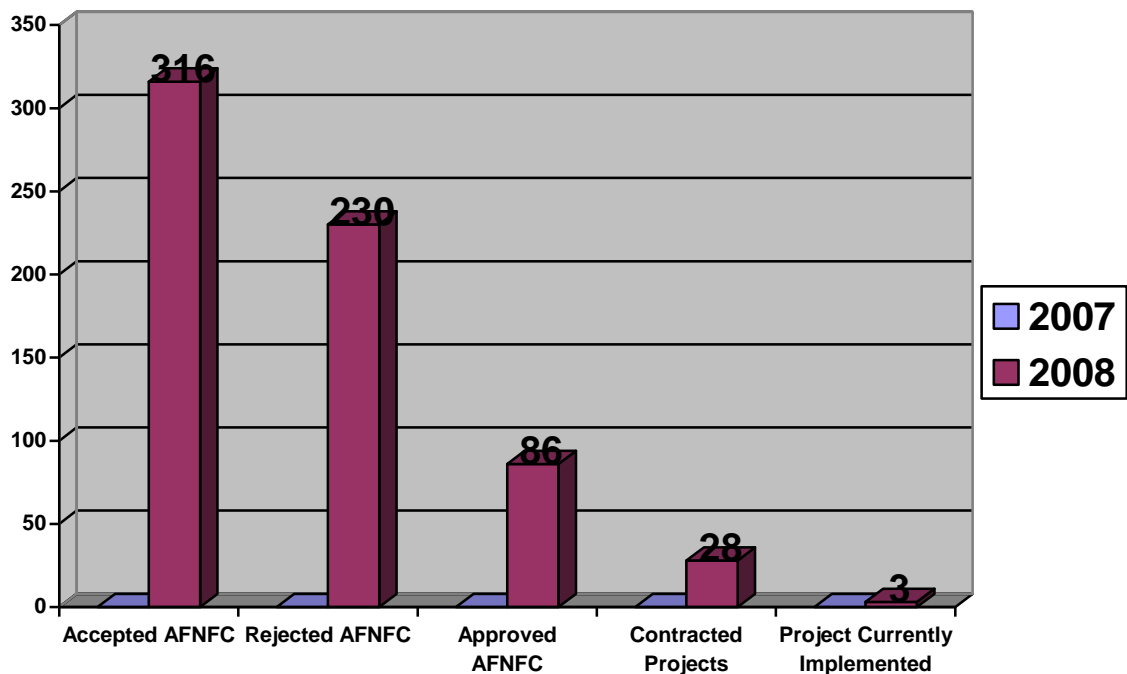
** It is not possible to complete the allocation of financial funds into calls split into ESF and SB as the calls were designed for applicants with varying ratios of financing.

Table 32: Monitoring the development in the implementation of priority axis 1, as of 31 December 2008

Measure	AFNFC received	AFNFC rejected	AFNFC approved	Projects contracted	Projects in implementation	Contracts withdrawn	Projects completed
1.1	316	230	86	28	3	0	0
1.2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	316	230	86	28	3	0	0

Financial quantification of SF and CF in thousand . €						
Measure	Amount of contribution requested from SF/CF	Amount of contribution requested from SF/CF rejected	Amount of contribution from SF/CF approved	Amount of funding from SF/CF contracted	Amount of funding from SF/CF claimed back	Amount of projects from SF/CF completed
1.1	106, 989.683 23	29, 341.43747	77,648.24576	58,790,480.55	0	0
1.2	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	106,989.683 23	29, 341.43747	77,648.24576	58,790,480.55	0	0

Graphical representation of the implementation of priority axis 1



AFNFC received - rejected - approved - projects contracted - in implementation

Table 33: Fulfilment of physical indicators, as of 31 December 2008

Indicators	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	Spolu
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1.Number of newly created education programmes , of which PS, SS, TS	Result achieved	0	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0
	Objective	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	120	N/A	120	120
	Baseline	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
2. Schools successful in repeated quality assessment of which PS, SS	Result achieved	0	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0
	Objective	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	90%	N/A	90%	90%
	Baseline	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
3. Number of pedagogic employees having taken further education programmes, of which women/men; aged 24-45 / 45 plus	Result achieved	0	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0
	Objective	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	50000	N/A	50000	50000
	Baseline	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
4. Number of training courses for pedagogic employees	Result achieved	0	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0
	Objective	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	15	N/A	15	15
	Baseline	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
5. PISA Index	Result achieved	0	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0
	Objective	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	1500	N/A	1500	1500
	Baseline	1462	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
6.Rate of placement of SS school leavers Of which: continue study employed unemployed	Result achieved	0	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0
	Objective	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	80%	N/A	80%	80%
	Baseline	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
7. Proportion of TS having increased efficiency and quality of management through OPE	Result achieved	0	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0
	Objective	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	50%	N/A	50%	50%
	Baseline	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
8.Graduates of tertiary level of higher education	Result achieved	0	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0
	Objective	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	12	N/A	12	12
	Baseline	8,3	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
9. Proportion of employees of research and development involved in further education of which: employees of higher education /employees of other institutions of research and development women/men aged 24-45/ 46+	Result achieved	0	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0
	Objective	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	30%	N/A	30%	30%
	Baseline	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
10.Number of projects supporting HR in centres of excellence in HEI/SAS	Result achieved	0	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0
	Objective	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	20	N/A	20	20
	Baseline	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

11. Rate of research and development employees in transnational research projects Of which : HEI employees/employees of other institutions of research and development	Result achieved	0	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0
	Objective	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	20%	N/A	20%	20%
	Baseline	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
12. Number of development and innovation partnerships and networks supported from OPE	Result achieved	0	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0
	Objective	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	30	N/A	30	30
	Baseline	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
13. Proportion of development and innovation partnerships and networks upon winding up of assistance from OPE	Result achieved	0	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0
	Objective	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	80%	N/A	80%	80%
	Baseline	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
14. Rate of employment for tertiary school graduates on the labour market	Result achieved	0	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0
	Objective	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	90%	N/A	90%	90%
	Baseline	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

Insofar as in the period under review the implementation of 3 projects started only in the last quarter of 2008, as of 31 December 2008, no indicators were fulfilled falling under priority axis 1.

The fulfilment of the physical indicators belonging under Priority Axis 1 will only be available after the commencement of project implementation in 2009 and will constitute the subject of the Annual Report for 2009.

3.1.1.2. Financial implementation of priority axis 1

Table 34: Drawing of funds under priority axis 1, as of 31 December 2008

	Commitment 2007-2013 for EU resources	Drawing of resources in 2008 (EU funds) in thousand €		Cumulative drawing of resources (EU funds) in thousand €	
		Total	% of commitment 2007 - 2013	Total	% of commitment 2007 - 2013
Priority axis 1	64, 411, 765	0	0	0	0
Measure 1.1	45, 000, 000	0	0	0	0
Measure 1.2	19, 411,765	0	0	0	0

As of 31 December 2008 no expenditure certification was undertaken.

3.1.1.3. Specific features for ESF programmes

It is not possible to provide information required under Article 10 of Regulation (EC) No. 1081/2006 for the period under review, as 2008 was a year in which particularly direct awards and calls were published, AFNFC were assessed and the approved AFNFC were contracted. For

more information regarding the specific features of the ESF programmes, see section 2.1.8 of this AR.

Assistance by target groups and equal opportunities

Table 35: Monitoring of target groups under priority axis 1

a) Number of participants per year					
In-coming participants		Out-going participants		People having participated in the operational programme in the preceding year	
0		0		0	
b) Breakdown of participants by gender			c) Breakdown of participants by age		
Number of men		Number of women	Number of persons aged 15 - 24	Number of persons aged 55 – 64	
0		0	0	0	
d) Breakdown of participants by labour market status					
Number of employed including self-employed persons	Number of self-employed persons	Number of unemployed including long-term unemployed	Number of long-term unemployed	Number of inactive persons ³⁹	Inactive persons – studying ⁴⁰
0	0	0	0	0	0
e) Breakdown of participants by education achieved					
Primary or lower secondary education (ISCED 1 and 2)		Upper secondary education (ISCED 3)		Post-secondary non-tertiary education (ISCED 4)	Tertiary education (ISCED 5 and 6)
0		0		0	0
f) Breakdown of participants by vulnerability in accordance with national legislation					
Minorities y		Migrants	Persons with disabilities		Other disadvantaged persons
0		0	0		0

3.1.2. Serious problems encountered and measures adopted to tackle them

On the whole we may note that over the course of 2008 problems of serious nature were not encountered.

As in 2008 the main activities related to publishing direct awards and calls, assessing AFNFC and contracting of the approved AFNFC, ASFEU had some problems with malfunctioning of the public portal of ITMS and the solution was adopted enabling applicants submitting AFNFC to make use of the transition period and submit AFNFC in hard copies; there were also problems with entering the data from AFNFC into ITMS but those were addressed as the need arose with the DataCenter and were operatively eliminated.

In the period under review methodological procedures of CCA were changed in the area of indicators, which caused MA/IBMA problems with their use in projects and future monitoring within the implementation. This problem was eliminated by CCA only on 1 December 2008 when the Methodological guideline No. 3 was issued on the creation and use of project indicators and their incorporation in ITMS 2007 – 2013.

Table 36: Monitoring of the implementation of measures adopted for the problems identified.

Problems identified	Measures adopted	Implementation of measures adopted
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³⁹ Total number of inactive persons, including students, vocational training participants or pensioners, persons abandoning entrepreneurship, persons with permanent disabilities, persons permanently staying in households or others.

⁴⁰ Number of inactive persons – studying or in vocational training.

Public portal of ITMS not functional	Existence of a transitional period – AFNFC submitted in hard copy (paper)	AFNFC submitted until 31 December 2008 in paper form
Problem with entering data in ITMS	Operative solution with DataCenter	Problem resolved operatively
Defining indicators relevant for HP	Publication of the methodological guideline No. 3 on the development and use of project indicators and their integration in ITMS 2007 – 2013 - issued only on 1 December 2008	MA and IBMA proceed under the valid Methodological guideline of CCA

3.2. Priority axis 2

In the period under review, MA published 1 direct award titled “**Further Primary and Secondary Teacher Training in the Subject of ICT**” on 17 March 2008, with the deadline on 16 May 2008.

The direct award focused on supplementing the qualification of PS and SS teachers with the subject of informatics and on lifelong learning for teachers of the ICT in PS and SS.

Within this direct award 2 AFNFC were received, with DMO of ME SR as eligible beneficiary for both cases. The requested amount of NFC was, in the case of C objective, 7,212,554.43 EUR and, in the case of RCE objective, 1,085,925.24 EUR. Together the requested sum of NFC amounted to 8,298,479.68 EUR.

The allocation of financial funds was at 8,298,479.71 EUR.

MH SR published 3 time limited calls for submission of AFNFC in the period under review:

1) Call for submission of AFNFC titled “**Replenishing the health sector with qualified specialists,**” code **OPE 2008/2.2/01**, was published on 7 April 2008 with the deadline for submission on 6 June 2008.

The call defined upper-tier territorial units as beneficiaries of NFC, with the exception of the Bratislava Self-governing Region, and, as the target group, the health professionals studying in specialisation study programmes of the training institutions in selected specialisation areas of the general medicine, stomatology, anaesthesiology and intensive medicine, clinical oncology and clinical immunology, and allergology. The duration of the project activities was fixed at 3 months.

At the time of the deadline for the call, of the total 7 potential applicants, 5 AFNFC were received. The Banská Bystrica Region and the Trnava Region did not become involved in the call.

The total allocation for the call was 464, 714. 86 EUR.

2) The Call for submission of AFNFC titled **"Developing new forms of lifelong learning in the health sector," code OPE 2008/2.2/02**, was published on 30 September 2008, with the deadline for submissions on 28 November 2008.

The total allocation for the call was 1, 659, 695.94 EUR. The financial contribution per 1 AFNFC was limited in the range of minimum 995, 817.57 EUR and maximum 1, 659, 695.94 EUR.

The call was designed to support the development of new forms of lifelong learning for healthcare workers – physicians via distance learning. The eligible applicants included the health professional organisations representing physicians, and the non-governmental organisations engaging in their activity in giving support to healthcare workers – physicians.

The eligible target group involved the healthcare workers – physicians practicing their profession in the territory of Conversion objective

3) Call for submission of AFNFC titled **"Replenishing the health sector with qualified specialists," code OPE 2008/2.2/03**, was published on 19 November 2008, with the deadline for receiving AFNFC on 13 February 2009.

This call built on Call OPE 2008/2.2/01. The total allocation was 10, 456, 084.45 EUR. The financial contribution per 1 AFNFC was limited in the range of minimum 995, 817.57 EUR and maximum 1, 493, 726.35 EUR.

The eligible target group involved healthcare workers studying in specialisation study programmes of training institutions, whose need for specialisation study followed out of the results of an analysis of the state of healthcare professional human resources for the relevant self-governing region however as the priority in the following specializations:

Physician – general medicine, anaesthesiology and intensive medicine, radiology, radiation oncology, urgent medicine, pathologic anatomy,

Dentist – stomatology,

Nurse – anaesthesiology and intensive care, intensive nursing care of adults, intensive nursing care in paediatrics, specialized urgent care,

Midwife – obstetrics assistance and care of woman in the family and community.

Eligible beneficiaries included all self-governing regions except Bratislava.

3.2.1. Achievement of targets and the analysis of the progress made

Section 3.2.1.1.1 give a detailed description of the direct award from the announcement of the direct award to the project contracting. Section 3.2.1.1.2. describes the calls for demand driven projects, from their announcement to project contracting.

3.2.1.1. State of physical progress under priority axis 2

In the monitored period, 7 AFNFC were accepted within the framework of the implementation of Priority Axis 2 /national project and demand-driven projects/ in the overall amount of 9,185,446.14 EUR.

A total of 6 AFNFC in the overall amount of 7,307,402.46 EUR were approved, of which 6 projects were contracted, and as of 31 December 2008, a total of 5 projects were completed and 1 project was in the implementation stage.

3.2.1.1.1. State of physical progress under priority axis 2 – national projects

The direct award OPE/C/RCE/NP/2008-2 titled **Further Primary and Secondary School Teacher Training in the Subject of Informatics** under Measure 2.1 Support to lifelong learning was published on 17 March 2008, with the deadline on 16 May 2008. The objective of Measures 2.1 is to “support quality increase of further training with an emphasis on key competences, deepening and upgrading of employee qualifications.” The State Pedagogical Institute was the eligible beneficiary of the direct award. The direct award was designed for supplementing the qualification of PS and SS teachers with the subject of informatics (ICT) and for lifelong learning for teachers of the ITC in PS and SS.

The financial allocation for the entire direct award was 8,298,479.72 EUR⁴¹.

The target group within the direct award was made of:

- pedagogic employees of PS and SS teaching the subject of informatics;
- pedagogic employees of PS and SS that do not teach the subject of informatics;

Geographically the national project implementation under Measure 2.1 covered the whole SR territory save the Bratislava Self-governing Region.

The overall duration of the project implementation to which the direct call applies was 36 months.

Under this direct award 1 AFNFC was received for C objective, with the eligible applicant being the directly managed organisation of ME SR. The requested amount of NFC under C objective was 7,212,554.43 EUR.

On 6 – 13 June 2008 the **formal accuracy check** was undertaken for the application within which the criteria of eligibility and completeness were verified and ex-ante financial control conducted. AFNFC was completed fully and correctly and MA OPE did not have to additionally request any missing annexes. Based on the results of the formal accuracy check the shortcomings found may be classified as mainly relating to ex-ante financial control.

Expert assessment started on 17 June 2008 and was completed on 19 June 2008. The submitted application satisfied the criteria prescribed by the expert assessment, i.e. it achieved from both assessors at least 50% of the maximum score in each group of criteria and also satisfied the limit set for the overall score – minimum 70% of the overall maximum score.

In the expert assessment process the expert assessors identified the following problematic areas in particular:

- the needs of the target group not defined unequivocally;
- outcomes of particular activities not sufficient;

⁴¹ Including both objectives.

- the budget only general, commentary on the budget not exhaustive, error in unit prices, in drawing up the budget, the conditions set out in the Manual for applicants for NFC not complied with.

The **Selection Commission** of ME SR for the selection and approval of AFNFC met on 3 July 2008. The Selection Commission granted the application with comments⁴².

The total amount of financial resources approved by the Selection Commission was **7,029,006.34 EUR**.

From the aspect of the contribution of the approved applications for NFC to HP, the approved AFNFC declared its contribution to HP MRC, HP EO, HP SD and HP IS.

On 9 July 2008 the successful applicant was sent the Notification of the Approval of NFC and the Letter of Acceptance.

The contract on the provision of NFC was signed⁴³ on 1 October 2008 and on 7 October 2008 the project implementation started. In the period under review no monitoring report was received.

The national project supports the global aim of the OPE “Ensuring the Long-term Competitiveness of the SR by Modifying the Education System to the Needs of the Knowledge-based Society” pursuant to the following documents:

- 1. Manifesto of the Government of the SR of August 2006, which proclaims to “create the prequalification for a system transformation in the content of the school system connected with the deepening of language preparation, development of digital literacy and communication skills with a substantially broader use of modern didactic aids, information technologies and multimedia technology in the teaching process.”
- 2. Concept of Development of Upbringing and Education in the Slovak Republic for the Upcoming 15 – 20 Years (the “Millennium” Project) which considers it necessary to emphasize computer and information literacy and teach children to work with information technologies.
- 3. Strategy of Informatization of School System, the specific objectives of which “to integrate ICT in teaching” and “to ensure ICT competencies on the basic level” became the foundation of this project.

Table 37: State of the implementation of the national project, as of 31 December 2008

Project title:	Further Primary and Secondary School Teacher Training in the Subject of Informatics
Basis from national /regional policy: ⁴⁴	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Program Statement of Government of the SR of 2006, proclaiming to “create prerequisites for a systemic change in the content of education linked to deepening of language preparation, developing of computer literacy and communication skills, with significantly greater use of modern didactic aids,

⁴² Individual recommendations of the Selection Commission were taken into consideration and incorporated in the project prior to the signing of the Agreement on NFC Provision due to successful project implementation. More detailed information regarding the content comments of the Selection Commission can be found at the website of the ME SR www.minedu.sk.

⁴³ The shortcomings identified during the expert evaluation were eliminated before the signing of the agreement.

⁴⁴ According to the definition of the national project in the Structural Funds and Cohesion Fund Management System for the Programme Period 2007 – 2013.

	<p>particular information technologies and multimedia technology in the teaching/learning process.“</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • THE CONCEPT OF THE DEVELOPMENT OF EDUCATION AND TRAINING in the Slovak Republic for the forthcoming 15 – 20 years (“MILLENNIUM” project) • Strategy of providing access to IT for regional schools (approved in February 2008)
Project objective:	Propose, develop, and implement modern lifelong learning for teachers of informatics and IT education in PS and SS supported by digital technologies
Beneficiary:	State Pedagogic Institute
State of implementation for the monitored period	In the period under review the activities were running for 3 months out of total 36-month period
Budget:	7,029,006.34 € 8,082,178.15 € (Objective C + Objective RC&E) (Objective C – 86.97 % of the overall budget)
Financial implementation/drawing	In the period under review FB incurred project's expenditure at 989,662.15 SKK / 32,850.77 €. The drawing of NFC cannot be determined as final beneficiary did not account for the advance provided to it. .(0)
Fulfilment of indicators:	n/a

3.2.1.1.2. State of physical of physical progress under priority axis 2 – demand driven projects

1) Call for submission of AFNFC **OPE 2008/2.2/01** under Measure Support to lifelong learning in the health sector, titled **”Replenishing the health sector with qualified specialists,”** was published on 7 April 2008 with the deadline for submissions on 6 June 2008. The total allocation for the call was 464,714.86 EUR,

The call defined all UTUs, save Bratislava Self-governing Region, as beneficiaries and, as the target group, the healthcare workers studying in specialisation study programmes of training establishments in selected specialisations of:

- general medicine
- stomatology
- anaesthesiology and intensive medicine
- clinical oncology
- clinical immunology and allergology.

The duration of project activities was set at 3 months.

At the time of closing the call, 5 out of potential 7 applicants have handed in their AFNFC . Banská Bystrica and Trnava self-governing regions did not get involved in the call.

After the deadline, the 5 AFNFC received were registered and assessed. (applications were submitted by the Trenčín, Nitra, Žilina, Košice and Prešov Self-governing Regions). The overall amount of requested NFC for all AFNFC was 314, 574.41 EUR, which is 67.7 % of the total allocation for the call.

Technical problems occurred in the registration process of AFNFC into ITMS arising from discrepancy between the numbering of eligible expenditure and the data entered in the ITMS. Not all relevant groups of expenditure were defined for OPE Measure 2.2 in ITMS to which beneficiaries assigned their cost items in drawing up their budgets. In generating checklists and output sets from relevant phases of the approval process there occurred several drawbacks and

inaccuracies in these sets in ITMS. For this reason the checklists for particular applications were completed only on 2– 4 July 2008.

Formal accuracy check of AFNFC

The process of formal accuracy check also including ex-ante financial control was implemented on 9 June 6 – 4 July 2008. The process revealed the need to request supplying of formal requisites from all 5 applicants. Those involved mainly supplying the missing annexes - the financial statement for the last completed accounting period verified by an auditor and the Report on the audit result, the final closing account approved by the relevant regional council, documents on the organisation (statute, articles of association), signed structured CV of experts participating in the project, certain types of statutory declarations, consent of affected persons within the meaning of the Personal Data Protection Act, etc. The ex-ante financial check revealed in one case exceeding personnel expenditure limit in the project entailing ineligible expenditure amounting to 3,606.10 EUR. All submitted AFNFC satisfied the criteria of formal accuracy check and were referred to expert assessment phase.

Expert assessment took place on 8 July 2008. All submitted applications satisfied the conditions prescribed by the expert assessment, i.e. that they achieved from both assessors minimum 50% of the maximum score for each group of criteria while satisfying the limit prescribed for the overall score – minimum 70% of the overall maximum score.

Based on the identification of ineligible expenditure through the ex-ante financial control, it was proposed to cut the amount of NFC for AFNFC OPE 2008/2.2/01/001 titled, “Replenishing the health sector with qualified specialists in the Nitra Self-governing Region”, from 62, 686.77 EUR to 59, 260.96 EUR.

The meeting of the Selection Commission of MH SR for approving AFNFC under the call OPE 2008/2.2/01, was held on 15 July 2008. The Selection Commission, based on the outcome of the expert assessment, unanimously **approved** the proposed amount of NFC for all 5 AFNFC submitted.

IBMA signed contracts on the provision of NFC with all successful applicants for NFC. The of signing the contract, with supplementing information is given in Table 38.

Table 38: An overview of contracted projects

Self-governing region	Date of signing NFC contract	Start of activities implementation	Activities completion date	System of payment
Nitra	28-08-2008	01-09-2008	01-12-2008	Refund
Žilina	15-08-008	15-08-2008	15-11-2008	Refund
Prešov	28-08-2008	01-09-2008	30-11-2008	Refund
Trenčín	15-08-2008	15-08-2008	15-11-2008	Refund
Košice	15-08-2008	15-08-2008	15-11-2008	Advance

All five beneficiaries have handed in, at prescribed date, the final monitoring reports stating on behalf of all beneficiaries that the objective of both the call and the projects has been achieved.

By implementing the projects the set objectives have been achieved in terms of build-up and stabilisation of human resources in the health sector, in the defined specialisation disciplines. Numbers of actually engaging healthcare workers in the projects of financially-supported specialisation studies were identical with those planned, with the exception of the Žilina Region⁴⁵ and the Trenčín Region⁴⁶. In accordance with the contractual terms and conditions the

⁴⁵ The result of measurable indicator is reduced from 26 to 25.

supported health care workers will, upon completion of study, stay in the relevant healthcare facility in which they undertake the specialisation study. The results of the implemented projects create good prerequisites for continuing support to specialisation study within subsequent Call OPE 2008/2.2/03, on the basis of which support will be provided in a greater volume, and this time to three-year projects.

The implementation of the call met with positive reactions, which is reflected in the effort of the other two regions⁴⁷ to run for support in the upcoming call of OPE 2008/2.2/03.

2) Call **OPE 2008/2.2/02**

The Call for submission of AFNFC within Measure 2.2 Support to lifelong learning in the health sector, titled **"Developing new forms of lifelong learning in the health sector,"** was published on 30 September 2008, with the deadline for submissions on 28 November 2008.

The total allocation for the call was 1,659,695.94 EUR. The financial contribution per 1 AFNFC was limited in the range of minimum 995,817.57 EUR and maximum 1,659,695.94 EUR.

The call was made for a specific objective 2: Introducing innovation and raising quality in the system of lifelong learning in the health sector and the framework activity 2.2.5: Developing new forms of lifelong learning in the health sector.

The call was designed to support the development of new forms of lifelong learning of healthcare workers – physicians by means of distance learning. Eligible applicants included the health professional organisations representing physicians, and the non-governmental organisations engaging in giving support to healthcare workers – physicians.

The eligible target group involved healthcare workers – physicians practicing their health profession in the territory of the Conversion objective

The duration of project activities was fixed for 36 months.

For the applicants for NFC under this call an information seminar was held at MH SR on 21 October 2008 aimed at presenting the of call OPE 2008/2.2/02, submission and approval processes of applications for NFC and eligibility of expenditure.

In the period under review, 1 AFNFC was received with total eligible expenditure at 1,745,597.16 EUR, of which the amount of NFC is 1,658,317.30 EUR.

By the end of 2008 the process of formal accuracy check was in progress.

3) Call **OPE 2008/2.2/03**

Call for submission of AFNFC within Measure 2.2, Support to lifelong learning in the health sector, titled **"Replenishing the health sector with qualified specialists,"** was published on 19 November 2008, with a deadline for receiving AFNFC on 13 February 2009.

⁴⁶ The result of measurable indicator is reduced from 33 to 32.

⁴⁸ Total number of inactive persons, including those studying, vocational training participants or pensioners, persons abandoning entrepreneurship, persons with permanent disability, persons caring of household, or others.

The call was made for a specific objective 1: Building professional human resources in the health sector with regard to restructuring of healthcare and the framework activity 2.2.1: Replenishing the healthcare system with qualified specialists.

The call was made on the basis of the analysis of the state in human resources conducted by particular self-governing regions and was designed to support specialisation studies of healthcare workers in self-governing regions. The call built on call OPE 2008/2.2/01.

The total allocation was 10,456,084.45 EUR. The financial contribution per 1 AFNFC was limited in the range of minimum 995,817.57 EUR and maximum 1,493,726.35 EUR.

The eligible target group involved healthcare workers studying in specialisation study programmes of training institutions, whose need for specialisation study followed out of the results of an analysis of health professional human resources for the relevant self-governing region and however by priority in the following specialisations:

Category of physician:

- general medicine;
- anaesthesiology and intensive medicine;
- radiology;
- radiology oncology;
- urgent medicine;
- pathological anatomy;

Category of dentist:

- stomatology;

Category of nurse:

- anaesthesiology and intensive care;
- intensive nursing care of adults;
- intensive nursing care in paediatrics;
- specialized urgent care;

Category of midwife:

- midwifery and care of woman in the family and community.

Eligible beneficiaries included all self-governing regions except Bratislava, provided they would submit to the call announcing organisation, no longer than on the day of AFNFC submission, the educational needs analysis of healthcare professionals within their own self-governing region (the applicant submits the analysis as a separate document independently of AFNFC).

The duration of project activities was fixed at 36 months.

On 16 December 2008 an information seminar was held for call OPE 2008/2.2/03 in Banská Bystrica with the aim of informing prospective applicants for NFC on the submission process of AFNFC, assessment and approval of applications and the process of project implementation.

Table 39: State of publishing direct awards and calls under priority axis 2, as of 31 December 2008

Measure	Type of call	Date of publishing call	Date of closing receipt of applications for NFC	Financial allocation for the call (NFC) in thousand €		
				Total	Of which	
					SF/CF	SB

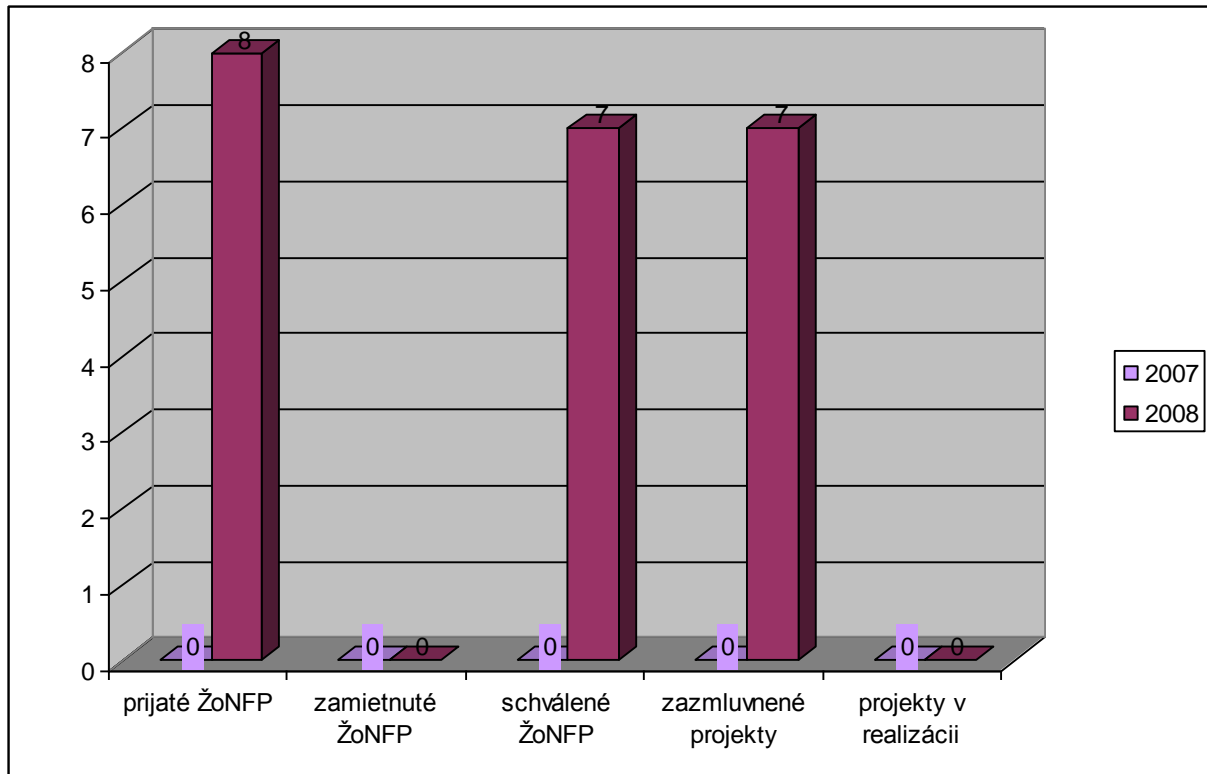
2.1	Direct award	17-03-2008	16-05-2008	1,053,171.81	895,196.04	157,975.77
2.2	Time limited call	07-04-2008	06-06-2008	464,714.86	415,797.51	48,917.35
2.2	Time limited call	30-09-2008	28-11-2008	1,659,695.94	1,410,741.55	248,954.39
2.2	Time limited call	19-11-2008	13-02-2009	10,456,084.45	9,355,443.98	1,100,640.47
Total for priority				13,633,667.06	12,077,179.08	1,556,487.98

Table 40: Monitoring the development under priority axis 2, as of 31 December 2008

Measure	AFNFC received	AFNFC rejected	AFNFC approved	Projects contracted	Projects in implementation	Contracts withdrawn	Projects completed
2.1	1	0	1	1	1	0	0
2.2 / 01	5	0	5	5	5	0	5
2.2 / 02 *	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	7	0	6	6	6	0	5
Financial quantification of SF and CF in thousand €							
Measure	Amount of contribution requested from SF/CF	Amount of contribution requested from SF/CF rejected	Amount of contribution from SF/CF approved	Amount of funding from SF/CF contracted	Amount of funding from SF/CF claimed back/returned	Amount of projects from SF/CF completed	
2.1	7,212,554.43	183,554.39	7,029,006.34	5,974,655.39	0	0	
2.2 / 01	314,574.41	3,065.19	278,396.12	278,396.12	3,976.17	0	
2.2 / 02	1,658,317.30	-	-	-	-	-	
Total	9,185,446.14	186,619.58	7,307,402.46	278,396.12	3,976.17	0	

* As of 31 December 2008, the assessment process was not completed for Call No. OPE 2008/2.2/02 of 30 September 2008.

Graphical representation of the implementation of priority axis 2



AFNFC received - rejected - approved - projects contracted - in implementation

Fulfilment of physical indicators

Table 41: Fulfilment of physical indicators, as of 31 December .2008

Indicators		2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	Total
1.% population involved in lifelong learning per 100 persons aged 25-64 years	Achieved result	0	0	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	0
	Target	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	12.50 %	NA	12.50 %	12.50 %
	Baseline	4.6%	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
2. Number of trainers having completed lifelong learning programmes Of which : women/men aged: 24-45/ 46 +	Achieved result	0	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	0
	Target	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	1000	NA	1,000	1,000
	Baseline	0	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
3. Number of lifelong learning programmes supported	Achieved result	0	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	0
	Target	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	150	NA	150	150
	Baseline	0	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
4.Number of new networks created under learning regions	Achieved result	0	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	0
	Target	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	20	NA	20	20
	Baseline	0	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
5. Proportion of networks created under learning	Achieved result	0	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	0
	Target	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	80%	NA	80%	80%

regions existing upon winding up of assistance from OPE	Baseline	0%	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
6. Proportion of healthcare workers having completed lifelong learning programmes for healthcare workers Of which: women/men aged 24-54/ 54 +	Achieved result -men -women	NA	0.1% 0.09 %	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	0.1% 0.09 %
	Target	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	7%	NA	7%	7%
	Baseline	0%	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
7. Number of LLL educational programmes for healthcare workers	Achieved result	0	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	0
	Target	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	20	NA	20	20
	Baseline	0	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
8. Proportion of healthcare workers who remained in the healthcare system upon completion of LLL programmes Of which: women/men aged 24-54/ 54 +	Achieved result	0	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	0
	Target	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	80%	NA	80%	80%
	Baseline	0	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
		0%	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	0

3.2.1.2. Financial implementation of priority axis 2

Table 42: Drawing funds under priority axis 2, as of 31 December 2008

	Commitment of 2007-2013 for EU funds (in €)	Drawing of funds in 2008 (EU resources) in thousand .€		Cumulative drawing of funds (EU resources) in thousand €	
		Total	% of commitment 2007 - 2013	Total	% of commitment 2007 - 2013
Priority axis 2	146 000,00000	0*		0	
Measure 2.1	109 500,00000	0*		0	
Measure 2.2	36 500 000	0*		0	

* The application for accounting for advance payment in the 2nd half 2008 was not included in the Summary request for payment.

As of 31 December 2008, no certification of expenditure was undertaken.

3.2.1.3. Specific features for the ESF programmes

In pursuance of Article 10 of Regulation (EC) No. 1081/2006, in the period under review a synthesis was made of the implementation of gender aspect at the level of project within

Measure 2.2, where from total 110 participants, 68 were women and 42 men, as is given in more detail in Table 43.

For more information regarding the specific features in general for the ESF, see Section 2.1.8. of this AR.

Assistance by target groups and equal opportunities

Table 43: Monitoring the target groups

a) Number of participants per year					
In-coming participants		Out-going participants		People having participated in the operational programme in the preceding year	
110		0		0	
b) Breakdown of participants by gender			c) Breakdown of participants by age		
Number of men		Number of women	Number of persons aged 15 – 24		Number of persons aged 55 - 64
42		68	0		0
d) Breakdown of participants by labour market status					
Number of employed including self-employed persons	Number of self-employed persons	Number of unemployed including long-term unemployed	Number of long-term unemployed	Number of inactive persons ⁴⁸	Inactive persons – studying ⁴⁹
110	0	0	0	0	0
e) Breakdown of participants by education achieved					
Primary or lower secondary education (ISCED 1 and 2)		Upper secondary education (ISCED 3)	Post-secondary non-tertiary education (ISCED 4)		Tertiary education (ISCED 5 and 6)
0		0	0		110
f) Breakdown of participants by vulnerability groups in accordance with national legislation					
Minorities		Migrants	Persons with disabilities		Other disadvantaged persons
0	0		0		0

3.2.2. Serious problems encountered and measures adopted to tackle them

On the whole, we may note that problems of serious nature have not been encountered in 2008. Table 44 below identifies the problems encountered during the implementation of priority axis 2 in the period under review.

Table 44: Monitoring of the implementation of measures adopted for identified problems

Identified problems	Measures adopted	Implementation of measures adopted
Insufficient organisational, technical and personnel provision for the projects' administration in some self-governing regions	IBMA concentrated effort at systematic assistance to self-governing regions in project administration taking the form of comprehensive information seminars, on-the-spot verification, and individual consultations. Despite the problems IBMA appraises the cooperation of MH SR and	IBMA implements the adopted measures on an on-going basis.

⁴⁸ Total number of inactive persons, including those studying, vocational training participants or pensioners, persons abandoning entrepreneurship, persons with permanent disability, persons caring of household, or others.

⁴⁹ Number of inactive persons – studying or in vocational training.

	self-governing regions as highly positive.	
Technical/professional problem: reservation of healthcare workers who involved in the project against the duration of contractual pledge upon completion of the 3-month financial support of the specialisation study (for 1 year)	IBMA acknowledged the reservation to be legitimate and in the background materials for call OPE 2008/2.2/03 took account of it (remaining in the healthcare facility in the territory of Convergence objective for a period equal to the minimum duration of financial support of the specialisation study, minimum 1 year).	The measure was incorporated into the call No. OPE 2008/2.2/03.

3.3. Priority axis 3

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

In the period under review no calls were published under priority axis 3. Measures 3.1 and 3.2 were not implemented in the period under review and equally financial resources were not drawn under priority axis 3.

According to the Timetable of OPE calls for 2008, which was updated in October 2008, there should be a call published for Measure 3.1: Raising the educational level of members of the marginalized Roma communities in December 2008. Because of the repeated calls for AFNFC submissions under Measure 1.1: Transformation of the traditional school into the modern school and Measure 4.1: Transformation of the traditional school into the modern school for the Bratislava Region, this call will be published in early 2009.

Because of the reform of the school system, the implementing of which began at elementary and secondary schools in the 2008/2009 academic year, the ASFEU recorded significant demands from elementary and secondary schools for proclaiming calls for AFNFC submissions for Measures 1.1 and 4.1 of OPE. Within the framework of these calls proclaimed in October 2008, the ASFEU anticipated receiving a large number of AFNFC. Due to the administrative capacities and the difficulty of the overall process of the acceptance, registering and approval of NFC applications, the proclaiming of the call for AFNFC submissions for Measure 3.1 of OPE was postponed on February 2009. However the preparation work began in November 2008.

The meeting of the working group on 26 November 2008 discussed the definition of eligible activities, eligible target groups and eligible applicants for the prepared call under Measure 3.1: Raising the educational level of members of the marginalized Roma communities. Members of the WG included officials of the relevant policy sections of the ME SR, the Office of Government Plenipotentiary for Roma Communities (OGPRC) the MA and the ASFEU. The meeting's conclusions will serve as a reference for the given call.

MA held a meeting, on 3 November 2008, with representatives of OGPRC and the Sub-department of schools with minority language as the language of instruction and that of education of Roma communities of the Section of Regional Schools of ME SR on the direct award under Measure 3.1 Raising the educational level of members of the marginalized Roma communities, which will be opened in June 2009, in accordance with the Timetable of direct calls for submission of OPE national projects for 2009. The Methodological and Pedagogical Centre of ME SR, as a DMO will be the applicant with the so-called national project "Training of pedagogic employees on the inclusion of MRC".

The call under Measure 3.2 Raising the educational level of persons with special educational needs was not planned according to the 2008 OPE Timetable for calls. It is scheduled to be published in early 2009, as planned in the OPE Timetable of calls for 2009.

On 19 December 2008 the working meeting was held with representatives of the Department of Special Schools, Special Educational and Counselling Facilities of ME SR and the experts of ASFEU on definitions of eligible activities, eligible target groups and eligible applicants for the prepared call under Measure 3.2 Raising the educational level of persons with special educational needs. The meeting's conclusions will serve as reference for the given call.

Insofar as there were no calls for submissions of AFNFC or direct awards published in the period under review, it will be possible to provide the relevant information on the state of physical progress of priority axis 3, the fulfilment of physical indicators, financial implementation, specific feature for EFS programmes and problems encountered in the implementation of priority axis 3 only once the implementation of priority 3 will have started, i.e. in AR for 2009.

3.4 Priority axis 4

In the period under review, MA published 7 direct awards under priority axis 4, Modern education for the knowledge society for the Bratislava Region, for Measure 4.1. Transformation of the traditional school into the modern school for the Bratislava Region (6 direct awards) and Measure 4.2. Raising Competitiveness of the Bratislava Region by developing the tertiary education and lifelong learning (1 direct award).

The themes of direct awards stemmed from the themes of national projects that were approved by the minister of education of SR in 2007. Direct awards were published from February to October 2008.

Following were the direct awards:

- **Primary School Teacher Training in the Area of Foreign Languages with regard to the Foreign Language Teaching Concept in Primary and Secondary Schools, OPE/C/RCE/NP/2008-1** – focused on supplementing qualification of teachers of first stage of basic education with a foreign language;
- **Further training of PS and SS school teachers in the subject of informatics, OPE/C/RNC/NP/2008-2** focused on supplementing the qualification of PS and SS teachers with the subject of informatics and lifelong learning for teachers of informatics in PS and SS ;
- **Modernisation of education process in primary schools, OPE/C/RCE/NP/2008-3** – focused on training of pedagogic employees of primary schools in the area of ICT;
- **Modernisation of education process in secondary schools, OPE/C/RCE/NP/2008-4** - focused on training of pedagogic employees of secondary schools in the area of ICT;
- **Teacher training with regard to developing school education programmes, OPE/C/RCE/NP/2008-5** - focused on trainer training for PS/SS pedagogic employee training for the implementation of the curricular education reform and the design of school education programmes, training for pedagogic workers of PS and SS for the implementation of the curricular education reform and the design of school education programmes;
- **Developing new education programmes in vocational training for the needs of automobile industry II, OPE/C/RCE/NP/2008-6** - focused on creating secondary school graduates profiles relevant to the needs of the automobile components and accessories production, with a view to increasing employment in this group of SS school leavers;

- **Kindergarten pedagogic staff training as part of the education reform, OPE/C/RCE/NP/2008-7** - focused on training activities developing professional key competences of pedagogic staff in kindergartens.

As of 31 December 2008, 6 AFNFC were received for priority axis 4, of which 4 projects have been contracted⁵⁰.

In the period under review, ASFEU published 4 calls for demand-driven projects for priority axis 4 Modern for the knowledge society for the Bratislava region, Measure 4.1. Transformation of the traditional school into the modern school for the Bratislava Region.

The total appropriation for the calls amounted to 3,485,361.49 EUR. As of 31 December 2008 45 AFNFC were received of which 11 were approved and 6 projects were contracted. In 2009 the process of selection of AFNFC and contracting will continue.

Activities on which the calls focused were defined as follows:

- design and implementation of the development programmes of primary schools (with emphasis on 1st and 5th grade) and of secondary schools (with emphasis on 1st grade), supporting the key competences of pupils while using new teaching materials in the teaching/learning process and preparing pupils for knowledge based society (e.g. design of the education programme for the school, innovation of methods and forms of teaching);
- innovation of didactic means developing the key competences of pupils.

Target groups for which the calls were designed have been defined as:

- pedagogic employees and pupils of SS (including special secondary schools);
- pedagogic employees and pupils of PS (including special primary schools).

The allocations for particular calls in the first half of 2008 were as follows:

- for call OPE-2008/4.1/01-IBMA focused on SS, the total appropriation amounted to 1,161,787.16 EUR;
- for call OPE-2008/4.1/02-IBMA focused on PS, the total appropriation amounted to 995,817.57 EUR.

The number of AFNFC received was 45, and of that in the end 11 AFNFC were approved. At 31 December 2008, 6 projects were contracted⁵¹.

In view of the high number of projects eliminated from these calls for formal deficiencies which left the allocated funds not fully exhausted, identical calls were published in the second half of the year.

The allocations for particular calls in the second half of 2008 were as follows:

- for call OPE-2008/4.1/03-IBMA focused on PS, the total appropriation amounted to 663,878.38 EUR;
- for call OPE-2008/4.1/04-IBMA focused on SS, the total appropriation amounted to 663,878.38 EUR.

⁵⁰ The selection and contracting process will continue in 2009.

⁵¹ The contracting process will continue in 2009.

As of 31 December 2008 receipt and registration of AFNFC was in progress for the calls published in the second half of 2008.

3.4.1. Achievement of targets and the analysis of the progress made

Section 3.4.1.1.1 describes particular direct awards from their publication to project contracting. Section 3.4.1.1.2 describes the calls for demand driven projects from their publication to project contracting. Section 3.4.1.1.3 and Chapter No. 6 provide detailed information on technical assistance projects and the use of the TA funds according to the priority activities within the framework of the priority topics.

3.4.1.1. State of physical progress under priority axis 4

In the monitored period, 59 AFNFC were accepted within the framework of the implementation of Priority Axis 4 /national projects and demand-driven projects/ in the overall amount of 10,718,250.42 EUR.

A total of 23 AFNFC were approved in the overall amount of 5,783,849.40 EUR, of which 16 projects were contracted, and as of 31 December 2008, a total of 8 projects were in the implementation stage.

3.4.1.1.1. State of physical progress under priority axis 4 – national projects

Measure 4.1

1) The direct award **OPE/C/RCE/NP/2008-1** titled “**Primary School Teacher Training in the Area of Foreign Languages with regard to the Foreign Language Teaching Concept in Primary and Secondary Schools**” was published on 22 February 2008 with the deadline on 22 April 2008. The direct award was directed at supplementing the qualification of teacher of the first stage of primary school with a foreign language at the level of A2 or B2 of the Common European Frame of Reference for Languages and at supplementing the qualification of teacher of foreign languages with the general pedagogy and the foreign language didactics for the target groups of children.

Target group under the direct award:

- teachers of the first stage of basic education of PS;
- teachers of the second stage of basic education of PS.

The financial allocation amounted to 16,596,959.43 EUR⁵².

One (1) AFNFC was submitted amounting to 1,394,144.59 EUR.

On 12 –23 May 2008 the **formal accuracy check** of AFNFC was undertaken, within which the criteria of eligibility and completeness were verified and ex-ante financial control conducted. The missing annexes had to be additionally requested and those were supplied within the set date.

Based on the results of formal accuracy check the shortcomings found may be classified as follows.

- incompleteness of AFNFC (missing obligatory annexes)

⁵² Including both objective; in splitting the allocation the size of the target group at which the project is aimed was used as the key.

- shortcomings identified in ex-ante financial control.

Expert assessment started on 13 May 2008 and was completed on 28 May 2008. The application satisfied the criteria set by the expert assessment, i.e. it achieved from both assessors at least 50% of the maximum score in each group of criteria while at the same time achieving the limit set for the total score – minimum 70% of the total maximum score.

Expert assessors identified the following problematic areas in the process of expert assessment:

- the size of the target group not defined unequivocally;
- output of particular activities not defined from the aspect of the size;
- the budget – general;
- the project sustainability inadequately specified.

The **Selection Commission of ME SR for the selection and approval of AFNFC** met on 18 June 2008 and granted the application with comments⁵³.

The total amount of financial resources approved by the Selection Commission was **1,394,144.59 EUR**.

The allocated sum for Objective Regional Competitiveness and Employment was determined according to the ratio of the size of the target group – ES teachers of the region of Bratislava (approximately 3,000 teachers) to the ES teachers in Slovakia (approximately 35,600 teachers). The data from the Statistical Yearbook for 2007 served as the material (www.uips.sk).

From the aspect of the contribution of the granted application to fulfilment of HP, the AFNFC declared its contribution to HP MRC, HP EO and HP IS.

On 8 July 2008 the successful applicant was sent the Notification of Approval of AFNFC and the Letter of Acceptance.

The contract on the provision of NFC was signed⁵⁴ on 16 September 2008 for the amount of **1,394,144.59 EUR** and the project implementation started on the same day. In the period under review the first monitoring report was received, on 15 December 2008.

The project was elaborated according to the conducted analyses of the current state of foreign language teaching and in connection with the new *Concept of the Teaching of Foreign Languages at Elementary and Secondary Schools* approved by the SR Government on 12 September 2007 through SR Government Resolution No. 767/2007. For an effective and global solution of the given issues it is also necessary to ensure the training of teachers for the first level of ES in the teaching of foreign language with an orientation on students of a younger school age with an emphasis on communication skills (dialogues and independent speaking) within the framework of study of the specialization pre-school and elementary pedagogy. At the same time it is necessary to support the use of information communication technologies in teaching. The implementation of the national project arises from the need for the implementation of the *Concept of the Teaching of Foreign Languages at Elementary and Secondary Schools* and making the teaching of foreign languages in formal education more effective.

⁵³ Individual recommendations of the Selection Commission were taken into consideration and incorporated in the project prior to the signing of the Agreement on NFC Provision due to successful project implementation. More detailed information regarding the content comments of the Selection Commission can be found at the website of the ME SR www.minedu.sk.

⁵⁴ The shortcomings identified during the expert evaluation were eliminated before the signing of the agreement.

Table 45: State of the implementation of the national project, at 31 December 2008

Project title:	Primary School Teacher Training in the Area of Foreign Languages with regard to the Foreign Language Teaching Concept in Primary and Secondary Schools
Basis from national/regional policy: ⁵⁵	Foreign Language Teaching Concept in Primary and Secondary Schools, approved by the Government of the SR by Resolution No.767/2007 of 12 September 2007
Project objective:	The objective of the project is to achieve in long-term horizon 100% make up of qualified teachers of 1 st stage basic education for foreign language teaching for the target group of children of younger school age.
Beneficiary:	State Pedagogic Institute
State of implementation for the monitored period:	17-19 October 2008 – coordination meeting in Piešťany (list of training places, division of participants, development of criteria for EO, organisational instructions) 21 November 2008 – information campaign by means of a conference (presentation of the project and its objectives) 16 December 2008 – meeting of the expert team 17 December 2008 – solemn opening of the project office
Budget:	16,421,280.29 € (Objective C + Objective RC&E) 1,394,144.59 € (Objective RC&E – 8.49 % of the overall budget)
Financial implementation/drawing :	n/a
Fulfilment of indicators:	n/a

2) The direct award titled **“Modernisation of education process in primary schools”** was published on 14 May 2008 with the deadline on 14 July 2008. The direct award was designed for training of pedagogic employees in the area of ICT, the development of multimedia/digital content of education for the state education programme for general type of primary school subjects; textbook production and editorial activity and subsequent testing and monitoring of the acquired competences and skills of PS pedagogic employees.

The target group of the direct award:

- pedagogic employees of PS ;
- pupils of PS.

The financial allocation was 33,193,918.87 EUR,⁵⁶ of which for RCE objective it was up to maximum 1,095,399.32 EUR.

One AFNFC was submitted amounting to 683,390.23 EUR.

On 14 –28 July 2008 the **formal accuracy check** was undertaken of the application within which the criteria of eligibility and completeness were verified and ex-ante financial control conducted.

⁵⁵ According to the definition of the national project in the System of the Structural Funds and the Cohesion Fund management for the programming period 2007 – 2013.

⁵⁶ Including both objectives; in splitting the allocation the size of the target group at which the national project is aimed was used as a key.

The AFNFC was completed fully and correctly and MA for OPE did not have to additionally request any missing annexes.

Based on the results of the formal accuracy check the shortcoming identified can be classified as follows:

- incompliance with the Manual for applicants for NFC;
- disagreement between the printed version of the budget and its electronic version;
- a number of shortcomings related to the budget.

The expert assessment started on 11 August 2008 and was completed on 15 August 2008. The application satisfied the criteria set by the expert assessment, i.e. it achieved from both assessors at least 50% of the maximum score for each group of criteria while at the same time achieving the limit set for the total score – minimum 70% of the total maximum score.

Expert assessors identified the following problematic areas in the process of expert assessment:

- certain activities specified generally;
- not all indicators are measurable;
- the budget is not transparent and unequivocal
- the project sustainability inadequately demonstrated.

The **Selection Commission of ME SR for the selection and approval of AFNFC** met on 18 September 2008 and granted the application with comments⁵⁷.

The total amount of financial resources approved by the Selection Commission was 683,390.23 EUR.

Due to the limited allocation of funds for Objective RC&E, the amount of the allocation was only limited for this Objective (RC&E). In the direct award it was determined that the target group would be constituted by approximately 300 ES teachers from the region of Bratislava from the overall number of the eligible target group of the region of Bratislava (approximately 3,000 teachers for 2007). Since Objective RC&E is financially undersized, which is due to the fact that the ratio of the target group established in the call does not mirror the ratio which defines the financial allocation for Objective C and Objective RC&E, the MA proceeded to finance the part of Objective RC&E that is not covered from the state budget in order to preserve the ratio determined in the call between the target groups of Objective C and Objective RC&E.

From the aspect of the contribution of the granted application to the fulfilment of HP, the AFNFC declared its contribution to HP MRC, HP EO, HP SD and HP IS.

On 23 September 2008 the successful applicant was sent the Notification of Approval of AFNFC together with the Letter of Acceptance.

The contract on the provision of NFC was signed⁵⁸ on 1 December 2008 for the amount of 681,952.20 EUR and on the same day the project implementation started. In the period under review no monitoring report was received.

⁵⁷ Individual recommendations of the Selection Commission were taken into consideration and incorporated in the project prior to signing of the Agreement on NFC Provision due to successful project implementation. More detailed information regarding the content comments of the Selection Commission can be found at the website of the ME SR www.minedu.sk.

⁵⁸ The shortcomings identified during the expert evaluation were eliminated before the signing of the agreement.

The creation of experimental multimedia/digital content for ES teacher training, which will be implemented in the state education programme for selected subjects at ES and the design of new methodological textbooks and digital teaching aids for ES teacher training with the use of ICT aids in the teaching process, will constitute the output of the national project implementation. Thus, the national project will contribute to the fulfilment of the Manifesto of the Government of the SR which proclaims its intent to create the prequalification for a system transformation in content of regional school systems connected to deepening language preparation and development of computer literacy and communication skills, with a substantially broader use of modern didactic aids, information technologies and multimedia technology in the teaching process. By the use of a two-level upbringing and education programme (state education programme and school education programme) the national project will also contribute to the support of the school system reform and thus to the fulfilment of the School Act. The Monitoring Report was not delivered in the monitored period.

Table 46: State of the implementation of the national project , as of 31 December 2008

Project title:	Modernisation of education process in primary schools
Basis from national/regional policy: ⁵⁹	Act No. 245/2008 Coll. on upbringing and education (the School Act) and on amending of certain acts approved by the SR Government by Resolution No. 147/2008 of 5 March 2008
Project objective:	Prepare teachers for active implementation of the school reform – adjusting of the education process to the needs of a knowledge based society
Beneficiary:	Institute of Education Information and Forecasting
State of implementation for the monitored period:	n/a – In the period under review no monitoring report was received.
Budget:	33,077,287. 06 € (Objective C + Objective RC&E) 681,952.20 € (Objective RC&E – 2.06 % of the overall budget)
Financial implementation/drawing:	n/a
Fulfilment of indicators:	n/a

3) The direct award titled “**Modernisation of education process in secondary schools**” was published on 14 May 2008 with the deadline on 14 July 2008. The direct award was designed for training of pedagogic employees in the area of ICT, the development of multimedia/digital content of education for the state education programme for general type of secondary school subjects; textbook production and editorial activity and subsequent testing and monitoring of the acquired competences and skills of SS pedagogic employees.

The target group of the direct award:

- pedagogic employees of secondary schools;
- pupils of SS.

⁵⁹ According to the definition of the national project in the System of the Structural Funds and the Cohesion Fund management for the programming period 2007 – 2013.

The financial allocation was 13,277,567.54 EUR,⁶⁰ of which for RCE objective the amount was up to 464,714.86 EUR.

One application for NFC was received amounting to 464,639.31 EUR.

On 14 –25 July 2008 the **formal accuracy check** was undertaken of the received application within which the criteria of eligibility and completeness were verified and ex-ante financial control conducted. The missing annexes for the AFNFC had to be additionally requested and were supplied within the prescribed date.

Based on the results of the formal accuracy check the shortcomings identified can be classified as follows:

- errors in the budget;
- discrepancy in the number of participants of the target group when compared with detailed project description;
- discrepancy in time sequencing of the project implementation with the performance of particular activities;
- incompliance with the Manual for applicants for NFC.

The expert assessment started on 11 August 2008 and was completed on 15 August 2008. The application satisfied the criteria set by the expert assessment, i.e. it achieved from both assessors at least 50% of the maximum score for each group of criteria while at the same time achieving the limit set for the total score – minimum 70% of the total maximum score.

Expert assessors identified the following problematic areas in the process of expert assessment:

- indicators;
- project budget;
- inadequately processed and thought out risks of the projects;
- absence of particular personnel matrix;
- absence of the definition of project sustainability.

The **Selection Commission of ME SR for the selection and approval of AFNFC** met on 18 September 2008 and granted the application with comments⁶¹.

The total amount of financial resources approved by the Selection Commission was 464,639.31 EUR.

Due to the limited allocation of funds for Objective RC&E, the amount of the allocation was only limited for this Objective (RC&E). In the direct award it was determined that the target group would be constituted by 120 pedagogical workers of SE of the region of Bratislava. Since Objective RC&E is financially undersized, which is due to the fact that the ratio of the target group established in the direct award does not mirror the ratio which defines the financial allocation in the direct award for Objective C and Objective RC&E, the MA proceeded to

⁶⁰ Including both objectives; in splitting the allocation the size of the target group at which the national project is aimed was used as a key.

⁶¹ Individual recommendations of the Selection Commission were taken into consideration and incorporated in the project prior to the signing of the Agreement on NFC Provision due to successful project implementation. More detailed information regarding the content comments of the Selection Commission can be found at the website of the ME SR www.minedu.sk.

finance the part of Objective RC&E that is not covered from the state budget in order to preserve the ratio determined in the call between the target groups of Objective C and Objective RC&E.

From the aspect of the contribution of the granted application to the fulfilment of HP, the AFNFC declared its contribution to HP MRC, HP EO, HP SD and HP IS.

On 23 September 2008 the successful applicant was sent the Notification of Approval of AFNFC together with the Letter of Acceptance.

The contract on the provision of NFC was signed⁶² on 2 December 2008 for the amount of NFC at 458,401.78 EUR and on the same day the project implementation started. In the period under review no monitoring report was received.

The goal of the national project is to implement the content restructuring of education at SS with the use of new innovative forms and methods of teaching.

The creation of experimental multimedia/digital content, the preparation of methodology for the skills, technology and didactics modules and the design of new textbooks – didactic modules for alternative and effective ICT application in selected subjects of teaching at SS constitute the output of the national project implementation.

Thus the national project will contribute to the fulfilment of the Manifesto of the Government of the SR which proclaims to create the prequalification for system transformation in the content of regional school systems connected to deepening language preparation, the development of computer literacy and communication skills, with a substantially broader use of modern didactic aids, information technologies and multimedia technology in the teaching process. By use of a two-level upbringing and education programme (the state education programme and the school education programme) the national project will also contribute to the support of the school system reform and thus to the fulfilment of the School Act.

Table 47: State of implementation of the national project, as of 31 December 2008

Project title:	Modernisation of education process in secondary schools
Basis from national/regional policy: ⁶³	Act No. 245/2008 Coll. on upbringing and education (the School Act) and on amending of certain acts approved by the SR Government by Resolution No. 147/2008 of 5 March 2008
Project objective:	Prepare teachers for active implementation of the school reform – adjusting of the education process to the needs of a knowledge based society
Beneficiary:	Institute of Education Information and Forecasting
State of implementation for the monitored period:	n/a – In the period under review no monitoring report was received.
Budget:	13,191,749.65 € (Objective C + Objective RC&E) 458,401.78 € (Objective RC&E – 3.47 % of the overall budget)
Financial implementation/drawing:	n/a

⁶² The shortcomings identified during the expert evaluation were eliminated before the signing of the agreement.

⁶³ According to the definition of the national project in the System of the Structural Funds and the Cohesion Fund management for the programming period 2007 – 2013.

Fulfilment of indicators:	n/a
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4) The direct award titled “**Teacher training with regard to developing school education programmes**” was published on 29 May 2008 with the deadline on 28 July 2008. The direct award focused on multiplier training of PS and SS pedagogic staff for the implementation of curricular reform of education sector and developing of school education programmes, training of all active pedagogic staff of PS and SS under Convergence objective, and the training of a section of active pedagogic staff of PS and SS under RCE objective for the implementation of the curricular reform of the education sector and the development of school education programmes, publishing of a PS and SS teacher periodical as a vehicle for education and for information dissemination, and the support of pedagogic research via scientific articles and pedagogic research outputs under the expert guarantor guidance of professors from the scientific discipline of pedagogy.

The target group within the direct award:

- active pedagogic employees of PS and SS;
- employees working in the field of education (at DMA ME SR).

The financial allocation amounted to 10,622,054.04 EUR,⁶⁴ of which for RCE objective it was 265,551.35 EUR.

One application for NFC was received amounting to 265,551.35 EUR.

On 5 –22 August 2008 the **formal accuracy check** was undertaken of the received application within which the criteria of eligibility and completeness were verified and ex-ante financial control conducted. The missing annexes for the AFNFC had to be additionally requested and were supplied within the prescribed date.

Based on the results of the formal accuracy check the shortcomings identified can be classified as follows:

- incompleteness of the submitted application for NFC (missing obligatory annexes)
- shortcomings identified in the ex-ante financial control.

The expert assessment started on 25 August 2008 and was completed on 27 August 2008. The application satisfied the criteria set by the expert assessment, i.e. it achieved from both assessors at least 50% of the maximum score for each group of criteria while at the same time achieving the limit set for the total score – minimum 70% of the total maximum score.

Expert assessors identified the following problematic areas, in particular, in the process of expert assessment:

- the target group defined very generally;
- risks/prerequisites of project implementation insufficiently specified;
- measurable outputs and measurable result indicators insufficiently defined;
- shortcomings in the budget;
- not all members of expert personnel precisely specified;

⁶⁴ Including both objectives; in splitting the allocation the size of the target group at which the national project is aimed was used as a key.

- project sustainability insufficiently specified.

On 22 September 2008 the meeting was held of the **Selection Commission of the ME SR for selection and approving of AFNFC**. The Selection Commission approved the application subject the condition that the project budget and detailed project description would be adjusted within the meaning of the conducted ex-ante financial control and the recommendations of expert assessors.

The total amount of financial resources approved by the Selection Commission was 265,551.35 EUR.

Due to the limited allocation of funds for Objective RC&E, the amount of the allocation was only limited for this Objective (RC&E). In the direct award it was determined that the target group would be constituted by 2,800 pedagogical workers of ES and SS of the region of Bratislava. Since Objective RC&E is financially undersized, which is due to the fact that the ratio of the target group established in the direct award does not mirror the ratio which defines the financial allocation in the direct award for Objective C and Objective RC&E, the MA proceeded to finance the part of Objective RC&E that is not covered from the state budget in order to preserve the ratio determined in the call between the target groups of Objective C and Objective RC&E.

From the aspect of the contribution of the granted application to the fulfilment of HP, the AFNFC declared its contribution to HP MRC, HP EO, HP SD and HP IS.

On 23 September 2008 the successful applicant was sent the Notification of Approval of AFNFC together with the Letter of Acceptance.

The contract on the provision of NFC was signed⁶⁵ on 2 January 2009 for the amount of 172,582.48 EUR.

In connection with the passed Act on Upbringing and Education, the aim of the national project, i.e., the design of school education programmes, constitutes the content reform of the school system. The content reform of the school system is understood as the transformation of the content for education from the form of pedagogical documentation to the form of state and school education programmes with the simultaneous involvement of modern methods, instruments and procedures of education for the labour market.

Table 48: State in the implementation of the national project, as of 31 December 2008

Project title:	Teacher training with regard to developing school education programmes
Basis from national/regional policy: ⁶⁶	Act No. 245/2008 Coll. on upbringing and education (the School Act) and on amending of certain acts approved by the SR Government by Resolution No. 147/2008 of 5 March 2008
Project objective:	Blanket training for pedagogic employees of PS and SS and attendance courses for pedagogic employees of secondary vocational schools and employees in the area of education and the activities supporting the curricular reform of education and the design of new school education programmes.
Beneficiary:	State Vocational Training Institute

⁶⁵ The shortcomings identified during the expert evaluation were eliminated before the signing of the agreement.

⁶⁶ According to the definition of the national project in the System of the Structural Funds and the Cohesion Fund management for the programming period 2007 – 2013.

State of implementation for the monitored period:	n/a – Contract on the provision of NFC was signed on 2 January 2009.
Budget:	5,544,483.84 € (Objective C + Objective RC&E) 172,582.48 € (Objective RC&E – 3.11 % of the overall budget)
Financial implementation/drawing :	n/a
Fulfilment of indicators:	n/a

5) The direct award titled **“Developing new education programmes in vocational training for the needs of automobile industry II”** was published on 19 August 2008, with the deadline on 20 October 2008. The direct award focused on developing the secondary school graduate profiles for the needs of production of automobile components and accessories with a view to achieving higher employment of this group of SS graduates, the development and implementation of education programme /programmes for the needs of the production of automobile components and automobile accessories, including the development of a system of secondary school graduates evaluation and on the secondary school teacher training in developing and implementing the education programme, as well as designing teaching texts and textbooks.

The target group within the direct award:

- pupils of secondary schools;
- pedagogic employees of SS.

The financial allocation amounted to 10,953,993.23 EUR,⁶⁷ of which for the RCE objective was maximum 331,939.19 EUR.

One application for NFC was submitted amounting to 331,867.65 EUR.

On 22 October – 6 November 2008 the **formal accuracy check** was undertaken of the received application within which the criteria of eligibility and completeness were verified and ex-ante financial control conducted. The missing annexes for the AFNFC had to be additionally requested and were supplied within the prescribed date.

Based on the results of the formal accuracy check the shortcomings identified can be classified as follows:

- incompleteness of AFNFC submitted (missing obligator annexes);
- shortcomings identified in the ex-ante financial control.

The expert assessment started on 10 November 2008 and was completed on 12 November 2008. The application satisfied the criteria set by the expert assessment, i.e. it achieved from both assessors at least 50% of the maximum score for each group of criteria while at the same time achieving the limit set for the total score – minimum 70% of the total maximum score.

⁶⁷ Including both objectives; in splitting the allocation the size of the target group at which the national project is aimed was used as a key.

Expert assessors identified the following problematic areas, in particular, in the process of expert assessment:

- the target group not specified in detail;
- errors in the budget;
- personnel matrix not complete;
- project sustainability insufficiently specified;
- indirect target groups.

On 3 December 2008 the meeting was held of the **Selection Commission of the ME SR for selection and approving of AFNFC**. The Selection Commission granted the application subject the condition that the project budget and detailed project description would be modified within the meaning of the conducted ex-ante financial control and the recommendations of expert assessors.

The total amount of financial resources approved by the Selection Commission was 331,867.65 EUR.

Due to the limited allocation of funds for Objective RC&E, the amount of the allocation was only limited for this Objective (RC&E). In the direct award it was determined that the target group would be constituted by the pedagogical staffs of ES and SS students. Since Objective RC&E is financially undersized, which is due to the fact that the ratio of the target group (the target group outside the region of Bratislava to the overall target group of the SR) does not mirror the ratio which defines the financial allocation in the direct award for Objective C and Objective RC&E, the MA proceeded to finance the part of Objective RC&E that is not covered from the state budget in order to preserve the ratio determined in the call between the target groups of Objective C and Objective RC&E.

From the aspect of the contribution of the granted application to the fulfilment of HP, the AFNFC declared its contribution to HP SD and HP IS.

On 4 December 2008 the successful applicant /Štátny inštitút odborného vzdelávania (State Institute for Vocational Training)/ was sent the Notification of Approval of AFNFC together with the Letter of Acceptance.

As of 31 December 2008 the comments raised by the Selection Commission were being incorporated.

The national project will be a continuation of the national project Design of New Education Programmes in Vocational Training for the Needs of Automobile Industry I and is based on the reform of the school system, in concrete terms on the two-level model of the design of education programmes on the national level – the state education programme (national curriculum) and the regional level – school education programme. The directly managed organizations of the ME SR – SPI and SIVT (State Institute of Vocational Training) are responsible for the design of state education programmes. The state education programmes constitute the basis for the design of school education programmes which are designed on the school level.

A total of 49 school education programmes (5 vocational specializations within the framework of new fields of studies) will be designed based on this reform of the school system within the framework of the national project, which will directly continue in state education programmes 23 and 24: Mechanical Engineering and Other Metalworking Production.

6) The last direct award in the period under review titled “**Kindergarten pedagogic staff training as part of the education reform**” was published on 13 October 2008 with the deadline on 12 January 2009. The direct award focused on training activities designed to develop key professional competences of pedagogic staff of kindergartens, including KG management staff and the state and public administration specialists in the area of pre-school education, on developing the new professional literature with a view to making KG education process more effective and developing school education programmes for KG, developing new methods, specialist publications, workbooks and learning aids, teaching resources including in digital form for the upbringing and education activity in KG, creation of innovative teaching materials and aids for teaching and learning process and creation of interactive educational portal for life long learning of KG pedagogic staff.

The target group

- pedagogic employees of kindergartens;
- employees working in the field of education - specialist employees of state and public administration.

The total financial allocation was 19,584,412.14 EUR,⁶⁸ of which for RCE objective maximum 663,878.38 EUR. The application for NFC was submitted in January 2009.

The aim of the national project will be to implement the content reform of the school system in the practice of kindergartens and to develop an effective system of lifelong learning aimed at developing key competencies of the pedagogical staffs of kindergartens in compliance with the current and perspective needs of the knowledge-based society through the further education of pedagogical staffs of kindergartens. The project will focus on the implementation of the State Education Programme in the education practice of schools, the enhancement of managerial skills and the increasing of digital literacy.

Measure 4.2

1) The direct award with the title “**Further Education of Elementary and Secondary School Teachers in IT**” was declared on March 17, 2008 with the deadline on May 16, 2008. The direct award was targeted on complementing the qualifications of ES and SS teachers by the subject information technology (“IT”) and the further education of teachers in IT at ES and SS.

Target group within the framework of the direct award:

- pedagogical staffs of ES and SS.

The allocation of funds was in the amount of EUR 8,298,479.72.⁶⁹

1 AFNFC in the amount of EUR 1,085,925.25 was submitted.

On June 6-13, 2008 **the formal accuracy check** of the received AFNFC was carried out. This included the verification of the eligibility criteria, completeness criteria and ex-ante financial

⁶⁸ Including both objectives, in splitting the allocation, the size of the target group to which the national projects were targeted was used as the key.

⁶⁹ Including both objectives, in splitting the allocation, the size of the target group to which the national projects were targeted was used as the key.

control. The submitted AFNFC was fully and correctly completed and the MA for OPE did not have to request any missing annexes.

Based on the outcomes of the formal accuracy check, the shortcomings can be classified as follows: ex-ante financial control shortcomings;

- budget mistakes; and
- failures in adhering to the NFC Applicant Manual.

The expert assessment commenced on June 17, 2008 and was completed on June 19, 2008. The submitted applications fulfilled the terms established by the expert assessment, i.e., both evaluators reached at least 50% of the maximum number of points in each group of criteria and at the same time met the limit established for the overall number of points – a minimum of 70% of the overall number of points.

In the process of the expert assessment the expert evaluators identified the following problematic circles:

- unclearly defined needs of the target group;
- non-specific activities for the selection of participants;
- insufficient outputs for individual activities;
- the budget is general, insufficient commentary regarding budget, mistakes in unit prices, failure to adhere to the terms established in the NFC Applicant Manual.

On July 3, 2008 the session of the **Selection Commission of the ME SR for Selection and Approval AFNFC** took place. The Selection Commission approved the AFNFC with comments⁷⁰.

The Application for NFC was approved under the condition that the project budget and the detailed description of the project would be modified pursuant to the findings of the ex-ante financial control, the recommendations of evaluators and the standpoint of the chair of the Selection Commission.

The overall amount of funds approved by the Selection Commission was **EUR 1,085,925.25**.

In terms of the AFNFC contribution to the fulfillment of the HP, the approved AFNFC declared the contribution to the HP MRC, HP EO, HP SD and HP IS.

On July 9, 2008, the Notification of Approval of the AFNFC and the Letter of Acceptance were sent to the successful applicant.

The Contract on the Provision of NFC was signed⁷¹ in the amount of EUR 1,053,171.81 on October 1, 2008 and the implementation of the project commenced on October 7, 2008. No monitoring report was delivered in the monitored period.

⁷⁰ Individual recommendations of the Selection Commission were taken into consideration and incorporated in the project prior to the signing of the Agreement on NFC Provision due to successful project implementation. More detailed information regarding the content comments of the Selection Commission can be found at the website of the ME SR www.minedu.sk.

⁷¹ The shortcomings identified during the expert evaluation were eliminated before the signing of the agreement.

The national project supports the global aim of the OPE: “Ensuring the Long-term Competitiveness of the SR by Modifying the Education System to the Needs of the Knowledge-based Society” based on the following documents:

- 1. Manifesto of the Government of the SR of August 2006, which proclaims to “create the prequalification for a system transformation in the content of the school system connected with the deepening of language preparation, development of digital literacy and communication skills with a substantially broader use of modern didactic aids, information technologies and multimedia technology in the teaching process.”
- 2. Concept of Development of Upbringing and Education in the Slovak Republic for the Upcoming 15 – 20 Years (the “Millennium” Project) which considers it necessary to emphasize computer and information literacy and teach children to work with information technologies.
- 3. Strategy of Informatization of School System, the specific objectives of which “to integrate ICT in teaching” and “to ensure ICT competencies on the basic level” became the foundation of this project.

Table No. 49: National Project Implementation Status as of December 31, 2008

Project Title:	Further Education of Elementary and Secondary School Teachers in IT
National/Regional Policy Baseline: ^[1]	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Manifesto of the Government of the Slovak Republic of August 2006 which proclaims “to create the prequalification for a system change in the content of education connected with the deepening of language preparation, the development of computer literacy and communication skills, with substantially more extensive use of modern didactic aids, IT and multimedia technology in particular in the teaching process.” • CONCEPT OF UPBRINGING AND EDUCATIONAL DEVELOPMENT in the Slovak Republic for the Upcoming 15 – 20 Years ("MILÉNIUM" Project) • Regional School System Informatizing Strategy (approved in February 2008)
Project Objective:	to design, develop and implement the modern further education of teachers of IT and IT education at ES and SS supported by information technologies.
Beneficiary:	Štátny pedagogický ústav (State Pedagogical Institute)
Implementation Status for Monitored Period:	n/a – No monitoring report was delivered in the monitored period
Budget:	8,082,178.15 € (Objective C + Objective RC&E) 1,053,171.81 € (Objective RC&E – 13.03 % of the overall budget)
Financial Implementation/Drawing:	n/a
Fulfilment of Indicators:	n/a

The evaluation reports of direct awards are accessible on the MA website www.minedu.sk

3.4.1.1.2. State of Physical Progress under Priority Axis 4 – Demand-Driven Projects

Measure 4.1

1) SS Call: OPV-2008/4.1/01-IBMA

The call for the submission of the AFNFC for **SS** within the framework of Measure 4.1: The Transformation of the Traditional School to a Modern School for the Region of Bratislava with the title “**The Design and Implementation of Development Programmes for Elementary Schools in Support of Education Quality Enhancement in Compliance with the Education System Reform**” was declared on March 11, 2008. The deadline was May 19, 2008.

The financial allocation for this call was EUR 1,161,787.16 and the financial contribution per one AFNFC was limited to a minimum interval of EUR 99,581.76 EUR and a maximum interval of EUR 331,939.19.

The call was targeted on the design and implementation of SS development programmes with an emphasis on the support of education quality enhancement based on innovations and the profiling of school in connection with the education system reform.

The following constituted the target group within the framework of the call:

- SS pedagogical staffs and students;
- pedagogical staffs and students of special SS.

Geographically, the call covered the territory of the Bratislava self-governing region. The following eligible applicants were defined in the call:

- SS within the founding competence of self-governing regions and regional school authorities;
- SS established by other central state administration authorities;
- religious and private SS;
- the self-governing region as the founder of SS;
- the regional school authority as the founder of special SS and the SS in which upbringing and education is carried out in a foreign language pursuant to a special regulation.

Within the framework of the call, as of May 19, 2008, a total of **26** AFNFC was recorded in the overall amount of eligible expenditures of EUR 4,738,503.45 and in the requested NFC amount of EUR 4,535,401.02.

The formal accuracy check and registration of AFNFC in ITMS commenced on May 20, 2008 and was completed on June 10, 2008.

From the overall number of received applications, only **8** AFNFC fulfilled the conditions of the formal accuracy check and advanced to the expert assessment phase (31% success rate) and 6 AFNFC made use of the possibility to supplement missing requirements. 18 AFNFC failed to comply with the conditions for the formal accuracy check, of which 6 AFNFC failed to fulfill the eligibility criteria and 12 AFNFC failed to fulfill the completeness criteria. The financial allocation of the overall eligible expenditures of the AFNFC that fulfilled the conditions for the formal accuracy check and advanced to the expert assessment phase amounted to EUR 1,715,728.27; the overall requested amount of NFC of these AFNFC was EUR 1,664,661.59.

The expert assessment of the AFNFC commenced on July 11, 2008 with the drawing and allocating of the AFNFC by and among internal and external evaluators with the participation of MA representatives and was completed on July 30, 2008. A total of **8** AFNFC were assessed and 5 AFNFC achieved the established minimum number of points. 3 AFNFC failed to achieve the minimum established number of points. The financial allocation of the proposed NFC amount for the AFNFC that achieved the minimum number of points was EUR 815,910.58. The AFNFC

expert assessment was completed by the signing of the Summary Expert Assessment Report by the ASFEU general director on July 30, 2008.

The Session of the Selection Commission took place on August 6, 2008. The selection and approval process involved 8 AFNFC. Based on the expert assessment outcomes, the Selection Commission approved **5** projects with overall sum of EUR 815,910.58 EUR of the requested NFC. Thus the Selection Commission approved 19% of the originally accepted AFNFC.

Due to formal budgets inaccuracies and shortcomings, several AFNFC were conditionally approved and thus, based on the decision of the Selection Commission, the budgets of potential beneficiaries were cut by EUR 88,484.26. The average amount of allocated funds per one contracted project per applicant from a Bratislava SS is EUR 163,182.12, which is EUR 10,355.86 more than the average amount of allocated funds per one project per school in the entire territory of the SR, except for the Bratislava Self-governing Region.

The contracting process commenced on August 15, 2008 by sending the Notification of Approval of the AFNFC along with the Letter of Acceptance to the successful applicants and was completed on December 16, 2008, when the last contract for SS entered into validity and effect. The number of concluded contracts was **5** and the overall NFC allocation for concluded contracts was EUR 727,426.32, which constitutes **62%** of the allocation for this call.

The commencement of the implementation of the activities of the majority of projects is planned for the first quarter of 2009.

2) **ES Call: OPV-2008/4.1/02-IBMA** for the submission of AFNFC for **ES** within the framework of Measure 4.1: The Transformation of the Traditional School to a Modern School for the Region of Bratislava with the title “**The Design and Implementation of Development Programmes for Elementary Schools in Support of Education Quality Enhancement in Compliance with the Education System Reform**” was declared on March 18, 2008. The deadline for this call was June 9, 2008.

The financial allocation for this call constituted EUR 995,817.57 and the financial contribution per one AFNFC was limited by a minimum interval of EUR 66,387.84 EUR and a maximum interval of EUR 165,969.59.

The call was targeted on the design and implementation of ES development programmes with an emphasis on the support of education quality enhancement based on innovations and the profiling of schools in connection with the education system reform.

The following constituted the target group within the framework of the call:

- pedagogical staffs and students of ES;
- pedagogical staffs and students of special ES.

Geographically, the call covered the territory of the Bratislava Self-governing Region. The following eligible applicants were defined in this call:

- ES within the founder's competence of municipalities and regional school offices;
- religious and private ES;
- municipalities as ES founders;
- regional school offices as founders of special ES and ES in which upbringing and education are conducted in a foreign language pursuant to a special regulation.

As of June 9, 2008, the overall number of accepted AFNFC within the framework of this call was **19** and the overall amount of eligible expenditures was EUR 2,553,046.67; the requested NFC amount was EUR 2,465,265.69.

The formal accuracy check and registration of AFNFC commenced on June 10, 2008 and continued until August 18, 2008. Of the overall number of submitted applications only **8** AFNFC fulfilled the conditions for the formal accuracy check and advanced to the expert assessment phase (42% success rate) and 11 of the AFNFC used the possibility of supplementing the missing requirements. At total of 11 AFNFC failed to fulfill the formal accuracy check terms, of which 4 AFNFC failed to comply with the eligibility criteria and 7 AFNFC failed to comply with the completeness criteria.

The financial allocation of the overall eligible expenditures of the AFNFC which fulfilled the terms of the formal accuracy check and advanced to the expert assessment phase amounted to EUR 1,123,265.75; the overall requested NFC amount of these AFNFC was EUR 1,079,185.24. The AFNFC formal accuracy check was completed by the signing of the AFNFC Formal Accuracy Check Report by the general director of the ASFEU on August 18, 2008.

The expert assessment of the AFNFC commenced on August 19, 2008 with the drawing and allocation of the AFNFC by and among the internal and external evaluators with the participation of MA representatives and was completed on September 5, 2008. A total of **8** AFNFC were assessed and 6 AFNFC achieved the established minimum number of points. 2 AFNFC failed to achieve the minimum established amount of points.

The financial allocation of the proposed NFC amount for the AFNFC that achieved the minimum number of points amounted to EUR 732,525.86. Due to the fact that three AFNFC required the elaboration of a third expert opinion pursuant to the selection criteria, the drawing of the third expert evaluator took place on August 28, 2008 in the presence of MA and ASFEU representatives from among the group of expert evaluators. The third expert opinions for the pertinent AFNFC were elaborated by September 3, 2008. The AFNFC expert assessment was completed by the signing of the Summary Expert Assessment Report by the general director of the ASFEU on September 5, 2008.

Session of the Selection Commission: The Selection Commission met on September 9, 2008. It approved 6 of the 8 AFNFC projects submitted at the session of the Selection Commission based on the outcomes of the expert assessment with an overall sum of EUR 732,525.86 of the requested NFC. Based on the request of the Selection Commission and the recommendation of the expert evaluators, the modification of the Detailed Project Description for the AFNFC with the code No. 26140130011 was proposed due to ineligible target groups. Thus the Selection Commission approved 31.6% of the originally accepted AFNFC.

The contracting process commenced on September 16, 2008 with the sending of the Notification of Approval of the AFNFC along with the Letter of Acceptance to the successful applicants. This process was not completed until the end of 2008. As of December 31, 2008, **one** contract with a beneficiary was concluded and the overall NFC allocation for concluded contracts was EUR 70,345.51 It is anticipated that all AFNFC from the ES calls that were approved by the SC will be contracted by the end of February 2009.

3) **ES Call OPV-2008/4.1/03-IBMA** for the submission of AFNFC for **ES** within the framework of Measure 4.1: The Transformation of the Traditional School to a Modern School for the Region of Bratislava with the title “**The Design and Implementation of School Education**

Programmes for Elementary Schools” was declared on October 6, 2008. The deadline for this call was January 19, 2009.

The call was targeted on the design and implementation of ES development programmes with an emphasis on the support of education quality enhancement based on innovations and the profiling of schools in connection with the education system reform pursuant to Act No. 245/2008 Coll. on Upbringing and Education (the School Act) and on changes and amendments to some Acts.

The financial allocation for this call amounted to EUR 663,878.38. The NFC amount per one AFNFC was limited by a minimum interval of EUR 66,387.84 and a maximum interval of EUR 165,969.59.

The following constituted the target group within the framework of the call:

- pedagogical staffs and students of ES;
- pedagogical staffs and students of special ES.

Geographically, the call covered the territory of the Bratislava Self-governing Region. The following eligible applicants were defined in this call:

- ES within the founder's competence of municipalities and regional school authorities;
- religious ES;
- private ES;
- municipalities as founders of ES;
- regional school authorities as founders of special ES and ES in which upbringing and education are conducted in a foreign language pursuant to a special regulation.

As of December 31, 2008, the call was valid and the receipt and registration of the AFNFC was in progress.

4) **Call OPV-2008/4.1/04-IBMA** for the submission of the AFNFC for **SS** within the framework of Measure 4.1: The Transformation of the Traditional School to a Modern School for the Region of Bratislava with the title **“The Design and Implementation of School Education Programmes for Secondary Schools”** was declared on October 6, 2008. The deadline for this call was January 19, 2009.

The financial allocation for this call amounted to EUR 663,878.38. The NFC amount per one AFNFC was limited by a minimum interval of EUR 99,581.76 and a maximum interval of EUR 331,939.19.

The call was targeted on the design and implementation of SS school education programme with emphasis on support of education quality enhancement based on innovations and the profiling of schools in connection with the education system reform pursuant to Act No. 245/2008 Coll. on Upbringing and education (the School Act) and on changes and amendments to some Acts.

The following constituted the target group within the framework of the call:

- pedagogical staffs of SS and students of SS;
- pedagogical staffs and students of special SS.

Geographically, the call covered the territory of the Bratislava Self-governing Region. The following eligible applicants were defined in this call:

- SS within the founder's competence of self-governing regions and regional school authorities;
- SS with central state administration authorities as founders;
- religious SS;
- private SS;
- self-governing regions as founders of SS;
- regional school authorities as founders of special SS including special SS.

As of December 31, 2008, the call was valid and the receipt and registration of the AFNFC was in progress.

Measure 4.2

No call for the submission of AFNFC within Measure 4.2 was declared in the monitored period. In fact, no call for the submission of AFNFC is planned in the Planned Timetable of Calls for 2008.

Due to the fact that no call was declared within Measure 4.2, no serious problems could be recorded and that is why no measure had to be adopted in order to overcome them.

3.4.1.1.3. State of the Physical Progress of Priority Axis 4 – Technical Assistance Projects

Measure 4.3

TA MA Projects

Two NFC applications of the TA were submitted by the MA within the framework of Objective RC&E for the period 2007 – 2008 in hard copy and electronic form (through ITMS):

Technical OPE Assistance for Objective RC&E – I. Preparation and Conducting, Monitoring, Control and Audit,

Technical OPE Assistance for Objective RC&E – II. Evaluation and Studies; Information and Publicity.

The NFC applications were approved by the Minister's letter of approval on 4 August 2008 with the amount of the approved NFC for individual projects:

Project: Technical OPE Assistance for Objective RC&E – I. Preparation and Conducting, Monitoring, Control and Audit the project sum: **66,719.78 €**; the aim of this project is to ensure the effective OPE implementation within the framework of RC&E in compliance with the requirements laid on management and administrative structures responsible for OPE implementation,

Project: Technical OPE Assistance for Objective RC&E – II. Evaluation and Studies; Information and Publicity, project sum: **5,642.97 €**; the aim of this project is to ensure effective OPE implementation within the framework of Objective RC&E.

TA IBMA – ASFEU Projects

Two NFC applications of the TA were submitted by the IBMA – ASFEU within the framework of Objective RC&E for the period 2007 – 2008 in hard copy and in electronic form - CD (due to the transitory period they were not submitted via public ITMS portal):

Technical OPE Assistance, Objective Regional Competitiveness and Employment PT 85 for the Period 2007 - 2008,

Technical Assistance for OPE, Objective Regional Competitiveness and Employment PT 86 for 2007, 2008.

Technical OPE Assistance, Objective Regional Competitiveness and Employment PT 85 for 2007, 2008 was approved by the letter of approval on August 2008 with the amount of the approved NFC for the project: **36,878.44 €**. Subsequently, the approved AFNFC was contracted on 23 September 2008.

NFC Application of the TA - Technical OPE Assistance, Objective Regional Competitiveness and Employment PT 86 for 2007, 2008 was approved by the letter of approval on 4 August 2008 with a reduced approved NFC amount for the project: **16,265.02 €**. Within the framework of the preliminary financial control of the NFC application in question, it was established that the allocation of funds for this application did not correspond to the overall allocation of the funds allocated for Objective RC&E for OPE. As a result, it was necessary to reduce the amount of the eligible expenditures in the NFC application reflecting the ratio of financial allocations allocated for the OPE Objective RC&E.

Subsequently, the approved NFC application was contracted on 23 September 2008.

In 2008 the applications for NFC for 2009 were also submitted from the party of IBMA – ASFEU in hard copy and in electronic form – CD:

Technical OPE Assistance, Objective Regional Competitiveness and Employment PT 85 for 2009,

Technical OPE Assistance, Objective Regional Competitiveness and Employment PT 86 for 2009.

Application for NFC - Technical OPE Assistance, Objective Regional Competitiveness and Employment PT 85 for 2009 was not approved by the letter on 4 December 2008. Within the framework of the preliminary financial control of the NFC application in question, it was established that the allocation of funds for this application did not correspond to the overall allocation of the funds allocated for OPE Objective RC&E. As a result, it was necessary to reject this NFC application and to submit a new NFC application from the ASFEU for the TA for Objective RC&E – 85 with a modified amount of eligible expenditures reflecting the ratio of the financial allocations allocated for Objective C of OP Education. A new NFC application with the modified amount of eligible expenditures was approved on 17 December 2008 with the following amount of the approved NFC for the project: **63,171.94 €**. Subsequently the approved NFC application was contracted on 22 December 2008.

NFC Application - Technical OPE Assistance, Objective Regional Competitiveness and Employment PT 86 for 2009 was not approved by the letter on 4 December 2008. Within the framework of the preliminary financial control of the NFC application in question, it was established that the allocation of funds for this application did not correspond to the overall allocation of the funds allocated for OPE Objective RC&E. As a result, this NFC application was rejected and a new NFC application was submitted by the ASFEU for the TA for Objective RC&E – 86 with a modified amount of eligible expenditures reflecting the ratio of financial allocations allocated for Objective C for OP Education. The new NFC application with the modified amount of eligible expenditures was approved on 17 December 2008 with the following amount of the approved NFC for the project: **14,719.38 €**. Subsequently, the approved application for NFC was contracted on 22 December 2008.

Table No. 50: Status of Declaring Calls of Priority Axis 4 as of December 31, 2008

Measure	Type of Call	Call Announcement Date	Deadline for Accepting Applications for NFC	Allocation of FC Based on Call (NFC) in Thousands €		
				Total	Of which	
					SF/CF	SB
4.1 Transformation of the Traditional School to a Modern School for the Region of Bratislava	Direct award	22.2.2008	22.4.2008	16,596.95943*	14,107.41552	2,489.54391
4.1 Transformation of the Traditional School to a Modern School for the Region of Bratislava	Direct award	14.5.2008	14.7.2008	33,193.18874*	28,214.80423	4,979.08310
4.1 Transformation of the Traditional School to a Modern School for the Region of Bratislava	Direct award	14.5.2008	14.7.2008	13,277.56754*	11,285.93241	1,991.63513
4.1 Transformation of the Traditional School to a Modern School for the Region of Bratislava	Direct award	29.5.2008	28.7.2008	265.55135***	225.71865	39.8327
4.1 Transformation of the Traditional School to a Modern School for the Region of Bratislava	Direct award	19.8.2008	20.10.2008	10,953.99322*	9,310.89424	1,643.09898
4.1 Transformation of the Traditional School to a Modern School for the Region of Bratislava	Direct award	13.10.2008	12.1.2009	19,584.41213*	16,646.75031	2,937.66182
4.1 Transformation of the Traditional School to a Modern School for the Region of Bratislava	Time Limited	11. 3. 2008	19. 5. 2008	1,161.78716	._**	._**
4.1 Transformation of the Traditional School to a Modern School for the Region of Bratislava	Time Limited	18. 3. 2008	9. 6. 2008	995.81757	._**	._**
4.1 Transformation of the Traditional School to a Modern School for the Region of Bratislava	Time Limited	6. 10. 2008	19. 1. 2009	663.87838	._**	._**

Modern School for the Region of Bratislava						
4.1 Transformation of the Traditional School to a Modern School for the Region of Bratislava	Time Limited	6. 10. 2008	19. 1. 2009	663.87838	_ ^{**}	_ ^{**}
4.2 Increasing Competitiveness of the Region of Bratislava Through Developing Tertiary and Further Education	Direct award	17.3.2008	16.5.2008	8,298.47971*	7,053.70775	1,244.77196
4.3 Technical Assistance for Objective Regional Competitiveness and Employment	N/A	N/A	N/A	203.39753	172.88790	30.50963

Total for Priority	105,858.91114	-	-
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* Both objectives included.

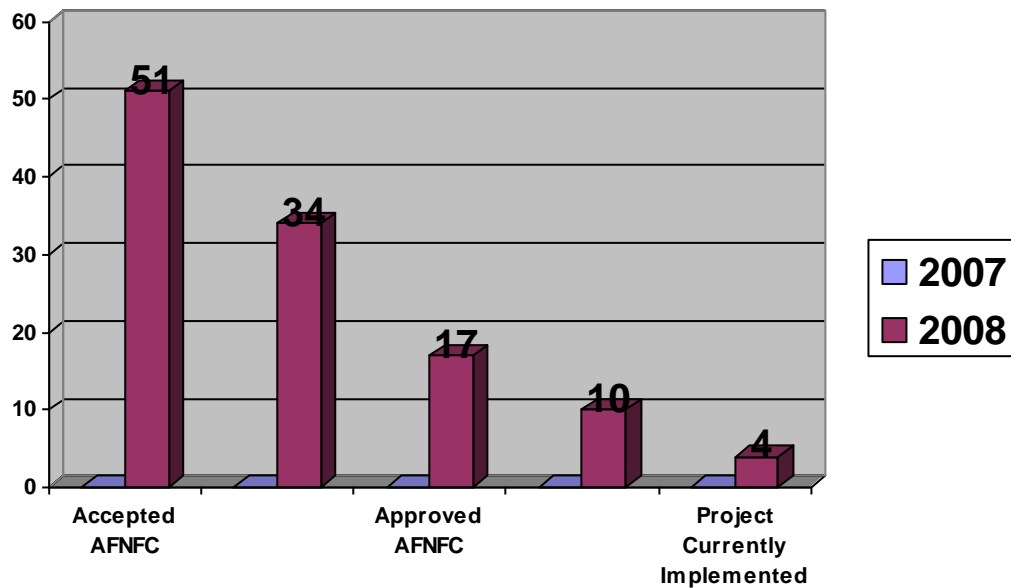
** It is not possible to complete the allocation of funds for calls divided into ESF and SB funds since the calls were designated for applicants with various background of financing.

*** Objective RC&E only, the allocation for this objective was established as fixed.

Table No. 51: Monitoring of Priority Axis 4 Implementation Development as of December 31, 2008

Measure	Accepted AFNFC	Rejected AFNFC	Approved AFNFC	Contracted Projects	Projects in the course of Implementation	Withdrawn from Contract	Completed Projects
4.1	50	34	16	9	3	0	0
4.2	1	0	1	1	1	0	0
4.3	8	2	6	6	4	0	0
Total	59	36	23	16	8	0	0
SF and CF Financial Quantification in Thousands €							
Measure	Amount of Contribution Requested from SF/CF	Amount of Rejected Contribution Requested from SF/CF	Amount of Approved Contribution Requested from SF/CF	Amount of Contracted Funds from SF/CF	Amount of Recovered/Returned Funds from SF/CF	Amount of Completed Projects from SF/CF	
4.1	9,192.18143	4,667.14518	4,525.03625	3,393.43958	0	0	
4.2	1,085.92525	0	1,085.92525	1,053.17181	0	0	
4.3	440.14374	267.25584	172.88790	172.88790	0	0	
Total	10,718.25042	4,934.40102	5,783.84940	4,619.49929	0	0	

Graphic Depiction of Priority Axis 4 Implementation



Fulfillment of Physical Indicators

Table No. 52: Fulfillment of Physical Indicators as of December 31, 2008

Indicators		2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	Total
1. Number of newly designed education programmes, of which ES, SS and HEI	Achieved Outcome	0	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0
	Objective	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	80	N/A	80	80
	Baseline	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
2. Schools successful in repeated quality evaluation, of which ES, SS	Achieved Outcome	0	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0
	Objective	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	90%	N/A	90%	90%
	Baseline	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
3. Number of pedagogical staff participating in further education programmes, of which: women/men according to age: 24-45, 45 and over	Achieved Outcome	0	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0
	Objective	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	7000	N/A	7,000	7,000
	Baseline	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
4. Number of training courses for pedagogical	Achieved Outcome	0	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0
	Objective	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	15	N/A	15	15

staff	Baseline	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
5. Graduates of tertiary level of university education	Achieved Outcome	0	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0
	Objective	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	18 ⁷²	N/A	18	18
	Baseline	8,3	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
6. Share of research and development workers involved in further education of which: university staff / employees of other research and development institutions women/men according to age: 24-45, 46 and over	Achieved Outcome	0	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0
	Objective	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	30%	N/A	30%	30%
	Baseline	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
7. Number of projects for human resources support in excellence centers at universities and SAS	Achieved Outcome	0	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0
	Objective	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	10	N/A	10	10
	Baseline	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
8. Involvement rate of research and development workers in supra-national research projects, of which : university staff/ employees of other research and development institutions	Achieved Outcome	0	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0
	Objective	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	20%	N/A	20%	20%
	Baseline	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
9. Share of development and innovations partnerships and networks supported from OPE	Achieved Outcome	0	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0
	Objective	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	10	N/A	10	10
	Baseline	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
13. Share of development and innovations partnerships and networks existing after completion of	Achieved Outcome	0	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0
	Objective	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	80%	N/A	80%	80%
	Baseline	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

⁷² Per 1,000 inhabitants between the ages of 20 to 29.

assistance from OPE											
14. % of population involved in life-long learning per 100 inhabitants between the ages of 25 to 64	Achieved Outcome	0	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0
	Objective	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	12.5%	N/A	12.5%	12.5%
	Baseline	4,6%	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

Due to the fact that the implementation of 4 projects commenced in the monitored period and only in the last quarter of 2008, no indicators belonging to Priority Axis 4 were fulfilled as of December 31, 2008.

The fulfilment of the physical indicators belonging under Priority Axis 4 will be available only after starting the project implementation in 2009 and will constitute the subject of the Annual Report for 2009.

3.4.1.2. Priority Axis 4 Financial Implementation

Table No. 53: Priority Axis Fund Drawing as of December 31, 2008

	Commitments 2007-2013 for EU Sources	Drawing of Funds in 2008 (EU Sources) in Thousands €		Drawing of Funds Cumulatively (EU Sources) in Thousands €	
		Total	% from Commitments 2007 - 2013	Total	% from Commitments 2007 - 2013
Priority Axis 4	17,801.57800	0	0	0	0
Measure 4.1	6,911.51400	0	0	0	0
Measure 4.2	10,178.00100	0	0	0	0
Measure 4.3	712.06300	41.02636	5.76%	41.02636	5.76%

No certification of expenditures took place as of December 31, 2008.

3.4.1.3. ESF Programme Specifics

It is not possible to provide information requested in Article 10 of Regulation (EC) No. 1081/2006 for the monitored period since the announcement of direct awards and calls, the evaluation of AFNFC and the contracting approved AFNFC took place in particular in 2008. Closer information related to the ESF programme specifics are incorporated in Section 2.1.8 of this AR.

Aid according to Target Groups and Equality of Opportunities

Table No. 54: Monitoring of Priority Axis 4 Target Groups

a) Number of Participants per Year					
New Participants		Leaving Participants		Participants in Operation Programme Last Year	
0		0		0	
b) Division of Participants according to Gender			c) Division of Participants according to Age		
Number of Men	Number of Women	Number of Persons between the Ages of 15 to 24		Number of Persons between the Ages of 55 to 64	
0	0	0		0	
d) Division of Participants according to Labour Market Status					
Number of Employed	Number of	Number of	Number of	Number of	Number of Non-Active

including Sole Traders	Sole Traders	Unemployed including Long-Term Unemployed	Long-Term Unemployed	Non-Active Persons ⁷³	Persons – students ⁷⁴
0	0	0	0	0	0
e) Division of Participants according to Achieved Education					
Elementary or Lower Secondary Education (ISCED 1 and 2)	Higher Secondary Education (ISCED 3)	Post-Leaving Exam Non-University Education (ISCED 4)	University Education (ISCED 5 and 6)		
0	0	0	0		
f) Division of Participants According to the Vulnerability Groups in Compliance with National Regulations					
Minorities	Migrants	Disabled Persons	Persons Disadvantaged in a Different Way		
0	0	0	0		

3.4.2. Serious Problems Encountered and Measures Adopted to Tackle Them

A more detailed identification of problems occurred in the course of the implementation of Priority Axis 4 in the monitored period are incorporated in Table No. 55.

Since declaring direct awards and calls, evaluating AFNFC and contracting approved AFNFC took place in particular in 2008, the MA/IBMA had problems with the fact that the ITMS public portal was not functional and the solution was that the applicants were given the possibility of submitting the AFNFC in paper form (hard copy) when submitting the AFNFC for a temporary period of time; furthermore the problems with data entry from the AFNFC to ITMS occurred, but these were resolved by the Data Centre when necessary and were eliminated operatively.

The CCA methodical procedures in the areas of indicators were modified in the monitored period which caused problems for the MA/IBMA in their use in projects and further monitoring within the framework of implementation. The CCA only eliminated this problem as of December 1, 2008 by issuing Methodical Instruction No.3 regarding the design and use of project indicators and their incorporating in ITMS 2007 – 2013.

Table No. 55: Monitoring of the Statement of Measures Adopted for Defined Problems

Identified Problems	Adopted Measures	Adopted Measure Statement
Non-functioning of ITMS public portal	Existence of transitory period – AFNFC submitted in hard copy	AFNFC submitted in hard copy until December 31, 2008
Problem with data entry in ITMS	Resolved operatively by the Data Centre	Problem eliminated operatively
Defining of relevant HP indicators	Issuance of Methodical Instruction No. 3 regarding the design and use of project indicators and their incorporation in ITMS 2007 – 2013 – issued only on December 1, 2008	MA and IBMA proceeded pursuant to valid CCA Methodical Instructions

3.5 Priority Axis 5

⁷³ Overall number of non-active persons including students, participants in vocational training or pensioners, persons leaving business or persons with permanent disabilities, permanent housewives or others.

⁷⁴ Number of non-active persons – students or participants in vocational training.

Within the framework of OPE, Technical Assistance is a separate Priority Axis No. 5 for Objective C.

3.5.1. Achieving Aims and Achieved Progress Analysis

The Priority Axis Technical Assistance for Objective C was implemented in the monitored period at the MA and IBMA within the framework of two Priority Topics: 85 Preparation, Conducting, Monitoring and Control and 86: Evaluation and Studies, Information and Communication. The above mentioned Priority Topics focus on activities connected with management, monitoring, control, analysis, provision of information, promotion, evaluation and experience exchange. The main goal was to ensure effective OPE implementation in compliance with the requirements of the management and administrative structures responsible for Operation programme implementation. Parts 3.5.1.1 and 6 describe in detail the information on TA projects and the overview of use of TA means according to the priority activities within the framework of Priority Topics on behalf of the MA and IBMA.

3.5.1.1 State of Physical Progress of Priority Axis

Table No. 56: State of proclaiming calls of Priority Axis 5 as of 31 December 2008

Measure	Type of Call	Date of Proclaiming Call	Deadline for the Accepting AFNFC	Allocation of Funds for Call (NFC) in Thousand €		
				Total	of which	
					SF/CF	SB
5.1	N/A	N/A	N/A	6,330.90828	5,381.27204	949,636.24
5.2	N/A	N/A	N/A	1,387.48822	1,179.36499	208.12323
Total	N/A	N/A	N/A	7,718.3965	6,560.63703	1,157.75947

Pursuant to version 2.0 of the SF and CF management system, the MA with TA did not proclaim any call for AFNFC submissions for TA projects, and thus such data as the type and date of proclaiming and deadlines is not available.

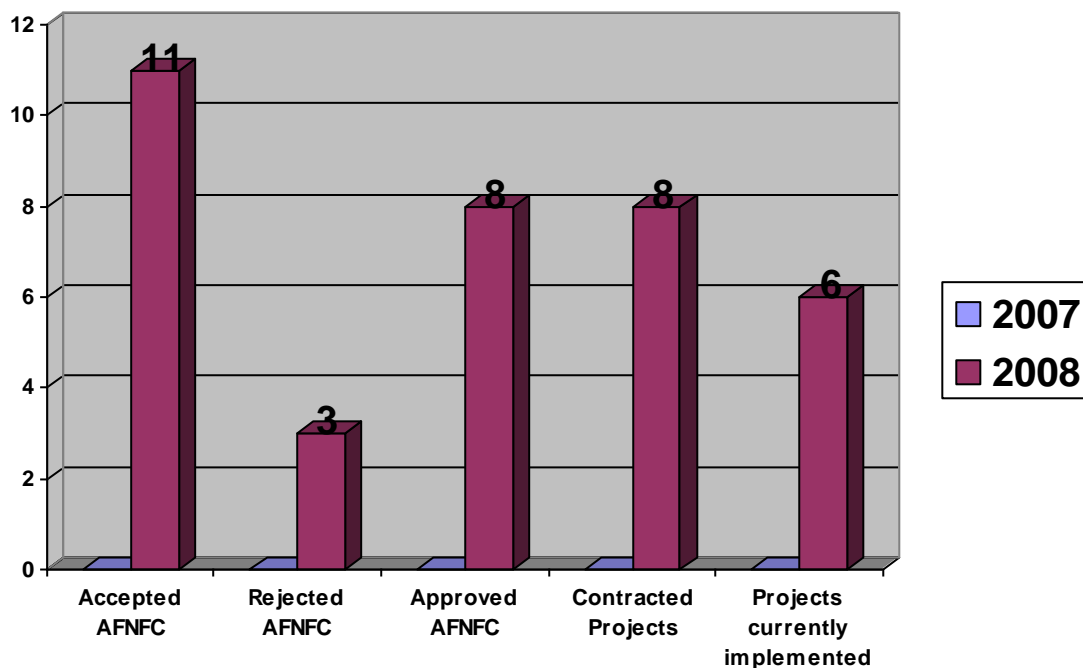
Table No. 57: Priority Axis 5 Implementation Development Monitoring as of 21 December 2008

Measure	Accepted AFNFC	Rejected AFNFC	Approved AFNFC	Contracted Projects	Projects in the course of Implementation	Withdrawn from Contract	Completed Projects
5.1	9	3	6	6	4	0	0
5.2	2	0	2	2	2	0	0
Total	11	3	8	8	6	0	0

SF and CF Financial Quantification in Thousands €						
Measure	Amount of Contribution Requested from SF/CF	Amount of Rejected Contribution Requested from SF/CF	Amount of Approved Contribution Requested from SF/CF	Amount of Contracted Funds from SF/CF	Amount of Recovered/Returned Funds from SF/CF	Amount of Completed Projects from SF/CF
5.1	7,588.78224	2,207.51020	5,381.27204	5,381.27204	0	0
5.2	1,179.36499	0	1,179.36499	1,179.36499	0	0
Total	8,768.14723	2,207.51020	6,560.63703	6,560.63703	0	0

Within the framework of the Priority Axis in question, 7 NFC applications were accepted in the course of 2008 within Objective C for the period 2007 - 2008, of which 2 were submitted by the MA and 5 by the IBMA. One NFC application for the period 2007 – 2008 was rejected. At the same time, in the second half of 2008, the IBMA submitted 4 NFC applications for 2009, of which 2 applications were approved and 2 were rejected.

Graph of Priority Axis 5 Implementation



Measure 5.1

TA MA Projects

The MA submitted 2 NFC applications of the TA within the framework of Objective C for the period 2007 – 2008 in hard copy and electronic form (via ITMS):

Technical OPE Assistance for Objective Convergence – I. Preparation and Conducting, Monitoring, Control and Audit,

Technical OPE Assistance for Objective Convergence – II. Evaluation and Studies; Information and Publicity.

NFC Applications were approved by the Minister's letter of approval on 4 July 2008 and 4 August 2008 with the amount of approved NFC for individual projects:

Project: Technical OPE Assistance for Objective Convergence – I. Preparation and Conducting, Monitoring, Control and Audit; project sum: **1,447,918.74 €**; the project aim is to ensure effective OPE implementation within the framework of Objective Convergence in compliance with the requirements of the management and administrative structures responsible for OPE implementation,

Project: Technical OPE Assistance for Objective Convergence – II. Evaluation and Studies; Information and Publicity; project sum: **157,013.88 €**; the project aim is to ensure effective OPE implementation within the framework of Objective Convergence.

IBMA – ASFEU TA Projects

The IBMA - ASFEU submitted 2 NFC applications of the TA within the framework of Objective C for the period 2007 – 2008 in hard copy and electronic form - CD (due to the transition period, they were not submitted via public ITMS portal):

Technical OPE Assistance for Objective Convergence PT 85 for 2007, 2008,
Technical OPE Assistance for Objective Convergence PT 86 for 2007, 2008.

The NFC Application of the TA - Technical OPE Assistance for Objective Convergence PT 85 for 2007, 2008 was approved by the letter of approval on 4 August 2008 with the following amount of the approved NFC for the project: **1,509,692.62 €**. The approved application for NFC was subsequently contracted on 23 September 2008.

The NFC Application of the TA - Technical OPE Assistance for Objective Convergence PT 86 for 2007, 2008 was rejected by the letter of 4 August 2008. Within the framework of the preliminary financial control of the NFC application in question, it was established that the allocation of funds for this application did not correspond with the overall allocation of the funds allocated for Objective C for OPE. As a result, it was necessary to reject the NFC application and the IBMA ASFEU had to submit a new NFC application for TA Objective C – 86 with a modified amount of eligible expenditures allocated for Objective C of OPE. The new NFC application with a modified amount of eligible expenditures was approved on 11 September 2008 with the following amount of approved NFC for the project: **512,341.40 €**. The approved NFC application was subsequently contracted on 23 September 2008.

In 2008, the IBMA – ASFEU also submitted NFC applications for 2009 in hard copy and electronic form – CD:

Technical OPE Assistance for Objective Convergence PT 85 for 2009,
Technical OPE Assistance for Objective Convergence PT 86 for 2009.

The NFC Application - Technical OPE Assistance for Objective Convergence PT 85 for 2009 was rejected by the letter of 4 December 2008. Within the framework of the preliminary financial control of the NFC application in question, it was established that the allocation of funds for this application did not correspond to the overall allocation of the funds allocated for Objective C for OPE. As a result, it was necessary to reject the NFC application and the IBMA ASFEU had to submit a new NFC application for TA Objective C – 85 with a modified amount of the eligible expenditures allocated for Objective C of OPE. The new NFC application with the modified amount of eligible expenditures was approved on 17 December 2008 with the following amount of approved NFC for the project: **2,192,968.93 €**. The approved NFC application was subsequently contracted on 22 December 2008.

The NFC Application - Technical OPE Assistance for Objective Convergence PT 86 for 2009 was rejected by the letter of 4 December 2008. Within the framework of the preliminary financial control of the NFC application in question, it was established that the allocation of funds for this application did not correspond to the overall allocation of the funds allocated for Objective C for OPE. As a result, it was necessary to reject the NFC application and the IBMA ASFEU had to submit a new NFC application for TA Objective C – 86 with a modified amount of the eligible expenditures allocated for Objective C of OPE. The new NFC application with the modified amount of eligible expenditures was approved on 17 December 2008 with the following amount of approved NFC for the project: **510,972.71 €**. The approved NFC application was subsequently contracted on 22 December 2008.

Measure 5.2

IBMA – MH SR TA Projects

The IBMA – MH SR submitted 2 NFC applications for the period 2007 – 2015 within the framework of Objective C in hard copy and electronic form – CD ((due to the transition period they were not submitted via public ITMS portal):

Technical Assistance for Objective Convergence – I,
Technical Assistance for Objective Convergence – II.

The NFC Applications were approved by the Minister's letter of approval on 18 August 2008 with the following amount of approved NFC for the individual projects:

Project Technical Assistance for Objective Convergence – I, project sum: **1,188,425.72 €**; the project aim is to ensure the administrative capacities and material technical equipment of the MH SR as the IBMA with a view to the implementation of Measure 2.2. The approved AFNFC was subsequently contracted on 23 October 2008,

Project Technical Assistance for Objective Convergence – II, project sum: **199,062.50 €**; the project aim is to ensure the administrative capacities and material technical equipment of the MH SR as the IBMA with a view to the implementation of Measure 2.2. The approved AFNFC was subsequently contracted on 23 October 2008.

3.5.1.2. Financial Implementation of Priority Axis 5

Table No.58 Priority Axis Fund Drawing as of December 31, 2008

	Undertaking 2007-2013 for EU sources	Drawing of Funds in 2008 (EU sources) in thousand €		Cumulative Drawing of Funds (EU sources) in thousand €	
		Total	% of undertaking 2007 - 2013	Total	% of undertaking 2007 - 2013
Priority Axis 5	24,000.00000	730.68038	3.20%	730.68038	3.20%
Measure 5.1	22,820.63500	730.68038	3.20%	730.68038	3.20%
Measure 5.2	1,179.36500	0	0	0	0

In 2008, within the framework of the TA for Objective C, the drawing of funds was recorded in the sum of 730,680.38 €, which constitutes 3.20 % of the undertaking within the framework of the Priority Axis for the entire programme period. By the end of the statement period, the cumulative values were the same as for 2008, since in 2007 the drawing was zero.

3.5.2. Serious Problems Encountered and Measures Adopted to Tackle Them

No serious problems occurred in the process of the formal accuracy control, expert evaluation, selection and approval of NFC applications during the implementation of Priority Axis 5 and that is why no measures had to be adopted to tackle them.

Table No. 59: Monitoring of Statement of Adopted Measures for Defined Problems

Identified Problems	Adopted Measures	Statement of Adopted Measures
0	0	0

3.6. Implementation of Priority Axes 1 – 5

3.6.1. Financial Implementation of Priority Axes 1-5

Table No. 60: Priority Axes 1 – 5 Financial Implementation as of 31 December 2008

	Commitment	Drawing of Funds in 2008		Drawing of Funds Cumulatively as of December 31, 2008 (EU Sources) in Thousands €	
	2007-2013	(EU Sources) in Thousands €			
	for EU Sources	Total	% from commitment 2007 - 2013	Total	% from commitment 2007 - 2013
Priority Axis 1	365,000,000.00	0	0	0	0
Measure 1.1	255,000,000.00	0	0	0	0
Measure 1.2	110,000,000.00	0	0	0	0
Priority Axis 2	146,000,000.00	0	0	0	0
Measure 2.1	109,500,000.00	0	0	0	0
Measure 2.2	36,500,000.00	0	0	0	0
Priority Axis 3	65,000,000.00	0	0	0	0
Measure 3.1	48,700,000.00	0	0	0	0
Measure 3.2	16,300,000.00	0	0	0	0
Priority Axis 4	17,801,578.00	41,026.36	0.23%	41,026.36	0.23%
Measure 4.1	6,911,514.00	0	0	0	0
Measure 4.2	10,178,001.00	0	0	0	0
Measure 4.3	712,063.00	41,026.36	5.76%	41,026.36	5.76%
Priority Axis 5	24,000,000.00	730,680.38	3.04%	730,680.38	3.04%
Measure 5.1	22,820,635.00	730,680.38	3.20%	730,680.38	3.20%
Measure 5.2	1,179,365.00	0	0	0	0
Total	617,801,578.00	771,706.73	0.12%	771,706.73	0.12%

Within the framework of the above mentioned drawing, **4.92 %** of the funds were used by means of cross financing (Article 34 Section 2 of Regulation (EC) N. 1083/2006) in the case of two TA projects. Within the framework of Priority Axis 4 (Measure 4.3) cross financing participated in overall drawing in the amount of **1.93 %** and in the amount of **5.09 %** within the framework of Priority Axis 5 (Measure 5.1).

3.6.2. Content Implementation of Priority Axes 1-5

ASFEU

The projects which will be implemented within the framework of the calls of Measures 1.1 and 4.1 OPE are aimed at the content restructuring of education at elementary and secondary schools in order to develop key competences and use innovative forms and methods of teaching, which is also related to the vocational training and further education of the pedagogical staffs who significantly participate in the transformation of the traditional school to the modern school. The implementation of the approved projects will contribute to the reform of education through the design and implementation of school education programmes with an emphasis on the support of the enhancement of the quality of education based on innovations and the profiling of the schools in connection with the reform of the education system pursuant to Act No. 245/2008 Coll. on Upbringing and Education and on changes and amendments to certain Acts. The above mentioned enhancement of the quality of the education system will enable students to learn key

skills which will increase their competitiveness on the labour market. Thus, the OPE contributes to the development of the knowledge-based society as part of the Lisbon Strategy.

Due to the fact that the process of concluding the Agreements on NFC Provision within the framework of the calls of Measures 1.1 and 4.1 OPV took place by the end of 2008 and the first projects will launch their implementation only at the beginning of 2009, it is not possible to talk about the experience or best practice from implemented projects.

MH SR

Within the framework of Measure 2.2., the MH SR implemented 5 projects in the monitored period, of which we present this project as the best practice example: **Replenishing the Healthcare System by Qualified Professionals in the TSR** ITMS code 26120230003 /Trenčín Self-governing Region/.

Within the framework of specifying the indicated characteristics of the programme, the project aim was to support the specialization education of physicians providing healthcare in healthcare facilities at the region of Trenčín.

The specific objectives of this project were constituted by ensuring a sufficient number of qualified physicians, improving the quality of provided healthcare and patient protection in the process of the provision of healthcare and analysing the state of human resources of healthcare staffs in the self-governing region of Trenčín.

The fulfilment of the above mentioned aims and objectives took place in form of implementing two eligible activities:

- support of specialization studies of healthcare staff to replenish and stabilize the numbers of qualified healthcare workers in self-governing regions
- elaboration and submission of the analysis of the state of human resources of healthcare workers in individual self-governing regions at the MH SR.

This project was one of the 3-month pilot projects implemented by the self-governing regions.

The main project activity was the support of specialization studies of understaffed healthcare facilities in the specialization fields in the form of refunding the costs for education. Participating healthcare workers undertook to perform healthcare profession with the current employer or at the employers on the territory of Objective Convergence at least for a period of 1 year after the completion of the financial support of the study. Through above mentioned undertaking we significantly succeeded in replenishing and stabilizing the human resources in the healthcare system on the territory of the self-governing region of Trenčín within the framework of specialization areas in risk or with shortage according to the specific needs of the self-governing region.

In the course of the project implementation, the self-governing region elaborated an analysis of the state of human resources in the healthcare system in the Trenčín self-governing region. As a result, another continuing project was later elaborated based on the new call for the submission of NFC Applications, which was aimed at replenishing the healthcare system by qualified professionals in the Trenčín self-governing region through specialization studies for the

upcoming three years. An analysis of this type and scope was not processed before the implementation of the pilot projects on the territory of any of the self-governing regions.

The pilot character of this project could verify the purposefulness of the establishment of a system of the support of specialization studies and especially the administrative preparedness of the self-governing region for implementing another continuing project with greater financial volume and length of implementation. The Trenčín self-governing region handled the project implementation on a high qualitative level with the use of staffing capacities of the department of regional development which had already had some experience with ESF project implementation.

4. HORIZONTAL PRIORITIES

4.1. Horizontal Priority Marginalized Roma Communities

The objective of HP MRC is to increase the employment and education level of the MRC members and to improve their living conditions. In order to achieve visible progress in the education level of the MRC and their ability to find jobs on the labour market, a specific measure 3.1 Increasing the Education Level of the MRC Members was created within the framework of the OPE falling under Priority Axis 3 Support of Education for Persons with Special Education Needs.

Table No. 61: Fulfillment of Physical Indicators as of December 31, 2008

Indicators		2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	Total
Indicator 1 (unit of measurement)	Achieved Outcome	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Objective	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Baseline	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Indicator 2 (unit of measurement)	Achieved Outcome	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Objective	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Baseline	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

Due to the fact that Annex No. 13 to the NSRF contains a set of measurable indicators with relevance to HP MRC, which are not based on the OPE version approved by the EC in 2007, i.e., the CCA did not update the pertinent annex since 2007, it is not possible to show non-current indicators of Annex No. 13. As a result, it is impossible to complete data in Table No.61.

The objective of HP MRC defined in the HP MRC ICS and the NSRF “Increasing the Employment and Education Level of MRC Members and Improving Their Living Conditions” was not fulfilled in 2008 due to the fact that no call or direct award within the framework of OPE Measure 3.1 was declared in this period.

The contribution of the projects to HP MRC within the framework of all proclaimed calls and direct awards was declared and signed in the NFC Applications submitted by the applicants and subsequently evaluated in the expert evaluation phase. The majority of submitted NFC Applications (see Table No. 62) declared a positive contribution to HP MRC.

In the monitored period of 2008, at total of 8 national projects declared contributions to HP MRC, regarding which the Agreement on NFC Provision was concluded.

As an illustration, due to the fact that the national projects “Modernizing of the Education Process at Elementary Schools” and “Modernizing of the Education Process at Secondary

Schools cover the entire territory of the SR by their activities, including the regions with a high MRC concentration, they also provide the space for training teachers from MRC who will participate in training in the field of the modernization of the education process through the use of ICT. They will participate in the introduction of modern education systems and content in the teaching process at secondary schools and they will learn to actively use ICT technology and modern digital teaching aids. Participating Roma teachers and students will inform the Roma community about the new modern system of education at ES through the use of ICT.

Both national projects will also provide space for the education of marginalized groups, such as qualified teachers of Roma language, qualified teachers of foreign languages with a university education of the second level and qualified teachers of universal/academic subjects of the Roma nationality. Participating Roma teachers will inform the Roma community about the necessity to learn foreign languages which will contribute to their inclusion in the society.

The implemented demand-driven pilot projects of IBMA – MH SR from call code OPE 2008/2.2/01 reported a positive impact on the MRC, since the healthcare workers, who participate as the target group of the project activities, are employed in the regions with a high Roma concentration –beneficiaries from the self-governing regions of Banská Bystrica, Prešov and Košice. After the completion of the project, the physicians educated through this project continue to work at their original sites and thus they can ensure healthcare for all of the inhabitants of the region including those from marginalized Roma communities. As in the case of the IBMA – ASFEU projects, in the majority of projects (see Table No. 62) the NFC applicants declared the contribution to HP MRC in the course of the implementation of the projects which should also provide space for individuals from MRC.

The monitoring of the contribution of the projects to HP MRC will be conducted through measurable indicators with relevance to HP MRC; the beneficiary is bound by the fulfilment of the Agreement on NFC Provision and the achieved values must be stated in ongoing monitoring reports. Due to the problems indicated in Chapter 4.1.2, the monitoring of measurable indicators related to HP MRC will only be possible from 2009. The monitoring of the contribution of the projects to HP MRC will also constitute the subject of on-the-spot verifications .

Table No. 62: Number of Projects Contributing to HP MRC as of December 31, 2008

Total Number of Projects	Number of Projects Contributing to HP MRC	Volume of Project Funds Contributing to HP MRC
44	28	72,836,711.11

From the overall number of 44 projects, 28 projects affecting HP MRC were implemented in an overall financial volume of EUR 72,836,711.11.

4.1.1. Fulfilment of Measurable Indicators

Table No. 63 presents more closely the fulfilment of measurable indicators incorporated in HP MRC ICS according to Priority Axis 3 as of December 31, 2008.

Table No. 63: Fulfilment of the HP MRC Measurable Indicators as of December 31, 2008 pursuant to Annex No. 2 HP MRC ICS for the Period 2007-2013 Valid in 2008

Indicators		2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	Total
Placement rate of graduates of the formal education programmes for MRC members	Achieved Outcome	0	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0
	Objective	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	40	N/A	40	N/A
	Baseline	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Placement rate of	Achieved	0	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0

graduates of the further education programmes for MRC members	Outcome										
	Objective	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	40	N/A	40	N/A
	Baseline	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Number of students from MRC involved in the education programmes	Achieved Outcome	0	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0
	Objective	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	7000	N/A	7000	N/A
	Baseline	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Number of formal education programmes for students from MRC	Achieved Outcome	0	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0
	Objective	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	7	N/A	7	N/A
	Baseline	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Number of persons participating in the inclusion of MRC members trained within the framework of further education programmes	Achieved Outcome	0	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0
	Objective	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	5000	N/A	5000	N/A
	Baseline	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Number of further education programmes for persons participating in social inclusion of MRC members	Achieved Outcome	0	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0
	Objective	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	15	N/A	15	N/A
	Baseline	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

The reasons for presenting the zero values of HP MRC measurable indicators in the monitored period are incorporated in Section 4.1.2.

4.1.2. Problems Connected with HP MRC Implementation

The question of defining the HP MRC relevant measurable indicators for the prepared HP MRC ICS (insufficient CCA coordination) was resolved in 2008 in close cooperation with the HP MRC coordinator in connection with the HP MRC implementation. The prepared National Code List of Indicators in ITMS did not contain indicators defined in the HP MRC ICS, which constituted the subject of comments from the MA/IBMA.

4.2. Horizontal Priority Equality of Opportunities

Pursuant to the approved NSRF, the global aim of HP EO is to ensure the equality of opportunities for all and prevent of all forms of discrimination.

Table No. 64: Fulfillment of Physical Indicators as of December 31, 2008

Indicators		2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	Total
Indicator 1 (unit of measurement)	Achieved Outcome	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Objective	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Baseline	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Indicator 2 (unit of measurement)	Achieved Outcome	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Objective	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Baseline	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

Due to the fact that Annex No. 13 to the NSRF contains the set of measurable indicators with relevance to HP EO, which are not based on the OPE version approved by the EC in 2007, i.e., the CCA did not update the pertinent annex since 2007, it is not possible to show non-current indicators of Annex No. 13. As a result, it is impossible to complete the data in Table No.64.

Objectives No. 3.2: Decreasing the Unemployment Rate of School Graduates between the Ages of 15 to 25 and No. 4: Increasing the Rate of Job Finding of Secondary School and University Graduates incorporated in the HP EO ICS, will be fulfilled within the framework of Priority Axes 1, 2 and 4 through the activities of the contracted projects which are targeted on increasing and renewing the knowledge and skills of the ES and SS pedagogues and innovating and modernizing the education process at schools overall, including equipping them with didactical and computing technologies, thus creating the prequalification for the better preparation of students for labour market entry.

Adherence to HP EO principles incorporated in the NSRF in 2008 was ensured by guiding NFC applicants, training expert trainers and ensuring the informing of the general public on the meaning and principles of HP EO.

The contribution of the projects to HP EO within the framework of all proclaimed calls and direct awards was declared and signed in NFC Applications submitted by the applicants and subsequently evaluated in the expert evaluation phase. The majority of the submitted NFC Applications for (see Table No. 65) reported a positive contribution to HP EO. The national and demand-driven projects reported on the ensuring of mechanisms for the prevention and elimination of discrimination based on ethnic origin or race, gender, religion or faith, sexual orientation and health disability.

In the monitored period of 2008, a total of 8 national projects reported contributions to HP EO regarding which the Agreement on NFC Provision was concluded.

Implemented demand-driven pilot projects of the IBMA - MH SR from the call code OPE 2008/2.2/01 reported a positive attitude to the issues of equality of opportunities. The healthcare workers included in the specialization study without limitation or preferential treatment were involved in the project activities under the terms and conditions incorporated in the call, in compliance with the principles of equality of opportunities. As with the IBMA – ASFEU projects, the vast majority of implemented projects within the framework of NFC Applications reported contributions to HP EO (see Table No. 65) and the ensuring of the mechanisms for preventing and eliminating discrimination based on the ethnic origin or race, gender, religion or faith, sexual orientation and health disability.

Due to the problems with defining the relevant measurable indicators of HP EO in the code list of indicators which are incorporated in Chapter 4.2.2, no implemented project in the monitored period is bound by the Agreement to monitor the concrete measurable indicators related to HP EO. Thus the contribution to HP EO will only be monitored in these projects through on-the-spot verifications. After modifying the code list of indicators in the future, the monitoring of contributions to HP EO will also be conducted through measurable indicators related to HP EO whose achieved values will be stated by the beneficiary in the ongoing monitoring reports.

Table No. 65: Number of Projects with Contributing to HP EO on the Level of Priority Axes as of December 31, 2008

Priority Axes	Overall Number of Projects	Number of Projects Contributing to HP EO	Volume of Project Funds Contributing to HP EO
1.	28	26	63,239,411.55
2.	6	5	7,292,798.88
3	0	0	0
4	10	8	4,200,974.84
Cumulatively for OP	44	39	74,733,185.27

From the overall number of 44 projects, 39 projects affecting HP EO were implemented in the overall financial volume of EUR 74,733,185.27.

4.2.1. Fulfillment of Measurable Indicators

Table No. 66 shows more closely the fulfillment of measurable indicators incorporated in the HP EO ICS according to Priority Axes 1 to 4 as of December 31, 2008.

Table No. 66: Fulfillment of HP EO Measurable Indicators as of December 31, 2008 pursuant to Annex No. 4 of the HP EO ICS for the Period 2007-2013 Valid in 2008

Indicators		2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	Total
Priority Axis No. 1											
Number of projects contributing to the equality of opportunities	Achieved Outcome	0	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0
	Objective	0	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
	Baseline	0	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Value of projects contributing to equality of opportunities	Achieved Outcome	0	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0
	Objective	0	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
	Baseline	0	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Number of participants involved in the project activities (division: men/women, other disadvantaged groups)	Achieved Outcome	0	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0
	Objective	0	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
	Baseline	0	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Number of participants, who successfully passed the project activities (division: men/women, other disadvantaged groups)	Achieved Outcome	0	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0
	Objective	0	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
	Baseline	0	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Number of persons using the project outcomes (division: men/women, other disadvantaged groups)	Achieved Outcome	0	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0
	Objective	0	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
	Baseline	0	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Priority Axis No. 2											
Number of projects contributing to the equality of opportunities	Achieved Outcome	0	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0
	Objective	0	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
	Baseline	0	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Value of projects contributing to equality of opportunities	Achieved Outcome	0	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0
	Objective	0	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
	Baseline	0	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Number of participants involved in the project activities (division: men/women, other disadvantaged groups)	Achieved Outcome	0	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0
	Objective	0	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
	Baseline	0	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Number of participants, who successfully passed the project activities (division: men/women, other disadvantaged groups)	Achieved Outcome	0	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0
	Objective	0	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
	Baseline	0	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

men/women, other disadvantaged groups)											
Number of persons using the project outcomes (division: men/women, other disadvantaged groups)	Achieved Outcome	0	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0
	Objective	0	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
	Baseline	0	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Priority Axis No. 3											
Number of projects contributing to equality of opportunities	Achieved Outcome	0	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0
	Objective	0	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
	Baseline	0	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Value of projects contributing to equality of opportunities	Achieved Outcome	0	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0
	Objective	0	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
	Baseline	0	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Number of participants involved in the project activities (division: men/women, other disadvantaged groups)	Achieved Outcome	0	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0
	Objective	0	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
	Baseline	0	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Number of supported education programmes with orientation to equality of opportunities (formal and further education)	Achieved Outcome	0	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0
	Objective	0	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
	Baseline	0	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Number of students with special education needs involved in education programmes	Achieved Outcome	0	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0
	Objective	0	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
	Baseline	0	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Number of participants, who successfully passed the project activities (division: men/women, other disadvantaged groups)	Achieved Outcome	0	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0
	Objective	0	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
	Baseline	0	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Number of persons using the project outcomes (division: men/women, other disadvantaged groups)	Achieved Outcome	0	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0
	Objective	0	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
	Baseline	0	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Number of persons using the project outcomes (division: men/women, other disadvantaged groups)	Achieved Outcome	0	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0
	Objective	0	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
	Baseline	0	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Priority Axis No. 4											
Number of projects contributing to equality of opportunities	Achieved Outcome	0	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0
	Objective	0	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
	Baseline	0	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Value of projects contributing to equality of opportunities	Achieved Outcome	0	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0
	Objective	0	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
	Baseline	0	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Number of participants involved in the project activities (division: men/women, other disadvantaged groups)	Achieved Outcome	0	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0
	Objective	0	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
	Baseline	0	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Number of supported education programmes oriented on the equality of opportunities (formal and further education)	Achieved Outcome	0	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0
	Objective	0	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
	Baseline	0	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Number of participants, who successfully passed the project activities (division: men/women, other disadvantaged groups)	Achieved Outcome	0	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0
	Objective	0	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
	Baseline	0	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

men/women, other disadvantaged groups)											
Number of persons using the project outcomes (division: men/women, other disadvantaged groups)	Achieved Outcome	0	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0
	Objective	0	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
	Baseline	0	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

* Annex No. 4 SKI HP EO does not define the baseline and target values of measurable indicators, thus, all baseline values are defined as zero and all target values are defined as N/A.

The reasons for presenting the zero values of HP EO measurable indicators in the monitored period are incorporated in Section 4.2.2.

4.2.2. Problems Connected with HP EO Implementation

The question of defining the relevant HP EO measurable indicators for the prepared HP EO ICS (insufficient CCA coordination) the selection of suitable indicators for prepared calls and direct awards (the prepared National Code List of Indicators in ITMS did not contain indicators defined in the HP EO ICS, thus was impossible to allocate them to the submitted AFNFC and subsequently use them in the preparation of contracts) were resolved in 2008 in close cooperation with the HP EO coordinator in connection with the HP EO implementation.

The CCA methodical procedures in the areas mentioned above were modified in the monitored period which caused problems with their use in projects and future monitoring within the framework of MA/IBMA implementation. The CCA eliminated this problem only as of December 1, 2008 by means of issuing Methodical Instruction No. 3 regarding the design and use of project indicators and their incorporation to ITMS 2007 – 2013.

4.3. Horizontal Priority Sustainable Development

Pursuant to the approved NSRF, the global objective of HP SD is to ensure that the outcome effect of all interventions financed within the framework of the NSRF constitute synergic support to the SD in all its components, i.e., environmental, economic and social components in compliance with the objectives and indicators of the EU Strategy for Sustainable Development.

Table No. 67: Fulfillment of Physical Indicators as of December 31, 2008

Indicators		2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	Total
Indicator 1 (unit of measurement)	Achieved Outcome	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Objective	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Baseline	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Indicator 2 (unit of measurement)	Achieved Outcome	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Objective	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Baseline	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

Due to the fact that Annex No. 13 to the NSRF contains the set of measurable indicators with relevance to HP SD, which are not based on the OPE version approved by the EC in 2007, i.e., the CCA did not update the pertinent annex since 2007, it is not possible to show the non-current indicators of Annex No. 13. As a result, it is impossible to complete the data in Table No.67.

The specific and partial objective No. 1: Increasing Economic Prosperity defined in the HP SD ICS will be fulfilled through Priority Axes 1, 2 and 4 by means of activities of the contracted

projects by increasing the education level at ES and SS by innovating and modernizing the teaching content, providing and renewing the knowledge and skills of pedagogues and modernizing the school equipment.

The fulfilment of the specific and partial objective No. 3, Social Solidarity and Inclusion, in the area of decreasing the unemployment rate in the monitored period was ensured by proclaiming calls and direct awards for the projects through which the content transformation of education in compliance with the needs of the knowledge-based society, especially national projects oriented on acquiring key skills for participants of educational activities (language, digital literacy and others). Strengthening the position of disadvantaged and marginalized groups of the population was not directly supported in 2008 since the proclaiming of calls and direct awards for national project within the framework of Priority Axis 3 is planned for the course of 2009. Ensuring the protection of the health of the population was supported indirectly through proclaiming calls and follow up project implementation within Measure 2.2 targeted on staff education in the healthcare sector.

The fulfillment of the main objective of HP SD incorporated in Chapter 4.3.5. of the NSRF: “To ensure that the outcome effect of all interventions financed within the framework of the NSRF constitute synergic support to the SD in all its components, i.e., environmental, economic and social components in compliance with the objectives and indicators of the EU Strategy for Sustainable Development” in 2008 was ensured by means of guiding the NFC applicants, training expert evaluators and ensuring the informing of the general public on the meaning and principles of HP SD.

The contribution of the projects to HP SD within the framework of all proclaimed calls and direct awards was reported and signed in NFC Applications submitted by the applicants and subsequently evaluated in the expert evaluation phase. The majority of submitted NFC Applications (see Table No. 68) reported positive contributions to HP SD.

In the monitored period of 2008, a total of 6 national projects reported contributions to HP SD regarding which the Agreement on NFC Provision was concluded.

Due to the fact that learning is the basic prequalification for the support of sustainable development and the increase of human potential for solving environmental, economic and social and cultural development problems, compliance with the above mentioned pillars of the SD is ensured through systematic education implemented in the national and demand-driven projects.

The project aims within the framework of the implemented demand-driven pilot projects of the IBMA – MH SR from the call code OPE 2008/2.2/01 were in compliance with the aims of the National Sustainable Development Strategy of the SR for the Period 2005 – 2010, whose priorities are also aimed at the support of the healthcare system. All of the projects were oriented on replenishing the number of qualified professionals – healthcare staff, through which the plans for human resources development in healthcare and healthcare system support were fulfilled. The provision of healthcare is part of the social and economic pillar of SD and by increasing the quality of the provision of services in the healthcare sector, the quality of life in region is increased, which is one of the most significant indicators of the SG strategy. The projects also contributed to the fulfilment of the aims of the National SD Strategy due to the fact that the project plan supports and develops the further education of the healthcare staff and lifelong learning and interconnects the needs of the local and regional labour markets with the employers

– healthcare providers in cooperation with the professional associations and chambers. As with the IBMA – ASFEU projects, within the framework of the project implementation, almost all NFC applicants reported contributions to HP SD (see Table No. 68) which constitutes the prequalification for the support of sustainable development and the increase of human potential for solving environmental, economic and social and cultural development problems.

The monitoring of the contribution of the projects to HP SD will be conducted through the measurable indicators related to HP SD. The Agreement on NFC Provision fully binds the beneficiaries to the fulfilment of these indicators which must be reported in the ongoing monitoring reports. Due to the problems indicated in Chapter 4.3.2, the monitoring of measurable indicators related to HP SD will be possible only from 2009. The monitoring of the contribution of the projects to HP SD will also constitute the subject of on-the-spot verifications.

Table No.68: Number of Projects Contributing to HP SD as of December 31, 2008

Overall Number of Projects	Number of Projects Contributing to HP SD	Volume of Project Funds Contributing to HP SD
44	43	58,815,149.06

From the overall number of 44 projects, 43 projects affecting HP SD were implemented in the overall financial volume of EUR 58,815,149.06.

4.3.1. Fulfillment of Measurable Indicators

Table No. 69 shows more closely the fulfillment of the measurable indicators in the HP SD ICS according to Priority Axes 1 to 4 as of December 31, 2008.

Table No. 69: Fulfillment of the HO SD Measurable Indicators as of December 31, 2008 pursuant to Annex No. 2 of the HP SD ICS for the Period 2007-2013 Valid in 2008

Indicators		2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	Total
Priority Axis 1											
Number of newly designed education programmes	Achieved Outcome	0	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0
	Objective	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	120	N/A	N/A	120
	Baseline	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Number of pedagogical staff passing further education programmes	Achieved Outcome	0	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0
	Objective	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	50000	N/A	N/A	50,000
	Baseline	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Number of R&D workers involved in further education	Achieved Outcome	0	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0
	Objective	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	3000	N/A	N/A	3,000
	Baseline	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Priority Axis 2											
Number of the education programmes of further education of healthcare workers	Achieved Outcome	0	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0
	Objective	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	20	N/A	N/A	20
	Baseline	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Number of healthcare workers passing further education programs for healthcare workers	Achieved Outcome	0	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0
	Objective	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	5143	N/A	N/A	5,143
	Baseline	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Priority Axis 3											
Number of formal education programmes for persons with special education needs	Achieved Outcome	0	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0
	Objective	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	150	N/A	N/A	150
	Baseline	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

Number of further education programmes for persons participating in social inclusion of persons with special education needs	Achieved Outcome	0	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0
	Objective	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	35	N/A	N/A	35
	Baseline	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Priority Axis 4											
Number of newly designed education programmes	Achieved Outcome	0	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0
	Objective	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	80	N/A	N/A	80
	Baseline	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Number of pedagogical staff passing further education programmes	Achieved Outcome	0	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0
	Objective	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	7000	N/A	N/A	7,000
	Baseline	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Number of R&D workers involved in further education	Achieved Outcome	0	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0
	Objective	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	2000	N/A	N/A	2,000
	Baseline	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

The reasons for presenting the zero values of HP SD measurable indicators in the monitored period are incorporated in Section 4.4.2.

4.3.2. Problems Connected with HP SD Implementation

The question of defining the relevant HP SD measurable indicators for the prepared HP SD ICS (insufficient CCA coordination) the selection of suitable indicators for prepared calls and direct awards (the prepared National Code List of Indicators in ITMS did not contain indicators defined in the HP SD ICS, that is why it was impossible to allocate them to the submitted AFNFC and subsequently use them in the preparation of contracts) were resolved in 2008 in close cooperation with the HP SD coordinator in connection with the HP SD implementation.

The CCA methodical procedures in the areas mentioned above were modified in the monitored period which caused problems with their use in projects and future monitoring within the framework of MA/IBMA implementation. The CCA eliminated this problem only as of December 1, 2008 by means of issuing Methodical Instruction No. 3 regarding the design and use of project indicators and their incorporation to ITMS 2007 – 2013.

4.4. Horizontal Priority Information Society

The main objective of HP IS defined in the NSRF is the development of an inclusive information society. The above mentioned objective can be fulfilled in the OPE by modernizing the contents of education concerning ICT, innovating the ICT skills of teachers and students and raising the level of Slovak tertiary education to make it competitive with developed EU countries.

Table No. 70: Fulfilment of Physical Indicators as of December 31, 2008

Indicators		2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	Total
Indicator 1 (unit of measurement)	Achieved Outcome	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Objective	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Baseline	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Indicator 2 (unit of measurement)	Achieved Outcome	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Objective	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Baseline	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

Due to the fact that Annex No. 13 of the NSRF contains a set of measurable indicators identified with the relevancy to the HP IS, which are not based on the OPE version approved by the EC in

2007, i.e., the CCA did not update the pertinent annex from 2007, it is impossible to show non-current indicators of Annex No. 13. As a result, it is not possible to complete the data in Table No. 70.

HP IS specific and partial objectives No. 1 Information Literacy and 3 Wide Internet Accessibility defined in the HP IS Implementation Coordination System (the “ICS”) will be fulfilled within the framework of Priority Axes 1, 2 and 4 through activities of contracted projects as follows:

- by modernizing the content of ICT education;
- through innovation of the ICT skills and knowledge of teachers and students;
- through support of multimedia classrooms.

The main HP IS objective is incorporated in Chapter 4.3.5. of the NSRF Support of Higher Effectiveness, Transparency and Quality of the NSRF Priorities Implementation and the Introduction and Use of ICT Means is fulfilled within the framework of Priority Axes 1 to 4 through the project activities by introducing and using ICT means at ES and SS.

The contribution of the projects to HP IS within the framework of all proclaimed calls and direct awards was reported and signed in NFC Applications submitted by the applicants and subsequently evaluated in the expert evaluation phase. The majority of submitted NFC Applications (see Table No. 71) reported positive contributions to HP IS.

In the monitored period of 2008, a total of 8 national projects reported contributions to HP IS regarding which the Agreement on NFC Provision was concluded.

For example, in the national project *“Elementary Teacher Training in the Area of Foreign Languages in Connection with the Concept of Foreign Language Teaching at Elementary and Secondary Schools”* the contribution to HP IS will be fulfilled due to the fact that the schools whose teachers participate in the project education activities will acquire the most recent modern didactic technology within the framework of training of its teachers. As a result, the school system of the SR will move closer to the average of the EU in ICT school equipment. Through the support of the active use of ICT in the teaching process and the computer literacy of teachers, the projects contribute to the fulfilment of the aims of the Regional School System Informatization Strategy in the SR. Though the design of new e-learning courses for language training and professional training of teachers of foreign languages, the projects will contribute to the production of non-material wealth and the easing up of the physical infrastructure of the school system.

The national project *“Further Elementary and Secondary School Teacher Training in the Subject Informatics”* will ensure equal opportunities for the population of the SR for a productive and full life in the information and knowledge-based society by implementing systematic elementary education in the field of informatics and the use of its instruments.

The national projects *“The Modernizing of the Education Process at Elementary Schools”* and *“The Modernizing of the Education Process at Secondary Schools”* will feature new digital multimedia content, digital teaching aids and methodological textbooks for teachers for teaching selected subjects which will constitute the output which will significantly increase the quality of the outputs of education for labour market needs in the knowledge-based society.

Implemented demand-driven pilot projects of the IBMA – MH SR from the call code OPE 2008/2.2/01 increased knowledge from the field of the use of modern information technologies which were used by the healthcare staff at the healthcare facilities. The content of the

specialization studies included the theoretical preparation and performance of healthcare activities in practice. In the case of some education activities, they used highly specialized medical apparatuses involving information-communication technologies. As in the case of the IBMA – ASFEU projects, the vast majority of NFC applicants reported contributions to HP IS in the course of the project implementation (see Table No. 71). In compliance with the aims of HP IS, the ASFEU extension are oriented on modernizing the education process, partially through the use of ICT in the teaching process and introduction of innovative methods of education.

The monitoring of the contribution of the projects to HP IS will be conducted through the measurable indicators related to HP IS. The Agreement on NFC Provisions fully binds the beneficiaries to the fulfilment of these indicators and the achieved values must be reported in the ongoing monitoring reports. Due to the problems indicated in Chapter 4.4.2, the monitoring of measurable indicators related to HP IS will only be possible from 2009. The monitoring of the contribution of the projects to HP SD will also constitute the subject of the on-the-spot verifications.

Table No. 71: Number of Projects Contributing to HP IS as of December 31, 2008

Total Number of Projects	Number of Projects Contributing to HP IS	Volume of Project Funds Contributing to HP IS
44	42	75,232,957.76

From the overall number of 44 projects, 42 projects affecting HP IS were implemented in the overall financial volume of EUR 75,232,957.76 .

4.4.1. Fulfillment of Measurable Indicators

Table No. 72 presents more closely the fulfillment of the HP IS measurable indicators incorporated in the HP IS ICS pursuant to Priority Axes 1 to 4 as of December 31, 2008.

Table No. 72: Fulfillment of the HP IS Measurable Indicators as of December 31, 2008 pursuant to Annex No. 2 HP IS ICS for the Period 2007-2013 Valid in 2008

Indicators		2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	Total
Priority Axis 1											
Number of newly created/innovated education programmes targeted on ICT use in the teaching process	Achieved Outcome	0	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0
	Objective	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	5	N/A	N/A	N/A
	Baseline	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Number of newly created/innovated programmes supporting increasing digital literacy of university teachers and R&D human resources	Achieved Outcome	0	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0
	Objective	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	10	N/A	N/A	N/A
	Baseline	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Number of pedagogical staff successfully passing the programmes supporting increasing digital literacy/skills	Achieved Outcome	0	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0
	Objective	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	15000	N/A	N/A	N/A
	Baseline	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Number of university teachers and R&D workers successfully passing programmes supporting increasing digital literacy/skills	Achieved Outcome	0	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0
	Objective	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	600	N/A	N/A	N/A
	Baseline	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Priority Axis 2											
Number of newly created/innovated education programmes targeted on providing and developing	Achieved Outcome	0	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0
	Objective	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	N/A

ICT knowledge and skills											
Priority Axis 3											
Number of education programmes targeted on ICT use in the teaching process	Achieved Outcome	0	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0
	Objective	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	2	N/A	N/A	N/A
	Baseline	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Priority Axis 4											
innovated education programmes targeted on ICT use in the teaching process	Achieved Outcome	0	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0
	Objective	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	5	N/A	N/A	N/A
	Baseline	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Number of newly created/innovated programmes supporting digital literacy of university teachers and R&D human resources	Achieved Outcome	0	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0
	Objective	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	5	N/A	N/A	N/A
	Baseline	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Number of pedagogical staff successfully passing the programmes supporting increasing digital literacy/skills	Achieved Outcome	0	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0
	Objective	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	2000	N/A	N/A	N/A
	Baseline	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Number of university teachers and R&D workers successfully passing programmes supporting increasing digital literacy/skills	Achieved Outcome	0	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0
	Objective	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	400	N/A	N/A	N/A
	Baseline	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

The reasons for presenting zero values of HP IS measurable indicators in the monitored period are incorporated in Section 4.4.2.

4.4.2. Problems Connected with HP IS Implementation

In 2008, the question of defining relevant HP IS measurable indicators for the prepared HP IS ICS (insufficient CCA coordination) the selection of suitable indicators for the prepared calls and direct awards (the National Code List of Indicators in ITMS did not contain indicators defined at HP IS ICS, that is why it was impossible to allocate them to the submitted AFNFC and subsequently use them in preparation of contracts) were resolved in close coordination with the coordinator of HP IS in connection with the HP IS implementation.

The CCA methodical procedures in the areas mentioned above were modified in the monitored period which caused problems with their use in projects and future monitoring within the framework of MA/IBMA implementation. The CCA eliminated this problem only as of December 1, 2008 by means of issuing Methodical Instruction No. 3 regarding the design and use of project indicators and their incorporation in ITMS 2007 – 2013.

5. ESF PROGRAMMES: COHERENCE AND CONCENTRATION

OPE contributes to the implementation of the EU Community recommendations for employment in the fields of social inclusion, education and vocational training, by means of what it fulfils Article 4 Section 1 of EC Regulation No. 1081/2006.

Through its orientation it fulfils the EU recommendations on employment, European Employment Strategy, the EU Lisbon Strategy and continues in strategic documents of the SR (The Strategy for Employment Growth Support Based on the Social System and Labour Market Reform, The National Action Plan for Employment for the Period 2004-2006) the Commission's working programme: "Education and Vocational Training 2010", Memorandum on Life-long Learning (hereinafter the "LIL") The Bologna Declaration, The European Parliament and Council Recommendation of December 18, 2006 on Key LiL Competencies (2006/962/EC). Education constitutes one of the cornerstones for the support of economic and social activity and

employability in these strategic documents. Within these intentions, the reform of the education system and increase of labour force qualifications comprise the intent of the OPE.

The OPE is in full compliance with the Community Strategic Guidelines for Economic, Social and Territorial Cohesion defining the basic framework for the NSRF of member states with the goal of promoting the harmonious, well-balanced and sustainable development of the Community.

The OP Priority Axes are based on and fully support the development section of the Competitiveness Strategy of Slovakia until 2010 – the National Lisbon Strategy which in its introduction declares that “There is only one way to ensure the long-term competitiveness of the SR: by creating conditions for the development of a “knowledge-based economy”. They focus on the topics within the framework of the second and third guidelines: “Improvement of Knowledge and Innovation for Growth” and “More and Better Quality Jobs”.

In connection with the task of the Lisbon Strategy which underlines the important role of education as an integral part of economic and social policy as an instrument for strengthening the competitiveness of Europe in the world and as a guarantee for ensuring the coherence of the European Communities and full development of their citizens, the development of high quality professional and vocational education and training constitutes the crucial factor in issues of the support of social integration, cohesion, mobility and employment. In 2008 8 calls were declared (Measures 1.1 and 4.1) in compliance with the Lisbon Strategy oriented on the support of key competencies of the students and pedagogical staff at ES and SS.

The OPE is in compliance with the following programmes:

- **The National Reform Programme of the SR for the Period 2006-2008**, approved by Slovak Republic Government Resolution No. 797 of October 12, 2005, including the amendment to the draft amendment of the National Reform Programme of the SR for the Period 2006-2008 approved by SR Government Resolution No. 1056 of December 13, 2006, underlines the future prosperity and competitiveness of the SR in the reconstruction of the traditional school to a modern school, the support of gifted youth, the active mastering of foreign languages, the support of teaching and learning through IT, increasing the accessibility and quality of university education, opening the further education system, and integrating children from marginalised communities in the school environment. In compliance with the National Reform Programme of the SR for the Period 2006-2008, calls were declared within the framework of the OPE in 2008 to submit AFNFC in OPE Measures 1.1 and 4.1 targeted on the design and implementation of development programmes at ES and SS, and their emphasis was to increase the quality of education based on innovations and the profiling of schools in connection with education system reform. The Section III.1: Modern Education Policy, of the National Reform Programme of the SR for the Period 2006-2008 has the goal to support further education and ensure reconciliation between regional offers of further education programmes and the current needs of the regional labour market. Within the framework of OPE Measure 2.2, the professional capacity and competence profile of the healthcare staff will be improved through the introduction of innovations to the contents, methods and forms of further education.

The National Reform Programme of the Slovak Republic for the Period 2008-2010, approved by Slovak Republic Government Resolution No. 707 of October 8, 2008 was elaborated in compliance with the March 2008 conclusions of the European Council. In 2008, the European Union member states entered in a new three-year cycle of the Lisbon Strategy which was reflected in the adopting of the given document. The National Reform programme

presents the status of the fulfillment of the structural policies for the last 12 months which are composed of the National Reform Programme of the SR for the Period 2006 – 2008 the measures and short-term measures of the Slovakia 21 Modernization Programme; at the same time it submits new measures for the period 2008 – 2010 in the field of education and employment.

Within the framework of the measures of the National Reform Programme of the SR for the Period 2008 – 2010 targeted on informatizing schools and the design of innovative study materials and aids, the building of adequate communication and information infrastructure systems are to be launched at all types of schools and school facilities in Slovakia. At the same time, the educational content is to be innovated, new material-didactic means (textbooks and teaching texts) will be elaborated and the further education of pedagogical staff will be carried out. In compliance with the above mentioned measures, the direct award for national projects was declared within the framework of the OPE, which should fulfil the objectives of this document through their orientation. This refers to the direct award with the title **“Further IT Education of Elementary and Secondary School Teachers”** targeted on complementing the qualifications of ES and SS teachers by the subject IT and the further IT education of teachers at ES and SS, **“Modernizing the Education Process at Elementary Schools”** targeted on the education of pedagogical staff at ES in the field of information-communication technologies, the design of multimedia/digital educational material for the state education programme for general education subjects at ES, the design of textbooks and editorial activities and the subsequent testing and monitoring of acquired competencies and skills of pedagogical staffs at ES. The direct award with the title **“Modernizing the Education Process at Secondary Schools”** was of the same orientation as the project **“Modernizing the Education Process at Elementary Schools”**, only with a different target group – the pedagogical staffs of secondary schools.

The application of the system of cooperation of the public sector, bodies and central authorities of state administration in the sectors of education, labour, social affairs and the family with employers (social partners) should bring space for better interconnecting the contents of education with the labour market requirements and thus increasing employability.

These requirements were reflected by the declared direct awards for national projects with the title **“Modernising the Education Process at Elementary Schools and “Modernising the Education Process at Secondary Schools”**. The direct awards with the title **“Teacher Training in Connection with the Design of School Education Programmes”** was targeted on the training of multipliers for ES and SS pedagogical staff training for implementation of the content reform of education and the design of school education programmes, the training of all active ES and SS pedagogical staff for the implementation of the content reform of school systems and the design of school education programmes. The direct award with the title **“Design of New Education Programmes in Vocational Training for the Needs of the Automobile Industry II”** was targeted on the design of SS graduate profiles for the needs of automobile component production and the production of automobile accessories with the goal of achieving a higher employment rate within this group of SS graduates, the design and implementation of education programme/programmes for the needs of automobile component production and the production of automobile accessories.

- **Competitiveness Strategy of Slovakia until 2010 (Lisbon Strategy for Slovakia)**, which was approved by Slovak Republic Government Resolution No. 140 of February 16, 2005. This is the national Lisbon Strategy emphasizing modern education policy targeted change in teaching content; improvement of foreign language training and the training of skills in the area of information technologies; enhancement of the quality of teachers, extending the

instruments for developing the talents of children and youth; supporting integration programmes for children from marginalized groups in a standard school environment. Four Action Plans continue in it (the Action Plan for Education and Employment, the Action Plan for Research and Innovations, the Action Plan for the Information Society and the Action Plan for the Business Environment) approved by Slovak Republic Government Resolution No. 557 of July 13, 2005. The OPE is based on the **Action Plan for Education and Employment**, which in its section Modern Education Policy defines the priorities and establishes the tasks that are considered as key ones from the perspective of the overall reconstruction of the traditional school to a modern school. It places emphasis on working with gifted youth, increasing the accessibility and quality of university education and opening the system of further education for the largest number of citizens possible. In 2008, the calls for the submission of the AFNFC in OPE Measures 1.1 and 1.4 targeted on the design and implementation of school education programmes especially at elementary and secondary schools and supporting the innovation of didactical means which develops the key competencies of students were declared in compliance with the Action Plan for Education and Employment within the framework of the OPE.

In OPE Measure 2.2, the expedient specialization and effective connection of life-long learning with the needs of local and regional labour market should be achieved by respecting the requirements of individual regions of the SR and healthcare facilities for the provision and increasing of possibilities for life-long learning of healthcare staff. All this through the active involvement of self-governments, education institutions, professional associations and chambers, which is in compliance with the Competitiveness Strategy of Slovakia until 2010. Fulfilling the objectives of this Strategy aims at improving the access of healthcare staff to further education, the creation of a functioning model of financing of further education for healthcare staff and stabilising the healthcare staff by connecting the sources of the employer, public finance and the employee.

- **The National Report on Social Protection and Social Inclusion Strategies for the Period 2006-2008** considers education policy as the key instrument for combating the generational reproduction of poverty. It emphasizes the equality of opportunities in access to education and the chance to achieve quality education regardless of the socio-economic environment of the child. It emphasizes ensuring the integration of children from risky and marginalized groups in a standard school environment. Within the framework of OPE Measure 2.2, the objective of ensuring available, quality and sustainable healthcare in regions in which the development and forecasting indicators of health and infirmity reach negative parameters in compliance to Section 4 (of the National Health and Long-Term Care Strategy) of this document is followed by increasing the level of specific knowledge and practical skills in selected categories of healthcare staff for the performance of highly demanding professional, specialized and certified working activities.

Through its orientation, OPE fulfils the **European Employment Strategy**. The transformation or adoption of the education system/its innovation for the labour market requirements is one of its measures for increasing employment and better preparedness for the labour market. Education and the improvement of skills constitute one of the foundation stones in the European Employment Strategy for the support of employability. In these intentions, the reform of the education system and increase of the qualification of the labour force also by increasing the quality and access to lifelong learning is the plan of OPE.

The innovation of the content and method of education (through the innovation of pedagogical documentation) and the enhancement of the quality of education outputs for the needs of the

labour market in the knowledge-based society, by which the adaptability of graduates towards the requirements of employers, will be increased, was the aim of the calls for demand-driven projects in AFNFC submissions in Measures 1.1 and 4.1 proclaimed by ASFEU in 2008 in particular. The projects approved within the framework of these calls will focus on the design and implementation of school education programmes at ES and SS supporting the key competences of students through the use of new teaching materials within the upbringing and education process and preparing students for knowledge-based society and also through the innovation of didactic means for developing the key competences of students. Through the new quality of education acquired as a result of project implementation, the students will be equipped with new key competences, better prepared for the constantly developing and more sophisticated labour market and for their continuous learning in the system of tertiary or further education. The activities aimed especially at acquiring or deepening language skills and improving ICT skills will contribute to the better effectiveness of the labour market. By acquiring language competences, the target groups will also have a better chance for establishing themselves on the European labour market. The above mentioned facts also pertained to the direct awards of national projects proclaimed by the MA for Measures 1.1 and 4.1 (direct award “Elementary School Teacher Training in the Area of Foreign Languages in Connection with the Concept of Foreign Language Teaching at Elementary and Secondary Schools”, “The Modernizing of the Education Process at Elementary Schools”, “The Modernizing of the Education Process at Secondary Schools”). The direct award entitled “Design of New Education Programmes in Vocational Training for the Needs of Automobile Industry II” was aimed at the design of profiles for SS graduates for the needs of production of automobile components and automobile accessories with the aim to achieve higher employment among this group of SS graduates and the design and implementation of school programmes for the needs of the production of automobile components and automobile accessories. The direct award entitled “Further Elementary and Secondary School Teacher Training in the Subject Informatics” proclaimed for Measure 2.1 was oriented on deepening and renewing the level of key competences and continuously replenishing the qualifications of individuals on the labour market in compliance with the needs of the knowledge-based society. The calls proclaimed within the framework of Measure 2.2 OPE constituted the possibility of providing and increasing the possibilities of lifelong learning of healthcare staff oriented on acquiring purposeful qualifications and effective interconnection between lifelong learning and the needs of the local and regional labour markets in the form of the active involvement of self-governments, education institutions, professional associations and chambers. In projects implemented within the framework of the call *Replenishing of the Healthcare System by Qualified Professionals (call code OPE 2008/2.2/01)* healthcare workers participated in specialized studies in fields with a shortage of specialists and were refunded the costs for education. At the same time, they undertook to perform their healthcare job with their current employer or the employer on the territory of Objective Convergence for at least 1 year after the completion of the financial support of study. This significantly contributed to replenishing and stabilizing of the human resources in the healthcare system on the territory of self-governing region according to the specific needs of this region. The analysis of the numbers in terms of human resources in the healthcare system of the self-governing region which was not available during the implementation of this project constituted another output of these projects.

The assessment of the actual impact of the OPE on coherence and concentration is currently impossible despite the fact that in 2008 calls for the submission of AFNFC were declared and projects were contracted. However, individual OPE measures are in the beginning phase of implementation.

6. TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

TA constitutes part of the OPE and its main objective is to ensure the effective implementation of the OPE in compliance with the requirements placed on management and administrative structures responsible for the implementation of the Operation Programme.

Within the framework of the OPE, TA is:

1. Special Priority Axis No. 5 for Objective C, the purpose of which is to support the implementation of Priority Axes No. 1, 2 and 3 OPE;
2. Special Objective RC&E Measure No. 4.3, the purpose of which is to support the implementation of Priority Axis No. 4 OPE.

Council Regulation (EC) No. 1083/2006 of July 11, 2006 which establishes general provisions on European Regional Development Fund, European Social Fund and Cohesion Fund and which abrogates Regulation (EC) No. 1260/1999, provides initiative possibilities to individual member countries to use funds for activities connected with the preparation, management, monitoring, assessment, information and control of OP and for activities connected with strengthening administrative the capacities for the implementation of programmes (Article 46).

Point 2 of Article 46 (TA of Member States) provides individual member states with the possibility of elaborating OP TA and /or within the framework of individual OP to also have separate Priority Axis TA available. Pursuant to this regulation, the TA OPE is separated as an independent Priority Axis for Objective C and Objective RC&E Measure TA within the framework of the OPE.

The following key topics⁷⁵ are applied for the area of TA:

a) Key Topic 85 – Preparation, Implementation, Monitoring and Control

The following activities cover the preparation, monitoring, implementation and control of implementation of SF⁷⁶ assistance:

- staffing for the preparation, management and control of programmes, projects and HP including activities of established SF committees and commissions including the staff training;
- necessary materials and technical support (such as consumer goods, means of transportation, appliances, software and others) connected with the management and control of SF assistance;
- provision of services (documents and others) related to SF preparation, management and control on the level of programmes, projects and HP.

b) Key Topic 86 – Evaluation and Studies, Information and Communication

The following activities cover SF assessment and studies, information and communication⁷⁷:

⁷⁵ Pursuant to Annex No. II to Commission Regulation (EC) No. 1828/2006 (Fund Assistance Categorizing for the Period 2007 – 2013).

⁷⁶ Pursuant to the Structural Funds and Cohesion Fund Management System for the programme period 2007 – 2013, version 3.0.

- provision of information, extending of awareness of the OP and operation programme publicity support on an adequate level pursuant to article 69 of Council Regulation (EC) No. 1083/2006 and Section 1 of Commission Regulation No. 1828/2006 for recipients, possible beneficiaries and the general public;
- creating networks of contact points and information and communication channels;
- CoP preparation and implementation;
- provision of methodological and expert counselling, support of activities for helping applicants, ensuring of training and seminars for experience exchange and dissemination of best practice examples, support of partnership and mutual cooperation in the preparation and implementation of projects, implementation activities for the monitoring and evaluation of absorption capacity, etc.;
- ensuring individual evaluations of OP implementation in compliance with the assessment requirements pursuant to No. 47 of Council Regulation (EC) No. 1083/2006, including the current assessment in the process of NDRF and OP preparation;
- elaboration of expert opinions, methodologies, studies, environmental impact assessment, regional analyses and other analyses connected with OP preparation and implementation.

6.1. TA MA Projects

Projects within the framework of OPE 4 TA were submitted and approved in the monitored period. They are presented more closely in Table No. 73.

Table No. 73: Overview of TA MA Projects Approved as of December 31, 2008

85/86	Project Title	Project Sum (EUR)	Project Objectives	Project Status
85	OPE Technical Assistance for Objective Convergence – I Preparation and Implementation, Monitoring, Control and Audit *	1,447,918.74	to ensure the effective implementation of the OPE within the framework of the Objective Convergence in compliance with the requirements for the management and administrative structures responsible for OPE implementation	implementing
85	OPE Technical Assistance for the Objective RC&E– I Preparation and Implementation, Monitoring, Control and Audit *	66,719.78	to ensure the effective implementation the OPE within the framework of the Objective RC&E in compliance with the requirements for the management and administrative structures responsible for OPE implementation	implementing
86	OPE Technical Assistance for the Objective Convergence – II. Evaluation and Studies; Information and Publicity *	157,013.88	to ensure the effective implementation of the OPE within the framework of the Objective Convergence	implementing
86	OPE Technical Assistance for the Objective RC&E – II. Evaluation and Studies; Information and Publicity *	5,642.97	to ensure the effective implementation of the OPE within the framework of the Objective RC&E	implementing

* The included TA projects are for the period from January 1, 2007 to December 31, 2008.

6.2. TA IBMA Projects

6.2.1. IBMA – ASFEU

8 TA ASFEU projects were submitted and approved within the framework of the OPE in the monitored period; for more details see Table No. 74.

Table No. 74: Overview of TA ASFEU Projects Approved as of December 31, 2008

⁷⁷ Pursuant to the Structural Funds and Cohesion Fund Management System for the programme period 2007 – 2013, version 3.0.

85/86	Project Title	Project Sum (EUR)	Project Objectives	Project State
85	Technical Assistance for the OPE, Objective Convergence PT 85 for 2007,2008	1,509,692.62	To ensure the effective implementation of the Operation Programme Education and to support the implementation of the Priority Axes of the Operation Programme Education	implementing
85	Technical Assistance for the OPE, Objective Regional Competitiveness and Employment PT 85 for 2007,2008	36,878.44	To ensure the effective implementation of the Operation Programme Education and to support the implementation of the Priority Axes of the Operation Programme Education	implementing
86	Technical Assistance for the OPE, Objective Convergence PT 86 for 2007,2008	512,341.40	To ensure the effective implementation of the Operation Programme Education and to support the implementation of the Priority Axes of the Operation Programme Education	implementing
86	Technical Assistance for OPE, Objective Regional Competitiveness and Employment PT 86 for 2007,2008	16,265.02	To ensure the effective implementation of the Operation Programme Education and to support the implementation of the Priority Axes of the Operation Programme Education	implementing
85	Technical Assistance for the OPE, Objective Convergence and PT 85 for 2009 *	2,192,968.93	To ensure the effective implementation of the Operation Programme Education and to support the implementation of the Priority Axes of the Operation Programme Education	project designed
85	Technical Assistance for the OPE, Objective Regional Competitiveness and Employment PT 85 for 2009 *	63,171.94	To ensure the effective implementation of the Operation Programme Education and to support the implementation of the Priority Axes of the Operation Programme Education	project designed
86	Technical Assistance for the OPE, Objective Convergence PT 86 for 2009 *	510,972.71	To ensure the effective implementation of the Operation Programme Education and to support the implementation of the Priority Axes of the Operation Programme Education	project designed
86	Technical Assistance for the OPE, Objective Regional Competitiveness and Employment PT 86 for 2009 *	14,719.38	To ensure the effective implementation of the Operation Programme Education and to support the implementation of the Priority Axes of the Operation Programme Education	project designed

* Incorporated projects for the period January 1, 2009 – December 31, 2009 were approved in 2008.

6.2.2. IBMA – MH SR

2 TA MH SR projects were submitted and approved within the framework of the OPE in the monitored period; for more details see Table No. 75.

Table No. 75: Overview of TA MZ SR Projects approved as of December 31, 2008

85/86	Project Title	Project Sum (EUR)	Project Objectives	Project State
85	Technical Assistance for Objective Convergence – I. *	1,188,425.72	To ensure the administrative capacities and material and technical equipment at the MH SR as IBMA for implementation of Measure 2.2	implementing
85	Technical Assistance for Objective Convergence – II. *	199,062.50	To ensure the administrative capacities and material and technical equipment at the MH SR as IBMA for implementation of Measure 2.2	implementing

* Incorporated projects are for the period from January 1, 2007 to December 31, 2015.

6.3. Overview of the Drawing of Funds

An overview of TA funds use according to key activities as of December 31, 2008 within the framework of OPE (together for MA and IBMA) is shown in Table No. 76 and No. 77.

Table No. 76: Overview of TA Funds Use according to Key Activities as of December 31, 2008 - Objective C

Key Activities	Approved Sum		Drawn Sum	
	Thousands €	as % from Allocation for TA Programme	Thousands €	as % from Allocation for TA Programme
Monitoring, working and coordination groups, committees and commissions	286.960	1.02%	0.000	0.00%
Evaluation and studies	55.233	0.20%	0.000	0.00%
Information and publicity	1 324.157	4.69%	259.311	0.92%
Wages	4 723.724	16.73%	556.558	1.97%
Training	82.606	0.29%	0.000	0.00%
Technical Equipment (hardware, software, furniture, automobiles, etc.)	774.255	2.74%	43.754	0.15%
Other human resources for support of OPE staff	32.794	0.12%	0.000	0.00%
Operation support	350.163	1.24%	0.000	0.00%
Foreign business trips	53.110	0.19%	0.000	0.00%
Inland business trips	35.395	0.13%	0.000	0.00%
Total	7,718.397	27.34%	859.623	3.04%

As of December 31, 2008, the contracting level within the framework of Objective C reached 11.17 % of the allocation for the above mentioned Objective (source ESF), and the drawing constituted 0.12 %. That is why it is possible to consider the drawing of technical assistance funds of Objective C on the level of 3.04 % (from the overall allocation for technical assistance within the framework of Objective C) as adequate in relation to the above mentioned achieved indicators at the end of the second year of the programme period 2007 – 2013 (and real OPE implementation on the project level which began in 2008).

Table No. 77: Overview of TA Funds Use according to Key Activities as of December 31, 2008 - Objective RC&E

Key Activities	Approved Sum		Drawn Sum	
	Thousands €	as % from Allocation for TA Programme	Thousands €	as % from Allocation for TA Programme
Monitoring, working and coordination groups, committees and commissions	6.916	0.83%	0.000	0.00%
Evaluation and studies	0.747	0.09%	0.000	0.00%
Information and publicity	35.881	4.28%	8.021	0.96%
Wages	119.334	14.25%	39.312	4.69%
Training	2.403	0.29%	0.000	0.00%
Technical Equipment (hardware, software, furniture, automobiles, etc.)	22.168	2.65%	0.933	0.11%
Other human resources for support of OPE staff	1.859	0.22%	0.000	0.00%
Operation support	11.435	1.37%	0.000	0.00%
Foreign business trips	2.655	0.32%	0.000	0.00%
Total	203.398	24.28%	48.266	5.76%

As of December 31, 2008, the contracting level within the framework of the Objective RC&E reached 21.96 % of the allocation of the above mentioned Objective (source ESF) and the

drawing constituted 0.23 %. That is why it is possible to consider the drawing of the technical assistance funds of the Objective RC&E on the level of 5.76 % (of the overall allocation for the technical assistance within the framework of Objective RC&E) as adequate in connection with the above mentioned achieved indicators at the end of the second year of the programme period 2007 – 2013 (and real OPE implementation on the project level which began in 2008).

7. INFORMATION AND PUBLICITY

The exact and goal-directed information on EU assistance provided to the potential applicants for NFC, applicants for NFC, beneficiaries of NFC and the general public is a significant tool for the support of the effective use of funds from SF and CF.

The MA for OPE strives to ensure the use of means for information and publicity in the most economical, effective and useful way. Therefore this process is supported by cooperation and coordination between the MA and IBMA (the ASFEU and MH SR). On the national level, the MA coordinates its activities in the area of information and publicity with the activities of the CCA through the Publicity Working Group (PWG) and on the supranational level, the MA has its representative in the PWG - The Information & Communication Platform - INFORM Network.

7.1. Documents in the Area of Information and Publicity

As the OPE MA, the ME SR ensured the implementation of information and publicity in the monitored period in compliance with the following documents:

- Pursuant to Article 69 of the General Regulation, the CCA and MA will ensure the informing of citizens and beneficiaries with the goal to emphasize the role of the Communities and to ensure the transparency of assistance from the Funds;
- Execution Regulation in Articles 2 to 10 defines the requirements for information and communication measures, the submission of information on the use of SF and CF, managing and control systems with a description of the status and role of the subjects involved in the implementation of the SF and GF. It defines the requirements for the preparation, implementation and monitoring of the CoP and its contents. It describes the basic requirements for CoP implementation and the obligations and competencies of subjects involved in CoP implementation, in compliance of which it is necessary to provide clear and detailed information on OP implementation to the beneficiaries. The informing of beneficiaries on their incorporation in the list of beneficiaries publicized in compliance with this regulation is necessary. The basic technical characteristics of information and communication measures which must be respected by all involved subjects are incorporated in Article 9 of the execution regulation;
- The SF and CF Management System 2007-2013 Version 2.0 defines the standard processes and procedures of SF and CF management that are binding for all of the subjects responsible for OP implementation. At the same time, it regulates the minimum standards for the area of information and publicity. The goal is to unify the procedures and make them more effective even in implementation activities for achieving the maximum accessibility of information; deepening of information on objectives and possibilities of assistance provided from SF and CF; enhancement of transparency in connection with SF and CF use; creation of conditions for optimal implementation of the approved programme documents and for the enhancement of the quality of submitted projects within the framework of individual OP; strengthening of absorption capacity;

- Slovak Republic National Council Act No. 211/2000 Coll. on Free Access to Information and on changes and amendments to some Acts as amended which regulates the conditions, procedures and scope of free access to information;
- Guideline No. 2/2007-I of January 15, 2007 through which the method of communication of the ME SR with the general public is regulated;
- Guideline No. 13/2008-I of April 4, 2008 through which the procedure of providing information by employees of the ME SR pursuant to Act No. 211/2000 Coll. on Free Access to Information and on changes and amendments to some Acts as amended (Act on freedom of information).

7.2. Strategic Documents in the Area of Information and Publicity

- **Communication Plan**

The CoP for the OPE and OPR&D is the fundamental document of the MA in the area of information and publicity. It is the information and communication strategy which contains measures for information and publicity within the programme period 2007-2013. It establishes the method and tools used for the dissemination of timely, correct and comprehensive information designated for target groups, potential applicants for NFC, beneficiaries and the general public. Potential applicants for NFC are the subjects which can later become applicants for NFC.

The ME SR elaborated the common CoP for OPE and OPR&D for the period 2007-2013 which was submitted to the EC on March 26, 2008 after incorporating comments from the IBMA. It was approved by the EC without comment on May 5, 2008.

In order to ensure the continuity of publicity activities, the IBMA annually submits to the MA the information and publicity plan for the pertinent calendar year.

- **Information and Publicity Manual for the OPE and OPR&D**

The Information and Publicity Manual constitutes part of the SF and CF Management System which defines the minimum standards and unified procedures in the area of information and publicity on the EC and on the programmes supported from EC and OP funds.

The MA created the joint *Information and Publicity Manual* for the *OPE and OPR&D*. It was updated on October 15, 2008 pursuant to the proposals of IBMA.

- **Annual Information and Operative Publicity Plan for OPE and OPR&D**

In 2008, the implementation of information and publicity for the MA and ASFEU was regulated by the document *Annual Information and Publicity Operation Plan for the OPE and OPR&D for 2008*. It was elaborated through the cooperation of the MA and ASFEU with the goal of the unified presentation of the OPE and the coordination of individual activities from the periodical and financial aspects. It fully continues the information and communication strategy established in the CoP. It contains actual measures for information and publicity in 2008 and establishes the methods and tools used for the dissemination of timely, correct and comprehensive information designated for applicants for NFC, beneficiaries and the general public.

- **Operative Publicity Plan for OPE Measure 2.2**

As the SORO, the MH SR was guided in implementing information activities by the document, *Operative Publicity Plan for OPE Measure 2.2 for 2008*. The document is in compliance with the information and communication strategy established in the CoP. The publicity established in the document is targeted on the provision of comprehensive expert information on OPE Measure 2.2 and on the possibilities for drawing funds through the ESF within the framework of OPE Measure 2.2.

7.3. Coordination of Publicity on the National and Trans-national Levels

13 information and publicity managers (hereinafter the “IPM”) are available on behalf of the MA and IBMA to support the dissemination of timely, correct and comprehensive information and publicity regarding assistance from the EU SF and OPE. The structure of administration support for the informing of the general public as of December 31, 2008 was as follows:

Table No. 78: Administrative Support as of December 31, 2008

	Number of Posts for OPE
MA (IPM)	2
IBMA – ASFEU (Publicity Manager)	2
IBMA – ASFEU (Regional Publicity Manager)	8
IBMA – MH SR (Information and Publicity Manager)	1

The administrative support is adapted according to the allocation of funds to the OPE and in the continuation of the information and publicity ensuring processes. Working groups on various levels are established to ensure the coordination of the implementation of information-communication activities. Sufficient dissemination of information is also ensured through RIO that are strategically located on the level of 8 self-governing regions.

7.3.1. MA/IBMA Publicity Working Group

The role of the PWG is cooperation in implementing information-communication activities on the level of the MA and IBMA for the OPE and OPR&D.

The PWG is comprised of: the MA IPM for the OPE and OPR&D, the IPM for the MH SR and the Publicity Managers for the OPE and the OPR&D for the IBMA – ASFEU.

The session took place on November 11, 2008. The session agenda included the following: evaluation (overview) of the information and publicity activities for 2008 (MA, IBMA), provision of information regarding the Manual for Information and Publicity of the OPE and OPR&D updating, regarding the use of the EU log format, small promotional items and the obligation to publicize list of beneficiaries and subsequent coordination of activities in this area.

7.3.2. Regional Information Offices

The MA created a network of RIO on the level of 8 self-governing regions through the IBMA - ASFEU. From an administrative aspect, the RIO have eight Regional Publicity Managers for the OPE. Individual RIO and their activities were officially introduced to the general public in January 2008. The opening of RIO was connected with the regional conferences with the title “Support of Education, Research and Development from EU Structural Funds in the Programme Period 2007 – 2013”.

Sites and Dates of Conferences:

January 18, 2008 Žilina

January 21, 2008 Trenčín

January 22, 2008 Prešov

January 23, 2008 Košice

January 24, 2008 Zvolen

January 25, 2008 Nitra

January 28, 2008 Trnava

The overall number of participants at these conferences was 1,346.

The RIO fulfil the function of the contact point in the region for informing potential applicants for NFC, applicants for NFC, beneficiaries and the general public. They provide information on the objectives of OPE and the possibilities of drawing funds from the ESF in the region. The information is provided in the form of personal consultations, via telephone and e-mail.

The consultations are provided by the OPE Publicity Managers directly on the premises of the ASFEU and by the Regional Publicity Managers on the premises of individual RIO.

7.3.3. Cooperation with the CCA

The CCA is responsible for the coordination of activities in the area of information and publicity on the national level within the framework of the NSRF. The CCA coordinates the PWG which was created for the coordination of information-communication activities on the level of the NSRF and individual OP. The representative of the MA – IPM for OPE is also a member of this working group. The Information and Publicity Manual as the document providing minimum standards and unified procedures for activities in the area of information and the PWG Statute were commented on and approved within the framework of PWG.

The IPM for the OPE cooperates with the CCA through the provision of information and materials related to the OPE. The pertinent information is publicized on the information portal www.nsrr.sk.

During the monitored period, a PWG session took place on October 7, 2008.

The agenda presented at the PWG session included information on the CoP OPTA for the NSRF and information activities of the CCA and on the CoP and information activities of individual MA and HP representatives. It also included actual information related to the common information portal www.nsrr.sk and Eurokompas - the common information bulletin on EU funds, and the preparations and introduction of an information campaign on the implementation of the programme period 2004-2006, the preparation of information material – “Experience of the Past for the Development of the Future II – Examples of Successfully Implemented Projects”, and educational activities targeted on the new programme period 2007-2013. The discussion was targeted on defining small promotional items and publicizing the list of beneficiaries.

7.3.4. Cooperation at the Transnational Level

On the supranational level, the IPM OPE as the representative of the MA for the OPE is the member of The Information & Communication Platform - INFORM Network the goal of which is to associate all of the IPM of all OP with the intent to exchange experience and identify methods for the enhancement of communication activities, awareness of the benefits of Community interventions among potential beneficiaries and the general public and improve the visibility of projects financed from the EU. The communication among the members of this group is conducted in the form of the dissemination of information and experience exchanges via e-mail communication and the internet platform of the INFORM working group on the website: http://forums.ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/inform/.

2 sessions of the INFORM working group took place in the monitored period:

1. June 16 – 17, 2008, Brussels
2. November 26 – 27, 2008, Brussels

Both sessions were dedicated to the introduction of the experiences of individual member countries in the area of information and publicity based on actual activities (which were introduced in the form of presentations or video-recordings) and the preparation and work on the material “Communications Guide” that is designed in the environment of the INFORM working group.

7.4. Activities in the Area of Information and Publicity Implemented by the MA and IBMA

The implementation of activities in the area of information and publicity in 2008 was regulated by the CoP of the OPE and OPR&D and was guided and specified by the documents *Annual Operative Information and Publicity Plan for the OPE and OPR&D for 2008* for the MA and IBMA - ASFEU and *the Operative Publicity Plan for OPE Measure 2.2 for 2008* for the IBMA - MH SR. These documents stated the tools and means that were used in 2008 for implementing activities in the area of information and publicity.

A corporate identity is used in order to create a unified image and support the good name of the OP. It is adhered to especially through the OPE logo for which a design manual was elaborated. The OPE logo is obligatory for all printed materials and other information-communication media, small promotion items, etc.

It will be used in communication with the target groups in largest possible extent so they will be able to easily identify it and associate it with the pertinent issues of the OPE.

The design of the ASFEU Manual, on which the presenting of the corporate identity of the ASFEU is based, also serves the unified communication strategy for presenting the OPE.

Adherence to the corporate identity is also guided by support documents, such as the Publicity Manual for the OPE and OPR&D which is updated as necessary. It defines the technical characteristics of the measures in the areas of information and publicity. (the EU symbol, references to the EU, References to the ESF and the Declaration in which the added value of the Community is emphasized – in the case of the OPE it is the declaration “Modern Education for Knowledge-based Society/Project is Co-financed from EC Funds “).

The following information-communication tools and means were used for implementation activities:

7.4.1. Events

A) Great Information Activity of the OPE

The Slovakia and European Research Space National Conference took place on November 27, 2008 within the framework of the Week of Science and Technology 2008. The participants of the conference were informed of the OPE, the outcomes of the OPE implemented in 2008 and the plans for the upcoming period. 230 people participated in this conference. The presentations took place within the framework of the bloc: *Success of Slovak Research and Development Organizations in Acquiring Support from the Operation Programme Education*. The OPE was represented here by:

- PhDr. Martina Šimová, director of the OPE Department, Division of European Affairs of the ME SR – “The Significance of the Operation Programme Education in Support of Research and Development and the Orientation of the Content in National projects in 2008”
- Mgr. Lýdia Smilková, director of the OPEV Division, ASFEU – “ASFEU Calls for the Submission of Demand-driven Projects within the Framework of the OP Education”

- Mgr. Edmund Škorvaga, director of the Department of EU Programmes, Division of European Programmes and Projects, MH SR – “MH SR Calls for the Submission of Demand-driven Projects within the Framework of the OP Education” for Measure 2.2

B) 2nd Session of the MC for the OPE

The MC session took place on June 4, 2008 in Bratislava. Ján Mikolaj, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Education and the EC representatives participated.

The MC approved the AR which follows the development in its implementation. The minutes from the first session of the MC which took place on November 14, 2007 were also approved here and it noted the PM to the OPE revision.

The members of the committee were also informed of the progress in the implementation of the OPE and of ensuring publicity in 2007 and in the first half of 2008. The CoP was presented here as the basic information document in the field of information and publicity.

C) AR on OP Implementation

The EC approved the AR on September 18 2008. The AR was submitted to the EC for approval on June 25, 2008 (after the approval by members of the MC for the OPE at 2nd regular session of the MC for the OPE on June 4, 2008). The AR was publicized on the internet portal www.minedu.sk in September 2008. It contains data on OPE implementation achieved on the level of Priority Axes in monitoring and financial indicators. The report also contains information on contributions to the OP fulfilment of the HP defined in the NSRF for the Period 2007-2013.

D) Press Conferences on the OPE

February 26, 2008 - OPE/C/RCE/NP/2008-1: the press conference to declare the first direct award for the national project “Elementary School Teacher Training in the Area of Foreign Languages in Connection with the Foreign Language Training Concept at ES and SS”

March 18, 2008 OPE/C/RCE/NP/2008-2: the press conference to declare the second direct award and calls for demand-driven projects for secondary and elementary schools within the framework of Measure 1.1: Transformation of the Traditional School to a Modern School and Measure 4.1: Transformation of the Traditional School to a Modern School for the Region of Bratislava.

April 7, 2008: the press conference on the occasion of the declaration of the first call: “Supplementing the Healthcare System with Qualified Specialists” for OPV Measure 2.2 took place at the MH SR.

May 27, 2008 OPE/C/RCE/NP/2008-3; OPE/C/RCE/NP/2008-4: the press conference took place regarding the declaration of two direct awards for national projects oriented on the design of school education programmes within the framework of the OPE and the support of excellence centres within the framework of the OPR&D.

On September 23, 2008: the press conference on the evaluation of calls for ES and SS within the framework of Measure 1.1: Transformation of the Traditional School to a Modern School and 4.1 Transformation of the Traditional School to a Modern School for the Bratislava Self-governing Region.

E) Conferences Presenting OPE

Regional OP Conferences on the Occasion of the RIO - ASFEU Opening

The ASFEU, in cooperation with the ME SR, organized regional conferences with the title “Support of Education, Research and Development from EU Structural Funds in the Programme Period 2007 – 2013”. The goal of these conferences was to inform the lay and expert general

public on the possibilities of acquiring support from OPE and OPR&D funds. the RIO, whose activities of which were officially launched on the day of the conference in the pertinent UtTU, were also introduced. The overall number of participants at these conferences was 1,346. All conferences took place in January 2008.

Conference Transformation of the Traditional School to a Modern School - ASFEU

The ASFEU organized the conference “Transformation of the Traditional School to a Modern School” from the EU SF in Žilina on October 2, 2008. It was designated for the applicants for NFC applying for financial assistance from ESF within the framework of OPE Measures 1.1 and 4.1. The evaluation of the completed calls, presentations of the most common mistakes and shortcomings in submitted AFNFC and planned calls constituted part of this conference. The overall number of participants was 232.

The MA/IBMA representatives were invited by the organizers of various conferences to presented information on SF, the OPE and on the possibilities of drawing funds without the OPE framework. Details on the conferences (including dates, sites, titles, presenters) are incorporated in Annex No. 6.

F) Seminars and Events Presenting OPE

Seminars on National Projects

On March 17, 2008 the seminar organized by the MA, Division of European Affairs and Division of Economy for EU Structural Funds took place. Its goal was to organize representatives of directly managed organizations of the ME SR on the process of the submission, assessment and approval of AFNFC and on the project implementation process. The following individuals presented on behalf of the MA: PhDr. Martina Šimová, director of the Department for OP Education, Division of European Affairs of the ME SR; Mgr. Róbert Korec, programme manager, Department for OP Education, Division of European Affairs of the ME SR; Ing. Ján Bruncko, director of Department of Methodology, Technical Assistance, State Aid and Reporting of the EU SF, Division of EU SF Economics; Ing. Miroslav Hrudkay, Department of Methodology, Technical Assistance, State Aid and Reporting of the EU SF, Division of EU SF Economics.

Information Seminars - ASFEU

in 2008, the ASFEU organized a total of 19 information seminars in order to inform potential applicants for NFC. They were designated for the potential applicants for NFC. They presented the call conditions, eligible activities, eligible project implementation sites, target groups, eligible expenditures and correct budget building, project indicators, HP indicators and detailed project descriptions, completion of the AFNFC form. A total of 1,547 participants took part in these seminars.

The following seminars on calls for the submission of AFNFC for Measure 1.1: Transformation of the Traditional School to a Modern School for the Region of Bratislava for ES and SS were held.

Table No. 79: Survey of ASFEU Information Seminars

1 st half of 2008	2 nd half of 2008
March 26, 2008 Trnava March 28, 2008 Bratislava March 31, 2008 Trenčín	October 10, 2008 Trenčín October 13, 2008 Nitra October 13, 2008 Trnava

April 1, 2008 Prešov	October 14, 2008 Zvolen
April 2, 2008 Košice	October 15, 2008 Košice
April 3, 2008 Nitra	October 15, 2008 Prešov
April 7, 2008 Žilina	October 16, 2008 Žilina
April 8, 2008 Zvolen	October 17 2008 Bratislava
May 5, 2008 Trnava	
May 6, 2008 Košice	
May 7, 2008 Zvolen	

Information Seminars on Calls – MH SR

- On April 10, 2008, the information seminar on the call for the submission of the AFNFC “Supplementing the Healthcare System with Qualified Specialists” took place at the MH SR.
- The representatives of individual UtTU (except for the Bratislava UtTU) participated in this event, i.e., the UtTU organization unit staff responsible for the elaboration and submission of AFNFC (number of participants – 13).
- On October 21, 2008, the presentation of the exhibition “Development of New Forms of Further Education in the Healthcare Sector” took place within the framework of OPE Measure 2.2. The call was declared on October 30, 2008 and included the participation of 8 potential applicants for NFC – professional organizations in the healthcare sector representing the healthcare staff – physicians and NGOs oriented in their activities on the support of healthcare staff – physicians.
- On December 16, 2008, an information seminar on the call for the submission of the AFNFC “Supplementing the Healthcare System with Qualified Specialists” took place in Banská Bystrica. The goal of this event was to inform participants on the process of submission, assessment and approval of the AFNFC and on the project implementation process. 22 representatives of individual UtTU (except for the Bratislava UtTU) responsible for elaboration and submission of AFNFC participated in this event.

Structural Funds Day in the Healthcare Sector

On November 20, 2008, Structural Funds Day in the Healthcare Sector took place at the MH SR. The MH SR intermediated information regarding the possibilities of draw SF in the healthcare sector also through OPE Measure 2.2, eligible activities and possibilities of acquiring NFC.

Working Meeting – MH SR

On June 30, 2008, a Working Meeting took place. The goal of the meeting was to establish partnership cooperation on the preparation of future activities for the effective drawing of SF funds in the area of further education of healthcare staff. A total of 17 individuals participated. It served to discuss project activities that had to be solved as a priority in terms of professional organizations in the area of the further education of the healthcare staff.

The MA/IBMA representatives were invited by the organizers of various seminars where they presented information on SF, the OPE and on the possibilities of drawing funds within the framework of the OPE. Detailed information on these seminars (including dates, sites, seminar titles, organizers and presenters) are incorporated in Annex No. 6 to this AR.

G) Publication of Information Materials regarding National Projects

The activity Publication of Informational Materials Regarding National Projects was planned as a goal-directed publication for the DMO of the ME SR. The goal of the publications was to guide the DMO staff in the field of national project implementation, including financial management, the preparation of monitoring reports, etc.

In the course of the planning and preparation of direct awards for national projects, the organizing of training seminars, where information were intermediated to the beneficiaries personally by MA representatives, appeared to be the most effective. Further consulting meetings for individual beneficiaries of direct awards for national projects were organized when necessary. Comprehensive information and documents were also available at www.minedu.sk.

H) Discussions

HN Club

The HN club is a discussion club organized by the daily newspapers *Hospodárske noviny*. This activity was not organized in its original form in 2008. Discussion took place but the orientation of this programme was changed. The topic was not related to the issues and subjects pertaining to operation programme implementation but to school reform in general.

I) Accompanying Activities Incorporating “Europe Day”

From May 5 to May 11, 2008 on the occasion of “Europe Day” (May 9, 2008) the European flag flew at the MA/IBMA buildings.

J) Advertisements in National Daily Newspapers - ASFEU

In 2008 four advertisements we placed on calls for the submission of AFNFC in 1/6 and 1/8 formats in *Hospodárske noviny*.

- On March 18, 2008, the advertisement on the call for submission of the AFNFC for SS within Measure 1.1: Transformation of the Traditional School to a Modern School and Measure 4.1 Transformation of the Traditional School to a Modern School for Region of Bratislava was publicized.
- On March 20, 2008 the advertisement on the call for the submission of the AFNFC for ES within Measure 1.1: Transformation of the Traditional School to a Modern School and Measure 4.1 Transformation of the Traditional School to a Modern School for the Region of Bratislava was publicized.
- On December 23, 2008 the advertisement on the call for the submission of the AFNFC for SS within Measure 1.1: Transformation of the Traditional School to a Modern School and Measure 4.1 Transformation of the Traditional School to a Modern School for the Region of Bratislava was publicized.
- On December 23, 2008 the advertisement on the call for the submission of the AFNFC for ES within Measure 1.1: Transformation of the Traditional School to a Modern School and Measure 4.1 Transformation of the Traditional School to a Modern School for the Region of Bratislava was publicized.

K) PR Articles

The ASFEU regularly reports on its activities in *Učiteľské noviny* (the Teachers' Newspaper) and other printed materials. Articles published based on materials supplied by the ASFEU are more closely specified in Annex No. 6 to this AR.

7.4.2. Internet

www.minedu.sk: The column Programme Period 2007 – 2013 of the internet portal provides comprehensive information regarding the OPE and its implementation. The activities of the MA and IBMA are also presented here. The column structure was supplemented by a separate sub-column dedicated to publicity in the course of 2008. All of the sections are continuously updated as necessary. The column contains the following specific sub-columns: News and Notices; Calls for the Submission of Projects; List of Approved Projects; IBMA; Documents; Methodological Instructions, Guidelines and Manuals; MH; Publicity; HP; FAQs; Contacts; Useful Links. **The list of direct award beneficiaries, which is continuously updated, is publicized in the column List of Approved Projects. It contains the names of the beneficiaries, the project titles, NFC sums and is in compliance with Article 4 § 2b and Article 7 § 2d of Execution Regulation 1828/2006. The direct link to the lists of beneficiaries of both IBMA is also here.**

Website enables the general public to sign in on the mass electronic distribution list – the mailing list through which current information, notifications of current documents, declared OPE calls and other important information related to the OPE are forwarded.

In July 2008, the column The SF EU Calls was added to the main website of the internet portal www.minedu.sk which also includes the section dedicated to OPE calls. It contains a fast and clear link to MA and both IBMA calls through internet portal www.minedu.sk which simplifies access to information on declared OPE calls.

www.asfeu.sk: The website is continuously updated. In 2008, a total of 39 OPE notifications were publicized in the News section. The notifications were related to information on current calls, information seminars, guidelines, overviews of accepted AFNFC within the framework of publicized calls, reports on the evaluation of the calls and other significant notifications designated for the potential applicants for NFC. The FAQ column was also continuously updated. An Archive was created in which the completed calls for the submission of the AFNFC with the annexes and the FAQ were preserved. The Newsletter service is also available for potential applicants for NFC. They can acquire necessary information on the OPE. In 2008, a total of 219,563 users visited the ASFEU website.

www.opv.health-sf.sk The MH SR opened this website on the occasion of the first call declared within the framework of the OPE on April 7, 2008.

The website www.opv.health-sf.sk of OPE Measure 2.2 was not monitored from April 7, 2008 to April 21, 2008. Due to this fact, the data on website monitoring are included in the summary for the website www.health-sf.sk. In this period, the number of website visits was 2,688, of which 2,553 were registered addresses. Of the 2,688 visits 1,989 were from the SR and 699 were from 23 countries.

As of April 22, 2008 the part of the website related to OPE Measure 2.2 has been monitored separately. In the first half of 2008, the IBMA recorded 2,469 visits from 16 countries. Of the 2,469 visits a total of 2,377 were from the SR from registered addresses (PC) from 30 Slovak towns.

In the second half of the year, the website www.opv.health-sf.sk recorded 6,323 entries from 22 countries of the world. Of this number, 6,080 visits were from the SR (45 towns). 3,368 registered addresses (persons) showed interest in this website. The website registered 23,926 displays (the number of materials from the website content viewed by the visitors).

All relevant OPE information were intermediated by the CCA and subsequently publicized on the national information portal **www.nsrr.sk**

7.4.3. Personal, Telephone, E-mail and Written Consultations

Information on the OPE, the authorities responsible for its implementation, eligible activities, eligible and non-eligible expenditures, etc. were provided to potential applicants for NFC, applicants for NFC and the general public by means of personal, telephone, e-mail and written consultations and responses to questions of potential beneficiaries and the general public from the MA and the IBMA (within the framework of the MA, data on consultations or responses are not monitored, both IBMA keep their own records of providing information).

Data on communication related to the ASFEU are shown in Table No. 80.

Table No. 80: Provision of Information by the ASFEU

Telephone Communication	E-mail Communication	Personal Consultations	OPE Presentations
2,559	622	583	49

The summary numbers related to the presentation of OPE at seminars, participation in meetings/seminars and personal presentations are incorporated in the section “OPE Presentations”.

Data on communication related to the MH SR are shown in Table No. 81.

Table No. 81: Provision of Information by the MH SR

Telephone Communication	E-mail Communication	Personal Consultations
29	15	5

7.4.4. Media

Television Programmes

STV

On May 29, 2008, STV broadcast a cycle of technical-educational programmes – Euro-education and Euro-science. Its goal was to provide the general public with current information on the OPE and on the terms and conditions of declared calls for submission of AFNFC. STV broadcast eight programmes throughout 2008, five programmes were targeted on the OPE. The broadcast dates of the OPE programmes were: May 29, 2008, September 11, 2008, October 2, 2008, October 16, 2008, December 4, 2008

TA3

The general public was also informed of the possibilities of drawing funds for SF within the framework of the OPE in the second half of 2008 by means of the programme Euro-school System and Research broadcast by the news channel, TA3. The following are the broadcast dates and summaries of the programmes:



October 7, 2008

The main tasks of the Agency towards Applicants for NFC, the most common mistakes in project preparation within the framework of previous calls, current calls within the framework of individual Operation Programmes for 2008, information on Regional Information Offices.

October 28, 2008

Terms and conditions of calls that were declared on October 6, 2008, previous mistakes in the submission of AFNFC in calls declared in March 2008, counselling possibilities on the submission of AFNFC.

November 18, 2008

Calls declared on October 6, 2008. The amount of NFC for ES and SS within the framework of individual calls for 2009. The AFNFC approval process, the planned timetable of calls for 2009. The general director of the ASFEU answered questions from general public sent to TA3 TV.

Within the framework of the monitored period, the information, news and articles related to the EU and SF and the OPE, MA and both IBMA were presented in all types of media. The data on the number of individual contributions (including the data regarding the type of media) and according to the breakdown of the contributions of the MA or IBMA are contained in Table No. 82.

Table No. 82: Data on Number of Contributions in Media in 2008

	Summary Number of Contributions (MA+IBMA)	Number of Contributions - MA	Number of Contributions: IBMA_ASFEU	Number of Contributions: IBMA_MH SR
Press News and Information	16	13	1	2
Print Media	88	7	57	24
Radio	15	3	8	4
TV (information on OPE except for thematic TV programmes)	8	1	5	2
TV (thematic programmes)*	8			
Internet	31	1	21	9
Number of Total Contributions in Any Type of Medium	166	25	92	41

* - Thematic programmes “Euro-education and Euro-science” and Euro-school System and Research”

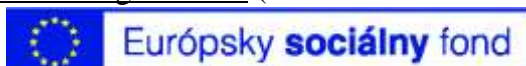
Details on the above mentioned contributions (including publication dates of the contributions, the actual medium and the contribution’s author) are incorporated in Annex No 6 to this AR.

7.4.5. Publications and Promotional Items

A) MA

In 2008, 2 orders of publications, printed materials and promotional items were carried out based on public procurement and in compliance with Act No.25/2006 Coll. on Public Procurement:

1. Contract on the Supply of Printing Services (Publications and Mercantile Printed Materials).



The following items were supplied for OPE information and publicity needs:

Table No. 83: Overview of the Order for Printing Services - MA

A. Printing Services – Publications and Mercantile Printed Materials		Amount in Pcs
1.	OP Education - Publication	500
2.	Document Folders with Rubber Bands	1,000
3.	A4Writing Pads	1,500
4.	Post-it Pads	500
5.	A5 Weekly Personal Organizers	150
6.	A6 Weekly Personal Organizers	50
7.	Stickers with OP Education Logo	1,000
8.	Stickers with EU Logo	1,000
	Total : EUR 6,915.95	
	Date of Delivery: December 10, 2008	

2. Contract on the Supply of Promotional Items

The following items were supplied for OPE information and publicity needs:

Table No. 84 a) : Overview of the Order for Promotional Items – MA

B. Promotional Items for OP Education		Amount in Pcs
1.	Christmas Cards	1,500
2.	Business Card Folders	200
3.	Business Card Holders	200
	Total : EUR 3,535.15	
	Date of Delivery: December 17, 2008	

Table No. 84 b): Overview of the Order for Promotional Items - MA

C. Promotional Items for OP Education		Amount in Pcs
1.	USB Keys	120
	Total : EUR 987.85	
	Date of Delivery: December 23, 2008	

The supply of all of the above mentioned items was carried out in December 2008. The MA will distribute the above mentioned publications, printed materials and promotional items within the framework of information and publicity support in 2009 or as needed. All measures in the area of information and publicity are designated in compliance with Article 9 of the Execution Regulation.

B) ASFEU

The following promotional items incorporated in Table No. 85 were procured in the monitored period. All of the promotional items are marked with the EU, OPE and ASFEU logos in compliance with the Information and Publicity Manual.

Table No. 85: Overview of the ASFEU Order for Promotional Items



Name of Promotional Items with OPE, EU and ASFEU Logo		Amount in Pcs
1.	Ballpoint Pens	5000
2.	Pen Sets	500
3.	Business Card Holders	500
4.	Lanyards (for cellular phones)	750
5.	Lanyards (for keys)	750
6.	Frosted Glass Mugs	1000
7.	Glasses	260
8.	Cloth Bags for Documents	610
9.	Baseball Hats	200
10.	Women's T-shirts	250
11.	Men's T-shirts	150
12.	A4 Paper Bags	500
13.	A4 Cloth Bags	350
14.	Set of Highlighters	1000
15.	1 GB USB Keys	320
16.	2009 Personal Organizers EURO Format (Weekly)	10
17.	2009 Personal Organizers A5 Format (Weekly)	10
18.	2009 Pocket Personal Organizers (Weekly)	100
19.	Umbrellas	175

The public procurement for the provision of the promotional items took place in the second half of 2008 pursuant to Act No.25/2006 Coll. on Public Procurement and the promotional items were actually supplied in December 2008. The above mentioned items were used for covering planned ASFEU information activities towards the end of 2008 and will be used at the beginning of 2009. The promotional materials will also be available for the potential applicants for NFC at all RIO.

In the monitored period the ASFEU published the booklet, *Guide for Acquiring Support from the OPE* with a print run of 10,500, the OPE fliers – *How to Implement Projects in the Area of Education, Project Financing, Eligible Activities*, each of them with a print run of 25,200. Furthermore, the ASFEU procured the OPE CDs and DVDs, *The Road from Idea to Project Implementation*: in cardboard folders - 6,200 pieces and 6,200 plastic boxes. Posters oriented on individual OPE Measures were produced (A3 – 8,000 pcs, A2 – 22,000 pcs, A1 – 12,500 pcs).

The public procurement for the provision of the information materials took place pursuant to Act No.25/2006 Coll. on Public Procurement and was completed by signing the contract in the second half of 2008 and the supply and distribution of the booklet *Guide for Acquiring Support from the OPE* was used for the participants of the conference “Transformation of the Traditional School to a Modern School from EU SF” and the October seminars. The remaining information materials (fliers and posters) will be used in 2009. The OPE DVDs were supplied to the ASFEU in November and December 2008 and are available for potential applicants for NFC at all RIO.

C) MH SR

In the course of 2008, the MH SR conducted two public procurements in order to ensure promotional items and printed materials:

- a) Promotional items

Table No. 86: Overview of the Order for Promotional Items – MH SR

Promotional Items		Amount in Pcs
1.	ballpoint pens (with the EU and OPE logos and the website www.health-sf.sk)	250

b) Printed Materials

Table No. 87: Overview of the Order for Printed Materials – MH SR

Printed Materials		Amount in Pcs
1.	Information fliers on OPE Measure 2.2.	2,000
2.	Folders	250
3.	Note Pads	250
4.	Roll up presentation stand (one with the EU logo and the other with the OPE logo and the OPE declaration: Modern Education for a Knowledge-based Society“).	2

The flier was distributed to the target groups in order to enhance information on OPE Measure 2.2. Small promotional materials were used for the seminar participants. The items contain the EU and OPE logos and the website www.health-sf.sk.

7.5. Monitoring and Evaluation of Information-Communication Activities

The MA internally conducted an inventory of implemented information-communication activities based on their compliance with the documents *Annual Operative Information and Publicity Plan for the OPE and OPR&D for 2008* for the MA and IBMA-ASFEU and the *Operative Publicity Plan for OPE Measure 2.2 for 2009* for the IBMA - MH SR.

Data related to the monitoring of information-communication activities are monitored through measurable indicators defined in the CoP.

The OPE MC is responsible for the assessment of information-communication activities (pursuant to the General Regulation). At its session on June 4, 2008, the OPE MC considered and approved the AR for OPE Implementation for 2007 which is in compliance with Article 67 of the General Regulation and which also contained the measures adopted for the provision of OP information and publicity.

The fulfilment of physical indicators in the area of publicity as of December 31, 2008 is shown in Annex No. 7.

ANNEXES

Annex No. 1: Payments Accepted from the European Commission

Annex No. 2: Summary Category Breakdown of Allocated Community Contributions in the Annual and Final Implementation Reports

Annex No. 3: Current Applications for Payments Submitted to the European Commission

Annex No. 4: Implementation State – Overview of SF and CF Drawing in Comparison with Undertakings

Annex No. 5: Overview of Outcomes of On-site Verifications

Annex No. 6: Media Activities

Annex No. 7: Fulfillment of Physical Indicators in the Area of Publicity

Annex No. 8: Comparison of Planned and Actual Drawing of National Projects

Annex No. 9: List of Used Abbreviations