**Theory of Change - Measure 4.2 OPE**

**OPERATIONAL PROGRAMME EDUCATION**

**Priority axis 4** Recent education for a knowledge-based society for Bratislava Region

**Measure 4.2** Raising competitiveness of the Bratislava Region through the development of higher and continuing education

**Outputs – supported projects**

**Long-term impacts**

**Short-term impacts**

**Objectives**

**Outcomes**

Development of new study programmes in a foreign language to support international cooperation and academic mobility

Students complete new and innovated study programmes aimed to fulfil labour market needs

Adapt higher education to the needs of a knowledge-based society

Quality study programmes adapted to the labour market needs

**Supported activities**

Increased management effectiveness and quality of HEIs

Implementation of graduates’ career development monitoring tools

**Context of the support**

Effective cooperation and best practice exchange with HEIs from abroad

HEIs management and administrative staff are educated and ready to put innovative managing process into practice

Development of innovative educational forms, rationalisation and quality increase of study programmes including the support of active cooperation between HEIs and business in education process, development of new study branches and programmes, and increase of administration and management effectiveness at HEIs

The main objective of priority axis 4 is **„enhancing the quality and access to continuing education, with a stress on transformation of the content of education, toward the development of key competences, so as to ensure competitiveness of the Bratislava region in the long run“.**

The objective of the measure 4.2 is **„raising the quality and adapting the content of higher education, supporting research and development and developing an effective system of LLL and LLG in accordance with the existing and prospective needs of a knowledge-based society. The objective of strengthening the research, development and innovation activities is supporting a well-balanced development and increased competitiveness of the Bratislava region “.**

Development of common study programmes in cooperation with excellent universities from abroad

Increase the quality of and develop human resources in research & development

**③④**

Increased quality and capacity of human resources in research & development

Increased competence profile of students and research & development staff

Created appropriate conditions for education and career development of students and HEIs staff

Increased number of PhD candidates/ PhD graduates

Created appropriate conditions to increase number of PhD candidates/ PhD graduates and young researchers

Support the cooperation between HEIs, research & development organisations and the private sector on the national and international level

Increased competitiveness of Slovakia

Enhanced cooperation between HEIs, research & development organisations and the private sector on national as well as international level

Establishment of research centres, research & development and innovation networks to put research & development outputs into practice

Effective international and national cooperation and best practice exchange

**②**

Support capacity building in research & development

International cooperation among students and teaching staff

Research & development outcomes are implemented in practice

Increase the involvement of HEIs and other research & development organisations in international cooperation and development & innovation networks

Research & development staff at HEIs participate in projects of cooperation with the private sector and industry

**⑥**

Increase quality of continuing education programmes and institutions, including development of compatibility and permeability system between formal, non-formal and informal education sectors and increase the share of economically active inhabitants participating in continuing education programmes

Ensured general public access to quality information and advice on lifelong learning opportunities

Developed information system on lifelong learning opportunities

Employees from various sectors participate in lifelong learning and lifelong guidance programmes

Increased quality of continuing education programmes and institutions

**①④**

Successful implementation of lifelong learning and lifelong guidance strategies into various sectors

Increase quality of continuing education including financial diversification, development of key competences by improving the permeability between formal, non-formal and informal education sectors

Extended offer of lifelong learning programmes, increased number of programme participants

**⑤**

Application of newly created model of financing that connects employer’s, employees’ and public resources

Certified lecturers, tutors and organisational staff provide quality services through certified educational programmes

Implementation of effective certification, evaluation system and National Qualifications System

Lifelong learning programmes graduates acquire qualification and the results of their formal and non-formal education are generally recognised

**Inputs**

Total allocation for measure 4.2: EUR 11,735,417.35

Total spending - measure 4.2: EUR 10,044,364.26

Number of calls for proposal for demand-oriented projects: 4

Number of calls for proposal for national projects: 7

**External assumptions to achieve the outcomes**

① amended Act on Higher Education Institutions

② increased financial support by state to science & research for higher education institutions and increased remuneration for higher education teaching staff, PhD candidates and science & research staff

③ higher education institutions are interested in development of new study programmes

④ management and administrative staff are interested in continuing education

⑤ business and industry are interested in cooperation with research & development centres

⑥ higher education institutions are interested in cooperation with national and international partners