



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



**Annual Report on the Implementation
of the Operational Programme Education
for January – December 2010**

**Bratislava
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“Moderné vzdelávanie pre vedomostnú spoločnosť/Projekt je spolufinancovaný zo zdrojov EÚ”
“Modern education for the knowledge-based society/Project is co-financed from EU resources”

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INTRODUCTION

The Annual Report on the Implementation of the Operational Programme Education for January – December 2010 (hereinafter the “AR”) includes data on the implementation of the Operational Programme Education (hereinafter the “OPE”) achieved **at the level of priority axes** in the monitoring and financial indicators as at 31 December 2010.

The AR was prepared on the basis of Article 67 of Council Regulation (EC) No 1083/2006 of 11 July 2006 laying down the general provisions on the European Regional Development Fund, the European Social Fund and the Cohesion Fund and repealing the Regulation (hereinafter referred to as the “General Regulations”) and Annex XVIII of the Commission Implementing Regulation (EC) No 1828/2006 of 8 December 2006 laying down the implementation rules of the EU Council Regulation (hereinafter referred to as the “Implementation Regulation”) and pursuant to CCB Methodological Guideline No. 9/2010 regarding the content of the annual and final reports on operational programme implementation (updating No. 2 of 2 September 2010). The AR informs the state of the OPE implementation and contains information on:

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

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

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

SUMMARY

In 2010, the Ministry of Education, Science, Research and Sports of the SR, as the Managing Authority for the Operational Programme Education, continued to implement all of the priority axes of the Operational Programme Education by declaring new direct awards¹ for national projects, as well as implementing 8 national projects, the notices of which were published in the previous years. In 2010, the Ministry of Education, Science, Research and Sports of the SR published 2 notices calling for the submission of national projects. As at 31 December 2010, the total number of 14 notices under priority axes 1, 2 and 4 were published, under which 12 national projects were contracted. The Ministry of Education, Science, Research and Sports of the SR successfully implemented a total of 10 national projects as at 31 December 2010. Information regarding individual national projects is described in detail in Chapter 3 IMPLEMENTATION BY PRIORITY AXES.

In 2010, the Agency of the Ministry of Education of the Slovak Republic for the Structural Funds of the EU, as the Intermediate Body under the Managing Authority, published a total of 4 calls for the submission of demand-driven projects under priority axes 1 – 4 (1 call for the submission of demand-driven projects under measure 3.1 was cancelled within the monitored period). As at 31 December 2010, the Agency of the Ministry of Education of the Slovak Republic for the Structural Funds of the EU had published a total of 19 calls for the submission of demand-driven projects, within the framework of which it received 1,358 applications for non-repayable financial contributions, approved 507 applications for non-repayable financial contributions and contracted 491 projects (this data does not cover prematurely terminated projects due to withdrawal from the Agreement on the provision of non-repayable financial contribution). As at 31 December 2010, a total of 481 demand-driven projects were successfully implemented under priority axes 1– 4. More detailed information on individual demand-driven projects is presented in Chapter 3 IMPLEMENTATION BY PRIORITY AXES.

In 2010, the SR Ministry of Health, as the Intermediate Body under the Managing Authority, continued in implementing Measure 2.2 Promoting Further Education in Healthcare under Priority axis 2: Further Education as a Tool for Developing Human Resources. In 2010, the SR Ministry of Health published a total of 2 calls for the submission of demand-driven projects. As at 31 December 2010, the SR Ministry of Health published a total of 7 calls for the submission of demand-driven projects, within the framework of which it received a total of 36 applications for non-repayable financial contributions, approved 16 applications for non-repayable financial contributions and contracted 14 projects (this data does not cover prematurely terminated projects due to withdrawal from the Agreement on the provision of non-repayable financial contributions). As at 31 December 2010, a total of 10 demand-driven projects were successfully implemented. More detailed information on individual demand-driven projects is presented in Chapter 3.2 PRIORITY AXIS 2.

In 2010, within the framework of Priority Axis 1, which focuses on implementing educational reform in primary and secondary schools and increasing the quality of tertiary education, 1 notice for the submission of national projects was published, as well as 1 call for the submission of demand-driven projects. As at 31 December 2010, a total of 1,071 applications for non-repayable financial contributions were received, from which 405 applications for non-repayable financial contributions were approved and 391 national and demand-driven projects were contracted. As

¹ The term “direct award” was changed in the “notice” by the Management System of Structural Funds and Cohesion Fund for the Programming Period of 2007-2013, version 4.0, valid as at 23 March 2010.

at 31 December 2010, a total of 390 projects were in progress. More detailed information is presented in Chapter 3.1 PRIORITY AXIS 1.

Within the framework of Priority Axis 2, targeted at the promotion of an informal and lifelong learning system, 1 notice and 3 calls for the submission of the demand-driven projects were published in 2010. As at 31 December 2010, a total of 80 applications for non-repayable contributions were received, 36 applications for non-repayable contribution were approved and 33 national and demand-driven projects were contracted. As at 31 December 2010, a total of 19 projects were in progress. More detailed information is presented in Chapter 3.2 PRIORITY AXIS 2.

Within the framework of Priority Axis 3, aimed at increasing the education level of persons with special educational needs with a focus on marginalised Roma communities, as at 31 December 2010, a total of 153 applications for non-repayable contributions were received, 72 applications for non-repayable contribution were approved and 69 demand-driven projects were contracted. As at 31 December 2010, a total of 69 demand-driven projects were in progress under 2 calls published by the Agency of the Ministry of Education of the Slovak Republic for the Structural Funds of the EU under Priority Axis 3. More detailed information is presented in Chapter 3.3 PRIORITY AXIS 3.

In 2010, within the framework of Priority Axis 4, aimed at increasing the quality of and access to further education with an emphasis on transforming educational content toward developing key competences and ensuring the long-term competitiveness of the Bratislava region, 2 calls were published (a call for the submission of demand-driven projects and a notice for the submission of technical assistance projects). As at 31 December 2010, a total of 130 applications for non-repayable contributions were received, 44 applications for non-repayable contribution were approved and 43 national, demand-driven projects and technical assistance projects were contracted. As at 31 December 2010, a total of 41 projects were in progress under Priority axis 4. More detailed information is presented in Chapter 3.4 PRIORITY AXIS 4.

The Convergence Objective technical assistance within the framework of the Operational Programme Education has a separate priority axis 5. The main objective is to ensure efficient implementation of the Operational Programme Education in accordance with the demands placed on the management and administrative structures responsible for the Operational Programme's implementation. In 2010, the Ministry of Education, Science, Research and Sports of the SR published a total of 4 notices for the submission of applications for technical assistance under priority axis 5, received 4 applications for non-repayable contributions and approved 6 applications for non-repayable contributions (2 applications for non-repayable contribution from 2009). As at 31 December 2010, a total of 13 technical assistance projects were in progress. More detailed information is presented in Chapter 3.5 PRIORITY AXIS 5.

In connection with the financial drawing of the Structural Funds within the framework of the Operational Programme Education, we can state that as at 31 December 2010, the approved funds amounted to 369,823,463.87 EUR and the contracted funds amounted to 310,098,183.06 EUR. In 2010, from the total commitment of 617,801,578.00 EUR for EU resources for the period of 2007 - 2013 under the implementation of all five priority axes of the Operational Programme Education, a total of 50,113,422.64 EUR was drawn, what presents 8.11% of the commitment.

The above stated level of drawing can be considered as adequate in relation to the indicators achieved by the end of the fourth year of the 2007 – 2013 programming period and with the

respect to the fact that the actual implementation of the Operational Programme Education at the level of national and demand-driven projects in connection with drawing only began in 2009. Currently, the Ministry of Education, Science, Research and Sports of the SR, as the Managing Authority for the Operational programme Education, is faced with the task of continuing to increase the volume of funds drawn. More detailed information is presented in Chapter 2.1.2 PROGRAMME FINANCIAL IMPLEMENTATION.

Horizontal priorities comprise an important area within the Operational Programme Education. This concerns the following Horizontal Priorities: Marginalised Roma Communities, Equal Opportunities, Sustainable Development and Information Society, which complementarily affect the objectives of the National Strategic Referential Framework. As at 31 December 2010, a total of 49 projects under the Operational programme Education with a contribution to the Horizontal Priority Marginalized Roma Communities were contracted. Under the Horizontal Priority Equal Opportunities, a total of 30 projects with a contribution to the Horizontal Priority Equal Opportunities were contracted; as at 31 December 2010, the number of projects with a contribution to the Horizontal Priority Sustainable Development stood at 167 and a total of 131 projects were contracted with a contribution to the Horizontal Priority Information Society. Within the reviewed period, the implementation of projects with a contribution to individual horizontal priorities continued. Detailed information on implementing of horizontal priorities, including implementation of the implementation of projects with a contribution to horizontal priorities, is presented in Chapter 4 HORIZONTAL PRIORITIES.

Accurate and targeted information and publicity on EU assistance comprised a very important tool in supporting the efficient use of funds from the Structural Fund and the Cohesion Fund. In 2010, the Managing Authority and both Intermediate Bodies under the Managing Authority continued to cooperate and ensure the distribution of timely, correct and comprehensive information and the efficient provision of information and the realisation of publicity regarding aid from the Structural Funds and the Cohesion Fund and the Operational Programme Education through the Regional Information Offices. The media campaign, through which general information on the Operational Programme Education and the activities of the Managing Authority for the Operational Programme Education were presented in the series of programmes broadcast in media and PR articles in printed media, was a large information activity in 2010. Detailed information on information and publicity under the Operational Programme Education is presented in Chapter 7 INFORMATION AND PUBLICITY.

The problems that occurred in the course of 2010 were not of a serious nature and therefore no changes were required in the Operational Programme Education.

In general, we can state that in the 2010 Operational Programme Education was implemented without any serious problems; the publishing of further calls and notices continued and the contracted activities of national and demand-driven projects were implemented. All in all, we can state that the process of the Operational Programme Education will continue in 2011 to meet its established objectives.

1. IDENTIFICATION

OPERATIONAL PROGRAMME	Convergence Objective and Regional Competitiveness & Employment Objective
	NUTS II – Western Slovakia NUTS II – Central Slovakia NUTS II – Eastern Slovakia NUTS II – Bratislava Region
	2007 – 2013
	2007SK05UPO001
	Operational Programme Education
ANNUAL REPORT ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE OPERATIONAL PROGRAMME	2010
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2. OVERVIEW OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE OPERATIONAL PROGRAMME'S

2.1 Outcome and analysis of progress

The achievement of the outcomes and a detailed analysis of the progress made within the framework of the comprehensive implementation of the OPE, the global objective of which is to ensure the long-term competitiveness of the Slovak Republic (hereinafter referred to as the “SR”) through the adaptation of the educational system to the needs of the knowledge-based society, are presented in detail in chapters Nos. 2.1.1 as at 2.1.8, the aim of which is to provide information on physical and financial progress in implementing the operational programme (hereinafter referred to as the “OP”) as a whole.

2.1.1 State of Physical Progress in the Operational Programme

Table 1 provides an overview of the number of calls and notices published throughout the reviewed period.

Table 1: Overview of publishing of calls and notices from 1 January 2010 to 31 December 2010

Priority Axis	Number of Calls	Allocation of Funds per Call (NFC) in €		
		Total	Of which	
			SF/CF	SB
Priority Axis 1	2	21,200,000.00	N/A	N/A
Priority Axis 2	4	51,500,000.00	N/A	N/A
Priority Axis 3	1	17,000,000.00	N/A	N/A
Priority Axis 4	2	2,025,000.00	N/A	N/A
Priority Axis 5	4	6,000,000.00	5,100,000.00	900,000.00
Total	13	97,725,000.00	N/A	N/A

Source of data: internal records of MA+IBMA

Notes:

The sum of the non-repayable financial contribution (hereinafter referred to as the “NFC”) is only divided into the sources of the structural funds (hereinafter the “SF”) and the state budget (hereinafter the “SB”) in the allocation of funds per call for priority axis 5 TA projects. In the case of other priority axes which incorporate calls for demand-driven projects/national projects, the allocated funds per call cannot be divided into the European Union source (hereinafter the “EU”) and the SB since the ratio of funding is set up based on the Recipient type.

The above stated data include 1 cancelled call **OPE-2010/3.1/02-IBMA** under measure 3.1 (highlighted in yellow).

Throughout 2010, a total of **13** calls for demand-driven projects, national projects and TA projects were published under the OPE. Of this number, the Managing Authority (hereinafter referred to as the “MA”) published **2** notices for national projects under measures 1.1 and 2.1 with a total allocation at 17,700,000.00 EUR and **5** notices for applications for TA projects under measures 4.3 and 5.1 with a total allocation of 6,225,000.00 EUR. The Intermediary Body under the Managing Authority (hereinafter referred to as the “IBMA”) the Agency of the Ministry of Education, Science, Research and Sports of the SR for the EU Structural Funds (hereinafter referred to as the “ASFEU”) published **4** calls for demand-driven projects under measures 1.2, 2.1, 3.1 and 4.2 with a total allocation of 43,800,000.00 EUR, of which **1** call under measure 3.1 with an allocation of 17,000,000.00 EUR was cancelled. The IBMA SR and the Ministry of Health (hereinafter referred to as the “MH SR”) published **2** calls for demand-driven projects under measure 2.2 with a total allocation of 30,000,000.00 EUR.

The allocation for all 13 calls published in 2010 amounted to **97,725,000.00 EUR**.

The abovementioned facts indicate that within the reported period under **priority axis 1, a total of 2** calls were published with a total allocation of **21,200,000.00 EUR**, of which one notice with No. **OPV/K/NP/2010-1** for the national project entitled *“Evaluation of the Quality of Education at Elementary and Secondary Schools in the Slovak Republic in the Context of the Content Reform of Education in Progress”* with a total allocation of 8,200,000.00 EUR was published for measure 1.1 and **1** call with No. **OPV-2010/1.2/02-SORO** was published for demand-driven projects entitled *“Promotion of Improvement of the Quality of Higher Education Institutions and the Slovak Academy of Sciences”* with a total allocation of 13,000,000.00 EUR for measure 1.2.

Further information on published calls, receiving the Applications for Non-repayable Financial Contribution (hereinafter referred to as the “AfNFC”), the evaluation and approval process, as well as the implementation of the projects is provided in Chapter 3.1 of this report.

Under **priority axis 2, a total of 4** calls with a total allocation of **51, 500,000.00 EUR** were published within the reported period, of which **1** notice with No. **OPV/K/NP/2010-2** for the national project entitled *“KomPrax – Competences for Practice”* with a total allocation of 9,500,000.00 EUR and **1** call with No. **OPV-2010/2.1/02-SORO** for demand-driven projects with a total allocation of 12,000,000.00 EUR for measure 2.1 were published. **2** calls for measure 2.2 were published; the first one with No. **OPV 2010/2.2/01** for demand-driven projects entitled *“Enhancement of Further Skills of Healthcare Staff”* with a total allocation of 15,000,000.00 EUR and the second one with No. **OPV 2010/2.2/02** for demand-driven projects entitled *Enhancement of Further Skills of Healthcare Staff”* with a total allocation at 15,000,000.00 EUR.

Further information of published calls, receiving AfNFC, the evaluation and approval process, as well as the implementation of the projects is provided in Chapter 3.2 of this report.

Within the reviewed period under **priority axis 3, one** call was published with a total allocation of **17,000,000.00 EUR** for measure 3.1 with No. **OPV-2010/3.1/02-SORO** for demand-driven projects entitled *“Promotion of Access for Members of Marginalized Roma Communities to Education, Including Their Further Learning.”* It was **cancelled** because of the need to extend the eligibility of the recipient.

Further information on the call and the reasons for its cancelling is provided in Chapter 3.3 of this report.

Under **priority axis 4, two** calls with a total allocation of **2,025,000.00 EUR** were published in the reported period, of which **1** call with No. **OPV-2010/4.2/03-SORO** for demand-driven projects entitled *“Promotion for the Improvement of the Quality of Higher Education Institutions and the Slovak Academy of Science in the Bratislava Region”* was published for measure 4.2 with a total allocation of 1,800,000.00 EUR and **1** notice with No. **OPV/K/RKZ/TP/2010-3** was published for measure 4.3 for the TA project entitled *“Notice – Technical Assistance Project – Technical Assistance for Objective Convergence/Regional Competitiveness and Employment 2011 – Preparation, Implementation, Monitoring and Control”* with a total allocation at 225,000.00 EUR.

Further information of published calls, on receiving the AfNFC, the evaluation and approval process, as well as the implementation of the projects is provided in Chapter 3.4 of this report.

Under **priority axis 5, four** notices with a total allocation of 6,000,000.00 EUR were published in the reported period and only for measure 5.1. The first notice with No. **OPV/K/TP/SORO/2010-1** for the TA IBMA ASFEU project entitled: *“Notice – Technical Assistance Project – Technical Assistance for Objective Convergence 2011 – Preparation, Implementation, Monitoring and Control”* had a total allocation of 2,800,000.00 EUR; the second notice with No. **OPV/K/TP/SORO/2010-2** for the TA IBMA ASFEU project entitled: *“Notice – Technical Assistance Project – Technical Assistance for Objective Convergence 2011– Evaluation and Studies; Information and Communication”* had a total allocation of 500,000.00 EUR; the third notice with No. **OPV/K/RKZ/TP/2010-3** for TA MA project entitled *“Notice – Technical Assistance Project – Technical Assistance for Objective Convergence/Regional Competitiveness and Employment 2011 – Preparation, Implementation, Monitoring and Control”* had a total allocation of 2,400,000.00 EUR and the fourth notice with No. **OPV/K/TP/2010-4** for TA MA project entitled *“Notice – Technical Assistance Project – Technical Assistance for Objective Convergence 2011– Evaluation and Studies; Information and Communication”* had a total allocation of 300,000.00 EUR.

Further information on published notices, receiving the AfNFC, the evaluation and approval process, as well as the implementation of the projects is provided in Chapter 3.5 of this report.

Individual notices for national and demand-driven projects were published in compliance with the valid updated timetable of calls which was regularly publicized on the MA website: www.minedu.sk, the ASFEU website: www.asfeu.sk, the MH SR website: www.health-sf.sk and the information portal of the Central Coordination Body (hereinafter referred to as the “CCB”): www.nsrr.sk.

The timetables of calls for demand-driven projects were updated as follows:

- **IBMA ASFEU** – 22 February 2010, 29 April 2010, 19 May 2010, 28 June 2010, 31 August 2010, 18 October 2010, 03 November 2010, 14 December 2010, 27 December 2010;
- **IBMA MH SR** – 29 January 2010, 24 March 2010, 30 August 2010, 18 October 2010, 24 November 2010.

The original dates for publishing calls were postponed based on the written requests of both IBMAs for the adjustment of the timetable of calls for 2010, most frequently in order to harmonize the text of the call with the rules for state aid and related consultations with the MA, Ministry of Finance of the SR (hereinafter referred to as the “MF SR”) and the European Commission (hereinafter referred to as the “EC”), because of increase of the % limit of supplies from direct expenditures and because of the current needs related to the reform of education in the SR in progress with respect to the activities which reflect the statement of policy of the SR Government, adopted legislative changes, system changes and priorities of the SR Government.

A detailed overview of all published calls and notices as at 31 December 2010, with the overview of individual projects is provided in Annex 2 of the Report.

Within the framework of the fourth regular meeting of the Monitoring Committee for the Operational Programme Education (hereinafter referred to as the “MC for OPE”) which was held on 9 June 2010, a total of 15 reports on the evaluation of calls for the submission of AfNFC elaborated by the IBMA were submitted to the MC for OPE. The reports as well as those publicized on the websites of the IBMA ASFEU and IBMA MH SR were electronically

forwarded to the individual members of the MC for OPE. These reports are elaborated within 60 days from the session of the selection commissions and describe all of the information related to the given call. The MC for OPE noted the submitted reports on the evaluation of the calls. The MA internally archives the reports on the evaluation of the notices and they are available for inspection when necessary.

Table 2 provides information on the monitoring of OPE implementation development as at 31 December 2010.

Table 2: Monitoring of the programme implementation as at 31 December 2010

Priority Axis/Measure	AFNFC received	AFNFC rejected	AFNFC approved	Projects contracted	Projects in progress	Projects completed
Priority Axis 1	1071	666	405	391	390	11
Measure	1019	652	367	353	352	11
Measure	52	14	38	38	38	0
Priority Axis 2	80	44	36	33	19	6
Measure 2.1	44	24	20	19	9	1
Measure 2.2	36	20	16	14	10	5
Priority Axis 3	153	81	72	69	69	3
Measure 3.1	116	66	50	49	49	1
Measure 3.2	37	15	22	20	20	2
Priority Axis 4	130	86	44	43	41	2
Measure 4.1	103	76	27	26	26	1
Measure 4.2	12	8	4	4	4	0
Measure 4.3	15	2	13	13	11	1
Priority Axis 5	21	3	18	18	13	1
Measure 5.1	19	3	16	16	11	1
Measure 5.2	2	0	2	2	2	0
Total	1455	880	575	554	532	23
Financial quantification of SF and SB in €						
Priority Axis/Measure	Amount of contribution (NFC) requested	Amount of requested contribution rejected (NFC)	Amount of contribution approved (NFC)	Amount of funds contracted	Amount of funds reclaimed	Amount of projects completed ¹
Priority Axis 1	369,013,430.13	132,213,167.06	236,800,263.07	179,561,395.12	18,537,933.28	0.00
Measure 1.1	330,563,501.53	122,206,055.80	208,357,445.73	151,139,515.74	18,115,629.19	0.00
Measure 1.2	38,449,928.60	10,007,111.26	28,442,817.34	28,421,879.38	422,304.09	0.00
Priority Axis 2	215,373,563.14	131,903,480.63	83,470,082.51	82,079,538.55	1,852,205.94	216,172.22
Measure 2.1	165,067,568.18	99,948,622.62	65,118,945.56	64,649,708.93	1,808,745.63	0.00
Measure 2.2	50,305,994.96	31,954,858.01	18,351,136.95	17,429,829.62	43,460.31	216,172.22
Priority Axis 3	28,576,137.11	16,271,687.47	12,304,449.64	11,685,965.87	329,208.78	0.00
Measure 3.1	21,447,608.65	13,026,926.28	8,420,682.37	8,135,442.58	131,364.94	0.00
Measure 3.2	7,128,528.46	3,244,761.19	3,883,767.27	3,550,523.29	197,843.84	0.00
Priori Priority Axis 4	39,301,867.86	23,959,692.75	15,342,175.11	14,864,789.98	812,147.31	12,678.05
Measure 4.1	19,441,953.96	12,795,706.15	6,646,247.81	6,201,616.11	177,133.47	0.00
Measure 4.2	18,423,798.33	10,846,696.62	7,577,101.71	7,544,348.28	634,936.98	0.00

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Measure 4.3	1,436,115.57	317,289.98	1,118,825.59	1,118,825.59	76.86	12,678.05
Priority Axis 5	24,503,564.38	2,597,070.84	21,906,493.54	21,906,493.54	1,975.24	420,064.41
Measure 5.1	23,116,076.16	2,597,070.84	20,519,005.32	20,519,005.32	1,975.24	420,064.41
Measure 5.2	1,387,488.22	0.00	1,387,488.22	1,387,488.22	0.00	0.00
Total	676,768,562.62	306,945,098.75	369,823,463.87	310,098,183.06	21,533,470.55	648,914.68

Source of data: internal records of MA/IBMA/IT monitoring system (hereinafter referred to as the "ITMS")

¹ Volume of funds drawn

Notes:

Number of projects contracted – data incorporate the number of projects actually contracted as well as those projects which were regularly completed financially; at the same time, the data do not incorporate the number of contracted projects that were withdrawn from the Agreement via premature termination.

Projects in progress – gives the number of projects whose implementation of activities began by 31 December 2010 based on the Notification of Implementation Begging.

Number of projects completed – as at 31 December 2010, **six projects were regularly (financially) completed** (of which 2 projects of TA ASFEU - 26140330004 and 26150130004 and 4 demand-driven projects (MH SR) 26120230002, 26120230003, 26120230004 and 26120230001) and **17 were prematurely finished projects. The number of the projects completed** comprises the sum of Requests for Payment (hereinafter referred to as the "RfP") approved by the CA on behalf of the EU+SB resources in relation to the above mentioned regularly completed projects.

Amount of funds reclaimed – comprises the sum of funds returned (EU + SB) as at 31 December 2010 in relation to settled irregularities, returned advance payments, etc. (source: ITMS – notifications on settlement of financial relations paid as at 31 December 2010)

Amount of contribution requested and rejected is calculated as the difference between the amount of contribution approved and the amount requested. It means that the amount of contribution rejected incorporates ineligible expenditures by which the approved AfNFC were reduced.

Amount of contribution requested, rejected and approved and the amount of funds contracted as at 31 December 2010 is converted from SKK to EUR with the use of the exchange rate.

As at 31 December 2010, a total of **1,455 AfNFC** were received under the OPE in the total amount of requested NFC of **676,768,562.62 EUR** and of that **880 AfNFC** were rejected in the total amount of requested contribution for NFC at **290,446,431.83 EUR**, and the amount of requested, rejected or approved AfNFC comprised 16,498,666.92 EUR. Of the total number of AfNFC received so far, a total of **575 AfNFC** were approved in the total amount of **369,823,463.87 EUR**, of which **554 projects** were contracted totalling **310,098,183.06 EUR** and of that, **532 projects** are in progress as at 31 December 2010, which represents an increase of 174 projects in comparison with 2009.

As at 31 December 2010, at total of **23 projects** were simultaneously completed in the total amount of **648,914.68 EUR**. Of those projects, 6 projects were completed regularly and 17 projects were prematurely finished. From that number, in 2010, a total of 11 demand-driven projects were prematurely finished, and 1 mirror national project, i.e., Objective Convergence (hereinafter referred to as "Objective C") and Objective Regional Competitiveness and Employment (hereinafter referred to as "Objective RCE") "*Design of New Educational Programmes in Vocational Training for the Needs of Automobile Industry II*" and 1 national project for Objective C "*Digitalizing of the Content of State Educational Programmes for Elementary and Secondary Schools*" OPV/K/NP/2009-7. The shortcomings in project implementation by the Beneficiary, i.e., the violation of commitments arising from subject and time implementation of project activities, which automatically leads to the failure to implement measurable indicators and project objectives, as well as the failure of Beneficiaries to adopt measures in order to correct shortcomings identified during the on-the-spot check pursuant to reports from the on-the-spot check, were the most frequent reasons for the premature finishing of project and thus withdrawal from the Agreement either by the

MA/IBMA or the Beneficiary.

As at 31 December 2010, a total of **10** national projects were implemented under the OPE in the total allocation of **159,315,675.85 EUR**, of which 8 were of mirror fashion for Objective C and Objective RCE:

1. **Training of Elementary School Teachers in Foreign Languages in Relation to the White Paper for Teaching Foreign Languages at Elementary and Secondary Schools** (OPV/K/RKZ/NP/2008-1) – Measure 1.1 and 4.1;
2. **Further Training of Elementary and Secondary School Teachers in the Subject Informatics** (OPV/K/RKZ/NP/2008-2) – Measure 2.1 and 4.2;
3. **Modernization of the Educational Process at Elementary Schools** (OPV/K/RKZ/NP/2008-3) – measure 1.1 and 4.1;
4. **Modernization of the Educational Process at Secondary Schools** (OPV/K/RKZ/NP/2008-4) – measure 1.1 a 4.1;
5. **Training of Teachers in Relation to the Design of School Educational Programmes** (OPV/K/RKZ/NP/2008-5) – measure 1.1 and 4.1;
6. **Training of Pedagogical Staff of Kindergartens as Part of the Reform of Education** (OPV/K/RKZ/NP/2008-7) – measure 1.1 and 4.1;
7. **External Evaluation of the Quality of School Promoting Self-evaluation Processes and School Development** (OPV/K/RKZ/NP/2009-1) – measure 1.1 and 4.1;
8. **Professional and Career Growth of Pedagogical Staff** (OPV/K//RKZ/NP/2009-3) – measure 2.1 and 4.2;

and 2 for Objective C:

9. **Evaluation of the Quality of Education at Elementary and Secondary Schools in the SR in the Context of the Content Reform of Education in Progress** (OPV/K/NP/2010-1) – measure 1.1;
10. **KomPrax – Competences for Practice** (OPV/K/NP/2010-2) – measure 2.1.

Further detailed information on the physical and financial implementation of national projects and measurable indicators achieved is provided in the following chapters of the report divided according to individual OPE priority axes.

In connection with the programme implementation in Annex 10 to the report we provide examples of excellent practice of demand-driven projects implemented under the IBMA ASFEU and IBMA MH SR, which were financially and physically completed in the reported period.

Implementation of Measurable Indicators

Table 3 provides more detailed information on the implementation of context indicators.

Table 3: Implementation of context indicators as at 31 December 2010

Indicators*		2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	Total
1. labour expenditures (public expenditures in total for education as share of GDP) (percent)	Outcome	3.62%	3.79%	4.56%	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	4.56%
	Target	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	5,2%	n/a	5,2%	5.2%
	Baseline	4.4%	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	4.4%

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2. unemployment rate total (percent)	Outcome	60.7%	62.3%	60.2%	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	60.2%
	Target	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	63.4%	n/a	63.4%	63.4%
	Baseline	57.7%	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	57.7%
3. % of population involved in life-long learning per 100 persons 25-64 years of age (percent)	Outcome	3.9%	3.3%	2.8%	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	2.8%
	Target	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	12.5%	n/a	12.5%	12.5%
	Baseline	4.6%	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	4.6%
4. graduates of tertiary level of higher education (number/1000 persons)	Outcome	0	2.3	2.2	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	2.2
	Target	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	12	n/a	12	12
	Baseline	8.3	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	8.3
5. youth with secondary education (percent)	Outcome	91.3%	92.3%	93.3%	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	93.3%
	Target	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	92%	n/a	92%	92%
	Baseline	91.8%	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	91.8%
6. percent of population (18 - 24) with lower secondary education with no further education (percent)	Outcome	6.5%	6.0%	4.9%	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	4.9%
	Target	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	5.5%	n/a	5.5%	5.5%
	Baseline	6.4%	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	6.4%

*Similar definitions and specific units of individual indicators are provided in Annex 13,

Source: Eurostat

The values for all context indicators in 2010 were not available at the time of the elaboration and submission of the AR. Thus, in Table 3 we provide the same values as in the AR for 2009. Since this pertains to indicators that are aggregated by external resources and not by MA, the values of these indicators will be presented where possible in the upcoming AR depending on their availability.

Several institutions under the Ministry of Education, Science, Research and Sports of the SR (hereinafter referred to as the “MoESRS SR”) i.e., the Institute for Information and Forecasting of Education, the State Pedagogical Institute, the State Vocational Training Institute and others, as well as the Statistical Office of the SR, Eurostat and other international institutions are involved in the data collection system for context indicators. However, we must point out that that values of the context indicators reflect the status that was achieved in the given area due to the effect of several factors, policies or measures; in other words, they do not only reflect the effect of measures implemented under the OPE. Currently, no methodology of calculation exists which in concrete terms provides the level of effect of OPE activities compared to the achieved values.

2.1.2 Financial Implementation of Programme

Drawing from 1 January 2010 to 31 December 2010

From 1 January 2010 to 31 December 2010, a total of **34** summary applications for payment (hereinafter referred to as the “SAP”) were submitted to the Certifying Authority (hereinafter referred to as the “CA”) by the Paying Units (hereinafter referred to as the “PU”) of the MoESRS SR and MH SR under the OPE, of which 21 SAP were for the MoESRS SR and 13 SAP were for the MH SR.

34 SAP were approved in the total amount of 52,151,840.86 EUR on behalf of EU resources and co-financing from SB, i.e., 44,896,414.68 EUR for EU resources and 7,255,426.18 EUR for SB resources. From that, the total amount of approved SAP for the MoESRS SR comprises the sum of 50,892,897.52 EUR for EU resources and co-financing from SB resources and 1,258,943.34 EUR for EU resources and co-financing from SB for the MH SR.

Cumulative Drawing

As at 31 December 2010, a total of **64** SAP were submitted by the PU to the CA; 40 for the MoESRS SR and 24 for the MH SR. From this amount:

- 56 SAP were approved (35 for the MoESRS SR, 21 for the MH SR) in the total amount of 47,389,659.38 EUR, of which 40,873,484.39 EUR for EU resources and 6,516,174.99 EUR for SB resources;
- 6 SAP were approved with reduced sums (5 for the MoESRS SR, 1 for the MH SR) in the total amount of 10,759,708.95 EUR, of which 9,243,525.85 EUR for EU resources and 1,516,183.10 EUR for SB resources;
- 2 SAP were rejected (for the MH SR) in the total amount of 113,368.81 EUR, of which 101,435.26 EUR for EU resources and 11,933.55 EUR for SB resources.

Pursuant to the valid EU legislation (amendment to the General Regulations – Regulation No. 539/2010 valid as at 24 June 2010) one sixth of the 2007 commitment is added to 2008 – 2013 commitments, by means of which the limit deadline for the monitoring of the drawing of funds for the second programming period according to the rule N+3/N+2 is postponed from 31 December 2010 to 31 December 2011 and the 2008 adjusted commitment becomes the first monitored commitment.

As at 31 December 2010, the share of EU funds drawing (50,113,423.00 EUR) after taking into consideration advance payments received (55,602,142.00 EUR) towards the **adjusted 2008 commitment** in the sum of 100,102,169.00 EUR for the OPE is **100%**, i.e., the N+3 rule towards the commitment is fulfilled at the national level.

The share of EU funds drawn in the amount of 50,113,423.00 EUR as at 31 December 2010 towards the **adjusted 2009 commitment** in the sum of 97,023,925.00 EUR is **5.79%**, i.e. , 5.43% for Objective C and 17.30% for Objective RCE.

As at 31 December 2010, the drawing constitutes a total of 8.11% of the 2007- 2013 commitment (617,801,578.00 EUR). Under Objective C, the drawing was in the sum of 48,374,110.00 EUR at 8.06% and under Objective RCE, the drawing was in the sum of 1,739,313.00 EUR at 9.77% of the total commitment.

Payments Received from EC

The CA received the advance payment for the OPE from the EC in 4 tranches, and the 4th tranche was aid based on the EC decision under measures adopted for the elimination of the impact of the

global financial crisis. In 2010, the CA had funds from the advance payments in the amount of 55,602,142.00 EUR available from an out-of-budget account. Data on payments received from the EC in breakdown of priority axes are provided in the Annex 3 to this report.

The share of RfP sent to EC as at 31 December 2010 in the amount of ESF funds of **31,598,665.33 EUR** towards the adjusted 2008 commitment is **87.11%**, which means that in order to fulfil **the N+3 rule** towards the 2008 commitment by 31 December 2011, expenditures at least in the amount of **12,901,361.67 EUR** must be submitted to the EC for the OPE, of which **12,610,309.00 EUR** for Objective C and for Objective RCE **291,053.00 EUR**. Expenditures declared at EC as at 31 December 2010 comprise **5.11%** of the 2007-2013 commitment, **5.11%** for Objective C and **5.33%** for Objective RCE.

Table 4: Financial Information

	Total allocation per priority axis pursuant to OP (EU+ national resources)	Basis for calculation of EU contribution (public or total resources)	Total sum of certified eligible expenditures included in request for payment ¹⁾	Corresponding contribution from public resources ¹⁾	Level of implementation in %
	a	b	c	d	e = d/a
<i>Priority axis 1</i> Reform of Education and Vocational Training System	429,411,765.00	Public resources	30,080,855.18	30,057,454.29	7.00
<i>Priority axis 2</i> Further Education as Tool for Human Resources Development	171,764,706.00	Public resources	685,719.39	679,116.44	0.40
<i>Priority axis 3</i> Promotion of Education for Persons with Special Educational Needs	76,470,589.00	Public resources	233,470.10	233,470.10	0.31
<i>Priority axis 4</i> Modern Education for Knowledge-based Society of Bratislava Self-governing Region	20,943,034.00	Public resources	1,116,443.87	1,115,657.54	5.33
<i>Priority axis 5</i> Technical Assistance	28,235,295.00	Public resources	5,089,202.26	5,089,202.26	18.02
Total sum	726,825,389.00	-	37,205,690.80	37,174,900.63	5.11

Source: CA

¹⁾ Cumulative data

²⁾ This cell is only to be completed for the Final Report on OP Implementation if the operational programme is co-financed from EFRR or ESF and the option pursuant to Article 34 Section 2 of Regulation (EC) No. 1083/2006 is applied.

Column a) – to be completed by CA in cooperation with MA; it pertains to the allocation of provided OP divided according to priority axes (EU + SB + OPR without private resources);

Column b) – since the calculation of the maximum amount of aid in case of the Slovak Republic is constituted by the total eligible public expenditures, i.e., entitled “Public Resources”, we recommend the advance completion of the table in words;

Column c) – to be completed by the CA, cumulative total sum of certified eligible expenditures included in the final AfP to the EC in the given year N for the relevant OP (EU + SB + OPR + PR);

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Column **d**) – to be completed by CA, corresponding contribution from public resources from AfP to the EC for the given OP (EU + SB + OPR);

Column **e**) – to be completed by the CA, in the case of the SR, the calculation of the maximum amount of aid is constituted by total eligible public expenditures, i.e., “Public Resources”; therefore the formula “ $e=d/a$ ” applies.

Abbreviations:

EU – EU resource, SB – state budget (co-financing), OPR – other public resources, PR – private resources

As at 31 December 2010, a total of 37 projects were contracted or approved under the OPE, within the framework of which, the drawing of funds through cross financing is also anticipated. Financing expenditures through cross financing is expected not only with TA projects (18 projects), but also within the demand-driven projects (19 projects). The value of such contracted cross financing funds represents almost **1,427,469.40 EUR** (of which **1,221,567.30 EUR** from ESF resource) which in relation to the volume of funds contracted to date, ESF funds represents **0.46%** and **0.20%** in relation to the ESF commitment for the entire programming period 2007 – 2013.

As at 31 December 2010, a total of 255,256.60 EUR (of which the ESF resources amounted to 216,968.07 EUR and SB resources amounted to 38,288.53 EUR) was drawn under the cross financing, which constitutes 17.88%. in the relation to contracted cross financing The above mentioned level of expenditure drawing through cross financing is approximately the same as the average drawing level of projects (as at 31 December 2010, it reached the level of 18.72%).

With TA projects of the MA and both IBMA (measures 4.3 and 5.1) the cross financing is designed for ensuring optimum material and technical conditions (computer equipment, office equipment and furniture, etc.) for the MA/IBMA staff involved in OPE implementation.

In the case of national projects, the use of cross financing in the sum of 536,081.79 EUR was anticipated under the national project “Design of New Educational Programmes in Vocational Training for the Needs of the Automobile Industry II” (measures 1.1 and 4.1) the Beneficiary of which was the State Vocational Training Institute, and 15,562,916.37 EUR under the national project “Digitalizing of the Educational Programmes Content”, the Beneficiary of which was the State Pedagogical Institute. However, in the course of 2010, both projects were withdrawn. The MA again counts on the implementation of the national project focused on digitalizing upon its re-design in 2011.

In the case of demand-driven projects, we plan to use cross financing with 19 projects contracted based on the following calls:

- OPV-2009/3.2/01-SORO – *Innovation of Methods and Forms of the Upbringing-education Process and the Design of Further Educational Programmes for Disabled Persons*;
- OPV 2008/2.2/02 – *Development of New Forms of Further Education in Healthcare*;
- OPV 2008/2.2/03 – *Replenishing of the Healthcare System with Qualified Specialists*;
- OPV 2009/2.2/01 – *Support for Evaluating Continuing Education for Healthcare Staff*;
- OPV 2009/2.2/02 – *Increasing of Further Skills of Healthcare Staff*;
- OPV-2009/1.1/05-SORO – *Design and Enhancing of the Efficiency of School Educational programmes of Secondary Vocational Schools*.

In case of the first call, 7 projects were contracted with the use of cross financing; with other calls (except for the last call) it was 1 project for each. 8 projects were contracted with the use of cross financing in case of the last call.

The possibility of using cross financing with the planned projects was also open as at 31 December 2010 under the call OPV 2010/2.2/02 focused on the support of enhancing the professionalism of expert activities of healthcare staff; however, it has not been concluded as to date.

Even in the future, the MA will promote financing of projects in the form of cross-financing in cases where its use will be necessary in order to ensure the implementation of quality projects contributing to the effective implementation of the OPE.

Estimates of Anticipated Expenditures

Estimates of anticipated expenditures for 2010 were forwarded to the EC by **30 April 2010** and **25 August 2010** for the OPE in the sum of 30,100,000.00 EUR and by receiving the second and third interim payments in 2010 in the amount of 29,621,087.50 EUR they were **98.41%** fulfilled.

Table 5: Comparison of actual and planned drawing from 1 January 2010 to 31 December 2010

	Planned drawing of eligible expenditures in 2010 in € (EAE sent by CA to EC as at 30 April and 25 August 2010)		Drawing of eligible expenditures towards EC for 2010 in €		Deviation (planned drawing – drawing towards EC) in €		Deviation (implementation of EAE) in %	
	EU resources		EU resources		EU resources		EU resources	
	SF	CF	SF	CF	SF	CF	SF	CF
Total for Programme	30,100,000	x	29,621,087.50	x	478,912.50	x	98.41	x

Source: CA

A comparison of the planned and actual drawing of national projects as at 31 December 2010 is provided in detail in Annex 8 to this report.

Financial Implementation of Priority Axis

Table 6: Drawing of funds under priority axes for the OPE as at 31 December 2010

	2007-2013 Commitment for EU resources in €	Drawing of funds in 2010 (EU resources) in €		Cumulative drawing of funds as at 31 December 2010 (EU resources) in €	
		Total	% of 2007 – 2013 commitment	Total	% of 2007 – 2013 commitment
<i>Priority axis 1</i>	<i>365,000,000</i>	<i>36,932,992.51</i>	10.12%	<i>38,735,141.38</i>	10.61%
Measure 1.1	255,000,000	36,852,472.28	1.45%	38,654,621.15	15.16%
Measure 1.2	110,000,000	80,520.23	0.07%	80,520.23	0.07%
<i>Priority axis 2</i>	<i>146,000,000</i>	<i>2,381,623.64</i>	1.63%	<i>2,673,282.43</i>	1.83%
Measure 2.1	109,500,000	1,440,427.20	1.32%	1,494,784.28	1.37%
Measure 2.2	36,500,000	941,196.44	2.58%	1,178,498.15	3.23%
<i>Priority axis 3</i>	<i>65,000,000</i>	<i>833,083.18</i>	1.28%	<i>833,083.18</i>	1.28%
Measure 3.1	48,700,000	751,427.14	1.54%	751,427.14	1.54%
Measure 3.2	16,300,000	81,656.04	0.50%	81,656.04	0.50%
<i>Priority axis 4</i>	<i>17,801,578</i>	<i>1,524,586.47</i>	8.56%	<i>1,739,312.69</i>	9.77%

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Measure 4.1	6,911,514	1,043,723.34	15.10%	1,135,753.62	16.43%
Measure 4.2	10,178,001	224,987.25	2.21%	228,427.40	2.24%
Measure 4.3	712,063	255,875.88	35.93%	375,131.67	52.68%
Priority axis 5	24,000,000	3,220,541.28	13.42%	6,132,602.96	25.55%
5.1	22,820,635.00	3,064,398.47	13.43%	5,759,412.87	25.24%
5.2	1,179,365.00	156,142.81	13.24%	373,190.09	31.64%
Total	617,801,578	44,892,827.08	7.27%	50,113,422.64	8.11%

Source: CA

The share of the total drawing of EU funds as at 31 December 2010 (50,113,422.64 EUR) in the adjusted 2009 commitment reduced by the total amount of advance payment (55,602,142.02 EUR) for the OPE represents 5.79% and for the fulfilment of the N+3 rule for the relevant commitment it is necessary to approve expenditures at CA in the amount of 82,410,529.00 EUR as at 31 December 2010, i.e., 80,020,129.00 EUR for Objective C and 2,390,400.00 EUR for Objective RCE.

As at 31 December 2010, the drawing in the amount of 50,113,422.64 EUR represents 8.11% of the 2007 – 2013 commitment (617,801,578.00 EUR) where the drawing for Objective C of 48,374,109.95 EUR was at the level of 8.06% and the drawing of 1,739,312.69 EUR for Objective RCE was at the level of 9.77% of the total 2007 – 2013 commitment.

The above stated level of drawing can be considered as adequate in relation to the achieved indicators by the end of the fourth year of the 2007 – 2013 programming period, in addition to the fact that the actual implementation of the OPE at the level of national and demand-driven projects in connection with the actual drawing only began in 2009. In connection with this, we must realize that the OPE, which is co-financed from ESF funds, is a specific programme, whose drawing pace cannot be compared with other OP financing, particularly the projects of an investment nature or projects whose implementation and drawing directly arises from the SR legislation. Under this programme, the MoESRS SR particularly supports projects of an educational nature (current expenditures) with an implementation length of approximately 2 – 4 years where the educational activities under these projects take place progressively. In connection with this, the financing also takes place adequately to the timetable of education. The MA, in cooperation with both IBMAs and the MC for OPE, proposed and summarised the proposals for the enhancement of the efficiency and simplifying of OP implementation in 2010. The MA OPE standpoint is that the pace of drawing of EU SF means under the OPE is adequate considering the nature of this OP and its individual projects.

In connection with this, it is crucial to focus on the volume of funds already contracted under the OPE, since the level of funds contracting is significant if not crucial for current and particularly the future drawing of EU SF funds. As at 31 December 2010, the level of contracting of the total ESF commitment for the 2007 – 2013 programming period reached the value of 43.33%, which can definitely be considered as an adequate basis for ensuring the trouble-free drawing of EU SF funds. In terms of commitments for individual years, the commitments for 2007, 2008, 2009 and partially 2010 (15.87%) are contractually covered.

The higher volume of expenditures approved at the CA constituted advance payment settlements (81.35% of the volume of the heretofore certified expenditures for ESF resource) before the approved interim and final payments. We can state that in 2010 the change in structure of approved AfP occurred in favour of advance payment settlements before interim payments. However, since the crucial part of OPE beneficiaries come from the public sector and are

financed through the advance payment system, we expect a continuation of the above mentioned trend of drawing in 2011, predominantly through the settlement of provided advance payments.

In connection with this, we must point out the fact that as at 31 December 2010, the MoESRS SR registered under the OPE provided but heretofore unsettled and uncertified advance payments in the total volume of **30,517 thousand EUR** (of which ESF resources represent **26,824 thousand EUR**). Although the provision of advance payments does not represent drawing in the relation to CA or EC, these funds enable the Beneficiaries to implement their projects which will subsequently be projected in the drawing of EU SF funds upon their subsequent settlement and approval at the CA.

Within the framework of the analysis of EU SF funds drawing, the MA identified the following factors that affect the level of EU SF funds drawing:

- the time shift in implementing individual activities of supported projects (and thus related expenditures) because of complications in the public procurement of goods and services (administrative and time intensity of implementing public procurement) related to implementation of the indicated activities— *in this respect, the MA/IBMA have no competences on how to assist implementers of projects since the rules regarding public procurement are explicitly provided;*
- low quality of submitted AfP (including support documentation manifesting eligibility of expenditures claimed) which resulted in extending the period of time for the administrative processing of the indicated AfP by the MoESRS SR or ASFEU, as well as the pre-paid amount of eligible expenditures by the Beneficiary (implementer) of individual projects—*in its effort to improve the quality of AfP submitted under the national projects, the MA ensures continuous consultations with individual directly managed organizations; the IBMA for enhancing the efficiency of the financial management of projects ensures training for their implementers and provides e-mail and personal consultations regarding individual problem areas.*

Despite the abovementioned facts, the MA does not anticipate serious problems in fulfilling the “N+3” rule in relation to the modified 2009 commitment by the end of 2012. Reflecting the level of contracting, the volume of provided advance payments and the time period necessary for the administration and approval of applications for payment from beneficiaries (interim payment, final payment, settlement of advance payments provided) the MA expects to fulfil the “N+3” rule in relation to the modified 2009 commitment by submitting sufficient expenditures at the CA (MF SR) through SAP in the first half of 2012.

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

Assessment of Certification Verification at the CA

From **1 January 2010 to 31 December 2010**, a total of **21 SAP** in the amount of 51,944,020.06 EUR for all financing resources were submitted by the **PU of the MoESRS SR** to the CA. 16 SAP were approved in the submitted volume and 5 SAP were approved in reduced volume.

During the reviewed period, the certification verification of 2 SAP was carried out by the MA, IBMA ASFEU and PU MoESRS SR and 1 certification verification related to the national project was carried out by the MA and PU MoESRS SR and 1 certification verification related to

the demand—driven project was carried out by the IBMA ASFEU and PU MoESRS SR. The verified sample represented the sum of 47,519.04 EUR, i.e., 0.09% of volume of the submitted SAP and 1.78% of the volume of the verified SAP.

No non-eligible expenditures were identified within the framework of the submitted SAP.

No irregularities were identified at the level of CA; no report on irregularities was elaborated.

In the course of 2010, no motion for the implementation of a state audit was sent at the level of the CA or to the Public Procurement Office.

From **1 January 2010 to 31 December 2010**, a total of 13 SAP amounting to 364,346.91 EUR were submitted to the CA by the **PU MH SR** for all financing resources. 12 SAP were approved in the submitted volume and 1 SAP was approved in a reduced volume.

During the reviewed period, the certification verification of demand driven projects under 1 SAP was carried out by the IBMA MH SR and PU MH SR. The verified sample of expenditures represented the sum of 48,810.59 EUR, i.e., 3.58% of the volume of submitted SAP and 94.91% of the volume of verified SAP.

Non –eligible expenditures were primarily identified under the submitted SAP in the amount of 253.71 EUR, i.e., 0.52% of the verified sample, and were related to the failure to reflect the resource “pro rata” paid by the Beneficiary for the support activity “project management” under the project with an impact on a non-eligible territory. These expenditures were not confirmed as non-eligible upon the adoption of remedy measures by the IBMA MH SR.

No irregularities were identified at the level of CA and thus, no report on irregularities was elaborated.

In the course of 2010, no motion for the implementation of a state audit was sent at the level of the CA or to the Public Procurement Office.

From 1 January 2010 to 31 December 2010, a total of **34** SAP in the total amount of 53,308,366.97 EUR were submitted by the **PU MoESRS SR and PU MH SR under the OPE**. 28 SAP were approved in the submitted volume and 6 SAP were approved in a reduced volume. 3 certification verifications were carried out under the OPE during the reviewed period directly by the MA, IBMA ASFEU, IBMA MH SR, PU MoESRS SR and PU MH SR. The verified sample of expenditures represented the sum of 96,329.63 EUR, i.e., 0.18% of the total volume of submitted SAP and 3.53% of the total amount of the verified SAP.

Non-eligible expenditures in the amount of 253.71 EUR, i.e., 0.26% of the verified sample were identified within the submitted SAP and upon additional communication and the adoption of remedy measures by the IBMA MH SR, the above mentioned expenditures were not confirmed as non-eligible.

No irregularities were identified at the level of the CA and thus no report on irregularities was elaborated. In the course of 2010, no motion for the implementation of a state audit was sent at the level of the CA or to the Public Procurement Office.

The following findings were identified during the SAP certification verifications carried out from 1 January 2010 to 31 December 2010:

MoESRS SR – MA

Incorrect application of procedures, missing procedures, shortcomings in outputs MA/IBMA/PU

1. outputs showing the implementation of an analysis of data submitted under monitoring reports were missing;

2. failure to notify Beneficiary of the date of the commencement of the on-the-spot check within the established period of time;

Failure to inform the CA, failure to submit documentation

3. failure to inform the CA of the AfNFC selection process within the established period of time;

Incorrect or absent records of data in ITMS

4. data related to the verified project were not completed in ITMS in compliance with the Structural Funds and Cohesion Fund Management System for 2007 – 2013 Programming Period (hereinafter referred to as the “Management System”).

ASFEU – IBMA

Incorrect application of procedures, missing procedures, shortcoming in outputs MA/IBMA/PU

1. failure to submit annex to “balance” the missing requested requisites;
2. failure to fill out control list to the project monitoring report pursuant to the Internal Manual of Procedures of the IBMA;

Incorrect or missing ITMS data

3. data related to the verified project were not completed in ITMS in compliance with the Management System;
4. records of irregularities in ITMS were incorrectly connected to advance payments and not to advance payment settlements.

MH SR – IBMA

Non-eligible expenditures

1. the impact of the implemented project to a non-eligible territory (Bratislava self-governing region), by the IBMA, the failure to reflect “pro rata” resources paid by the Beneficiary for support activity “project management” without which implementation of project would be impossible;

Incorrect application of procedures, absent procedures, shortcoming in outputs MA/IBMA/PU

2. absent outputs showing implementation of analysis of data submitted under monitoring reports;
3. incorrectly provided data in the “Control List Regarding the Violation of Public Procurement Principles” and in the “Report on the Public Procurement Control”;

Incorrect or missing ITMS data

4. data related to the verified project were not completed in ITMS in compliance with the Management System;

Other

5. the contracted project budget included an item related to the procurement of equipment beyond the cross financing, which in the case of approval of such spent funds from NFC would mean a discrepancy with Article 11 Section 2 c) of Council Regulation No. 1081/2006 on ESF.

With respect to the aforementioned findings, the MA, IBMA ASFEU, the IBMA MH SR and the PU of the MoESRS SR and MH SR adopted appropriate measures as at 31 December 2010, which were accepted by the CA.

Irregularities in the OPE

From 1 January 2010 to 31 December 2010, the CA had been notified of:

- **20 irregularities with a financial impact** amounting to **49,079.47 EUR**, of which EU resources constituted **41,717.48 EUR**; 14 irregularities amounting to 33,147.95 EUR were

identified based on Article 13 of the EC Implementation Regulation and 6 irregularities amounting to 15,931.52 EUR were identified based on Article 16 of the EC Implementation Regulation;

- **3 system irregularities** with no financial impact were identified through checks according to Article 16 of the EC Implementation Regulation.

Table 7: Overview of irregularities with financial impact by priority axes and measures

Measure	Irregularities with financial impact Number	Irregularities with financial impact in EUR	
		Total sum	Sum for EU resource
Measure 1.1	10	43,674.60	37,123.36
Measure 2.2	2	238.18	202.45
Measure 4.1	4	3,116.86	2,649.31
Measure 4.3	2	75.45	64.14
Measure 5.1	2	1,974.38	1,678.22
Total:	20	49,079.47	41,714.48

Source: CA

2.1.2.1 On-the-spot Checks

The duty to perform project implementation checks stems from Article 60 (b) of the General Regulations, pursuant to which the MA is responsible for managing and implementing the operational programme in accordance with the principle of sound financial management and also for ensuring that the co-financed products and services are delivered and that the expenditures declared by the beneficiaries for operations were actually incurred and comply with the generally binding legal regulations of the Community and the SR.

The objective of the on-the-spot checks was to verify the actual delivery of products, the performance of operations and provision of services declared in the accounting documents. It is the most suitable tool for identifying possible shortcomings regarding services delivered, etc.) and the monitoring of the project (e.g., checks of the implementation of project activities, outputs of project activities, measurable indicators, etc.).

During the reviewed period from 1 January 2010 to 31 December 2010, a total of **144 on-the-spot checks** were carried out. The MA carried out a total of 30 on-the-spot checks (of which 14 were focused on financial control and 16 were focused on project monitoring). The IBMA carried out a total of 114 on-the-spot checks of demand-driven projects (of which the ASFEU carried out 101 on-the-spot checks and the MH SR carried out 13 on-the-spot checks).

The on-the-spot checks were predominantly focused on the verification of compliance of project implementation with the Agreement on the provision of NFC, project objectives, the implementation of project indicator values, the timetable of the implementation of project activities or other conditions indicated in the Agreement on the provision of NFC.

The following were the most frequently identified shortcomings during the individual on-the-spot checks:

- failure to adhere to publicity & information rules arising from the Agreement on the provision of NFC;
- discrepancy between the staffing and current job matrix;
- violations of Act No. 553/2003 Coll., the Labour Code, Act No. 523/2004 Coll.;
- shortcomings in cumulative timesheets, insufficient specification of activities listed in individual timesheets, overlap in personal expenditures;
- insufficient keeping of supporting documentation concerning project activities.

Based on individual identified findings, the respective measures for eliminating the shortcomings were adopted by the beneficiaries and have now been fulfilled or are in the process of being fulfilled.

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

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

More detailed information concerning individual on-the-spot checks is presented in Annex 7 to this report.

2.1.2.2 MA Control at IBMA

SORO ASFEU

From 27 September 2010 to 13 December 2010, MA employees carried out the control of working procedures and tasks assigned to the IBMA ASFEU. 13 projects or AfNFC constituted the subject of the control. The control of working procedures and tasks assigned to the IBMA in the aforementioned sample of 13 projects was carried out in the following areas:

- programming;
- receiving, evaluation and selection of AfNFC;
- concluding agreements with beneficiaries;
- ensuring information & publicity;
- financial management;
- aid monitoring;
- aid assessment;
- administrative, managing and control conditions.

On 13 December 2010, the MA sent the IBMA ASFEU Report No. 01/2010 on the outcomes of verification of procedures assigned to the IBMA ASFEU with a request for its standpoint, which incorporated the findings and proposed recommendations.

The following violations were identified through the control of procedures assigned to the IBMA ASFEU:

- violation of procedures in the Internal Manual of Procedures for the IBMA ASFEU;
- violation of procedures in the Management System;
- violation of procedures in the Financial Management of SF and CF System for 2007-2013 Programming Period (hereinafter referred to as the “Financial Management System”);
- missing records of required ITMS data.

The report on the outcome of verification of procedures assigned to the IBMA, by which the controlled subject is imposed with the obligation to adopt measures for the remedy of shortcomings and the elimination of their causes was not completed by 31 December 2010. More detailed information concerning the fulfilment of measures adopted for the remedy of shortcomings and the elimination of their causes will be dealt with in the AR for 2011.

IBMA MH SR

From 2 September 2010 – 22 September 2010, MA employees carried out the control of working procedures and tasks assigned to the IBMA MH SR.

8 projects or AfNFC constituted the subject of the control. The control of working procedures and tasks assigned to the IBMA in the aforementioned sample of 8 projects was carried out in the following areas:

1. programming;
2. receiving, evaluation and selection of AfNFC;
3. concluding agreements with beneficiaries;
4. ensuring information & publicity;
5. financial management;
6. aid monitoring;
7. aid assessment;
8. administrative, managing and control conditions.

On 2 November 2010, the MA sent the IBMA MH SR Report No. 01/2010 on the outcomes of the verification of procedures assigned to the IBMA MH SR with a request for its standpoint, which incorporated findings and proposed recommendations.

The following violations were identified during the control of procedures assigned to the IBMA MH SR:

- violation of procedures in Internal Manual of Procedures for IBMA MH SR;
- out-of-date annex to Internal Manual 3.6 – “Audit Trail”
- violation of procedures in the Management System;
- violation of procedures in the Financial Management System;
- missing records of required ITMS data;
- failure to implement the purpose of the given call in the case of OPV 2010/2.2/01;
- insufficient administrative, control and managing conditions.

Based on report on the outcome of the verification of procedures assigned to the IBMA MH SR,

the controlled subject was imposed with the obligation to adopt measures for the remedy of shortcomings and the elimination of their causes; this was not completed by 7 February 2011. Upon receiving the written report on the implementation of measures for the remedy of shortcomings and the elimination of their causes, the MA will carry out a repeat control at the IBMA MH SR in order to ensure that the shortcomings are corrected and their causes are eliminated by the IBMA MH SR.

2.1.3 Implementation of Structural Funds and the Cohesion Fund from the Regional Aspect

The multi-objective operational programme OPE contributes to the levelling of regional differences by covering two objectives of the EU Cohesion Policy, namely the Cohesion objective (territory of the whole SR other than the Bratislava self-governing region) and the RC&E objective (Bratislava self-governing region). For the implementation of the OPE, financing from EU funds respective to the gross domestic product in the amount of 17,089,515 EUR is available for projects falling under the RC&E objective and financing of 600,000,000 EUR is available for projects falling under the Convergence objective. Funds allocated in the framework of the Convergence objective are distributed equally among NUTS II regions (pursuant to the programming documents).

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

- calls and notices for the submission of AfPs are largely declared in mirror for the whole of the SR territory and provide equal possibilities for all potential eligible applicants to engage in the AfNFC submission process;
- In the process of approving and selecting AfNFC, the MA and IBMA apply the same evaluation and selection criteria, with the aim of selecting the best projects in terms of quality;
- the design of quality demand-driven projects in each region is supported by regional information offices (hereinafter referred to as “RIO”) of the IBMA ASFEU, and which until 15 November 2010 were located in each regional town (as at 15 October 2010, the RIO terminated their activities in Trnava, Nitra, Trenčín and Prešov, but continue in Bratislava, Košice, Zvolen and Žilina); ;
- information seminars and training sessions are held in parallel in all regions of Slovakia regarding declared calls for the submission of AfNFC within the framework of the OPE.

Table 8A: Physical implementation classified by NUTS III as at 31 December 2010

Priority Axis	NUTS III Region	Number of AfNFC received	Number of projects in progress	Number of projects completed
Priority axis 1	Trnava	89	24	0
	Trenčín	124	44	1
	Nitra	128	42	1
	Žilina	163	74	2
	Banská Bystrica	157	53	2
	Prešov	209	78	1
	Košice	188	66	2
	Total	1,058	381	9

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Priority axis 2	Trnava	3	1	0
	Trenčín	4	1	1
	Nitra	6	1	1
	Žilina	8	2	1
	Banská Bystrica	5	2	0
	Prešov	6	2	1
	Košice	3	1	1
	Total	35	10	5
Priority axis 3	Trnava	5	2	1
	Trenčín	3	1	0
	Nitra	12	4	0
	Žilina	7	4	0
	Banská Bystrica	31	14	0
	Prešov	49	18	1
	Košice	40	23	0
	Total	147	66	2
Priority axis 4	Bratislava (DdP+NP)	115	30	0
	Bratislava (TA)	15	11	2
	Total	130	41	2
Total		1,370	498	18

Data source: internal records of MA/IBMA

Number of projects completed – of the total number of **18 projects completed** classified by localization in the 1 NUTS III region, 4 demand-driven projects of MH SR were regularly completed (under measure 2.2) and 1 TA project (under measure 4.3) and 13 projects were prematurely finished.

Table 8A provides all of the projects whose activities are being implemented in individual NUTS III regions except for demand-driven projects implemented in more than one NUTS III region, national projects and TA projects implemented under Objective C.

Table 8B: Physical implementation of projects not classified in regions at the NUTS III level as at 31 December 2010

Priority Axis	Number of AfNFC received	Number of projects in progress	Number of projects completed
Priority axis 1	13	9	2
Priority axis 2	45	9	1
Priority axis 3	6	3	1
Priority axis 4	0	0	0
Priority axis 5	21	13	1
Total	85	34	5

Source of data: internal records of MA/IBMA

Number of projects completed – of the total number of **5 projects completed** classified by localization in more than 1 NUTS III region, 1 TA project (under measure 5.1) was regularly completed and 4 projects were prematurely finished.

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Table 8B provides all of the projects whose activities are implemented in several NUTS III regions or which have an impact on more than 1 NUTS III region. In the case of national projects and TA projects, Table 8B lists projects implemented under Objective C.

More detailed information on the financial implementation of projects by NUTS III is presented in Table 9.

Table 9: Financial implementation by NUTS III as at 31 December 2010

Priority Axis	NUTS III Region	Indicative allocations from ESF in €	Funds contracted from ESF			Funds drawn from ESF		
			€	% of contracting under priority axis	% of allocation per region	€	% of drawing under priority axis	% of allocation per region
A	B	C	D	$E=D/\sum \text{priority os}$	$F=D/C$	G	$H=G/\sum \text{priority os}$	$I=G/C$
Priority axis 1	Trnava	125,998,000.00	6,825,518.84	1.87%	5.42%	553,281.36	0.15%	0.44%
	Trenčín		8,379,373.87	2.30%	6.65%	1,571,843.81	0.43%	1.25%
	Nitra		9,869,678.18	2.70%	7.83%	927,244.33	0.25%	0.74%
	Žilina	110,814,000.00	14,917,643.23	4.09%	13.46%	2,892,518.76	0.79%	2.61%
	Banská Bystrica		9,737,784.90	2.67%	8.79%	1,735,764.46	0.48%	1.57%
	Prešov	128,188,000.00	13,020,176.65	3.57%	10.16%	2,875,322.39	0.79%	2.24%
	Košice		14,240,447.90	3.90%	11.11%	2,107,718.58	0.58%	1.64%
	Total	365 000 000.00	76,990,623.57	21.09%	21.09%	12,663,693.69	3.47%	3.47%
Priority axis 2	Trnava	50,399,200.00	917,062.43	0.63%	1.82%	65,394.45	0.04%	0.13%
	Trenčín		1,328,912.69	0.91%	2.64%	183,372.99	0.13%	0.36%
	Nitra		1,461,522.30	1.00%	2.90%	111,573.88	0.08%	0.22%
	Žilina	44,325,600.00	1,996,679.19	1.37%	4.50%	148,136.99	0.10%	0.33%
	Banská Bystrica		1,685,692.14	1.15%	3.80%	19,298.86	0.01%	0.04%
	Prešov	51,275,200.00	1,900,192.09	1.30%	3.71%	0.00	0.00%	0.00%
	Košice		1,327,804.82	0.91%	2.59%	235,509.88	0.16%	0.46%
	Total	146,000,000.00	10,617,865.66	7.27%	7.27%	763,287.05	0.52%	0.52%
Priority axis 3	Trnava	22,438,000.00	240,089.86	0.37%	1.07%	7,017.33	0.01%	0.03%
	Trenčín		224,260.52	0.35%	1.00%	0.00	0.00%	0.00%
	Nitra		509,692.87	0.78%	2.27%	5,431.36	0.01%	0.02%
	Žilina	19,734,000.00	541,799.54	0.83%	2.75%	0.00	0.00%	0.00%
	Banská Bystrica		2,092,396.26	3.22%	10.60%	138,985.31	0.21%	0.70%
	Prešov	22,828,000.00	2,709,242.05	4.17%	11.87%	397,902.82	0.61%	1.74%
	Košice		3,567,698.10	5.49%	15.63%	224,731.38	0.35%	0.98%
	Total	65,000,000.00	9,885,179.20	15.21%	15.21%	774,068.20	1.19%	1.19%
Priority axis 4	Bratislava (DdP+NP)	17,089,515.00	11,725,146.45	65.87%	68.61%	1,364,181.02	7.66%	7.98%
	Bratislava (TA)	712,063.00	951,001.74	5.34%	133.56%	375,131.67	2.11%	52.68%
	Total	17,801,578.00	12,676,148.19	71.21%	71.21%	1,739,312.69	9.77%	9.77%
Total		593,801,578.00	110,169,816.62	18.55%	18.55%	15,940,361.63	2.68%	2.68%

Source of data: internal records of MA/IBMA

Notes:

Indicative allocations in OP are defined only at the level of NUTS II.

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Amount of funds drawn as at 31 December 2010, represents the sum of SAP approved by the CA as at the indicated date. Applications approved in SKK as at 31 December 2008 were converted to EUR through the relevant monthly exchange rate of the ECB. The exchange rate was used for the conversion of expenditures implemented in SKK as at 31 December 2008 upon the approval of AfP after this date. The amount of drawing is adjusted by irregularities which MF SR deducted in the statement of expenditures for the EC as at 31 December 2010.

More detailed information concerning the financial implementation of projects unclassified in the regions at the NUTS III level is presented in Table 10.

Table 10: Financial implementation of projects not classified in regions at the level of NUTS III as at 31 December 2010

Priority axis	Allocation	Funds contracted from ESF		Funds drawn from ESF	
		€	% of contracting under priority axis	€	% of drawing under priority axis
A	B	C	D=C/B	E	F=E/B
Priority axis 1	365,000,000.00	79,010,579.77	21.65%	26,071,447.69	7.14%
Priority axis 2	146,000,000.00	59,575,186.28	40.80%	1,909,995.38	1.31%
Priority axis 3	65,000,000.00	340,744.98	0.52%	59,014.98	0.09%
Priority axis 4	17,801,578.00	0.00	0.00%	0.00	0.00%
Priority axis 5	24,000,000.00	18,620,519.49	77.59%	6,132,602.96	25.55%
Total	617,801,578.00	157,547,030.52	25.50%	34,173,061.01	5.53%

Source of data: internal records of MA/IBMA

Notes:

The table provides the sum of contracting for and drawing of EU resources for those projects whose activities are implemented in several NUTS III regions or which have an impact on more than 1 NUTS III region. In the case of national projects and TA projects it pertains to the projects implemented under Objective C.

Regarding the physical implementation of national and demand-driven projects classified in regions by NUTS III as at 31 December 2010, we can state that the largest number of AfNFC (264) was received from the Prešov region and the lowest number (97) was received from the Trnava region. Not surprisingly, the most projects were contracted in the Prešov region (98 projects were in progress, 3 projects were prematurely finished) and the fewest projects were contracted in the Trnava region (27 projects in progress, 1 project was prematurely finished). The aforementioned fact indicates the differences in regions and the fact that the economically weakest regions have the largest number of contracted projects and those in progress.

Concerning the financial implementation of national and demand-driven projects classified in regions by NUTS III as at 31 December 2010, we can state that the highest amount of funds contracted from ESF was in the Košice region (19,135,950.82 EUR) and the lowest amount of funds contracted from ESF was in the Trnava region (7,982,671.13 EUR). The highest amount of funds from ESF was drawn in the Prešov region (3,273,225.21 EUR) and the lowest amount of funds from ESF was drawn in the Trnava region (625,693.14 EUR).

The drawing of projects unclassified in regions at the level of NUTS III as at 31 December 2010 reached the total level of 2.68% in relation to allocation; the highest drawing was achieved under priority axis 4 (9.77%) and the lowest under priority axis 2 (0.52%).

The projects whose activities are implemented in several NUTS III regions or have an impact on more than 1 NUTS III region represents a percentage of drawing of these projects for all priority axes at the level of 5.53% of the amount of funds drawn from ESF.

Currently, calls for the submission of AfNFC as well as evaluation and selection criteria of the OPE do not reflect the levelling out of regional differences, despite the spontaneous levelling out of economic regional differences that occurs indirectly through higher involvement, a higher number of contracted projects and thus a higher drawing within the economically weaker regions of Slovakia.

2.1.4 Financial Control and Audit

The tasks of the audit authority are carried out by the Audit and Control Section of the Ministry of Finance of the SR in cooperation with the bodies involved in the execution of government audits². Pursuant to the audit strategy for the 2007 – 2013 programming period for structural aid programmes approved by the European Commission in May 2009, audits on systems and operations under Article 62 of Council Regulation (EC) No. 1083/2006 are performed as a government audit; its basic elements are governed in legislation by Act No. 502/2001 Coll. on financial control and internal audits and on the amendments of certain acts as later amended.

2.1.4.1 Audits on Operations

In compliance with the updated audit strategy for 2010, the audit organ ensured the performance of audits of operations pursuant to Article 62 Section 1 (b) of Council Regulation (EC) No. 1083/2006 in the first half of 2010, and the level of reliability of the sample selection was determined according to the statement on the effectiveness of the managing and control system (assurance level 2 – the system works but several improvements should be implemented) and the corresponding level of reliability of the operational programme system (70%) which was supplied based on the conclusions of system audits performed in the second half of 2009.

Government Audit No. A320³ was performed from January to June 2010 according to the Government Audit Plan for International and Own Resources, Control and Supervising Activities of the MF SR for 2010. The audit main objective was to obtain assurance regarding the eligibility of expenditures in the selected sample of operations under the OPE at the level of MA, PU (MoESRS SR), IBMA (ASFEU and MH SR) and with selected beneficiaries.

382,531.94 EUR was verified by the audit. Identified non-eligible expenditures in the amount of 655.81 EUR were settled and returned throughout 2010.

Overview of main shortcomings identified:

Accidental shortcomings (with a financial impact)

- use of public funds beyond the framework of eligibility by beneficiaries by exceeding the unit price of the procured software, due to a manager's non-eligible timesheet and the indication of non-eligible expenditures for wages costs of administrative and managerial staff in the total amount of 655.81 EUR.

² The involved bodies are auditing organs pursuant to § 2 Section 2 (g) of Act No. 502/2001 Coll. on Financial Control and Internal Audit except for the MF SR carrying out the assignments pursuant to Article 62 of Council Regulation (EC) No. 1083/2006 under the guidance of an auditing organ.

³ Identification number of government audit generated by MF SR information system– CEDIS.

Non-system shortcomings (with a non-financial impact)

- Beneficiary failed to carry out market survey for its order on the elaboration of monitoring reports, failed to manifest its performance of a public tender for the publicity of submitted relevant documentation and failed to justify its method for the direct award of the order;
- Discrepancy between the dates in the documentation submitted by the Beneficiary for the procurement of information panels and the dates of issuance of the orders;
- Beneficiary submitted an accounting document which did not correspond with the original copy of this document submitted to IBMA;
- insufficiently performed interim financial control (failure to adhere to the “four eyes” rule during the administrative verification of the application for payment) for the party of IBMA ASFEU and IBMA MH SR.

No system or systematic shortcomings or abnormalities were identified in the course of the audit.

Based on the documentary verification carried out in the second half of 2010, we can state that the measures were adopted and the recommendations regarding identified shortcomings were reflected in the aforementioned government audit.

Complementary Sample

From February to June 2010, based on the European Commission requirement sent by letter No. EMPL/I4/MS/MD/ss of 8 September 2009, the auditors of the MF SR and Bratislava Financial Control Administration carried out **government audit No. A310** as a **complementary sample** at the level of MA and PU (MoESRS SR) and with the Beneficiary (State Vocational Training Institute) in order to obtain assurance on the eligibility of expenditures at complementary sample of operations under the OPE.

Overview of main shortcomings:

Non-system shortcomings

- violation of § 9 Point 2 of Act No. 25/2006 Coll. on Public Procurement by the Beneficiary due to the failure to apply the principle of equal treatment and non-discriminating individual bidders and by its failure to carry out all legal acts in written form;
- distribution of “Učiteľské noviny” (Teachers’ Journal) to the persons who are not in the target group since these are not educational institutions.

No casual, system, systematic shortcoming or abnormalities were identified by the government audit.

The report of the aforementioned government audit was sent to the EC through letter No. MF/018921/2010-1413 of 18 June 2010.

2.1.4.2 System Audits

Government audit No. A342 was carried out from July to December 2010 by the MF SR, MoESRS SR and Zvolen Financial Control Administration. The main purpose and objective of this audit was to obtain assurance on the sufficiency and effectiveness of the managing and

control systems pursuant to Article 62 Section 1 (a) of Council Regulation (EC) No. 1083/2006 under OPV at the levels of MA (MoESRS) IBMA and PJ (MH SR).

Under the aforementioned government audit, the following serious **system shortcomings** were identified by the auditing team:

at the level of MA (MoESRS SR)

- in the process for when IBMA does not agree with the conclusions of the outcome from the verification of procedures delegated to IBMA and refuses to sign the report and adopt measures for the remedy of shortcomings found in the Internal Manual of MA and in authorization regarding the delegation of powers of MA to IBMA;
- not all tested AfP were registered in ITMS within 5 calendar days in compliance with the valid Internal Manual of MA;
- internal control system for the verification of adherence to the deadline defined in the Management System was not introduced – MA is obliged to complete the application approval process within 100 days of the AfNFC registration.

at the level of IBMA (MH SR)

- IBMA failed to register the outcomes of the on-the-spot check in ITMS by the deadline set up in the Internal Manual of IBMA;
- Non-introduced internal control system for verification of adherence to the deadline specified in the Management System – IBMA is obliged to complete the application approval process within 100 days of the AfNFC registration.

Because of the identified shortcomings, the audit organ passed the following statement on the effectiveness of the managing and control systems – assurance level 2, i.e., the system works correctly but certain improvements are necessary.

The verification of the sufficiency of measures adopted and reflecting the recommendations for the elimination of shortcomings identified by government audit No.A342 shall be carried out in the second half of 2011.

The report of the aforementioned system audit was sent to the EC on 22 December 2010.

EC Audit

From 27 – 29 October 2010 and 22 November – 3 December 2010, in compliance with Article 14, Section 2 (a) and Article 72 of the General Regulations, auditing mission No. 2010-1222 was carried out by EC auditors, DG Employment, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities. The EC audit was focused on the effectiveness of the managing and control systems and the assessment of the correctness of procedures applied in practice. Visits to selected projects comprised part of the audit performance.

The auditing mission was divided into two phases:

1. performance of the EC system audit at MA/IBMA;
2. audit of the EC operations, auditing visits of selected projects.

On 9 December 2010, a wrap - up meeting was held where the interim conclusions of the EC audit were submitted by the EC. The draft report of the EC audit will be submitted to the relevant subjects (MA, CA, OA) within 9 weeks of the completion of the audit and its conclusions as well as the measures adopted for the elimination of possible shortcomings will be included in the AR for 2011.

2.1.4.3 System Audits of Profile Axes (carried out in the second half of 2010)

Audit of the OLAF Central Contact Unit for SR (No. A362)

The system shortcomings identified during the government audit included, in particular, the discrepancy of the ITMS national information system and the EC AFIS information system in the area of supplying data in required fields, a list of irregularities and their incorrect reporting to the EC.

Audit of the Central Coordination Body (No. A347)

The system shortcomings identified during the government audit included the wage formulation of certain tasks of the Beneficiary or the missing definition of the term “final user” and shortcomings within access to the CCB archive. Other less serious shortcomings were noticed in the area of ensuring the distinct identification of functions in approving the AfP, exceeding the deadlines established in the internal manual or guidelines in methodological areas coordinated by the CCB.

Audit of the ISUF and CEDIS Information Systems (No. A361)

Less serious shortcomings identified by the aforementioned government audit at the level of CA and audit organ related to the safety policy, the contracting of the provision of IT services and setting of passwords and access rights within the IS CEDIS and ISUF framework.

Audit of the ITMS Information System (No. A360)

The audit at the level of DataCentra and CCB identified less serious shortcomings concerning the contracting of ITMS operation and safety measures of the system (testing of recovery of system and emergency plan, making of backup copies of data and ensuring access in the system and in users' profiles).

Coordinator of Horizontal Priority Equality of Opportunities (HP EO) - MoLSAF SR (No. A365)

The government audit identified system shortcomings such as the insufficient performance of the analysis and control of the expert HP evaluation and the analysis of monitoring reports, missing procedures for compliance checks of data provided to the MA with the data presented in ITMS, shortcomings within the communication of coordinator for HP EO with MA, failure to adhere to certain procedures defined in the internal manual.

Shortcomings revealed through aforementioned system audits implemented in the second half of 2010 will constitute the subject of subsequent verification in 2011.

Based on the outcomes from the system audits implemented in the second half of 2010 and upon the completion of audits of operations in the first half of 2011, the standpoint regarding the

efficiency of the operation of the managing and control system of NSRF SR operational programmes for the referential period from 1 July 2010 – 30 June 2011 pursuant to Article 62 of Council Regulation (EC) No. 1083/2006, will be passed by the audit organ and then sent to the EC by 31 December 2011.

2.1.5 Use of Funds by Category

An overview of the use of funds by individual category, as per Part C of Annex II of Commission Regulation (EC) No 1828/2006 is provided in Annex 4. Annex 4 contains the table “Summary Breakdown of Allocated Community Contribution by Category in the Annual and Final Reports on Implementation”, which describes the allocated contribution from SF by categories according to individual combinations of codes for areas 1 to 5.

As at 31 December 2010, the sum of **267,716,847.14 EUR** was allocated for the OPE from the EC contribution for each combination of categories. All contributions were allocated under the form of financing 01 – non-repayable subsidy. Under measures 1.1, 1.2, 2.1, 2.2, 3.1, 3.2, 4.1 and 4.2, contributions in four priority themes allocated under the Lisbon activity for the OPE (62, 72, 73 a 74) were allotted to national and demand-driven projects.

2.1.6 Contribution to the Lisbon Process

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

For implementing the Lisbon activities, the Slovak Republic allocated 59.35% of the expenditures to the Convergence objective and 85.57% of expenditures to the RC&E objective in the National Strategic Reference Framework. Based on this distribution of the contribution from funds between the individual expenditure categories by priority theme, the appropriation for the Lisbon activities in the OPE for 2007 – 2013 totals 593,089,515.00 EUR, i.e., 96% of the total allocation of 617,801,578.00 EUR.

Table 11: Contracted funds for priority themes in EUR

Code	Priority themes (Annex IV, Regulation No. 1083/2006)	Contracted funding (EU sources)	% of allocation for Lisbon activities
	Research and technological development (R&TD), innovation and entrepreneurship		
03	Technology transfer and improvement in cooperation networks between small and medium size businesses (SMEs), between these and other businesses and universities, post-secondary education establishments of all kinds, regional authorities and research centres and scientific and technological poles (scientific and technological Parks, technopoles, etc.)	0.00	0.00%
	Raising the adaptability of workers and firms, enterprises and entrepreneurs		
62	Development of lifelong learning system strategies in firms; training and services for employees to raise their ability to change; promoting entrepreneurship and innovation	46,755,532.08	7.88%
64	Development specific services for employment, training and support in connection with restructuring sectors and firms and development systems for anticipating economic changes and	0.00	0.00%

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	future requirements in terms of jobs and skills		
	Improving access to employment and sustainability		
67	Measures encouraging active ageing and prolonging working lives	0.00	0.00%
70	Specific action to increase participation of migrants in employment and thereby strengthen their social inclusion	0.00	0.00%
	Improving the social inclusion of less-favoured persons		
71	Pathways to integration and re-entry to employment for disadvantaged people; combating discrimination in access to and progress in the labour market and promoting acceptance of diversity in the workplace	0.00	0.00%
	Improving human capital		
72	Design, introduction and implementation of reforms in education and training systems in order to develop employability, improving the labour market relevance of initial and vocational education and training, updating skills of trained personnel with a view to innovation and a knowledge-based economy	146,744,293.78	24.74%
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	28,971,607.06	4.88%
74	Developing human potential in the field of research and innovation, in particular through postgraduate studies and training of researchers, and networking activities between universities, research centres and businesses	25,673,892.99	4.33%

Source of data: internal records of MA/IBMA

As at 31 December 2010, the total sum of contracted funds by priority themes was 248,145,325.91 EUR, representing 41.84% of the total sum (593,089,515.00 EUR) assigned in the NSRF SR for 2007 to 2013 (in Objectives C and RC&E) for Lisbon activities under the OPE. The contracting of funds from the allocation for Lisbon activities as at the end of 2010 at the level of 41.84% can be considered as adequate in relation to the status achieved at the end of the fourth year of the 2007 – 2013 programming period, and considering the fact that actual implementation of the OPE at the level of national and demand-driven projects began in 2009.

In Slovakia, the Lisbon Strategy has been reflected in the document **Competitiveness Strategy for the Slovak Republic to 2010** (National Lisbon Strategy) approved by SR Government Resolution No. 140/2005 of 16 February 2005. It is based on the underlying philosophy of the Lisbon Strategy. One of the priority areas contained in the Lisbon Strategy for Slovakia is the knowledge-based society, whose development is influential for the country's long-term competitiveness.

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

In terms of the aforementioned facts, we can also point to national projects which were contracted and commenced in 2010. The national project *“Evaluation of the Quality of Education at Elementary and Secondary Schools in the SR in the Context of Education Content Reform in Progress”* also indirectly contributes to the above mentioned objective (promoting of knowledge-based society). The aim of this national project is the innovation and implementation of a national measuring system in order to monitor the developments and trends of education at elementary and secondary schools in terms of knowledge-based society needs and the needs of the labour market and to influence the effectiveness of reform intents and strategic decisions in the area of educational policy. At the same time, the aim of this project is to analyze the state and needs of education in the SR in terms of international studies in the area of key competences and to build the potential of pedagogues to monitor of education outcomes of their own school with respect to the school educational programme. The national project entitled *“Competences for Practice”* on the other hand, promotes system of developing work that involves staff working with youth (within informal education) as an upbringing tool for young citizens, which will also result in the indirect acquisition of new competences.

IBMA ASFEU

From 1 January to 31 December 2010, ASFEU contributed to the Lisbon process by developing the knowledge-based society thanks to its implementation of **481 projects**, whose content focus encourages the development of key competences among the target groups defined in the calls under the OPE with the codes OPV-2008/1.1/01-SORO, OPV-2008/1.1/02-SORO, OPV-2008/1.1/03-SORO, OPV-2008/1.1/04-SORO, OPV-2009/1.1/05-SORO 1.1 *Transformation of a Traditional School to a Modern School*, in the call with the code OPV-2009/1.2/01-SORO under measure 1.2 *Promoting Innovative Forms of Education at Higher Education Institutions and Development of Human Resources in Research and Development*, in the call with the code OPV-2009/2.1/01-SORO under measure 2.1 *Promoting Further Education in Selected Sectors*, in the call with the code OPV-2009/3.1/01-SORO under measure 3.1 *Raising the Education Level of Members of Marginalised Roma Communities*, in the call with the code OPV-2009/3.2/01-SORO under measure 3.2 *Raising the Education Level of Persons with Special Education Needs*, in calls with codes OPV-2008/4.1/01-SORO, OPV-2008/4.1/02-SORO, OPV-2008/4.1/03-SORO, OPV-2008/4.1/04-SORO under measure 4.1 *Transformation of a Traditional School to a Modern School for the Bratislava Region OPE*, in calls with codes OPV-2009/4.2/01-SORO, OPV-2009/4.2/02-SORO under measure 4.2 *Promoting Innovative Forms of Education at Higher Education Institutions and Development of Human Resources in Research and Development*.

Examples from Practice

The project entitled *“To Innovate the Content and Methods of Education at Elementary School in the Municipality of Sečovce with an Emphasis on Key Competences for the Knowledge-based Society Needs”* was focused on the provision of sufficient entry information on the possibilities of using innovative methods and their benefits and methods of implementation in the teaching process to pedagogues involved in the implementation of the project at two elementary schools. Teachers took the course *“Innovative Forms and Methods and Use of Information-Communication Technologies* (hereinafter referred to as the “ICT”)) during the education process and the course of pedagogical psychology. The project was also oriented on the content restructuring of education at the Komenského elementary school (ES) and the Obchodná ES t the use of innovative forms and methods of teaching and by ensuring teaching aids directly related to the innovative forms and methods of teaching. The following were the basic innovative forms and methods of teaching: project teaching, use of ICT technology and internet in work with

information, experience teaching. Special psychological methods for Roma pupils were implemented at ES Komenského. Work books were designed for pupils for developing knowledge in the area of ICT. Implementing newly acquired skills in the area of innovative methods and forms of education with the use of new teaching aids in practice, i.e., directly in the education process (with a special emphasis on pupils of the 1st and 5th years) were implemented under this project. New teaching aids and equipment, such as: data projectors, multifunctional equipment, computers, etc. were procured for the schools under this project.

IBMA MH SR

All of the contracted projects are focused on promoting further education of the healthcare staff with the fundamental element of lifelong learning of staff employed in the field of healthcare. The project directly contributes to enhancement of and improvement of access to quality lifelong learning for all healthcare workers employed in the territory of Objective C.

Pursuant to the calls focused on replenishing the healthcare system with qualified specialists by means of promoting study in particular specialisations, the activities of the projects lay the foundations for stabilising and creating jobs in those specialisations that are lacking or insufficient in a given region. By replenishing the necessary specialists, there will be an improvement in the availability and quality of healthcare provided in the given region, which will result in an improved state of health among the region's population. An improvement in the state of health contributes to raising labour productivity and the consequent improvement in regions' competitiveness. The projects' activities thus directly (through the stabilisation and creation of jobs) and indirectly (through improving of the state of health of the population) contribute to the Lisbon Process and to achieving the objectives of Article 9 (3) of Regulation (EC) No 1083/2006. The activities of projects in the calls OPV/ 2008/2.2/02, OPV 2009/2.2/01 and OPV 2009/2.2/02 directly contribute to the Lisbon Process through their focus on raising the healthcare workers' participation in lifelong learning and improving its quality and accessibility by means of digitalisation. Improving the professional skills of healthcare workers and the consequent increase in the quality of healthcare provision indirectly contributes to improving the state of health of the citizens in the SR. An improvement in the state of health contributes to raise labour productivity and the consequent improvement in the regions' competitiveness.

More detailed information regarding individual calls and notices is found in Chapter 3 of this report.

On 3 March 2010, the EC approved the strategic document **Europe 2020**. This agenda is a continuation of the hitherto Lisbon Strategy. The strategy for smart, sustainable and inclusive growth is to determine the main aspiration of the EU by 2010; at the same time, it should be the way out of the economic crisis in the EU. In this strategy the EC identifies three fundamental priorities of growth which must be implemented through measures at the EU and national levels. In concrete terms, it pertains to intelligent growth (promotion of knowledge, education and digital society) sustainable growth (enhancement of efficiency of our production with regard to our resources with simultaneous boosting of competitiveness) and inclusive growth (increasing participation in the labour market, acquiring skills and combating poverty). More detailed information concerning the connection between the current implementation of the OPE and the objectives of the Europe 2010 strategy is provided in Chapter 5 of this report.

2.1.7 Description of Partnership Agreements

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

Addendum 3 to the *Letter on the Delegation of Powers, on the basis of which the MoESRS SR as the MA delegates powers for the implementation of the OPE* was concluded by the IBMA ASFEU on 3 September 2009 and by the IBMA MH SR on 13 September 2009. The addenda were elaborated in connection with Act No. 37/2010 Coll. which changes and amends Act No. 575/2001 Coll. on the Organization of Government Activities and the Organization of Central State Administration as amended, and which on 1 July 2010, changed the title *Ministry of Education of the Slovak Republic* to the title *Ministry of Education, Science, Research and Sports of the Slovak Republic*, and in case of ASFEU. Similarly, in connection with Addendum 2 to the Foundation Deed of the Agency of the Ministry of Education of the SR for EU Structural Funds, on July 2010, the title *Agency of the Ministry of Education of the SR for EU Structural Funds* was changed to the title *Agency of the Ministry of Education, Science, Research and Sports of the SR for EU Structural Funds*.

2.1.7.1 HP Working Groups

The MA is a member of 4 working groups for the individual HPs: HP Marginalised Roma Communities (hereinafter referred to as the “HP MRC”), HP Equal Opportunities (hereinafter referred to as the “HP EO”), HP Information Society (hereinafter referred to as the “HP IS”) and HP Sustainable Development (hereinafter referred to as the “HP SD”).

2.1.7.1.1 HP MRC Working Group

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

In 2010, the MA cooperated intensively with the HP MRC coordinator – the Office of the Government Plenipotentiary for Roma Communities (hereinafter referred to as the “OGPRC”) in updating the MA managing documentation and the managing documentation for the HP MRC coordinator resulting from the update of the Management System.

On 3 May 2010, the 1st session of the HP MRC Working Group was held. Its main agenda was the approval of the updated HP MRC Implementation Coordination System (hereinafter referred to as “ICS”), version 3.0. Among others, the coordinator proposed omitting the annex to ICS “HP MRC Project Indicators” because of the fact that it is an open system which can be continuously changed. Thus the project indicators will constitute the annex to the Internal Procedures Manual for the HP MRC Coordination Department and will be publicized on website of the HP MRC coordinator.

On 28 July 2010, the MRC WG approved the updated ICS HP MRC version 3.1 with effect as at 2 August 2010 via a per-rolam procedure.

On 3 May 2010, the first session of IESC LCAS was also held. Its main agenda was the provision of information on the state of the Comprehensive Approach Local Strategies.

The second session of IESC LCAS was held from 19 to 21 May 2010, where the information regarding the preparedness of approving Applications for the provision of LCAS support was provided (information on formal evaluations, expert evaluation, the drawing of indicative allocations by OP). Subsequently, the members approved 150 applications for the provision of LCAS support which passed the expert evaluation at OGPRC.

On 22 June 2010, the members of IESC LCAS modified the *Binding Declaration on Provision of LCAS Support* through a per-rollam procedure. It formed Annex 3 to the Pilot Call for the submission of Applications for Provision of LCASA Support.

The updated statute of IESC LCAS with effect as of 2 August 2010, was approved through a per-rollam procedure on 28 July 2010. Further updating of the statute, which stems from the amendment to the competence act, was approved through a per-rollam procedure on 30 November 2010.

On 3 December 2010, the updated statute of CAMG was also approved through a per-rollam procedure. The proposal for amendment to the statute stems from the amendment to the competence act and changes in the statute of the SR government plenipotentiary for Roma communities.

On 21 October 2010, an MA and IBMA ASFEU working meeting was held on the premises of OGPRC regarding the issues of publishing calls for the submission of AfNFC under the OPE, regarding the allocation of 200,000,000.00 EUR allocated in the NSRF for MRC, particularly the sum of 17,000,000.00 EUR contracted from the OPE within the framework of the trilateral Agreement on Mutual Cooperation and Coordination in the implementation of HP MRC. On 26 November 2010, the material from OGPRC entitled *Draft Measures Concerning the Improvement of the Use of EU SF for the Inclusion of MRC* was sent to the relevant MA, in which issues leading to more distinctive progress in implementing the projects relevant to HP MRC were discussed.

2.1.7.1.2 HP EO Working Group

The representative of the MA RO is a member of the HP EO working group. The Department of Gender Equality and Equal Opportunities of the SR Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and the Family (hereinafter referred to as the “MoLSAF SR”) is entrusted with the coordination of HP EO.

On 8 April 2010, a bilateral meeting of coordinators and representative of MA for OPE and both IBMA – ASFEU and MH SR, was held on the premises of the MoLSAF SR. This meeting was initiated by the HP EO coordinator with the aim to consult and find joint solutions for shortcomings identified in the monitoring of HP EO indicators by the MA for OPE, which were pointed out in mutual correspondence prior to this meeting (more detailed information can be found in section 4.3 of this report). In the end, the representatives of the MA discussed the comments regarding the ICS HP EO which were subsequently submitted within the comment procedure to the HP EO coordinator.

The HP EO working group met once in 2010. The agenda of the meeting on 19 April 2010 included the discussion on and approval of changes to ICS HP EO, version 5.0 and informing the members of the working group regarding the ensuring of the HP EO evaluation. Changes to ICS HP EO resulted from the Management System update, version 4.0, CCO No. 3 methodological

instructions regarding the design of the use of indicators and the partial evaluation of HP EO implementation in individual OP.

Based on the comments sent by individual members of the working group prior to the meeting, the changes to ICS HP EO were approved. Issues regarding the elaborating of the Information on the Contribution of OP to HP EO formed another item on the agenda.

2.1.7.1.3 HP IS and HP SD Working Group

The activities of the IS working group arise from the statutes of the HP IS working group in the wording of Addendum 1 with effect as of 25 May 2009 and Addendum 2 with effect as of 23 August 2010. The activities of the working group for HP SD arose from the statutes of the HP SD working group in the wording of Addendum 1 with effect as at 25 May 2009 and Addendum 2 with effect as of 23 August 2010.

The HP SD coordinator at the working level is the Knowledge-Based Society Priorities Coordination Department, the European Policy and Knowledge-Based Society Section at the Government Office of the SR (hereinafter referred to as the “GO SR”). In 2010, the HP IS and SD met once on 15 April 2010 at the 8th joint session of the HP IS and HP SD working group. The meeting’s agenda included the approval of ICS HP IS for the period of 2007-2013, version 5.0, approval of ICS HP SD for the period of 2007-2013, version 5.0, provision of instructions on the elaboration of the Information on the Contribution of OP to HP IS and HP SD for 2009 and discussion regarding implementation issues identified by the HP IS and HP SD coordinator.

Outside of the session of the working group, decision (1/2010) in the form of a per-rollam procedure was held from 12 to 23 August 2010 regarding Addendum 2 to the Statutes of the HP IS working group in the wording of Addendum 1 with effect as of 25 May 2009 and decision 1/2010 in the form of a per-rollam procedure regarding Addendum 2 to the Statutes of HP SD working group in the wording of Addendum 1 with effect as of 25 May 2009. The conclusion of the aforementioned per-rollam decisions was the approval of Addendum 2 to the Statutes of the HP IS working group in the wording of Addendum 1 with effect as of 25 May 2009 and the approval of Addendum 2 to the Statutes of the HP SD working group in the wording of Addendum 1 with effect as of 25 May 2009.

In addition to the session of the working group for both HP, a working meeting of the HP IS and SD coordinator with the MA was held based on the initiative of the for HP IS and HP SD coordinator in order to harmonise substantial documents related to the HP IS and SD coordinator and the MA. Representatives of both IBMA (ASFEU and MH SR) also participated in this meeting.

Within the framework of discussion, agreement was reached regarding the need for the harmonization of substantial documents related to the HP IS and SD coordinator with the MA. The conclusion of this meeting in connection with the ICS HP IS and ICS HP SD comment procedure was the need for updating Annex 2 (Set of measurable indicators for HP IS/HP SD by individual OP) of ICS HP IS and ICS HP SD reflecting the currently valid code list of project indicators. The MA undertook to ensure the definition of the outcome indicators with relevance to HP IS and HP SD in the list of indicators in the future calls and notices. The MA also agreed to ensure the elimination of the relevance of projects to HP IS and HP SD in ITMS in cooperation with the CCO.

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

The Central Evaluation Committee of the NSRF (hereinafter referred to as the “CEC”) was established as an advisory body to the CCB. The CEC comprises MA representatives from all of the operational programmes. In the framework of preparing the OPE Evaluation Strategy, the evaluation working group was created at the Department for the OPE in 2008. Further information on the CEC and the evaluation working group is provided in Chapter 2.7.2 of this 2010 Annual Report.

2.1.7.3 Working Group for Publicity

The MA is a member of the Working Group for Information and Publicity (hereinafter referred to as the “PWG”) at the CCO level and the PWG at the MA and IBMA levels.

The PWG at the CCO level met on 30 July 2010 and 17 December 2010. The first meeting was called to provide information on planned and implemented activities in the field of information and publicity in 2010 by CCO (including related changes connected with the delimitation of CCO at GO SR, individual MA and coordinators of HP) as well as information from the session of the INFORM group at the level of EC in Brussels (on 15 – 16 June 2010). The participants of the working group discussed the current issues concerning the evaluation of communication plans and public opinion surveys for NSRF and individual OP. The conclusion of this meeting was dedicated to issues concerning contributions to EUROKOMPAS - the joint information bulletin about EU funds.

At the second meeting on 17 December 2010, information was presented regarding changes connected with the delimitation of the CCO to the Ministry of Transportation, Construction and Regional Development of the SR, activities implemented in the area of information and publicity in 2010 and planned activities for 2011 of the CCO as well as the representatives of individual MA and HP coordinators. Members of the PWG were informed of the conclusions from the 18 – 20 November 2010 session of the INFORM working group. The CCO presented a proposal related to a test version of the *Map of Implemented Projects* and asked the members of PWG for comments.

The PWG at the MA level and IBMA officers met on 20 December 2010. At this meeting activities implemented in the area of information and publicity for 2010 and activities planned for 2011 were presented. The MA representatives informed the IBMA representatives of the course of sessions of the coordination of the MA/CCO working group, information from the sessions of the INFORM working group at the national level and from the 1st year of EuroPCom – the European conference on public communication. Current issues and problems were also discussed (publicizing information in bulletins on EU funds – EUROKOMPAS, RIO, publishing of calls and related provision of information, etc.)

The MA representative is a member of the INFORM Network working group at the supranational level. More detailed information is provided in section 7.3.4 of this report.

2.1.7.4 Working Group Regarding Article 325 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the EU

The working group regarding Article 325 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the EU, which is predominantly composed of MA, CCO and CA officers, meets several times a year at the GO SR. On 26 January 2010, it met in order to reach an agreement regarding the final version of the 2009 questionnaire for the SR, which concerned the implementation of Article 280 Section 5 of

the Treaty on the Functioning of the EU (after the Lisbon Treaty, this pertains to Article 325 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the EU) and in concrete terms it was focused on the measures of combating fraud and all illegal activities which negatively affect the financial interests of the EU.

Additional sessions of this working group were held on 14 September 2010 and 17 December 2010 in order to come to an agreement on the procedures for elaboration of the Questionnaire concerning the implementation of Article 325 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the EU. The theme of this questionnaire, which the EC and the member states selected for the questionnaire for 2010, was related to the risk of the double financing of projects in the area of coherence policy. The participants agreed to another meeting in January 2011 at which the questionnaire was completed.

2.1.7.5 Working Group for Irregularities

The working group for irregularities was founded by the Managing Committee for the Protection of the Financial Interests of the European Community in the SR under the administration of the GO SR. At the 11 February 2010 session on issues concerning the application of the “Irregularity Management System” (hereinafter referred to as the “IMS”) and its implementation at the national level, extended definitions of types of irregularities and specification of use of codes from the OLAF EC code list “Revealing Method” were discussed.

At the 8 March 2010 session, the working group discussed the issues regarding IMS and its implementation at the national level, extended definitions of types of irregularities and the specification of the use of codes from the OLAF EC code list “Revealing Method”.

Another session was held on 29 April 2010 and was dedicated to the conclusions of government audit A 267, implemented at the department for the protection of the financial interests of the EU and combating corruption of the GO SR, approval of the material entitled *Extended Definitions of Types of Irregularities*, specification of the use of codes from the OLAF EC code list “Revealing Method” and the possible revision of the OLAF EC code list in ITMS.

On 13 September 2010, the *Annual Report on Irregularities for 2009* was approved per-rollam.

2.1.8 Specifics for ESF Programmes

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

Pursuant to Article 10 of Regulation (EC) No 1081/2006, the theme of gender equality is implemented horizontally in the OPE as a component of HP EO. In the MA calls and direct awards and calls for the submission of demand-driven projects and notices for national projects in both IBMA, NFC applicants are provided with the necessary information on the theme of gender equality, which should help guarantee compliance with gender equality in every implemented project. National and demand-driven projects under the OPE represent a positive contribution to declared arrangements the HP EO for avoiding and eliminating discrimination on the basis of ethnicity and race, gender, religion or beliefs, sexual orientation and health impairment.

Strengthening the social integration of migrants and improving their employment is promoted under OP Employment and Social Inclusion implemented by the MoLSAF SR.

The promotion of social inclusion of persons with special educational needs by enabling their access to education and inclusion in the educational system under the OPE is promoted through measure 3.2 **Raising the Education Level of Persons with Special Education Needs**. In 2010, a total of 20 projects were implemented under the published call “Innovation of the Methods and Forms of the Upbringing-Education Process and Design of Further Educational Programmes for Disabled Persons”, which was published in 2009. The aim of the activities of the implemented projects was to promote the key competences of disabled pupils and pedagogical staff at special SS through the use of new teaching materials and teaching aids and thus enable the access of disabled persons to education at secondary schools.

The project implemented by the European Educational Academy in Bratislava is an example. The project’s objective is to improve the ICT skills of disabled persons with SEN (special educational needs) by offering a course. In other words, the goal is increased computer literacy, what will be demonstrated by the granting of an ECDL Start certificate. Through the implementation of this objective, participants will increase their chances of finding administrative and mid-level management positions involving computer-related activities. They will be able to find a new ICT jobs via new forms of classified advertisements and employment, with distance working – teleworking being one of them, or on the open labour market thanks to their generally transferable skills.

Through measure 3.1, Raising of the Education Level of Members of Marginalized Roma Communities, the OPE contributes to the conditions necessary for raising the education level of this target group and labour market entry. In 2010, at total of 49 projects were implemented under the call “Programmes and Courses for Elementary School Pupils from Marginalized Roma Communities” published in 2009. The aim of the implemented project activities was to mobilize and motivate pupils from MRC and introduce innovative teaching methods as a tool for the inclusion of MRC in the teaching process and society.

The Pečovská Nová Ves Elementary school (ES) and kindergarten is an example. The project outcome will be the incorporation of newly designed educational programmes, pedagogical documentation, programmes and activities in the school educational programme. Thus teachers will achieve higher professional levels and quality input for the provision of the professional preparation of pupils from MRC which they will continue to use in formal instruction on one hand and in a preparatory course and day-long upbringing care programmes on the other. Key competences acquired by pupils will constitute the basis for their successful mastery of formal education as well as further education at secondary schools. A variety of programmes will contribute to the active approach of pupils and their increased willingness to attend school even after school hours. The target group of pupils from MRC thus increases the chances for their assertion in education and subsequently on the labour market.

Members of MRC, who are participants of the target group, are involved in the implementation of national and demand-driven projects even within the framework of other OPE measures. This particularly pertains to measure 1.1, through which the OPE boosts integration in their social inclusion. More detailed information on 1.2 measure implementation is found in section 3.1 of this report.

Transnationality and Innovations

Transnationality is horizontally implemented in the OPE within the framework of all priority axes. It is promoted through national projects which, based on notices containing activities with an international dimension, also incorporate the transfer of foreign experience in their activities, particularly through stays abroad and mobility involving partnership institutions.

Under the national project *“Evaluation of the Quality of Education at Elementary and Secondary Schools in the SR in the Context of the Content Reform of Education in Progress”* (in progress from June 2010) expert stays and trips of the expert staff of beneficiaries, as well as of the pedagogical and expert staff of schools will be implemented with the aim to benefit from the established cooperation with partnership organizations abroad and acquire positive experience in terms of the objective evaluation of the quality of education. Cooperation will take place within the framework of the implementation of business trips abroad, expert seminars and counselling with institutions with many years of experience in the area of national testing and which have education quality monitoring systems at several education levels. For this purpose, foreign experts in the area statistical and financial literacy and foreign lecturers will participate in this project. At the same time, expert lectures by foreign lecturer will be held within the framework of reciprocal visits of expert staff.

The promotion of trans-national activities is also implemented through calls for the submission of AfNFC for measures 1.2 and 4.2, which were published in December 2010 through IBMA ASFEU. Projects under these calls will promote the international cooperation of higher education institutions (hereinafter referred to as the “HEI”) the influx of internationally recognized experts to Slovakia and the mobility of foreign experts to Slovakia with the aim of enhancing the quality of doctoral study.

The project’s objectives are already being implemented in projects under calls for measures 1.2 and 4.2 published in 2009 which feature the involvement of HEI students and HEI doctoral students in regional and international events within EU countries with the aim to promote international cooperation and the engagement of doctoral students in the international scientific community through the preparation of doctoral studies programmes in cooperation with foreign universities in EU countries.

The project carried out by Matej Bel University in Banská Bystrica *“Promotion of Teaching of Study Programmes”* focuses on the improvement of doctoral studies in biophysics and British and American Studies through the preparation and implementation of joint programmes of doctoral studies with renowned universities in France (Univerzita Paris VI University, Paris), Spain (Autónoma University, Madrid and Jaén University) the Netherlands (Utrecht University) and the Czech Republic (Ostrava University in Ostrava). The implementation of the outputs of activities will lead to the transfer of knowledge from all doctoral studies programmes, which will benefit from all of the acquired knowledge and which could subsequently be used for the preparation of other joint programmes of doctoral studies with foreign universities leading to the awarding of double diplomas.

The Faculty of Economics of Matej Bel University plans to design a study programme in English under the project *“Enhancement of the Quality of Management and Higher Education at UMB”*, which would be targeted on regional planning and the development of tourism carried out in cooperation with partnership HEIs in the Czech Republic, Estonia, Finland, Germany and Great Britain. The programme of studies focused on financial management in the European space in cooperation with partnership universities in France is another planned for programme in English and French. The programme of studies aimed at communication and public relations in

cooperation with partnership universities in France and Romania should be conducted in English, French and German. The UMB plans to create a programme of studies in English focused on financing, the banking industry and investments in cooperation with partnership HEIs in the Czech Republic, Netherlands and Slovenia.

The model from the Beneficiary's partnership cooperation with Ireland was used for the design of an e-learning educational module under the project of the Slovak Medical Chamber which is implemented through IBMA MH SR. The project is innovative due to the fact that it introduces distance education regarding the continuous training of physicians, which up to now, has only existed in the form of physical participation.

The theme of innovation under the OPE is also implemented horizontally within all priority axes. Innovation activities are particularly implemented through national and demand-driven projects under measure 1.1 (in mirror fashion under measure 4.1) which will lead to the innovation of the content and methods of teaching at ES and SS and the improvement of education outcomes for labour market needs in a knowledge-based society and the innovation of teaching materials and teaching aids through the use of modern technology in the teaching process. The national projects "Modernizing the Educational Process at Elementary/Secondary Schools", the aim of which is to innovate and modernize the content, methods and outputs of teaching process for new competences at Modern School of 21st Century, can serve as a good example. Multimedia digital content for 3 educational modules: Digital Literacy, Modern Teaching Technology in the Work of Teachers and The Use of ICT in a Given Subject for 10 Subjects was designed under the national project "Modernizing the Educational Process at Elementary Schools" (natural science, mathematics, physics, chemistry, geography, Slovak, history, music, art and subjects for the 1st level of elementary school – basic school). The digital library, which provides study materials, was also available for the participants. The project of the Žilina self-governing region entitled "Pilot Centres of Vocational Training in the Žilina Self-governing Region" under which language training was boosted in the form of the use of digital software in the teaching process, can serve as another example.

In the project of D.I.O. spol. s r. o. entitled "*Further Education is a Way to Increasing the Qualifications of Staff and Managers in the Construction Sector*" (measure 2.1) the content of a newly designed curriculum of selected programmes will be processed in electronic form and instructors will be supplied with sufficient knowledge and competences for use of progressive and multimedia forms of teaching.

Innovation activities are applied and MRC social inclusion is boosted through the activities of projects implemented under measure 3.1. The majority of projects are targeted on the design of alternative curricula which ES will be able to use for modifying the content of education for children coming from MRC (reduction of content, more practical orientation, learning through experience, alternative forms of education).

Under measure 3.2, the project activities are oriented on the innovation of methods and forms of the upbringing-educational process at special schools with the aim to promote key competences of disabled pupils and the pedagogical staff of special schools through the use of new teaching materials and aids and thus enable disabled persons access to education. The aforementioned project implemented by the European Educational Academy in Bratislava is an example from practice.

The project of the Slovak Healthcare University in Bratislava entitled "*Development Programme for Slovak Healthcare University in Bratislava*" is implemented under measure 4.2. Its aim is to create e-learning forms of study programmes for all of the faculties of this university. New e-learning forms of education in individual courses will benefit students since they will acquire a basic overview of terms, legislation and organization of bio-medicinal research. Their

orientation on science and research will be promoted, practical part of teaching will be innovated and quality of university science and research will be enhanced. Organizing a Scientific Summer School in the interest of scientific-research work development is also an innovative element under this project.

The element of innovations may be also incorporated in projects under call OPV 2010/2.2/02 published by IBMA MH SR in December 2010 since they can incorporate educational activities aimed at the enhancement of skills of healthcare workers with latest modern diagnostic and treatment procedures. Such projects may also have an effect on the development of innovations in form of their introduction in medical practice.

The innovative aspect is also brought by projects implemented by individual upper-tier territorial units (hereinafter referred to as the “UtTU”) under measure 2.2, since through their implementation, a system of support of specialized study to stabilize experts in regions, which did not exist before, is introduced. The project of the Slovak Chamber of Nurses and Midwives entitled “*Evaluation of Continuous Education of Nurses and Midwives*”, which engages the innovate, heretofore non-existent methods of the electronic assessment of the continuous learning of nurses, is a similar example.

Under call OPV 2010/2.2/01 published by IBMA MH SR, one AfNFC was approved, which brings an innovative aspect, i.e. education for the needs of the performance one-day surgery. One day surgery is relatively infrequently represented in the SR and education in the area of one day surgery processes has been absent.

Assistance by Target Groups and Equality of Opportunities

More detailed information regarding the breakdown of participants of national and demand-driven projects and TA projects implemented under priority axes 1 – 5 for the reviewed period is provided in Table 12. Data on project participants are provided according to the nature of the OPE target groups; in other words, this pertains to pupils and students of ES and SS, higher education students and pedagogical staffs.

Table 12 presents data defined by implementation regulations, Annex XXIII and target groups are divided according to gender, status in the labour market, educational achievement and according to levels of vulnerability in compliance with national regulations.

Table 12: Monitoring of target groups from 1 January 2010 to 31 December 2010

Breakdown of project participants						
Indicator	Calendar year 2010					
	Participants entering		Participants leaving		Participants carrying over	
	Total	Of which women	Total	Of which women	Total	Of which women
Total number of participants	48,531	29,066	12,190	7,055	40,335	27,142
<i>Breakdown of participants according to the status at the labour market</i>						
Employed	17,103	13,855	5,447	4,220	19,270	16,683
Of which self-employed	323	143	123	86	231	198
Unemployed	6	4	1	0	0	0
Of which long-term unemployed	4	4	0	0	0	0
Inactive persons	31,422	15,207	6,742	2,835	21,065	10,459

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Of which students/vocational training participants	28,810	13,898	6,122	2,560	20,835	10,061
<i>Breakdown of participants by age</i>						
Youth (aged 15 - 24)	11,204	5,492	3,791	1,444	9,553	4,330
Older persons (aged 55 - 64)	1,969	1,503	297	209	1,400	1,069
<i>Breakdown according to vulnerability groups in compliance with the national regulations</i>						
Migrants	14	10	8	2	30	18
Minorities	5,686	2,786	505	282	927	604
Disabled persons	1,454	700	80	39	244	129
Other disadvantaged persons	1,440	611	153	54	337	180
<i>Breakdown by educational attainment</i>						
Primary of lower secondary education (ISCED 1 and 2)	18,788	9,300	5,356	2,101	15,952	7,334
Upper secondary education (ISCED 3)	2,795	2,467	1,065	616	1,809	1,577
Post-secondary non-tertiary education (ISCED 4)	547	493	61	43	695	344
Tertiary education (ISCED 5 and 6)	14,866	10,739	4,724	3,818	17,549	14,954

Source: MA

According to the data from Table 12, from the evaluated monitoring reports of national and demand-driven projects for 2010 it can be stated that 48,531 participants were involved in the project implementation during the reviewed period, of which 29,066 (60%) were women and 19,465 (40%) were men. Generally, it may be said that the participants of the target groups (teaching staff) of the projects contracted in previous years comprise more women than men, due primarily to the fact that education is one of the areas with a lower average remuneration (horizontal professional gender segregation).

In terms of the breakdown of participants by age, as in the previous years, there was a significant representation of persons in the 25 to 54 age range (this age group is not monitored separately) with the total number of participants in the 25 to 54 age range at 35,358 persons (73%). Representation of participants in the 55 to 64 age range amounted to 1,969 persons (4%) and in 11,204 pupils or students (23%) the 15 to 24 age range.

In terms of the breakdown of participants by status in the labour market, the table shows that in 2010 higher emphasis was focused in projects on studying persons (31,422 persons, i.e., 65%) than on employed persons (17,103 persons, i.e. 35%).

In terms of the breakdown of participants by educational achievement, approximately an equal number of participants had primary or lower-secondary education (18,788 persons, i.e., 38%) and tertiary education (14,866 persons, i.e., 30%).

2.2 Information on Compliance with Community Law

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

- Council Regulation (EC) No 1083/2006 of 11 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 Council Regulation (EC) No 1341/2008 of 18 December 2008;
- Council Regulation (EC) No 284/2009 of 7 April 2009 amending Regulation (EC) No 1083/2006 laying down general provisions on the European Regional Development Fund, the European Social Fund and the Cohesion Fund concerning certain provisions relating to financial management;
- Regulation (EC) No 1081/2006 of the European Parliament and the Council of 5 July 2006 on the European Social Fund and repealing Regulation (EC) No 1784/1999;
- Commission Regulation (EC) No 1828/2006 of 8 December 2006 setting out rules for the implementation of Council Regulation (EC) No 1083/2006 laying down general provisions on the European Regional Development Fund, the European Social Fund and the Cohesion Fund and of Regulation (EC) No 1080/2006 of the European Parliament and the Council on the European Regional Development Fund;
- Council Regulation (EC) No 1605/2002 of 25 June 2002 on the Financial Regulation applicable to the general budget of the European Communities;
- Commission Regulation (EC) No 2342/2002 of 23 December 2002 laying down detailed rules for the implementation of Council Regulation (EC) No 1605/2002 on the Financial Regulation applicable to the general budget of the European Communities;
- Council Regulation (EC) No 2185/96 of 11 November 1996 concerning on-the-spot checks and inspections carried out by the Commission in order to protect the European Communities' financial interests against fraud and other irregularities;
- Council Decision No 702/2006 of 6 October 2006 on Community strategic guidelines on cohesion;
- Regulation (EC) No 396/2009 of the European Parliament and the Council of 6 May 2009 amending Regulation (EC) No 1081/2006 on the European Social Fund to extend the types of costs eligible for a contribution from the ESF;
- Commission Regulation (EC) No 846/2009 of 1 September 2009 amending Regulation (EC) No 1828/2006 setting out rules for the implementation of 1083/2006 laying down general provisions on the European Regional Development Fund, the European Social Fund and the Cohesion Fund and of Regulation (EC) No 1080/2006 of the European Parliament and the Council on the European Regional Development Fund;
- Council Regulation (EC) No. 85/2009 of 19 January 2009 amending Regulation (EC) No. 1083/2006 laying down general provisions on the European Regional Development Fund, the European Social Fund and the Cohesion Fund concerning certain provisions related to the financial management;
- Commission Regulation (EC) No 832/2010 of 17 September 2010 amending Regulation (EC) No 1828/2006 setting out rules for the implementation of Council Regulation (EC) No 1083/2006 laying down general provisions on the European Regional Development Fund, the European Social Fund and the Cohesion Fund and of Regulation (EC) No 1080/2006 of the European Parliament and the Council on the European Regional Development Fund;
- Regulation (EC) No 539/2010 of the European Parliament and the Council of 16 June 2010 amending Regulation (EC) No. 1083/2006 laying down general provisions on the European Regional Development Fund, the European Social Fund and the Cohesion Fund

concerning simplifying certain requirements and certain provisions related to the financial management.

In connection with general provisions and in accordance with the Management System and the Letter on the Delegation of Powers, the ASFEU and the MH SR, are responsible at their level for the effectiveness of OPE management in accordance with EU rules and the institutional and financial systems of the SR.

In the event of discrepancy between a particular standard under SR national law and a particular EC standard, Community law shall prevail on the basis of applying the principle of direct effect.

2.2.1 Legislative Changes in the SR

On 1 December 2009, Act No. **568/2009 Coll. on Lifelong Learning and on the amendment of certain Acts**, was passed, which entered into effect in 2010. The act provides for lifelong learning in which further education links to the educational grade attained in school education and the accreditation of further education programmes, lays down the rules and procedures for validating and recognising results of further education focused on the acquisition of partial qualification and full qualification, provides for a national qualification system, an information system of further education, a system of monitoring and forecasting of the educational needs in further education, the verification of compliance with the accreditation conditions and compliance with the conditions for granting a licence to perform exams for validating professional competence.

On 3 February 2010, **Act No. 57/2010 changing and amending Act No. 528/2008 Coll. on Aid and Support from Community Funds in wording of Act No. 266/2009 Coll. and on the amendment to certain Acts** was passed. The aim of the act's amendment was to regulate the provisions of Act No. 528/2008 Coll. on Aid and Support from Community Funds in the wording of Act No. 266/2009 Coll. based on the initiatives from practice. In addition to the provisions concerning OPO in the area of transportation, employment and social inclusion, fisheries and OP Interact, the Act also incorporates regulations in the area of financial management for the provision of aid and support. The relevant amendment complements the Act by a provision concerning the performance of control of the project by MA based on Article 60 on General Regulations and Article 13 on implementation regulation.

Act No. 575/2001 Coll. on the Organisation of the Activities of the Government and Organisation of the Central State Administration as amended was amended 3 times in 2010, through Act No. 37/2010 Coll. of 20 January 2010, Act No. 372/2010 Coll. of 7 September 2010 and Act No. 403/2010 Coll. of 13 October 2010, and in the context of the OPE, the first and the third amendments to this Act were of the most significance. Act No. 37/2010 Coll. as of 1 July 2010, besides others, extended the competence of GO SR to the area of the coordination of the use of Community funds. This pertained to the transfer of competences of CCO performance from the Ministry of Construction and Regional Development of the SR to the GO SR with the aim to concentrate competences in the area of coordination of Community policies and EU in one spot. The Act also implemented the change of the title of the "Ministry of Education of the SR" to the "Ministry of Education, Science, Research and Sports of the SR" due to the fact that MoESRS SR is responsible for creating conditions for the implementation of research and development by designing coordination, legislative and financial tools in the area of science and technology and international scientific-technical cooperation.

As of 1 January 2011, Act No. 403/2010 Coll. transferred the competence of CCO performance from the GO SR to the Ministry of Transportation, Construction and Regional Development of the SR. This step was justified by the urgent need to increase the efficiency of Community funds drawing.

On 1 January 2010, Act No. **503/2009 Coll.** amending Act No. **25/2006 Coll. on Public Procurement and on amendments to certain Acts** entered into effect. The aforementioned Act was also amended through **Act No. 73/2010 Coll.** of 2 March 2010.

On 9 December 2010, **Act No. 546/2010 Coll. Supplementing Act No. 40/1964 (Digest) Civil Code as amended and amending certain Acts** was passed. The aforementioned Act that entered into effect in 2010, stipulates the obligation for legally bound entities (general government subjects as defined in the Act) to publicize agreements concluded in the Central Register of Agreements or on their own website. The aim of the Act is to introduce rules for ensuring transparent and economic handling of public property and funds.

2.3 Serious problems encountered and measures taken to overcome them

With effect during the monitored period and with regard to the framework of the procedure stated in Article 62 (1) (d) (i) of Regulation (EC) No 1083/2006 and according to Article 10 of Regulation (EC) No 1081/2006, no serious problems were encountered in the context of OPE implementation (legislative changes preventing attainment of OPE implementation, changes in eligible activities, changes in target groups, applicants and eligible expenditures in the framework of the OPE, changes in the framework of the NSRF, etc.) it was not necessary for the MA for the OPE or the MC OPE to adopt any extraordinary measures to address such problems (see Table 13).

Table 13: Monitoring of the implementation of measures adopted for problems defined

Problems identified	Measures adopted	Measures implemented
0	0	0

Source: MA

2.4 Changes in Operational Programme Implementation

Several changes occurred in the context of the operational programme implementation during the reviewed period. Guidelines or updating passed by the CCO and MF SR had a direct effect on OPE implementation.

In 2010, the CCO issued the following guidelines:

- Methodological instruction No. 9 of the CCO regarding the content of the annual and final reports on operational programme implementation with effect as of 1 February 2010;
- Methodological instruction No. 10 of the CCO concerning the revision of operational programmes with effect as of 12 February 2010;
- System of Management of the Structural Funds and the Cohesion Fund for the 2007 – 2013 Programming Period, version 3.3, which entered into validity as of 1 March 2010;
- System of Management of the Structural Funds and the Cohesion Fund for the 2007 – 2013 Programming Period, version 4.0 with effect as of 23 March 2010;

- Update No. 2 to the Methodological instruction No. 3 of the CCO concerning the design and use of project indicators with effect as of 15 April 2010;
- Update No. 1 to the Methodological instruction No. 7 of the CCO concerning simplified reporting of expenditures in the 2007 – 2013 programming period, which entered into effect as of 7 June 2010;
- System of Management of the Structural Funds and the Cohesion Fund for the 2007 – 2013 Programming Period, version 4.1, which entered into validity as of 30 June 2010;
- Methodological instruction No. 10 of the CCO concerning the revision of operational programmes with effect as of 13 August 2010;
- Methodological Interpretation of CCO regarding the System of Management of the Structural Funds and the Cohesion Fund for the 2007 – 2013 Programming Period, version 4.2 with effect as of 27 August 2010;
- Update No. 2 to the Methodological instruction No. 9 of the CCO regarding the content of the annual and final reports on operational programme implementation with effect as of 2 September 2010;
- Methodological Interpretation of the CCO regarding the System of Management of the Structural Funds and the Cohesion Fund for the 2007 – 2013 Programming Period, version 4.2 with the effect as of 2 September 2010;
- System of Management of the Structural Funds and the Cohesion Fund for the 2007 – 2013 Programming Period, version 4.3 with effect as of 3 November 2010;
- System of Management of the Structural Funds and the Cohesion Fund for the 2007 – 2013 Programming Period, version 4.4 with effect as of 31 December 2010.

In 2010, the MF SR, in the position of CA, issued the following documents of a conceptual and methodological nature:

- Guideline regarding the procedure for giving a number to the investment event from the MF SR investment register with effect as of 15 February 2010;
- System of Management of the Structural Funds and the Cohesion Fund for the 2007 – 2013 Programming Period, version 5.1, which entered into validity as of 1 April 2010;
- System of Management of the Structural Funds and the Cohesion Fund for the 2007 – 2013 Programming Period, version 5.2, which entered into validity as of 15 June 2010;
- System of Management of the Structural Funds and the Cohesion Fund for the 2007 – 2013 Programming Period, version 6.0, which entered into validity as of 30 November 2010.

Pursuant to these guidelines, the MA for the OPE updated, or, where appropriate, drafted programme and management documents for the OPE. The Manual for the Applicants for NFC under the OPE and the Manual for the Beneficiaries of NFC under the OPE can be found at the MA website. It also includes a version in track changes, which makes it more clear for all applicants and beneficiaries and helps to reduce the bureaucratic burden.

2.5 Major changes in accordance to Article 57 of Regulation (EC) No. 1083/2006

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

2.6 Complementarity with Other Tools

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

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

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

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

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

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

In the framework of the OP R&D, priority axis 1 focuses on strengthening research & development by means of high-quality technical equipment (instruments, laboratories, etc.) at tertiary schools and at research & development institutes, whereas priority axis 5 focuses on investment in the technical state of buildings used in the field of education. Supporting technical infrastructure (whether technical equipment or the technical state of buildings) contributes to the professional growth of human resources in research and development in the perception of education by students, tertiary education staff and scientific workers. Priority axis 2 of OP R&D provides support for human resources by activities encouraging the professional return of Slovak scientific workers operating abroad to Slovakia, or by retaining them in Slovakia, or by financing research projects that professional researchers would be able to undertake. The human component of tertiary education infrastructure is also supported by means of priority axis 1 of the OPE, where emphasis is placed on creating better conditions for doctoral students and young scientific workers by means of ancillary education programmes and by creating a system that makes it easier for young scientific workers to remain in the field of research & development. A further objective of the OPE is to ensure the continuing professional qualification growth and mobility of research and development workers. These objectives are fulfilled by means of call OPV-2009/1.2/01-SORO entitled “*Promoting Innovative Forms of Education at Tertiary Schools*”

and Developing Human Resources in Research & Development” as well as call OPV-2010/1.2/-SORO entitled *“Promotion of the Enhancement of Quality of HEIs and the Slovak Academy of Sciences”*, which was published on 31 December 2010 (more detailed evaluation of this call will constitute the subject of the AR for 2011).

In connection with priority axis 2, and particularly measure 2.2, mention must be made of the complementarity with priority axis 1 (Healthcare System Modernisation) and priority axis 2 (Promoting Health and Avoiding Health Risks) of OP Health. There is a clear interconnection between the technical equipment of healthcare facilities (ensured by means of OP Healthcare) and the knowledge level of healthcare personnel. These two calls, which were published in 2010, aimed at improving the education level of healthcare workers. They were call OPV 2010/2.2/01 entitled *“Enhancement of Further Skills of Healthcare Workers”* and call OPV 2010/2.2/02 with the same title.

Priority 3 is complementary to priority axis 1 of the Regional Operational Programme *“Development of Civic Infrastructure Facilities”*. The construction, modernisation and expansion of new or existing social services facilities contribute to comprehensive support for persons with special education needs, including members of MRCs. In 2010, within the framework of priority axis 3 of the OPE, the projects under the following calls were implemented: OPV-2009/3.1/01-SORO entitled *“Programmes and Courses for Primary School Pupils Coming from Marginalised Roma Communities”* and OPV-2009/3.2/01-SORO entitled *“Innovation of Methods and Forms of the Upbringing-Education Process and Creation of Further Education Programmes for Disabled Persons”*.

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

The content component of education reform was also the subject of all direct awards declared in 2008 (indirectly also by means of direct award OPV/K/RKZ/NP/2008-2, entitled *“Further Education of Elementary and Secondary School Teachers in Subject Informatics”* which implemented measures 2.1 and 4.2 of the OPE). In 2009, this primarily concerned OPV/K/RKZ/NP/2009-1, entitled *“External Evaluation of the Quality of School Promoting Self-Evaluation Processes and the Development of the School”* and in 2010, particularly notice OPV/K/ NP/2010-1 *“Evaluation of the Quality of Education at Elementary and Secondary Schools in the SR in Context of Education Content Reform in Progress”*.

The complementarity of priority axis 4 of the OPE and OP R&D is ensured by means of priority axis 3 of the OP R&D – *“R&D Infrastructure in the Bratislava Region”* (strengthening research and development by means of quality technical equipment, ...) and priority axis 4 – *“Promoting R&D in the Bratislava Region”* (supporting human resources by activities encouraging the professional return to Slovakia of Slovak scientific workers operating abroad, or by retaining them in Slovakia, or by financing research projects that professional researchers would be able to undertake). In 2010, within the framework of the OPE, call OPV-2010/4.2/03-SORO entitled *“Promoting Improvement of Quality of HEIs and the Slovak Academy of Sciences in Bratislava Region”* was published. The call was targeted on the improvement of the programmes of studies

at HEIs, more effective administration and management of HEIs, support of the development of human resources in research and development, international cooperation among HEIs, organizations of research and development and the private sector at national and international levels. More detailed evaluation of this call will constitute the subject of the AR for 2011.

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

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

2.7 Monitoring and Evaluation

2.7.1 Monitoring

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

Data provided by the Recipient, data stored in ITMS and other OPE implementation-related materials are the basic data resources for monitoring. Data acquired through monitoring are used for adopting remedy measures in the area of the management, monitoring and control of EU SF

implementation, what is of assistance in ensuring implementation of OPE objectives during the relevant programming period.

Measurable indicators of outcomes and impacts at the project level are used for project monitoring in compliance with the Agreement on Provision of NFC.

During the reported period, a change occurred in the monitoring of aid from the OPE by individual target groups. In the previous period, the MA, IBMA and Beneficiaries did not monitor the breakdown of the target group to women/men for each following sub-category (employed, unemployed, leaving, etc.) based on the interpretation of Annex XXIII of the General Regulations. Only after a comment from the EC regarding the Annual Report on OPE Implementation for 2009 did the MA address the CCO with the new facts, which reacted by update No. 2 to the Methodological Instruction CCO No. 9 regarding the content of annual and final reports on operational programme implementation. The formatting of the table of project participants within the framework of all priority axes was modified and harmonized with the SFC2007 System in Methodological Instruction of CCO No. 9 in order to achieve standardisation.

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

Monitoring at the project level

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

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

On-the-spot checks of individual national and demand-driven projects, which are detailed in Section 2.1.2.1 of this Annual Report, were also performed.

Monitoring at the programme level

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

During the reported period, the MA elaborated a detailed analysis of the state of OPE implementation, which describes in detail the state of OPE implementation as at 31 December 2010. The analysis provides information on implemented projects and the implementation of measurable indicators values, as well as information on balance available by individual measures. Based on the aforementioned analysis, the MA declares that interim state of implementation of the measurable indicators values as at 31 December 2010 within OPE implementation corresponds with the state of implementation of individual projects and with respect to the time horizon of project implementation. At the same time, the analysis confirmed the conclusion regarding non-contracted or insufficiently contracted indicators, i.e., that measures that are insufficiently covered in terms of the implementation of measurable indicators

are measures 1.2, 2.1, 3.2, 4.2 and partially 1.1. On 8 October 2010, the MA and IBMA meeting was held regarding the measurable indicators of the OPE and the need for aiming further calls and notices to the above mentioned measures and their measurable indicators was one of the conclusions of this meeting.

In the course of 2010, intensive communication with CCO, IBMA ASFEU and IBMA MH SR took place in the preparation of project indicators for published calls and notices for national projects. The MA approved the final version of project indicators together with each call or notice as its annex. MA Applications for the amendment and supplementing of the ITMS code list of indicators (supplementing of new indicators or allocation of existing indicators in a code list to the priority themes relevant for the OPE) were sent to the CCO in compliance with the Methodological Instruction No. 3 of the CCO, which accepted all of the applications for the amendment and supplementing of the code list of indicators in submitted ITMS.

Throughout 2010, equally intensive communication was carried out with the CCO and individual HP coordinators (in compliance with the Management System) in preparing and approving indicators for calls and notices.

During the reported period, IBMA Representatives participated in regular MA and IBMA meetings in three week intervals. During these meetings, the MA and IBMA informed each other of the current state of implementation of the delegated measures, problems that arose and their solutions. The MA informed the IBMA of the prepared methodological guidelines and updates to the implementation documents (OPE Programme Manual, manual for applicants, Sample Application for Provision of NFC, etc.). Regular meetings were also held within the framework of the Department for the OPE at MA at two week intervals.

Pursuant to Article 67 of the General Regulations, the MA is obliged to submit the AR on OPE Implementation for the relevant period to the EC by 30 June of the given year. Individual IBMA in the form of the submission of semi-annual monitoring reports for the relevant period also comprise the materials for the AR. Upon approval by the EC, the AR is publicized on the website of the MoESRS SR. Based on EC letter No. 776351 of 20 October 2010, the MA was informed that the ARE on OPE Implementation for 2009 was elaborated in compliance with the main points of the General Regulations and was approved by the EC. All AR on OPE Implementation approved as of today are publicized on the website of the MoESRS SR <http://www.minedu.sk/index.php?lang=sk&rootId=2970> in Slovak and English.

2.7.1.1 Monitoring Committee for the OPE

4th Ordinary Meeting of the Monitoring Committee for the OPE

On 9 June 2010, the 4th ordinary session of the Monitoring Committee for the Operational Programme Education was held with the participation of representatives of the EC and the permanent members of the MC for OPE.

The MC for OPE discussed and approved with comments the AR on OPE Implementation for 2009, which monitors the development of its implementation. The minutes from the 3rd ordinary meeting of the Monitoring Committee for OPE, which was held on 9 June 2009, were also approved. The members of the MC for OPE noted the Final evaluation report regarding the operative evaluation of the OPE “Evaluation of the OPE Management System Effectiveness” and the report on the evaluation of the calls for the submission of AfNFC. Members of the MC for

OPE also noted the revision of the Programme Manual for the OPE (three updates since the 3rd ordinary session of MC for OPE).

Information on progress in implementing the OPE assessment of the calls for AfNFC submission and encompassing OPE publicity were also delivered. A presentation of the beneficiaries of selected national programmes constituted a part of this meeting.

More detailed information regarding the session of the MC for OPE can be found at the MA website - <http://www.minedu.sk/index.php?lang=sk&rootId=2161>.

1st Information Meeting of Monitoring Committee for OPE

On 27 October 2010, the 1st informal meeting of the Monitoring Committee for OPE was held. The idea for organizing this informal meeting arose from the external evaluation recommendations carried out by Ernst & Young with the theme “Evaluation of the Effectiveness of the OPE Management System” in 2009 as well as the conclusions of the 4th ordinary meeting of MC for OPE.

The agenda of the 1st informal meeting of MC for OPE was dedicated to the preparation process of the calls of notices and the assessment process, up to conclusion of the Agreement on the Provision of NFC, simplifications in the area of financial management and issues regarding the monitoring and financial management of projects.

Members of MC for OPE also participated in visiting the demand-driven project “Innovations in the School Educational Programme” at the elementary school ZŠ Pri Kříži 11, Dúbravka, Bratislava.

More detailed information regarding the meeting of MC for OPE can be found at the MA website - <http://www.minedu.sk/index.php?lang=sk&rootId=2161>.

2.7.1.2 Annual Meeting for the OPE

On 21 January 2010 Annual Review Meeting for the OPE was held pursuant to Article 68 of the General Regulations with the participation of representatives of ten EC, MA IBMA ASFEU, IBMA MH SR, representatives of the MF SR and other representatives of the Slovak institutions.

The Annual Review Meeting discussed the questions concerning financial and physical progress in the OPE implementation of national and demand-driven projects. Besides others, questions were also raised concerning the impact of the economic crisis on the OPE, information regarding simplifying the OPE implementation procedures, the strengthening of on-the-spot checks implementation by MA and IBMA, the cross-financing of projects and public procurement.

Representatives of the EC were also interested in the administrative capacities at MA and IBMA, the use of ITMS, the assessment at the MA carried out by Ernst & Young, the preparation phase of the AR on OPE Implementation for 2009 and the Great Information Activity of the OPE for 2010.

2.7.1.3 Use of ITMS

The ITMS is a central information system that serves for the registration, subsequent processing, export and monitoring of data on programming, project and financial management and the control and audit of the Structural Funds and Cohesion Fund for the 2007 – 2013 programming

period. The ITMS has the task of ensuring a uniform and compatible system of monitoring, project management and financial management of programmes financed from the Structural Funds and the Cohesion Fund.

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

During the monitored period, ITMS II was in concurrent operation. ITMS II contains the functionalities for communication with the European Commission, detailed definition of the operational programme, the setting of processes and roles, the planning, and definition of calls, the receipt of AfNFC via the public part of the monitoring system, evaluation of AfNFC, project contracting, financial management of projects, i.e., the receipt and processing of AfP and SAP, as well as control and audit functionalities.

The CCO develops, operates, maintains and manages the ITMS and consults on the proposed procedures with the aim to ensure proper functioning of the ITMS with the ITMSA Managing Committee. Representatives of CCO, MF SR, Datacentre and the ITMS supplier are the members of this committee. The role of the ITMSW Managing Committee is to design ITMS for the programming period 2007-2013.

As of 17 August 2010, a new communication e-mail address - ITMS@vlada.gov.sk - was established at the GO SR, Department of ITMS. The e-mail address was established with a view to mailing all applications in support of problem solving pertaining to the ITMS system, such as requests for support in solving problems in the area of project management, project financial management, the ITMS portal, ITMS administration, calls for the submission of AfNFC, OLAP cubes, access rights, workflow, control lists and indicators.

Based on the update to the Management System (version 4.2 of 27 August 2010) the extension occurred during the transitional period for the submission of monitoring reports through the public part of ITMS by 30 September 2010 (originally by 31 August 2010) which means that during the extended transitional period, the Beneficiary was not obliged to fill out and electronically forward the interim monitoring reports, the final monitoring report and the follow-up monitoring report of the project through the public segment of ITMS. Within the framework of the preparation to launch the application, the CCO requested cooperation from individual MA in processing the workflow for the monitoring of reports for individual OP and in forwarding the wording of control lists and other information necessary for finalizing the workflow. On 28 September 2010, ITMS version 2.10., containing the functionality of submitting project monitoring reports through the ITMS portal and their subsequent assessment by project managers in CORE ITMS was set in the production environment. On 1 May 2010, the operation of the application for submitting AfNFC through the ITMS portal was also launched. To date, all beneficiaries were obliged to submit all AfP exclusively via the ITMS portal.

In connection with the use of ITMS during the reported period, the MA recorded the following problematic areas in registering, subsequent processing and exporting of OPE data under the 2007 – 2013 programming period:

1. Within the framework of filtering, it is possible to select the indicator code and subsequently the system shows the set of all projects containing this indicator. At the same time, it is possible to define the actual call in the filters (also through the code)

and to determine the number of indicators, relatively exactly, for the actual call. However, the ITMS can not simultaneously show the values of indicators. This is considered as the greatest shortage at the project level.

2. The ITMS does not provide any functionality in the entry of data on project participants (monitoring of target groups divided by gender, status at labour market, age, education, etc.). The ITMS should be set up more suitably for the needs of the MA and both IBMA staff so the workers would not be forced to manually monitor many indicator values.

The following measures were adopted during the reported period by CCO for the enhancement of information and the solving of shortcomings in ITMS, as well as for the need for monitoring operations:

- In January 2010, the CCCO established consultation hours regarding ITMS (the rules for consultation hours and the breakdown of MA into individual dates are set up within the framework of consultation hours ;
- in May 2010, the CCO publicized the documents for processing AfP on the ITMS portal and for processing AfP imported in the CORE part of ITMS.

2.7.2 Evaluation

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

Pursuant to the OPE evaluation plan for the 2007-2013 programming period (hereinafter referred to as the “OPE Evaluation Plan”) the external evaluation with the theme “Assessment of the Effectiveness of the OPE Management System” was carried out from November 2009 to March 2010, and is provided in Table 14 of this report. The evaluation was carried out by the external evaluator, Ernst & Young, k.s. (more detailed information regarding the terms of reference and selecting of the external evaluator is provided in the AR for 2009). The final evaluation report in Slovak and English was submitted by the external evaluator on 26 April 2010. On 27 April 2010 it was publicized at www.minedu.sk/index.php?lang=sk&rootId=6125.

The aim of the evaluation was assess the effectiveness of the MA, IBMA and analyse the setting of the management and implementation systems for the OPE. At the same time, the evaluation assessed the activities of the administrative capacities available that are involved in OPE implementing. The main areas of assessment included assessment of the management system and the coordination and cooperation, transparency and effectiveness of the implementation system. The assessment was also aimed at the efficiency of MC for OPE activities and the implementation of its tasks.

In terms of methodology, the following evaluation tools and information sources were selected for the implementation of assessment:

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

The evaluator generally assessed the OPE management system as effective and contributing to the effective implementation of the OPE. However, it identified certain shortcomings that if resolved would contribute to a more efficient and improved management system and coordination and cooperation at the level of all implementation organs. The evaluator also stated that throughout the implementation of the reported period as well as during the assessment itself it noticed the effort of MA to address the problems and thus to contribute to the general implementation of the OP objectives.

In connection with the identified shortcomings the evaluator proposed that measures be implemented in order to reduce or eliminate them. Individual recommendations were divided by relevance for MA and for both IBMA – ASFEU and MH SR and for the MC for OPE. At the same time, the recommendations were specified in the following thematic areas:

- specifics of the management system: evaluator recommends that MA appeal to CCO or the EC in connection with frequent changes and the reflection of specifics of ESF in comparison with ERDF and proceed in coordinated fashion with other MA and jointly propose the ways for simplifying the Management System processes;
- communication and information flows: evaluator recommends more intensive use of mutual electronic communication among MA and IBMA; it also recommends that the IBMA AFEU management inform the lowest level of staff. It also recommends establishing a permanent/interim platform between MA and IBMA for mutual purposes for the improvement and implementation of tasks under the OPE;
- administrative capacities: evaluator recommends more thorough use of own administrative capacities;
- promotion of the quality of the outputs of administrative capacities through training and educational activities: evaluator recommends more frequent organizing of practical workshops, it recommends that both IBMA increase the number of training sessions in the area of project, financial management, language training, work with ITMS, public procurement, etc. In the area of the quality of outputs, it also recommends that both IBMA exert more consequent control of the accuracy of elaborated documents and more intensive communication with MA in order to prevent errors due to a lack of clarity;
- time aspect of implementation: evaluator recommends that both IBMA adhere to the deadlines for the performance of various tasks. The evaluator recommends that the MA provide timely information to the engaged subject in the event of the identification of problem areas and thus reduce the impacts of late implementation or lack of understanding of their solution;
- support of ITMS: evaluator recommends that the problems of the ITMS functionality be regularly communicated to the responsible persons and to actively monitor their resolution. The evaluator also recommends that the MA initiate an independent audit of ITMS in order to test its functionality and proposals for improvements;
- engagement of MC for OPE: evaluator recommends to the members of MC for OPE a more active approach to the programming and monitoring of OPE implementation and to consider organizing informal meetings in addition to the planned meetings of the MC for OPE.

The MA accepted the aforementioned recommendations presented in the final assessment report and as one of the proposals for solution it initiated the first informal meeting of MC for OPE, which was held on 27 October 2010. More detailed information concerning this meeting can be found in section 2.7.1.1 of this report.

The MA also plans to implement other proposals for improvement recommended by the evaluator. The state of implementation of the adopted recommendations and proposals will be presented at the ordinary session of MC for OPE in 2011.

Table 14: Assessment implemented from 1 January to 31 October 2010

Evaluation name	Amount (including VAT) in €	Evaluation implementation period	Evaluation type
<i>Assessment of the OPE Management System Effectiveness</i>	11,781.00	18 November 2009 – 26 April 2010	Planned operatively
Brief description of evaluation findings: no serious findings			
Evaluation conclusions: in general the OPE management system can be assessed as effective and contributing to the effective implementing of the OPE.			
Proposed recommendations: a detailed description of recommendations proposed can be found in the Final assessment report publicized in Slovak and English at www.minedu.sk/index.php?lang=sk&rootId=6125 .			
Measures adopted from party of MA: see accompanying text in section 2.7.2.1 of this report			
Implementation of conclusions from evaluation: see accompanying text in section 2.7.2.1 of this report			

Source: MA

2.7.2.2 Thematic evaluation “Assessment of Accuracy of the Setting of the Measurable Indicators System and the Functioning of the Monitoring System”

Pursuant to the approved OPE Evaluation Plan, the implementation of the thematic external assessment entitled *Assessment of Accuracy of the Setting of the Measurable Indicators System and Functioning of the Monitoring System* began in September 2010. The assessment is provided in Table 15 of this report. The selection of the external evaluator was held in compliance with the valid legislation concerning public procurement. On 10 October 2010, based on the compliance with all the requirements and criteria required in the tender materials for the implementation of assessment, the agreement was concluded between the MA and external evaluator – IBS SLOVAKIA, s.r.o.

As at 31 December 2010, the assessment was in the implementation phase. Thus, only the interim reports were available for MA by the end of the year 2010. Programme indicators, priority axes and measures indicators and the monitoring systems are assessed as highly satisfactory and are set up to monitor the OP objectives and the objectives of priority axes and measures. Furthermore, the evaluator pointed out the error rate of the code list of the measurable indicators and shortcomings in the ITMS functioning; however, these findings and their remedy are within the competence of the CCO. The date of submission of the Final assessment report in Slovak was set at 7 February 2011 and 21 February 2011 in English; this date is also the planned date of completion of the implementation of this evaluation.

Table 15: Evaluation implemented from 1 January to 31 October 2010

Evaluation name	Amount (including VAT) in €	Evaluation implementation period	Evaluation type
<i>Assessment of Accuracy of the Setting of the Measurable Indicators</i>	10,680.00	10 October 2010 – 21 February 2011	Planned thematic

<i>System and Functioning of the Monitoring System</i>			
Brief description of evaluation findings: N/A			
Evaluation conclusions: N/A			
Proposed recommendations: N/A			
Measures adopted from party of MA: N/A			
Implementation of conclusions from evaluation: N/A			

Source: MA

2.7.2.3 Central Committee for Evaluation of the NSRF

CEC is an advisory body to the CCO. As such, it is jointly involved in solving strategic, conceptual and methodological matters in the field of evaluation and thereby contributes to the creation and development of an efficient and effective system for evaluating the NSRF.

During the course of 2010, no meetings of the CEC were held. CEC members cooperated only on the basis of electronic communication in the framework of preparing and commenting on materials connected with the evaluation of the NSRF as follows:

- drawing up comments regarding the NSRF Evaluations Plan for 2010;
- drawing up comments regarding the material “Strategy for Assessment of the EU Financial Aid Policies and Tools in the programming period 2007 – 2013”,
- drawing up comments regarding the material “Summary Report of Evaluation Activities and Outcomes of Assessment for National Strategic Referential Framework for 2009”.

2.7.2.4 Working Group for the Evaluation of the OPE

In 2010, members of the working group for the evaluation of the OPE did not meet on a regular basis. Members of this working group, who are employees of the MA, met ad hoc as necessary. Communication between individual members (MA, IBMA ASFEU, IBMA MH SR) was conducted primarily in electronic form.

In 2010, the members of the working group were actively involved in implementing the evaluation “*Assessment of the effectiveness of the system of management of the Operational Programme Education*”. In addition to the aforementioned, in 2010, the Working Group for the Evaluation of the OPE drew up tender materials and evaluation questions for the planned thematic evaluation: “Assessment of the Accuracy of the Setting of the Measurable Indicators System and Functioning of the Monitoring System” and from September 2010 to 31 December 2010 its members intensively cooperated with the external evaluator on its implementing.

2.8 National Performance Reserve

The SR did not establish any National Performance Reserve for Objective Convergence or Regional Competitiveness & Employment in the reported period in compliance with Article 50 of the General Regulations.

2.9 Administrative Capacities

MA

In terms of administrative capacities, as at 31 December 2010, the MoESRS SR as the MA for OPE implementation for 2007 - 2013 programming period, employed a total of **101⁴** employees of the originally planned number of 107, thus forming **94.39%** fulfilment of the recruitment plan for administrative capacities for 2010.

On 8 December 2010, Order No. 40/2010-I of the Minister of the SR was issued which changes the organizational structure of the MoESRS SR. The Section of European Affairs and the Section of EU Structural Funds Economy were merged in the Section of EU Structural Funds of the MoESRS SR through the aforementioned order. The status as at 31 December 2010 is contained in this report.

In the course of 2010, a total of 13 new employees were hired at the MA (they are included in the total number of administrative capacities as at 31 December 2010) and 14 employees ended their employment. This status was caused by the natural turnover of the staff which was operatively resolved and the MA endeavoured to quickly fill the vacancies so that the administrative capacities would be fully filled, thus preventing complications with OPE implementation.

During the reported period, the MA continued to enable the participation of its employees in training activities within the framework of the enhancement of their professional qualifications. MA employees (130 employees cumulatively) participated in 25 educational activities organized by the CCO, MoESRS SR, MF SR, etc., in order to deepen their professional knowledge required for OPE implementation.

The overview of training and the number of MA employees participating in individual training sessions is provided in Table 16.

Table 16: Overview of MA employee training

Training	Number of MA participants (PU including)
Assessment of public policies and programmes	2
Training of employees in the area of public procurement	12
Application of experience from audits carried out by the EC in verification procedures of managing authorities	11
Update to the Managing System	9
National Strategy for Regional Development of Slovakia and Aspiration of the Coherence Policy after 2013	11
Interpretation of Act No. 211/2000 Coll. on Free Access to Information and its application in practice	8
Act No. 528/2008 Coll. on Aid and Support from EC Funds	13
Communication techniques and assertiveness training of employees in the SF area I	10
Interim evaluation of SF and CF implementation	4

⁴ one employee was on maternity leave

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Financial management system	7
Changes to the Financial management system, version 5.0	18
New version of ISUF and relevant differences	3
ITMS Project management – beginners	2
ITMS Training – project management – advanced	2
Protecting EU financial interests in terms of the SR	1
Update to the Financial management system, version 5.0	1
Language training in French	4
Amendments to Act No. 25/2006 Coll. on Public Procurement and implementation of procurement under SF in practice	2
Language course for ministerial staff – German at work	2
Internal language training – English	1
Training of legislative staff and development of legislative skills in the design of legal regulations for the SR national level	3
Communication with the media and public in the area of EU funds	1
Global Grants in terms of the SR	1
Control and audits within the framework of implementation of EU financial aid in terms of the SR	1
Evaluation system of NSRF and experience from the area of evaluation	1
Total	130

Source: MA

The MA annually identifies the need for training and forwards it to the Department of Human Resources at the MoESRS SR as material for the staff training plan. In 2011, the MA is also interested in enabling its employees to participate in courses and training and thus to continue to support their further education and qualification growth.

Administrative Capacities of the MA

More detailed information regarding the administrative capacities of the MA is provided in Table 17.

Table 17: Administrative capacities of the MA

Position	State as at 31 December 2009	Anticipated state as at 31 December 2010	State as at 31 December 2010	% of anticipated state	Need to recruit
A	B	C	D	E=D/C	F
general director	2	2	2	100%	0
department director	3	3	3	100%	0

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department/section assistant	4	4	4*	100%	0
programming manager	3	3	3	100%	0
evaluation manager	2	2	2	100%	0
monitoring manager	5	5	5	100%	0
information and publicity manager	2	2	2	100%	0
financial manager	43*	51**	47*	92,15%	4
project manager	11	11	11**	100 %	0
technical assistance manager	2	2	2	100%	0
Total	77	85	81	95.29%	4

Source: MA

*employees are partially engaged in the OPE and OPR&D

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

More detailed information regarding the administrative capacities at the PU MA is provided given in Table 18.

Table 18: Administrative capacities of the PU MA

Position	State as at 31 December 2009	Anticipated state as at 31 December 2010	State as at 31 December 2010	% of anticipated state	Need to recruit
A	B	C	D	E=D/C	F
general director	0	0	0	0 %	0
department director	1	1	1	100 %	0
head of department	0	0	0	0 %	0
department/section assistant	0	0	0	0 %	0
financial verifier	7	6	5	83.33%	1
financial manager	12	13	12	92.31%	1
financial accountant	2	2	2	100%	0
Total	22	22	20	90.90%	2

Source: PU

During the reported period, the aforementioned staff members participated in the completion of the 2004 – 2006 programming period and implemented the OPE or OPR&D or both at the same time. It is impossible to establish which staff members will be engaged in activities related exclusively to the OPE or exclusively related to OPR&D or both OP in the competence of MA or the staff members who will be engaged in the activities of the PU in the 2007 – 2013 programming period. This particularly pertains to the employees involved in the administration of Afp for national projects, including on-the-spot checks; their engagement in implementing the

OPE and OPR&D continuously changes depending on the difficulty of the operations which they carry out under the implementation of both OP.

IBMA ASFEU

In terms of administrative capacities, as at 31 December 2010, the ASFEU employed a total of 94 employees of the planned number of 105 who were engaged in OPE implementation; this amounts to **89.5%** of the administrative capacities plan for 2010.

Where the proportion of their engagement is determined on the basis of the proportion of work performed for individual OPE objectives, the following relatively authorized ASFEU employees also participate in the OPE implementation: general director, general director office manager, lawyer and director of the financing and administration department.

From 1 January 2010 to 31 December 2010, a total of 28 employees terminated their employment and 27 employees were recruited under the OPE. The reasons for termination are particularly related to their insufficient expert knowledge, as well as unfulfilled expectations with respect to the work and financial remuneration.

Administrative Capacities of the IBMA ASFEU

More detailed information regarding administrative capacities at the IBMA ASFEU is provided in Table 19.

Table 19: Administrative capacities of the IBMA ASFEU

Position	State as at 31 December 2009	Anticipated state as at 31 December 2010	State as at 31 December 2010	% of anticipated state	Need to recruit
A	B	C	D	E=D/C	F
section director	1	1	0	0	1
head of department	2	3	3	100	0
head of sub-department	8	8	7	88	1
administration manager	11	10	6	60	4
project manager	29	70	66	94	4
monitoring manager	2	2	1	50	1
Information & publicity manager	10	5	5	100	0
expenditure management manager	30	0	0	100	0
manager for administration of AFP	2	1	1	100	0
ITMS manager	1	1	1	100	0
technical assistance manager	2	2	2	100	0
project management expert methodologist	0	1	1	100	0
financial management expert methodologist	0	1	1	100	0
Total	98	105	94	89.5	11

Source: IBMA ASFEU

As at 1 July 2010, the organizational structure was changed due to the merging of the position of expenditure management manager into that of project manager. As a result, the tasks of the Department of the Project Management and the Monitoring of the OPE implemented in financial management were extended. A unified procedure in implementing the tasks of the Department of the Project Management and Monitoring of the OPE is ensured by the new Department of Methodology for the OPE Project and Financial Management which consists of: an expert methodologist for project management and an expert methodologist for financial management. The general director implemented an organizational change on 20 September 2010 in order to optimize the number of positions; as a result 5 positions of regional publicity managers were cancelled with the aim to raise efficiency. These employees were transferred to the operational programme section.

Within the framework of staff training and thus, the enhancing of their qualifications, the IBMA ASFEU continuously participated in educational programmes, seminars and training. Training was also encompassed in cooperation with the MoESRS SR, CCO, MF SR and Office for Public Procurement. In 2010, a total of 18 training sessions were held, in which 331 employees participated. The training focused on the updating, improvement and deepening of knowledge, abilities and skills necessary for the performance of activities connected with the OPE implementation.

An overview of the training and the number of employees involved is provided in Table 20.

Table 20: Overview of training of the IBMA ASFEU staff

Training	Number of staff engaged
MA training, indicators, MR, Publicity, amendment to agreement	19
Amendments to Act No. 25/2006 Coll. on Public Procurement and implementation of procurement under SF in practice	34
Irregularities	65
Update to the Management System	2
Update to the Financial Management System	35
Application of experience from audits carried out by EC in verification procedures of managing authorities	4
Act No. 528/2008 Coll. on Aid and Support from EC Funds	3
Communication techniques and assertiveness training of employees in the area of SF I	2
Interpretation of Act No. 211/200 Coll. on Free Access to Information and its application in practice	1
National strategy of regional development of Slovakia and aspiration of the coherence policy after 2013	1
New functionality of PMS in ITMS	3
ITMS – financial management	13
ITMS – project management	21
ITMS – monitoring reports	3
Training – long-term assets	23
Training – remuneration, travel reimbursement	25
Public procurement in 2010 – changes with effect as of 1 January 2010	50
Health and Safety at Work and Fire protection	27
Total:	331

Source: IBMA ASFEU

The ASFEU plans to continue to deepen and improve staff training in compliance with the Concept of the ASFEU Staff Training for 2011 and the ASFEU Staff Training Plan for 2011.

IBMA MH SR

In terms of administrative capacities, as at 31.12.2010, the MH SR, as the IBMA, employed a total of 25 employees of the original number of 25, thus forming 100% fulfilment of the plan for filling administrative capacities for 2010.

As at 31 December 2010, the MH SR employed total of 7 employees of the original number of 8 within the framework of the PU IBMA; this amounts to 87.5% fulfilment of the plan for filling administrative capacities for 2010.

During the reported period within the framework of employees terminated their employment at the IBMA MH SR 3 and 4 employees with experience in the area of SF and financial verification were recruited. Within the framework of the PU, 1 staff member resigned and 1 was recruited. In comparison with the previous period, the state as at 31 December 2010 remained unchanged. In comparison with 2009, the number of IBMA employees grew by 1 and the number of PU employees remained unchanged.

Table 21: Administrative capacities of the IBMA MH SR

Position	State as at 31 December 2009	Anticipated state as at 31 December 2010	State as at 31 December 2010	% of anticipated state	Need to recruit
A	B	C	D	E=D/C	F
general director	1	1	1	100	0
department director	3	3	3	100	0
head of department	4	4	4	100	0
department/section assistant	4	4	4	100	0
*programming manager	1	1	1	100	0
monitoring and evaluation manager****	1	1	1	100	0
Information & publicity manager	1	1	1	100	0
control manager	-	-	-	-	-
** ITMS manager	-	-	-	-	-
financial manager	-	-	-	-	-
project manager	8	9	9	100	0
***manager for technical assistance	1	1	1	100	0
Other (specify)	-	-	-	-	-
Total	24	25	25	100	0

Source: IBMA MH SR

*the position is combined with the position of manager for programming, evaluation and ITMS

** the position is combined with the position of manager for programming, evaluation and ITMS

*** the position is combined with the position of manager for programming and TA

**** IBMA created position of manager for programming.

At the level of IBMA MH SR, during the reported period the general director and the head of the department of monitoring were changed and an employee in the service office was appointed to the position of project manager. The indicated state is sufficient for the work of IBMA MH SR.

Table 22: Administrative capacities of the PU MH SR

Position	State as at 31 December 2009 (year N-1)	Anticipated state as at 31 December 2010 (year N)	State as at 31 December 2010 (year N)	% of anticipated state	Need to recruit
A	B	C	D	E=D/C	F
general director	-	-	-	-	-
department director	-	-	-	-	-
head of department	1	1	1	100	0
department/section assistant	-	-	-	-	-
financial verifier	3	3	2*	66.67	1
financial manager	2	2	2	100	0
financial accountant	1	2	2	100	0
Total	7	8	7	87.50	1

Source: IBMA MH SR

* Position of the 3rd financial verifier will be filled in by 1 January 2011.

In terms of staff training and enhancement of qualifications, a total of 116 IBMA MH SR and PU IBMA MH SR employees (cumulative number) who were engaged in OPE implementation participated in a total of 53 professional training sessions organized by the EC, CCO, IBMA, MF SR and GO SR during the reported period. An overview of the staff training and employees participating in individual courses is provided in Table 23.

Table 23: Overview of training of the IBMA MH SR staff

Training	IBMA MH SR staff participating	PU IBMA MH SR staff participating
Amendment to Act No. 25/2006 Coll. on PP and on amendments and supplements to certain Acts in the wording of - Act No. 232/2008 Coll.	3	0
Act on Administrative Proceedings	2	2
Individual statement of account for 2009 in state administration	0	3
Compulsory training of persons professionally authorized for public procurement	9	0
Travel reimbursement	4	4
Financial control	3	1
New version of ISUF and relevant differences in comparison to the current version concerning the work of financial managers and PU accountants	0	2
Basic ISUF orientation	0	1
Statement of account, consolidated and summary statement of account of public administration subjects	0	4
ISUF – Irregularities and recoveries in the second programming period	0	4
Financial management - advanced	4	0
ITMS – Financial management for PU	0	3
Financial management (advanced) – ITMS	0	1

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ITMS training regarding new functionality of monitoring reports	1	0
Presentation of the new ITMS functionality	6	0
Changes in financial reporting of public administration in 2010	0	2
Control and audit	0	1
Optimising Health through Application of EU Structural Funds	0	1
ISUF Charging of accounting cases at PU	0	2
HP Information Society and HP Sustainable Development in structural funds and Cohesion Fund	1	0
Training of MA for IBMA	6	0
Business and official written documents	2	0
Update Financial management system	5	2
Update to the Management system	8	0
Act No. 528/2008 Coll. on Aid and Support from EC Funds/interpretation of Act No.528/2008 on Aid and Support from EC Funds	7	0
Communication with media and public relations in the area of EU funds	2	0
Interpretation of Act No. 211/2000 Coll. on Free Access to Information and its application in practice	3	0
Communication techniques and assertiveness training of staff in the area of SF I	1	0
Application of experience from audits carried out by the EC in MA verification procedures	3	2
Communication techniques and assertiveness training of staff in the area of SF II	1	0
Protection of financial interests of EU in terms of the SR	1	0
Assessment of public policies and programmes	3	0
Financial management beginners	1	0
Strategic training (update to Management system, irregularities)	12	7
ITMS training, beginners	1	0
Project management, beginners	1	0
Seminar "Taxes and accounting" – current and optimum practices	1	0
Accounting documentation and management of public resources	2	0
Submission of applications for payment through ITMS public portal	1	0
Current version of Act No.502/2001 Coll. on Financial Control and Internal Audit	4	0
Recording of irregularities in ITMS	2	0
Amendments to Act on Public Procurement	1	0
National Strategy of Regional Development of the SR and aspirations of EU coherence policy after 2013	6	0
Interim evaluation of SF and CF implementation	3	0

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Project management – basic	1	0
ITMS: Project management – advanced	1	0
Course of professional preparation of electronic public procurement	1	0
8TH European Week of Regions and Cities Brussels – OPEN DAYS 2010	1	1
Act on VAT in 2010	1	0
Statement of account 2010 for entrepreneurs accounting in the system of double-entry book-keeping	1	0
Irregularities in SF and CF in terms of the SR	0	1
Strategic SEPP training	0	7
2nd Master Class Programme (financing, running, design of modern hospital)	0	2
Total	116	53

Source: IBMA MH SR

Comparison of administrative capacities with that of 2009

Table 24: Comparison with the state of year n-1

	Anticipated state planned as at 31 December 2009	State as at 31 December 2009	% of anticipated state	Anticipated state as at 31 December 2010	State as at 31 December 2010	% of anticipated state
A	B	C	D=C/B	E	F	G=F/E
MA	75**	71*	94.6	112**	101*	90.18
IBMA ASFEU	100	98	98	105	94	89.5
IBMA MH SR	24	24	100	25	25	100
PU	22	22	100	22	20	90.91
PU (MH SR)	7	7	100	8	7	87.50
Total	228	222	97.36	272	247	90.8

Source: MA, IBMA, PU

**number of MA staff planned for the OPE and OPR&D

*staff is proportionally engaged in the OPE and OPR&D

Turnover of Administrative Capacities

More detailed information concerning staff turnover in MA and IBMA administrative capacities is provided in Table 25.

Table 25: Staff turnover in administrative capacities

Body	from 1 January to 31 December 2010	from 1 January to 31 December 2010
	Left*	Recruited*

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MA	9/0	11/3
IBMA ASFEU	28/0	27/0
IBMA MH SR	3/1	4/1
PU	4/1	2/0
PJ (MZ SR)	1/0	1/0
Total	45/2	45/4

Source: MA, IBMA, PU

* the figure following the back slash ("/") indicates the number of transfers within the framework of state administration in the area of EU funds.

The MA and IBMA perceive this turnover as natural and consider the state of administrative capacities as stabilized.

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

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

Corrective measures were taken to limit or avoid staff turnover at the MA and IBMA and thereby ensure a smooth course of OPE implementation. They include:

- personal bonuses/bonuses;
- possibility of foreign business trips;
- professional courses and training according to the requests from employees themselves;
- system of refunding costs for language training;
- flexible working hours;
- computing equipment (e.g. purchasing notebooks with internet connection for working outside the workplace);
- activities with a view to regenerating the labour force (e.g. sports days, social and cultural events, etc.);
- undertaking educational programmes, seminars and training;
- language training.

3. IMPLEMENTATION BY PRIORITY AXES

3.1 Priority Axis 1

3.1.1 Achievement of Objectives and Analysis of Progress

The achievement of the objectives and a detailed analysis of progress under priority axis 1, which is targeted at implementing education reforms at elementary and secondary schools and enhancing the quality of tertiary education is provided in detail in the following sub-chapters 3.1.1.1, 3.1.1.2 and 3.1.1.3 of the Report.

3.1.1.1 State of Physical Progress under Priority Axis 1

More detailed information concerning the state of publishing calls under priority axis 1 is provided in Table 26.

Table 26: State of publishing calls under priority axis 1 from 1 January to 31 December 2010

Measure	Type of call	Call publishing date	Closing date for receiving AfNFC	Allocation of funds per call (NFC) in €		
				Total	of which	
					SF/CF	SB
1.1	time limited, national project	25 January 2010	31 March 2010	8,200,000	6,970,000.00	1,230,000.00
1.2	time limited, demand-driven projects	31 December 2010	7 March 2011	13,000,000 ⁵	N/A	N/A
Total for priority axis 1				21,200,000	N/A	N/A

Source: MA

During the reported period, 2 calls were published under priority axis 1: one was a time limited call for demand-driven projects under measure 1.2 and the other notice was for a national project under measure 1.1. Both calls were published in the total allocation of 21,200,000.00 EUR.

MA

Notice **OPV/K/NP/2010-1** entitled “*Evaluation of the Quality of Education at Elementary and Secondary Schools in the Slovak Republic in the Context of the Content Reform of Education in Progress*” was published on 25 January 2010 with the closing date of 31 March 2010.

The notice was focused on the following: the elaboration of a concept and design of a model of a monitoring system for education outcomes at the national level with the aim to assess the level of education at the levels of ISCED 1 – 3 in the SR, within the framework of which it would be possible to monitor the extent to which the content reform of the school system in the SR implements the objectives set at the aforementioned levels of the education system in the SR; the innovation of testing tools and assessment methods for outcomes of measuring which would enable a comparison of the level of knowledge, skills and mastery of key competences in connection with the reform of education; the implementation of procedures of comparative quantitative pedagogical research in the educational practice of Slovak schools; the training of pedagogical staff with regard to objective methods of assessment of outcomes of education

⁵ Funds allocated for the call for demand-driven projects can not be segmented according to resources of EU and SB, since the ratio for financing is based on the beneficiary type.

through the assessment and analysis of national and international measuring; the defining of the indicators of educational quality and the monitoring of the possibility of their implementation in the system of quality assessment of education at elementary and secondary schools in the SR through the use of external evaluation tools.

The following constituted the target groups of the notices:

- pedagogical staff of elementary and secondary schools;
- pupils of ES and students of SS;
- staff working in the area of education.

The allocation of funds amounted to 8,200,000.00 EUR for Objective C.

1 AfNFC was submitted in the amount of 7,664,128.00 EUR.

From 6 April to 30 April 2010, a formal accuracy check of received AfNFC was carried out. The AfNFC was fully and correctly completed.

The expert evaluation began on 3 May 2010 and was completed on 5 May 2010. The submitted AfNFC complied with all of the requirements of the expert evaluation.

AfNFC selection took place on 6 May 2010 and the AfNFC in question was approved.

The total amount of funds allocated to the applicants for NFC is 6,948,155.00 EUR with total eligible costs for projects in the amount of 6,948,155.00 EUR with 0% co-financing by the applicant.

In terms of the contribution of approved AfNFC to the implementing HP, the AfNFC declared a contribution to HP SD and HP IS.

On 3 June 2010, the decision on approval of the AfNFC was sent.

The Agreement on the provision of NFC was signed on 15 June 2010 and the implementation of the national project began on the same day. The first monitoring report of the reviewed period was delivered on 14 September 2010. More detailed information regarding the national project is provided in Table 27.

Table 27: State of implementation of the national project as at 31 December 2010

Project title:	Evaluation of the Quality of Education at ES and SS in the Context of Content Reform of Education in Progress
Basis for national / regional policy:	Bill on upbringing and education (School Act) and on amendments and supplements to certain Acts, approved by the resolution No. 147/2008 of the SR Government of 5 March 2008. Act entered in effect as of 1 September 2008.
Project objective:	To innovate and implement the system of national measuring which will enable assess to quality and monitor the development of education at ES and SS in the context of content reform of education in the SR.
Beneficiary:	National Institute for Certified Educational Measurements
Project implementation period:	15 June 2010 – 31 May 2013
State of implementation for the period monitored:	National project implementation is divided into eight activities. The implementation of activities began on 15 July 2010. 16 project activities are in progress; the implementation of Activity 1.5: Cooperation with international partners in the area of national education testing, has not began due to insufficient staffing and the implementation of activity 3.2

	<p>Expert conference on issues of assessment of the quality of education will begin in September 2012 according to the timeframe of the project implementation.</p> <p>The following activities are in progress:</p> <p>Activity 1.1: External evaluation of the education level at ISCED 1 in languages of instruction and mathematics.</p> <p>Activity 1.2: External evaluation of the education level at ISCED 2 in languages of instruction, mathematics and English and comparison of the level of education of students of the 9th grade of ES and 4th grade of eight-year grammar schools in Slovak and literature and mathematics.</p> <p>Activity 1.3: External evaluation of the education level at ISCED 3 in foreign languages, group of subjects (hereinafter referred to as the “FL”), languages of instruction and educational areas of Mathematics and working with information, Man and Nature, Man and Society.</p> <p>Activity 1.4: Research of intervention for Increasing of statistical and financial literacy of Slovak students at ISCED 2.</p> <p>Activity 2.1: Testing tools from the group of subjects, languages of instruction for assessment of the level of education at ISCED 1 up to ISCED 3.</p> <p>Activity 2.2 Testing tools for FL pursuant to Common European Referential Framework for Languages for assessment of the level of education at the ISCED 2 and ISCED 3.</p> <p>Activity 2.3: Testing tools for assessment of the educational level in mathematics at ISCED 1 and mathematics and mathematical literacy at ISCED 2.</p> <p>Activity 2.4: Testing tools for the assessment of the level of education in the educational areas of Mathematics and working with information, Man and Nature, Man and Society at ISCED 3.</p> <p>Activity 2.5: Development and innovation of electronic tests in mathematics and English B1 for SCED 3.</p> <p>Activity 2.6: Cooperation with international partners in the design of testing tools for external evaluation of the level of education.</p> <p>Activity 2.7: Elaboration and application of new methodology for processing outcomes from national measurements with the use of IRT.</p> <p>Activity 3.1: Implementation of training for pedagogues on issues of national monitoring of the level and quality of education, the design and evaluation of testing items and possibilities for measuring the level of key competences at ISCED 1 – 3.</p> <p>Activity 3.3: Implementation and dissemination of outputs of international measurements in pedagogical staff training.</p> <p>Activity 4.1: Indicators of the quality of education in the evaluation of schools.</p> <p>Activity 4.2: Analysis of civil standpoints of Slovak students and perspectives of active citizenship in light of outcomes from the IEA ICCS 2009 study.</p> <p>Activity 4.3: Monitoring of educational process and working conditions of teachers in the SR in the international context.</p> <p>The implementation of individual activities as of today has been trouble free; all project objectives are being implemented, the timeframe are adhered to, and all partial tasks arising from the individual project activities description are implemented. Currently, preparation activities and partial tasks under individual activities are in progress. These are necessary to ensure the launch of the main part of the project activities in the second half of 2011.</p> <p>As of today, the following activities are in progress: the preparation of the organization and logistics of pilot testing; the design of databases of pupils of the 4th grade of ES; the design of databases of pupils of the 8th and 9th years of ES and the 3rd and 4th years of eight year “gymnasia” (grammar schools); the design of databases of grammar school and secondary vocational school students who leave at education level ISCED 3 from a representative selection of schools and students, the design of questionnaires, market surveys for production of recordings in recording studios; market survey on the duplication of CD media with recordings; the establishment of teams of authors of tests; the analysis and study of materials and reports from tests; the establishment of a team of experts – instructors; the design and specification of pilot tests, or sets of tasks; the design of specific charts and tests in English, level A2 (level ISCED 2) in English, German and Russian, level B1 and B2 (level ISCED 3); the design of testing items and pilot tests; the establishment of teams of professional authors of testing items for MAT and ENG B1; contacting international institutions; the preparation of working meetings; the holding of international meetings; the preparation of materials and reports from international meetings, documents, conclusions and presentations for internal and external experts in National Institute for Certified Educational Measurements; the preparation and testing of software support for the bank of tasks – preparation phase; market surveys; working meetings with software companies; the preparation of tools for quantitative research (adaptation and verification of methodological manuals for school administrators and coordinators); addressing schools</p>
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	<p>engaged in projects; the preparation of research tools with the use of methodology related to participation in TALIS international research, the outcomes of which will be the baseline for the design of indicators of quality at the national level and the preparation of databases and materials necessary for the selection of schools in the pilot phase of the study. Based on the statistical processing of data at the national level and in the international context, the report was elaborated and publicized at http://www.nucem.sk/documents/27/medzinarodne_merania/talis/publikacie/TALIS-web.pdf. At the first working meeting of regional partners, which was held in Liptovský Mikuláš on 16 November – 18 November 2010, agreements and contracts on completed work were signed, working materials were distributed, work logistics were supplied, information was provided concerning individual activities and testing tools were distributed. Within the framework of project activities, a business trip to Germany was carried out to DaFInsitut, which designs the FL testing tools for FL users in a language that is not their mother tongue. The business trip took place from 24 September to 26 September 2010. Subsequently, an internal seminar for the employees of the National Institute for Certified Educational Measurements and a seminar for the authors of testing items and testing tools will be held. Another 6-day business trip to Budapest (October 2010) was carried out for the needs of defining frameworks for statistical and financial literacy.</p>
State of implementation since the commencement of the project's implementation:	<p>On 15 June 2010, the Agreement on the provision of NFC was signed. The Beneficiary submitted the Affirmation on starting the project and Notification on starting the implementation of the first activity on 15 June 2010</p> <p>From the commencement of the project implementation, up to 31 December 2010, the Beneficiary submitted 3 quarterly Monitoring reports. Monitoring report No. 1. was submitted by the Beneficiary through the ITMS public portal. In 2010, activities were in progress as stated above in the section "State of implementation during the reported period".</p>
Budget in €:	6,948,155.00 EUR
Financial implementation / drawing in € for the period monitored:	6,295.57 EUR
Financial implementation / drawing in € in cumulative terms from the commencement of the programming period	6,295.57 EUR
Fulfilment of indicators for the period monitored:	<p>Outcome indicators (anticipated state/ actual state)</p> <p>Number of persons of target group engaged in supported projects– disabled persons 20/0</p> <p>Number of employees engaged in the project educational activities 1,000/0</p> <p>Number of schools engaged in the project activity implementation 1,500/0</p> <p>Number of schools engaged in the project activity implementation using ICT in teaching process 10/0</p> <p>Number of pupils/students engaged in project activity implementation 26,600/0</p> <p>Number of schools engaged in the project activity implementation using ICT in teaching process (HP IS) 10/0</p> <p>Number of employees engaged in project educational activities (HP SD) 1,000/0</p> <p>So far, all measurable indicators show zero value, since, as of today, the project is in the preparation phase. The first relevant values can only be monitored in the second half of 2011, when teachers will be trained regarding the preparation of tests and testing tools and the pilot testing in individual areas set out in the detailed project description. Within the framework of the implementation and monitoring of objectives and implementation of individual project activities the abovementioned measurable indicators of outcome were contracted under the project, which should reach their anticipated value by the end of the implementation of the project, i.e., May 2013.</p>
Fulfilment of indicators in cumulative terms from the commencement of the programming period	Due to the reasons indicated above, the same values apply as in the section "Implementation of indicators over reported period".

Source: MA

IBMA ASFEU

1. Call **OPV-2010/1.2/02-SORO** for the submission of AfNFC entitled “*Promotion of Improving Quality of Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) and the Slovak Academy of Sciences*” under measure 1.2 was published on 31 December 2010. The call was aimed at improving the quality of the programmes of studies at HEIs, enhancing the efficiency of the administration and management of HEIs, the promotion of human resources development in research and development and international cooperation among HEIs, organizations of research and development and the private sector at the national and international levels. The activities of this call implement the measures of SR Government Resolution No. 591/2010 of 8 September 2010 with the aim to promote the distinctive improvement of the quality of HEIs and scientific institutions (Slovak Academy of Sciences), to ensure the influx of internationally acknowledged scientists to Slovakia and the best possible education within the framework of doctoral studies. From the geographical aspect, this call covers the territory of the SR except for the Bratislava Self-governing Region. The following are some of the specific objectives to which this call is linked: adjustment of tertiary education to the needs of a knowledge-based society, promoting the culture of quality at HEI, raising the quality and developing human resources in research and development, promoting cooperation among HEIs, organizations of research and development and the private sector at the national and international levels. Financial aid for this call is designated for eligible applicants defined in the call as follows: state HEI, public HEI, private HEI and the Slovak Academy of Sciences (including its individual institutions).

The amount of aid under measure 1.2 for this call is 13,000,000.00 EUR. The minimum amount of NFC per project is established at 200,000.00 EUR and the maximum amount is 600,000.00 EUR.

The deadline for submissions for this call is 7 March 2011. As a result, the information on the process of approval and selection of AfNFC will be included in the AR for 2011.

2. Call **OPV-2009/1.1/05-SORO** for the submission of AfNFC for secondary schools under measure 1.1: Transformation of a Traditional School to a Modern School entitled “*Design and Raising Efficiency of School Educational Programmes at Secondary Vocational Schools*” was published on 15 October 2009. The closing date for this call was 20 January 2010. More detailed information concerning this call is provided in the AR for 2009.

Under the call, as at 20 January 2010, a total of 154 AfNFC were recorded in the total amount of eligible expenditures of 52,452,398.04 EUR and in the amount of requested NFC of 49,958,164.07 EUR.

The formal accuracy check began on 21 January 2010 and was completed on 19 March 2010.

Of the total number of received AfNFC, 129 complied with the formal accuracy check and advanced to the expert evaluation phase. The financial allocation of the total eligible expenditures for 129 AfNFC which complied with the formal accuracy check and advanced to the expert evaluation phase was 43,654,098.88 EUR; the total amount of NFC requested for these AfNFC was 41,550,094.57 EUR.

The expert evaluation of AfNFC began on 22 March 2010 by drawing lots and assigning AfNFC to external and internal assessors with the participation of MA representatives. It was held from 25 March to 20 April 2010. The expert evaluation covered 129 AfNFC, of which 107 AfNFC achieved the minimum number of necessary points. The financial allocation of the proposed

amount of NFC for AfNFC, which attained at least the minimum amount of necessary points, constitutes the sum of 33,913,254.78 EUR. The expert evaluation of AfNFC was completed on 20 April 2010 by the signing of the Summary Report of the Expert Assessment by the general director of ASFEU.

The session of the Selection Commission was held on 26 April 2010. The selection process included 107 AfNFC. Based on the outcomes from the expert evaluation, the Selection Commission recommended 59 projects for approval (the reason was the amount of allocation set up for the call, despite the fact that 107 AfNFC had attained the minimum number of necessary points). The total amount of funds allocated to the applicants for NFC was 19, 577,123.06 EUR with total eligible expenditures for projects in the amount of 20,576, 398.68 EUR and co-financing in the amount of 999,275.62 EUR by the applicants.

Of the aforementioned number of 59 AfNFC recommended for approval, 1 applicant failed to comply with the terms for the provision of aid. Based on the fact mentioned above, the Decision on the Rejection of AfNFC was sent to it and the Agreement for the provision of NFC was not signed. Decisions on the approval of AfNFC were sent to **58** successful applicants. The contracting process followed the approval process. The Agreement on the provision of NFC was signed with **57** successful applicants for NFC.

The Beneficiary, Hotel academy, Spišská Nová Ves, requested the premature termination of contractual relation via its letter of 10 November 2010.

As at 31 December 2010, under call OPV-2009/1.1/05-SORO, **56** Agreements on the provision of NFC were concluded. The amount of NFC of the 56 contracted projects amounted to 19,154,876.07 EUR.

A total of 55 projects were in progress during the reviewed period; 1 project (Secondary vocational school, Szőlészeti és Gyümölcstermesztő szakközépiskola, Viničky) stated February 2011 as the date of commencement of the implementation of its project activities.

3. Call **OPV-2009/1.2/01-SORO** for the submission of AfNFC under measure 1.2: Higher Education Institutions and Research and Development as Driving Forces for the Development of a Knowledge-based Society entitled “*Promoting Innovative Forms of Education at HEIs and Human Resources Development in Research and Development*” was published on 18 June 2009. The closing date for the call was 24 August 2009. More detailed information on this call and the process of approval is provided in the AR for 2009.

During the reported period, the process of contracting was held and as at 31 December 2010, under call OPV-2009/1.2/01-SORO, 38 projects were contracted with the total amount of NFC of 28,421,879.38 EUR.

More detailed information concerning the monitoring of the priority axis 1 implementation development is provided in Table 28.

Table 28: Monitoring of priority axis 1 implementation development as at 31 December 2010

Measure	AfNFC received	AfNFC rejected	AfNFC approved	Projects contracted	Projects in progress	Projects completed
1.1	1,019	652	367	353	352	11
1.2	52	14	38	38	38	0
Total	1,071	666	405	391	390	11
Financial quantification of SF/CF and SB in €						

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Priority Axis	Amount of contribution (NFC) requested	Amount of requested contribution rejected (NFC)	Amount of contribution approved (NFC)	Amount of funds contracted	Amount of funds reclaimed	Amount of projects completed
1.1	330,563,501.53	122,206,055.80	208,357,445.73	151,139,515.74	18,115,629.19	0.00
1.2	38,449,928.60	10,007,111.26	28,442,817.34	28,421,879.38	422,304.09	0.00
Total	369,013,430.13	132,213,167.06	236,800,263.07	179,561,395.12	18,537,933.28	0.00

Source: MA

As at 31 December 2010, a total of **18** calls with a total allocation of **326,912,849.07 EUR** were published under priority axis 1. Two of these calls were cancelled, namely 2 notices for measure 1.1 (OPV/K/NP/2009-4, OPV/K/NP/2009-5).

As at 31 December 2010, a total of **1,071** AfNFC were received under priority axis 1. The amount of financial contribution of requested NFC was **369,013,430.13 EUR**. Of that number, **666** AfNFC were rejected in the total amount of the rejected contributions was **120,158,047.48 EUR** (the amount of rejected contributions for approved AfNFC was 12,055,119.58 EUR) and **405** AfNFC with a total amount of approved contribution of **236,800,263.07 EUR** were approved.

Under priority axis 1, as at 31 December 2010, a total of **391** projects were contracted with the total amount of contracted funds of **179,561,395.12 EUR** (this data does not cover prematurely terminated projects in the form of withdrawals from the Agreement for the provision of NFC) of which 390 projects are in progress and 11 projects were prematurely terminated due to withdrawal from the Agreement by the Beneficiary (9 demand-driven projects) and by the MA (2 national projects). Under priority axis 1, from 1 January to 31 December 2010, a total of 399 projects were in progress and as at 31 December 2010 a total of 390 projects were in progress.

During the reported period, the implementation of the following 9 national projects was in progress under priority axis 1 (measure 1.1 only) and as at 31 December 2010, a total of 7 national projects were in progress:

1. *Education of Primary School Teachers in Foreign Languages in Connection with the White Paper for Teaching Foreign Languages at Primary and Secondary Schools* (OPV/K/NP/2008-1);
2. *Modernisation of the Education Process at Primary Schools* (OPV/K/NP/2008-3);
3. *Modernisation of the Education Process at Secondary Schools* (OPV/K/NP/2008-4);
4. *Teacher Education with Regard to Developing School Education Programmes* (OPV/K/NP/2008-5);
5. *Developing New Vocational Education Programmes for the Needs of the automobile Industry II* (OPV/K/NP/2008-6) – this project was prematurely finished due to the withdrawal from the Agreement with effect as of 22 September 2010. The withdrawal by the MA was due to findings of shortcomings in project implementation by the Beneficiary (violation of commitments arising from subject and time-related implementation of project activities, which led to the failure to fulfil the measurable indicators and objectives of the project. The Beneficiary failed to adopt remedy measures for the shortcomings identified during the on-the-spot check pursuant to the Report from the on-the-spot check);
6. *Education of Nursery School Teaching Staff as a Component of Education Reform* (OPV/K/NP/2008-7);

7. ***External Evaluation of School Quality Promoting Self-Evaluation Processes and School Development,***
(OPV/K/NP/2009-1);
8. ***Digitalisation of the Content of National Education Programmes for Primary and Secondary Schools***
(OPV/K/NP/2009-7) – this project was prematurely finished due to withdrawal from the Agreement with effect as of 10 December 2010. The withdrawal by the MA was due to the motion of the Beneficiary to withdraw from the Agreement on the provision of NFC due to unpredictable circumstances related to the Beneficiary which essentially changes the terms and conditions for the discharge of the Agreement for the provision of NFC;
9. ***Evaluation of the Quality of Education at Elementary and Secondary Schools in the Context of the Content Reform of the Education in progress*** (OPV/K/NP/2010-1).

More detailed information on national projects in progress is provided in Table 29 up to Table 34.

Table 29: State of national project implementation as at 31 December 2010

Project title:	Education of Primary School Teachers in Foreign Languages in Connection with the White Paper for Teaching Foreign Languages at Primary and Secondary Schools
Basis for national / regional policy:	The White Paper for Teaching Foreign Languages and Primary and Secondary Schools, approved by the SR Government on 12 September 2007 in SR Government Resolution No. 767/2007
Project objective:	The project objective is to achieve 100% representation of 1 st grade primary school teachers qualified to teach a foreign language for the target group of pupils of younger school age, in the long-term planning horizon.
Beneficiary:	State Pedagogical Institute
Project implementation period:	16 September 2008 – 15 September 2013
State of implementation for the period monitored:	<p>The following educational activities were carried out during the reported period:</p> <p>1.1: Provision of complementary training for qualified teachers of the 1st level of ES with FL 0/A1 SERR to A2 SERR levels;</p> <p>1.2: Provision of complementary training for qualified teachers of the 1st level of ES with FL A2 SERR to B2 SERR levels;</p> <p>1.3: Provision of complementary training for qualified teachers of the 1st level of ES for professional teacher training in FL;</p> <p>2.1: Provision of extending teacher training in FL of the 2nd level of ES by pedag.-psychol. essentials for the teaching of FL; and</p> <p>2.2: Provision of extending teacher training in FL of the 2nd level of ES by didactics of teaching FL for the 1st level of ES.</p> <p>The activities were implemented by October 2010 with the aim to finish the summer semester. Testing and the overall diagnostics of participants were carried out in November and December.</p> <p>The MA identified non-eligible expenditures regarding incorrect procedures in public procurement, the subject of which were “Educational services for the foreign language project”. Activities will be funded from the state budget.</p>
State of implementation since the commencement of the project's implementation:	<p>Affirmation on the commencement of the project -16 September 2008. Notification on the commencement of the first activity implementation - 16 September 2008. On 16 September 2008, the Agreement on the provision of NFC was signed. On 17-19 October 2008 – a coordination meeting in Piešťany (compiling the list of education places, the division of participants, the designing of the public procurement criteria, organisational instructions) took place. 21 November 2008 – information campaign in the form of a conference, presenting the project and its objectives. 16 December 2008 – meeting of the expert team. 17 December 2008 - ceremonial opening of the project office. 15 January 2009 - programmes (activity 1.4., 2.3.) were sent for accreditation. Activities completed by August 2009. In 2009, educational activities commenced for participants in the summer semester which ran from 13 March 2009 to 30 June 2009. During this semester, the education of the largest group of participants began in all offered languages (language level</p>

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	A0/A1) – English, German, French, Italian, Spanish, Russian. They were educated at 115 educational centres throughout Slovakia with 15 universities serving as the expert guarantors. Subsequently, by the end of the semester in June 2009 a survey in the form of questionnaires was conducted. In June 2009, individual activities are implemented within the framework of preparation of the national testing of participants, which will be carried out according to the project timetable. In October 2009, training for the testing team members, who are the authors of the items, was carried out. In December 2009, training for the testing team was held in Paris at the headquarters of CIEP, who will process and evaluate the data. The commencement of the winter semester of the 2009/2010 academic year was originally planned for 26 October 2009, but eventually was postponed to November 2009 according to the possibilities of individual universities. Education is carried out at several language levels. In November 2009, textbooks were distributed to the participants. In October and November 2009, notebooks were distributed to the participants. Working meetings of managing team were held on a regular basis. Public procurement for the provision of educational services was postponed in compliance with the standpoint of the Office for Public Procurement, and a call was repeated. Framework agreements signed by 16 November 2009. Public procurement for technical provision was completed by the signing of the contract and the issuing of the order. During 2010, activities as indicated above in section “State of Implementation for Monitored Period” were taking place. From the commencement of the project implementation up to 31 December 2010, the Beneficiary submitted 8 quarterly Monitoring reports.
Budget in €:	15,027,135.70 EUR (Objective C)
Financial implementation / drawing in € for the period monitored:	5,674,923.01 EUR (Objective C)
Financial implementation / drawing in € in cumulative terms from the commencement of the programming period	5,951,539.22 EUR (Objective C)
Fulfilment of indicators for the period monitored:	Outcome indicators (anticipated state /actual state) Number of newly designed/innovated education and study programmes 3/3 Number of schools engaged in project activities implementation 1,950 / 1,638 Number of staff engaged in project activities implementation 4,500 / 4,409 Number of staff engaged in mobility programmes 160 / 0 – it will only be possible to fulfil this indicator by the end of the project implementation Number of electronic services introduced 3 / 3
Fulfilment of indicators in cumulative terms from the commencement of the programming period	Outcome indicators (anticipated values/ attained values) Number of newly designed/innovated education and study programmes 3/3 Number of schools engaged in project activities implementation 530/1,052 Number of staff engaged in project educational activities implementation 1,301/1,320 Number of staff engaged in mobility programmes 160/0 Number of electronic services introduced 3/3

Source: MA

Table 30: State of national project implementation as at 31 December 2010

Project title:	Modernisation of the Education Process at Primary Schools
Basis for national / regional policy:	The Bill on upbringing and education (the Education Act) and on the amendment of certain acts, approved in SR Government Resolution No 147/2008 of 5 March 2008. The act entered into effect on 1 September 2008.
Project objective:	The project objective is to prepare teachers for active implementation of education reform – adapting the education system to the needs of a knowledge-based society.
Beneficiary:	Institute of Education Information & Forecasting
Project implementation	1 December 2008– 30 November 2013
State of implementation for the period monitored:	In 2010, multimedia – digital content for all educational Modules was created under the project implementation. The digital library was opened for access for project participants at the project portal, which holds all study materials. Content was finalized and participants obtained textbooks and teaching aids for Module 1, Module 2 and Module 3. Within the framework of Module 3 a total of 9 of the 10 methodological textbooks were published for

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	individual subjects (the chemistry textbook was not approved and intensive work is being carried out for its completion). In 19 training centres throughout Slovakia, the education of participants was completed within Module 1. 40% of the participants should have been trained in 2010 within Module 2 and Module 3. Because of delay, less than 40% of the participants were trained on time and the training will not be finished on time. This issue is being resolved, and based on the request of the Beneficiary for a change in the Rider to the Agreement on NFC, it will incorporate the delay in training.
State of implementation from the commencement of the project's implementation:	<p>On 1 December 2008, the Agreement on the provision of NFC was signed. The Beneficiary submitted the Affirmation of the project commencement and the Notification of the commencement of the first activity implementation on 1 December 2008 (Activity 2.2 and Preparing of public tender terms and conditions for Public Procurement for the purchase of computing technology and related services under the Activity).</p> <p>Project implementation took place through 4 basic activities, namely:</p> <p>Activity 1.1: Multimedia – digital content for teacher training for modernising education - Multimedia content was created for all educational modules (Module 1, Module 2, Module 3). The digital library with all study materials was opened for access to all participants at the project portal.</p> <p>Activity 1.2: Design of textbooks and teaching aids for teachers for modernising education - Under this activity the content was finalized and participants received textbooks and teaching aids for Module 1, Module 2 and Module 3. Under Module 3, a total of 9 of 10 textbook were published for individual subjects. The chemistry textbook was not approved in the form submitted and because of that intensive work is being carried out for its completion.</p> <p>Activity 2.1: Teacher training in the area of modernising the educational process on the basis of the use of ICT - Activity 2.1. incorporates:</p> <p><u>Module 1</u> - “Digital literacy”</p> <p><u>Module 2</u> - “Modern teaching technology in the work of the teacher”</p> <p><u>Module 3</u> - “Use of ICT in the given subject”.</p> <p>From April 2009 to August 2009, schools and teachers enrolled in the project. The participants were trained in 19 training centres throughout Slovakia. The training under Module 1 was completed in February 2011 with a two month delay in comparison with the timetable. In 2010, the first phase of training began in compliance with the teacher training plan in individual years under Module 2 and Module 3. In this phase, 40% of the participants engaged in the project should have been trained in 2010. This objective was not fulfilled by the required deadline; in fact by the end of 2010 only 39.95% of the participants were trained under Module 2 and 29.60% were trained under Module 3. Training will be completed with a slight delay.</p> <p>Activity 2.2.: Provision of technological means for modernising education. In connection with this activity, on 17 December 2009, public procurement for the purchase of computing technology and related services was publicized in the Public Procurement Bulletin. Because of the request for remedy of 21 January 2009, which was submitted to the Beneficiary by an interested party because of the impossibility of complying with one of the terms of the public procurement, the expert team for public procurement decided to cancel the tender and prepare new terms and conditions. These were processed and based on a new notification on public procurement that was publicized in the bulletin. The new tender was successfully completed in December 2009.</p> <p>All PCs, notebooks and data-projectors were distributed to the schools. From the commencement of project implementation up to 31 December 2010, the Beneficiary submitted 8 quarterly Monitoring reports. Monitoring report No. 8 was submitted through the ITMS public portal.</p>
Budget in €:	32,395,334.86EUR (Objective C)
Financial implementation / drawing in € for the period monitored:	13,172,390.93 EUR (Objective C)
Financial implementation / drawing in € in cumulative terms from the commencement of the programming period	13,186,499.73 EUR (Objective C)
Fulfilment of indicators for	Result indicators (planned state / actual state)

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the period monitored:	<p>Number of newly-designed education programmes – 10/0</p> <p>Number of schools involved in the implementation of project activities – 1960/0</p> <p>Number of training courses for teaching staff – 306/0*</p> <p>Number of staff involved in the project's education activities – 3670/4</p> <p>Number of newly-designed / innovated education programmes using information-communication technologies in the teaching process – 10/0</p> <p>Number of schools involved in the implementation of the project's activities using information-communication technologies in the teaching process – 1960/0</p> <p>Number of teaching staff involved in the project's activities using information-communication technologies in the teaching process – 3670/0</p> <p>Number of schools involved in the implementation of the project activities containing pupils from marginalised Roma communities – 500/83</p> <p>*In the project design regarding the establishment of anticipated values for measurable indicators, the Beneficiary understood the term: "number of training courses" – as the number of groups created, in which individual participants will be included and who, within the framework of one group, will undertake several courses during the project implementation (courses for Module 1, Module 2, Module 3). The values for individual measurable indicators were anticipated according to such understood terminology. In the submitted monitoring reports 1-7, under the physical indicator "Number of training courses for teaching staff" the Beneficiary incorrectly showed the number of all courses carried out in education separately for Module 1, Module 2 and Module 3, not the number of groups created. The actual number of courses in monitoring report 8 exceeded the limit of 250% of the physical indicator, which led to the re-evaluation of the accuracy of reporting of the aforementioned indicator. Due to the aforementioned reasons, upon correcting the data in Monitoring report 8, the value of the relevant indicator was reduced by 175 training courses in comparison to the value reported in the previous monitoring report. Because of incorrect method of reporting, the growth in the outcome indicator "Number of training courses for teaching staff" in monitoring reports 1-7 for 2010 cannot be determined.</p>
Fulfilment of indicators in cumulative terms from the commencement of the programming period	<p>Outcome indicators (anticipated state / actual state)</p> <p>Number of newly-designed education programmes – 10/10</p> <p>Number of schools involved in the implementation of project activities – 1960/2032</p> <p>Number of training courses for teaching staff – 306/392</p> <p>Number of staff involved in the project's education activities – 3670/4309</p> <p>Number of newly-designed / innovated education programmes using information-communication technologies in the teaching process – 10/10</p> <p>Number of schools involved in the implementation of the project's activities using information-communication technologies in the teaching process – 1960/2032</p> <p>Number of teaching staff involved in the project's activities using information-communication technologies in the teaching process – 3670/4309</p> <p>Number of schools involved in the implementation of the project activities containing pupils from marginalised Roma communities – 500/1209</p>

Source: MA

Table 31: State of national project implementation as at 31 December 2010

Project title:	Modernisation of the Education Process at Secondary Schools
Basis for national / regional policy:	The national project was prepared in connection with the Bill on upbringing and education (the Education Act) and on the amendment of certain acts, approved in SR Government Resolution No 147/2008 of 5 March 2008. The objective of the national project is to change the forms of education at secondary schools, which will lead to the modernisation of the learning process.
Project objective:	<p>Rework the content of the secondary school curriculum and prepare school leavers by means of innovated learning/teaching forms and methods for the current and prospective needs of a knowledge-based society, as well as for follow-up education in the system of tertiary education and further education.</p> <p>Prepare teachers for active implementation of education reform – adapting the education system to the needs of a knowledge-based society.</p> <p>Innovate and modernise the content, methods and outputs of the learning process for new competences of work in a Modern School of the 21st Century.</p> <p>Increase the share of teachers participating in further education programmes with the aim of gaining and developing competences necessary for a knowledge-based society.</p>
Beneficiary:	Institute of Education Information & Forecasting
Project implementation period:	2 December 2008 – 30 November 2013

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State of implementation for the period monitored:	<p>In 2010, the following activities were implemented: Activity 1.1: Multimedia – digital content for teacher training for modernising education. During the reported period, multimedia – digital content was created for Module 1 “digital literacy of teacher”, Module 2 “Modern teaching technology in the work of the teacher” and Module 3 “Use of ICT in the given subject” for all 7 subjects (mathematics, physics, chemistry, biology, geography, Slovak, history). This activity is in compliance with the planned project state. The digital library with all study materials for all participants was opened for access at the project portal.</p> <p>Activity 1.2: Design of textbooks and teaching aids for teachers for modernising education. During the reported period, textbooks and teaching aids were created and handed over to the participants for Module 1, Module 2 and Module 3) in compliance with the planned education activities. During this period, all 8 textbooks were completed for Module 3. This activity is in compliance with the anticipated project state.</p> <p>Activity 2.1 Teacher training in the area of the modernising of the educational process through the use of ICT</p> <p>Activity 2.1 incorporates:</p> <p>Module 1 “digital literacy of teacher”,</p> <p>Module 2 “Modern teaching technology in the work of the teacher”</p> <p>Module 3 “Use of ICT in the given subject”</p> <p>Under Module 1, teacher training was completed during the reviewed period and in compliance with the project plan, 100% of the participants were trained. Under Module 2 and Module 3, only 40% of the participants were expected to be trained. Because of the delay, less than 40% of the participants were trained and training will be completed with a slight delay. This issue is being resolved, and based on the request of the Beneficiary for a change in the Rider to the Agreement on NFC., it will be drawn up to incorporate the delay in training. 19 training centres throughout Slovakia are used for the training of participants.</p>
State of implementation from the commencement of the project's implementation:	<p>On 2 December 2008, the Agreement on the provision of NFC was signed. On 2 December 2008, the Beneficiary submitted the Affirmation on the commencement of the project and the Notification on the commencement of the first project activity (Activity 2.2 and Preparation of tender terms of competition for the Public procurement for the purchase of computing technology and services related under the Activity). The project was implemented through 4 basic activities, namely:</p> <p>Activity 1.1: Multimedia – digital content for teacher training for modernising education. (1 April 2009 – in progress). During the reported period, the multimedia – digital content was created for Module 1 “digital literacy of the teacher”, Module 2 “Modern teaching technology in the work of the teacher” and Module 3 “Use of ICT in the given subject” for all 7 subjects (mathematics, physics, chemistry, biology, geography, Slovak, history). The activity is in compliance with the anticipated project state. The digital library with all study materials for all participants was opened for access at the project portal.</p> <p>Activity 1.2: Design of textbooks and teaching aids for teachers for modernising education. During the reported period, textbooks and teaching aids were created and handed over to the participants for Module 1, Module 2 and Module 3) in compliance with the education planned activities. During this period, all 8 textbooks were completed for Module 3. The activity is in compliance with the anticipated project state.</p> <p>Activity 2.1: “Teacher training in the area of modernising the educational process on the basis of the use of ICT” (1 October 2009 – in progress) incorporates:</p> <p>Module 1 “digital literacy of teacher”,</p> <p>Module 2 “Modern teaching technology in the work of the teacher”</p> <p>Module 3 “Use of ICT in the given subject”</p> <p>From April 2009 to August 2009, the schools and teachers were enrolled in the project. Under Module 1, teacher training was completed during the reviewed period according to the project timetable. Under Module 2 and Module 3, 40% of participants were expected to be trained. However, due to delays, not all 40% of participants were trained; training will be completed with a slight delay. This issue is being resolved, and based on the request of the Beneficiary for a change the Rider to the Agreement on NFC, it will be drawn up to incorporate the delay in training.</p> <p>Activity 2.2: Provision of technological means for modernising education (1 December 2008- 31 December 2009). The activity was completed in December 2009. Since the commencement of the project implementation on 31 December 2009, the Beneficiary has submitted 8 quarterly Monitoring reports.</p>
Budget in €:	12,733,347.87 EUR (Objective C)
Financial implementation / drawing in € for the period monitored:	5,177,412.86 EUR (Objective C)

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Financial implementation / drawing in € in cumulative terms from the commencement of the programming period	5,187,328.21 EUR (Objective C)
Fulfilment of indicators for the period monitored:	<p>Outcome indicators (anticipated state / actual state)</p> <p>Number of newly-designed education programmes – 7/7</p> <p>Number of schools involved in the implementation of the project's activities – 665 / 0</p> <p>Number of training courses for teaching staff – 130 / 2</p> <p>Number of staff involved in the project's education activities – 1,560/4</p> <p>Number of newly-designed / innovated education programmes using information-communication technologies in the teaching process – 7 / 0</p> <p>Number of schools involved in the implementation of the project activities using information-communication technologies in the teaching process – 665 / 0</p> <p>Number of teaching staff involved in the implementation of the project activities using information-communication technologies in the teaching process – 1,560 / 4</p> <p>Number of schools involved in the implementation of the project's activities having pupils from marginalised Roma communities – 200 / 46</p>
Fulfilment of indicators in cumulative terms from the commencement of the programming period	<p>Outcome indicators (anticipated state / actual state)</p> <p>Number of newly-designed education programmes – 7/7</p> <p>Number of schools involved in the implementation of the project's activities – 665 / 687</p> <p>Number of training courses for teaching staff – 130 / 174</p> <p>Number of staff involved in the project's education activities – 1,560/1,844</p> <p>Number of newly-designed / innovated education programmes using information-communication technologies in the teaching process – 7 / 7</p> <p>Number of schools involved in the implementation of the project activities using information-communication technologies in the teaching process – 665 / 687</p> <p>Number of teaching staff involved in the implementation of the project activities using information-communication technologies in the teaching process – 1,560 / 1,844</p> <p>Number of schools involved in the implementation of the project's activities having pupils from marginalised Roma communities – 200 / 361</p>

Source: MA

Table 32: State of national project implementation as at 31 December 2010

Project title:	Teacher Education with Regard to Developing School Education Programmes
Basis for national / regional policy:	<p>On 22 May 2008, the SR Parliament passed the Education Act which entered into effect on 1 September 2008 and replaced the original Education Act of 1984. On 19 June 2008, following the signing of the Education Act by the SR President, the national education programmes for individual levels of the education system and the related school education programmes and the methodology for their creation were approved. The schools could officially begin to prepare their own school education programmes. In August 2008, 13 decrees concerning the Education Act entered into effect. They are effective as of 1 September 2008. On 1 September 2008 the schools began to teach according to their own school education programmes in the first and fifth years of primary school and in the first year of secondary school, primary art school and language school.</p> <p>The creation of school education programmes at the school level constitutes education content reform. The training activities of the project also include the implementation of the further training of teaching staff for acquiring and developing competences ensuring the efficient conversion of a traditional school to a modern school.</p> <p>The training activities and the methodological activity within the project will lead to the innovation of educational content and methods at schools and increase the quality of education outputs at schools, since the objective is to educate with a view to labour market needs in a knowledge-based society.</p>
Project objective:	Nationwide retraining and education of primary and secondary school teaching staff for implementing reform in educational content and creating new school education programmes.
Beneficiary:	State Institute of Vocational Training
Project implementation period:	2 January 2009 – 31 August 2012
State of implementation for	In 2010, the following activities were implemented: Activity 2.1: Preparation, updating and

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the period monitored:	<p>evaluation of an education programme (courses) – the decisions of the MoESRS SR on 4 educational programmes for courses of multipliers of continuous education were issued. At the same time, the decisions of the MoESRS SR on the accreditation of 4 educational programmes for courses of participants of continuous education were issued. It is necessary to ensure public procurement for the fulfilment of this activity in order to supply training and promotional materials, which in 2010 was not carried out. Under activity: 2.2 Provision of education programme (courses) 132 multipliers were trained in 2010. Activity 3.1: Design of the content, production/publishing and distribution of the teachers' newspaper —Učitel'ské Noviny – in the second half of the 2009/2010 academic year, the publishing of Učitel'ské Noviny was in compliance with the project description. However, from September 2010, the MA granted written exceptions to the Beneficiary for the extraordinary timetable for publishing Učitel'ské Noviny in connection with the withdrawal from the agreement with the editorial staff of Učitel'ské Noviny. In 2010, public procurement for the new editorial staff of Učitel'ské Noviny was not completed. Concerning the distribution of Učitel'ské Noviny, government audit No. A310 stated that copies of Učitel'ské Noviny were also distributed to persons and organizations which are not part of the objective of national project or target group.</p> <p>Activity 3.2: Design of the content, production/publishing and distribution of a multimedia education DVD – in 2010, the Beneficiary completed the preparation of scripts for the 1st series of educational DVDs. The preparation of the selection of technical issues of scripts for the 2nd series is in progress. By the end of 2010, the market survey was supplied regarding the establishment of the anticipated value of the order for the 4th series of the DVD. In order to fulfil this activity, public procurement for graphic design, print and copying media must be provided.</p> <p>Activity 3.3: Design of the content for programming and moderating of the eLearning portal – in 2010 the preparation of a market survey began for the programming and e-learning portal service which will launch the process of distant education in 2011.</p> <p>Justification of lower drawing of national project:</p> <p>1/ Government audit No. A 310, which implemented the control of the relevant project, found out that subscribers who are not part of target group pursuant to detailed project description were incorporated in the distribution list. As a result, the MA lowered the number of eligible subscribers, which also had impact on the amount of eligible expenditures for the printing and distribution of Učitel'ské Noviny.</p> <p>2/ Beneficiary submitted to the MA documentation concerning withdrawal from the contract for work done for editing services in connection with the conclusions of the legal analysis. The outcome of the legal analysis was the statement that the editor-in-chief of the Editorial Board of Učitel'ské Noviny is not the person who would be authorized to act regarding Contract on work done. As a result, the MA proceeded to reduce expenditures for editing services in the full amount.</p> <p>In connection with the withdrawal from the contract for work done, the change in the periodicity of publishing Učitel'ské Noviny occurred and the Beneficiary prepared a new public tender for the supplier of editing services.</p>
State of implementation from the commencement of the project's implementation:	<p>On 2 January 2009, the Agreement on the provision of NFC was signed and the Beneficiary submitted the Affirmation on the commencement of the project and the Notification on commencement of the first project activity. 1.1: Design and progressive supplementing, or changes within the design team (internal and external workers, suppliers) – the project steering committee, the coordination, expert and training team.</p> <p>Activity 1.2: the work of expert working groups – expert working groups work on expert topics (e.g., interactive teaching methods, methods and means of evaluation, principles and approaches to continuity in teaching at primary and secondary schools, etc), solve key tasks and problems with regard to the reworking of educational content. They create methodological material of a fundamental nature, the purpose of which is to assist teachers in creating school education programmes, modernising and innovating textbook contents and teaching aids, applying new forms and methods of education, educational methods in connection with the labour market, efficiently developing key competences, encouraging innovative methods and forms of further education of the teaching staff, support for the personal development of teachers, etc.</p> <p>Activity 2.1: Preparation, updating and evaluation of educational programmes (courses) – the preparation, updating and evaluation of educational programmes is based on three stages of implementation: Structuring the educational programme for continuous education (the entire educational programme is based on a modular arrangement of education. Courses were specified; 3 modules were proposed; covering of the educational content used by the Beneficiary as a key pillar in relation to the creation of school education programmes. Educational outputs, recommended teaching aids, procedures and methods for</p>

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	<p>the lecturer and participant, criteria, methods and aids of evaluation were also laid down.) the creation of teaching material for future lecturers and teachers, further education of teaching staff (The basis for the creation will be formed by individual courses and modules of the structured education programme. A detailed “Methodology for Creating Educational Programmes for Primary Schools”, “Methodology for Creating Education Programmes for Secondary Schools” and “Methodology for Creating Education Programmes for Secondary Vocational Schools” has been developed, which will serve as teaching material for participants, as well as training lecturers) and the creation of on-line courses and teaching material for distance learning (on-line courses).</p> <p>Activity 2.2: Provision of educational programmes (courses) – in the provision of educational programmes, Convergence Objective, the Beneficiary is planning to implement the courses from April 2010 onward. This activity will be implemented in the following stages: Continuous education of multipliers, continuous education of teaching staff and distance education of teaching staff. For the Convergence Objective, 6000 teaching staff will be trained in the final stage. Activity 3.1: Design of the content, production/publishing and distribution of the teachers’ newspaper Učiteľské Noviny – a bi-weekly newspaper. Activity 3.2: Creation of the content, production/publishing and distribution of a multimedia education DVD – work is under way on a multimedia education DVD. It is intended to transfer knowledge from the field of education and vocational training and promote the research & development results from the pedagogical aspect at primary and secondary schools, placing emphasis on the principles of lifelong learning. Activity 3.3: Creation of the content for the programming and moderating of the eLearning portal – work is under way on the eLearning portal. It will serve as a space for intermediating information, trends and stimuli for raising the quality of the teaching/learning process and the further education of the teaching staff, for exchanging experience and creativity in the form of exchanging ideas, information, good practice, experience, solutions to problematic tasks.</p> <p>From the commencement of the project implementation up to 31 December 2010, the Beneficiary submitted 7 quarterly Monitoring reports.</p>
Budget in €:	5,098,752.75 EUR (Objective C)
Financial implementation / drawing in € for the period monitored:	317,979.39 EUR (Objective C)
Financial implementation / drawing in € in cumulative terms from the commencement of the programming period	317,979.39 EUR (Objective C)
Fulfilment of indicators for the period monitored:	<p>Outcome indicators (planned state / actual state)</p> <p>Number of schools involved in the implementation of the project activities – 1,500 / 132</p> <p>Number of staff involved in the project education activities – 6,000 / 132</p> <p>Number of training courses for teaching staff – 220/21</p> <p>Number of schools involved in the implementation of the project activities having pupils from marginalised Roma communities – 150 / 26</p>
Fulfilment of indicators in cumulative terms from the commencement of the programming period	<p>Outcome indicators (planned state / actual state)</p> <p>Number of schools involved in the implementation of the project activities – 1,500 / 132</p> <p>Number of staff involved in the project education activities – 6,000 / 132</p> <p>Number of training courses for teaching staff – 220/21</p> <p>Number of schools involved in the implementation of the project activities having pupils from marginalised Roma communities – 150 / 26</p>

Source: MA

Table 33: State of national project implementation as at 31 December 2010

Project title:	Education of Nursery School Teaching Staff as a Component Education Reform
Basis for national / regional policy:	Act No. 245/2008 on upbringing and education (Education Act) and on the amendment of certain acts
Project objective:	Implement education content reform and develop a system of lifelong learning focused on developing nursery teachers’ key competences in accordance with the needs of a knowledge-based society. Focus the preparation and further education of teaching staff on acquiring and developing competences to transform a traditional school into a modern

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	school; Innovate the content and methods, raise the quality of educational outputs for the labour market needs in a knowledge-based society.
Beneficiary:	Methodological-Pedagogical Centre
Project implementation period:	1 May 2009-30 April 2013
State of implementation for the period monitored:	<p>As at 31 December 2010, a total of 4 monitoring reports were submitted and the following activities were implemented:</p> <p>Activity 1.1: Training of the management and professional staff of central and general government. The Beneficiary applied for a postponement in the schedule for this activity from 15 March 2010. Within the framework of this activity, training of the nursery school staff, i.e., the management and expert staff, is withheld cumulatively in all regions of the SR. Implementation began on 15 March 2010, the end of implementation is planned for 31 January 2013. Training is implemented in the form of 5 educational programmes with a total length of 260 hours, where the management and expert staff of state and public administration will be accrediting in educational programmes implemented in the form of personal participation in study groups from 15 to 30 participants. Despite the fact that the implementation of the activity was postponed due to time-operation reasons, the timely completion of technical documents necessary for the instruction and training of management and expert staff of state and public administration was successful. Namely it is the material entitled "School Management: and "Content Reform for Managerial Pedagogical Staff".</p> <p>Activity 1.2: Training of nursery school teaching staff has been running since 10/2009. In third monitoring period of 2010 under this activity, a meeting of experts for content of the educational programme "Innovations in Didactics for Primary Education Teachers" was organized and text for the educational activity entitled "Content Reform in Nursery Schools" was created.</p> <p>Activity 1.3: The education portal has been running since 10/2009. It is a tool for distant form of training of participants whose completion is planned for 30 April 2013. By the end of 2010, the introductory site of educational portal was designed and part of educational portal was launched at: www.mat.iedu.sk.</p> <p>Activity 2.1: Development of education material has been running since 10/2009; under this activity, the preparation for the public tender for item 5.4.2., the processing of educational material in digital form and item 5.4.3. – the processing of educational material in print form in progress. Completion of this activity is planned for 31 December 2012.</p> <p>Activity 2.2: Professional stays and excursions (The Beneficiary applied for a postponement in the schedule for this activity from 15 March 2010) Since the given period, the material entitled "Občina svety Ilija", was prepared by Paed. Eva Bruteničová, who also processed written documents in Slovak and Croatian for the necessary implementation of the expert study stay with the partner – the Republic of Croatia in cooperation with the Embassy of the Republic of Croatia in Bratislava and the partnership agreement on implementing national project was signed.</p> <p>Activity 2.3: Professional seminars and conferences (The Beneficiary applied for a postponement in the schedule for this activity from 15 March 2010);</p> <p>Activity 2.4: Equipment and provision for the project has been running since 10/2009. Pilot education within the framework of the programme Digital Technologies in Nursery Schools was launched. Activity implementation is in progress. The aim of fulfilment of the functionality of the given activity is the provision of computing and teaching technology to participants to help develop the key competences of teachers.</p>
State of implementation from the commencement of the project's implementation:	<p>On 29 April 2009, the Agreement on provision of NFC was signed and on 1 May 2009 the Beneficiary submitted the Affirmation on the commencement of the project and the Notification of the commencement of the first project activity: Design of educational material – processing of analysis of practice requirements. Further activities were implemented as follows: Activity 1.1: Training of the management and professional staff of central and general government. The Beneficiary applied for a postponement in the schedule for this activity from 15 March 2010. Activity 1.2: Education of nursery teaching staff has been running since 10/2009.</p> <p>Within this activity the training of nursery school staff in order to develop professional and expert competences cumulatively has commenced. It was implemented on 1 October 2009 through updated and innovation training in three 200-hour educational programmes, in study groups of 15 to 30 participants; the end of implementation is planned for 31 January 2013. Activity 1.3: The education portal has been running since 10/2009. It is a tool for the distant training of participants in activities 1.1. and 1.2. and provides space for e-learning. Implementation of this activity began on 1 October 2009; its completion is planned for 30 April 2013. Activity 2.1: Development of education material has been running since 10/2009. Activity 2.2: Professional stays and excursions (The Beneficiary applied for a</p>

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	<p>postponement in the schedule for this activity from 15 March 2010). Activity 2.3: Professional seminars and professional conferences (The Beneficiary applied for a postponement in the schedule for this activity from 15 March 2010). Activity 2.4: Equipment and provision for the project has been running since 10/2009 in compliance with the agreement. In course of the past year envelopes were opened and bids evaluated for the supplier of the <i>equipment and provision</i>. The purchase agreement was signed with the winner, Columbex, on 20 November 2009.</p> <p>In 2010, activities took place as indicated in the Section "State of Implementation for the Monitored Period". From the commencement of implementation up to 31 December 2010 the Beneficiary submitted 7 quarterly monitoring reports.</p>
Budget in €:	18,037,603.46 EUR (Objective C)
Financial implementation / drawing in € for the period monitored:	5,849,476.73 EUR (Objective C)
Financial implementation / drawing in € in cumulative terms from the commencement of the programming period	5,854,597.44 EUR (Objective C)
Fulfilment of indicators for the period monitored:	<p>Outcome indicators (planned state / actual state)</p> <p>Number of schools involved in the implementation of the project's activities using information-communication technologies in the teaching process – 2,730 / 2,719</p> <p>Number of teaching staff involved in project activities using information-communication technologies in the teaching process – 10,000 / 797</p> <p>Number of newly-designed / innovated education and study programmes – 7 / 6</p> <p>Number of staff involved in the project education activities – 10,000 / 1,902</p> <p>Number of innovated / newly-created teaching materials – 200 / 2</p> <p>Number of schools involved in the implementation of the project activities containing pupils coming from marginalised Roma communities – 700 / 228</p>
Fulfilment of indicators in cumulative terms from the commencement of the programming period	<p>Outcome indicators (planned state / actual state)</p> <p>Number of schools involved in the implementation of the project's activities using information-communication technologies in the teaching process – 2,730 / 2,730</p> <p>Number of teaching staff involved in project activities using information-communication technologies in the teaching process – 10,000 / 837</p> <p>Number of newly-designed / innovated education and study programmes – 7 / 7</p> <p>Number of staff involved in the project education activities – 10,000 / 1,942</p> <p>Number of innovated / newly-created teaching materials – 200 / 2</p> <p>Number of schools involved in the implementation of the project activities containing pupils coming from marginalised Roma communities – 700 / 228</p>

Source: MA

Table 34: State of national project implementation as at 31 December 2010

Project title:	External Evaluation of School Quality Promoting Self-Evaluation Processes and School Development
Basis for national / regional policy:	The National School Inspectorate was established by law on 1 January 2000. Act No 596/2003 Coll. on state administration in the school system and school self-governance and on the amendment of certain acts as later amended, sets out its competences, the content and scope of activity. SR Ministry of Education Decree of 31 March 2005 on school inspection.
Project objective:	<p>To ascertain by way of external evaluation the quality level of a school before and after the implementation of school projects funded by the ESF, and their benefit in terms of improving the school's quality.</p> <p>Develop an evaluation and self-assessment model and system for work at schools and school facilities, including its practical use.</p>
Beneficiary:	National School Inspectorate
Project implementation period:	1 October 2009 -30 September 2013
State of implementation for the period monitored:	<p>From 16 to 22 May 2010, five school inspectors participated in a mobility stay at INSPECTIE van het ONDERWIJS, partnership institution in the Netherlands.</p> <p>The acquired knowledge and assessment of Dutch criteria and indicators used for the external and internal evaluation of schools will be incorporated in new tools for the</p>

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	evaluations which will comprise a part of the comprehensive model of evaluation and self-evaluation of the work of schools and school facilities. At the same time, an 18-member group of experts was created, who are responsible for designing the model for the evaluation and self-evaluation of the work of schools and their use in practice. The model is currently under design.
State of implementation from the commencement of the project's implementation:	On 3 August 2009, the Agreement on the provision of NFC was signed. Affirmation of the commencement of project implementation: 1 October 2009. Notification on the commencement of the first project activity: 12 October 2009. In October 2009, a total of 84 school inspectors were trained. In November and December 2009, the external evaluation of 7 ES and 7 SS were carried out prior to their project implementation. In 2010, activities were implemented as indicated in the section "State of Implementation for Monitored Period".
Budget in €:	763,494.44 EUR (Objective C)
Financial implementation / drawing in € for the period monitored:	129,062.47 EUR (Objective C)
Financial implementation / drawing in € in cumulative terms from the commencement of the programming period	129,062.47 EUR (Objective C)
Fulfilment of indicators for the period monitored:	Outcome indicators (planned state / actual state) Number of staff involved in mobility programmes 5/5 Number of staff involved in the project education activities 0 Number of schools involved in the implementation of the project activities 0 * value attained in 2009 for 100%
Fulfilment of indicators in cumulative terms from the commencement of the programming period	Outcome indicators (planned state / actual state) Number of staff involved in mobility programmes 5/5 Number of staff involved in the project education activities 84/84 Number of schools involved in the implementation of the project activities 14/14

Source: MA

During the reported period, within the framework of priority axis 1, a total of 390 demand-driven projects were in progress under 6 calls for the submission of demand-driven projects. As at 31 December 2010, there were 9 withdrawals from the Agreement under demand-driven projects, of which 7 occurred during the reported period.

As at 31 December 2010, a total of 383 demand-driven projects were in progress:

Under measure 1.1

1. *Design and implementation of secondary schools development programmes promoting enhancement of quality of education in compliance with the reform to the educational system* (call OPV-2008/1.1/01-SORO) – **18** projects;

2. *Design and implementation of elementary schools development programmes promoting enhancement of quality of education in compliance with the reform to the educational system* (call OPV-2008/1.1/02-SORO) – **61** projects;

3. *Design and implementation of educational programmes for elementary schools* (call OPV-2008/1.1/03-SORO) – **139** projects (as at 31 December 2010, a total of 5 projects were prematurely terminated due to withdrawals from the Agreement);

4. *Design and implementation of educational programmes for secondary schools* (call OPV-2008/1.1/04-SORO) – **72** projects (as at 31 December 2010, at total of 3 projects were prematurely terminated due to withdrawals from the Agreement);

5. *Design and enhancement of efficiency of school educational programmes for secondary vocational schools* (call OPV-2009/1.1/05-SORO) – **55** projects (as at 31 December 2010, one project was prematurely terminated due to the withdrawal from the Agreement);

- under measure 1.2

1. *Promoting innovative forms of education at HEIs and human resources development in research and development* (call OPV-2009/1.2/01-SORO) – **38** projects.

Fulfilment of Measurable Indicators

More detailed information concerning the fulfilment of physical indicators under priority axis 1 is provided in Table 35.

Table 35: Fulfilment of physical indicators as at 31 December 2010

Indicators*		2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	Total
1. Number of newly-designed educational programmes (number)	Result achieved	0	0	58	422	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	422
	Target	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	120	N/A	120	120
	Baseline	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0
2. Number of teaching staff who completed further education programmes (number)	Result achieved	0	0	0	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0
	Target	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	5,000 0	N/A	5,000 0	500 00
	Baseline	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0
3. Number of teacher education courses (number)	Result achieved	0	0	310	587	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	587
	Target	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	15	N/A	15	15
	Baseline	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0
4. Schools that succeeded in repeated quality assessment (%)	Result achieved	0	0	0	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0
	Target	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	90	90	90	90
	Baseline	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
5. Rate of employment among secondary school leavers	Result achieved	0	0	0	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0
	Target	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	80	N/A	80	80

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(%)	Baseli ne	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0
6. Share of R&D workers involved in further education (%)	Result achieved	0	0	0	0.58 %	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0.58 %
	Target	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	30	N/A	30	30
	Baseli ne	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0
7. Number of projects promoting human resources at centres of excellence at tertiary schools and at the Slovak Academy of Sciences (number)	Result achieved	0	0	0	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0
	Target	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	20	N/A	20	20
	Baseli ne	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0
8. The rate of involvement in international research projects among R&D workers (%)	Result achieved	0	0	0	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0
	Target	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	20	N/A	20	20
	Baseli ne	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0
9. Number of development & innovation partnerships and networks supported from the OPE (number)	Result achieved	0	0	0	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0
	Target	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	30	N/A	N/A	30
	Baseli ne	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0
10.Share of tertiary schools increasing their management efficiency and management via the OPE (%)	Result achieved	0	0	0	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0
	Target	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	50	N/A	N/A	50
	Baseli ne	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0
11. Share of development and innovations partnerships and networks after completion of support from the OPE (%)	Result achieved	0	0	0	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0
	Target	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	80	N/A	N/A	80
	Baseli ne	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0
12. Share of employment among tertiary education graduates in the labour market (%)	Result achieved	0	0	0	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0
	Target	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	90	N/A	90	90
	Baseli ne	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0

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13.PISA Index (number)	Result achieved	0	0	1,464**	1,464**	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	1,464
	Target	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	1,500	N/A	1,500	1,500
	Baseline	1,462	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	1,462
14.Graduates of tertiary level of higher education (number per 1,000 capita)	Result achieved	0	2.3	2.2	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	2.2
	Target	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	12	N/A	12	12
	Baseline	8.3	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	8.3

*Detailed definitions and specific units of individual indicators are given in Annex 13.

**Data was updated based on the administrative error in the calculating indicator (in 2009, the figure 1,446 was incorrectly indicated instead of the correct figure - 464).

Source: MA/IBMA

During the reported period, Indicator No. 1: the “*Number of newly-designed educational programmes*” achieved the value of 422, which in comparison with the anticipated value of 120 comprises fulfilment at 351.6%. This growth can be explained by progress in OPE implementation in terms of time – during the reported period, 6 calls for demand-driven projects and 4 national projects were implemented, which began its implementing in 2009 at the level of the call or the aforementioned notice monitor indicator and in the majority of the relevant projects.

The failure to fulfil indicator No. 2 “*Number of teaching staff who completed further education programmes*” stems from the fact that this is an impact indicator at the project level. Because of this fact, it will only be possible to report this indicator upon the completion of the project implementation (indicator No. 2 is contracted at the project level).

The value of indicator No. 3 “*Number of teacher training courses*” is higher in comparison with the anticipated value (587). This is due to the fact that it reflects the actual need and interest in training and presentations for applicants for the provision of aid and beneficiaries. In designing the OPE in 2007, a smaller number of general training courses for teachers was considered, but upon launching the reform and amending legislation, the need to increase the volume of training programmes and their specific orientation arose.

A zero value for Indicator No. 4 “*Schools successful in repeated quality assessment*” is given because in 2009 the State School Inspectorate carried out a comprehensive inspection in a selected sample of schools and established the starting state for the quality of conditions, outcomes and management. Indicator of the outcome of schools achieved, which were successful in repeated quality assessments will be available in 2013 when a repeat assessment will be carried out at these schools.

Indicator No. 5 “*Rate of employment among secondary school leavers*” – we expect its fulfilment upon the completion of project implementation for the projects submitted under calls published in the future. During the reported period its fulfilment is reported as zero.

Indicator No. 6 “*Share of R&D workers involved in further education*” – its current fulfilment is 0.58%, which is due to the fact that measure 1.2, which was implemented via call (OPV-2009/1.2/01-SORO) during the reported period, was published in 2009, and the process of

contracting was completed in April 2010, i.e., the majority of projects were in introductory phases of implementing during this reported period. The fulfilment of this indicator value is expected in the future since the next call oriented on this measure (and contains relevant indicator) will be published on 31 December 2010

Indicator Nos. 7 “*Number of projects promoting human resources at excellence centres and at HEI and SAS*”; No. 8 “*The rate of involvement in international research projects among R&D workers*” and No. 9 “*Number of development and research partnerships and networks supported from the OPE*” have zero values due to the fact that during the reported period they have no link to the project level. Since the relevant indicators were the part of call OPV-2010/1.2/02-SORO, which was published on 31 December 2010, their fulfilment is expected upon the commencement of the implementation of the projects under the relevant call.

Indicator Nos. 10 “*Share of tertiary schools increasing their management efficiency and management via the OPE*”, No. 11 “*Share of development and innovation partnerships and networks existing after completion of the support from the OPE*” and No. 12 “*Share of employment among tertiary education graduates in the labour market*” did not have a link at the project level during the reported period. The relevant indicators were part of call OPV-2010/1.2/02-SORO, which was published on 31 December 2010; thus their fulfilment is expected upon the commencement of project implementation under the pertinent call.

The value of indicator No. 13 “*PISA Index*” is identical to the figure from 2009 due to the fact that testing necessary for the reporting value of this indicator “*PISA Index*” is carried out in three-year cycles – i.e., the figure will be available in 2012

(http://www.nucem.sk/sk/medzinarodne_merania/project/5).

Indicator No. 14 “*Tertiary degree graduates of higher education*” shows the same value as in 2009 because of the fact that the figure was not available at the Eurostat website at the time of the preparation of this report (http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/portal/page/portal/employment_social_policy_equality/education_and_training_programme/indicators) for 2010.

3.1.1.2 Financial Implementation of Priority Axis 1

More detailed information concerning drawing of funds under priority axis 1 during the reported period and cumulative drawing from the commencement of the programming period is provided in Table 36.

Table 36: Drawing of funds under priority axis 1 as at 31 December 2010

	2007-2013 Commitment for EU funds in €	Drawing of funds in 2010 (EU resources) in €		Cumulative drawing of funds (EU resources) in €	
		Total	% of 2007 – 2013 commitment	Total	% of 2007 – 2013 commitment
Priority axis 1	365,000,000.00	36,932,992.51	10.12%	38,735,141.38	10.61%
Measure 1.1	255,000,000.00	36,852,472.28	14.45%	38,654,621.15	15.16%
Measure 1.2	110,000,000.00	80,520.23	0.07%	80,520.23	0.07%

Source: MA

As at 31 December 2010, the level of actual drawing of funds under priority axis 1 was 38,735,141.38 EUR (resource ESF) which is 10.61% of the 2007-2013 commitment. In 2010, distinctive growth in the drawing of funds occurred under priority axis 1 in comparison with the previous year (0.49%) due to the fact that the number and volume of submitted and subsequently administered and approved AfP grew, particularly at the level of national and demand-driven projects, whose implementation began in 2009. The increase in the volume of contracted funds, which as at 31 December 2010 was 42.74% of the total commitment under priority axis 1 for the 2007 – 2013 programming period, is a good prequalification for continuing in the trend of the gradual growth of the drawing of funds under priority axis 1 even in the next year. In terms of commitments for individual years, the commitments from 2007 – 2009 are contractually covered and the commitment for 2011 (11.06%) is partially covered. The aforementioned volume amounts to 391 Agreements on the provision of NFC; they are in various phases of implementation. The average level of drawing of individual projects (ratio of eligible drawn funds in relation to CA to the total volume of contracted funds) as at 31 December 2010 was 24.83%, which is the highest level of drawing national and demand-driven projects among all OPE priority axes (only priority axis 5, Technical Assistance, reported a higher level of drawing) which can be classified as a positive outcome with respect to the fact that the first Agreements on the provision of NFC under measure 1.2 were signed with beneficiaries in the first half of 2010.

In terms of future drawing under the indicated priority axis 1, the legal form of the beneficiaries as well as the possible methods for financing of their projects will have to be taken into consideration. Since the majority of beneficiaries under priority axis 1 are eligible for financing through advance payments, we also expect growth in drawing in 2011, particularly via the settlement of advance payments. As at 31 December 2010, drawing via the settlement of advance payments comprised 95.34% of the total volume of eligible drawing in relation to the CA, which is the highest share of drawing via the settlement of advance payments of all OPE priority axes. In this connection, we must point out the fact that as at 31 December 2010, under priority axis 1, the MoESRS SR registered provided but not settled and not certified advance payments in the total volume of **21,329 thousand EUR** (of which ESF resources comprise the sum of **18,906 thousand EUR**). Although the provision of advance payments does not represent drawing in relation to CA or EC, these funds allow the beneficiaries to implement their projects (they are in the field with the project implementers), which will be subsequently reflected in the drawing of funds of SF upon their subsequent settlement and certification.

3.1.1.3 Specifics for ESF Programmes

Aid by Target Groups and Equality of Opportunities

More detailed information concerning the monitoring of target groups under priority axis 1 is provided in Table 37.

Table 37: Monitoring of target groups under priority axis 1 from 1 January to 31 December 2010

Breakdown of project participants						
Indicator	Calendar year 2010					
	Participants entering project		Participants leaving project		Participants carried over	
	Total	Women	Total	Women	Total	Women
Total number of participants	32,346	18,347	9,115	4,575	33,824	22,933

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<i>Breakdown of participants by position in the labour market</i>						
Employed	8,128	6,541	2,890	1,987	16,273	14,220
Self-employed	310	139	83	50	192	162
Unemployed	3	2	1	0	0	0
Long-term unemployed	2	2	0	0	0	0
Inactive persons	24,215	11,804	6,224	2,588	17,551	8,713
Students/participants of vocational training	22,154	10,694	5,683	2,356	17,325	8,315
<i>Breakdown of participants by age</i>						
Youth (15 - 24 of age)	10,115	4,986	3,639	1,381	8,969	4,073
Older persons (55 - 64 of age)	801	574	195	132	1,169	888
<i>Breakdown of participants by vulnerability in compliance with national laws</i>						
Migrants	13	9	2	2	27	15
Minorities	638	351	197	120	845	550
Disabled persons	554	257	58	25	194	95
Other disadvantaged persons	583	229	143	48	330	174
<i>Breakdown of participants by education attained</i>						
Elementary or lower secondary education (ISCED 1 and 2)	16,294	8,274	5,055	1,969	13,791	6,241
Upper secondary education (ISCED 3)	2,070	1,783	776	385	1,671	1,458
Post-secondary non-tertiary education (ISCED 4)	328	302	31	13	689	338
Tertiary education (ISCED 5 and 6)	6,845	4,279	2,421	1,810	13,343	11,963

Source: MA

More detailed information regarding the reviewed target groups is provided in chapter 2.1.8 of this report.

3.1.2 Serious Problems Encountered and Measures Taken to Overcome Them

In general, it can be stated that no serious problems occurred throughout the implementation of priority axis 1 and therefore no measures for tackling them had to be adopted (see Table 38).

Table 38: Monitoring of implementation of measures adopted for problems defined

Problems identified	Measures adopted	Measures implemented
0	0	0

Source: MA

3.2 Priority Axis 2

3.2.1 Achievement of Objectives and Analysis of Progress

The achievement of objectives and a detailed analysis of progress under priority axis 2, the aim of which is to promote the informal education and lifelong learning system, is provided in detail in chapters 3.2.1.1, 3.2.1.2 and 3.2.1.3 of the report

3.2.1.1 State of Physical Progress under Priority Axis 2

More detailed information concerning the state of publishing of calls under priority axis 2 is provided in Table 39.

Table 39: State of publishing of calls under priority axis 2 from 1 January 2010 to 31 December 2010

Measure	Type of call	Call publishing date	Closing date for receiving AfNFC	Allocation of funds per call (NFC) in €		
				Total	Of which	
					SF/CF	SB
2.1	Time limited, national project	28 May 2010	30 July 2010	9,500,000.00	8,075,000.00	1,425,000.00
2.1	Time limited, demand-driven projects	31 May 2010	2 August 2010	12,000,000.00	N/A	N/A
2.2	Time limited, demand-driven projects	30 April 2010	6 July 2010	15,000,000.00	N/A	N/A
2.2	Time limited, demand-driven projects	28 December 2010	15 April 2011	15,000,000.00	N/A	N/A
Total for priority axis 2				51,500,000.00	N/A	N/A

Source: MA

During the reported period under priority axis 2, a total of **4** calls were published, **3 were time limited calls** for demand-driven projects under measures 2.1 and 2.2 and **1 was a notice** for submission of a national project under measure 2.1.

The total allocation of the 4 published calls was **51,500,000.00 EUR**.

MA

A written notice entitled “*KomPrax - Competences for Practice*” was published on 28 May 2010 with the closing date on 30 July 2010. It was focused on the promotion of the quality of education and upbringing programmes in working with youth with the aim to prepare graduates for LL and learning, development of key competencies of youth leaders and employees working with youth with the aim to facilitate labour market entry and contribute to the recognition of competences obtained when working with youth in the field of formal education at employers.

The target groups of the written call were as follows:

- leaders in the area of working with youth;
- professional staff and volunteers working with youth;
- employees working in the area of education.

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The funds were allocated in the amount of EUR 9,500,000.00.

1 AfNFC was submitted by the Slovak Youth Institute – IUVENTA in the amount of EUR 9,478,755.42.

From 23 June 2010 to 16 July 2010 a formal accuracy assessment was conducted.

The expert assessment commenced on 27 July 2010 and was completed on 30 July 2010. The submitted AfNFC satisfied the conditions set forth by the expert assessment.

The selection and approval of the AfNFC was conducted on 2 August 2010 and the AfNFC was approved.

On 3 November 2010, the MoESRS SR sent to the successful applicant the decision approving the AfNFC.

Total funds allocated to the applicant for NFC amounted to EUR 8,071,713.27.

In terms of the approved AfNFC's contribution to the fulfilment of the HP, the AfNFC declared a contribution to the HP SD and HP IS.

The Agreement on the provision of NFC in the amount of EUR 8,071,713.27 was signed on 15 December 2010 with the project's implementation commencing on the same date Table 40 provides more detailed information on the implementation of the national project.

Table 40: State of implementation of the national project as at 31 December 2010

Project title:	KomPrax – Competences for Practice
Basis for national/regional policy:	<p>IUVENTA is a state organization that fulfils tasks in the field of the implementation of state policy with regard to children and youth in the Slovak Republic. It also ensures research tasks and educational activities and deals with information for professional staff and volunteers with young people. It actively cooperates with organizations and institutions with a similar specialization in Europe and has been involved in the preparation of cooperation projects in the area of youth policy.</p> <p>IUVENTA was established on the basis of Resolution No. 83 of the Presidium of the Slovak National Council of 15 May 1965. IUVENTA coordinates school subject "Olympiads" and advanced competitions for pupils of ES and SS published by the MoESRS SR and it procures Financial Support Programmes for Activities for Children and Young People in the SR in terms of administration.</p> <p>Upon the fulfilment of its tasks, it puts emphasis on the creation of new concepts for working with children and youth and the methodical regulation of organisations and entities that are actively involved in working with children and young people. It prepares educational and training activities for professional staff and volunteers working with children and youth at the local, regional and national levels.</p> <p>IUVENTA administratively procures the EU programme YOUTH IN ACTION which is focused on the development of international cooperation with youth and prepares training activities for applicants for the financial support from its sources. It ensures the project EURODESK that supports the development of an information network for young people in the European countries.</p>
Project objective:	<p>Support for education and upbringing programmes in working with youth with the aim to prepare the graduates for LL and learning.</p> <p>The development of key competencies of youth leaders and employees working with youth with the aim to facilitate labour market entry.</p> <p>Contribution to the recognition of competencies obtained when working with youth in the field of formal education at employers.</p>
Beneficiary:	The Slovak Youth Institute - IUVENTA
Project implementation period:	15 December 2010 – 31 December 2013
State of implementation for the monitored period:	Project activities were commenced in January 2011, therefore more detailed information will be provided in the AR for 2011.
State of implementation from the commencement of the project's implementation:	Project activities were commenced in January 2011, therefore more detailed information will be provided in the AR for 2011.
Budget in EUR:	EUR 8,071,713.27 (C Objective)
Financial implementation/drawing in EUR for the monitored period:	EUR 0.00 (C Objective)
Financial implementation/drawing in EUR	EUR 0.00 (C Objective)

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in cumulative terms from the commencement of the programming period	
Fulfilment of indicators for the monitored period:	<p>Result indicators (planned state / actual state)</p> <p>Number of defined qualifying and assessment standards 3/0</p> <p>Number of newly-designed education programmes 23 /0</p> <p>Number of target group persons involved in the supported projects, aged 15-24: 7 128/0</p> <p>Number of persons involved in the implementation of project activities 11 728/0</p> <p>Number of supported education programmes contributing to equal opportunities 2/0</p> <p>Number of publications 16/0</p> <p>Number of created local partnerships in the learning regions 7/0</p> <p>Number of employers involved in the implementation of project activities located in the region with a high concentration of MRC 10/0</p> <p>Number of electronic services introduced 1/0</p> <p>Number of participants of events determined for informing the general public 500/0</p>
Fulfilment of indicators in cumulative terms from the commencement of the programming period	<p>Result indicators (planned state / actual state)</p> <p>Number of defined qualifying and assessment standards 3/0</p> <p>Number of newly-designed education programmes 23 /0</p> <p>Number of target group persons involved in the supported projects, aged 15-24: 7 128/0</p> <p>Number of persons involved in the implementation of project activities 11 728/0</p> <p>Number of supported education programmes contributing to equal opportunities 2/0</p> <p>Number of publications 16/0</p> <p>Number of created local partnerships in the learning regions 7/0</p> <p>Number of employers involved in the implementation of project activities located in the region with a high concentration of MRC 10/0</p> <p>Number of electronic services introduced 1/0</p> <p>Number of participants of events determined for informing the general public 500/0</p>

Source: MA

IBMA ASFEU

The call for AfNFC under measure 2.1 Promoting Further Education, entitled “*Promoting Further Education in the Area of Tourism*” was declared on 31 May 2010. The closing date for the call was planned on 2 August 2010.

The financial allocation for this call amounted to EUR 12,000,000.00 and the financial contribution per AfNFC was limited to the minimum interval of EUR 300,000.00 and the maximum interval of EUR 500,000.00.

The call was focused on supporting the quality of further education with an emphasis on the development of key competences, deepening and enhancing the qualifications of staff in the area of tourist services and services related to tourism with regard to new technologies, innovation processes and their use in practice.

The target group of the call comprised persons involved in activities in the framework of further education for the sector of tourist services and services related to tourism, other than employees at risk of redundancy, low-qualified employees and unemployed.

Geographically, the call covered the whole territory of the SR except for the Bratislava self-governing region. The following eligible applicants were defined in the call: individuals and legal entities eligible to conduct business under Section 2 (2) (a) and (b) of the Commercial Code, registered on the territory of the SR, and satisfying the definition of micro, small and medium-sized entrepreneurs or large entrepreneurs.

The *de minimis* aid scheme rules apply to the projects submitted within this call, i.e., they must meet the terms and conditions and criteria of the following *de minimis* aid scheme: the scheme for the promotion of the development of modern education for the knowledge-based society as amended by Amendment No. 1 (*de minimis* aid scheme) and the rules of the Scheme for the

temporary provision of small aid in the SR during the financial and economic crises. The aid provided under this scheme is financed from funds of the SB and co-financed from the funds of the EU.

As at 2 August 2010, the total number of AfNFC received within call OPV-2010/2.1/02-SORO was 19.

The formal accuracy assessment of the AfNFC was conducted from 3 August 2010 to 3 September 2010.

16 AfNFC satisfied the conditions of the formal accuracy assessment and advanced to the expert assessment phase. The financial allocation of total eligible expenditure of those AfNFC that met the formal accuracy assessment and advanced to the expert assessment phase represent the amount of EUR 6,942,075.45; the total amount of NFC requested in these AfNFC was EUR 6,594,971.67.

The expert assessment of the AfNFC began on 6 September 2010 by means of the random selection and assignment of AfNFC to expert assessors in the presence of the MA representatives and ASFEU and was completed on 24 September 2010. In total, 16 AfNFC were subject to expert assessment, of which 9 AfNFC achieved at least the minimum score prescribed. The financial allocation of the proposed amount of NFC of those AfNFC, which achieved at least the minimum score prescribed, amounted to EUR 3,521,345-64. The expert assessment of AfNFC was completed by signing the Summary Expert Assessment Report by the General Director of ASFEU on 24 September 2010.

The meeting of the Selection Committee was held on 28 October 2010. The Selection Committee dealt with 9 AfNFC, all of which met the selection criteria.

By the end of 2010, both the approval process and the contracting process were completed within call OPV-2010/2.1/02-SORO. Within the given call, 9 Agreements on the provision of NFC were signed. The NFC of the 9 contracted projects amounted to EUR 3,504,155.20, of which EUR 2,978,531.91 came from the EU funds and EUR 525,623.29 came from the SB funds. More detailed information regarding the implementation of activities within the contracted projected will be provided in the AR for 2011.

IBMA MH SR

Call **OPV 2010/2.2/01** “*Enhancement of Further Skills of Healthcare Staff*” for the submission of AfNFC was published on 30 April 2010 and closed on 6 July 2010.

The financial allocation for this call amounted to EUR 15,000,000.00 and the financial contribution per AfNFC was limited to a minimum interval of EUR 500,000.00 and a maximum interval of EUR 3,000,000.00.

The call was focused on supporting the increase of the professionalism of the professional activities of healthcare staff by means of continuous education with the option of using electronic and other forms of further education.

The target group of the call comprised:

- healthcare workers under Section 27 of Act No. 578/2004 Coll.;
- management or expert staff of healthcare facilities but not healthcare workers under Section 27 of Act No. 578/2004 Coll.

Within the call, the total recorded number of AfNFC received was 20.

The formal accuracy assessment of the AfNFC was conducted from 12 July 2010 to 27 August 2010. Within the control of completeness, 19 AfNFC failed to meet the completeness criterion for AfNFC. The failure to meet the completeness criterion was due to the failure to submit the market research to AfNFC. Thus, only 1 AfNFC entitled: “*Educational Stay at the One-Day*

Surgery Workplace” of the applicant Občianske združenie Medicínske centrum jednotňovej chirurgie (*Civil Association of Medical Centre of One Day Surgery*) passed the formal accuracy assessment and thus advanced to the expert assessment conducted on 10 September 2010.

The Selection Committee of the MH SR that held its session on 23 September 2010 recommended the AfNFC for approval. The Decision on the Approval of AfNFC was issued to the applicant for NFC on 19 November 2010.

On 31 December 2010, the project was approved in the phase before the execution of the Agreement on the provision of NFC. More detailed information on the commencement of implementation of project activities will be provided in the AR for 2011.

In the monitored period, the IBMA published call AfNFC **OPV 2010/2.2/02** entitled “*Enhancement of Further Skills of Healthcare Workers*” on 28 December 2010. The deadline for the submission was set at 15 April 2011.

The financial allocation for this call amounted to EUR 15,000,000.00 and the financial contribution per AfNFC was limited to a minimum interval of EUR 500,000.00 and a maximum interval of EUR 2,000,000.00.

The call was focused on supporting the increase of the professionalism of the professional activities of the healthcare staff by means of continuous education with the option of using electronic and other forms of further education.

The target group of the call comprised: healthcare workers under Section 27 of Act No. 578/2004 Coll. and managing or expert staff of the healthcare facilities, but not healthcare employees under Section 27 of Act No. 578/2004 Coll.

Geographically, the call covered the whole territory of the SR except for the Bratislava self-governing region. The following eligible applicants were defined in the call:

- state budget-funded and state contributory organizations;
- budget-funded and contributory organizations of UTTU and municipalities;
- public HEI;
- state HEI and state education institutions;
- non-governmental organisations;
- private education institution;
- expert companies and professional association in healthcare;
- professional organisations in healthcare and legal entities (pursuant to the Commercial Code, Act No. 513/1991 Coll., as amended) that are providers of health care.

More detailed information with regard to the evaluation of the call will be provided in the AR for 2011.

More detailed information to the monitoring of the development of the implementation of axis 2 is provided in Table 41.

Table 41: Monitoring of the development of the implementation under Priority Axis 2 as at 31 December 2010

Measure	AfNFC received	AfNFC rejected	AfNFC approved	Projects contracted	Projects in progress	Projects completed
2.1	44	24	20	19	9	1
2.2	36	20	16	14	10	5
Total	80	44	36	33	19	6

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Financial quantification of SF and SB in €						
Measure	Amount of contribution requested (NFC)	Amount of requested contribution rejected (NFC)	Amount of contribution approved (NFC)	Amount of funds contracted	Amount of funds reclaimed	Amount of projects completed
2.1	165,067,568.18	99,948, 622.62	65,118,945.56	64,649,708.93	1,808,745.63	0.00
2.2	50,305,994.96	31,954,858.01	18,351,136.95	17,429,829.62	43,460.31	216,172.22
Total	215,373,563.14	131,903,480.63	83,470,082.51	82,079,538.55	1,852,205.94	216,172.22

Source: MA

As at 31 December 2010, a total of 14 calls were published under Priority Axis 2 with a total allocation of EUR 218,097,617.35, of which 1 call, i.e., 1 written notice for measure 2.1 (OPV/K/RKZ/NP/2009-6) was cancelled.

As at 31 December 2010, a total of **80** AfNFC were received for Priority Axis 2, whose requested financial contribution for NFC amounted to **EUR 215,373,563.14**. Of that number, **44** AfNFC were rejected in the total amount of requested contribution for NFC of **EUR 129,194,821.15** (the requested but rejected contribution of the approved AfNFC amounted to EUR 2,708,659.48) and **36** AfNFC were approved in the total approved contribution of **EUR 83,470,082.51**. Within Priority Axis 2, a total of **33** projects have been contracted (this information does not cover projects terminated prematurely) with the total amount of funds contracted of **EUR 82,079,538.55**, of which 19 projects are in progress and 6 projects were completed (2 of which were terminated prematurely and 4 projects were completed regularly with the amount of funds drawn of EUR 261,172.22).

In 2010, within individual measures of Priority Axis 2, the following national projects are still in progress:

1. *Further Training of Elementary and Secondary School Teachers in the Subject Informatics* (OPV/K/RKZ/NP/2008-2);
2. *Professional and Career Growth of Teaching Staff* (OPV/K/RKZ/NP/2009-3).

More detailed information regarding the national projects in progress is provided in Table 42 and Table 43.

Table 42: State of implementation of the national project as at 31 December 2010

Project title:	Further Training of Elementary and Secondary School Teachers in the Subject Informatics
Basis for national/regional policy:	Statement of policy of the SR Government of August 2006 proclaimed "to create the preconditions for a systematic change in the content of education, connected with deepening language preparation, developing computer literacy and communication skills, with substantially greater use of modern teaching aids, particularly, information technology and multimedia technology in the teaching process." WHITE PAPER FOR EDUCATION AND TRAINING in the SR for the forthcoming 15 – 20 years (the "MILLENNIUM" Project). Informatisation strategy for regional school system (approved in February 2008).
Project objective:	Design, develop and implement modern further education for informatics and IT education teachers at ES and SS, supported by digital technologies
Beneficiary:	State Pedagogical Institute
Project implementation period:	1 October 2008 – 30 September 2011
State of implementation for the monitored period:	In 2010, activity 2.1 Project Equipment and Facility continued and was completed in December 2010. Within activity 1.1, Education for 1 st Grade ES Teachers in Informatics and IT Education, 1.2, Education for Unqualified 2 nd Grade ES Teachers and SS Teachers

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	in Informatics and 1.3, Further Education of Qualified 2 nd Grade ES Teachers and SS Teachers in Informatics, the education continued. Activity 1.4, Project Monitoring and Evaluation was procured by sending monitoring reports for projects 6 to 9. The project was publicised in newspaper articles, project posters and information at the project website.
State of implementation from the commencement of the project's implementation:	The Agreement on the provision of NFC was signed on 1 October 2008. The affidavit on the project launch was delivered on 7 October 2008; the project was launched on 1 October 2008. In 2008, the project was launched with activity 2.1, Project Equipment and Facility by the preparation of public procurement for the purchase of computer technology necessary for the project implementation. Activities 1.1 Education for 1 st Grade ES Teachers in Informatics and IT Education, 1.2 Education for Unqualified 2 nd Grade ES Teachers and SS Teachers in Informatics and 1.3 Further Education of Qualified 2 nd Grade ES Teachers and SS Teachers in Informatics were commenced by the preparation of application forms for teachers, the drafting of equipment loan contracts with education participants, the publishing of applications for individual target groups and the creation of databases of the registered education participants. Within activity 1.4, Project Monitoring and Evaluation, a monitoring report was prepared and sent to the MA. The project was publicised in an article in the newspaper <i>Učiteľské noviny</i> (Teacher's Newspaper), an item in the television programme <i>Euroškolsťvo a výskum</i> (EuroEducation and Research) on the TA3 television channel and information at the project website. In 2009, activity 2.1, Project Equipment and Facility, continued by the preparation of public procurement for the purchase of computer technology necessary for the project implementation. With regard to the fact that the respective legislation required a joint procedure with the project "Education of Elementary School Teachers in Foreign Languages in Connection with the White Paper of Teaching Foreign Languages at Elementary and Secondary Schools", the public procurement was slightly delayed and was completed in August 2009. Activity 2.1, Project Equipment and Facility, was completed in November 2009 by distributing the teaching equipment to schools. Within activities 1.1 Education for 1 st Grade ES Teachers in Informatics and IT Education, 1.2 Education for Unqualified 2 nd Grade ES Teachers and SS Teachers in Informatics and 1.3 Further Education of Qualified 2 nd Grade ES Teachers and SS Teachers in Informatics, the training was commenced on 13 June 2009 after the selection of the target group was made. This education continued with a break in July and August until the end of the year. Activity 1.4, Project Monitoring and Evaluation, was procured by sending monitoring reports for projects 2 to 5. The project was publicised in the form of newspaper articles, project posters and information at the project website. In 2009, the public procurement for the purchase of computer technology necessary for the project implementation continued and implemented within activity 2.1, Project Equipment and Facility, which was completed in October 2009. Within activities 1.1, Education for 1 st Grade ES Teachers in Informatics and IT Education, 1.2, Education for Unqualified 2 nd Grade ES Teachers and SS Teachers in Informatics and 1.3, Further Education of Qualified 2 nd Grade ES Teachers and SS Teachers in Informatics, the training commenced on 13 June 2009 after the selection of the target group. This training continued with a break in July and August until the end of the year. Activity 1.4, Project Monitoring and Evaluation, was procured by sending monitoring reports for projects 2 to 5. The project was publicised in the form of newspaper articles, project posters and information at the project website. In 2010, the activities were taken, as provided in the Section "State of implementation for the monitored period". As at 31 December 2010, a total of 9 monitoring reports were delivered within the project.
Budget in EUR:	EUR 7,029,006.34 (C Objective)
Financial implementation/drawing in EUR for the monitored period:	EUR 1,510,521.45 (C Objective)
Financial implementation/drawing in EUR in cumulative terms from the commencement of the programming period	EUR 1,574,470.96 (C Objective)
Fulfilment of indicators for the monitored period:	Result indicators (planned state / actual state) Number of newly-designed/innovated education and study programmes 3/3 Number of schools involved in the implementation of project activities 530/407 Number of employees involved in the project education activities 1 301/588 Number of electronic services introduced 3/3
Fulfilment of indicators in cumulative terms from the commencement of the programming period	Result indicators (planned state / actual state) Number of newly-designed/innovated education and study programmes 3/3 Number of schools involved in the implementation of project activities 530/1052 Number of employees involved in the project education activities 1 301/1320 Number of electronic services introduced 3/3

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Source: MA

Table 43: State of implementation of the national project as at 31 December 2010

Project title:	Professional and Career Growth of Teaching Staff
Basis for national/regional policy:	Act No. 317/2009 Coll. on Teaching Staff and Professional Staff and on Changes and Amendments to Other Laws. Decree No. 445 of the MoESRS SR on Continuing Education and Attestations of Teaching and Professional Staff.
Project objective:	To develop efficient system of further education for teaching and professional staff at schools and school facilities with an emphasis on developing key competences.
Beneficiary:	Methodological Pedagogical Centre
Project implementation period:	15 October 2009 – 14 October 2013
State of implementation for the monitored period:	Main activities of the national project: Activity 1.1, Development, Innovation and Implementation of Professional Standards and Instruments for the Evaluation of the Development of Professional Competences. The pilot model of professional standards was reviewed and SWOT analyses was prepared. On the basis of the analyses, the methodology objectives were set, the functions and forms of professional standards determining the innovation of the pilot version were defined and a draft of the professional standards for individual career degrees in compliance with the gradation of the performance of a teaching employee classified into three categories - pupil, education process, teacher self-development, was prepared). Activity 2.1, Analysis of the Educational Needs of Individual Target Groups of Teaching and Professional Staff at Schools and School Facilities. Within this activity, a methodology for the analysis of educational needs was prepared and the first study of the educational needs of the teaching and professional staff for 2010 was prepared. The study was prepared on the basis of the outcome of questionnaire. In analysing the data mapping the needs of the teaching and professional staff, 2,053 questionnaires were processed. A complex analysis and interpretation of the outcomes of the survey for the educational needs of the teaching and professional staff constituted an integral part thereof. Activity 2.2, Development and Accreditation of the Continuing Education Programmes of Teaching and Professional Staff under the Accreditation System. As At 31 December 2010, a total of 144 education programmes were accredited, of which 20 focus on ICT. The total number of 310 represents newly-designed educational programmes that were submitted for accreditation (144 of which have been accredited so far). Accredited education programmes correspond to the findings stated in the study of the educational needs of the teaching and professional staff. The development of further education programmes for the teaching staff will be directed in line with the interpretation of the findings of activity 2.1 in the area: pupil, upbringing and the education process, self-development of a teaching employee, education themes. The development of further education programmes for professional staff will be directed in line with the interpretation of findings in the following areas: diagnostic activities, advisory activities, therapeutic and rehabilitating activities, precaution activities, education themes. Activity 3.1, Creation of Teaching Resources, Methodologies and Professional Publications, including Digital Form. A methodology for the creation of teaching resources was developed. The creation of teaching resources has not commenced. Activity 3.2, Educational Activities Focused on Developing Key Competences of Teaching and Professional Staff and Education and Training Strategies. Within this activity, educational activities were implemented which as at 31 December 2010 included the participation of 5,484 teaching and professional staff. Activity 4.1, Creation and Administration of Interactive Education Portal for the Promotion of Continuing Education. The public procurement for the creation and administration of interactive education portal was cancelled by virtue of Decision No. 122-OKVO/3/2010 of 18 May 2010. The time Schedule related thereto was therefore shifted. Activity 4.2, Equipment and Facilities for Professional Activities. The Public Procurement Office cancelled the public tender by virtue of Decision No. 122-OKVO/3/2010 of 18 May 2010.
State of implementation from the commencement of the project's implementation:	The Agreement on the provision of NFC was signed on 15 October 2009. The affidavit on the project launch was delivered on 15 October 2009. The notification of the commencement of the implementation of the first education activity was made of 31 December 2009; it clearly follows from the above that no educational activities were conducted in 2009 - only the preparatory phase for the education was conducted. The main project activities were commenced in line with the time Schedule. As at 31 December 2009, a total of 136 education programmes were created and submitted for accreditation, of which 0 were accredited. The project education activities within the main project activity 3.2 were commenced in March 2010. As at 31 December 2010, a total of 4 monitoring reports were delivered.
Budget in EUR:	EUR 43,193,286.00 (C Objective)

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Financial implementation/drawing in EUR for the monitored period:	EUR 159,342.06 (C Objective)
Financial implementation/drawing in EUR in cumulative terms from the commencement of the programming period	EUR 159,342.06 (C Objective)
Fulfilment of indicators for the monitored period:	Result indicators (planned state / actual state) Number of newly-designed education programmes 625/144 Number of newly-designed/innovated education programmes focused on gaining and developing ICT knowledge 30/20 Number of employees involved in the project education activities 18 000/5484 Number of electronic services introduced 1/0
Fulfilment of indicators in cumulative terms from the commencement of the programming period	Result indicators (planned state / actual state) Number of newly-designed education programmes 625/144 Number of newly-designed/innovated education programmes focused on gaining and developing ICT knowledge 30/20 Number of employees involved in the project education activities 18 000/5484 Number of electronic services introduced 1/0

Source: MA

In 2010, within the individual measures of Priority Axis 2, the implementation of the following **17** demand-driven projects is still in progress within 5 calls for the submission of demand-driven projects.

- within measure 2.1

1. “*Promoting Further Education in Selected Sectors*” (the IBMA ASFEU call: OPV 2009/2.1/01-SORO) -7 projects;

- within measure 2.2

1. “*Development of New Forms of Further Education in Healthcare*” (the IBMA MH SR call: OPV 2008/2.2/02) – 1 project;
2. “*Replenishing of the Healthcare System with Qualified Specialists*” (the IBMA MH SR call: OPV 2008/2.2/03) – 7 projects;
3. “*Support for Evaluating Continuing Education for Healthcare Staff*” (the IBMA MH SR call: OPV 2009/2.2/01) – 1 project;
4. “*Enhancing of Further Skills of Healthcare Staff*” (the IBMA MH SR call: OPV 2009/2.2/02) – 1 project.

Fulfilment of Measurable Indicators

More detailed information regarding the fulfilment of physical indicators of Priority Axis 2 is provided in Table 44.

Table 44: Fulfilment of physical indicators as at 31 December 2010

Indicators*		2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	Total
1. Percentage of inhabitants involved in lifelong learning per 100	Outcome	3.9%	3.3%	2.8%	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	2.8%
	Target	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	12.50%	N/A	12.50%	12.50%
	Baseline	4.6%	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	4.6%

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inhabitants aged 25-64 (%)									A		
2. Number of lecturers who completed further education programmes (number)	Outcome	0	0	0	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0
	Target	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	1000	N/A	1000	1,000
	Baseline	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0
3. Number of promoted further education programmes (number)	Outcome	0	0	3	131	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	131
	Target	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	150	N/A	150	150
	Baseline	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0
4. Number of newly-designed networks developed within the learning regions (number)	Outcome	0	0	0	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0
	Target	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	20	N/A	20	20
	Baseline	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0
5. Share of networks developed within the learning regions, following the end of the OPE assistance (%)	Outcome	0%	0%	0%	0%	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0%
	Target	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	80%	N/A	80%	80%
	Baseline	0%	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0%
6. Share of healthcare workers who completed further education programmes for healthcare workers (%)	Outcome	N/A	0.19%	0.12%	0.12%	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0.12%
	Target	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	7%	N/A	7%	7%
	Baseline	0%	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0%
7. Number of further education programmes for healthcare workers (number)	Outcome	0	0	0	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0
	Target	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	20	N/A	20	20
	Baseline	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0
8. Share of healthcare workers remaining in the healthcare system after closing further education programmes (%)	Outcome	0%	0%	100%	100%	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	100%
	Target	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	80%	NA	80%	80%
	Baseline	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0

*Detailed definitions and specific units of individual indicators are provided in Annex 13.

Source: MA/IBMA

Indicator 1 “*Percentage of inhabitants involved in lifelong learning per 100 inhabitants aged 25-64*” represents the same value as in 2009 as a result of the fact that such information was not available at the website of Eurostat for 2010 at the moment of the preparation of the report

(<http://epp.EURostat.ec.EURopa.eu/tgm/table.do?tab=table&init=1&language=en&pcode=tsiem080&plugin=1>).

The failure to fulfil indicator 2 “*Number of lecturers who completed further education programmes*” resulted from the fact that the indicator was not monitored at the project level that was connected with the above-mentioned programme indicator in 2010. As a result, we provide zero values. We assume that indicator 2 will be fulfilled on the basis of further calls or written notices which will cover the indicator.

In 2010, indicator 3 “*Number of promoted further education programmes*” achieved 87% of the state targeted. As compared to 2009, the mostly successful implementation of the national project “*Professional and Career Growth of Teaching Staff*” contributed to the significant increase of the value of the indicator monitored.

Indicator 4 “*Number of newly-designed networks developed within the learning regions*” and indicator 5 “*Share of networks developed within the learning regions, following the end of the OPE assistance*” were not fulfilled in the monitored period and the values of provided physical indicators are zero. We assume that indicators 4 and 5 will be fulfilled via the national project entitled “*KomPrax - Competences for Practice*” as well as further calls or written notices which will cover the indicators.

The value of indicator 6 “*Share of healthcare workers who completed further education programmes for healthcare workers*” remains the same in the monitored period as it was in 2009 and we assume that it will be significantly increased only in 2011, when activities within 7 demand-driven projects of the promotion of specialized studies of individual self-governing regions based on the call OPV 2008/2.2/03 will be completed.

Indicator 7 “*Number of further education programmes for healthcare workers*” will be monitored within the projects approved based on both calls published in 2010 (call OPV 2010/2.2/01 and call OPV 2010/2.2/02), whereas we assume that the first values of this indicator will not be given earlier than in 2012.

With regard to the outcome of indicator 8 “*Share of healthcare workers remaining in the healthcare system after closing further education programmes*” the value has not changed in comparison to 2009, since no new projects have been completed in the monitored period. The actual value of the indicator amounts to 100%, i.e., all healthcare workers who completed the programme for the promotion of further education remained to work in the region.

3.2.1.2 Financial Implementation of Priority Axis 2

More detailed information regarding the drawing of funds under Priority Axis 2 for the monitored period as well as cumulatively from the beginning of the programming period is provided in Table 45.

Table 45: Drawing of funds under Priority Axis 2 as at 31 December 2010

	2007-2013 Commitment for EU resources in €	Drawing of funds in 2010 (EU resources) in €		Cumulative drawing of funds as at 31 December 2010 (EU resources) in €	
		Total	% of 2007 – 2013	Total	% of 2007 – 2013

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			commitment		commitment
Priority Axis 2	146,000,000	2,381,623.64	1.63%	2,673,282.43	1.83%
Measure 2.1	109,500,000	1,440,427.20	1.32%	1,494,784.28	1.37%
Measure 2.2	36,500,000	941,196.44	2.58%	1,178,498.15	3.23%

Source: CA

As At 31 December 2010, the level of actual drawing of funds within Priority Axis 2 amounted to EUR 2,673,282.43 (ESF resource) representing 1.83% of the commitment for 2007-2013.

The achieved level of funds drawn within Priority Axis 2 cannot be considered as sufficient, particularly considering the fact that the achieved value of contracting amounted to 48.08% which, in terms of the achieved contracting of national and demand-driven projects, represents the highest amount within C Objective (only Priority Axis 5. Technical Assistance achieved higher contracting). In terms of commitments for individual years, the commitments from 2007 to 2009 have been covered in contracts and partially for the commitment for 2010 (54.50%). This volume represents 33 NFC Contracts, whereas the stated projects are in different phases of implementation. As at 31 December 2010, the average drawing level of individual projects (the ratio of eligibly drawn funds with regard to the CA and the total volume of those contracted) achieved only 3.81%, which represents the lowest level of drawing of national and demand-driven projects of all OPE priority axes. The low average level of project drawing resulted in particular from the following facts:

- demand-driven projects approved within the call OPV-2010/2.1/02-SORO were contracted at the end of 2010 and their implementation will commence in 2011;
- a similar situation also applies to the national project that was approved on the basis of written notice OPV/K/NP/2010-2 and contracted in the last month of 2010; its implementation will commence in 2011.

With regard to future drawing within the given Priority Axis 2, it is necessary to take into account the legal form of the Beneficiaries and the possible methods for the financing of their projects. Since some of the Beneficiaries within Priority Axis 2 are eligible to finance their projects via advance payments, we expect a considerable increase in drawing via advance payment clearance in 2011. As at 31 December 2010, the drawing via advance payment clearance represented 60.48% of the total volume of eligible drawing with regard to the CA, which represents the lowest share of drawing via advance payment clearance within all OPE priority axes (except for Priority Axis 5. Technical Assistance). Therefore, in comparison with other priority axes within Priority Axis 2, in 2011 we expect the highest increase of the share of advance payment clearance within the total drawing structure of eligible expenditures with regard to the CA. In connection to this, we must point out that as at 31 December 2010, the MoESRS SR provided heretofore unsettled and uncertified advance payments registered within Priority Axis 2 in the total volume of **EUR 4,823 thousand** (of which ESF resources represent EUR 4,125 thousand). Although the provision of advance payments does not represent drawing in relation to the CA or EC, these funds enable the Beneficiaries to implement their projects (they are in the field with the project implementers) which will subsequently be projected in the drawing of the EU SF funds upon their settlement and certification.

3.2.1.3 Specifics of ESF programmes

Assistance by Target Groups and Equality of Opportunities

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More detailed information regarding the monitoring of target groups under Priority Axis 2 is provided in Table 46.

Table 46: Monitoring of target groups under Priority Axis 2 from 1 January 2010 to 31 December 2010

Breakdown of project participants						
Indicator	Calendar year 2010					
	Participants entering		Participants leaving		Participants carried over	
	Total	Of which women	Total	Of which women	Total	Of which women
Total number of participants	6,420	5,185	1,878	1,627	981	745
<i>Breakdown of participants by status at the labour market</i>						
Employed	6,419	5,185	1,878	1,627	981	745
Of which self-employed	9	3	0	0	0	0
Unemployed	0	0	0	0	0	0
Of which long-term unemployed	0	0	0	0	0	0
Inactive persons	1	0	0	0	0	0
Of which students/vocational training participants	0	0	0	0	0	0
<i>Breakdown of participants by age</i>						
Youth (aged 15 - 24)	11	11	3	3	0	0
Older persons (aged 55 - 64)	680	612	60	52	37	24
<i>Breakdown according to vulnerability groups in compliance with the national regulations</i>						
Migrants	0	0	3	0	1	1
Minorities	76	28	30	29	57	35
Disabled persons	6	6	0	0	4	4
Other disadvantaged persons	15	15	0	0	0	0
<i>Breakdown by educational attainment</i>						
Primary or lower secondary education (ISCED 1 and 2)	0	0	0	0	0	0
Upper secondary education (ISCED 3)	505	480	227	180	43	43
Post-secondary non-higher education (ISCED 4)	124	124	21	21	0	0
Higher education (ISCED 5 and 6)	5,791	4,581	1,630	1,426	938	702

Source: MA

More detailed information regarding the monitored target groups is provided in Chapter 2.1.8 hereof.

3.2.2 Serious Problems Encountered and Measures Taken to Overcome Them

On aggregate, during the monitored period and the course of the implementation of Priority Axis 2, no serious problems were encountered and therefore there was no need to take measures for their removal (please see Table 47).

Table 47: Monitoring of the number of measures taken for problems defined

Problems identified	Measures adopted	Measures implemented
0	0	0

Source: MA

3.3 Priority Axis 3

3.3.1 Achievement of Objectives and Analysis of Progress

The achievement of objectives and a detailed analysis of progress within Priority Axis 3, aimed at increasing the education level of persons with special educational needs, with regard to MRC, is provided in more detail in the following Sub-chapters 3.3.1.1, 3.3.1.2 and 3.3.1.3 hereof.

3.3.1.1 State of Physical Progress of Priority Axis 3

More detailed information regarding the calls published under priority axis 3 is provided in Table 48.

Table 48: State of publishing of calls under priority axis 3 from 1 January to 31 December 2010

Measure	Call type	Call publishing date	Closing date for receiving applications for NFC	Allocation of FC per call (NFC) in EUR		
				Total	Of which	
					SF/CF	SB
3.1	time-limited, demand-driven projects	2 July 2010	The call was cancelled on 15 October 2010	17,000 000.00	N/A	N/A
Total for priority axis 3				17,000,000.00	N/A	N/A

Source: MA

In the monitored period within priority axis 3, a total of 1 time-limited call for demand-driven projects was published within measure 3.1, Raising of the Education Level of Members of Marginalized Roma Communities. The call was cancelled on 15 October 2010. The call was connected to the Pilot call for the submission of applications for the provision of LCAS support, updated pursuant to the Resolution No. 431/2009 of the Government of the SR, published by the OGPRC on 16 September 2009 and aimed at increasing the employment and education level of members of MRC and improving of their conditions for living.

The call was cancelled due to the need to extend the authorization of an applicant. As at 31 December 2010 the call was not published again on the basis of the OGPRC requirement for the publishing of the call after the completion of the process for the optimisation of the outputs expected from the implementation of LCAS support that was conducted at the end of 2010 at the coordination department of the HP MRC OGPRC.

In terms of the indicative call time schedule for 2011, the call is expected to be published in June 2011.

More detailed information regarding the monitored development of the implementation of priority axis 3 is provided in Table 49.

Table 49: Monitoring of the development of implementation of priority axis 3 as at 31 December 2010

Measure	AFNFC received	AFNFC rejected	AFNFC approved	Projects contracted	Projects in progress	Projects completed
3.1	116	66	50	49	49	1
3.2	37	15	22	20	20	2
Total	153	81	72	69	69	3
Financial quantification of SF and SB in €						
Measure	Amount of contribution (NFC) requested	Amount of requested contribution rejected (NFC)	Amount of contribution approved (NFC)	Amount of funds contracted	Amount of funds reclaimed	Amount of projects completed
3.1	21,447,608.65	13,026,926.28	8,420,682.37	8,135,442.58	131,364.94	0.00
3.2	7,128,528.46	3,244,761.19	3,883,767.27	3,550,523.29	197,843.84	0.00
Total	28,576,137.11	16,271,687.47	12,304,449.64	11,685,965.87	329,208.78	0,00

Source: MA

In 2010, the implementation of the majority projects under call OPV-2009/3.1/01-SORO was commenced. As at 31 December 2010, a total of **49** projects in the total amount of NFC **EUR 8,135,442.58** were in progress. 1 Beneficiary withdrew from the Agreement on provision of NFC.

In 2010, the implementation of **20** projects under call OPV-2009/3.2/01-SORO in the total amount of NFC **EUR 3,550 523.29** was conducted. 2 Beneficiaries withdrew from the Agreement on the provision of NFC.

More detailed information regarding the calls is provided in the AR for 2009. In 2010, The MA did not implement any national project within priority axis 3.

Fulfilment of Measurable Indicators

More detailed information regarding the fulfilment of physical indicators of priority axis 3 is provided in Table 50.

Table 50: Fulfilment of physical indicators as at 31 December 2010

Indicators*		2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	Total
1. Number of pupils with special education needs involved in education programmes	Outcome	0	0	0	4,595	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	4,595
	Target	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	10,000	N/A	10,000	10,000
	Baseline	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0

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(number)											
2. Number of formal education programmes for persons with special education needs (number)	Outcome	0	0	0	14	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	14
	Target	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	15	N/A	15	15
	Baseline	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0
3. Number of persons involved in social inclusion of persons with special education needs, trained within further education programmes (number)	Outcome	0	0	0	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0
	Target	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	35 000	N/A	35000	35 000
	Baseline	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0
4. Number of further education programmes for persons involved in social inclusion of persons with special education needs (number)	Outcome	0	0	0	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0
	Target	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	35	N/A	35	35
	Baseline	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0
5. Rate of employment of participants from the formal education programmes for persons with special education needs (%)	Outcome	0	0	0	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0
	Target	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	40	N/A	40	40
	Baseline	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0
6. Rate of employment of participants of the further education programmes for persons with special education needs	Outcome	0	0	0	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0
	Target	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	40	N/A	40	40
	Baseline	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0

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(%)											
7. School failure of socially-disadvantaged pupils at the ES (%)	Outcome	67.04	66.9	60.91	62.96	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	62.96
	Target	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	50	N/A	50	50
	Baseline	65,4	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	65.4

*Detailed definitions and specific units of individual indicators is provided in Annex 13.

Source: MA/IBMA

Indicator 1, “*Number of pupils with special education needs involved in education programmes*” achieved the value of 4,595 of the planned value of 10,000 in the monitored period, which represents 45.95% of the fulfilment of the anticipated value. This indicator will also be potentially fulfilled via the national project “*Education of Teaching Staff to MRC Inclusion*” which is planned in the first half of 2011, as well as via projects within call 3.1, “*Raising of Education Level of Members of Marginalized Roma Communities (local strategy of the comprehensive approach)*” and projects within call 3.2, “*Raising the Education Level of Persons with Special Education Needs*” which, pursuant to the indicative time schedule, are also planned for 2011.

Indicator 2, “*Number of formal education programmes for persons with special education needs*” achieved the value of 14 of the anticipated value of 15 in the monitored period. With regard to the contracted value of the indicator (47) there is an assumption that it will be significantly exceeded.

Indicator 3, “*Number of persons involved in the social inclusion of persons with special education needs, trained within further education programmes*” has been fulfilled at the minimum level as compared to the anticipated value. This indicator will also be potentially fulfilled via the national project, “*Education of Teaching Staff to MRC Inclusion*” which is planned for the first half of 2011, as well as via projects within call 3.1, focused on the comprehensive approach and the projects within call 3.2 which are also planned for 2011.

Indicator 4, “*Number of further education programmes for persons involved in social inclusion of persons with special education needs*” has not been fulfilled in the monitored period and the effected indicator 5 “*Rate of employment of participants from formal education programmes for persons with special education needs*” and indicator 6 “*Rate of employment of participants of the further education programmes for persons with special education needs*” were not fulfilled. It is expected that they will be fulfilled on the basis of calls which will cover these indicators (call for measure 3.1 and call for measure 3.2 planned for 2011).

Indicator 7, “*School failure of socially-disadvantaged pupils at ES*” is not directly monitored in projects, but is delivered on the basis of conducted external statistics. The actual value of this indicator is lower (i.e., in terms of the percentage expression more favourable) than the value from the beginning of the 2007-2013 programming period. However, it is necessary to take into consideration the fact that the implementation of projects within priority axis 3 was commenced in 2010 (and further calls and the national project are planned for 2011), and thus the impact of the OPE for this indicator may be expected in the following years.

3.3.1.2 Financial Implementation of Priority Axis 3

More detailed information regarding the drawing of funds under priority axis 3 is provided in Table 51.

Table 51: Drawing of funds under priority axis 3 as at 31 December 2010

	2007-2013 Commitment for EU resources in €	Drawing of funds in 2010 (EU resources) in €		Cumulative drawing of funds as at 31 December 2010 (EU resources) in €	
		Total	% of 2007 – 2013 commitment		Total
Priority axis 3	65,000,000.00	833,083.18	1.28%	833,083.18	1.28%
Measure 3.1	48,700,000.00	751,427.14	1.54%	751,427.14	1.54%
Measure 3.2	16,300,000.00	81,656.04	0.50%	81,656.04	0.50%

Source: CO

As at 31 December 2010 the level of actual drawing of funds within priority axis 3 achieved a total of EUR 833,083.18 (resource ESF) that represents 1.28% of the commitment for 2007-2013. It represents the lowest achieved level of drawing of funds in comparison to other priority axes within the OPE. The achieved level of the funds drawing within priority axis 3 cannot be considered as sufficient, whereas the following facts may be stated as the main reasons for this:

- the achieved level of contracted funds represents only 15.73% of the total allocation of the priority axis, whereas it represents the lowest level of contracted funds of all OPE priority axes. This contracting level is also lower than the state as at 31 December 2009, since no Agreements on the provision of NFC were signed in the course of 2010 and 3 demand-driven projects were withdrawn. In terms of commitments for individual years, the only commitment for 2007 is fully covered in the contract and the commitment for 2008 is partially covered in the contract (10.91%). This volume represents 69 Agreements on the provision of NFC, whereas the given projects are in different phases of implementation. The average drawing level of individual projects (the ratio of eligibly drawn funds with regard to the CA and the total volume of contracted funds) achieved only 8.15% as at 31 December 2010 (the second lowest drawing level among all OPE priority axes);
- the actual drawing of funds within both measures of priority axis 3 was commenced in the course of 2010.

However, in 2011 we expect a significant increase in the contracting and subsequently drawing of funds within priority axis 3, since the publishing of the call for the submission of AfNFC within measure 3.1. (under the indicative call time schedule for the submission of AfNFC for 2011) and the publishing of a written notice for the national project are expected in the first half of 2011. The publishing of the call for the submission of AfNFC within measure 3.2 is also expected in the second half of 2011.

Since the crucial number of the Beneficiaries of priority axis 3 are eligible to finance their projects via advance payments, we expect a considerable increase in drawing via advance payment clearance in 2011. As at 31 December 2010, the drawing via advance payment clearance represented 90.66% of the total volume of eligible drawing with regard to the CA, which represents the highest share of drawing via advance payment clearance of all OPE priority axes. In connection to this, we must point out the fact that as at 31 December 2010, the MoESRS SR provided but heretofore unsettled and uncertified advance payments registered within priority

axis 3 in the total volume of **EUR 2,456 thousand** (of which ESF resources represent EUR 2,157 thousand). Although the provision of advance payments does not represent drawing in relation to the CA or EC, these funds enable the Beneficiaries to implement their projects (they are in the field with the project implementers) which will subsequently be projected in the drawing of the SF funds upon their subsequent settlement and certification.

3.3.1.3 Specifics of ESF Programmes

Assistance by Target Groups and Equality of Opportunities

More detailed information regarding the monitoring of target groups under priority axis 3 is provided in Table 52.

Table 52: Monitoring of target groups under priority axis 3 from 1 January to 31 December 2010

Breakdown of project participants						
Indicator	Calendar year 2010					
	Participants entering		Participants leaving		Participants carrying over	
	Total	Of which women	Total	Of which women	Total	Of which women
Total number of participants	6,592	3,374	366	196	0	0
<i>Breakdown of participants by status at the labour market</i>						
Employed	940	752	58	44	0	0
Of which self-employed	4	1	1	0	0	0
Unemployed	3	2	0	0	0	0
Of which long-term unemployed	2	2	0	0	0	0
Inactive persons	5,649	2,620	308	152	0	0
Of which students/vocational training participants	5,103	2,421	229	109	0	0
<i>Breakdown of participants by age</i>						
Youth (aged 15 - 24)	560	240	78	39	0	0
Older persons (aged 55 - 64)	94	55	14	3	0	0
<i>Breakdown according to vulnerability groups in compliance with the national regulations</i>						
Migrants	0	0	3	0	0	0
Minorities	4,961	2,401	278	133	0	0
Disabled persons	879	427	21	13	0	0
Other disadvantaged persons	841	366	10	6	0	0
<i>Breakdown by educational attainment</i>						

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Primary or lower secondary education (ISCED 1 and 2)	926	241	152	70	0	0
Upper secondary education (ISCED 3)	80	78	9	6	0	0
Post-secondary non-higher education (ISCED 4)	61	39	0	0	0	0
Higher education (ISCED 5 and 6)	799	658	53	41	0	0

Source: MA

More detailed information regarding the monitored target groups is provided in Chapter 2.1.8 hereof.

3.3.2 Serious Problems Encountered and Measures Taken to Overcome Them

On aggregate it may be stated that during the monitored period and the course of the implementation of priority axis 3, no serious problems were encountered and therefore there was not need to take measures for their removal (please see Table 53).

Table 53: Monitoring of the number of measures taken for problems defined

Problems identified	Measures adopted	Measures implemented
0	0	0

Source: MA

3.4 Priority Axis 4

3.4.1 Achievement of Objectives and Analysis of Progress

The achievement of objectives and a detailed analysis of progress within priority axis 4, aimed at increasing the quality and approach to further education with an emphasis on the transformation of the content of education in order to develop key competences with the aim to ensure the long-term competitiveness of the Bratislava Region is provided in more detail in the following Sub-chapters 3.4.1.1, 3.4.1.2 and 3.4.1.3 hereof.

3.4.1.1 State of Physical Progress of Priority Axis 4

More detailed information regarding the calls published under priority axis 4 is provided in Table 54.

Table 54: State of publishing of calls under priority axis 4 from 1 January to 31 December 2010

Measure	Call type	Call publishing date	Closing date for receiving applications for NFC	Allocation of FC per call (NFC) in EUR		
				Total	Of which	
					SF/CF	SB
4.2	time-limited, demand-driven projects	31 December 2010	7 March 2011	1,800,000.00	N/A	N/A
4.3	written notice – technical assistance project	14 September 2010	12 November 2010	225,000.00	191,250.00	33,750.00
Total for priority axis 4				2,025,000.00	N/A	N/A

Source: MA

In the monitored period within priority axis 4, a total of **2** calls were published, **1 time-limited call** for demand-driven projects was published within measure 4.2, and **1 written notice** for the TA project within measure 4.3 and no written call for the national projects was published.

Both calls were published with a total allocation amounting to **EUR 025,000.00**.

1) Call **OPV-2010/4.2/03-SORO** for the submission of AfNFC entitled “*Promotion of Improving the Quality of Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) and the Slovak Academy of Sciences*” under measure 1.2 was published on 31 December 2010. The call was aimed at improving the quality of programmes of studies at HEIs, enhancing the efficiency of the administration and management of HEIs, the promotion of human resources development in research and development, international cooperation among HEIs, organizations of research and development and the private sector at national and international levels. The activities of this call implement the measures of SR Government Resolution No. 591/2010 of 8 September 2010 with the aim to promote the distinctive improvement of HEIs and scientific institutions (Slovak Academy of Sciences) to ensure the influx of internationally acknowledged scientists to Slovakia and the best possible education within the framework of doctoral studies. From the geographical aspect, this call covers the territory of the SR except the Bratislava Self-governing Region.

The following are some of the specific objectives to which this call is linked: adjustment of higher education to the needs of the knowledge-based society, promoting the culture of quality at HEI, raising quality and developing human resources in research and development, promoting cooperation among HEIs, organizations of research and development and the private sector at national and international levels. Financial aid for this call is designated for eligible applicants defined in the call as follows: state HEI, public HEI, private HEI and Slovak Academy of Sciences (including its individual institutions).

Table 54 indicates that the aid within measure 4.2 for call OPV-2010/4.2/03-SORO amounts to **EUR 1,800,000.00**. The minimum amount of NFC per project is EUR 200,000.00 and the maximum amount is EUR 600,000.00.

The closing date for the call is set at 7 March 2011. As a result, information regarding the approval process and the selection of AfNFC will be provided in the AR for 2011.

2) The written notice **OPV/K/RKZ/TP/2010-3** entitled: “*Notice – Technical Assistance Project – Technical Assistance for Objective Convergence/Regional Competitiveness and Employment 2011 – Preparation, Implementation, Monitoring and Control*” was published on 14 September 2010. The closing date was 12 November 2010.

The total financial allocation for RCE Objective represents EUR 225,000.00. The place of project implementation is the Bratislava Region. The main objective of the written notice was to ensure the efficient implementation of the OPE within the RCE Objective. The MoESRS SR is an eligible applicant for this written notice. Aid limits, i.e., the maximum amount of NFC per project of the RCE Objective for priority theme 85 amounts to EUR 225,000.00. The aid intensity for the eligible applicant is directly defined in the written notice.

As at 12 November 2010, the total number of applications for AfNFC received amounted to 1 with a total requested NFC of EUR 225,000.00. The project is aimed at the efficient implementation of the RCE Objective in compliance with demands for the management and administrative structures responsible for the implementation of the OPE. The project will be implemented in 2011 and its activities will be completed by 31 December 2011.

The formal accuracy assessment of the AfNFC was conducted from 15 November 2010 to 19 November 2010. During the assessment, the verification of eligibility criteria and completeness criteria were conducted and a preliminary financial audit was conducted on 30 November 2010.

The expert assessment of the AfNFC was conducted from 1 December 2010 to 2 December 2010 by two internal assessors - Project Managers of the CA. The AfNFC achieved a higher score than the minimum total score prescribed. The expert assessment of the AfNFC was completed on 2 December 2010.

Selection of the AfNFC took place on 3 December 2010 and was conducted by the Chief Manager on the basis of individual expert sheets of the expert assessment of the AfNFC. During the selection of the AfNFC, the Chief Manager applied selection criteria approved by the MC OPE. The AfNFC met the prescribed selection criteria.

The final report from the AfNFC selection for the written notice - Technical Assistance Project OPV/K/RKZ/TP/2010-3 was signed on 3 December 2010.

The funds allocated to the applicant for NFC for the 1 approved AfNFC amounted to EUR 225,000.00.

The application was approved by the signing of the “Decision on the Approval of the Application for a Non-Repayable Financial Contribution for Technical Assistance” by the Minister of Education, Science, Research and Sport of the SR on 30 December 2010 with the approved NFC of EUR 225,000.00.

More detailed information regarding the monitoring of the development of implementation of priority axis 4 is provided in Table 55.

Table 55: Monitoring of the development of implementation of priority axis 4 as at 31 December 2010

Measure	AFNFC received	AFNFC rejected	AFNFC approved	Projects contracted	Projects in progress	Projects completed
4.1	103	76	27	26	26	1
4.2	12	8	4	4	4	0
4.3	15	2	13	13*	11	1
Total	130	86	44	43	41	2
Financial quantification of SF and SB in €						
Measure	Amount of contribution (NFC) requested	Amount of requested contribution rejected (NFC)	Amount of contribution approved (NFC)	Amount of funds contracted	Amount of funds reclaimed	Amount of projects completed
4.1	19,441,953.96	12,795,706.15	6,646,247.81	6,201,616.11	177,133.47	0.00
4.2	18,423,798.33	10,846,696.62	7,577,101.71	7,544,348.28	634,936.98	0.00
4.3	1,436,115.57	317,289.98	1,118,825.59	1,118,825.59	76.86	12,678.05
Total	39,301,867.86	23,959,692.75	15,342,175.11	14,864,789.98	812,147.31	12,678.05

Source: MA

* In the case of TA MA projects, the Agreement is not entered into and the Decision on Approval of AfNFC is issued – the number provided also includes the TA MA projects approved.

As at 31 December 2010, at total of **33** calls were published with the total allocation of **EUR 28,487,261.72** within priority axis 4, of which 4 calls were cancelled, i.e., 2 written notices for measure 4.2 (OPV/K/RKZ/NP/2009-2, OPV/K/RKZ/NP/2009-6) and 2 notices for TA projects for measure 4.3 (OPV/RKZ/TP-ASFEU/2009-1, OPV/RKZ/TP-ASFEU/2009-2).

As at 31 December 2010, a total of **130** AfNFC were received for priority axis 4, their requested NFC financial contribution amounted to **EUR 39,301,867.86**, of which **86** AfNFC whose total requested NFC amounted to **EUR 22,645,291.37** were rejected (the requested contribution of the

approved AfNFC amounted to EUR 1,314,401.38) and **44** AfNFC whose total approved contribution of **EUR 15,342,175.11** were approved. To date, **43** projects were contracted for priority axis 4 (this information does not cover projects terminated prematurely) whose total contracted funds amounted to **EUR 14,864,789.98**, of which 41 projects are in progress and 2 projects were completed (of which 1 project was terminated prematurely and 1 project was with drawn funds amounting to EUR 12,678.05 was completed regularly). The project based on the written notice for the national project OPV/K/RCE/NP/2008-6 *Design of New Educational Programmes in Vocational Training for the Needs of Automobile Industry II* within measure 4.1 was terminated prematurely. The shortcomings in the project implementation by the Beneficiary, i.e., the violation of commitments arising from the subject and time implementation of project activities, which led to the failure to implement measurable indicators and project objectives, as well as the failure of the Beneficiary to take measures in order to correct shortcomings identified during the on-the-spot check pursuant to the On-the-spot check Report, were the reasons for the premature termination of the project and thus withdrawal from the Agreement by the MA.

In 2010, within individual measures of priority axis 4, the following 9 national projects are still in progress:

- within measure 4.1
 1. *Training of Elementary School Teachers in Foreign Languages in Relation to the White Paper of Teaching Foreign Languages at Elementary and Secondary Schools* (OPV/K/RKZ/NP/2008-1);
 2. *Modernizing of the Educational Process at UTTU Schools* (OPV/K/RKZ/NP/2008-3);
 3. *Modernizing of the Educational Process at Secondary Schools* (OPV/K/RKZ/NP/2008-4);
 4. *Training of Teachers in Relation to the Design of School Educational Programmes* (OPV/K/RKZ/NP/2008-5);
 5. *Design of New Educational Programmes in Vocational Training for the Needs of the Automobile Industry II* (OPV/K/RKZ/NP/2008-6) – the project was terminated prematurely by the withdrawal from the Agreement with effect from 22 September 2010;
 6. *Training of Teaching Staff of Nursery Schools as Part of the Reform of Education* (OPV/K/RKZ/NP/2008-7);
 7. *External Evaluation of the Quality of School Promoting Self-evaluation Processes and School Development* (OPV/K/RKZ/NP/2009-1);
- within measure 4.2
 8. *Further Training of Elementary and Secondary School Teachers in Informatics* (OPV/K/RCE/NP/2008-2);
 9. *Professional and Career Growth of Teaching Staff* (OPV/K/RKZ/NP/2009-3).

More detailed information regarding the implemented national projects is provided in Tables 56 to 63.

Table 56: State of implementation of the national project as at 31 December 2010

Project title:	Training of Elementary School Teachers in Foreign Languages in Relation to the White Paper of Teaching Foreign Languages at Elementary and Secondary Schools
Basis for national/regional policy:	The White Paper for Teaching Foreign Languages and Elementary and Secondary Schools, approved by the SR Government on 12 September 2007 in SR Government Resolution No. 767/2007

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Project objective:	The project objective is to achieve, in the long-term planning horizon, a 100% representation of 1st grade primary school teachers qualified to teach a foreign language to pupils of younger school age.
Beneficiary:	State Pedagogical Institute
Project implementation period:	16 September 2008 – 15 September 2013
State of implementation for the monitored period:	<p>Following educational activities were carried out During the reported period:</p> <p>1.1: Provision of complementary training for qualified teachers of the 1st level of ES with FL 0/A1 SERR to A2 SERR levels;</p> <p>1.2: Provision of complementary training for qualified teachers of the 1st level of ES with FL A2 SERR to B2 SERR levels;</p> <p>1.3: Provision of complementary training for qualified teachers of the 1st level of ES for professional teacher training in FL;</p> <p>2.1: Provision of extended teacher training in FL to teachers of the 2nd level of ES by pedagog.-psychol. essentials for teaching of FL,</p> <p>2.2: Provision of extended teacher training in FL to teachers of the 2nd level of ES by didactics of teaching FL for 1st level of ES,</p> <p>The activities were implemented by October 2010 with the aim to finish the summer semester, Testing as well as the overall diagnostics of the participants were carried out in November and December.,</p> <p>The MA identified non-eligible expenditures regarding incorrect procedures in public procurement the subject of which were "Educational services for project foreign languages". The activities will be funded from the state budget.</p>
State of implementation from the commencement of the project's implementation:	<p>The Affirmation on the beginning of the project: 16 September 2008. The notification on the beginning of the first activity implementation: 16 September 2008. On 16 September 2008, the Agreement on the provision of NFC was signed. On 17-19 October 2008, the coordination meeting in Piešťany took place (compiling the list of education places, division of participants, designing the public procurement criteria, organisational instructions). 21 November 2008: information campaign in the form of a conference, presenting the project and its objectives. 16 December 2008: meeting of the expert team; 17 December 2008: ceremonial opening of the project office. 15 January 2009: programmes (activity 1.4., 2.3.) were sent for accreditation. Activities completed as at 8/2009. In 2009, the educational activities began for participants in the summer semester from 13 March 2009 to 30 June 2009. During this semester the education of the largest group of participants began in all offered languages (language level A0/A1) – English, German, French, Italia, Spanish, Russian. They were educated at 115 educational centres throughout Slovakia and 15 Higher Education Institutions served as expert guarantors. By the end of the semester in June 2009, a survey in the form of questionnaires was carried out. Since June 2009, individual activities have been implemented within the framework of the preparation of the national testing of participants, which will be carried out according to the project timetable. In October 2009, the testing team members, who are the authors of the items, were trained. In December 2009, the testing team was trained in Paris at the headquarters of CIEP, who will process and evaluate the data. The beginning of the winter semester of academic year 2009/2010 was originally planned for 26 October 2009, but was eventually postponed according to the possibilities of individual Higher Education Institutions to November 2009. Education is carried out at several language levels. Textbooks were distributed to participants in November 2009. In October and November 2009, notebooks were distributed to participants. Working meetings of managing team were held on a regular basis. Public procurement for the provision of educational services was postponed, and in compliance with the standpoint of the Office for Public Procurement, a repeated call took place. Framework agreements were signed by 16 November 2009. Public procurement for technical provision was completed by signing the contract and order. During 2010, activities indicated in the section "State of Implementation for Monitored Period" were carried out. Up to the commencement of the project implementation as at 31 December 2010, the Beneficiary had submitted 8 quarterly Monitoring reports.</p>
Budget in EUR:	EUR 1,394,144. 59 (RCE Objective)
Financial implementation/drawing in EUR for the monitored period:	EUR 314,231.36 (RCE Objective)
Financial implementation/drawing in EUR in cumulative terms from the commencement of the	EUR 319,609.66 (RCE Objective)

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programming period	
Fulfilment of indicators for the monitored period:	<p>Result indicators (planned state / actual state)</p> <p>Number of newly designed/innovated education and study programmes 3/3</p> <p>Number of schools engaged in project activities implementation 50 / 98</p> <p>Number of staff engaged in project activities implementation 500 / 296</p> <p>Number of staff engaged in mobility programmes 44 / 0 - it will be possible to fulfil this indicator only by the end of the project implementation</p> <p>Number of electronic services introduced 3 / 3</p>
Fulfilment of indicators in cumulative terms from the commencement of the programming period	<p>Result indicators (planned state / actual state)</p> <p>Number of newly designed/innovated education and study programmes 3/3</p> <p>Number of schools engaged in project activities implementation 50 / 98</p> <p>Number of staff engaged in project activities implementation 500 / 296</p> <p>Number of staff engaged in mobility programmes 44 / 0 - it will be possible to fulfil this indicator only by the end of the project implementation</p> <p>Number of electronic services introduced 3 / 3</p>

Source: MA

Table 57: State of implementation of the national project as at 31 December 2010

Project title:	Modernizing of the Educational Process at Elementary Schools
Basis for national/regional policy:	The Bill on upbringing and education (Education Act) and on the amendment of certain acts, approved in the SR Government Resolution No 147/2008 of 5 March 2008. The act entered into effect on 1 September 2008.
Project objective:	The project objective is to prepare teachers for active implementation of education reform – adapting the education system to the needs of a knowledge-based society.
Beneficiary:	Institute of Education Information & Forecasting
Project implementation period:	1 December 2008– 30 November 2013
State of implementation for the monitored period:	<p>In 2010, multimedia – digital content for all educational Modules was created under the project implementation. The digital library was opened for access for project participants at the project portal which holds all of the study materials. Content was finalized and participants obtained textbooks and teaching aids for Module 1., Module 2 and Module 3. Within the framework of Modules 3, a total of 9 of 10 methodological textbooks were published for individual subjects (The chemistry textbook was not approved in the form submitted and because of that intensive, work take place for its completion). In 19 training centres throughout Slovakia participants completed their training within Module 1. 40% of the participants in Module 2 and Module 3 should have been trained in 2010. Because of delay not all 40% of participants were trained on time and training will be finished slightly late. This issue is being resolved and based on the request of the Beneficiary for change in the Rider to the Agreement on NFC, it will be drawn up to incorporate the delay in training.</p>
State of implementation from the commencement of the project's implementation:	<p>On 1 December 2008 the Agreement on the provision of NFC was signed. The Beneficiary submitted the Affirmation on the commencement of the project and the Notification on the commencement of the first activity implementation as at 1 December 2008 (Activity 2.2 and the Preparation of the public tender terms and conditions for Public Procurement for purchase of computing technology and services related under Activity).</p> <p>Project implementation took place through 4 basic activities, namely:</p> <p>Activity 1.1: Multimedia – digital content for teacher training for modernising education - Multimedia content was created for all educational modules (Module 1, Module 2, Module 3). The digital library with all study materials was opened for access for all participants at the project portal.</p> <p>Activity 1.2: Design of textbooks and teaching aids for teachers for modernising education - Under this activity the content was finalized and participants received textbooks and teaching aids for Module 1, Module 2 and Module 3. Under Module 3, a total of 9 of 10 textbook were published for individual subjects. The chemistry textbook was not approved in the form submitted; as a result intensive work on its completion is taking place.</p> <p>Activity 2.1: Teachers' training in the area of modernising the educational process on the basis of use of ICT - Activity 2.1 incorporates:</p> <p><u>Module 1</u> - "Digital literacy"</p> <p><u>Module 2</u> - "Modern teaching technology in the work of the teacher"</p> <p><u>Module 3</u> - "Use of ICT in the given subject"</p> <p>From April 2009 to August 2009 schools and teachers enrolled in the project. The participants were trained in 19 training centres throughout Slovakia. Training under Module 1 was completed in February 2011 with a two-month delay in comparison with the</p>

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	<p>timetable. In 2010, the implementation of the first phase of training began in compliance with the teacher training plan in individual years under Module 2 and Module 3. In this phase, 40% of participants of the overall number of teachers engaged in the project should have been trained in 2010. Fulfilment of the planned objective was not successful by deadline and in fact by the end of 2010 only 39.95% of participants were trained under Module 2 and only 29.60% were trained under Module 3. Training will be completed with a slight delay.</p> <p>Activity 2.2. Provision of technological means for modernising education. On 17 December 2009, in connection with this activity, public procurement was publicized in the Public Procurement Bulletin, in the notification on public procurement publishing for the purchase of computing technology and related services. Because of the request for remedy of 21 January 2009 which was submitted to the Beneficiary by an interested party because of the impossibility of complying with one of the terms of public procurement, the expert team for public procurement decided to cancel the tender and prepare new terms and conditions. They were processed and as a result, a new notification on public procurement was publicized in the bulletin. The new tender was successfully completed and the activity was successfully completed in December 2009.</p> <p>All PCs, notebooks and data-projectors were distributed to the schools. Since the commencement of the project implementation up to 31 December 2010, the Beneficiary submitted 8 quarterly Monitoring reports. Monitoring report No. 8 was submitted through the ITMS public portal.</p>
Budget in EUR:	EUR 681,952.20 (RCE Objective)
Financial implementation/drawing in EUR for the monitored period:	EUR 18,782.97 (RCE Objective)
Financial implementation/drawing in EUR in cumulative terms from the commencement of the programming period	18,782.97 (RCE Objective)
Fulfilment of indicators for the monitored period:	<p>Result indicators (planned state / actual state)</p> <p>Number of newly-designed education programmes -10/0</p> <p>Number of schools involved in the implementation of project activities – 158/0</p> <p>Number of training courses for teaching staff – 25/0*</p> <p>Number of employees involved in the project education activities – 320/5</p> <p>Number of newly-designed / innovated education programmes using information-communication technologies in the teaching process - 10/0</p> <p>Number of schools involved in the implementation of the project's activities using information-communication technologies in the teaching process -25/0</p> <p>Number of teaching staff involved in the project's activities using information-communication technologies in the teaching process - 320/0</p> <p>Number of schools involved in the implementation of the project activities containing pupils from marginalised Roma communities - 5/12</p> <p>* While establishing the values planned for outcome measurable indicators, the Beneficiary understood the term : “number of training courses” the number of groups created, in which individual participants will be included and who, within the framework of one group, will undertake several courses during the project implementation (courses for Module 1, Module 2, Module 3). According to such understood terminology, the values for individual measurable indicators were planned. In the submitted monitoring reports 1-7, in the physical indicator “Number of training courses for teaching staff” the Beneficiary incorrectly showed the number of all courses carried out in education separately for Module 1, Module 2 and Module 3, not the number of groups created. In the case of Monitoring report 8, the actual number of courses exceeded the limit of 250% of the physical indicator, which triggered a re-evaluation of the accuracy of the reporting of the aforementioned indicator. Due to the aforementioned reasons, upon correcting the data in Monitoring report 8, the value of the relevant indicator was reduced by 175 training courses in comparison with the value reported in the previous monitoring report. Because of the incorrect method of reporting the outcome indicator “Number of training courses for teaching staff” in monitoring reports 1-7, the growth of the value of the indicator for 2010 cannot be determined.</p>
Fulfilment of indicators in cumulative terms from the commencement of the programming period	<p>Result indicators (planned state / actual state)</p> <p>Number of newly-designed education programmes -10/10</p> <p>Number of schools involved in the implementation of project activities - 158/159</p> <p>Number of training courses for teaching staff – 25/38</p> <p>Number of employees involved in the project education activities – 320/383</p> <p>Number of newly-designed / innovated education programmes using information-</p>

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	<p>communication technologies in the teaching process - 10/10</p> <p>Number of schools involved in the implementation of the project's activities using information-communication technologies in the teaching process-158/159</p> <p>Number of teaching staff involved in the project's activities using information-communication technologies in the teaching process - 320/383</p> <p>Number of schools involved in the implementation of the project activities containing pupils from marginalised Roma communities - 5/66</p>
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Source: MA

Table 58: State of implementation of the national project as at 31 December 2010

Project title:	Modernizing of the Educational Process at Secondary Schools
Basis for national/regional policy:	The national project was prepared in connection with the Bill on upbringing and education (the Education Act) and on the amendment of certain acts, approved in SR Government Resolution No 147/2008 of 5 March 2008. The objective of the national project is to change the form of education at secondary schools, which will lead to the modernisation of the learning process.
Project objective:	<p>Rework the content of the secondary school curriculum and prepare school leavers by means of innovated learning/teaching forms and methods for the current and prospective needs of a knowledge-based society, as well as for follow-up education in the system of higher education and further education.</p> <p>Prepare teachers for active implementation of educational reform – adapting the education system to the needs of a knowledge-based society.</p> <p>Innovate and modernise the content, methods and outputs of the learning process for new competences of work in the Modern School of the 21st Century.</p> <p>Increase the share of teachers participating in further education programmes with the aim of gaining and developing competences necessary for a knowledge-based society.</p>
Beneficiary:	Institute of Education Information & Forecasting
Project implementation period:	2 December 2008 – 30 November 2013
State of implementation for the monitored period:	<p>In 2010, the following was implemented: Activity 1.1: Multimedia – digital content for teacher training for modernizing education. During the reported period, multimedia – digital content was created for Module 1, “digital literacy of the teacher”, Module 2 “Modern teaching technology in the work of the teacher” and Module 3 “Use of ICT in the given subject” for all 7 subjects (mathematics, physics, chemistry, biology, geography, Slovak language, history). The activity is in compliance with the planned project state. The digital library with all study materials for all participants was opened for access at the project portal.</p> <p>Activity 1.2: Design of textbooks and teaching aids for teachers for modernising education. During the reported period, textbooks and teaching aids were created and handed over to the participants for Module 1, Module 2 and Module 3 in compliance with the planned education activities. During this period, all 8 textbooks were completed for Module 3. The activity is in compliance with the planned project state.</p> <p>Activity 2.1: Teacher training in the area of modernising the educational process through the use of ICT</p> <p>Activity 2.1 incorporates:</p> <p>Module 1 “digital literacy of the teacher”,</p> <p>Module 2 “Modern teaching technology in the work of the teacher”</p> <p>Module 3 “Use of ICT in the given subject”</p> <p>Under Module 1, teacher training was completed in the reviewed period and in compliance with the project plan 100% of the participants were trained. 40% of the participants were trained Under Module 2 and Module 3. Because of a delay, not all 40% of participants was trained; thus, training will be completed with a slight delay. This issue is being resolved and based on the request of the Beneficiary for a change to the Rider to the Agreement on NFC, it will be drawn up to incorporate the delay in training. 19 training centres throughout Slovakia are used for training of participants.</p>
State of implementation from the commencement of the project's implementation:	<p>On 2 December 2008, the Agreement on the provision of NFC was signed. On 2 December 2008, the Beneficiary submitted the Affirmation on the commencement of the project beginning and the Notification on beginning of the first project activity (Activity 2.2 and Preparation of tender terms of competition for Public procurement for the purchase of computing technology and services related under Activity). The project was implemented through 4 basic activities, namely:</p> <p>Activity 1.1: Multimedia – digital content for teacher training for modernising education. (1 April 2009 – in progress). During the reported period, multimedia – digital content was created for Module 1, “digital literacy of the teacher”, Module 2, “Modern teaching</p>

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	<p>technology in the work of the teacher” and Module 3, “Use of ICT in the given subject” for all 7 subjects (mathematics, physics, chemistry, biology, geography, Slovak language, history). The activity is in compliance with the planned project state. The digital library with all of the study materials for all participants was opened for access at the project portal.</p> <p>Activity 1.2: Design of textbooks and teaching aids for teachers for modernising education. During the reported period, textbooks and teaching aids were created and handed over to the participants for Module 1, Module 2 and Module 3) in compliance with the planned education activities. During this period, all 8 textbooks were completed for Module 3. Activity is in compliance with the project state planned.</p> <p>Activity 2.1: “Teacher training in the area of modernising the educational process through the use of ICT” (1 October 2009 – in progress) incorporates:</p> <p>Module 1 “the digital literacy of the teacher”,</p> <p>Module 2 “Modern teaching technology in the work of the teacher”</p> <p>Module 3 “Use of ICT in the given subject”</p> <p>From April 2009 to August 2009, schools and teachers enrolled in the project. Under Module 1, teacher training was completed during the reviewed period according to the project timetable. 40% of participants were supposed to be trained under Module 2 and Module 3. However, due to a delay, not all 40% were trained; thus training will be completed with a slight delay. This issue is being resolved and based on the request of the Beneficiary for a change to the Rider to the Agreement on NFC, it will be drawn up to incorporate the delay in training.</p> <p>Activity 2.2: Provision of technological means for modernising education (1 December 2008 - 31 December 2009). The activity was completed in December 2009. From the commencement of the project implementation up to 31 December 2009, the Beneficiary submitted 8 quarterly Monitoring reports.</p>
Budget in EUR:	EUR 458,401.78 (RCE Objective)
Financial implementation/drawing in EUR for the monitored period:	EUR 15,554.80 (RCE Objective)
Financial implementation/drawing in EUR in cumulative terms from the commencement of the programming period	EUR 22,352.86 (RCE Objective)
Fulfilment of indicators for the monitored period:	<p>Result indicators (planned state / actual state)</p> <p>Number of newly-designed education programmes 7/0</p> <p>Number of schools involved in the implementation of project activities –119/0</p> <p>Number of training courses for teaching staff – 21/1</p> <p>Number of employees involved in the project education activities – 260/0</p> <p>Number of newly-designed / innovated education programmes using information-communication technologies in the teaching process – 7/0</p> <p>Number of schools involved in the implementation of the project’s activities using information-communication technologies in the teaching process – 119/0</p> <p>Number of teaching staff involved in the implementation of the project activities using information-communication technologies in the teaching process-260/0</p> <p>Number of schools involved in the implementation of the project activities containing pupils from marginalised Roma communities – 30/8</p>
Fulfilment of indicators in cumulative terms from the commencement of the programming period	<p>Result indicators (planned state / actual state)</p> <p>Number of newly-designed education programmes – 7/7</p> <p>Number of schools involved in the implementation of project activities –119/110</p> <p>Number of training courses for teaching staff – 21/31</p> <p>Number of employees involved in the project education activities – 260/287</p> <p>Number of newly-designed / innovated education programmes using information-communication technologies in the teaching process – 7/7</p> <p>Number of schools involved in the implementation of the project’s activities using information-communication technologies in the teaching process – 119/110</p> <p>Number of teaching staff involved in the implementation of the project activities using information-communication technologies in the teaching process-260/287</p> <p>Number of schools involved in the implementation of the project activities containing pupils from marginalised Roma communities – 30/32</p>

Source: MA

Table 59: State of implementation of the national project as at 31 December 2010

Project title:	Training of Teachers in Relation to the Design of School Educational Programmes
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Basis for national/regional policy:	<p>On 22 May 2008, the SR Parliament passed the Education Act. The Act entered into effect on 1 September 2008 and replaced the original Education Act of 1984. On 19 June 2008, following the signing of the Education Act by the SR President, the national education programmes for individual levels of the education system and also the related school education programmes and methodology for their creation were approved. The schools could officially begin to prepare their own school education programmes. In August 2008, 13 decrees concerning the Education Act entered into effect. They are effective as of 1 September 2008. In 1 September 2008, the schools began to teach according to their own school education programmes in the first and fifth years of elementary school and in the first year of secondary school, elementary art school and language school.</p> <p>The creation of school education programmes at the school level constitutes the reform of the educational content. The training activities of the project also include the implementation of further training of teaching staff for acquiring and developing competences ensuring the efficient conversion of a traditional school to a modern school.</p> <p>The training activities and the methodological activity within the project will lead to the innovation of educational content and methods at schools; at the same time they will increase the quality of education outputs at schools, while educating with a view to the labour market needs in a knowledge-based society.</p>
Project objective:	Nationwide retraining and education of elementary and secondary school teaching staff for implementing reform in educational content and creating new school education programmes.
Beneficiary:	State Institute of Vocational Training
Project implementation period:	2 January 2009 – 31 August 2012
State of implementation for the monitored period:	<p>In 2010, the following activities were implemented: Activity 2.1: Preparation, updating and evaluation of the education programme (courses)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – the decisions of the MoESRS SR on the accreditation of 4 educational programmes for courses of multipliers of continuous education were issued. At the same time, decisions of the MoESRS SR on the accreditation of 4 educational programmes for courses of participants of continuous education were issued. It is necessary to ensure public procurement for the fulfilment of this activity in order to supply training and promotional materials, which in 2010 was not carried out. Under activity 2.2, Provision of educational programmes (courses) 132 multipliers were trained in 2010. Activity 3.1: Content design, the production/publishing and distribution of the teachers' newspaper —Učiteľské Noviny – in the second half of the academic year 2009/2010 was in compliance with the project description. However, in September 2010, the MA granted written exceptions to the Beneficiary for the extraordinary timetable for publishing Učiteľské Noviny in connection with the withdrawal from the agreement by the editorial staff of Učiteľské Noviny. In 2010, public procurement for the new editing staff of Učiteľské Noviny was not completed. During the distribution of Učiteľské Noviny, government audit No. A310 stated that copies of Učiteľské Noviny were also distributed to the persons and organizations which are not part of the national project or target group objectives. <p>Activity 3.2: Content design, production/publishing and distribution of a multimedia educational DVD – in 2010, the Beneficiary completed the preparation of scripts for the 1st series of educational DVDs. At the same time, the preparation of a selection of technical issues of scripts for the 2nd series is in progress. By end of 2010, the market survey was supplied regarding the establishment of the anticipated value of the order for the 4th series of DVDs. Public procurement for the graphic design, print and copying media must be provided for the fulfilment of this activity.</p> <p>Activity 3.3: Content design for the programming and moderating of the eLearning portal – in 2010 the preparation of market survey began for programming and e-learning portal service which will launch the distant education process in 2011.</p>
State of implementation from the commencement of the project's implementation:	<p>On 2 January 2009, the Agreement on the provision of NFC was signed. On 2 January 2009, the Beneficiary submitted the Affirmation on the commencement of the project and the Notification on the commencement of the first project activity - 1.1 Design and progressive supplementing, or changes within the design team (internal and external workers, suppliers) – the project steering committee, the coordination, expert and training team.</p> <p>Activity 1.2: The work of expert working groups – expert working groups work on expert topics (e.g., interactive teaching methods, methods and means of evaluation, principles and approaches to continuity in teaching at elementary and secondary schools, etc) solve key tasks and problems with regard to the reworking of educational content. They create methodological material of a fundamental nature, the purpose of which is to assist teachers in creating school education programmes, modernising and innovating textbook content and teaching aids, applying new forms and methods of education, educational methods in</p>

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	<p>connection with the labour market, efficiently developing key competences, encouraging innovative methods and forms of further education of teaching staff, support for teachers' personal development, etc.</p> <p>Activity 2.1: Preparation, updating and evaluation of an education programme (courses) – the preparation, updating and evaluation of an education programme is based on three stages of implementation: Structuring of the education programme for continuous education (the whole education programme is based on a modular arrangement of education. Courses were specified, 3 modules covering the educational content used by the Beneficiary as the key pillar in relation to the creation of school education programmes were proposed. Education outputs, recommended teaching aids, procedures and methods for the lecturer and participant, criteria, methods and aids of evaluation were also laid down.) the creation of teaching material for future lecturers and teachers, further education of teaching staff (The basis for the creation will be formed by individual courses and modules of the structured education programme. The "Methodology for Creating Education Programmes for Elementary Schools", "Methodology for Creating Education Programmes for Secondary Schools" and "Methodology for Creating Education Programmes for Secondary Vocational Schools" have been developed and will serve as teaching materials for participants, as well as for training lecturers) and the creation of on-line courses and teaching material for distance learning (on-line courses).</p> <p>Activity 2.2: Provision of educational programmes (courses) – in the provision of the educational programme, Convergence Objective, the Beneficiary is planning to implement the courses from April 2010 onward. This activity will be implemented in the following stages: Continuous education of multipliers, continuous education and distance education of teaching staff. 6000 teaching staff will be trained in the final stage of the Convergence Objective. Activity 3.1: Design of the content, production/publishing and distribution of the teachers' newspaper Učiteľské Noviny – bi-weekly publication of the newspaper. Activity 3.2: Creation of the content, production/publishing and distribution of a multimedia educational DVD – work is under way on a multimedia educational DVD. It is intended to transfer knowledge from the field of education and vocational training and promote research & development results in terms of teaching at elementary and secondary schools, placing an emphasis on the principles of lifelong learning. Activity 3.3: Creation of the content for programming, moderating of the eLearning portal – work is under way on the eLearning portal. It will serve as a space for intermediating information, trends and stimuli for raising the quality of the teaching/learning process and for the further education of teaching staff, for exchanging experience and creativity in the form of exchanging ideas, information, good practice, experience and solutions to problematic tasks.</p> <p>From the beginning of the project implementation up to 31 December 2010, the Beneficiary has submitted 7 quarterly Monitoring reports.</p>
Budget in EUR:	EUR 168,938.86 (RCE Objective)
Financial implementation/drawing in EUR for the monitored period:	EUR 11,475.70 (RCE Objective)
Financial implementation/drawing in EUR in cumulative terms from the commencement of the programming period	EUR 11,475.70 (RCE Objective)
Fulfilment of indicators for the monitored period:	<p>Result indicators (planned state / actual state)</p> <p>Number of schools involved in the implementation of project activities – 100/20</p> <p>Number of employees involved in the project education activities – 700/20</p> <p>Number of training courses for teaching staff – 35/9</p> <p>Number of schools involved in the implementation of the project activities having pupils from marginalised Roma communities–10/0</p>
Fulfilment of indicators in cumulative terms from the commencement of the programming period	<p>Result indicators (planned state / actual state)</p> <p>Number of schools involved in the implementation of project activities – 100/20</p> <p>Number of employees involved in the project education activities – 700/20</p> <p>Number of training courses for teaching staff – 35/9</p> <p>Number of schools involved in the implementation of the project activities having pupils from marginalised Roma communities–10/0</p>

Source: MA

Table 60: State of implementation of the national project as at 31 December 2010

Project title:	Training of Teaching Staff of Nursery Schools as Part of the Reform of Education
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Basis for national/regional policy:	Act No. 245/2008 on upbringing and education (Education Act) and on the amendment of certain acts
Project objective:	Implement education content reform and develop a system of lifelong learning focused on developing nursery school teachers' key competences in accordance with the needs of a knowledge-based society. Focus the preparation and further education of teaching staff on acquiring and developing competences to transform a traditional school to a modern school; Innovate the content and methods, raise the quality of education outputs for labour market needs in a knowledge-based society.
Beneficiary:	Methodological-Pedagogical Centre
Project implementation period:	1 May 2009-30 April 2013
State of implementation for the monitored period:	<p>As at 31 December 2010, a total of 4 monitoring reports were submitted and activities under the reported period were implemented as follows:</p> <p>Activity 1.1: Training of the management and professional staff of central and general government. The Beneficiary applied for a postponement in the schedule for this activity from 15 March 2010. Within the framework of this activity, the training of nursery school staff, i.e., the management and expert staff is withheld cumulatively in all regions of the SR. Implementation began as of 15 March 2010; the end of implementation is planned for 31 January 2013. Training is implemented in the form of 5 educational programmes with an overall length of 260 hours, where the management and expert staff of state and public administration are accredited in educational programmes implemented in the form of personal participation in study groups from 15 to 30 participants. Despite the fact that the implementation of the activity was postponed due to time-operation reasons, the timely completion of the technical documents necessary for the lecturing and training of the management and expert staff of state and public administration was successful. These materials are entitled "School Management" and "Content Reform for Managerial Teaching Staff".</p> <p>Activity 1.2: The education of nursery school teaching staff has been running since 10/2009.</p> <p>In third monitoring period of 2010 under this activity, a the meeting of experts for the content of the educational programme content "Innovations in Didactics for Elementary Education Teachers" was organized and the text for the given educational activity entitled "Content Reform in Nursery Schools" was created.</p> <p>Activity 1.3: The education portal has been running since October 2009. It is a tool for distant form of training of participants, its completion is planned for 30 April 2013. By the end of 2010, the introductory site of the educational portal was designed and part of educational portal was launched at: www.mat.iedu.sk.</p> <p>Activity 2.1: The development of educational material has been running since 10/2009; under this activity, preparation for the public tender for item 5.4.2, the processing of educational material in digital form and item 5.4.3, the processing of educational material in print form is in progress. Completion of this activity is planned for 31 December 2012.</p> <p>Activity 2.2: Professional stays and excursions (The Beneficiary applied for a postponement in the schedule for this activity from 15 March 2010) Since the given period, the material entitled "<i>Občina svety Ilija</i>" was prepared by PaeDr. Eva Bruteničova, who also processed the written documents in Slovak and Croatian for the necessary implementation of the expert study stay with the partner – the Republic of Croatia, in cooperation with the Embassy of the Republic of Croatia in Bratislava and subsequently the agreement on partnership in implementing national project was signed.</p>
State of implementation from the commencement of the project's implementation:	<p>On 29 April 200, the Agreement on the provision of NFC was signed. On 1 May 2009, the Beneficiary submitted the Affirmation on the commencement of the project and the Notification on the beginning of the first project activity: Design of educational material – the processing of the analysis of practice requirements. Further activities were implemented as follows: Activity 1.1: Training of the management and professional staff of central and general government. The Beneficiary applied for a postponement in the schedule for this activity from 15 March 2010. Activity 1.2: Education of nursery school teaching staff has been running since October 2009.</p> <p>Within this activity, nursery school staff have been trained with a view to developing professional and expert competences cumulatively. The activity was implemented as of 1 October 2009 through updated and innovation training in three education programmes of 200 hours, in study groups of 15 to 30 participants; the end of implementation is planned for 31 January 2013. Activity 1.3: The education portal has been running since October 2009. It is a tool for the distant training of participants in activities 1.1. and 1.2. and provides space for e-learning. Implementation of this activity began on 1 October 2009 and its completion is planned for 30 April 2013. Activity 2.1: Development of educational material has been running since October 2009. Activity 2.2: Professional stays and excursions (The Beneficiary applied for a postponement in the schedule for this activity</p>

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	from 15 March 2010). Activity 2.3: Professional seminars and conferences (The Beneficiary applied for a postponement in the schedule for this activity from 15 March 2010). Activity 2.4: Equipment and provision for the project has been running since October 2009 in compliance with the agreement. In the course of the past years, envelopes were opened and bids evaluated for the supplier of the <i>equipment and provision</i> . The purchase agreement was signed with the winner, Columbex, on 20 November 2009. In 2010, activities took place as indicated in the Section “State of Implementation for the Monitored Period”. From the beginning of implementation up to 31 December 2010, the Beneficiary submitted 7 quarterly monitoring reports.
Budget in EUR:	EUR 652,017.86 (RCE Objective)
Financial implementation/drawing in EUR for the monitored period:	EUR 19,558.77 (RCE Objective)
Financial implementation/drawing in EUR in cumulative terms from the commencement of the programming period	EUR 20,068.86 (RCE Objective)
Fulfilment of indicators for the monitored period:	<p>Result indicators (planned state / actual state)</p> <p>Number of schools involved in the implementation of the project’s activities using information-communication technologies in the teaching process- 185/57</p> <p>Number of teaching staff involved in project activities using information-communication technologies in the teaching process-1350/65</p> <p>Number of newly-designed / innovated education and study programmes- 7/6</p> <p>Number of employees involved in the project education activities-1350/65</p> <p>Number of innovated / newly-designed teaching materials- 200/2</p> <p>Number of schools involved in the implementation of the project activities containing pupils coming from marginalised Roma communities - 15/5</p>
Fulfilment of indicators in cumulative terms from the commencement of the programming period	<p>Result indicators (planned state / actual state)</p> <p>Number of schools involved in the implementation of the project’s activities using information-communication technologies in the teaching process- 185/64</p> <p>Number of teaching staff involved in project activities using information-communication technologies in the teaching process-1350/87</p> <p>Number of newly-designed / innovated education and study programmes- 7/7</p> <p>Number of employees involved in the project education activities-1350/87</p> <p>Number of innovated / newly-designed teaching materials- 200/2</p> <p>Number of schools involved in the implementation of the project activities containing pupils coming from marginalised Roma communities - 15/5</p>

Source: MA

Table 61: State of implementation of the national project as at 31 December 2010

Project title:	External Evaluation of Schools Promoting Self-evaluation Processes and School Development
Basis for national/regional policy:	The National School Inspectorate was established by law on 1 January 2000. Act No 596/2003 Coll. on the state administration in the school system and school self-governance and on the amendment of certain acts as later amended, sets out its competences, content and scope of activity. SR Ministry of Education Decree of 31 March 2005 on school inspection
Project objective:	<p>To ascertain by way of external evaluation of school quality prior to and following implementation of schools’ projects funded by the ESF, and their benefit in improving the school’s quality.</p> <p>Develop an evaluation and self-assessment model and system for work at schools and school facilities, including its practical use in practice.</p>
Beneficiary:	National School Inspectorate
Project implementation period:	1 October 2009 -30 September 2013
State of implementation for the monitored period:	<p>From 16 to 22 May 2010, five school inspectors participated in a mobility stay at INSPECTIE van het ONDERWIJS, a partnership institution in the Netherlands.</p> <p>The knowledge acquired and the assessment of Dutch criteria and indicators used for the external and internal evaluation of schools will be incorporated in new tools for evaluation of quality which will comprise part of the comprehensive model of evaluation and self-evaluation of the work of schools and school facilities.</p> <p>At the same time, an 18-member group of experts, who are responsible for designing the model for evaluation and self-evaluation of the work of schools and their use in practice was created. The model is currently under design.</p>
State of implementation from the	On 3 August 2009, the Agreement on the provision of NFC was signed. The affirmation of

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commencement of the project's implementation:	the commencement of project implementation: 1 October 2009. Notification on the commencement of the first project activity: 12 October 2009. In October 2009 school 84 inspectors was trained. In November and December 2009, the external evaluation of 7 ES and 7 SS was carried out prior to their project implementation. In 2010, activities were implemented as indicated in the section entitled, "State of Implementation for the Monitored Period".
Budget in EUR:	EUR 117,789.06 (RCE Objective)
Financial implementation/drawing in EUR for the monitored period:	EUR 28,760.40 (RCE Objective)
Financial implementation/drawing in EUR in cumulative terms from the commencement of the programming period	EUR 28,760.40 (RCE Objective)
Fulfilment of indicators for the monitored period::	Result indicators (planned state / actual state) Number of staff involved in mobility programmes 5/5 Number of employees involved in the project education activities 0* Number of schools involved in the implementation of project activities 0* value attained in 2009 for 100%
Fulfilment of indicators in cumulative terms from the commencement of the programming period	Result indicators (planned state / actual state) Number of staff involved in mobility programmes 5/5 Number of employees involved in the project education activities 12/12 Number of schools involved in the implementation of project activities 14/14

Source: MA

Table 62: State of implementation of the national project as at 31 December 2010

Project title:	Further Training of Elementary and Secondary School Teachers in Informatics
Basis for national/regional policy:	Statement of policy of the SR Government of August 2006 proclaimed "to create the preconditions for a systematic change in the content of education, connected with deepening language preparation, developing computer literacy and communication skills, with substantially greater use of modern teaching aids, particularly, information technology and multimedia technology in the teaching process." WHITE PAPER FOR EDUCATION AND TRAINING in the SR for the forthcoming 15 – 20 years (the "MILLENNIUM" Project). Informatisation strategy for the regional school system (approved in February 2008).
Project objective:	Design, develop and implement modern further education for informatics and IT education teachers at ES and SS, supported by digital technologies
Beneficiary:	State Pedagogical Institute
Project implementation period:	1 October 2008 – 30 September 2011
State of implementation for the monitored period::	In 2010, activity 2.1, Project Equipment and Facility continued and was completed in December 2010. Within activities 1.1, Education for 1 st Grade ES Teachers in Informatics and IT Education, 1.2, Education for Unqualified 2 nd Grade ES Teachers and SS Teachers in Informatics and 1.3, Further Education of Qualified 2 nd Grade ES Teachers and SS Teachers in Informatics, the education continued. Activity 1.4, Project Monitoring and Evaluation was procured by sending monitoring reports for projects 6 to 9. The project's publicity was made in the form of newspaper articles, project posters and information at the project website.
State of implementation from the commencement of the project's implementation:	The Agreement on the provision of NFC was signed on 1 October 2008. The affidavit on the project launch was delivered on 7 October 2008 and the project was launched on 1 October 2008. In 2008, the project was launched with activity 2.1, Project Equipment and Facility through the preparation of public procurement for the purchase of computer technology necessary for the project implementation. Activities 1.1, Education for 1 st Grade ES Teachers in Informatics and IT Education, 1.2 Education for Unqualified 2 nd Grade ES Teachers and SS Teachers in Informatics and 1.3 Further Education of Qualified 2 nd Grade ES Teachers and SS Teachers in Informatics were commenced by the preparation of application forms for teachers, drafting equipment loan contracts with educational participants, publishing of applications for individual target groups and the creation of databases of the registered education participants. Within activity 1.4, Project Monitoring and Evaluation, a monitoring report was prepared and sent to the MA. The project publicity was ensured through an article in <i>Učiteľské noviny</i> , an item in the television programme <i>Euroškolsť a výskum (EuroEducation and Research)</i> on the TA3 television channel and information at the project website. In 2009, activity 2.1, Project Equipment and Facility, the

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	<p>preparation of public procurement for the purchase of computer technology necessary for the project implementation continued. Due to the fact that the respective legislation required a joint procedure with the project “Education of Elementary School Teachers in Foreign Languages in Connection with the White Paper of Teaching Foreign Languages at Elementary and Secondary Schools”, the public procurement was slightly delayed and was completed in August 2009. Activity 2.1, Project Equipment and Facility was completed in November 2009 by distributing the teaching equipment to schools. Within activities 1.1, Education for 1st Grade ES Teachers in Informatics and IT Education, 1.2, Education for Unqualified 2nd Grade ES Teachers and SS Teachers in Informatics and 1.3, Further Education of Qualified 2nd Grade ES Teachers and SS Teachers in Informatics, the education itself was commenced on 13 June 2009 after the selection of the target group. This education continued with a break in July and August until the end of the year. Activity 1.4, Project Monitoring and Evaluation was procured by sending monitoring reports for projects 2 to. 5. The project’s publicity was provided in the form of newspaper articles, project posters and information at the project website. In 2009, the public procurement for the purchase of computer technology necessary for the project implementation continued and was implemented within activity 2.1, Project Equipment and Facility that was completed in October 2009. Within activities 1.1, Education for 1st Grade ES Teachers in Informatics and IT Education, 1.2, Education for Unqualified 2nd Grade ES Teachers and SS Teachers in Informatics and 1.3, Further Education of Qualified 2nd Grade ES Teachers and SS Teachers in Informatics, the education itself was commenced on 13 June 2009 after the selection of the target group. This education continued with a break in July and August until the end of the year. Activity 1.4, Project Monitoring and Evaluation was procured by sending monitoring reports for projects 2 to. 5. The project was publicised in the form of newspaper articles, project posters and information at the project website. In 2010, the activities were taken, as provided in the Section “State of implementation for the monitored period”. As at 31 December 2010, a total of 9 monitoring reports were delivered within the project.</p>
Budget in EUR:	EUR 1,053,171.81 (RCE Objective)
Financial implementation/drawing in EUR for the monitored period:	EUR 248,105.06 (RCE Objective)
Financial implementation/drawing in EUR in cumulative terms from the commencement of the programming period	EUR 252,152.28 (RCE Objective)
Fulfilment of indicators for the monitored period:	<p>Result indicators (planned state / actual state)</p> <p>Number of newly-designed/innovated education and study programmes 3/3</p> <p>Number of schools involved in the implementation of project activities 60/62</p> <p>Number of employees involved in the project education activities 199/83</p> <p>Number of electronic services introduced 3/3</p>
Fulfilment of indicators in cumulative terms from the commencement of the programming period	<p>Result indicators (planned state / actual state)</p> <p>Number of newly-designed/innovated education and study programmes 3/3</p> <p>Number of schools involved in the implementation of project activities 60/122</p> <p>Number of employees involved in the project education activities 199/195</p> <p>Number of electronic services introduced 3/3</p>

Source: MA

Table 63: State of implementation of the national project as at 31 December 2010

Project title:	Professional and Career Growth of Teaching Staff
Basis for national/regional policy:	<p>Act No. 317/2009 Coll. on Teaching Staff and Professional Staff and on Changes and Amendments to Other Laws.</p> <p>Decree No. 445 of the MoESRS SR on Continuing Education and Attestations of Teaching and Professional Staff.</p>
Project objective:	To develop an efficient system of further education for teaching and professional staff at schools and school facilities with an emphasis on developing key competences.
Beneficiary:	Methodological Pedagogical Centre
Project implementation period:	15 October 2009 – 14 October 2013
State of implementation for the monitored period:	<p>Main activities of the national project: Activity 1.1: Development, Innovation and Implementation of Professional Standards and Instruments for the Evaluation of the Development of Professional Competences. The pilot model of professional standards was reviewed and SWOT analyses were prepared. On the basis of the analyses, the methodology objectives were set, the functions and forms of professional standards determining the innovation of the pilot version were defined and a draft of the professional</p>

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	<p>standard for individual career degrees in compliance with the gradation of the performance of a teaching employee classified into three categories - pupil, educational process, teacher self-development, was prepared). Activity 2.1: Analysis of Education Needs of Individual Target Groups of Teaching and Professional Staff at Schools and School Facilities. Within this activity, a methodology for the analysis of educational needs was prepared and the first study of education needs of teaching staff and professional staff for 2010 was prepared. The study was prepared on the basis of the outcome of questionnaire enquiry. In analysing the data obtained mapping the needs of teaching and professional staff, 2,053 questionnaires were processed. A complex analysis and interpretation of the outcome of the survey for education needs of the teaching and professional staff constituted an integral part thereof. Activity 2.2: Development and Accreditation of the Continuing Education Programmes of Teaching and Professional Staff under the Accreditation System. As At 31 December 2010, 144 education programmes were accredited, of which 20 focus on ICT. A total of 310 newly-designed education programmes were submitted for accreditation (of which 144 have been accredited). The accredited education programmes correspond to the findings stated in the study of the education needs of the teaching and professional staff. The development of further education programmes for the teaching staff will be directed in line with the interpretation of the findings of activity 2.1 in the areas: pupil, upbringing and the education process, self-development of teaching employees and educational themes. The development of further education programmes for professional staff will be directed in line with the interpretation of the findings of the activity in the following areas: diagnostic activities, advisory activities, therapeutic and rehabilitating activities, precaution activities, educational topics. Activity 3.1: Creation of Teaching Resources, Methodologies and Professional Publications, including Digital Forms. A methodology for the creation of teaching resources was developed. The creation of teaching resources has not commenced yet. Activity 3.2: Education Activities Focused on Developing Key Competences of Teaching and Professional Staff and Education and Training Strategies. Within this activity, educational activities were implemented, and as at 31 December 2010, they involved the participation of 5,484 teaching and professional staff. Activity 4.1: Creation and Administration of an Interactive Education Portal for the Promotion of Continuing Education. The public procurement for the creation and administration of the interactive education portal was cancelled by virtue of Decision No. 122-OKVO/3/2010 of 18 May 2010. The time Schedule related thereto was therefore shifted. Activity 4.2: Equipment and Facility for Professional Activities. The Public Procurement Office cancelled the public tender by virtue of Decision No. 122-OKVO/3/2010 of 18 May 2010.</p>
State of implementation from the commencement of the project's implementation:	<p>The Agreement on the provision of NFC was signed on 15 October 2009. The affidavit on the project launch was delivered on 15 October 2009. The notification of the commencement of the implementation of the first education activity was made on 31 December 2009; it clearly follows from the above that no education activities were conducted in 2009, only the preparatory phase for the education was conducted. The main project activities were commenced in line with the time Schedule. As at 31 December 2009, at total of 136 education programmes were created and submitted for accreditation, but none of them were accredited. The project education activities within the main project activity 3.2 were commenced in March 2010. As at 31 December 2010, 4 monitoring reports were delivered.</p>
Budget in EUR:	EUR 5,491,430.00 (RCE Objective)
Financial implementation/drawing in EUR for the monitored period:	EUR 16,586.12 (RCE Objective)
Financial implementation/drawing in EUR in cumulative terms from the commencement of the programming period	EUR 16,586.12 EUR (RCE Objective)
Fulfilment of indicators for the monitored period:	<p>Result indicators (planned state / actual state)</p> <p>Number of newly-designed education programmes 625/144</p> <p>Number of newly-designed/innovated education programmes focused on gaining and developing ICT knowledge 30/20</p> <p>Number of employees involved in the project education activities 2000/885</p> <p>Number of electronic services introduced 1/0</p>
Fulfilment of indicators in cumulative terms from the commencement of the programming period	<p>Result indicators (planned state / actual state)</p> <p>Number of newly-designed education programmes 625/144</p> <p>Number of newly-designed/innovated education programmes focused on gaining and developing ICT knowledge 30/20</p> <p>Number of employees involved in the project education activities 2000/885</p>

	Number of electronic services introduced 1/0
--	--

Source: MA

In 2010, within individual measures of priority axis 4, a total of 22 demand-driven projects are still in progress under the following 6 calls:

- within measure 4.1
 1. *Design and implementation of secondary schools development programmes promoting enhancement of quality of education in compliance with the reform of the educational system under call (OPV-2008/4.1/01-SORO) – 5 projects;*
 2. *Design and implementation of elementary schools development programmes promoting enhancement of quality of education in compliance with the reform of the educational system under call (OPV-2008/4.1/02- SORO) – 6 projects;*
 3. *Design and implementation of school educational programmes for elementary schools under call (OPV-2008/4.1/03- SORO) – 6 projects;*
 4. *Design and implementation of school educational programmes for secondary schools under call (OPV-2008/4.1/04- SORO) – 3 projects;*
- within measure 4.2
 1. *Promoting innovative forms of education at HEIs and human resources development in research and development (OPV-2009/4.2/01- SORO) – 1 project;*
 2. *Promoting Further Education in Selected Sectors (OPV-2009/4.2/02- SORO) – 1 project.*

TA MA Projects

As at 31 December 2010, within measure 4.3, a total of 2 TA MA projects were approved for 2010 (of which 1 project was approved within priority theme 85 and 1 project was approved within priority theme 86) and 1 TA MA project was approved for 2011 (within priority theme 85). 2 approved projects for 2010 were implemented in 2010 and 1 approved project for 2011 will be implemented in 2011. In 2010, the financial implementation of TA projects for 2007, 2008 and 2009 was further provided via the processing of the submitted AfP (refund) to MA. As at 31 December 2010, no TA MA project has been completed.

In 2010, the AfNFC acceptance process and the approval process of received AfNFC continued from 2 Notices for TA MA that were published at the end of 2009 but whose closing date was extended to the beginning of 2010.

1) Notice **OPV/K/RKZ/TP/2009-3** entitled “*Notice – Technical Assistance Project, Technical Assistance for Objective Convergence/RCE 2010 – Preparation, Implementation, Monitoring and Control (priority theme 85)*” was published on 30 November 2009. The closing date of the Notice was 28 January 2010.

Information regarding the total financial allocation for RCE Objective, project implementation place, main objective, eligible applicant and aid limits is provided in the AR for 2009.

As at the closing date of the notice for TA MA, i.e., 28 January 2010 a total of **1** AfNFC was received with a total requested NFC of **EUR 414,645.00**. The AfNFC was submitted on 17

December 2009, however, the approval process of the AfNFC took place at the beginning of 2010.

The formal accuracy assessment of the AfNFC was conducted between 7 January 2010 and 12 January 2010. Within the assessment, the verification of the eligibility and completeness criteria were conducted and a preliminary financial audit was conducted on 13 January 2010.

The expert assessment of the AfNFC was conducted on 15 January 2010 by two internal assessors - Project Managers of the CA. The AfNFC achieved a higher score than the minimum total score prescribed. The expert assessment of the AfNFC was completed on 15 January 2010.

The selection of the AfNFC took place on 18 January 2010 and was conducted by the Chief Manager on the basis of individual expert sheets of the expert assessment of the AfNFC. At the selection of the AfNFC, the Chief Manager applied selection criteria approved by the MC OPE. The AfNFC met the prescribed selection criteria.

The final report from the AfNFC selection for the Notice - Technical Assistance Project OPV/K/RZK/TP/2009-3 was signed on 18 January 2010.

The funds allocated to the applicant for NFC per **1 approved AfNFC** amounted to **EUR 414,645.00**.

The application was approved by the signing of the “Decision on Approval of the Application for Non-Repayable Financial Contribution for Technical Assistance” by the Minister of Education, Science, Research and Sport of the SR on 19 January 2010 with the approved NFC of EUR 414,645.00. The project was implemented in 2010 and its activities were completed by 31 December 2010. The overview of the use of funds within TA projects (separately for RCE Objective) from 1 January 2007 to 31 December 2010 on the basis of priority activities (drawing) is provided in Chapter 6 hereof. In 2011, the financial implementation of this project will be further ensured via the processing of the AfP (refund) submitted to the MA.

2) Notice **OPV/K/RKZ/TP/2009-4** entitled “*Notice – Technical Assistance Project, Technical Assistance for Objective Convergence/RCE 2010 – Evaluation and Studies; Information and Communication (priority theme 86)*” was declared on 30 November 2009. The closing date of the Notice was 28 January 2010.

Information regarding the total financial allocation for RCE Objective, project implementation place, main objective, eligible applicant and aid limits is provided in the AR for 2009.

As at closing date of the notice, i.e., 28 January 2010, a total of **1 AfNFC** was received with the total requested NFC of **EUR 44,325.00**. The AfNFC was submitted on 17 December 2009, however, the approval process of the AfNFC took place at the beginning of 2010.

The formal accuracy assessment of the AfNFC was conducted between 7 January 2010 and 12 January 2010. Within the assessment, the verification of eligibility and completeness criteria were conducted and a preliminary financial audit were conducted on 13 January 2010.

The expert assessment of the AfNFC was conducted on 15 January 2010 by two internal assessors - Project Managers of the CA. The AfNFC achieved a higher score than the minimum total score prescribed. The expert assessment of the AfNFC was completed on 15 January 2010.

The selection of the AfNFC took place on 18 January 2010 and was conducted by the Chief Manager on the basis of individual expert sheets of the expert assessment of the AfNFC. At the selection of the AfNFC, the Chief Manager applied selection criteria approved by the MC OPE. The AfNFC met the prescribed selection criteria.

The final report from the AfNFC selection for the Notice - Technical Assistance Project OPV/K/RKZ/TP/2009-4 was signed on 18 January 2010.

The funds allocated to the applicant for NFC per **1 approved AfNFC** amounted to **EUR 44,325.00**.

The application was approved by the signing of the “Decision on the Approval of the Application for Non-Repayable Financial Contribution for Technical Assistance” by the Minister of Education, Science, Research and Sport of the SR on 19 January 2010 with the approved NFC of EUR 44,325.00. The project was implemented in 2010 and its activities were completed by 31 December 2010. The overview of the use of funds within TA projects (separately for RCE Objective) from 1 January 2007 to 31 December 2010 on the basis of priority activities (drawing) is provided in Chapter 6 hereof. In 2011, the financial implementation of this project will be further ensured via the processing of the AfP (refund) submitted to the MA.

TA IBMA – ASFEU Projects

By 31 December 2010, no TA ASFEU projects were approved within measure 4.3. The following TA IBMA that were approved in 2009 were implemented in 2010:

- project: Technical Assistance for the OPE, RCE Objective, PT 85 for 2010;
- project: Technical Assistance for the OPE, RCE Objective, PT 86 for 2010.

The process from their submission to their contracting is available in the AR for 2009. The overview of the use of funds within TA projects on the basis of priority themes is provided in Chapter 6 hereof. In 2010, the financial implementation of TA IBMA projects for 2007, 2008 and 2009 was further provided. Within the project Technical Assistance for the OPE, RCE PT 85 Objective for 2009, the period for the submission of the final the period for the submission of the final AfP was extended to the end of 2011 by Amendment 3 of 7 October 2010. From the Agreement on the provision of NFC within the project Technical Assistance for the OPE, RCE PT 86 Objective for 2009, it follows that the financial implementation of the project will be made by the end of 2010.

In 2010, no written notice was published for TA ASFEU projects within measure 4.3.

Fulfilment of Measurable Indicators

More detailed information regarding the fulfilment of physical indicators of priority axis 4 is provided in Table 64.

Table 64: Fulfilment of physical indicators as at 31 December 2010

Indicators*		2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	Total
1. Number of newly-designed education programmes (number)	Outcome	0	0	27	192	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	192
	Target	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	80	N/A	80	80
	Baseline	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0
2. Number of teaching staff who completed further education programmes (number)	Outcome	0	0	0	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0
	Target	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	7,000	N/A	7,000	7,000
	Baseline	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0
3. Number of teacher education courses (number)	Outcome	0	0	137	78	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	78
	Target	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	15	N/A	15	15
	Baseline	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0
4. Schools successful in repeated	Outcome	0	0	0	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0
	Target	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	90	N/A	90	90
	Baseline	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0

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quality assessment (percentage)											
5. Share of R&D workers involved in further education (percentage)	Outcome	0	0	0	0.32	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0.32
	Target	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	30	N/A	30	30
	Baseline	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0
6. Number of projects promoting human resources at centres of excellence at higher education institutions and at the Slovak Academy of Sciences (number)	Outcome	0	0	0	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0
	Target	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	10	N/A	10	10
	Baseline	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0
7. The rate of involvement in international research projects among R&D workers and at the Slovak Academy of Sciences (percentage)	Outcome	0	0	0	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0
	Target	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	20	N/A	20	20
	Baseline	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0
8. Number of development & innovation partnerships and networks supported from the OPE (number)	Outcome	0	0	0	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0
	Target	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	15	N/A	15	15
	Baseline	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0
9. Share of development and innovations partnerships and networks existing after completion of the support from the OPE (percentage)	Outcome	0	0	0	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0
	Target	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	80	N/A	80	80
	Baseline	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0
10. Graduates of higher education (number per 1,000 inhabitants)	Outcome	0	2.3	2.2	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	2.2
	Target	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	12	N/A	12	12
	Baseline	8.3	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	8.3
11. Percentage of inhabitants involved in lifelong learning per	Outcome	3.9	3.3	2.8	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	2.8
	Target	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	12.5	N/A	12.5	12.5
	Baseline	4.6	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	4.6

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100 inhabitants aged 25-64 (percentage)											
12. Training and presentations for aid applicants and for beneficiaries (number)	Outcome	0	0	35	46	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	46
	Target	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	0
13. State of allocated funds contracting (percentage)	Outcome	0	0	51.91	133.56	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	133.56
	Target	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	90	N/A	100	100
	Baseline	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0
14. State of allocated funds drawing (percentage)	Outcome	0	0	16.75	52.68	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	52.68
	Target	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	70	N/A	90	90
	Baseline	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0

*Detailed definitions and specific units of individual indicators are provided in Annex 13.

Source: MA/IBMA

The values are provided on the basis of the fulfilment of result indicators at the level of the implemented projects.

As at 31 December 2010, indicator 1 “*Number of newly-designed education programmes*” highly exceeded its target value (80) and achieved the value of 192; this represents 240% fulfilment of the target value. This high growth can be explained by progress in the OPE implementation in terms of time, since during the monitored period, 6 calls for demand-driven projects as well as 4 national projects were implemented, which at the call/written notice level monitor the given indicator, and the majority of the relevant projects began their implementation in 2009.

Failure to fulfil indicators 2 “*Number of teaching staff who completed further education programmes*” results from the fact that this is an impact indicator at the project level. With regard to this fact, it will only be possible to report this indicator upon the completion of the project implementation (indicator 2 is contracted at the project level).

Indicator 3 “*Number of teacher education courses*” highly exceeded its target value (15) and as at 31 December 2010 achieved the value of 78; this represents 5 times the target value. When we use mathematical calculation, this indicator was fulfilled to 520%. From this fulfilment it follows that the value of this indicator was set unrealistically at the beginning of the programming period; it is also reflected in the high fulfilment percentage (520%). Such high fulfilment percentage results from the fact that at the designing of the OPE in 2007, a lower number of general teacher education courses were taken into consideration. However, after the reform of education in the SR was launched and the legislation was changed, the need to increase the volume of education programmes and their specific specialization occurred. However, in comparison to 2009, this indicator significantly decreased as a result of the fact that the Beneficiary in the national project “*Modernisation of the education process at elementary schools*” incorrectly reported the number of all implemented courses in education at the measurable indicator “Number of teacher education courses”. Upon the preparation of the project, within the determination of expected values of measurable result indicators, the Beneficiary understood the term “number of education courses” as the number of created groups into which individual participants are allocated, who, within the single group into which they are allocated, complete several courses during the implementation of the project. In line with the terminology understood in this manner, the values

of individual measurable indicators were planned in the submitted Monitoring Reports 1 to 7 separately for Module 1, Module 2 and Module 3. In Monitoring Report 8, the actual number of courses exceeded the limit of the measurable indicator by 250% which led to the reassessment of the correctness of the reporting of this indicator. As a result, after the information in Monitoring Report 8 was corrected, the value of the monitored indicator was decreased.

The failure to achieve the results in Indicator 4 *“Schools successful in repeated quality assessment”* is due to the fact that in 2009 the State School Inspectorate conducted a comprehensive inspection in a sample of schools and established the starting state of quality of conditions, outcomes and management. The outcome indicator of schools which were successful in repeated quality assessment will be available in 2013 when the repeated inspection will be conducted at these schools.

As at 31 December 2010, indicator 5 *“Share of R&D workers involved in further education”* achieved 0.32% fulfilment of the 30% target state. The reason for such low fulfilment of this indicator is that as at 31 December 2010, only 2 calls were published that were focused on the fulfilment of this indicator and only one call (OPV-2010/4.2/03-SORO) was published at the end of 2010 (on 31 December 2010). Therefore, we expect that the above indicator will be fulfilled depending on the commencement of the implementation of projects from the calls that have already been published.

Indicator 6 *“Number of projects promoting human resources at centres of excellence at HEI and at the Slovak Academy of Sciences”*, indicator 7 *“The rate of involvement in international research projects among R&D workers and at the Slovak Academy of Sciences”*, indicator 8 *“Number of development and innovation partnerships and networks supported from the OPE”* and indicator 9 *“Share of development and innovations partnerships and networks existing after completion of the support from the OPE”* have zero values due to the fact that they were not connected with the project level in the monitored period. Since these indicators were part of call OPV-2010/4.2/03-SORO published on 31 December 2010, they are expected to be fulfilled from the commencement of the implementation of projects under the given call.

Indicator 10 *“Graduates of higher education (number per 1,000 inhabitants)”*, i.e., the number of doctoral students per 1,000 inhabitants aged 20 to 29 in 2010 according to statistic data obtained on the basis of EUROSTAT methodology achieved 2.2; this represents the same fulfilment value as in 2009 due to the fact that at the moment of the preparation of the report, data regarding this indicator for 2010 had not been updated at the EUROSTAT website (http://epp.EURostat.ec.EURopa.eu/portal/page/portal/employment_social_policy_equality/education_and_training_programme/indicators). Therefore, as at 31 December 2010, 18.3% of the target value (12) is fulfilled.

In 2010, indicator 11 *“Percentage of inhabitants involved in lifelong learning per 100 inhabitants aged 25-64”* was fulfilled to 2.8% and in total, it achieved 22.4% of the target value (12.5%). The fulfilment value of this indicator is the same as the fulfilment value in 2009 due to the fact that at the moment of the preparation of the report, data regarding this indicator for 2010 had not been updated at the EUROSTAT website (<http://epp.EURostat.ec.EURopa.eu/tgm/table.do?tab=table&init=1&language=en&pcode=tsiem080&plugin=1>).

Indicator 12 “*Training and presentations for aid applicants and beneficiaries*” within RCE Objective at the level of 46 of the target value of 10 results from real needs within OPE implementation and the achievement of this indicator may be deemed appropriate.

As at 31 December 2010, indicator 13 “*State of allocated funds contracting*” achieved the contracting level of 133.56% within RCE Objective from the allocation of this objective, whereas the contracting level results from the fact that TA MA projects and TA IBMA projects (except for TA IBMA MH SR projects) are not approved for the whole programming period, but only annually (or twice per year). Since the funds from the completed projects have not been drawn at the level of 100%, the volume of non-drawn funds was taken into consideration in the volume of contracting funds for the next period.

Indicator 14 “*State of allocated funds drawing*” achieved the percentage fulfilment of 52.68% of the target state (90%). The drawing of TA funds of the RCE Objective at the given level of 52.68% (of the total allocation for TA within RCE Objective) may be deemed appropriate at the end of the fourth year of the programming period from 2007 to 2013.

As at 31 December 2010, a total of 6 indicators (Indicator 2 “*Number of teaching staff who completed further education programmes*”, indicator 4 “*Schools successful in repeated quality assessment*”, indicator 6 “*Number of projects promoting human resources at centres of excellence at HEI and at the Slovak Academy of Sciences*”, indicator 7 “*The rate of involvement in international research projects among R&D workers and at the Slovak Academy of Sciences*”, indicator 8 “*Number of development and innovation partnerships and networks supported from the OPE*” and indicator 9 “*Share of development and innovations partnerships and networks existing after completion of the support from the OPE*”) were not fulfilled and therefore their values are zero. The fulfilment of these indicators will depend on the implementation and further calls and written notices in which these indicators will be indicated.

3.4.1.2 Financial Implementation of Priority Axis 4

More detailed information regarding drawing of funds under priority axis 4 is provided in Table 65.

Table 65: Drawing of funds under priority axis 4 as at 31 December 2010

	2007-2013 Commitment for EU resources in €	Drawing of funds in 2010 (EU resources) in €		Cumulative drawing of funds (EU resources) in €	
		Total	% of 2007 – 2013 commitment	Total	% of 2007 – 2013 commitment
Priority axis 4	17,801,578	1,524,586.47	8.56%	1,739,312.69	9.77%
Measure 4.1	6,911,514	1,043,723.34	15.10%	1,135,753.62	16.43%
Measure 4.2	10,178,001	224,987.25	2.21%	228,427.40	2.24%
Measure 4.3	712,063	255,875.88	35.93%	375,131.67	52.68%

Source: CA

As at 31 December 2010, the level of actual drawing of funds within priority axis 4 amounted to EUR 1,739,312.69 (ESF resource) which represents 9.77% of the commitment for 2007-2013. During 2010, there was a significant increase in the drawing of funds under priority axis 4 in comparison to the previous year 2009 (0.98%) due to the fact that submitted and subsequently

administered and approved AfP grew particularly at the level of national and demand-driven projects, whose implementation began in 2009. The increase in volume of contracted funds, which as at 31 December 2010 was 71.21% of the total commitment under priority axis 4 for the programming period 2007 – 2013, is a good prequalification for continuing in the trend of gradual growth of drawing of funds under the priority axis 4 even in the next year, which, in terms of the achieved contracting of the national and demand-driven projects, represents the highest contracting within the OPE (only Priority axis 5. Technical Assistance achieved higher contracting).

In terms of commitments for individual years, the commitments from 2007 to 2011 are contractually covered and partially cover the commitment for 2012 (8.13%). The above-mentioned volume represents 43 Agreements on the provision of NFC, whereas the stated projects are in different phases of implementation. The average drawing level of individual projects (the ratio of eligibly drawn funds with regard to the CA and the total volume of those contracted) achieved only 13.72% as at 31 December 2010.

With regard to future drawing within the given priority axis, it is also necessary to take into account the legal form of the beneficiaries and possible methods for the financing of their projects.

Since a majority of beneficiaries within priority axis 4 may finance their projects via advance payments, we expect a considerable increase in drawing via advance payment clearance in 2011. As at 31 December 2010, the drawing via advance payment clearance represented 69.28% of the total volume of eligible drawing with regard to the CA, which represents the highest share of drawing via advance payment clearance within all OPE priority axes. In connection to this, we must point out the fact that as at 31 December 2010, within priority axis 4, the MoESRS SR registered provided but heretofore unsettled and uncertified advance payments in the total volume of **EUR 1,829 thousand** (of which ESF resources represent EUR 1,568 thousand). Although the provision of advance payments does not represent drawing in relation to the CA or EC, these funds enable the beneficiaries to implement their projects (they are in the field with the project implementers) which will subsequently be projected in the drawing of the EU SF funds upon their settlement and certification.

The drawing (use) of funds within measure 4.3, for C Objective and RCE Objective respectively on the basis of priority activities is provided in Chapter 6 hereof.

3.4.1.3 Specifics of ESF Programmes

Assistance by Target Groups and Equality of Opportunities

More detailed information regarding the monitoring of target groups under priority axis 4 is provided in Table 66.

Table 66: Monitoring of target groups under priority axis 4 from 1 January to 31 December 2010

Breakdown of project participants						
Indicator	Calendar year 2010					
	Participants entering		Participants leaving		Participants carrying over	
	Total	Of which women	Total	Of which women	Total	Of which women
Total number of participants	3,121	2,134	780	630	5,293	3,295

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<i>Breakdown of participants by status at the labour market</i>						
Employed	1,564	1,351	570	535	1,779	1,549
Of which self-employed	0	0	39	36	39	36
Unemployed	0	0	0	0	0	0
Of which long-term unemployed	0	0	0	0	0	0
Inactive persons	1,557	783	210	95	3,514	1,746
Of which students/vocational training participants	1,553	783	210	95	3,510	1,746
<i>Breakdown of participants by age</i>						
Youth (aged 15 - 24)	510	251	70	20	569	244
Older persons (aged 55 - 64)	394	262	26	21	179	149
<i>Breakdown according to vulnerability groups in compliance with the national regulations</i>						
Migrants	1	1	0	0	2	2
Minorities	11	6	0	0	25	19
Disabled persons	15	10	1	1	46	30
Other disadvantaged persons	1	1	0	0	2	2
<i>Breakdown by educational attainment</i>						
Elementary or lower secondary education (ISCED 1 and 2)	1,568	785	149	62	2,161	1,093
Upper secondary education (ISCED 3)	133	123	45	41	70	57
Post-secondary non-higher education (ISCED 4)	34	28	9	9	6	6
Higher education (ISCED 5 and 6)	1,386	1,198	577	518	3,056	2,139

Source: MA

More detailed information regarding the monitored target groups is provided in Chapter 2.1.8 hereof.

3.4.2 Serious Problems Encountered and Measures Taken to Overcome them

On aggregate it may be stated that during the monitored period and over the course of the implementation of priority axis 4, no serious problems were encountered and therefore there was no need to take measures for their removal (please see Table 67).

Table 67: Monitoring of the number of measures taken for problems defined

Problems identified	Measures adopted	Measures implemented
0	0	0

Source: MA

3.5 Priority Axis 5

3.5.1 Achievement of Objectives and Analysis of Progress

The achievement of objectives and a detailed analysis of progress within priority axis 5, aimed at the efficient implementation of the OPE in compliance with the requirements imposed on the management and administrative structures responsible for the implementation of the OPE is provided in more detail in the following Sub-chapters 3.5.1.1, 3.5.1.2 and 3.5.1.3 hereof.

3.5.1.1 State of Physical Progress of Priority Axis 5

More detailed information regarding the calls published under priority axis 5 is provided in Table 68.

Table 68: State of publishing of calls under priority axis 5 from 1 January to 31 December 2010

Measure	Call type	Call publishing date	Closing date for receiving applications for NFC	Allocation of FC per call (NFC) in EUR		
				Total	Of which	
					SF/CF	SB
5.1	A written notice – technical assistance project	14 September 2010	12 November 2010	2,400,000.00	2,040,000.00	360,000.00
5.1	A written notice – technical assistance project	14 September 2010	12 November 2010	300,000.00	255,000.00	45,000.00
5.1	A written notice – technical assistance project	6 August 2010	4 October 2010	2,800,000.00	2,380,000.00	420,000.00
5.1	A written notice – technical assistance project	6 August 2010	4 October 2010	500,000.00	425,000.00	75,000.00
Total for priority axis 5				6,000,000.00	5,100,000.00	900,000.00

Source: MA

In the monitored period, priority axis 5 Technical Assistance for C implemented MA and IBMA within priority theme 85, Preparation, Implementation, Monitoring and Control and priority theme 86, Evaluation and Studies; Information and Communication. These priority themes focus on activities related to the management, monitoring, control, analysis, provision of information, promotion, evaluation and exchange of experience. The main aim was to ensure the efficient implementation of the OPE in compliance with the requirements imposed on the management and administrative structures responsible for the implementation of the OPE. Sub-chapter 3.5.1.1 hereof and Chapter 6 hereof contain detailed information on TA projects published in the form of written notices to TA projects and the overview of the use of TA funds on the basis of priority activities within priority themes 85 and 86.

In the monitored period, the MoESRS SR published 4 written notices for TA within priority axis 5, of which 2 written notices for TA MoESRS SR projects for 2011 and 2 written notices for TA ASFEU projects for 2011. Within these written notices, 4 AfNFC were received, of which 4 were

approved as at 31 December 2010 4. As at 31 December 2010, 2 Decisions on the Approval of TA MoESRS SR projects for 2010 – more detailed information on TA notice to these projects were the subject of the AR for 2009, 2 Decisions on Approval of TA MoESRS SR projects for 2011 and 2 TA ASFEU projects for 2011 were contracted.

In the monitored period, within the implementation of priority axis 5, a total of 4 AfNFC amounting to EUR 5,844,843.50 were received.

6 AfNFC (2 AfNFC were received in 2009 on the basis of the TA Notice – for more details please see the AR for 2009) in the total amount of EUR 8,372,403.50 were approved, all of which were approved (or the Decision on Approval of AfNFC was issued. As at 31 December 2010, a total of 13 projects were in progress.

More detailed information regarding the monitored development of the implementation of priority axis 5 is provided in Table 69.

Table 69: Monitoring of the development of implementation of priority axis 5 as at 31 December 2010

Measure	AfNFC received	AfNFC rejected	AfNFC approved	Projects contracted	Projects in progress	Withdrawn from the Agreement	Projects completed
5.1	19	3	16	16	11	0	1
5.2	2	0	2	2	2	0	0
Total	21	3	18	18	13	0	1
Financial quantification of SF and SB in €							
Measure	Amount of contribution requested	Amount of requested contribution rejected	Amount of contribution approved	Amount of funds contracted	Amount of funds reclaimed	Amount of projects completed	
5.1	23,116,076.16	2,597,070.84	20,519,005.32	20,519,005.32	1,975.24	420,064.41	
5.2	1,387,488.22	0.00	1,387,488.22	1,387,488.22	0.00	0.00	
Total	24,503,564.38	2,597,070.84	21,906,493.54	21,906,493.54	1,975.24	420,064.41	

Source: MA

* In the case of TA MA projects, the Agreement is not entered into and the Decision on Approval of AfNFC is issued – the number provided also includes the TA MA projects approved.

Measure 5.1

TA MA projects

As at 31 December 2010, within measure 5.1, a total of 2 TA MA projects for 2010 were approved (of which 1 project was approved within priority theme 85 and 1 project was approved within priority theme 86) and 2 TA MA projects for 2011 were approved (of which 1 project was approved within priority theme 85 and 1 project was approved within priority theme 86). In 2010, a total of 2 approved projects for 2010 were implemented and 2 approved projects for 2011 will be implemented in 2011. In 2010, the financial implementation of TA projects for 2007, 2008 and 2009 was further ensured via the processing of the AfP (refund) submitted to the MA. As at 31 December 2010, no TA MA projects were completed.

1) **Notice OPV/K/RKZ/TP/2009-3** entitled: “*Notice – TA Project, TA for Objective C/RCE 2010 – Preparation, Implementation, Monitoring and Control (priority theme 85)*” was published on 30 November 2009. The closing date of the Notice was 28 January 2010.

Information regarding the total financial allocation for C Objective, project implementation place, main objective, eligible applicant and aid limits is provided in the AR for 2009.

1 AfNFC was received with a total requested NFC of **EUR 2,283,385.00**. The AfNFC for the TA project entitled - Technical Assistance OPE for C Objective 2010 – I Preparation, Implementation, Monitoring and Control was submitted on 17 December 2009.

The formal accuracy assessment of the AfNFC was conducted between 7 January 2010 and 12 January 2010. Within the assessment, the verification of eligibility criteria and completeness criteria was conducted and a preliminary financial audit was conducted on 13 January 2010.

The expert assessment of the AfNFC was conducted on 15 January 2010 by two internal assessors - Project Managers of the CA. The AfNFC achieved a higher score than the minimum total score prescribed. The expert assessment of the AfNFC was completed on 15 January 2010.

The selection of the AfNFC took place on 18 January 2010 and was conducted by the Chief Manager on the basis of individual expert sheets of the expert assessment of the AfNFC. During the selection of the AfNFC, the Chief Manager applied selection criteria approved by the MC OPE. The AfNFC met the prescribed selection criteria.

The final report from the AfNFC selection for the Notice - Technical Assistance Project OPV/K/RKZ/TP/2009-3 was signed on 18 January 2010.

The funds allocated to the applicant for NFC per 1 approved AfNFC amounted to EUR 2,283,385.00.

The application was approved by the signing of the “Decision on the Approval of the Application for Non-Repayable Financial Contribution for Technical Assistance” by the Minister of Education, Science, Research and Sport of the SR on 19 January 2010 with the approved NFC of EUR 2,283,385.00. The project was implemented in 2010 and its activities were completed as at 31 December 2010. The overview of the use of funds within TA projects (separately for C Objective) from 1 January 2007 to 31 December 2010 on the basis of priority activities (drawing) is provided in Chapter 6 hereof. In 2011, the financial implementation of this project will be further ensured via processing of the AfP (refund) submitted to the MA.

2) **Notice OPV/K/RKZ/TP/2009-4** entitled: “*Notice – Technical Assistance Project, Technical Assistance for C Objective/RCE 2010 – Evaluation and Studies; Information and Communication (priority theme 86)*” was published on 30 November 2009. The closing date of the Notice was 28 January 2010.

Information regarding the total financial allocation for C Objective, project implementation place, main objective, eligible applicant and aid limits is provided in the AR for 2009.

1 AfNFC was received with a total requested NFC of **EUR 244,175.00**. The AfNFC for TA project entitled - Technical Assistance OPE for C Objective 2010 – II Evaluation and Studies; Information and Communication was submitted on 17 December 2009.

The formal accuracy assessment of the AfNFC was conducted between 7 January 2010 and 12 January 2010. Within the assessment, the verification of eligibility criteria and completeness criteria was conducted and a preliminary financial audit was conducted on 13 January 2010.

The expert assessment of the AfNFC was conducted on 15 January 2010 by two internal assessors - Project Managers of the CA. The AfNFC achieved a higher score than the minimum total score prescribed. The expert assessment of the AfNFC was completed on 15 January 2010.

The selection of the AfNFC took place on 18 January 2010 and was conducted by the Chief Manager on the basis of individual expert sheets of the expert assessment of the AfNFC. During the selection of the AfNFC, the Chief Manager applied selection criteria approved by the MC OPE. The AfNFC met the prescribed selection criteria.

The final report from the AfNFC selection for the Notice - Technical Assistance Project OPV/K/RKZ/TP/2009-4 was signed on 18 January 2010.

The funds allocated to the applicant for NFC per 1 approved AfNFC amounted to EUR 244,175.00.

The application was approved by the signing of the “Decision on the Approval of the Application for Non-Repayable Financial Contribution for Technical Assistance” by the Minister of Education, Science, Research and Sport of the SR on 19 January 2010 with approved NFC of 244 175,00 EUR. The project was implemented in 2010 and its activities were completed by 31 December 2010. The overview of the use of funds within Ta projects (separately for C Objective) from 1 January 2007 to 31 December 2010 on the basis of priority activities (drawing) is provided in Chapter 6 hereof. In 2011, the financial implementation of this project will be further ensured via the processing of the AfP (refund) submitted to the MA.

3) Written notice OPV/K/RKZ/TP/2010-3 entitled: “*Written notice – Technical Assistance Project – Technical Assistance for Objective Convergence/Regional Competitiveness and Employment 2011 – Preparation, Implementation, Monitoring and Control*” was published on 14 September 2010. The closing date of the written notice was 12 November 2010.

The total financial allocation for C Objective amounts to EUR 2,400 000.00.

The places of project implementation are the regions of Nitra, Trenčín, Trnava, Žilina, Banská Bystrica, Prešov and Košice. The main aim of the written notice was to “ensure the efficient implementation of the OPE within Objective Convergence/Regional Competitiveness and Employment”.

The eligible applicant for this written notice is the MoESRS SR.

Aid limits, i.e., the maximum NFC per project of C Objective for priority theme 85 amounts to EUR 2,400,000.00. The determined aid intensity is defined directly in the written notice for the eligible applicant.

As at 12 November 2010, the total number of received AFNFC was 1 with a total requested NFC of EUR 2,372,335,00. The AfNFC for the TA project entitled - Technical Assistance OPE for Objective Convergence 2011 – I Preparation, Implementation, Monitoring and Control was submitted on 12 November 2010.

The formal accuracy assessment of the AfNFC was conducted between 15 November 2010 and 19 November 2010. During the assessment, the verification of correctness and completeness criteria was conducted and a preliminary financial audit was conducted on 30 November 2010.

The expert assessment of the AfNFC was conducted between 1 December 2010 and 2 December 2010 by two internal assessors - Project Managers of the CA. The AfNFC achieved a higher score than the minimum total score prescribed. The expert assessment of the AfNFC was completed on 2 December 2010.

The selection of the AfNFC took place on 3 December 2010 and was conducted by the Chief Manager on the basis of individual expert sheets of the expert assessment of the AfNFC. During the selection of the AfNFC, the Chief Manager applied selection criteria approved by the MC OPE. The AfNFC met the prescribed selection criteria.

The final report from the AfNFC selection for a written notice - Technical Assistance Project OPV/K/RKZ/TP/2010-3 was signed on 3 December 2010.

The funds allocated to the applicant for NFC per 1 approved AfNFC amounted to EUR 2,372,335.00.

The application was approved by the signing of the “Decision on Approval of the Application for Non-Repayable Financial Contribution for Technical Assistance” by the Minister of Education, Science, Research and Sport of the SR on 30 December 2010 with an approved NFC of EUR 2,372,335.00. The project will be implemented in 2011 and its activities will be completed by 31 December 2011. The objective of the project will be to ensure the efficient implementation of the OPE within C Objective in compliance with the requirements imposed on the management and administrative structures responsible for the implementation of the OPE.

4) Written notice OPV/K/TP/2010-4 entitled: “*Written notice – Technical Assistance Project – Technical Assistance for Objective Convergence 2011 – Evaluation and Studies; Information and Communication*” was published on 14 September 2010. The closing date of the written notice was 12 November 2010.

The total financial allocation for C Objective amounts to EUR 300,000.00.

The places of project implementation are the regions of Nitra, Trenčín, Trnava, Žilina, Banská Bystrica, Prešov and Košice. The main aim of the written notice was to “ensure efficient implementation of the OPE within C Objective”.

The eligible applicant for this written notice is the MoESRS SR.

Aid limits, i.e., the maximum NFC per one project of C Objective for priority theme 86 amounts to EUR 300,000.00. The determined aid intensity is defined directly in the written notice for the eligible applicant.

As at 12 November 2010, the total number of AfNFC received was 1 with a total requested NFC of EUR 298,846.00. The AfNFC for TA project entitled - Technical Assistance OPE for Objective Convergence 2011 – II Evaluation and Studies; Information and Communication was submitted on 12 November 2010.

The formal accuracy assessment of the AfNFC was conducted between 15 November 2010 and 19 November 2010. During the assessment, the verification of correctness and completeness criteria was conducted and a preliminary financial audit was conducted on 30 November 2010.

The expert assessment of the AfNFC was conducted between 1 December 2010 and 2 December 2010 by two internal assessors - Project Managers of the CA. The AfNFC achieved a higher score than the minimum total score prescribed. The expert assessment of the AfNFC was completed on 2 December 2010.

The selection of the AfNFC took place on 3 December 2010 and was conducted by the Chief Manager on the basis of individual expert sheets of the expert assessment of the AfNFC. During the selection of the AfNFC, the Chief Manager applied selection criteria approved by the MC OPE. The AfNFC met the prescribed selection criteria.

The final report from the AfNFC selection for the written notice - Technical Assistance Project OPV/K/TP/2010-4 was signed on 3 December 2010.

The funds allocated to the applicant for NFC per 1 approved AfNFC amounted to EUR 298,846.00.

The application was approved by the signing of the “Decision on Approval of the Application for Non-Repayable Financial Contribution for Technical Assistance” by the Minister of Education, Science, Research and Sport of the SR on 30 December 2010 with the approved NFC of EUR 298,846.00. The project will be implemented in 2011 and its activities will be completed by 31 December 2011. The objective of the project will be to ensure efficient implementation of the OPE within Objective C in compliance with the requirements imposed on the management and administrative structures responsible for the implementation of the OPE.

TA IBMA – ASFEU Projects

Within measure 4.3, no TA ASFEU projects were approved as at 31 December 2010. In 2010, the following TA IBMA for 2010 that were approved in 2009 were implemented in 2010:

- project: Technical Assistance for OPE, C Objective, PT 85 for 2010;
- project: Technical Assistance for OPE, C Objective, PT 86 for 2010.

The process from their submission to their contracting is available in the AR for 2009. The overview of the use of funds within TA projects on the basis of priority themes is provided in Chapter 6 hereof. In 2010, the financial implementation of TA IBMA projects for 2007, 2008 and 2009 was further provided. Within project Technical Assistance for OPE, C Objective, PT 85 for 2009, the period for submission of the final AfP was extended to the end of 2011 by Amendment 3 of 7 October 2010. From the Agreement on the provision of NFC within the project Technical Assistance for OPE, C Objective, PT 86 for 2009, it follows that the financial implementation of the project will be made by the end of 2010.

1) Written notice OPV/K/TP/SORO/2010-1 within measure 5.1 entitled “*Written notice – TA Project, Technical Assistance for Objective Convergence 2011 – Preparation, Implementation, Monitoring and Control*” was published on 6 August 2010. The closing date of the written notice was 4 October 2010.

The total financial allocation for C Objective amounts to **EUR 2,800,000.00**.

The places of project implementation are the regions of Nitra, Trenčín, Trnava, Žilina, Banská Bystrica, Prešov and Košice.

The main aim of the written notice was to “ensure efficient implementation of the OPE within C Objective”.

The eligible applicant for this written notice is the ASFEU.

Aid limits, i.e., the maximum amount of NFC per one project of C Objective for priority theme 85 amounts to **EUR 2,800,000.00**. The determined aid intensity is defined directly in the written notice for the eligible applicant.

As at 4 October 2010, the total number of AfNFC received was **1** with a total requested NFC of EUR 2,786,162.50. The AfNFC for TA project entitled - Technical Assistance for OPE Objective Convergence, Priority theme 85 for 2011 was submitted on 1 October 2010.

The formal accuracy assessment of the AfNFC was conducted between 6 October 2010 and 19 October 2010. During the assessment, the verification of correctness and completeness criteria was conducted and a preliminary financial audit was conducted.

The expert assessment of the AfNFC was conducted on 19 October 2010 by two internal assessors - Project Managers of the CA.

The AfNFC achieved a higher score than the minimum total score prescribed. The summary report from the expert assessment is not prepared on TA projects.

The selection of the AfNFC took place on 20 October 2010 and was conducted by the Chief Manager on the basis of individual expert sheets of the expert assessment of the AfNFC. The selection criteria approved by the MC OPE were applied. The AfNFC met the prescribed selection criteria.

The final report from the AfNFC selection for a written notice - Technical Assistance Project OPV/K /TP/SORO/2010-1 was signed on 20 October 2010.

The funds allocated to the applicant for NFC per 1 approved AfNFC amounted to **EUR 2,786,162.50**.

The application was approved by the approval letter of the Minister of Education, Science, Research and Sport of the SR on 26 October 2010 with approved NFC of **EUR 2,786,162.50**.

The AfNFC was contracted on 20 December 2010 with the NFC in the amount of **EUR 2,786,162.50**. The approved project will be implemented from 21 December 2010 to 31 December 2011.

2) **The written notice OPV/K/TP/SORO/2010-2** within measure 5.1 entitled “*Written notice – Technical Assistance Project, Technical Assistance for Objective Convergence 2011 – Evaluation and Studies; Information and Communication*” was published on 6 August 2010. The closing date of the written notice was 4 October 2010.

The total financial allocation for C Objective amounts to **EUR 500,000.00**.

The places of project implementation are the regions of Nitra, Trenčín, Trnava, Žilina Banská Bystrica, Prešov and Košice. The main aim of the written notice was “Ensuring of information and publicity of the OPE”.

The eligible applicant for this written notice is the ASFEU.

Aid limits, i.e., the maximum amount of NFC per one project of C Objective for priority theme 86 amounts to EUR 500,000.00. The determined aid intensity is defined directly in the written notice for the eligible applicant.

As at 4 October 2010, the total number of AfNFC received was **1** with a total requested NFC of **EUR 387,500.00**. The AfNFC for TA project entitled - Technical Assistance for OPE Objective Convergence, Priority theme 86 for 2011 was submitted on 1 October 2010.

The formal accuracy assessment of the AfNFC was conducted between 6 October 2010 and 19 October 2010. During the assessment, the verification of correctness and completeness criteria was conducted and a preliminary financial audit was conducted.

The expert assessment of the AfNFC was conducted on 19 October 2010 by two internal assessors - Project Managers of the CA. The AfNFC achieved a higher score than the minimum total score prescribed. The summary report from the expert assessment is not prepared on TA projects.

Selection of the AfNFC took place on 20 October 2010 and was conducted by the Chief Manager on the basis of individual expert sheets of the expert assessment of the AfNFC. During the selection of the AfNFC, the Chief Manager applied selection criteria approved by the MC OPE. The AfNFC met the prescribed selection criteria.

The final report from the AfNFC selection for a written notice - Technical Assistance Project OPV/K /TP/SORO/2010-2 was signed on 20 October 2010.

The funds allocated to the applicant for NFC per 1 approved AfNFC amounted to **EUR 387,500.00**.

The application was approved by the approval letter of the Minister of Education, Science, Research and Sport of the SR on 26 October 2010 with approved NFC of **EUR 387,500.00**.

The AfNFC was contracted on 20 December 2010 with the NFC in the amount of **EUR 387,500.00**. The approved project will be implemented from 21 December 2010 to 31 December 2011.

Measure 5.2

TA IBMA – MH SR Projects

No TA MH SR projects were submitted and approved within the OPE during the monitored period. Within measure 5.2, the MoESRS SR published no written notice with regard to the fact that TA IBMA – MH SR projects were approved in 2008 and contracted for the period from 2007 to 2015. Therefore, the following projects are in progress in 2010 (information regarding submission and approval is provided in the AR for 2009):

- Technical Assistance for C Objective – I;
- Technical Assistance for C Objective – II

As at 31 December 2010 no TA IBMA – MH SR project was completed.

The overview of the use of funds within TA projects (separately for C Objective) from 1 January 2007 to 31 December 2010 on the basis of priority activities (drawing) is provided in Chapter 6 hereof.

Fulfilment of Measurable Indicators

More detailed information regarding the fulfilment of physical indicators of priority axis 5 is provided in Table 70.

Table 70: Fulfilment of physical indicators as at 31 December 2010

Indicators		2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	Total
1. Training and presentations for aid applicants and for Beneficiaries	Outcome	0	0	82	89	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	89
	Target	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	100	N/A	100	100
	Baseline	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0
2. State of allocated funds contracting	Outcome	0	0	47.93	77.59	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	77.59
	Target	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	90	N/A	100	100
	Baseline	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0
3. State of allocated funds drawing	Outcome	0	0	12.13	25.55	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	25.55
	Target	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	70	N/A	90	90
	Baseline	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0

Source: MA/IBMA

The values are provided on the basis of the fulfilment of result indicators at the level of the implemented projects. The indicator “*Training and presentations for aid applicants and for Beneficiaries*” achieved a percentage fulfilment of 89% of the target state. The indicator “*State of allocated funds contracted*” achieved the percentage fulfilment of 77.59% of the target state. The indicator “*State of allocated funds drawing*” achieved the percentage fulfilment of 25.55% of the target state.

3.5.1.2 Financial Implementation of Priority Axis 5

More detailed information regarding drawing of funds under priority axis 5 is provided in Table 71.

Table 71: Drawing of funds under priority axis 5 as at 31 December 2010

	2007-2013 Commitment for	Drawing of funds in 2010 (EU resources) in €	Cumulative drawing of funds (EU resources) in €
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	EU resources in €	Total	% of 2007 – 2013 commitment		Total
Priority axis 5	24,000,000.00	3,220,541.28	13.42%	6,132,602.96	25.55%
Measure 5.1	22,820,635.00	3,064,398.47	13.43%	5,759,412.87	25.24%
Measure 5.2	1,179,365.00	156,142.81	13.24%	373,190.09	31.64%

Source: CA

The drawing (use) of funds within priority axis 5, for C Objective and RCE Objective respectively on the basis of priority activities is provided in Chapter 6 hereof.

3.5.1.3 Specifics of ESF Programmes

Only TA MA projects and IBMA projects are implemented within priority axis 5. From the above it follows that the following target groups are eligible within TA projects:

- central and general governmental staff at the MA, IBMA, PU and control and audit units;
- other staff ensuring the TA requirements (employees or contracted entities).

More detailed information regarding the monitoring of target groups under priority axis 5 for the monitored period is provided in Table 72.

Table 72: Monitoring of target groups under priority axis 5 from 1 January to 31 December 2010

Breakdown of project participants						
Indicator	Calendar year 2010					
	Participants entering		Participants leaving		Participants carrying over	
	Total	Of which women	Total	Of which women	Total	Of which women
Total number of participants	52	26	51	27	237	169
<i>Breakdown of participants by status at the labour market</i>						
Employed	52	26	51	27	237	169
Of which self-employed	0	0	0	0	0	0
Unemployed	0	0	0	0	0	0
Of which long-term unemployed	0	0	0	0	0	0
Inactive persons	0	0	0	0	1	0
Of which students/vocational training participants	0	0	0	0	0	0
<i>Breakdown of participants by age</i>						
Youth (aged 15 - 24)	8	4	1	1	15	13
Older persons (aged 55 - 64)	0	0	2	1	15	8
<i>Breakdown according to vulnerability groups in compliance with the national regulations</i>						
Migrants	0	0	0	0	0	0
Minorities	0	0	0	0	0	0
Disabled persons	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other disadvantaged persons	0	0	0	0	5	4
<i>Breakdown by educational attainment</i>						

Elementary or lower secondary education (ISCED 1 and 2)	0	0	0	0	0	0
Upper secondary education (ISCED 3)	7	3	8	4	25	19
Post-secondary non-higher education (ISCED 4)	0	0	0	0	0	0
Higher education (ISCED 5 and 6)	45	23	43	23	212	150

Source: MA

More detailed information regarding the monitored target groups is provided in Chapter 2.1.8 hereof.

3.5.2 Serious Problems Encountered and Measures Taken to Overcome Them

On aggregate it may be stated that during the monitored period and over the course of the implementation of priority axis 5, no serious problems were encountered and therefore there was no need to take measures for their removal (please see Table 73).

Table 73: Monitoring of the number of measures taken for problems defined

Problems identified	Measures adopted	Measures implemented
0	0	0

Source: MA

4. HORIZONTAL PRIORITIES

4.1 Horizontal Priority Marginalised Roma Communities

Table 74 provides the fulfilment of physical indicators NSRF for the HP MRC as at 31 December 2010.

Table 74: Fulfilment of physical indicators as at 31 December 2010

Indicators		2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	Total	Notes
1. Number of projects focused on MRC (number)	Outcome	0	0	50	49	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	49	*
	Target	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	
	Baseline	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0	
2. Value of projects focused on MRC (EUR)	Outcome	0	0	7,461 724.05	7,207 979.41	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	7,207 979.41	10,347 381.17**
	Target	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	
	Baseline	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0	
3. Number of new and enhanced education programmes focused on MRC (number)	Outcome	0	0	0	14	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	14	
	Target	N/A	N/A	47	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	47	
	Baseline	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0	
4. Number of persons who completed further education	Outcome	0	0	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0	
	Target	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	
	Baseline	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0	

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programmes focused on MRC (number)												
5. Number of MRC pupils involved in new and enhanced education programmes (number)	Outcome	0	0	0	4,595	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	4,595	
	Target	N/A	N/A	5541	5,418	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	5,418	*
	Baseline	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0	
6. Employment rate of graduates (%)	Outcome	0	0	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0	
	Target	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	
	Baseline	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0	

Source: MA/IBMA

* The decline of the achieved value and target value of the indicator results from the withdrawal of one Beneficiary from the Agreement on provision of NFC (please see Section 3.3 hereof)

** It regards the total eligible expenditures (EU resources + SB + own resources)

As at 31 December 2010, the number of projects focused on MRC is 49. It exclusively regards the projects implemented with measure 3.1 “*Raising of Education Level of Members of Marginalized Roma Communities*” contracted under the call OPV-2009/3.1/01-SORO. The total NFC in these projects amounts to EUR 7,207,979.41 (EU resources). During the implementation of these 49 projects, it is expected that 5,418 pupils coming from the MRC will be involved in new and enhanced education programmes focused on the MRC. The remaining two indicators, “*Number of persons who completed further education programmes focused on MRC*” and “*Employment rate of graduates*” will be fulfilled in 2011 by means of the anticipated publishing of a preliminary call and a written notice for a national within measure 3.1.

Table 75: State of project contracting with a direct support of HP under NUTS III as at 31 December 2010

NUTS III territory	Total number of projects contracted	Total amount of contracted funds in EUR (EU resources)	Number of projects contracted contributing to the HP MRC	Amount of contracted funds in EUR contributing to the HP MRC	Percentage of contracting to the HP MRC of the total volume of funds contracted
A	B	$\sum C=D$ in Table 7+B in Table 8	D	E	F=E/C
Bratislava	44	14,692,632.94	0	0.00	0.00%
Trnava	27	7,982,671.13	1	106,468.40	1.33%
Trenčín	47	9,932,547.08	0	0.00	0.00%
Nitra	49	11,840,893.35	1	91,973.34	0.78%
Žilina	82	17,456,121.96	0	0.00	0.00%
Banská Bystrica	69	13,515,873.30	14	2,092,396.26	15.48%
Prešov	99	17,629,610.79	16	2,372,366.02	13.46%
Košice	92	19,135,950.82	17	2,544,775.39	13.30%
Projects not included in NUTS III	45	155,530,545.77	0	0.00	0.00%
Total	554	267,716,847.14	49	7,207,979.41	2.69%

Source: ITMS, RO

As at 31 December 2010, a total of 49 projects were contracted within measure 3.1. The most projects were implemented in the Košice, Prešov and Banská Bystrica Regions, which also report

the statistically largest representation of the MRC. The contracted funds (EU resources) of all 49 contracted projects amounted to EUR 7,207,979.41 which represents 2.69% of total contracted amount of all projects.

Table 76: State of project contracting with an indirect support of HP under NUTS III as at 31 December 2010

NUTS III territory	Total number of projects contracted	Total amount of contracted funds in EUR (EU resources)	Number of projects contracted contributing to the HP MRC	Amount of contracted funds in EUR contributing to the HP MRC	Percentage of contracting to the HP MRC of the total volume of funds contracted
A	B	$\Sigma C=D$ in Table 7+B in Table 8	D	E	F=E/C
Bratislava	44	14,692,632.94	4	1,667,114.09	11.35%
Trnava	27	7,982,671.13	1	133,621.46	1.67%
Trenčín	47	9,932,547.08	1	224,260.52	2.26%
Nitra	49	11,840,893.35	2	320,596.26	2.71%
Žilina	82	17,456,121.96	2	272,084.81	1.56%
Banská Bystrica	69	13,515,873.30	0	0.00	0.00%
Prešov	99	17,629,610.79	0	0.00	0.00%
Košice	92	19,135,950.82	0	0.00	0.00%
Projects not included in NUTS III	45	155,530,545.77	7	65,473,804.31	42.10%
Total	554	267,716,847.14	17	68,091,481.45	25.43%

Source: MA

As at 31 December 2010, a total of 17 projects were contracted under all OPE measures, except for measure 3.1. Of the total number of 17 projects, 9 national projects declared contributions to HP MRC (these are 4 mirror national projects implemented in two objectives and projects implemented exclusively in C Objective). 2 demand-driven projects are of a supra-regional nature. The funds contracted in 9 national and supra-regional projects with the contribution to the HP MRC amounts to 39.44% of total amount of funds contracted in the national and supra-regional projects. The total funds contracted (EU resources) of all 17 projects contracted with the contribution to the HP MRC amounted to EUR 68,091,481.45, which represents approximately one fourth (25.43%) of the total contracted amount of all projects. From the above it is obvious that a significant part of funds is allocated in projects that have a potential impact on MRC.

Fulfilment of Objectives under the NSRF and ICS HP MRC

The projects implemented via the OPE significantly contribute to the fulfilment of the main objective of the HP MRC defined in the NSRF: *“Raising Employment and Education Level of MRC Members and Improvement of their Living Conditions”*. This objective can be fulfilled within OPE demand-driven projects by means of monitoring particular objectives of the projects contracted with a direct support of HP MRC within measure 3.1 and projects with the indirect support of HP MRC within measure 3.2.

Within the OPE, the implementation of HP MRC is applied in particular by means of a specific objective ICS HP MRC “Education”.

Call OPV-2009/3.1/01-SORO within priority axis 3 was directly focused on raising the education level of the MRC members and facilitating access to education for MRC, which are also partial objectives of the HP MRC. The activities of the implemented projects are focused for example

on the preparation and creation of teaching material, textbooks, teaching texts, teaching aids and manuals with the aim of enabling the MRC to integrate the education system at the ES, as well as special projects focused on teaching Roma language and literature and Roma studies at ES, and the innovation of teaching aids for the development of key competences of pupils. The curricula take into account the specifics of Roma culture, history and language in terms of content and form. The activation and motivation of pupils from such groups is achieved by accepting differences of ethnic minorities and threatened groups.

The IBMA ASFEU applies innovation activities by means of activities of projects implemented via measure 3.1 and encourages the social inclusion of the MRC. In most cases, the projects focus on the implementation of new preparatory and remedial courses for pupils from the MRC, the creation of alternative teaching curricula that ES can use in accommodating the content of teaching of children from the MRC (reduction of content, more practical orientation, teaching by means of experience, alternative forms of education). Innovative forms of education require the necessary materials and technical equipment and the implementation of projects also solves this issue. The objectives of projects are focused on raising the education level and in particular on obtaining basic skills necessary on the market of working with pupils coming from the MRC. By including the MRC in the projects under measure 3.1, the OPE applies the aspect of lineage, i.e., it ensures equal opportunities for all and prevents discrimination on the basis of ethnic origin. Within measure 3.1, the OPE also ensured the requirement of the EC to demonstrate the impact of the promotion of equal opportunities between men and women by means of monitoring the fulfilment of values of measurable indications with relevance to HP EO.

From the results of the social and graphical mapping of the Roma settlements in Slovakia it follows that the highest concentration of socially excluded Roma communities is found in eastern Slovakia and the southern districts of central Slovakia. This group of inhabitants is exposed to extreme poverty that is also transferred to the next generation. 60% of the projects contracted under call OPV-2009/3.1/01-SORO, directly focused on raising the education level of the MRC members and facilitating access to education for the MRC is implemented in eastern Slovakia.

In 2010, within priority axis 3, projects under call OPV-2009/3.2/01-SORO were implemented, within which the eligible applicants were re-education centres. Wards of these facilities also included pupils from the MRC. Through the implementation of project activities focused on upbringing and education activities and practical skills, the level and effectiveness of the education of MRC members, as well as the potential of their employment in the labour market and their inclusion in the society, will be raised.

Fulfilment of HP MRC objectives by means of measurable indicators defined in the ICS HP MRC is provided in Annex 9 hereof.

Cumulatively, as at 31 December 2010, within priority axis 3 entitled “*Promotion of Education for Persons with Special Educational Needs*” the anticipated value of the indicator “*Number of pupils from MRC involved in the education programmes*” was 5,418 pupils. Within this indicator, we recorded the involvement of 4,595 pupils. The anticipated number of formal education programmes for pupils from MRC aimed at the enhancement of their level and education efficiency is 113. To date, the outcome was 14 programmes. In 2010, the remaining 4 indicators were not fulfilled but they should be fulfilled on the basis of a planned call under measure 3.1 in 2011 as well as prepared national project focused on the education of teachers and experts working with pupils from MRC.

Despite the fact that under measure 3.1 Raising of Education Level of Members of Marginalized Roma Communities, no project was financially and physically completed in the monitored period, as an example of best practice we offer the project implemented within measure 3.1

Raising of Education Level of Members of Marginalized Roma Communities entitled “At school as at home” implemented by ES and NS Školská 16 in Markušovce. In the monitored period, all of the planned activities of the project were conducted. Activity 1.1 “*Creation and implementation of daylong education and upbringing programme of pupils from MRC*” is conducted with the aim to create a daylong education and upbringing programme of pupils from MRC by means of blocs of activities promoting the development of practical skills and creativity with the aim to promote the integration of the MRC in the education system at ES. In the following activity “*Innovation of teaching aids*” innovative teaching aids will be procured enabling the development of digital competences of pupils. In the activity “*Education of Teachers*” focused on the creation of a daylong programme, the teachers’ skills regarding the use of innovative teaching aids will be extended and will also represent the “updatedness” of their knowledge by means of three training sessions. The activity “*Career Advisory Programme*” taking into account the structure of secondary vocational schools and labour market in the region, offers the pupils the possibility to use advisory services of an educational advisor; pupils will actively search for information regarding the possibilities of studies at SS in the given region via internet, prepare information materials on study and present them. The activation of the target group will be also made in the form of personal meetings with parents of Roma children during the information seminar. The last activity, “Implementation of the edification of pupils and parents from MRC” is focused on the provision of available information from the area of career advisory services for pupils and children from MRC in the form of written materials (prospectuses, promotion panel with information). At the end of the project implementation “Career Open Days” are organised. A discussion with experts, employers and representatives of career advisors at SS in the district will be held. During the term of the project, individual consultations regarding the issue of job selection will be provided to pupils and their parents via the educational advisory services of the school jointly with a psychology expert. The project indicators were fulfilled to 100%.

Within the implemented national programme, “*Education of Nursery School Teaching Staff as a Component of Education Reform*” implemented under measure 1.1, the activities equally engage the teaching staff, in which MRC children are educated. The education activities also include multicultural education and upbringing and the education of children coming from a social environment offering low stimulation. Attention will also be devoted to strengthening cooperation and the more efficient coordination of activities between the nursery school teaching staff and parents of Roma children. In the project, teaching staff will gain the competences to assist them in improving the upbringing and education in relation to children from MRC.

Problems Connected with HP MRC Implementation

During the monitoring process of the state of OPE projects relevant to the HP MRC, the MA and coordinator of HP MRC identified inconsistency, in which some projects contracted in 2009 failed to select result indicators in connection to the HP MRC. The MA acceded to the problem solution in cooperation with the HP MRC coordinator. On the basis of conclusions from the meeting with the HP MRC coordinator that was held on 3 May 2010 and the instructions of the MA, the joint solution of the shortcomings detected in the monitoring of HP MRC indicators was made and the following solutions were determined:

- to ensure the removal of the indication of relevancy to the HP MRC in the ITMS in the event that these projects that were approved before the CCB Methodological Instruction 3 became effective and do not have contracted result indicators that are relevant to the HP MRC;

- to ensure the preparation of the amendment to the Agreement on the provision of NFC in relation to those projects that, upon the submission of the AfNFC in the public part of the ITMS declared the contribution to the HP MRC and presented the result indicator to the HP MRC; and as a result, within the expert assessment, an assessor assigned the score for the contribution to the solution of MRC problems (assessment criterion E1 - HP MRC) and this result indicator was not transferred to the Agreement on the provision of NFC (after the CCB Methodological Instruction 3 became effective).

In connection with Section 13 (7) of Act No. 528/2008 Coll. on Aid and Support from Community Funds, as amended and in compliance with Management System, version 4.2, a preliminary call for the submission of AfNFC with the code OPV-2010/3.1/02-SORO published under measure 3.1 was cancelled on 15 October 2010. The call published by the ASFEU was connected to the Pilot call for the submission of Applications for the Provision of Support for the Local Comprehensive Approach Strategy.

The call was cancelled due to the need to extend the authorization of an applicant. As at 31 December 2010, the call had not been published again on the basis of the OGPRC requirement for the publishing of the call after the completion of the process for the optimisation of the outputs expected from the implementation of LCAS support that was conducted at the end of 2010 by the coordination department of the HP MRC OGPRC.

4.2 Horizontal Priority Equal Opportunities

Table 77 provides the fulfilment of physical indicators of the NSRF for the HP EO as at 31 December 2010.

Table 77: Fulfilment of physical indicators as at 31 December 2010

Indicators		2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	Total	Notes
1. Number of projects contribution to the horizontal priority equal opportunities (number)	Outcome	0	0	14	30	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	30	
	Target	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	
	Baseline	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0	
2. Value of projects contributing to equal opportunities (EUR)	Outcome	0	0	3,729 792.26	22,655 868.47	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	22,655 868.47	26,770 806.46 *
	Target	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	
	Baseline	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0	
3. Number of target group persons involved in the supported projects - men (number)	Outcome	0	0	0	65	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	65	
	Target	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	
	Baseline	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0	
4. Number	Outcome	0	0	0	4,980	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	4,980	

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of target group persons involved in the supported projects – women (number)	Target	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	
	Baseline	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0	
5. Number of target group persons involved in the supported projects, aged 55 – 64 (number)	Outcome	0	0	0	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0	
	Target	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	
	Baseline	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0	
6. Number of target group persons involved in the supported projects, aged 15-24 (number)	Outcome	0	0	0	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0	
	Target	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	
	Baseline	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0	
7. Number of target group persons involved in the supported projects - disabled persons (number)	Outcome	0	0	0	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0	
	Target	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	
	Baseline	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0	
8. Number of supported education programmes contributing to equal opportunities (number)	Outcome	0	0	0	21	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	21	
	Target	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	
	Baseline	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0	

Source: MA/IBMA

*The sum represents total eligible expenditures (EU resources + SB + own resources)

At the moment, 30 projects contributing to the HP EO in the total amount of EUR 22,655,868.47 (EU resources) are implemented within the OPE. Thus, in comparison to the preceding monitored period, the number of projects contributing to the HP EO increased by 16 projects. There is a visible growth of the values of certain indicators in the monitored period as compared to the zero values in 2009. Out of 30 contracted projects, 21 education programmes contributing to the HP EO were supported. The value of indicators “*Number of target group persons involved in the supported projects - men*” with the value achieved of 65 and “*Number of target group*

persons involved in the supported projects – women” with a value of 4,980 also increased (a significant difference in the fulfilment of the given indicators results from the fact that more women than men are involved in the activities of the projects; however this is due to the situation in education in which the number of women prevails over men). These indicators are mostly used by the applicants at the projects contributing to the HP EO.

In relation to other indicators with zero fulfilment, it is expected that their values will increase in the following monitored period.

Table 78: State of contracting under NUTS III as at 31 December 2010

NUTS territory	III	Total number of projects contracted	Total amount of contracted funds in EUR (EU resources)	Projects contracted contributing to the HP EO	Amount of contracted funds in EUR contributing to the HP EO (EU resources)	Percentage of contracting to the HP EO of the total volume of funds contracted
A		B	$\sum C=D$ in Table 7+B in Table 8	D	E	F=E/C
Bratislava		44	14,692,632.94	1	479,934.96	3.27%
Trnava		27	7,982,671.13	4	1,112,611.32	13.94%
Trenčín		47	9,932,547.08	1	224,260.52	2.26%
Nitra		49	11,840,893.35	4	2,521,723.48	21.30%
Žilina		82	17,456,121.96	2	879,752.97	5.04%
Banská Bystrica		69	13,515,873.30	2	536,369.47	3.97%
Prešov		99	17,629,610.79	2	1,066,324.18	6.05%
Košice		92	19,135,950.82	8	2,171,845.45	11.35%
Projects not included in NUTS III		45	155,530,545.77	6	13,663,046.12	8.78%
Total		554	267,716,847.14	30	22,655,868.47	8.46%

Source: MA/IBMA+ITMS

Table 78 provides the total number and value of all contracted projects within the OPE and number and the value of contracted projects contributing to the HP EO at the level of NUTS III as at 31 December 2010. A total of 554 projects with a total amount of EUR 267,716,847.14 (EU resources) were contracted within the OPE. Of this number, 30 projects in the amount of EUR 22,655,868.47 (EU resources) declare contributions to the HP EO. The given amount of contracted funds contributing to the HP EO represents 8.46% of the total volume of contracted funds. Thus, in comparison with the preceding monitored period, the number of projects increased by 16 projects and the percentage of the contracted funds increased by 6.72%.

The most projects contributing to the HP EO was contracted in the Košice Region (8 projects) followed by the Trnava and Nitra Regions (4 projects). In the Žilina, Banská Bystrica and Prešov Regions, 2 projects contributing to the HP EO were contracted. The Bratislava and Trenčín Regions have 1 contracted project contributing to the HP EO. As at 31 December 2010, the number of contracted projects contributing to the HP EO that cannot be included in the NUTS III was 6, of which 1 was a national project in the amount of EUR 6,860,956.28 (EU resources). This value represents 2.56% of total contracted amount of all projects.

Thus, in comparison with the preceding monitored period, the growth of contracted projects and funds contributing to the HP EO in each Region can be seen in Table 78.

Fulfilment of Objectives under the NSRF

The OPE fulfils the main objective of the HP EO which, under Chapter 4.3.5 of the NSRF, is to “*Ensure equal opportunities for all and prevent all forms of discrimination*” by monitoring and fulfilling specific objectives defined in the ICS HP EO.

Fulfilment of Objectives under the ICS HP EO

In terms of the ICS HP EO, the OPE contributes to the fulfilling of the following specific and partial objectives:

- *Objective 2.1:* Decreasing the specific unemployment rate among disabled persons;
- *Objective 2.2:* Increasing access to information services for disabled persons;
- *Objectives 2.3:*
 - Adapting education to the needs of disabled persons in terms of their integration among the healthy population (research within the external assessment);
 - Raising the employment rate among education participants (survey within external evaluation);
- *Objectives 3.1:*
 - Raising the employment rate among senior persons (by raising qualifications);
 - Raising the employment rate among senior women;
 - Raising the participation rate in LL among senior persons;
- *Objectives 3.2:*
 - Decreasing the unemployment rate among school graduates aged 15 – 24;
 - Raising the employment rate among SS and HEI graduates;
- *Objective 4:* Improving anti-discrimination mechanisms in relation to disadvantaged groups.

The OPE contributes to these specific and partial objectives of the HP EO via individual priority axes as follows:

- Priority axis 1 Reform of Education and Vocational Training System - objectives 2.3, 3.2, 4;
- Priority axis 2 Further Education as a Tool for Human Resources Development – objectives 2.3, 3.1, 4;
- Priority axis 3 Promotion of Education of Persons with Special Educational Needs – objectives 2.1, 2.2, 2.3, 4;
- Priority axis 4 Modern Education for Knowledge-based Society of Bratislava Region – objectives 2.3, 3.1, 3.2, 4.

In the monitored period, the OPE contributed to the fulfilment of these specific objectives via 30 contracted projects within all relevant priority axes. The fulfilment of the HP EO objectives can be seen within priority axis 1, where 12 projects contributing to the HP EO were contracted within measure 1.2 under the call “*Promoting Innovative Forms of Education at Higher Education Institutions and Development of Human Resources in Research and Development*” published on 18 June 2009. Equally, within priority axis 3, a total of 12 projects contributing to the HP EO are contracted; under measure 3.1, a total of 9 projects are contracted under the call “*Raising of Education Level of Members of Marginalized Roma Communities*” of 27 February 2009 and 3 projects are contributing to the HP EO within measure 3.2 under the call “*Raising the Education Level of Persons with Special Education Needs*” published on 13 March 2010. Within priority axis 2, a total of 5 projects contribute to the fulfilment of the HP EO objectives. Within measure 2.1, there are 3 projects contributing to the HP EO, of which 1 project follows from a written notice for the national project “*KomPrax - Competences for Practice*” published by the MA on 28 May 2010 and 2 demand-driven projects under the call “*Promotion of Further Education in the Tourism*” of 31 May 2010. Within measure 2.2, there are 2 contracted projects

contributing to the HP EO under the call “*Support for Evaluating Continuing Education for Healthcare Staff*” of 28 May 2009. Within priority axis 4, measure 4.2, one project contributing to the HP EO is implemented under the call “*Promoting Innovative Forms of Education at Higher Education Institutions and Development of Human Resources in Research and Development*” of 18 June 2009.

The contribution of the OPE contracted projects to individual HP EO objectives via the fulfilment of indicators relevant to the HP EO can be seen in the breakdown in Annex 9 hereof. The most used and fulfilled indicators are “*Number of target group persons involved in the supported projects - men*” with the total value of 65 and “*Number of target group persons involved in the supported projects – women*” with the total value of 4,980. Another indicator, through which we may see the contribution to the fulfilment of the HP EO objectives is the indicator “*Number of supported education programmes contributing to the equal opportunities*” with a total value of 21. In relation to other indicators with zero fulfilment it is expected that their values will increase in the following monitored period.

Table 79: Contracted projects contributing to the HP EO at the OP level and priority axes as at 31 December 2010

Priority axis name	Total number of projects	Number of projects contributing to the HP EO objectives	Total volume of project funds in EUR (EU resources)	Total volume of funds of projects contributing to the HP EO in EUR (EU resources)
1.	391	12	156,001,203.34	7,279,383.73
2.	33	5	70,193,051.94	12,770,867.26
3.	69	12	10,225,924.18	2,125,682.52
4.	43	1	12,676,148.19	479,934.96
5.	18	0	18,620,519.49	0.00
Total for programme	554	30	267,716,847.14	22,655,868.47

Source: MA/IBMA+ITMS

Table 79 provides the total number and value of all contracted projects implemented within the OPE and the number and value of contracted projects contributing to the HP EO in the breakdown to individual priority axes.

As at 31 December 2010, from the commencement of implementation, a total of 554 projects in the total amount of EUR 267,716,847.14 (EU resources) were contracted within the OPE. Of this number, 30 projects in the amount of EUR 22,655,868.47 (EU resources) declare contributions to the HP EO. The given amount of contracted funds contributing to the HP EO represents 8.46% of the total volume of contracted funds. Thus, in comparison with the preceding monitored period, the number of projects increased by 16 projects and the percentage of contracted funds increased by 6.72%. The increase of the contracted projects contributing to the HP EO can also be seen within individual priority axes. Within priority axis 1, in comparison with the preceding monitored period, there is an increase of 12 projects in the total amount of EU resources of EUR 7,279,383.73; within priority axis 2 there is an increase of 4 projects in the monitored period. Thus, it cumulatively represents a total of 5 contracted projects contributing to the HP EO in the amount of EUR 12,770,867.26 (EU resources) within priority axis 2. In the monitored period within priority axis 3, the projects contributing to the HP EO decreased by 1 project. The given decrease results from the withdrawal from the Agreement on the provision of NFC. Thus, cumulatively, as at 31 December 2010, 12 projects in the amount of EUR 2,125,682.52 (EU resources) are implemented within priority axis 3. Within priority axis 4, there is an increase of 1 project contributing to the HP EO in the amount of EUR 479,934.96 (EU resources). These values also represent total values as at 31 December 2010 with regard to the fact that no project was implemented in the preceding monitored period within priority axis 4.

Within priority axis 5, the OPE does not implement the HP EO objectives. As a result, the number and value of projects within this within this priority axis is zero.

Problems Connected with HP EO Implementation

At the beginning of 2010, the HP EO coordinator detected shortcomings in the monitoring of the HP EO indicators within the OPE. The MA coordinator reported these shortcomings by virtue of its letter of 19 February 2010. A serious problem within the HP EO implementation was due to the fact that on the basis of the CCB Methodological Instruction 3 on the creation and use of project indicators and their classification in the ITMS 2007 – 2013, which entered into effect on 1 December 2008, and the related changes made in the ITMS public portal, the obligation to also indicate the indicators relevant to the HP in the Agreements on NFC was established. For this reason, the projects contracted in 2009 under the calls and written notices made before 1 December 2008 were not obliged to declare the contribution to the HP by means of a result indicator in the Agreement on NFC. It was also detected that not all calls and written notices published after 1 December 2008 indicated the indicators relevant to the HP EO among the project indicators.

The MA reacted to these findings by virtue of its letter of 9 March 2010. Subsequently, in relation to the given findings, on the basis of the HP EO coordinator's initiative, a bilateral meeting of the HP EO coordinator and representatives of the MA and both the IBMA – MH SR and ASFEU was held on 8 April 2010. This meeting was aimed at discussing the shortcomings detected by the MA and finding common solutions.

On the basis of the meeting, the following procedure was agreed by the MA:

- the MA will ensure that each call indicates the HP EO indicators in compliance with the updated version of Annex 4 of the ICS HP EO, whereas the relevant HP EO objectives for the OPE and examples of particular measures focused on equal opportunities in projects will be added to the Applicant's Manual, this information will also be added to the instructions for expert assessors;
- the MA will ensure the removal of the indication of the relevancy to the HP EO in the ITMS in the case of those projects that were approved before the CCB Methodological Instruction 3 became effective and do not have result indicators contracted that are relevant to the HP EO;
- the MA will ensure the preparation of the amendment in relation to those projects which, upon the submission of the AfNFC in the public part of the ITMS, declared the contribution to the HP EO and indicated the result indicator to the HP EO, and as a result, within the expert assessment, an assessor assigned the score for the HP EO and this result indicator is not contracted (after the CCB Methodological Instruction 3 became effective);
- the MA will ensure that the applicant is notified of the indicator that does not belong to the indicators relevant to the HP EO and is stated in the public part among these indicators. This notification will be provided *inter alia* in the instructions to part 15D) of the AfNFC and in the instructions for the assessor;
- the MA will ensure that the values of measurable indicators of the EO are added to the ITMS, as well as the control of values of measurable indicators of the HP EO projects in progress and their supplementation to the ITMS;
- the HP EO coordinator recommended that the MA add the HP EO impact indicator in Annex 4 of the ICS HP EO.

The MA adopted all proposed measures. In April 2010, along with the HP EO coordinator, the following documents were amended: OPE programme manual, assessor manual, applicant manual, Beneficiary manual, specimen AfNFC form. The MA, in cooperation with the HP EO coordinator, added three new indicators – one result and two impact indicators in Annex 4 of the ICS HP EO.

From the applicant's point of view, in particular the applicant manual was significantly amended. The specific HP EO objectives with relevance to individual OPE priority axes were added to the manual. In cooperation with the HP EO coordinator, specific examples of activities focused on the fulfilment of the HP EO objectives were also added. On the other hand, the amendment of the specimen AfNFC form is intended to assist the applicant to fill out the AfNFC correctly, indicate the relevance to the HP EO and select the correct and relevant indicators for the HP EO. The MA also incorporates the set of indicators relevant to the HP EO to all published calls and written notices along with definitions, whereby it assists the applicant in defining relevance to the HP EO.

The relevance of projects to the HP EO and the adjustment of indicators contributing to the HP EO in the ITMS was ensured in cooperation with the HP EO coordinator and the CCB. On the basis of the CCB requirement of 23 July 2010 to ensure the consistency of data recorded in the ITMS system, the MA prepared documents for the amendment of data in the ITMS in cooperation with both IBMA and sent them to the CCB. Data in the ITMS regarding all HP were amended in all OPE projects in order to reflect the actual state in the contracted and implemented projects.

Informing about HP EO

Applicants and beneficiaries are informed of the HP EO in several manners. They include the MA of the HP EO via website <http://www.minedu.sk/index.php?lang=sk&rootId=2966>, at which information regarding the HP EO along with the Manual for application of horizontal priority equal opportunities in structural funds is provided. There is a direct link in the text to the website of the HP EO coordinator. Information regarding the HP EO also forms part of the applicant manual in the form of separate part dedicated to the HP. The same relevant information is provided in the Beneficiary manual. The expert assessors are informed of the HP EO issues during trainings for expert assessors. In Annex 1 of the assessor manual, there is a separate chapter dedicated to the HP EO.

4.3 Horizontal Priority Sustainable Development

Table 80 provides the fulfilment of physical indicators of the NSRF for the HP SD as at 31 December 2010.

Table 80: Fulfilment of physical indicators as at 31 December 2010

Indicators		2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	Total	Notes
1. Number of projects contributing to the SD horizontal priority (number)	Outcome	0	6	76	167	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	167	
	Target	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	
	Baseline	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0	
2. Volume of funds or	Outcome	0	54,351 214.8	146,8 80	171, 064	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	171, 064	201, 434

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projects contributing to the horizontal priority Information Society (EUR)			6	818.12	480.35						480.35	031.39*
	Target	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	
	Baseline	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0	
3. Human resources expenditure – (total public expenditure for education) percentage of the GDP (percentage)	Outcome	3.62	3.79	4.56	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	4.56	
	Target	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	5.2	N/A	5.2	5.2	
	Baseline	4.4	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	4.4	
4. Share of inhabitants involved in lifelong learning per 100 inhabitants aged 25-64 (percentage)	Outcome	3.9	3.3	2.8	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	2.8	
	Target	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	12.5	N/A	12.5	12.5	
	Baseline	4.6	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	4.6	

Source: MA/IBMA

*The sum represents total eligible expenditures (EU resources + SB + own resources)

Note: In the case of the indicator Number of projects contributing to the HP SD, the ITMS generates a lower number of projects for 2009 and 2010 in comparison to data provided in Table 80 Fulfilment of physical indicators as at 31 December 2010, as a result of the failure of the IMTS to filter projects relevant to the HP SD, when the ITMS does not generate all projects relevant to the HP SD despite the fact that the given projects indicate the relevance to the HP SD in the ITMS. As a result, data provided in Table 80 come from internal sources of the MA/IBMA.

As at 31 December 2010, within HP SD under the OPE, at total of **167** projects contributing to the HP SD were contracted, whereas the funds (EU resources) in these projects amounted to **EUR 171,064,480.35**. The total eligible expenditures in the projects contributing to the HP SD amounts to **EUR 201,434,031.39**. With regard to specific indicators (“*Human resources expenditures as percentage of the GDP*”, “*Share of inhabitants involved in lifelong learning per 100 inhabitants aged 25-64*”) no values are reported for 2010, since they were not statistically available during the preparation of this report.

Table 81: State of contracting under NUTS III as at 31 December 2010

NUTS III territory	Total number of projects contracted	Total amount of contracted funds in EUR (EU resources)	Projects contracted contributing to the HP SD	Amount of contracted funds in EUR contributing to the HP SD (EU resources)	Percentage of contracting to the HP SD of the total volume of contracted funds
A	B	$\sum C=D$ in Table 7+B in Table 8	D	E	F=E/C
Bratislava	44	14,692,632.94	9	8,179,930.83	55.67%
Trnava	27	7,982,671.13	11	3,325,076.85	41.65%

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Trenčín	47	9,932,547.08	4	1,337,804.68	13.47%
Nitra	49	11,840,893.35	16	5,773,525.70	48.76%
Žilina	82	17,456,121.96	18	6,364,824.03	36.46%
Banská Bystrica	69	13,515,873.30	21	5,425,296.19	40.14%
Prešov	99	17,629,610.79	28	7,268,585.71	41.23%
Košice	92	19,135,950.82	38	9,544,112.21	49.88%
Projects not included in NUTS III	45	155,530,545.77	22	123,845,324.15	79.63%
Total	554	267,716,847.14	167	171,064,480.35	63.90%

Source: MA/IBMA+ITMS

As at 31 December 2010, a total of 167 projects contributing to the HP SD were contracted. The highest number projects contributing to the HP SD were contracted in the Košice and Prešov Regions. 16 national projects contributing to the HP SD were contracted (of which 7 mirror projects were implemented in both objectives and 2 only for C Objective) and 13 projects of a supra-regional nature (11 within IBMA ASFEU and 2 within IBMA MH SR). The total funds contracted (EU resources) of all 167 contracted projects contributing to the HP SD amounted to EUR 171,064,480.35 which represents 63.90% of the total contracted amount of all projects. From the above it is obvious that most of the funds (almost two thirds) are allocated in projects having a potential impact on the HP SD.

The specific fulfilment of HP SD objectives by means of measurable indicators defined in the ICS HP MRC is provided in Annex 9 hereof.

Cumulatively, as at 31 December 2010, positive numbers /values of indicators were achieved in all indicators reported in individual priority axes, except for the indicator, “*Number of employees that successfully completed the education programme*”. The zero value achieved by this indicator results from the fact that to date no project having contracted this impact indicator has been fulfilled at the end of the project. It is assumed that demand-driven project will be completed in 2011 and this indicator will increase.

Fulfilment of Objectives under the NSRF

In 2010, the fulfilment of the main HP SD objective provided in Chapter 4.3.5 of the NSRF, “*Ensure that the result of all interventions financed under the NSRF is of synergic support to the SD in all of its components, i.e., environmental, economic and social components, in compliance with the objectives and indicators of the EU Strategy for Sustainable Development*” was ensured by means of guiding NFC applicants in calls and written notices regarding the declaring of contributions to the fulfilment of HP SD objectives, defining indicators relevant to the HP SD in calls and written notices, the training of expert assessors and the provision of information to the general public on the importance and principles of the HP SD.

With regard to the fact that education is a basic prerequisite for promoting sustainable development and raising human potential for solving environmental, economic and social and cultural development issues, compliance with the above mentioned basic pillars of the SD, especially social pillars, is ensured through systematic education implemented in national and demand-driven projects.

Under priority axis 1, within the national project, “Education of Nursery School Teaching Staff as a Component of Educational Reform” implemented by the Methodological-Pedagogical Centre, there has been an intensification in the democratisation and humanisation of education, the raising of the education level of the teaching staff (including management), developing

education opportunities and ensuring equal access to education in terms of promoting sustainable development at NS.

Fulfilment of Objectives under ICS HP SD

Within the OPE, the HP SD is implemented in particular through specific objectives “Raising economic prosperity” and “Social solidarity and inclusion” of the ICS HP SD.

The specific objective “Raising economic prosperity” and its partial objective “Increasing the level of research, development and education” is fulfilled by means of projects under measures 1.2 and 4.2 focused on increasing the level of research, development and education but also through activities of projects under measures 2.1 and 4.2 innovating knowledge of relevant target groups through further education and subsequent strengthening of the competitiveness and efficiency of the economy of the Slovak Republic.

The project of the Slovak Chamber of Medicine and the Public Health Authority SR with the contribution from SB of EUR 5,656,718.06 contributes to the HP SD within priority axis 2 (measure 2.2). With regard to the fact that the projects of the Slovak Chamber of Medicine and the Public Health Authority SR contributing to the HP SD are supra-regional, the results can be used in all regions of Slovakia within C Objective.

The fulfilment of the HP SD objective can be seen within priority axis 3, Promotion of Education for Persons with Special Educational Needs. The objective monitored in the area of the HP SD “Social solidarity and inclusion” and partial objective “Strengthening the position of disadvantaged and marginalised groups” is fulfilled by the implementation of activities of the projects under measure 3.1 which focuses on the social inclusion of the MRC in the field of raising the education level of the MRC members by means of facilitating their access to formal education and further education, successful engagement of MRC in education at ES in municipalities with an MRC concentration, including a daylong upbringing process or by means of the creation of teaching materials, textbooks, teaching texts, teaching aids and manuals with the aim to enable the integration of the MRC in the education system at ES. This objective is likewise fulfilled via projects implemented under measure 3.2 which are focused on the social inclusion of persons with special education needs by means of facilitating their access to formal education, as well as their further education, lifelong advice, innovation of the methods and forms of upbringing and education process at special schools, improving teaching materials and implementation of further education programmes for persons working with disabled persons.

Problems Connected with HP SD Implementation

A serious problem within the HP SD implementation was the fact that on the basis of CCB Methodological Instruction 3 on the creation and use of project indicators and their classification in the ITMS 2007 – 2013, which entered into effect on 1 December 2008, and the related changes made in the ITMS public portal, an obligation to indicate the indicators relevant to the HP in the Agreements on NFC was established. For this reason, the projects contracted in 2009 under the calls and written notices made before 1 December 2008 were not obliged to declare the contribution to the HP by means of a result indicator in the Agreement on NFC. In 2009, during the process of entering into Agreements on the provision of NFC, it was detected that several projects selected to Table 15 AfNFC regarding the HP measurable result indicators were not connected to the specific HP under the call for the submission of AfNFC.

As a result, it was necessary to accede to solving these problems in cooperation with the MA and HP SD coordinator. On the basis of conclusions from the meeting with the HP SD coordinator

that was held on 7 April 2010 and the instructions of the MA, the joint solution of the shortcomings detected in the monitoring of the HP indicators was established and the following solutions were determined:

- to ensure the removal of the indication of the relevance to the HP SD in the ITMS in the case of those projects that were approved before CCB Methodological Instruction 3 became effective; they do not have result indicator contracted that is relevant to the HP SD;
- to ensure the preparation of the amendment to the Agreement on the provision of NFC in relation to those projects that, upon the submission of the AfNFC in the public part of the ITMS, declared the contribution to the HP SD and indicated the result indicator to the HP SD, and as a result, within the expert assessment, an assessor assigned the score for the relevant internal strategies of decreasing negative impacts on the environment (assessment criterion F1 - HP SD) and this result indicator was not transferred to the Agreement on the provision of NFC (after the CCB Methodological Instruction 3 became effective).

The MA adopted all of the proposed measures. The MA also incorporates the set of indicators relevant to the HP SD to all published calls and written notices along with definitions, whereby it assists the applicant in defining relevance to the HP SD.

The relevance of projects to the HP SD and the adjustment of indicators contributing to the HP SD in the ITMS was ensured in cooperation with the HP SD coordinator and the CCB. On the basis of the CCB requirement of 23 July 2010 to ensure the consistency of data recorded in the ITMS system, the MA prepared the documents for the amendment of data in the ITMS in cooperation with both IBMA and sent them to the CCB. Data in the ITMS regarding all HP were amended in all OPE projects in order to reflect the actual state in the contracted and implemented projects.

4.4 Horizontal Priority Information Society

Table 82 provides fulfilment of physical indicators of the NSRF for the HP IS as at 31 December 2010.

Table 82: Fulfilment of physical indicators as at 31 December 2010

Indicators		2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	Total	Notes
1.Number of projects contributing to the horizontal priority Information Society	Outcome	0	4	51	131	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	131	
	Target	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	
	Baseline	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0	
2.Volume of funds in projects contributing to the horizontal priority Information Society (EUR)	Outcome	0	46,269 036.71	123, 550 888.08	156, 555 955.11	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	156,555 955.11	184,676,55 1.30*
	Target	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	
	Baseline	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0	

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Source: MA/IBMA

* The sum represents total eligible expenditures (EU resources + SB + own resources)

Note: In the case of the indicator, Number of projects contributing to the HP IS, the ITMS generates a lower number of projects for 2009 and 2010 in comparison with the data provided in Table 82, Fulfilment of physical indicators as at 31 December 2010, due to the failure of the IMTS to filter projects relevant to the HP IS, when the ITMS does not generate all projects relevant to the HP IS, despite the fact that the given projects indicate the relevance to the HP IS in the ITMS. As a result, the data provided in Table 82 come from internal sources of the MA/IBMA.

As at 31 December 2010, within HP IS under the OPE, at total of **131** projects contributing to the HP IS were contracted and the funds (EU resources) in these projects amounted to **EUR 156,555,955.11**. The total eligible expenditures in projects contributing to the HP IS amounts to **EUR 184,676,551.30**.

Table 83: State of contracting under NUTS III as at 31 December 2010

NUTS III territory	Total number of projects contracted	Total amount of contracted funds in EUR (EU resources)	Projects contracted contributing to the HP IS	Amount of contracted funds in EUR contributing to the HP IS (EU resources)	Percentage of contracting to the HP IS of the total volume of contracted funds
A	B	$\Sigma C=D$ in Table 7+B in Table 8	D	E	F=E/C
Bratislava	44	14,692,632.94	5	6,671,166.52	45.40%
Trnava	27	7,982,671.13	12	5,006,756.14	62.72%
Trenčín	47	9,932,547.08	7	3,546,691.86	35.71%
Nitra	49	11,840,893.35	14	5,123,452.38	43.27%
Žilina	82	17,456,121.96	15	6,543,335.78	37.48%
Banská Bystrica	69	13,515,873.30	8	2,347,859.16	17.37%
Prešov	99	17,629,610.79	27	7,660,348.43	43.45%
Košice	92	19,135,950.82	31	8,272,160.90	43.23%
Projects not included in NUTS III	45	155,530,545.77	12	111,384,183.94	71.62%
Total	554	267,716,847.14	131	156,555,955.11	58.48%

Source: MA/IBMA+ITMS

As at 31 December 2010, a total of 131 projects contributing to the HP IS were contracted. The highest number of projects contributing to the HP IS were contracted in the Košice and Prešov Regions. 10 national projects contributing to the HP IS were contracted (of which 4 mirror projects were implemented in both objectives and 2 only for C Objective) and 6 projects of supra-regional nature (3 within IBMA ASFEU and 3 within IBMA MH SR). The total funds contracted (EU resources) of all 131 contracted projects contributing to the HP IS amounted to EUR 267,716,847.14 which represents 58.48% of the total contracted amount of all projects. From the above it is obvious that most of the funds (almost two thirds) are allocated in projects having a potential impact on the HP IS.

The specific fulfilment of HP IS objectives by means of measurable indicators defined in the ICS HP IS is provided in Annex 9 hereof. Cumulatively, as at 31 December 2010, positive numbers /values of indicators were achieved in all indicators reported in individual priority axes, except for one under priority axis 3. In the case of the indicator, “*Number of newly-designed/innovated education programmes focused on gaining and developing ICT knowledge*” the zero value achieved by this indicator is due to the fact that to date it has not been indicated in any Agreement entered into. It is assumed that it could be contracted under the call for measure 3.1 or a prepared national project that the MA plans to publish in 2011.

Fulfilment of Objectives under the NSRF

The main HP IS objective provided in Chapter 4.3.5 of the NSRF, “*Promoting Greater Efficiency, Transparency and Quality in the Implementation of the NSRF Priorities through the Introduction and Use of ICT Resources*” is fulfilled under priority axes 1 to 4 through the activities of both national and demand-driven projects by introducing and using ICT resources. The introduction of ICT and streamlining processes through their use significantly contributes to greater efficiency and effectiveness in implementing the elements of the knowledge society.

The given objective can also be fulfilled within the OPE projects by means of monitoring the specific objectives in information literacy, the upbringing of a competitive workforce able to be placed in the conditions of the information society, the promotion of school multimedia classrooms and in the permanent innovation of ICT knowledge of both teachers and pupils.

Projects declaring an impact on the HP IS under measure 2.2 of the OPE contribute to the fulfilment of HP Objective “Development of inclusive information society” at the level of the NSRF via framework activity, “Creation and updatedness of education programmes” within a specific objective 2 under measure 2.2.

Fulfilment of Objectives under ICS HP IS

The OPE under priority axes 1, 2 and 4 contributes to the fulfilment of the following specific and partial HP IS objectives defined in the ICS HP IS:

1. Information literacy (to up bring a flexible and competitive workforce able to be placed in the conditions of the information society, ensure permanent ICT innovation for teachers and pupils, provide education allowing inhabitants to exploit the benefits of informatisation, raise the level of Slovak higher education so that it is competitive with developed EU regions in terms of quality and forms of education, ensure permanent innovation of the knowledge of inhabitants via the LL);

3. Widespread internet availability (modernise infrastructure by means of technical provision of ICT, support the extension of internet access in less-developed regions, promote the access of publicly accessible places to internet, support school multimedia classrooms).

In 2010, within priority axes 1 and 4, multimedia and digital content for education modules was designed in the implemented mirror national projects, “*Modernisation of the education process at elementary schools*” and “*Modernisation of the education process at secondary schools*”. A digital library was opened for access for project participants at the project portal, which holds all of the study materials. So far, 2,983 schools were involved in the implementation of activities provided in national projects that use ICT in the teaching process within the project. As at 31 December 2010, a total of 6,827 teaching staff were involved in the activities of both mirror national projects.

The mirror national project, “*Education of Nursery Teaching Staff as a Component of Education Reform*” implemented under priority axes 1 and 4, focuses, *inter alia*, on the creation of innovative teaching materials and aids for the upbringing and education process in digital form and the creation of an education portal. As at 31 December 2010, within the indicator “Number of schools involved in the implementation of the project’s activities using ICT in the teaching process” the value was 913 and the number of schools involved in the use of ICT in teaching process was 2,794.

Within priority axes 2 and 4, the implemented mirror national project, “*Professional and Career Growth of Teaching Staff*” is focused on facilitating access to education programmes and teaching resources via modern forms of education and technology. As at 31 December 2010, a total of 20 newly designed/innovative education programmes focused on the gaining and development of ICT knowledge and skills.

Projects implemented under measure 2.2 of the OPE declaring an impact on the HP IS contribute by their specialisation to the fulfilment of the HP IS objective 1 “Information literacy” and objective 3 “Widespread internet availability” defined in the ICS HP IS. At the project level, the contribution to the HP IS is fulfilled via the result, “*Number of electronic services introduced*”, within which the value was 1.

Priority axis 3 contributes to the fulfilment of specific and partial objective 1 ICS “Information literacy”.

The fulfilment of the specific objective 1 under priority axis 3 was ensured via demand-driven projects implemented under measure 3.1 contributing to the modernisation of the education content also by means of ICT. Not only the ICT knowledge of MRC pupils is innovated, but also that of the teachers in less-developed regions. The specific objective of measure 3.2 is the supporting social inclusion of persons with special education needs via facilitating their access to formal education and gaining skills necessary for the labour market, which in practice means the use of ICT in the teaching process. A suitable example is the creation of new ICT education programmes or the purchase of computer equipment.

Problems Connected with HP IS Implementation

A serious problem within the HP IS implementation was the fact that on the basis of the CCB Methodological Instruction 3 to the creation and use of project indicators and their classification in the ITMS 2007 – 2013, which entered into effect on 1 December 2008, and the related changes made in the ITMS public portal, an obligation to indicate also the indicators relevant to the HP in the Agreements on NFC was established. For this reason, the projects contracted in 2009 under the calls and written notices made before 1 December 2008 were not obliged to declare the contribution to the HP by means of a result indicator in the Agreement on NFC. In 2009, during the process of entering into Agreements on the provision of NFC, it was detected that several projects selected to Table 15 AfNFC regarding HP measurable result indicators were not connected to the specific HP under the call for the submission of AfNFC.

As a result, it was necessary to agree to solving these problems in cooperation with the MA and HP IS coordinator. On the basis of conclusions from the meeting with the HP IS coordinator that was held on 7 April 2010 and the instructions of the MA, a joint solution of the shortcomings detected in the monitoring of the HP indicators was made and the following solutions were determined:

- to ensure the removal of the indication of the relevance to the HP IS in the ITMS in the case of those projects that were approved before CCB Methodological Instruction 3 became effective; they do not have a result indicator contracted that is relevant to the HP IS;
- to ensure the preparation of the amendment to the Agreement on the provision of NFC in relation to those projects that, upon the submission of the AfNFC in the public part of the ITMS, declared contributions to the HP IS and indicated the result indicator to the HP IS, and as a result, within the expert assessment, an assessor assigned the score for the contribution to a higher quality or larger scope of extension of ICT and competences to dispose of them

within the target group (assessment criterion G1 - HP IS); however, this result indicator was not transferred to the Agreement on the provision of NFC (after CCB Methodological Instruction 3 became effective).

The MA adopted all of the proposed measures. The MA also incorporates the set of indicators relevant to the HP SD to all published calls and written notices along with definitions, whereby it assists the applicant to define relevance to the HP IS.

The relevance of projects to the HP IS and the adjustment of indicators contributing to the HP IS in the ITMS were ensured in cooperation with the HP IS coordinator and the CCB. On the basis of the CCB requirement of 23 July 2010 to ensure the consistency of data recorded in the ITMS system, the MA prepared the documents for the amendment of data in the ITMS in cooperation with both IBMA and sent them to the CCB. Data in the ITMS regarding all HP were amended in all OPE projects in order to reflect the actual state in the contracted and implemented projects.

5. ESF PROGRAMMES: COHERENCE AND CONCENTRATION

The OPE contributes to the implementation of the EC recommendations for employment in the field of social inclusion, education and vocational training, by which it fulfils Article 4 (1) of the EC Regulation No. 1081/2006.

Through its orientation it fulfils the EU recommendations on employment, the European Employment Strategy, the EU Lisbon Strategy, and links to the SR strategic documents (Employment Growth Strategy based on reform of the social system and labour market, National Employment Action Plan for 2004-2006), the Commission's Work Programme "Education and Vocational Training 2010", the Memorandum on Lifelong Learning, the Bologna Declaration, and the Recommendation of the European Parliament and Council of 18 December 2006 on key competences for lifelong learning (2006/962/EC). In these strategic documents, education constitutes one of the cornerstones supporting economic and social activity and employability. Within this context, the OPE objective seeks to reform the education system and raise labour force qualifications.

The OPE is fully in compliance with the EC Strategic Guidelines on economic, social and territorial cohesion defining the basic framework for member states NSRF with the aim to promote harmonious, balanced and sustainable development of the EC.

The OP priority axes are based on and fully support the development part of the Competitiveness Strategy for the Slovak Republic to 2010 – the National Lisbon Strategy, which in its introduction declares that the "long-term competitiveness of the SR can only be ensured in one way: by creating conditions for the development of a knowledge-based economy". These focus particularly on themes within the second and third guidelines: "Improving knowledge and innovation of growth" and "More and better jobs".

In connection with the tasks of the Lisbon Strategy which emphasises the important role of education as an integral part of economic and social policy and 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 its citizens, the development of high quality of vocational education and training constitutes a crucial factor in issues of promoting social integration, cohesion, mobility and employment. In 2010, the implementation of projects under calls published in compliance with the Lisbon Strategy continued to focus on the promotion of key competences of pupils and teaching staff at ES and SS. In 2010, a written notice entitled "*Evaluation of the Quality of Education at Elementary and Secondary Schools in the Slovak Republic in Context of Content Reform of Education in Progress*" was published with the aim to innovate and implement the system of national measurement on three levels after the completion of primary, lower secondary and higher secondary education in order to monitor the development and trends of education at ES and SS in terms of the needs of the knowledge-based society and labour market and influence the effectiveness of the reform intentions and strategic decisions in the area of educational policy. The national project is also aimed at analysing the state and needs of education in Slovakia in terms of international studies in the area of key competences and create potential for teachers to monitor education results of their own school in consideration to the school education programme.

The OPE is also in compliance with the following programmes:

National Reform Programme of the SR for 2006-2008, passed by virtue of SR Government Resolution No. 797 of 12 October 2005, including the amendment to the draft amendment to the National Reform Programme of the SR for 2006-2008 passed by virtue of SR Government

Resolution No. 1056 of 13 December 2006, underlines the future prosperity and competitiveness of the SR in the transformation of a traditional school to a modern school, in supporting talented youth, the active mastery of FL, supporting teaching and learning by means of ICT, increasing the accessibility and quality of higher education, opening the further education system, as well as integrating children from marginalised communities into the school environment. In 2010, projects under calls and written notices published in 2008 and 2009 were implemented. In compliance with the National Reform Programme of the SR for 2006-2008, in 2008 OPE calls for the submission of AfNFC under measures 1.1 and 4.1 of the OPE were published and focused on the creation and implementation of ES and SS development programmes, with an emphasis on improving the quality of education on the basis of innovations and school profiling in connection with education system reform. Part III.1 Modern Education Policy of the National Reform Programme of the SR for 2006-2008 is aimed at the promotion of further education, the provision of compliance between the regional offering of further education programmes and the actual needs of the regional labour market.

A particular example is the project of the Slovak Chamber of Medicine implemented under call OPV 2008/2.2/02 which is in compliance with the “National Reform Programme of the SR for 2006-2008”, whereas the implementation of new forms of further education of healthcare staff and their professional qualifications and competence profile will improved.

National Reform Programme of the SR for 2008-2010, passed by virtue of SR Government Resolution No. 707 of 8 October 2008 was prepared in compliance with the conclusions of the European Council of March 2008. In 2008, the member states of the EU entered a new three-year cycle of the Lisbon Strategy which was reflected in the adoption of the given document. The National Reform Programme presents the state of fulfilment of structural policies comprising the measures of the National Reform Programme of the Slovak Republic for 2006 – 2008 and short-term measures of Modernisation Programme Slovakia 21 which also presents new measures for 2008 – 2010 in the area of education and employment. The relevant parts of the National Reform Programme of the SR for 2008-2010 focuses on school informatisation, the creation of innovative study materials and aids, and thus seeks to establish an adequate communication and information infrastructure at all types of schools and school facilities in Slovakia. The content of education is also to be innovated and new material and teaching resources (textbooks and teaching texts) are to be prepared for the teaching process and the further education of the teaching staff or the career system in the professional development of teaching staff in the regional school system is to be developed. In the field of higher education, *inter alia*, a more flexible management of the HEI is to be made.

To date, within the OPE and in compliance with the given programme, 310 demand- driven projects were contracted under the calls from 2008 published for measures 1.1 and 4.1, and a further 56 projects were contracted in the course of 2010 under call OPV-2009/1.1/05-SORO (“*Design and Raising Efficiency of School Educational Programmes at Secondary Vocational Schools*”) that contribute to or will contribute to the fulfilment of objectives of the National Reform Programme of the Slovak Republic for 2008-2010 in the area of the school system.

From the calls published in 2009 for measures 1.2 and 4.2 (OPV-2009/1.2/01-SORO and OPV-2009/4.2/01-SORO) 39 projects were contracted with the objective to accommodate higher education to the needs of a knowledge-based society; to support the culture of quality at HEI; increase the quality and develop human resources in research and development and to support cooperation among HEI, organisations for research and development and the private sector at the national and international levels. We expect that in the near future the projects under calls OPV-2010/1.2/02-SORO (“*Promotion of Improving Quality of Higher Education Institutions and the*

Slovak Academy of Sciences”) and OPV-2010/4.2/03-SORO (“*Promotion of Improving Quality of Higher Education Institutions and the Slovak Academy of Sciences in Bratislava Region*”) published on 31 December 2010, will make a contribution in the given areas.

Within calls OPV-2009/2.1/01-SORO (“*Promoting Further Education in Selected Sectors*”), OPV-2009/4.2/02-SORO (“*Promoting Further Education in Selected Sectors*”), OPV-2010/2.1/02-SORO (“*Promotion of Further Education in the Tourism*”) 17 projects were contracted that contribute to the fulfilment of the objectives of the National Reform Programme of the Slovak Republic for 2008-2010 in the area of the school system, in particular by increasing the quality of further education programmes and institutions and strengthening the quality control system, supporting innovation of content, forms and methodologies; further by increasing the rate of economically active inhabitants participating in further education programmes and the lifelong increasing of information regarding education, increasing and renovating the level of key competences and the continuous supplementation of qualifications of persons on the labour market in compliance with the actual and perspective needs of the knowledge-based society and creating compatibility and transmission between the sectors of formal, non-formal and informal education.

Within measure 2.2, the projects under calls OPV 2009/2.2/01, OPV 2009/2.2/02 and OPV 2010/2.2/01 are in compliance with the “European Employment Strategy” focused on improving the preparation of employees for labour market requirements and “National Reform Programme of the SR for 2008-2010” so that knowledge, competences and skills leading to more flexible workforce on labour market are continuously developed.

Also, 18 national projects that are described in more detail in parts related to individual priority axes were successfully implemented.

National Reform Programme 2010, passed by virtue of SR Government Resolution No. 806 of 17 November 2010, which is based on the strategic document Europe 2020. Education, research and development, are the inevitable prerequisites for the development of a knowledge-based society. Education brings both individual and social benefits in the form of better quality of life and health. The increased financing and quality of provided education were identified as the most important challenges in this area. Also the inconsistency between skills obtained at school and the real needs of the labour market and absence of the LL is also important. Attention should also be also paid to measures for decreasing information inequality.

In the area of education, the OPE contributes to the fulfilment of the National Reform Programme 2010 by implementation of demand-driven projects under calls OPV-2008/1.1/01-SORO, OPV-2008/1.1/02- SORO, OPV-2008/1.1/03- SORO, OPV-2008/1.1/04- SORO, OPV-2008/4.1/01- SORO, OPV-2008/4.1/02- SORO, OPV-2008/4.1/03- SORO, OPV-2008/4.1/04-SORO, OPV-2009/1.1/05- SORO, OPV-2009/3.1/01- SORO, OPV-2009/3.2/01- SORO, OPV-2009/1.2/01- SORO, OPV-2009/4.2/01- SORO that are involved in the decreasing of discrepancy between skills obtained at school and real needs of the labour market.

In the area of further education, the OPE contributes to the fulfilment of the National Reform Programme 2010 by demand-driven projects under calls OPV-2009/2.1/01- SORO, OPV-2009/4.2/02- SORO, OPV-2010/2.1/02- SORO by which it facilitates the access of citizens to the extension and deepening of qualifications with the aim to increase their employment on the labour market and in terms of personal development and the increased quality of their lives.

In 2010, the written notice for the national project entitled “*Komprax – Competences for Practise*” was also published with the aim to enable young people and staff working with youth access to repeated and more flexible acquisition of competences through the informal education system and informal learning when working with youth with the comprehensive advisory services. The national project is aimed at the promotion of the development of the system of work with youth as a means for education of a young citizen and the space for the supplementation or consolidation of key competences necessary for the LL and as a supplement for acquiring new qualifications for staff working with youth.

The activities of all projects approved under measure 2.2 also fully comply with the strategic objectives of increasing the level of the LL of citizens in order to renew their knowledge, competences and skills defined in the national reform programmes of the SR by virtue of their specialisation in increasing the quality and availability of further education for healthcare staff. The specific characteristic of further education in the healthcare sector is that it is not aimed at the achievement of better flexibility of the workforce on the labour market but increasing the level of healthcare quality with an emphasis on patient safety.

Europe 2020 (EC strategic document of 3 March 2010) - Strategy for smart, sustainable and inclusive growth is to determine the main aspiration of the EU by 2020 and at the same time it should be the way out of the economic crisis in the EU. This strategy is based on 3 mutually supplementing priorities:

- Intelligent growth: creation of an economy based on knowledge and innovations;
- Sustainable growth: promoting a more ecological and competitive economy that uses resources in a more efficient manner;
- Inclusive growth: promoting economy with a high employment rate that will ensure social and territorial cohesion.

The progress in each priority area is to promote 7 main initiatives:

- Innovation in the Union – enhancement of framework conditions and access to research and innovation funding;
- Youth in motion - aimed at the enhancement of results of education systems and facilitating the entry of young people to the labour market;
- Digital programme for Europe – accelerating implementation of high-speed internet;
- Europe using resources efficiently – promotion of the separation of economic growth from the use of resources, low-carbon management;
- Industrial policy in the age of globalisation – enhancement of business environment;
- Programme for new skills and new jobs – modernisation of labour markets;
- European platform against poverty – ensuring social and territorial cohesion.

In the area of education the EC proposes to reduce the rate of early school-leavers below 10% and ensure that at least 40% of young people aged 30 – 34 have higher education.

In Resolution No. 806/2010, the Slovak Government undertook to submit to the meeting of the Slovak Government the institutional ensuring of the Europe 2020 strategy in the conditions of the SR by 30 April 2011 and to prepare a complex draft of national indicators for structural policies within this strategy by the same deadline.

Slovakia should ensure efficient investment in the education systems at the national level and professional preparation on all levels (from pre-school to higher education), to improve results in the area of education, to pursue with all education levels (pre-school, elementary, secondary, vocational and higher education) an integrated approach containing key abilities aimed at the

reduction of early school-leaving, to improve the openness and suitability of education systems through the creation of national qualification frameworks and by accommodating education to the needs of the labour market, to enhance the entry of young people to the labour market by means of integrated measures including but not limited to other guidelines, consultation and apprentice practice.

Despite the fact that the EU Strategy 2020 was established in response to the economic crisis of 2009, the OPE covers, in terms of its specialisation, those areas that are relevant to the area of education/employment promotion within the strategy. The objective of the OPE is, *inter alia*, to make a better connection between education and the needs of the labour market within priority axis 1; it also strives to promote the lifelong development of skills by means of the promotion of the LL within priority axis 2.

Thus, the OPE contributes to the solving of this issue, in particular by implementation of demand-driven projects under calls OPV-2008/1.1/01-SORO, OPV-2008/1.1/02- SORO, OPV-2008/1.1/03- SORO, OPV-2008/1.1/04- SORO, OPV-2008/4.1/01- SORO, OPV-2008/4.1/02- SORO, OPV-2008/4.1/03- SORO, OPV-2008/4.1/04- SORO, OPV-2009/1.1/05- SORO, OPV-2009/3.1/01- SORO that are focused on the creation and implementation of school education programmes and courses for pupils of ES from MRC focusing on their integration in the formal education process and leading to the enhancement of results in the area of education and the reduction of the rate of early school-leaving. Projects under calls OPV-2009/1.2/01- SORO, OPV-2009/4.2/01- SORO are focused on the promotion of innovative forms of higher education with the task, *inter alia*, to make studying at the higher education institution more attractive and thereby increase the number of young people with higher education. Subsequently, this fact has an impact on their improved entry to the labour market.

Written notices and calls for demand-driven projects published within the OPE are also based on the following documents:

Competitiveness Strategy for the Slovak Republic to 2010 (National Lisbon Strategy) passed by SR Government Resolution No. 140/2005 of 16 February 2005. This is the national Lisbon Strategy emphasizing a modern educational policy concentrated in particular on changing teaching content; improving education in FL and skills in ICT; enhancing the quality of teachers; expanding instruments for developing talent in children and young people; and promoting integration programmes for children from marginalised groups in the standard school environment. Four connected Action Plans (Education and Employment Action Plan, Action Plan for Science, Research and Innovations, Information Society Action Plan and Business Environment Action Plan) were passed by SR Government Resolution No. 557 of 13 July 2005. The OPE is based on the **Education and Employment Action Plan**, which in its section Modern Education Policy, defines the priorities and determines the tasks deemed as key in terms of the total transformation of a traditional school to a modern school. It emphasises working with talented young people, raising the accessibility and quality of higher education, implementing the overall change of teaching content from rote - learning towards the ability to obtain, assess and use information. The aim is also to create an accessible, modular and market system of LL, strengthen and improve education in FL and ICT skills for each SS graduate, enhance the quality of teachers, promote integration programmes for children from marginalised groups into the standard school environment connected with support, quality and competition in providing higher education.

Projects implemented under measures 1.1, 1.2, 2.1, 3.1, 3.2, 4.1 a 4.2 (calls published under the following codes: OPV-2008/1.1/01- SORO, OPV-2008/1.1/02- SORO, OPV-2008/1.1/03- SORO, OPV-2008/1.1/04- SORO, OPV-2008/4.1/01- SORO, OPV-2008/4.1/02- SORO, OPV-

2008/4.1/03- SORO, OPV-2008/4.1/04- SORO, OPV-2009/1.1/05- SORO, OPV-2009/3.1/01- SORO, OPV-2009/3.2/01- SORO, OPV-2009/1.2/01- SORO, OPV-2009/4.2/01- SORO) are in compliance with the Education and Employment Action Plan, since the calls themselves were focused on the creation and implementation of school education programmes, promotion of innovative forms of education at Higher Education Institutions, programmes and courses for ES pupils from MRC focusing on their integration in the formal education process, innovation of methods and forms of the upbringing and education process for disabled persons and promotion of further education.

Within measure 2.2, four completed projects under call OPV 2008/2.2/01 and projects under call OPV 2008/2.2/03 are in compliance with the aims of “*Competitiveness Strategy for the Slovak Republic to 2010*” which leads to purposeful specialisation and effective connection of LL with the needs of the local and regional labour market via the active engagement of self-administrations as well as the creation of a functional financing model for the further education and stabilisation of the healthcare staff through the mutual combination of employer’s funds, public funds and employee’s funds.

Through its orientation, the OPE fulfils the **European Employment Strategy**. One of its measures for increasing employment and improving preparation for the labour market is the change or adaptation of the education system/its innovation to labour market requirements. Within the European Employment Strategy, education and skills improvement represent one of the keystones for employment promotion. Within this content, the OPE objective is to reform the education system and increase the qualified labour force by means of improving the quality and access to LL. Within the OPE, the European Employment Strategy is fulfilled by virtue of projects under priority axes 1 and 4 focused on the reform of the education system and professional preparation and under priority axis 2 focused on further education as a tool for human resources development. One of measures mentioned in the given strategy for increasing employment and improved preparation for the labour market is the reform or innovation of the education system. Education and skills improvement is understood as a key pillar for employment support.

White Paper for the Upbringing and Education of Roma Children and Pupils, Including the Development of Secondary and Higher Education passed by SR Government Resolution No. 206 of 2 April 2008. In compliance with the given white paper, 49 projects are implemented within the OPE under measure 3.1. Under measures 3.1 and 3.2 at total of 69 projects were contracted from calls OPV-2009/3.1/01- SORO (*Raising of Education Level of Members of Marginalized Roma Communities*), OPV-2009/3.2/01- SORO (*Raising the Education Level of Persons with Special Education Needs*) focused on the promotion of social inclusion of MRC members and persons with special education needs by facilitating their access to formal education and obtaining skills necessary on the labour market and also aimed at the further education of the MRC members and persons with special education needs as well as persons working in the field of their integration in society.

The OPE intends to help to change long-term unsustainable models prevailing in the field of education of persons with special education needs that prevent their full integration in the education system and subsequently society.

Modernisation Programme Slovakia 21, passed by SR Government Resolution No. 367 of 4 June 2008.

Programme Slovakia 21 was prepared in compliance with the principles of sustainable development, the objective of the Lisbon Strategy and well as statement of policy of the SR

Government. The drawing of SF EU will also reflect programme measures taking into account the necessity to:

- mobilise human potential across the social and economic spectrum;
- promote vertical and horizontal social mobility and the provision of equal opportunities for socially disadvantaged groups of inhabitants in all regions;
- promote capacities to create, obtain and use new knowledge.

One of measures described in the document is to improve the availability of quality education for all classes of inhabitants on all levels of education and in different phases of life.

Within the OPE and in compliance with the Modernisation Programme Slovakia, the given measure is implemented via projects focused on the transformation of a traditional school to a modern school (measure 1.1 and 4.1), raising the education level of MRC members (measure 3.1) and persons with special education needs (measure 3.2). In 2010, projects focused on Higher Education Institutions (measure 1.2 and 4.2) and the promotion of further education (measure 2.1) were also implemented.

Social inclusion is monitored in the **National Report on Social Protection and Social Inclusion Strategies for 2008 – 2010**. In section 4, *National strategy for health and long-term care*, the Report states that the priority task of the MH SR is to ensure the availability and quality of healthcare provided for citizens of the SR. The solution of this priority follows to the MH SR directly from the statement of policy of the Government along with the financial provision of the healthcare services system. By means of legislative measures, the MH SR defines the strategy for the provision of healthcare and the network of constitutional and ambulatory healthcare facilities, and increases the quality level of healthcare and patient safety.

Through the promotion of the further education of the healthcare staff, the activities of all projects approved under measure 2.2 are focused on increasing the quality of healthcare with an emphasis on patient safety. In terms of improvement of the availability of healthcare, the projects for the promotion of specialized study for the healthcare staff of individual self-administration regions represent a significant contribution that focus on the stabilisation and supplementation of the healthcare system by missing specialists in order to ensure available, professional and sustainable healthcare to all citizens of the SR regions.

6. TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

TA forms a part of the OPE, and its main objective is to ensure the efficient implementation of the OPE in compliance with demands on management and administrative structures responsible for the OP implementation.

Within the OPE, the TA is:

- a special priority axis 5 for C Objective, the purpose of which is to support the implementation of OPE priority axes 1, 2 and 3;
- a special measure 4.3 for RCE Objective, the purpose of which is to support the implementation of OPE priority axis 4.

The general regulation provides individual member states with an initiative possibility to use funds for activities related to the preparation, management, monitoring, assessment, information and control of the OPE and also for activities related to strengthening administrative capacities for the implementation of programmes (Article 46).

Section 2 of Article 46 (TA of Member States) provides individual member states with an initiative possibility to prepare OP TA and/or dispose of a separate TA priority axis under individual OP. Pursuant to this regulation, the TA OPE is separated as an individual priority axis for C Objective and a TA measure for RCE Objective under the OPE.

The following priority themes apply to TA⁶:

a) Priority Theme 85 – Preparation, Implementation, Monitoring and Control

Preparation, implementation, monitoring and control of the implementation of assistance from SF covers the following activities:

- personnel provision for the preparation, management and control of the programmes, projects and HP, including activities of the established SF committees and commissions, including staff education;
- necessary material and technical equipment (for example, consumer goods, vehicles, appliances, software and others) related to the management and control of assistance from SF;
- provision of services (documents and others) related to SF preparation, management and control at the level of programmes, projects and HP.

b) Priority Theme 86 – Evaluation and Studies; Information and Communication

Evaluation and studies; information and communication from SF covers the following activities:

- provision of information, spreading awareness regarding OP and the provision of the OPE publicity at an appropriate level pursuant to Article 69 of the General Regulation and Section 1 of the Implementing Regulation for Beneficiaries, potential Beneficiaries and the public;
- creation of networks of contact points and information and communication channels;
- preparation and implementation of Communication Plan (the “CP”);

⁶ Pursuant to Annex II of Implementing Regulation (Categorisation of Funds Assistance for 2007 – 2013).

- provision of methodological and expert advice, support of activities in order to assist applicants, provision of training and seminars for exchange of experience and spreading best practice examples, support of partnership and mutual cooperation in the preparation and implementation of projects, implementation of activities for monitoring and evaluation of absorption capacity, etc.;
- ensuring individual assessments of the OP implementation in compliance with the assessment requirements under No. 47 of the General Regulation, including preliminary assessment during the preparatory process of the NSRF and OP;
- preparation of expert opinions, methodologies, studies, environmental impact assessments, regional analyses nad other analyses related to the OP preparation and implementation.

6.1 TA OPE Projects

In 2010, within the OPE, 9 TA OPE projects were approved (provided in detail in Table 84), of which 6 projects were approved within C Objective and 3 projects within RCE Objective. In 2010, 10 TA OPE projects were implemented (4 MA, 4 IBMA – ASFEU, 2 IBMA - MH SR). In 2010, the financial implementation of TA OPE projects for 2007 – 2008 and 2009 was further ensured via processing of the AfP (refund) submitted to the MA. In 2010, no TA OPE project was properly completed.

Table 84: Overview of TA OPE projects approved as at 31 December 2010

85/86	Project title	Beneficiary	Project amount (EUR)	Project objectives	Project state
85	OPE Technical assistance for Objective Convergence – I Preparation and implementation, monitoring, control and audit *	MoESRS SR	1,447,918.74	to ensure efficient implementation of OPE within C Objective in compliance with requirements on the management and administrative structures responsible for OPE implementation	implementation
85	OPE Technical assistance for RCE Objective–I Preparation and implementation, monitoring, control and audit *	MoESRS SR	66,719.78	to ensure efficient implementation of OPE within RCE Objective in compliance with requirements on the management and administrative structures responsible for OPE implementation	implementation
86	OPE Technical assistance for Objective Convergence – II Evaluation and studies; information and publicity *	MoESRS SR	157,013.88	to ensure efficient implementation of the OPE within C Objective	implementation
86	OPE Technical assistance for RCE Objective – II Evaluation and studies; information and publicity *	MoESRS SR	5,642.97	to ensure efficient implementation of the OPE within RCE Objective	implementation
85	OPE Technical	MoESRS	2,463,300.00	to ensure efficient	implementation

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	assistance for Objective Convergence 2009 – I Preparation, implementation, monitoring and control	SR		implementation of the OPE within C Objective in compliance with requirements on the management and administrative structures responsible for OPE implementation	
85	OPE Technical assistance for RCE Objective 2009 – I Preparation, implementation, monitoring and control	MoESRS SR	71,900.00	to ensure efficient implementation of the OPE within RCE Objective in compliance with requirements on the management and administrative structures responsible for OPE implementation	implementation
86	OPE Technical assistance for Objective Convergence 2009 – II Evaluation and studies; information and communication	MoESRS SR	157,700.00	to ensure efficient implementation of the OPE within C Objective	implementation
86	OPE Technical assistance for RCE Objective 2009 – II Evaluation and studies; information and communication	MoESRS SR	4,900.00	to ensure efficient implementation of the OPE within RCE Objective	implementation
85	OPE Technical assistance for Objective Convergence 2010 – I Preparation, implementation, monitoring and control	MoESRS SR	2,283,385.00	to ensure efficient implementation of the OPE within C Objective in compliance with requirements on the management and administrative structures responsible for OPE implementation	implementation
85	OPE Technical assistance for RCE 2010 – I Preparation, implementation, monitoring and control	MoESRS SR	414,645.00	to ensure efficient implementation of the OPE within RCE Objective in compliance with requirements on the management and administrative structures responsible for OPE implementation	implementation
86	OPE Technical assistance for Objective Convergence 2010 – II Evaluation and studies; information and communication	MoESRS SR	244,175.00	to ensure efficient implementation of the OPE within C Objective	implementation
86	OPE Technical assistance for RCE 2010 – II Evaluation and studies;	MOESRS SR	44,325.00	to ensure efficient implementation of the OPE within RCE Objective	implementation

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	information and communication				
85	OPE Technical assistance for Objective Convergence 2011 – I Preparation, implementation, monitoring and control	MoESRS SR	2,372,335.00	to ensure efficient implementation of the OPE within C Objective in compliance with requirements on the management and administrative structures responsible for OPE implementation	project created
85	OPE Technical assistance for RCE 2011 – I Preparation, implementation, monitoring and control	MoESRS SR	225,000.00	to ensure efficient implementation of the OPE within RCE Objective in compliance with requirements on the management and administrative structures responsible for OPE implementation	project created
86	OPE Technical assistance for Objective Convergence 2011 – II Evaluation and studies; information and communication	MoESRS SR	298,846.00	to ensure efficient implementation of the OPE within C Objective	project created
85	OPE Technical assistance for Objective Convergence, PT 85 for 2007,2008	ASFEU	1,509,692.62	to ensure efficient implementation of the OPE and support the implementation of OPE priority axes	implementation
85	OPE Technical assistance for Regional Competitiveness and Employment Objective, PT 85 for 2007,2008	ASFEU	36,878.44	to ensure efficient implementation of the OPE and support the implementation of OPE priority axes	implementation
86	OPE Technical assistance for Objective Convergence, PT 86 for 2007,2008	ASFEU	512,341.50	to ensure efficient implementation of the OPE and support the implementation of OPE priority axes	project completed
86	OPE Technical assistance for Regional Competitiveness and Employment Objective, PT 86 for 2007,2008	ASFEU	16,265.02	to ensure efficient implementation of the OPE and support the implementation of OPE priority axes	project completed
85	OPE Technical assistance for Objective Convergence, PT 85 for 2009	ASFEU	2,192,968.93	to ensure efficient implementation of the OPE and support the implementation of OPE priority axes	implementation
85	OPE Technical assistance for Regional Competitiveness and Employment Objective, PT 85 for	ASFEU	63,171.94	to ensure efficient implementation of the OPE and support the implementation of OPE priority axes	implementation

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	2009				
86	OPE Technical assistance for Objective Convergence, PT 86 for 2009	ASFEU	510,972.71	to ensure efficient implementation of the OPE and support the implementation of OPE priority axes	implementation
86	OPE Technical assistance for Regional Competitiveness and Employment Objective, PT 86 for 2009	ASFEU	14,719.38	to ensure efficient implementation of the OPE and support the implementation of OPE priority axes	implementation
85	OPE Technical assistance for Objective Convergence, Priority theme 85 for 2010	ASFEU	2,646,343.44	to ensure efficient implementation of the OPE and support the implementation of OPE priority axes	implementation
85	OPE Technical assistance for Regional Competitiveness and Employment Objective, Priority theme 85 for 2010	ASFEU	132,658.06	to ensure efficient implementation of the OPE and support the implementation of OPE priority axes	implementation
86	OPE Technical assistance for Objective Convergence, Priority theme 86 for 2010	ASFEU	548,350.00	to ensure efficient implementation of the OPE and support the implementation of OPE priority axes	implementation
86	OPE Technical assistance for Regional Competitiveness and Employment Objective, Priority theme 86 for 2010	ASFEU	22,000.00	to ensure efficient implementation of the OPE and support the implementation of OPE priority axes	implementation
85	OPE Technical assistance for Objective Convergence, Priority theme 85 for 2011	ASFEU	2,786 162.50	to ensure efficient implementation of the OPE and support the implementation of OPE priority axes	project created
86	OPE Technical assistance for Objective Convergence, Priority theme 86 for 2011	ASFEU	387,500.00	to ensure efficient implementation of the OPE and support the implementation of OPE priority axes	project created
85	Project for using technical assistance, I **	MH SR	1,188 425.72	to ensure administrative capacities and material and technical equipment at the MH SR as the IBMA in order to implement measure 2.2	implementation
85	Project for using technical assistance, II **	MH SR	199,062.50	to ensure administrative capacities and material and technical equipment at the MH SR as the IBMA in order to implement measure 2.2	implementation

Source: MA

* The listed TA project are projects for the period from 1 January 2007 to 31 December 2008.

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** the listed projects are projects for the period from 1 January 2007 to 31 December 2015 and were submitted and approved in 2008.

6.2 Overview of The Use of Funds

An overview of the use of TA funds on the basis of priority activities as at 31 December 2010 within the OPE (jointly for MA and IBMA) is provided in Table 85 and Table 86.

Table 85: Overview of the use of TA funds on the basis of priority activities as at 31 December 2010 -C Objective

Priority activities	amount contracted			amount drawn		
	EUR	as percentage of allocation for TA programme	as percentage of total amount contracted for TA programme	EUR	as percentage of allocation for TA programme	as percentage of total amount drawn for TA programme
Trainings, monitoring, working and coordination groups, committees and commissions (Priority theme 85)	625,686.23	2.22	2.86	74,550.45	0.26	1.03
Evaluation and studies (Priority theme 86)	300,949.53	1.07	1.37	0.00	0.00	0.00
Information and publicity (Priority theme 86)	2,028,022.63	7.18	9.26	710,986.61	2.52	9.85
Wages (Priority theme 85)	14,900 709.84	52.77	68.02	5,913,754.25	20.94	81.97
Operational activities and travel expenses (Priority theme 85)	1,193,970.56	2.28	5.45	36,149.40	0.13	0.50
Technical equipment (hardware, software, furniture, cars, etc.) (Priority theme 85)	2,211,613.50	7.83	10.10	402,130.72	1.42	5.57
Other (General services) (Priority theme 85)	645,541.25	1.93	2.95	77,256.50	0.27	1.07
Total	21,906 493.54	77.59	100	7,214,827.93	25.55	100

Source: MA

As at 31 December 2010, the level of contracting within C Objective represented 77.59% of the allocation of the given Objective, whereas the drawing represented 25.55%. Therefore, the drawing of technical assistance funds for C Objective at the level of 25.55% (of the total allocation for TA within C Objective) may be deemed appropriate in relation to the above mentioned indicators achieved at the end of the fourth year of the programming period 2007 – 2013 (whereas the actual implementation of the OPE at the project level was commenced only at the end of 2008 and the beginning of 2009).

Table 86: Overview of the use of TA funds on the basis of priority activities as at 31 December 2010 -RCE Objective

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Priority activities	amount contracted			amount drawn		
	EUR	as percentage of allocation for TA programme		EUR	as percentage of allocation for TA programme	
Training, monitoring, working and coordination groups, committees and commissions (Priority theme 85)	12,762.36	1.52	1.14	2,004.02	0.24	0.45
Evaluation and studies (Priority theme 86)	19,948.95	0.06	1.78	0.00	0.00	0.00
Information and publicity (Priority theme 86)	67,083.99	8.01	6.00	22,280.11	2.66	5.05
Wages (Priority theme 85)	906,782.62	108.24	81.05	403,918.94	48.22	91.52
Operational activities and travel expenses (Priority theme 85)	25,246.37	3.01	2.26	1,136.06	0.14	0.26
Technical equipment (hardware, software, furniture, cars, etc.) (Priority theme 85)	54,556.18	6.51	4.88	9,521.64	1.14	2.16
Other (General services) (Priority theme 85)	32,445.12	3.88	2.90	2,470.86	0.29	0.56
Total	1,118,825.59	133.56	100	441,331.63	52.68	100

Source: MA

As at 31 December 2010, the level of contracting within RCE Objective represented 133.56% of the allocation of the given Objective, whereas the drawing represented 52.68%. Therefore, the drawing of technical assistance funds for RCE Objective at the level of 52.68% (of the total allocation for TA within RCE Objective) may be deemed appropriate in relation to the above mentioned indicators achieved at the end of the fourth year of the programming period 2007 – 2013 (whereas the actual implementation of the OPE at the project level was commenced only at the end of 2008 and the beginning of 2009).

7. INFORMATION AND PUBLICITY

A very important means for promoting the efficient use of funds from SF and CF is accurate and target information on EU aid provided for potential applicants for NFC, applicants for NFC, NFC Beneficiaries and the public.

The MA strives to ensure the most economic, efficient and effective use of funds for information and publicity. Therefore, this process is supported by the cooperation and coordination of work between the MA and the IBMA (ASFEU and MH SR) within the PWG at the level of MA and IBMA officers. At the national level, the MA coordinates its activities in the field of information and publicity with the activities of the CCB by means of participation in the PWG, and at the international level the MA has a representative in the PWG Information & Communication Platform - INFORM Network.

7.1 Basic Documents, Regulations and Acts Related to Information and Publicity

In the monitored period, the MoESRS SR as the MA pursued information and publicity in compliance with the following documents:

- pursuant to Article 69 *of the General Regulation* and its updates, the CCB and MA inform EU citizens and Beneficiaries with the aim to emphasise the role of the EU and ensure the transparency of aid from funds;
- Articles 2 to 10 of *The Implementing Regulation* define the particulars of information and communication measures, the provision of information on the use of SF and CF. It defines the particulars for the preparation, performance and monitoring of the CP and its content. It describes the basic particulars for CP implementation as well as the obligations and competences of entities involved in CP implementation, in compliance with which it is necessary to provide Beneficiaries with clear and detailed information on OP implementation. The Beneficiaries must be informed of their inclusion in the list of Beneficiaries published in compliance with this Regulation. The basic technical characteristics of information and communication measures that must be respected by all entities involved are provided in Article 9 of the Implementing Regulation;
- *The Management System* defines the uniform basic processes and procedures for SF and CF management that are binding for all entities responsible for OP implementation. It also regulates the minimum standards for information and publicity. The aim is to unify and improve the efficiency of processes in the implementation of activities for make the information as available as possible; deepening information on objectives and possibilities of aid provided from the SF and CF; improving transparency in connection with the use of SF and CF; creating conditions for the maximum possible success in the implementation of approved programme documents and for raising the quality of projects submitted within individual OP; strengthening absorption capacity;
- *SR National Council Act No. 211/2000 Coll.* on Free Access to Information and on Changes and Amendments to Certain Acts, as amended, which regulates the conditions, procedure and scope of free access to information;
- *Directive No. 2/2007-I of 15 January 2007* which regulates the form of communication of the MoESRS SR with the public;
- *Directive No. 13/2008-I of April 4 2008* which regulates the procedure of the MoESRS SR staff in providing information pursuant to Act No. 211/2000 Coll. on Free Access to Information and on Changes and Amendments to Certain Acts, as amended (Act on Free Access to Information).

7.2 Information and Publicity Documents

7.2.1 Strategic Information and Publicity Documents

- **Communication Plan**

The CP for the OPE and OPR&D is the principal document of the MA in the field of information and publicity. It is an information and communication strategy containing measures for information and publicity within the 2007-2013 programming period. It sets forth the forms and means used for disseminating timely, accurate and comprehensive information designed for target groups, potential NFC applicants, Beneficiaries and the public. Potential NFC applicants means entities that may later become NFC applicants.

The MoESRS SR prepared a joint CP for the OPE and OPR&D for 2007 - 2013, which, following the incorporation of comments by the IBMA, was submitted to the EC on 26 March 2008. It was approved by the EC without reservations on 5 May 2008.

Each year, the IBMA submits to the MA an information and publicity plan for the respective calendar year in order to ensure the continuity of publicity activities.

- **Information and Publicity Manual for the OPE and OPR&D**

The Information and Publicity Manual forms a part of the Management System that defines the minimum standards and unified procedures in the field of information and publicity on EC and programmes supported from the funds of the EC and OP.

The MA created the joint *Information and Publicity Manual for the OPE and OPR&D*. In 2010, it was updated once pursuant to the Management System update.

- **Annual Operative Information and Publicity Plan for the OPE and OPR&D**

In 2010, the implementation of information and publicity for both the MA and IBMA was governed by the *Annual Operative Information and Publicity Plan for the OPE and OPR&D for 2010 and the Annual Operative Information and Publicity Plan for Measure 2.2 of the OPE*. These documents were prepared for the MA and IBMA respectively with the aim of quality and coordinated presentation of the OPE. They are linked to the information and communication strategy set forth in the CP in full. They contain specific measures for information and publicity in 2010 and set forth the forms and means used for disseminating timely, accurate and comprehensible information designed for potential NFC applicants, Beneficiaries and the general public.

- **GUIDELINES for the Beneficiary on the Implementation of Measures in the Field of OPE Information and Publicity**

The MA prepared the Guidelines in order to facilitate access to uniform information regarding the implementation of measures in the field of information and publicity by the Beneficiary. It contains consolidated information on all strategic documents serving for simplified access to information regarding the implementation of information and publicity. In 2010, the document was updated once.

Published Strategic Documents

- **the publication of the “OPE”** – full wording of the OPE (approved on 7 November 2007) – the MA issued 1,000 printed copies and 1 electronic publication;
- **Programme Manual for the Operational Programme Education** - the MA issued 1 electronic publication;
- **Annual Report on the Implementation of the OPE** – the MA issues the electronic publication of the current wording of the AR for the preceding calendar year once per year (following the approval of the document by the MC OPE and by the EC).

7.3 Publicity Coordination at the National and International Level

In 2010, the RO and IBMA cooperated together and ensured the dissemination of timely, accurate and comprehensive information and efficient information and publicity on aid from the EU SF and OPE.

The administrative capacities for ensuring information and publicity have been changed at the MA and IBMA: 8 employees devoted to information and publicity are available at the MA and IBMA. The structure of administrative capacities for the purpose of providing information to the public as at 31 December 2010 is provided in Table 87.

Table 87: Administrative capacities as at 31 December 2010

	Number of jobs for the OPE
MA (Information and Publicity Manager)	2
IBMA – ASFEU (Publicity Manager, Head of Information and Publicity Department)	1
IBMA – ASFEU (Regional Publicity Manager)	5
IBMA – MH SR (Information and Publicity Manager, Coordinating Manager)	2
TOTAL	10

Source: MA/IBMA

In 2010, the administrative capacities were adopted on the basis of changes in the organisational structure at the IBMA. On 20 September 2010, 5 jobs of Regional Publicity Managers that were transferred to the Operational Programme Section with aim to optimise the number of jobs and increase the efficiency of work were cancelled. The measure implementation process in the field of information and publicity was ensured on an ongoing basis and made more efficient.

In order to ensure the coordination of the implementation of information and communication activities, working groups on different levels have been opened.

The employees in the field of publicity at the MA and IBMA participate in internal and external training in the field of information and publicity on an ongoing basis.

7.3.1 Publicity Working Group of the MA/IBMA

The role of the PWG is to cooperate on the implementation of information and communication activities at the level of the MA and IBMA for the OPE. The PWG is composed of: the Information and Publicity Manager (the “IPM”) for the MA, the IPM for the MH SR and the Publicity Managers for IBMA – ASFEU.

The meeting was held on 18 December 2010. The meeting agenda focused on activities implemented in the field of information and publicity for 2010 and activities planned for 2011. Information regarding the course of the meeting of the coordination working group of the MA/CCB, meetings of the INFORM working group at the national level and information regarding the 1st year of the European conference in the field of public communication EUroPCom in Brussels was provided there. More detailed information is provided in Chapter 2.1.7.3 hereof.

7.3.2 Regional Information Offices

The main tasks of RIO in the field of information and publicity is to ensure direct contact with Beneficiaries, NFC applicants and potential NFC applicants in the respective regions and provide them with any and all relevant information regarding the alternatives of using SF and CF in the region. Personal consultations enable the provision of more precise information to NFC applicants and the benefit is a direct feedback gained as to which further information the public and potential NFC applicants require, which in turn allows for a more flexible response to requirements regarding the provision of information. It is provided in the form of personal consultations, by telephone or e-mail.

The RIO has been presenting its quality activity for three years during the 2007-2013 IBMA – ASFEU programming period, however, despite this fact, the RIO activity was terminated in Trnava, Nitra, Trenčín and Prešov that served for information of the public on 15 November 2010. The cancellation of 4 RIO resulted from the optimisation of number of jobs in order to increase the efficiency of work within the Operational Programme Section at the IBMA ASFEU. The RIO in Bratislava, Košice, Zvolen and Žilina continue their operation that provide consultation services within the EU SF for the OPE.

The Beneficiaries of the NFC within the OPE may further use consultations regarding correct completion of AfP in Košice, Zvolen and Žilina.

Publicity Managers provide information regarding the published calls for the submission of AfNFC, inform the public of deadlines for the submission of AfNFC and assist in completing the prescribed forms within personal consultations focused on the preliminary control of the formal accuracy of the submitted AfNFC and annexes thereto. ANFC applicants may order a consultation appointment exclusively by means of the reservation system on the ASFEU website www.asfeu.sk, which is accessible approximately two weeks before the closing date of each call.

The RIO provide not only advice, but also focus on the following activities:

- ensuring the dissemination of information regarding current calls for the submission of AfNFC in regions;
- cooperating in conducting information events (workshops, seminars, information days, conferences) organised in the regions;
- ensuring the preparation and publication of answers to frequently asked questions of NFC applicants;
- ensuring the publicity of all projects approved from the regions;
- ensuring the distribution of information materials and promotional items in the regions;
- ensuring advertising services in the regional media.

Once again it was proved that the use of further information resources, the distribution of publications, the provision of information on digital media, etc. is highly beneficial. It helped to disseminate general information regarding the OPE and to increase awareness of the EC and SF.

7.3.3 Cooperation with the CCB

The CCB is responsible for coordination of activities in the field of information and publicity at the national level within the NSRF. The CCB coordinates the PWG, which was created in order to coordinate information and communication activities at the level of the NSRF and individual OP. The representatives of the MA - IPM for the OPE are also members of this working group.

The IPM for the OPE cooperate with the CCB in the form of supplying information and documents regarding the OPE. The respective information is published on the information portal www.NSRF.sk.

The meetings dealt with the activities that were planned and implemented in the field of information and publicity for 2010 by the CCB, separate MA and HP coordinators, as well as information from the two meetings of the INFORM group at the EC level in Brussels in 2010.

The MA was informed of changes related to the delimitation of the CCB at the GO SR and later at the MTCRD SR. The issues regarding the evaluation of communication plans and public opinion surveys for the NSRF and individual OP were discussed there. The themes regarding the contribution to the EUROKOMPAS bulletin and “Maps of the implemented projects” were also discussed there. More detailed information is provided in Chapter 2.1.7.3 hereof.

7.3.4 Cooperation at the International Level

At the international level, the IPM OPE, as the representative of the MA OPE, is a member of the The Information & Communication Platform - INFORM Network, the aim of which is to affiliate the IPM of all OP, aimed at exchanging experience and identifying the manners for improving the quality of communication activities, raising awareness of the advantages of EC interventions among potential Beneficiaries and the public and improving the visibility of EU-funded projects. Communication among the group members is comprised of dissemination of information and experience exchange by means of e-mail communication and the INFORM internet platform at: http://forums.ec.EURopa.eu/regional_policy/inform/.

During the monitored period the INFORM working group met on 15 and 16 June 2010 and 18 to 20 November 2010.

7.4 Information and Publicity Activities Conducted by the MA and IBMA

Activities in the field of information and publicity were focused on all target groups (potential NFC applicants, NFC applicants, NFC Beneficiaries and the general public) according to their needs. General information on EU SF and OP was provided for the public. Information and communication activities focused on communicating the range of possibilities that the OPE offers designated for potential applicants. Applicants were provided with specific information leading to the successful submission of the AfNFC. NFC Beneficiaries were familiarised with the correct procedures in implementing a project, including procedures for conducting project publicity. For developing and strengthening the awareness and good reputation of the EU in connection with the EU SF, communication activities were conducted in order to ensure publicity on successfully implemented projects (success stories) for all target group categories.

When implementing individual information and communication activities, special attention was paid to the benefit for potential Beneficiaries and the general public.

The following information and communication tools and means provided in Section. 7.4.1. hereof were used for the implementation of the activities.

In 2010, the implementation of information and publicity activities was governed by the CP of the OPE and the OPR&D and was particularly guided and specified by the *Annual Operative Information and Publicity Plan for the OPE and OPR&D for 2010* and the *Annual Operative Information and Publicity Plan for Measure 2.2 of the OPE* for the IBMA MH SR. These documents provide the tools and means used in 2010 for the implementation of activities in the field of information and publicity.

A **uniform visual identity** is used for the creation of a uniform image and support of the good reputation of the OP. Compliance with this identity is ensured via the OPE logo in relation to which a design manual was prepared. The OPE logo must be provided on all printed materials and other information and communication media, etc.

The MA published logos (the EU flag, including a reference to the EU and ESF, or SF and OPE logo) in order to facilitate the use of mandatory publicity elements on its website in the so called “curves”. The logos are published and freely available for Beneficiaries and the general public at the MA website <http://www.minedu.sk/index.php?lang=sk&rootId=477>.

The ASFEU Design Manual, forming the basis for the presentation of the uniform visual identity of the ASFEU, also serves for the uniform communication strategy for the OPE presentation.

Compliance with the uniform visual identity is also guided by supporting documents, such as the Publicity Manual for the OPE and the OPR&D and GUIDELINES for the Beneficiary for Implementation of Measures in the Field of Information and Publicity of the OPE which are updated, as needed. They define the technical characteristics of measures in the field of information and publicity (the EU logo, reference to the EU, reference to the ESF and declaration emphasising the added value of the EC interventions - in the case of the OPE, the publishing of “Modern Education for a Knowledge-Based Society/Project is Co-financed from EU funds”).

7.4.1 Information and Publicity Activities

A) Major Information Activity of the OPE

The major information activity in 2010 was the media campaign through which general information regarding the OPE and activities of the MA were presented. The campaign comprised a series of programmes presented in the media and PR articles in the press presenting general information on the OPE and activities and actions taken by the MA. The information brochure focused on the presentation of the OPE (including a presentation of national projects and examples of “best practice”) and constituted part of a major information activity. The implementation of this activity was shifted to 2011. More detailed information regarding TV programmes and PR articles in press is provided in Annex 11 hereof.

B) 4th Ordinary Meeting of the MC OPE

On 9 June 2010, the 4th ordinary meeting of the MC OPE was held.

The participants at the MC OPE included **26 members of the MC OPE**. More detailed information is provided in Section 2.7.1.1 hereof.

C) 1st Informal Meeting of the MC OPE

On 27 October 2010, the 1st informal meeting of the MC OPE was held.

A total of 23 individuals participated in the informal meeting of the MC OPE. More detailed information is provided in Section 2.7.1.1 hereof.

D) Annual Report on OPE Implementation for 2009

The annual report on OPE implementation for 2009 was submitted to the EC for its approval for the first time on 29 June 2010 (following its approval by the MC OPE members at the 4th ordinary meeting of the MC OPE on 9 June 2010).

On 5 August 2010, the EC raised comments to the AR on the OPE Implementation for 2009 on the basis of which the document was supplemented and revised. The AR on the OPE Implementation for 2009 was re-submitted to the EC for approval on 5 October 2010. The EC approved the AR on the OPE Implementation for 2009 by virtue of its letter of 18 October 2010.

E) Public Opinion Survey

In order to evaluate the results of measures in the field of information and publicity in relation to making the OP more visible and raising the awareness of the OP and the role played by the EC, as provided in Article 2 (2) (e) of the Implementing Regulation, the MA conducted a public

opinion survey dedicated to the percentage of awareness of EU tasks, the function of the MA and IBMA, individual measures and calls on the basis of current measures in the field of information and publicity. The public opinion survey would have involved an appropriate sample of respondents. More information is provided in Chapter 7.5 hereof.

F) Press Briefings and Conferences regarding the OPE

At the occasion of the Annual Conference, the ASFEU, in cooperation with the MA, organised a press briefing on 6 May 2010 with the participation of Ján Mikolaj, the SR Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Education of the SR, Mgr. Andrea Stoklasová, the Director of Massmedia Policy Department of the ME SR and Ing. Alexandra Drgová, ASFEU General Director.

G) Conferences presenting the OPE

On 6 May 2010, the annual conference of the ASFEU was held at the Technopol Congress Centre in Bratislava. At this conference organised by the ASFEU in cooperation with the MA, the activity of the ASFEU for 2009 was assessed, planned calls for 2010 were presented, and the assessment of calls for the submission of AfNFC within the OPE were completed. The cycle of examples of best practice formed a part of the conference. The representatives of the ES and SS presented successful demand-driven projects approved within the OPE. The projects of ES Veľký Lapáš – Our School – Our Family; the Secondary Vocational School in Topoľčany – New Millennium School; and ES and NS Jakubany – Education of Roma Pupils in the Modern European School were presented. The national projects implemented by the MA as well as the IBMA MH SR activities under measure 2.2 within the OPE were evaluated.

All presentations are published on the ASFEU website: <http://www.asfeu.sk/operacny-program-vzdelavanie/informacne-seminare-a-konferencie/>. A total of 165 individuals participated at the conference.

H) Seminars and Events presenting the OPE

Another aim of information and publicity is to strengthen absorption capacity in relation to the OPE. There are various tools for the achievement of efficiency in this ancillary activity; they include. creating possibilities to disseminate examples of best practice, provide training and seminars for exchanging experience, as well as to arrange activities for monitoring and evaluation or encourage partnership and mutual cooperation in the preparation and implementation of projects. In 2010, the MA/IBMA used the following tools:

Information Events and Seminars - ASFEU

For the purpose of informing *potential NFC applicants, successful NFC applicants and NFC Beneficiaries*, in 2010 the ASFEU organised 14 information seminars and working meetings. Information seminars for potential applicants focused on the presentation of the conditions of calls, eligible activities, eligible places of project implementation, target groups, eligible expenditures and proper budget compilation, project indicators, HP indicators and a detailed project description and completion of the AfNFC form. The seminars were held in respect of calls for the submission of AfNFC for measures 1.1, 1.2, 2.1, 3.2, 4.1 and 4.2. Information for successful NFC applicants and NFC Beneficiaries focused on the submission of the AfP, project implementation and monitoring reports.

Information seminars were held as follows:

- 22 June 2010 Bratislava;
- 28 June 2010 Žilina;
- 29 June 2010 Košice.

Working meetings were held on the following dates (More detailed information is provided in Annex 11 hereof):

- 18 January 2010, Bratislava, number of participants: 18;
- 11 May 2010, Bratislava, number of participants: 163;
- 17 May 2010, Bratislava, number of participants: 68;
- 19 May 2010, Žilina, number of participants: 175;
- 20 May 2010, Košice, number of participants: 258;
- 25 May 2010, Bratislava, number of participants: 93;
- 3 June 2010, Bratislava, number of participants: 16;
- 14 October 2010, Bratislava, number of participants: 116;
- 10 November 2010, Bratislava, number of participants: 96;
- 7 December 2010, Bratislava, number of participants: 62;
- 8 December 2010, Bratislava, number of participants: 16.

Open Day, which was connected with the evaluation of the “Modern School” art competition, was held on 27 May 2010. The “Modern School” competition was based on an individual art presentation of the modern school, designated for ES pupils participating in an implemented or approved project co-financed by the OPE in the 2007 - 2013 programming period. In total, children from 67 ES submitted almost 600 works in the competition.

The objective of Open Day was to get the visitors acquainted with the possibilities of the drawing of funds from EC SF, actual and planned calls and approved projects. The visitors were provided with the opportunity to get acquainted with the management and staff of separate departments of the ASFEU. This event featured the presentation of successful projects. They included that of ES Stará Ľubovňa – New School Programme + innovation of the methodological basis and technical ICT equipment = Modern School On Easy Street; the Special Elementary School in Bytča – We are different, but not worse – we are learning in a modern form; and the ES with NS Jakubany – Education of Roma Pupils at a Modern European School.

Detailed information, including a presentation from the event is provided at the ASFEU website <http://www.asfeu.sk/operacny-program-vzdelavanie/informacne-seminare-a-konferencie/>.

Information Seminars to Calls and Other Information Activities - MH SR

The following Information seminars for call OPV 2010/2.2/01 “Enhancement of Further Skills of Healthcare Staff” within measure 2.2 of the OPE were held:

- 13 May 2010 Banská Bystrica;
- 14 May 2010 Košice;
- 17 May 2010 Bratislava.

The topic of these seminars was the presentation of the call, the procedures for the submission and approval of AfNFC and the eligibility of expenditures. It was attended by the representatives of budget and contribution organisations of the UTTU and municipalities, public HEIs, state HEIs and state education institutions, non-governmental institutions, private education institutions, expert companies and professional associations in public health, professional organisations in public health and legal entities that are providers of healthcare. The seminar was attended by **6 representatives** of potential NFC applicants.

Training Sessions for Beneficiaries were focused on information on changes arising from the updatedness of the Financial Management System, version 5.1, Management System, version 4.0, update of the Manual for OPE NFC Beneficiaries 4.0, MA Guideline No. 2. and IBMA

Guidelines 2, 3 and the method for the calculation of the salary of healthcare staff studying at the specialized study. In the second half of 2010, the training sessions were dedicated to actual information on the payment system, AfP completion through the ITMS public portal –AfP Form, procedures for the completion of monitoring reports, information on the processes of the administrative control of the public procurement procedure by the provider.

- 26 May 2010 Bratislava, Working meeting for Beneficiaries, number of participants 27;
- 31 March 2010 UTTU Prešov, number of participants 16;
- 13 May 2010 UTTU Banská Bystrica, number of participants 13;
- 20 April 2010 UTTU Trnava, number of participants 21;
- 14 May 2010 UTTU Žilina, number of participants 12;
- 15 April 2010 UTTU Nitra, number of participants 20;
- 16 April 2010 UTTU Trenčín, number of participants 22;
- 2 July 2010 Bratislava (PPO), number of participants 13;
- 5 August 2010 Bratislava, number of participants 7;
- 15 December 2010 Bratislava, number of participants 26.

CH) Accompanying Activities in the Week of “Europe Day”

For the purpose of maintaining awareness about the EC, OPE and SF, information and promotional materials were distributed at various events. In the week of 9 May 2010, on the occasion of “Europe Day” (9 May 2010), the European flag was hung in front of the premises of the MA/IBMA.

I) Advertising, Articles, PR Articles and Advertising in Daily National Newspaper

The advertising space of the MA/IBMA in the national daily business newspaper *Hospodárske noviny* served for informing the public of the published calls and provided important information regarding the possibility of drawing funds from the EU SF within the OPE. Numerous full-colour advertisements were published in *Hospodárske noviny* and informative articles were published in the teachers’ newspaper *Učiteľské noviny*, Eurokompas; various PR articles were published elsewhere.

The IBMA MH SR primarily used the medical magazine *Zdravotnícke noviny*, Eurokompas and one article that focused on measure 2.2 within the OPE will be published in the bimonthly periodical *Bedekeľ zdravia*.

The MA/IBMA also informed the public and target groups of its activities via its websites, which provided current information, press releases, notices, time schedules of calls and other information.

Information on media outputs is provided in Annex 11 hereof. The number of published press releases, articles and adverts all types of media is monitored in the form of the indicator in Annex 12 hereof.

7.4.2 Internet

www.minedu.sk: The section “2007-2013 programming period” on the MoESRS SR website serves for ensuring the provision of comprehensive information regarding the OPE and its implementation. The activities of both the MA and IBMA are also presented here. The structure of the section has not been changed during 2010; it was only updated according to the MA needs. All sections are updated from time to time when necessary. The List of Beneficiaries of written notices, which is updated from time to time, is published in the section List of approved projects. It contains the names of Beneficiaries, the titles of their projects, the amount of NFC and is in

compliance with Article 4, Section 2b and Article 7, Section 2d of the Implementing Regulation. A direct link to the Lists of Beneficiaries of both IBMA is also provided there.

The website enables the public to add their name to a mailing list for receiving current information, document update alerts, published OPE calls and other important information related to the OPE.

The home page of the internet portal www.minedu.sk contains the section “EU SF Calls” which also contains a part dedicated to the OPE calls. It contains a quick and transparent link to the MA calls and both IBMA via the internet portal www.minedu.sk, where it simplifies access to information on published OPE calls.

www.asfeu.sk: A broad spectrum of information for potential NFC applicants, Beneficiaries and the general public is provided on the graphically renewed ASFEU website www.asfeu.sk. In addition to general information on programme documents, SF objectives and SF regulations, visitors can find information regarding updates of important documents, reports on the evaluation of calls, events organised by the ASFEU and other important activities. The Section FAQ – frequently asked question by applicants and Section FAQ - frequently asked question by Beneficiaries is updated from time to time within the calls published on the basis of most frequently asked questions by NFC applicants and Beneficiaries during telephone, e-mail or personal consultations and information seminars on individual calls. The FAQ Sections contain answers to questions related to the preparation of applications for NFC and the implementation of projects.

In 2010, a total of 265,118 users visited this website and the News section published 62 Notices for the OPE.

Database mailing – the Newsletter service provides potential NFC applicants with necessary information with regard to the OPE.

The following lists are available for the public on the website: List of NFC Beneficiaries and List of Approved Project.

www.opv.health-sf.sk The MH focused on informing the public particularly via the website www.opv.health-sf.sk.

The website www.opv.health-sf.sk recorded 14,439 hits from 25 countries. Of that number, 13,954 hits were made from the Slovak Republic (47 Slovak towns). In total, 7,259 registered addresses (persons) expressed their interest in this website. The website recorded 52,419 page displays (number of materials from the content of the site viewed by visitors).

The category “List of Beneficiaries – Supported Projects” is created on the website of the MH SR www.opv.health-sf.sk in compliance with the Implementing Regulation, Article 7 (2) (d). The website is updated as necessary from time to time. Visitors will find basic documents, information regarding calls, their evaluation and list of supported projects and news regarding IBMA activities. The Information for the Media section is designated for journalists and the section Monitoring Committee for OPE Meetings, seminars, training and nationwide events deals with organisational issues.

Information for the public, potential applicants and Beneficiaries is provided in the News, Calls, AfNFC evaluation and Events sections.

Information on the number of media outputs designated for the public that is published on internet, is provided in Annex 11 hereof.

The number of addresses in the MA/IBMA mailing lists and the number of visits to individual MA/IBMA websites, as well as the number of media outputs for the public that were published on internet, is monitored in the form of indicators in Annex 12 hereof.

7.4.3 Personal, Telephone and E-mail and Written Consultations

Information on the OPE, the bodies responsible for its implementation, eligible activities, eligible and ineligible expenditure, etc. was provided to potential NFC applicants, NFC Beneficiaries and the general public by means of personal, telephone, e-mail and written consultations and answers to questions of potential Beneficiaries and the general public by both the MA and IBMA. The MA/IBMA respected the statutory procedure pursuant to Act No. 211/200 Coll.

MA

Information on the OPE was provided to potential Beneficiaries and the general public by means of personal, telephone, e-mail and written consultations and answers to questions of potential applicants and the general public. The MA does not keep any specific records on the number of answers, information and consultations that it provides.

IBMA ASFEU

Information on the possibilities for the drawing of funds from the SF within the OPE is provided on an ongoing basis by phone, in writing and in the form of personal consultations provided by the IPM OPE directly on the premises of the ASFEU and at the RIO (preliminary formal accuracy assessment of the AfNFC and annexes thereto and consultations to AfP are also provided in the form of personal consultations). Information regarding the number of telephone, written and personal consultations regarding the IBMA ASFEU is provided in Table 88.

Table 88: Number of consultations provided in the individual regions

Region	Telephone consultations	Written consultations	Personal consultations (including consultations on preliminary formal accuracy assessment of AfNFC and annexes thereto and consultations to AfP)
Bratislava	616	94	21
Trnava	67	11	17
Nitra	164	17	35
Trenčín	88	21	6
Zvolen	162	21	16
Žilina	113	14	13
Košice	236	36	57
Prešov	79	13	22
TOTAL	1,525	227	187

Source: IBMA ASFEU

IBMA – MH SR

Information on the OPE was provided to the potential Beneficiaries and the general public by means of personal, telephone, e-mail and written consultations and answers to questions of potential applicants and the general public. During the monitored period, the IBMA did not keep any records on the number of answers and consultations it provided. In general, the IBMA recorded increased interest in information at the moment of the publishing of any call.

7.4.4 Media

Television Programmes

TA3

During the monitored period, the public was informed of the amounts drawn from the SF within the OPE in the topic-focused programme *Euroškola a Výskum* (Euroschool and Research) broadcast by the news TV channel TA3. The programme is specifically focused on information on issues related to SF in the field of education, research and development. The MA used 1 episode of this TV programme to provide information on SF and the OPE and the IBMA ASFEU used 2 episodes of this TV programme. The specific information on the dates of the broadcast programmes is provided in Annex 11 hereof.

Evaluation of the Amount of Information Presented in All Types of Media

Within the monitored period, information, news and articles regarding the presentation of both EC and SF as well as the presentation of the OPE, MA and both IBMA were presented in all types of media. Information on the number of individual contributions (including information on type of media) expressed in total and broken down by contribution to the MA or IBMA is provided in Table 89.

Table 89: Information regarding the number of contributions in media in 2010

	Press releases and information					
		Press	Radio	TV	Internet	Total
Number of contributions (MA+IBMA)	88	143	12	21	148	412

Source: MA/IBMA

Details on published contributions (including the publishing date, particular media and author of a contribution) are provided in Annex 11 hereof.

7.4.5 Publicity of Approved Projects

In compliance with the Agreement on the provision of NFC and relevant documents, the NFC Beneficiaries are obliged to report on aid provided from the EC SF. Article 4, Publicity and Information of Annex 1 General Contractual Terms and Conditions to the Agreement on provision of NFC sets forth the obligations and liabilities of Beneficiaries in the field of publicity and information. The given Article also contains the consent of the Beneficiary to be included in the List of Beneficiaries for the purposes of publicity and information and consent to the publication of information defined in the Agreement in the List of Beneficiaries and consent to

the publication of data in a different manner based on the provider's decision. It regards information such as the name and registered office of the Beneficiary; the title, objectives and a brief description of the project; the place of implementation of the project activities; the time of project implementation; total project costs; the amount of provided NFC; project indicators; photos and video of the place of project implementation; and expected date of completion of the project activities.

The Beneficiaries who, within the approved budget have been allotted a sum for project promotion, are responsible for the publicity of the project. Publicity forms a mandatory part of the project.

On 24 May 2010, the MA issued a document "GUIDELINE for the Beneficiary in order to implement measures in the field of information and publicity - OPE" (the guideline is published on the MA and IBMA websites). This guideline describes all of the obligations of the Beneficiaries in the field of information and publicity in a practical form and provides answers to frequently asked question by Beneficiaries. The guideline was updated once (on 8 July 2010) during the monitored period.

The EU logos, including links to EU, ESF or SF and the OPE logo may be downloaded from the MA and IBMA websites. The ASFEU website provides the possibility of downloading the ASFEU logo.

The Manual for Information and Publicity of the OPE and OPR&D is published on the MA website that defines the minimum standards and individual procedures in the field of information and publicity about the EU and OPE, binding for all MA and all procedures for the management of the SF and CF.

Compliance with the publicity rules during the implementation pursuant to the concluded Agreement on the provision of NFC in the case of the national projects is in the competence of the MA; in the case of the demand-driven projects, the IBMA controls the implementation of publicity.

Publicity at the National Projects Level

Beneficiaries implementing national projects were provided with the opportunity to present their projects in media articles (for example in the daily newspaper *Hospodárske noviny*) and the topic-focused TV programme "*Eurooškolsť a výskum*" (*Euroschool and Research*) on the TV channel TA3. Costs are paid from the project publicity budget.

The TV programme, which focused on national projects, was broadcast 9 times during the monitored period. Details regarding the date of individual broadcasts of this programme are provided in Annex 11 hereof.

Media outputs presenting national projects can be found in Annex 11 hereof.

Since none of the national projects were completed during the monitored period, the examples of best practice cannot be provided.

Publicity at the Demand-driven Projects Level – ASFEU

The implementation of approved projects continues on the basis of concluded Agreements on the provision of NFC within calls published in 2008, 2009 and 2010,.

The ASFEU regularly informs the public of examples of best practice (implementation of successful projects of schools) also via the printed media: *Učiteľské noviny*, *Hospodárske noviny*, and electronic media: press releases, news TV channel TA3.

In the first half of 2010, for the purpose of the promotion of approved projects, the ASFEU organised "Annual Conference of the Agency of the Ministry of Education of the SR for EU

Funds” and “Open Day at the Agency of the Ministry of Education of the SR for EU Funds”. These activities are described in detail in Section 7.4.1. hereof and specified in Annex 11 hereof.

As part of the managed publicity of the ASFEU in the monitored period,, articles in which specific projects were presented were published.

Information regarding articles is provided in Annex 11 hereof.

Publicity of Projects Implemented Within Calls Published by the IBMA MH SR

The IBMA did not conduct information activity dedicated to the publicity of approved projects in the monitored period,. The IBMA organised information seminars to the calls and trainings for Beneficiaries that are described in detail in Section 7.4.1. (point F) hereof.

7.4.6 Publications and Promotional Items

1) MA

The MA did not deliver any publications, printed materials or promotional items in the monitored period (the MA used publications and promotion items procured in the preceding).

In the monitored period, the MA prepared the Annual Report on the Implementation of the OPE for 2009 that was published (following its approval by the MC OPE and EC) in electronic form at <http://www.minedu.sk/index.php?lang=sk&rootId=2970> (cost: EUR 0).

Table 90: Overview of publications

Publications	Quantity
Annual Report on the Implementation of the OPE for 2009	1 (electronic publication)

Source: MA

2) IBMA ASFEU

The IBMA did not deliver any promotional items, multimedia information materials or printed information materials in the monitored period (the IBMA used the promotional items and information materials procured in the preceding period).

3) IBMA MH SR

a) Promotional items

These promotional items provided in Table 91 were procured in the monitored period. Promotional items are marked in compliance with rules for information and publicity.

Table 91: Overview of promotional items

Promotional item	Quantity
pen	500
folder	500
notepad	500

Source: MA

b) Printed materials

The printed materials provided in Table 92 were procured in the monitored period. They are marked with all of the mandatory publicity elements

Table 92: Overview of IBMA MH SR

Printed materials	Print run
Publication (periodical) “ <i>Spravodajca opatrenia 2.2 OPV</i> ” (Reporter of OPE Measure 22)	2000

Source: MA

7.5 Monitoring and Evaluation of Information and Communication Activities

The global objective of the information and communication activities is defined in the CP as: *“emphasising the role of the EC and ensuring that the assistance provided from the SR and CF is transparent for all target groups by securing broad publicity at all levels of implementation with the use of a broad range of means of communication”*.

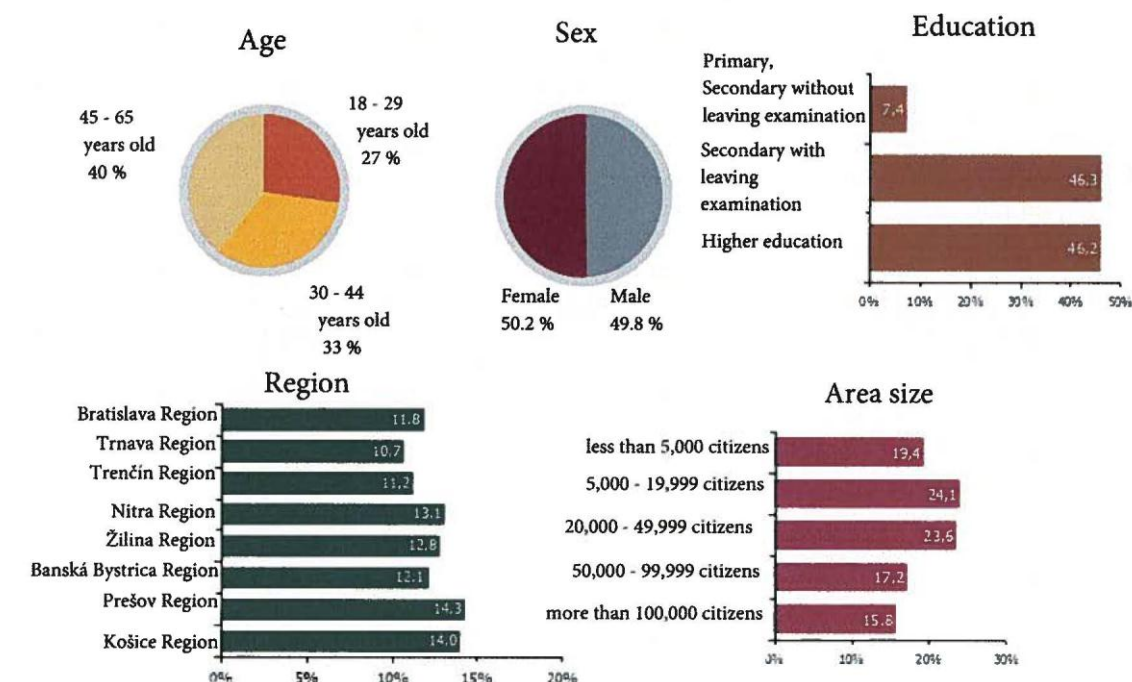
7.5.1 Public Opinion Survey

The Implementing Regulation sets forth that the AR for 2010 must contain a chapter with the evaluation of results of measures in the field of information and publicity. On the basis of this Regulation, the MA conducted the public opinion survey entitled *“Public Opinion Survey – rate of information regarding the European Union tasks, operation programmes Education and Research and Development, functions of Managing Authority and Intermediate Body under the Managing Authority, individual measures and calls for the submission of applications for non-repayable financial contribution on the basis of current measures in the field of information and publicity”* (the “Survey”); surveys for individual OP were carried out separately.

GfK Slovakia, L.t.d., was the successful candidate in the public procurement (conducted in the form of an electronic auction) with which Contract for Work was entered into in the total amount of EUR 11,690.00 (the financial portion for the OPE was EUR 6,030.00).

The survey was dedicated to the percentage of those with knowledge of the EU, OP tasks, MA and IBMA functions, individual measures and calls on the basis of current measures in the field of information and publicity. The survey was performed on an appropriate sample of respondents as provided in the following graph:

**Information on Survey
Sample Characteristics**



Base: Whole sample (1,000)

Basic Results of the Survey are Cited from the Final Report of the Survey:

81% of respondents knew about the possibilities of SF drawing in the area of education. 77% of the population knew about the ESF. 56% knew about the OPE. However, specific measures within the OPE were only familiar to 24% of the respondents. Internet is the dominant and the preferred source of information about the OPE. 55% of respondents knew that the MoESRS SR was the MA for the OPE. However, only 14% of the population knew about other authorized organisations cooperating in the implementation of the OPE. Only 22% of the population knew about the possibility of obtaining information about the OPE via the RIO. 21% of respondents noticed some of calls for the submission of the AfNFC. 6% of respondents were engaged in certain calls and another 4% plan to be engaged in them. 4% of respondents of the total base had participated in some of OPE information activities

Summary of Survey:

In general, the survey proved that public awareness regarding the existence of the SF, ESF or OPE is on a good level. Fewer people had specific experience with the use of EU resources. The respondents stated that access to information is a problem. They drew attention to the need to place even more information particularly on internet in the form of a separate website with one-spot relevant and clear information. In the opinion of the respondents, possibility for improving the informing of the public is seen in the following solutions: to include information on the OP and calls in television news and specialized programmes, in information leaflets

placed directly in boxes; to have the possibility of contacting a specific employee who will be able to provide necessary information regarding the OP and calls.

The MA and IBMA will take into account the results of the survey in the planning and implementation of information and communication activities.

In 2011, the MA is planning to conduct a media campaign as the main information activity for the presentation of general information about the OPE. As another example of our effort to improve the quality of access to information and to simplify it, we also plan to establish a separate sub-page www.OPE.sk (working name) under the domain www.minedu.sk that will provide integral information on the OPE in a clear structure. At the moment, 3 different websites provide information on the OPE (MA, IBMA ASFEU and IBMA MH SR) and the public may perceive the access to information as complicated. Therefore, the MA wants to ensure better clarity and access to information about the OPE, SF and EU for the public via this activity.

Thus, the MA and IBMA will also direct measures in the field of information and publicity to increase the dissemination of information in areas which were shown in the survey as problematic. General information regarding the SF, EU and OPE will be further provided in order to increase the awareness of the general public and address target groups in regions in which the survey showed a lower awareness rate. The activities will be focused on the fulfilment of the global objective of information and publicity that is set forth in the CP.

A detailed final report from the survey containing comprehensive statistical information is published on the MA website <http://www.minedu.sk/index.php?lang=sk&rootId=477>.

During the monitored period, the MA also conducted an internal evaluation of its information and communication activities. On the basis of this internal evaluation it can be stated that the objectives provided in the CP were fully supported in the implemented information activities that were carried out in compliance with the “*Annual Operative Information and Publicity Plan for the OPE and Operative Programme Research and Development for 2010*” for the MA; the “*Annual Operative Information and Publicity Plan for the OPE and Operative Programme Research and Development for 2010*” for the IBMA ASFEU; and the “*Annual Operative Information and Publicity Plan for the OPE Measure 2.2 for 2010*” for the IBMA MH SR.

The CP was successfully implemented in the monitored period and it was not necessary to amend it or adopt measures to amend the planned steps in the field of information and publicity.

Information regarding the monitoring of information and communication activities is monitored via indicators defined in the CP. Pursuant to the CP, the indicators will reflect the results of the public opinion survey in the monitored period.

The MC OPE is responsible for information and communication activities (pursuant to the General Regulation). On 9 June 2010, at the MC OPE ordinary meeting, the MC OPE considered and approved the AR on the Implementation of the OPE for 2009, which, in compliance with Article 67 of the General Regulation, also contained measures adopted for the provision of information regarding the OP and its publicity.

Fulfilment of physical indicators as at 31 December 2010 is provided in Annex 12 hereof.

ANNEXES

Annex 1: List of abbreviations

Annex 2: Overview of calls published as at 31 December 2010 together with an overview of projects

Annex 3: Payments received from the EC

Annex 4: Summary breakdown of the allocated Community contribution by category in the annual and final implementation report

Annex 5: Interim applications for payment submitted to the EC

Annex 6: State of implementation – overview of SF and CF drawing compared to commitments

Annex 7: List of IBMA and MA on-the-spot controls

Annex 8: Comparison of actual and planned drawing in national projects as at 31 December 2010

Annex 9: Fulfilment of HP physical indicators

Annex 10: Best practice examples

Annex 11: List of OPE publicity activities

Annex 12: Monitoring indicators for publicity

Annex 13: List of OPE measurable indicators