

ANNUAL PROGRAMME REPORT

FM14-21

Slovakia

SK-CLIMATE Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation

2022

A. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The year 2022 was challenging. Due to external factors, adaptation and mitigation were key terms for areas of life, not just climate change. Cooperation, communication, flexibility and agility played a crucial role in overcoming unpredictable obstacles.

Nevertheless, significant noticeable progress has been achieved in the SK-Climate Programme, with level of contracting over 90 percent of Programme's allocation and 48 Projects in implementation. To cope with the increased financial burden in Projects' implementation was the priority task for all relevant stakeholders – Project Promoters, Programme Operator, National Focal Point, Royal Norwegian Embassy in Bratislava and Financial Mechanism Office.

The results achieved so far within individual Outcomes of the SK-Climate Programme, as described below, show a positive trend towards meeting the set objectives and it can be assumed that it will continue in the year 2023 as well.

B. PERFORMANCE

1. Programme progress and results

Objectives

In line with the Programme Agreement for the financing of the Programme "Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation (**SK-Climate**)" (hereinafter referred to as the "Programme Agreement") the SK-Climate Programme Objective is defined as "*climate change mitigated and vulnerability to climate change reduced*". This objective shall be achieved by 2 Outcomes and the following modalities for individual Outputs:

- Output 1.1 „Action plans for mitigation and adaptation implemented by local authorities in urban areas (**ClimaUrban**)“ implemented through 2 open Calls,
- Output 1.2 „Awareness raising activities on climate change mitigation and adaptation carried out by schools (**ClimaEdu**)“ implemented through a Small Grant Scheme Call,
- Output 1.3 „Awareness raising activities on climate change mitigation and adaptation carried out (**ClimaInfo**)“ implemented through an open Call,
- Output 1.4 „Climate change and environment education centre in Dropie supported for additional demonstration measures and educational programmes“ implemented as a **Pre-defined Project**,
- Output 2.1 "Restoration of degraded wetland ecosystems (**ClimaLocal**)" implemented through an open Call.

The SK-Climate Programme's state of implementation in the year 2021 was very favourable – all scheduled Calls launched, closed a Projects selection completed. Small non-distributed finances were in line with the **Addendum No. 2** to the Programme Agreement with effectiveness from 23. March 2022 re-allocated in favour of the **ClimaEdu** SGS Call and 2 more Projects were supported.

Early 2022, all selected Projects were contracted as follows:

- under the **ClimaUrban** Calls, 3 Project Contracts were concluded in the total amount of Project Grant contracted of 4 176 838 € (EEA Grants) and 6 Project Contracts in the total amount of Project Grant contracted of 7 748 465 € (Norway Grants),
- under the **ClimaEdu** SGS Call, 30 Project Contracts were concluded in the total amount of Project Grant contracted of 1 067 813 € (Norway Grants),
- under the **ClimaInfo** Call 3 Project Contracts were concluded in the total amount of Project Grant contracted 819 825 € (Norway Grants),
- under the **ClimaLocal** Call (Norway Grants) 6 Project Contracts were concluded in the total amount of Project Grant contracted of 4 800 000 € (Norway Grants) and
- the Project Contract for the **Pre-defined Project** was concluded in the total amount of Project Grant contracted of 1 200 000 € (EEA Grants).

Complex overview information is provided in **Annex 3** “Project summary and call details”.

After catching up the delays due to the restrictions caused by the global COVID-19 pandemic, other, much more serious external factors arose with negative impact on the Projects’ implementation and not only. Uncertain geopolitical situation and serious military conflict in Ukraine caused, among others, an increase in the prices for energy, construction materials and construction works. Many Project Promoters expressed their concerns that they will not be able to handle the increase in prices. It is important to mention, that the Project Promoters within the SK-Climate Programme represent the public sector, local authorities, schools, non-governmental sector. Despite the maximum efforts, one of the Projects within the ClimaUrban Call will not be implemented. The City of Košice, the Project Promoters of the Project **SK-CLIMATE-0036**, after careful consideration decided to withdraw from the Project Contract as the real prices resulted from the public procurement significantly exceeded the Project Budget planned when drafting the Project. The Project Grant of almost 1.4 mil. Euro (Norway Grants) was retransferred to the SK-Climate Programme’s allocation.

Therefore as of the 31. December 2022, the number of contracted Projects in implementation within the SK-Climate Programme is 48.

The SK-Climate Programme Operator discussed the most feasible options for the most efficient use of the remaining allocation within the SK-Climate Cooperation Committee. After considering the criteria set by the Financial Mechanism Office, the **Call for award the additional funding** to already approved Projects was drafted, with relevancy for the Call No. 2 - ClimaUrban and SGS Call No. 1 – ClimaEdu (both from Norway Grants). This Call will be announced at the very beginning of the year 2023 and will be intended for Projects with significant infrastructure components.

An integral part of the SK-Climate Programme is the **Bilateral Outcome**, reflected so far in cooperation with Bilateral Partners within Projects, as described below. Such partnership creates additional value of the Projects as they offer possibility for exchanging experience, good practices and knowledge in solution for mitigation and adaptation to climate change.

Outcome 1: Increased climate change resilience and responsiveness within targeted areas

Within the SK-Climate Programme's result framework, the share for **Outcome 1** is almost 75 per cent from the allocation intended for Projects. Individual Projects apply the principle of combination of hard and soft measures for climate change adaptation and mitigation.

The implementation of Projects within the Calls closed in 2020 (ClimaUrban and ClimaEdu) was significantly determined by external factors (global COVID-19 pandemic, unpredictable increase in prices). However, thanks to enthusiasm and diligence of Project Promoters, the progress in Projects was tangible in the year 2022, which demonstrates not only increasing values of fulfilling the indicators but specific results visible during the monitoring visits as well. As already mentioned above, one of the Projects under the ClimaUrban Call decided to withdraw from the Project Contract due to the extremely increased demand on the Project Budget. As of the 31. December 2022, the level of contracting under the Outcome 1 is approx. 91 per cent. The Call on additional funding to already approved Projects within the Call No. 2 (ClimaUrban) and SGS Call No. 1 (ClimaEdu) will be announced early 2023.

Projects within the ClimaUrban Calls (**Output 1.1**) focus on a tailor-made climate change solutions respecting the real needs of the territory. In 2022, progress gradually increased within all implemented Projects. It could be mentioned, that within the Project **SK-CLIMATE-0031** "Snina a city that is ready for climate change" implemented by the City of Snina, the Action plan „Snina – a City prepared for climate change“ is ready. This is the first contribution to the value of indicator „number of action plans completed“. Within the Project **SK-CLIMATE-0032** implemented by the City of Bardejov, the Project's activity „Green and Blue Infrastructure“ is completed. Planted trees, flowering extensive meadow, exterior vertical greenery, water fog system increased the value achieved within the indicator "number of climate change mitigation and adaptation measures implemented".

Projects carried out by 30 primary and secondary schools under the **Output 1.2** are very illustrative example of various ways how to incorporate agenda of climate change into the educational process. Each Project considers the specifics, experience and possibilities of the school and is unique. A couple of examples of Project to be completed early 2023 can be mentioned.

The Joint Boarding School in the City of Považská Bystrica educates pupils with disabilities. Within the Project **SK-CLIMATE-0008** „We want to grow healthy“, thematic educational worksheets were elaborated and curricula were updated. Sorting bins in each classroom will teach the pupils to separate the garbage. Outside area was beautified with raised beds with flowers and herbs. Pupils, under the guidance of teachers, will take care for the greenery. Moreover, an eco-educational area with arboretum in the form of educational trail and an educational climbing frame were created in the school area. The Project **SK-CLIMATE-0023** „We think and teach ecologically“ is implemented in close cooperation by the Project Promoter Joint School in the City of Detva and Slovak Project Partners Primary School in Detva and Primary School in Hriňová. The education is upgraded by innovated curriculum in the area of mitigation and adaptation to climate change, worksheets for environmental education, lectures of external experts in the field of ecology, as well as thematic competitions. Moreover, new solar lightning system was installed on the school building and is used for practical training workshops, separation of waste was started and an educational trail with outdoor eco classroom for environmental education was established.

All Small Grant Scheme Projects implemented by schools are an excellent example of how a good idea, cooperation and involvement of students can make the educational process more attractive. Considering the progress in 2022 the achievement of set target values of indications for Output 1.2 could be expected.

The 3 Projects under the ClimaInfo Call (**Output 1.3**) were contracted only in 2022, but the Project Promoters started the Projects' activities with great enthusiasm. The interest of target groups in participating in the awareness raising campaigns is shown by the increased value achieved within the Output indicator "number of attendees reached by the campaigns". For example, within the Project **SK-CLIMATE-0046** „Better CLIMA based on the BEST experiences - CLIMA BEST" implemented by the civic association Ecoenergy in the BioClimatic Park Drieňová several workshop were held in the year 2022 in the framework of awareness campaigns "Water for Climate", "Less cars, more life" and "Climate is worth more than a gold". Moreover, as a practical, demonstration example a rainwater collection lake was installed in BioClimatic Park Drieňová.

Within the Pre-defined Project **SK-CLIMATE-0038** „Climate change and environment education centre (Living Lab) in Dropie" (**Output 1.4**) the Project Promoter Slovak Environment Agency in cooperation with experienced lecturers carried out a practical workshop for students from the region of Lower Rye Island with an ambitious goal – to create a rain garden in the Living Lab centre.

Outcome 2: Enhanced ability of targeted ecosystems to adapt to climate change

In the framework of the SK-Climate Programme, the Outcome 2 shall be achieved through the single Outcome 2.1 "Restoration of degraded wetland ecosystems" financed under the Norway Grants. The share for Outcome 2 is approx. 25 per cent from the allocation intended for Projects. As of the 31. December 2022, the level of contracting is at 100 per cent.

After closing the Call No. 4 – **ClimaLocal** and carrying out the selection procedure in the year 2021, the 6 Project Contracts in the total amount of Project Grant of 4.8 mil. Euro were effective in February 2022 and the Projects' implementation started. Projects supported under this Call are focused on support of measures for wetland loss and degradation reduction, revitalization of wetlands, restoration of their ecosystem services and public awareness raising on the importance of wetlands in the context of climate change. These Projects are implemented in broad partnerships, including bilateral cooperation with Norwegian entities in 3 Projects. In the year 2022, the key Projects' activities were concentrated on public procurement and elaboration of necessary input documentation relevant for the revitalization of wetlands itself. Nevertheless, in most of the Projects supporting professional activities of a soft nature have already started as well. For example, within the Project **SK-CLIMATE-0039** "Ecohydrological Restoration of Peatlands in the Carpathians" implemented by the State Nature Conservancy of the Slovak Republic as the Project Promoters, the mapping of territory for hydrological monitoring took place in close participation of Slovak Project Partner DAPHNE, Institute of Applied Ecology and Bilateral Partner Norwegian Institute for Nature Research (NINA). In the framework of the Project **SK-CLIMATE-0043** "Status improvement of wetland of Klátovské rameno NNR located in SKUEV0075" the Project Promoter Slovak University of

Agriculture in Nitra carried out the analysis of stress factors in the territory and their impacts on the wetland as a part of the Project's activity "Landscape-ecologic study of potentially suitable measures".

Bilateral Outcome: Enhanced collaboration between beneficiary and donor state entities involved in the programme

Bilateral cooperation, incl. facilitating the bilateral Project partnerships, is an important component of the SK-Climate Programme. There are 3 dimensions of bilateral cooperation to be supported from the Bilateral Fund envisaged: Strategic level, Programme level and Project level. In order to meet the set objectives, the involvement of **Donor Programme Partners** in the preparation and implementation of the SK-Climate Programme is crucial. In line with the Memoranda of Understanding, the following institutions are represented in the SK-Climate Programme: the Norwegian Water Resources and Energy Directorate, the Directorate for Civil Protection and the Norwegian Environment Agency. This cooperation was formalised by establishing the **SK-Climate Cooperation Committee** to fulfil the tasks listed in Art. 4.4.3 of the Regulations on implementation of the Financial Mechanisms. In addition, the Royal Norwegian Embassy in Bratislava is represented in the Cooperation Committee as the Observer.

In 2022, 2 Cooperation Committee Meetings were held. The first meeting held on 9.-10. June 2022 in Oslo and included lectures on climate adaptation and energy efficient and climate friendly buildings at the University of Life Sciences in Ås and visiting of the urban Ensjø area in Oslo with inspiring presentation of surface water management in Oslo. The key topic of the Cooperation Committee Meeting on 9. June 2022 in Oslo was discussion about the situation caused by the extreme price increase with negative impact on smooth Projects' implementation. One of the consequences was that the City of Košice, Project Promoter of the Project "The City of Košice Reacts to Climate Change - Together We Can Reach More (ClimaUrbanKošice)" withdrawn from the Project Contract. Consequently, the options how to use the remaining allocation in the most effective and appropriate way were discussed.

During the second meeting on 7.-9. November 2022, 5 selected Projects implemented by cities and schools in Central Slovakia were visited in order to present to the Cooperation Committee the achieved progress. The most crucial issues discussed at the Cooperation Committee Meeting on 9. November 2022 in Bratislava included the planned call for additional funding to already implemented Projects following the extreme price increase and defining the activities to be carry out under the Bilateral Fund in the in close cooperation with the DPPs. For the year 2023, bilateral activities on the Programme's level are foreseen.

It can be stated that within the SK-Climate Programme the bilateral cooperation at the Project level is good covered, even though the presumption expressed by the planned target value of the Bilateral Output Indicator "*Number of Projects involving cooperation with Donor Project Partner*" was more optimistic. As of 31. December 2022, there are 22 Projects carried out with participation of Bilateral Partners from Donor States:

- under the Call No. 1 (ACC01) all 3 Projects are implemented in partnerships with Norwegian Project Partners and 1 of them with Icelandic Project Partner as well;
- under the Call No. 2 (ACC02) all 5 Projects are implemented in partnerships with Norwegian Project Partners;
- under the SGS Call 1 (ACC03) 7 Projects are implemented in partnerships with Norwegian Project Partners;
- under the Call No. 3 (ACC05) all 3 Projects are implemented in partnerships with Norwegian Project Partners, 1 of them has 2 Bilateral Project Partners;
- under the Call No. 4 (ACC04) 3 Projects are implemented in partnerships with Norwegian Project Partners;
- the Pre-defined Project is implemented in collaboration with 2 Bilateral Partners from Norway.

In the case of Projects started in 2021 (ClimaUrban, ClimaEdu and PDP), it was necessary to adapt to the external circumstances caused by the global COVID-19 pandemic and the cooperation with the Bilateral Partners was carried out predominantly online. In comparison, within the Projects started in 2022 (ClimaInfo and ClimaLocal) there was a valuable opportunity of personal contacts and joint collaboration of Project Promoters, Slovak Partners and Bilateral Partners in person. Some illustrative examples are within the Projects implemented within the ClimaLocal Call.

The civic association “Voda pre klímu – environmentálne technológie, o. z.”, Project Promoter of the Project **SK-CLIMATE-0042** “Save the wetland together” visited in August 2022 together with Slovak Project Partner the Norwegian University of Life Science situated in Ås, in Norway. During this trip, natural sites of wetlands in Norway were visited, as well as some institutions dealing with the wetlands in order to exchange experience and good practice examples.

Within the Project **SK-CLIMATE-0041** “Wetlands for life and prosperity: Restoration of the Ramsar site in the alluvium of the Morava River”, a joint field work of Project Promoter “Green Foundation”, Slovak Project Partner BROZ (Bratislava Regional Conservation Association) and Bilateral Partner Norwegian Institute for Nature Research (NINA) took place in June 2022 in Slovakia. This was as part of the Project’s activity focused on monitoring of wetland and wetland habitat.

C. MONITORING AND EVALUATION

1. Monitorings carried out

The requirements of the Programme Operator regarding the monitoring are set in the Programme Agreement for the financing of the “Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation (SK-Climate)” and the Programme Implementation Agreement. Specific procedures of the SK-Climate Programme Operator are described in the internal management documents of the SK-Climate Programme Operator.

Monitoring of Projects, as defined in the Regulations, shall focus on the observation of implementation in order to ensure that agreed procedures are followed, progress towards agreed Outcomes and Outputs is being made and to identify possible problems in a timely manner.

As expected, from the point of view of the project cycle, the year 2022 was marked by a significant intensification of Projects' implementation. Systematic and effective monitoring of the implementation of Projects within SK-Climate Programme was therefore one of the key tasks of the SK-Climate Programme Operator last year.

In line with the Monitoring plan, the SK-Climate Programme Operator performed administrative verifications in respect of incurred expenditure reported by Project Promoters and reviewed the documents provided by Project Promoters demonstrating the progress in implementations after each receipt of the financial reports (Project Interim Reports) submitted by the Project Promoters. Project Interim Reports cover four-month periods. Moreover, on-site monitoring visits of 21 Projects were performed, in order to verify the extent of Projects' progress towards the intended results. Simultaneously, separate financial on-the-spot verifications took place in case of 20 of these Projects. These on-site monitoring visits and on-the-spot verifications included Projects with a total eligible expenditure exceeding 1 million euro (6 Projects implemented by cities under the ClimaUrban Calls and the Pre-defined Project), Projects implemented by schools within the ClimaEdu SGS Call with significantly advanced implementation of activities and amount of incurred expenditure. The results of the internal risk analyses were considered as well. However, a risky project should not be considered in the negative sense of the word. This means that some aspects of the Project (mainly incorporation of construction works in the Project etc.) could slow down its smooth implementation and therefore the Project needs to be monitored closely. Monitoring carried out last year confirmed that the Projects' implementation is continuously progressing and no significant deficiencies were detected.

Beside this, visiting the Projects provided the space for discussions and consultations with the Projects Promoters and Project Partners about their immediate experiences with the Project's implementation, perception of the Project's activities by target groups and the public. It was gratifying that the reactions are favourable.

The **Monitoring plan for the year 2023** is provided in Annex 5.

2. Evaluations carried out

In the year 2022, no evaluation of the SK-Climate Programme, according to Article 10.1 of the Regulations, has been carry out.

D. ANNEXES

- 1. Results achieved**
- 2. Communication summary**
- 3. Project summary and call details**
- 4. Risk management**
- 5. Monitoring plan**
- 6. Evaluation report**
- 7. Agreement conditions**

Annex 1: Results achieved

Objective: Climate change mitigated and vulnerability to climate change reduced								
Outcome 1: Increased climate change resilience and responsiveness within targeted areas								
Indicator	Unit of measurement	Baseline value	Previous achievement value	Achievements until end of December 2022			Target value	Comment
				Numerator	Denominator	Achievement value		
Share of Slovak population benefiting from living in more climate change resilient and responsive urban areas	Percentage	0.00 %	0.10 % (APR 2021)	Reported 2021, 2025			13.50 %	-
Estimated annual CO2 emissions reductions of supported entities (in tonnes)	Annual number	0	16.44 (APR 2021)	-	-	557.68	28,570	Value is based on the Project Interim Reports submitted by the Project Promoters and verified by the Programme Operator.
<i>Financial Mechanism</i>								
<i>EEA Grants</i>	-	-	0	-	-	377.12	-	-
<i>Norway Grants</i>	-	-	16.44	-	-	180.56	-	-
Number of people self-reporting having more climate friendly behaviour	Cumulative number	0	3,406 (APR 2021)	Reported 2021, 2025			15,200	-
Output 1.1: Action plans for mitigation and adaptation implemented by local authorities in urban areas								
Indicator	Unit of measurement	Baseline value	Previous achievement value	Achievements until end of December 2022			Target value	Comment
				Numerator	Denominator	Achievement value		
Number of action plans completed	Cumulative number	0	0 (IFR 2022)	-	-	1	9	Value is based on the Project Interim Reports submitted by the Project Promoters and verified by the Programme Operator.
Number of climate change mitigation and adaptation measures implemented	Cumulative number	0	14 (IFR 2022)	-	-	43	142	Value is based on the Project Interim Reports (completed measures)

								submitted by the Project Promoters and verified by the Programme Operator.
Output 1.2: Awareness raising activities on climate change mitigation and adaptation carried out by schools								
Indicator	Unit of measurement	Baseline value	Previous achievement value	Achievements until end of December 2022			Target value	Comment
				Numerator	Denominator	Achievement value		
Number of schools carrying out awareness raising campaigns	Cumulative number	0	0 (IFR 2022)	-	-	0	30	The achieved value for this indicator will be counted only after the completion of the Project.
<i>Financial Mechanism</i>								
<i>EEA Grants</i>	-	-	0	-	-	0	-	-
<i>Norway Grants</i>	-	-	0	-	-	0	-	-
Number of students participating in awareness raising campaigns	Cumulative number	0	7,331 (IFR 2022)	-	-	14,223	7,600	Value is based on the Project Interim Reports submitted by Project Promoters and verified by the Programme Operator.
Number of physical climate change responsive measures carried out in schools	Cumulative number	0	48 (IFR 2022)	-	-	100	86	Value is based on the Project Interim Reports (completed measures) submitted by Project Promoters and verified by the Programme Operator.
Output 1.3: Awareness raising activities on climate change mitigation and adaptation carried out								
Indicator	Unit of measurement	Baseline value	Previous achievement value	Achievements until end of December 2022			Target value	Comment
				Numerator	Denominator	Achievement value		
Number of awareness raising campaigns carried out	Cumulative number	0	0 (IFR 2022)	-	-	0	18	As of 31st December 2022, no awareness raising campaign has been completed (campaigns will be counted only after their

								full completion). Value is based on the Project Interim Reports submitted by Project Promoter and verified by the Programme Operator.
<i>Financial Mechanism</i>								
<i>EEA Grants</i>	-	-	0	-	-	0	-	-
<i>Norway Grants</i>	-	-	0	-	-	0	-	-
Number of attendees reached by the campaigns	Cumulative number	0	0 (IFR 2022)	-	-	13,342	4,500	Attendees of partial part of campaigns are counted within this value as well. Value is based on the Project Interim Reports submitted by Project Promoters and verified by the Programme Operator.
Output 1.4: Climate change and environment education centre in Dropie supported for additional demonstration measures and educational programmes								
Indicator	Unit of measurement	Baseline value	Previous achievement value	Achievements until end of December 2022			Target value	Comment
				Numerator	Denominator	Achievement value		
Number of new outdoor climate change mitigation and adaptation measures completed	Cumulative number	0	0 (IFR 2022)	-	-	0	7	As of 31st December 2022, no outdoor measure has been completed. Value is based on the Project Interim Reports submitted by Project Promoter and verified by the Programme Operator.
Estimated annual reduced energy/electricity consumption (in kWh)	Annual number	0	0 (IFR 2022)	-	-	0	66,521	As of 31st December 2022, the relevant activity has not been completed. Value is based on the Project Interim Reports submitted by Project Promoter and

								verified by the Programme Operator.
Number of students completing educational activities/courses	Cumulative number	0	0 (IFR 2022)	-	-	247	1,200	Value is based on the Project Interim Reports submitted by Project Promoter and verified by the Programme Operator.
Number of local decision-makers and administrators completing workshops/courses	Cumulative number	0	0 (IFR 2022)	-	-	0	360	As of 31st December 2022, no workshop for the relevant target group has been completed. Value is based on the Project Interim Reports submitted by Project Promoter and verified by the Programme Operator.
<i>Financial Mechanism</i>								
<i>EEA Grants</i>	-	-	0	-	-	0	-	-
<i>Norway Grants</i>	-	-	0	-	-	0	-	-
<i>Gender</i>								
<i>Female</i>	-	-	0	-	-	0	-	-
<i>Male</i>	-	-	0	-	-	0	-	-
<i>Not specified</i>	-	-	0	-	-	0	-	-
Outcome 2: Enhanced ability of targeted ecosystems to adapt to climate change								
Indicator	Unit of measurement	Baseline value	Previous achievement value	Achievements until end of December 2022			Target value	Comment
				Numerator	Denominator	Achievement value		
Improved environmental status of supported ecosystems	Binary	No	-	-	-	No	Yes	Project Contracts entered into force in February 2022. As of 31st December 2022, no activity has been completed. Value is based on the Project Interim Reports submitted by Project Promoters and

								verified by the Programme Operator.
Estimated number of people benefiting from ecosystems improvement measures	Cumulative number	0	-	-	-	0	3,000	Project Contracts entered into force in February 2022. As of 31st December 2022, no activity has been completed. Value is based on the Project Interim Reports submitted by Project Promoters and verified by the Programme Operator.
Output 2.1: Restoration of degraded wetland ecosystems								
Indicator	Unit of measurement	Baseline value	Previous achievement value	Achievements until end of December 2022			Target value	Comment
				Numerator	Denominator	Achievement value		
Number of wetland ecosystems supported	Cumulative number	0	0 (IFR 2022)	-	-	0	6	Project Contracts entered into force in February 2022. Subsequently, Projects were in the initial implementation phase and the activities are implemented gradually. Value is based on the Project Interim Reports submitted by Project Promoters and verified by the Programme Operator.
Estimated area of wetland ecosystems restored (in m2)	Cumulative number	0	0 (IFR 2022)	-	-	0	600,000	Project Contracts entered into force in February 2022. Subsequently, Projects were in the initial implementation phase and the activities are implemented gradually. Value is based on the

								Project Interim Reports submitted by Project Promoters and verified by the Programme Operator.
Number of awareness campaigns carried out	Cumulative number	0	0 (IFR 2022)	-	-	0	6	Project Contracts entered into force in February 2022. Subsequently, Projects were in the initial implementation phase and the activities are implemented gradually. Value is based on the Project Interim Reports submitted by Project Promoters and verified by the Programme Operator.
Bilateral Outcome: Enhanced collaboration between beneficiary and donor state entities involved in the programme								
Indicator	Unit of measurement	Baseline value	Previous achievement value	Achievements until end of December 2022			Target value	Comment
				Numerator	Denominator	Achievement value		
Level of trust between cooperating entities in Beneficiary States and Donor States	Scale 1-7	6.34	-	-	-	-	4.50, Target is ≥4.5, and an increase on the baseline value	The achievement value will be collected by the FMO.
Level of satisfaction with the partnership	Scale 1-7	6.50	-	-	-	-	4.50, Target is ≥4.5, and an increase on the baseline value	The achievement value will be collected by the FMO.

Share of cooperating organisations that apply the knowledge acquired from bilateral partnership	Percentage	N/A	-	-	-	-	60.00 %	The achievement value will be collected by the FMO.
Bilateral Output 1: Cooperation between Donor and Beneficiary State entities supported								
Indicator	Unit of measurement	Baseline value	Previous achievement value	Achievements until end of December 2022			Target value	Comment
				Numerator	Denominator	Achievement value		
Number of projects involving cooperation with a Donor project partner	Cumulative number	0	21 (IFR 2022)	-	-	22	36	Value is based on the Partnership Agreements concluded with Bilateral Partners within Projects. A Project is counted once, even if there are multiple Bilateral Partners involved. Within 2 Projects, there are 2 Bilateral Partners from Norway and within 1 Project, there is 1 Bilateral Partner from Norway and 1 from Island.
Number of training courses co-organised by donor state and beneficiary state entities	Cumulative number	0	0 (IFR 2022)	-	-	7	10	Value is based on the Project Interim Reports submitted by the Project Promoters and verified by the Programme Operator.

Annex 2: Communication summary

1. Best projects

The project example No. 1:

ACC04P01- Wetlands for life and well-being: Morava river alluvium Ramsar site restoration

(GrACE ID: SK-CLIMATE-0041)

This best practise example is from the Call No. 4 (ACC04) “**Restoration of degraded wetland ecosystems (ClimaLocal)**” financed from the Norway Grants and State Budget of the Slovak Republic. The Call was aimed to all entities, public or private, commercial or non-commercial and non-governmental organizations, established in the beneficiary country as legal entities.

Under this call, this project restores degraded wetlands belonging to the Ramsar area of the Gajar alluvium of the Morava River in the cadastral area of Malé Leváre, Southern-Western Slovakia. The local microclimate will become wetter and colder, the area will be better able to withstand extreme droughts and heat. NINA – Norwegian partner will cooperate with and contribute to the expertise of local specialists on monitoring of wetland ecosystems services. Project will support public awareness raising on the importance of restored local wetlands in the context of climate change by construction of a 3 km long nature trail facilitated also for people with autistic spectre disorders and physical disabilities.

For more information, see the project’s web page: <http://www.levarskemokrade.eu/>

Project Video link: <https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1VRv9CNXWkZGB8eyxL8zMyAM4XRc0qC3u>

The project example No. 2:

ACC05P01- Better CLIMA based on the BEST experiences - CLIMA BEST

(GrACE ID: SK-CLIMATE-0046)

This best practise example is from the Call for Proposal No. 3 (ACC05) “**Awareness raising on climate change adaptation and mitigation**” (ClimaInfo) financed from the Norway Grants and the State Budget of the Slovak Republic. The Call was aimed to all entities, public or private, commercial or non-commercial and non-governmental organizations, established in the beneficiary country as legal entities. The overarching project goal is to bring about

notable positive changes in perceptions, awareness and behaviour of the target groups towards combating the climate change. The objective will be achieved by implementing awareness raising and information activities in parallel with related on-site mitigation and adaptation measures in which targeted audiences will take an active part, particularly in relation to rain water retention and climate-friendly land use, renewable energy use, green and clean heating, climate friendly mobility, green infrastructure and biodiversity conservation. The project aims to exchange bilateral knowledge, experiences, and best practices in an effort to raise awareness and literacy on climate change and its impacts in Slovakia. Main activities will include effective and user-friendly dissemination of the latest scientific knowledge with regard to the practical use in everyday life installation of rainwater collection lake in Bioclimatic park involving awareness campaign and workshops. Installation of photovoltaic panels and necessary equipment. Organisation of webinars on effective, wise and clean heating using local renewable energy sources. Installation of green roof bike station including the solar charging station for electric bikes. Organisation of lectured tours in Bioclimatic park as well. Organisation of information events within awareness campaign "Climafest - let's inspire each other" inviting project partners, both Slovak and Norwegian, and other relevant organisations to Bioclimatic park to share knowledge, the best practice and ideas in area of water retention measures in 2022 and in area of green and clean heating in 2023.

For more information, see the project's web page: <https://bioklimapark.com/klima-best/>

The project example No. 3:

ACC02P03 -Snina a city that is ready for climate change

(GrACE ID: SK-CLIMATE-0031)

This best practise example is from the Call No. 2 (ACC02) "**Action plans for mitigation and adaptation implemented by local authorities in urban areas (ClimaUrban)**" financed from the Norway Grants and State Budget of the Slovak Republic. The call was aimed for the Slovak municipalities with a population over 15,000 inhabitants. The aim of the call was to develop action plans for mitigation and adaption to climate change in urban areas and to implement concrete measures in accordance with the action plan.

Under this call, the City of Snina received Project Grant in the total amount of 1 758 580 EUR from the Norway Grants (85%) and the State Budget of the Slovak Republic (15%). The project was prepared by the City of Snina in cooperation with the Roman Catholic Parish of the Holy Cross in Snina and the Norwegian Institute for Bioeconomic Research (NIBIO). The project aims to implement adaptive measures to mitigate and adapt to climate change in Snina. The implementation of the project is planned for 36 months. To achieve the set goal and individual indicators, the project is divided into the following activities: Creating an action plan, Revitalization of parks, Measures against floods in urban areas, Reconstruction of buildings and public spaces in harmony with nature, Energy-saving and smart solutions in Snina.

For more information see the project's web page: <https://www.sninaklima.sk/en/home-en/>

The project example No.4:

ACC03P06 -We think and teach ecologically

(GrACE ID: SK-CLIMATE-0023)

This best practise example is from the SGS 1 Call (ACC03) „**Awareness raising on climate change mitigation and adaptation at schools (ClimaEdu)**”. The call is financed from the Norway Grants and State Budget of the Slovak Republic. The call was aimed for primary and secondary schools. The aim was to raise the awareness of students towards the mitigation and adaptation to climate change through theoretical education as well as through realisation of concrete physical measures in schools and school areas.

Under this Call the Secondary School in Detva received Project Grant in the total amount of 31 295 EUR from the Norway Grants (85%) and the State Budget of the Slovak Republic (15%). The project is implemented by Secondary School in Detva in cooperation with the City of Hriňová, Primary school in Detva, and with the Primary School in Kriváň. The project focuses on environmental education, which is not only a cross-cutting theme of each school curriculum, but also an important factor for sustainable development. As part of the project a partnership was created between secondary and primary schools in the region. An important partner is also Soloer upper secondary school Soensterud, with which the Project Promoter cooperates repeatedly. The project also includes the modernizing of the school curriculum, on the other hand there are technical measures involved to contribute to the mitigation and adaptation on climate change.

For more information see the project's web page: <http://ecothinkingecoteaching.proxia.sk/en/>

2. Visibility of the Grants and the Donors

2.a. Communication activities

“The programme SK-Climate also commemorates the world wetlands day”

The Ministry of Environment of the Slovak Republic as the Programme Operator of the Programme „Climate change mitigation and adaptation - SK-Climate”, honours on February 2nd, 2022 the International day of wetlands. Thanks to the support of Norway grants and the state budget of the Slovak Republic from the SK-Climate Programme, in the total amount of 4 800 000 EUR, we can look forward to see very interesting projects, which will restore 21 various types of wetlands in different parts of Slovakia. International cooperation with Norwegian partners and the use of their expertise directly in practice are an invaluable benefit for our wetlands. Within specific projects, we will share with professional institutions from Norway not only knowledge and experience, but also their use in practice. We communicate the contribution of wetland restoration and protection to climate change mitigation and adaptation to local people and visitors. The knowledge gained together, will benefit to all.

For more information click here:

<https://www.minzp.sk/en/eeagrants/news/the-programme-sk-climate-also-commemorates-wolrd-wetlands-day.html>

<https://www.minzp.sk/spravy/vlada-schvalila-novy-akcny-plan-mokrade-roky-2022-2024.html>

“Field trip – Project visiting within the Cooperation Committee of the SK-Climate Programme”

The Ministry of Environment of the Slovak Republic as the Programme Operator of the Programme „Climate change mitigation and adaptation - SK-Climate”, organized on November 7-8th, 2022 a field trip to visit projects implemented under the Calls: ACC01, ACC02 and ACC03 in Central Slovakia.

The field trip was realized with the participation of Donor Programme Partners, National Contact Point, and Royal Norwegian Embassy in Bratislava including the representatives of the Programme Operator. The entry point of the program was a visit in Tisovec, where the project at the Secondary Vocational School is implemented under the project No: **ACC03P13** titled as: ***“Give future generations a chance for better life”***. The students traditionally welcomed the Norwegian delegation with bread and salt, followed by a presentation of the project's outputs. The following stop was in Secondary Vocational School of Trade and Services in Rimavská Sobota, where is the project under title: **ACC03P12** - ***„Climatic Garden”*** is implemented. The project aims to raise awareness of climate change in primary and secondary schools, to create focus on theoretical and practical teaching of students in the field of climate change mitigation and adaptation. The municipality of Brezno is implementing project titled as **ACC02P04** – ***“Action plan and activities of the City of Brezno”***- designed to mitigate the consequences of climate change implementation of measures, which contributes to mitigation and adaptation to climate change. The last stop of the trip was in historical City of Banská Bystrica, where is project No.: **ACC01P02** - ***“Response to Climate Change in the Banská Bystrica”*** is realized. The municipality is implementing the set of pilot adaptation measures, which is aimed to improve the adaptability of the urban climate in the selected location, while serving as a model for other city districts. The project-monitoring

visit took place in a stimulating atmosphere, met mutual expectations and inspired the successful finalization of project activities, while outlining further possible cooperation between the relevant actors of the project.

For more information click here:

- <https://www.minzp.sk/files/aktuality/field-trip-project-visiting-within-cooperation-committee-sk-climate-programme.pdf>
- <https://www.bystricoviny.sk/spravy/norski-odbornici-na-zmenu-klimy-navstivili-matersku-skolu-na-salgotarjanskej/>

2.b. Project stories

The project stories were published mainly on the social media account of the programme, the number of project stories was nine in the year 2022.

For more information click here:

<https://www.facebook.com/eeagrants.SKCLIMATE/>

3. Media coverage

- <https://dunajskemokrade.sk/en/about-project/>
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CQAwg7A38SA>,
- <https://www.voda-portal.sk/Dokument/vodohospodari-sa-pustaju-do-projektu-revitalizacie-mokradi-pomozu-granty-z-norska-101481.aspx>
- <https://www.bystricoviny.sk/spravy/norski-odbornici-na-zmenu-klimy-navstivili-matersku-skolu-na-salgotarjanskej/>
- <https://presov.dnes24.sk/presovska-skola-zabodovala-v-tomto-uspela-ako-jedna-z-mala-na-slovensku-426087>
- <https://www.voda-portal.sk/Dokument/chcu-sledovat-ohrozene-mokrade-statni-ochranari-planuju-vybudovat-monitorovaci-u-siet-101690.aspx>
- <https://www.bystricoviny.sk/priroda/v-stredisku-environmentalnej-vychovy-sazp-dropie-vybudovali-studenti-dazdovu-zahradu/>

- <https://www.podpoliansky.sk/2021/09/myslme-a-ucime-ekologicky/>
- <https://myzilina.sme.sk/c/23017936/vyschnuta-rajcianka-pohla-ladmi-kofola-chce-investovat-do-zadrziavania-vody.html?ref=mnt>
- <https://www.zilina.sk/clanky/21535/zilinska-zupa-riesi-vodozadrzne-opatrenia-pre-rajcanku-v-parku-drienova-bolo-podpisane-memorandum-o-spolupraci>
- <https://www.teraz.sk/spravy/podpisali-memorandum-o-ochrane-povodia/662620-clanok.html>
- <https://sccd-sk.org/novinky/8-workshop-ekologicke-vnutorne-povrchy/>

4. Website and social media

Link to programme website		Total number of page views in the reporting year	
https://minzp.sk/eea/		3143	
	Link or account handle	Number of posts published in the reporting year	Number of followers
Facebook	https://www.facebook.com/eeagrants.SKCLIMATE/	11	296

5. Visuals

The media library is not applicable yet.

Annex 3: Overview of contracted projects

1. Project summary

	Number	Total Grant	Amount budgeted to dpps (estimate)
Total number of projects contracted	48	€ 18,422,718	€ 1,013,192
Number of pre-defined projects contracted	1	€ 1,200,000	€ 201,000
Number of projects with a donor project partner	22	€ 15,220,882	€ 1,013,192
Number of projects with a donor project partner Norway	22	€ 15,220,882	€ 989,442
Number of projects with a donor project partner Iceland	1	€ 1,377,176	€ 23,750
Number of projects with a donor project partner Liechtenstein	0	€ 0	€ 0

2. Call details

Call title	Outcome(s)	Call amount	Submission deadline	Number of applications received	Grant amount applied for	Grant demand %	Number of applications approved for funding	Grant amount awarded	Number of projects contracted	Amount contracted
ACC_BF01		€ 50,000		2	€ 7,842	15.68 %	2	€ 7,842	0	€ 0
ACTION PLANS FOR MITIGATION AND ADAPTATION IMPLEMENTED BY LOCAL AUTHORITIES IN URBAN AREAS	Outcome 1	€ 7,748,465	28/02/2020	8	€ 12,235,230	157.91 %	6	€ 6,358,242	6	€ 6,358,242
ACTION PLANS FOR MITIGATION AND ADAPTATION IMPLEMENTED BY LOCAL AUTHORITIES IN URBAN AREAS (CLIMAURBAN)	Outcome 1	€ 4,176,838	28/02/2020	7	€ 9,358,745	224.06 %	3	€ 4,176,838	3	€ 4,176,838
AWARENESS RAISING ON CLIMATE CHANGE	Outcome 1	€ 819,825	26/02/2021	36	€ 11,710,793	1,428.45 %	3	€ 876,838	3	€ 819,825

MITIGATION AND ADAPTATION (ClimaInfo)										
AWARENESS RAISING ON CLIMATE CHANGE MITIGATION AND ADAPTATION AT SCHOOLS (ClimaEdu)	Outcome 1	€ 1,067,813	28/02/2020	123	€ 5,335,031	499.62 %	30	€ 1,067,813	30	€ 1,067,813
RESTORATION OF DEGRADED WETLAND ECOSYSTEMS (ClimaLocal)	Outcome 2	€ 4,800,000	31/03/2021	8	€ 6,186,509	128.89 %	6	€ 4,800,000	6	€ 4,800,000

Annex 4: Risk management

Risk description	Likelihood (1-4)	Consequence (1-4)	Risk score	Planned response in 2023
Lack of interest of Applicants in the Programme's calls (in a broader sense)	1 low	1 low	1.00	No further open calls are planned under the SK-Climate Programme. Other, simplified methods for distributing the remaining allocation are envisaged in 2023 (mainly, the call for additional funds for already implemented Projects, initiatives under the Bilateral Fund). In order to respond to this risk the Programme Operator shall carry out targeted information campaigns for relevant targets groups focused on promoting the possibilities offered by the corresponding call (information seminars etc.).
Changed legislative environment (e.g. national Public Procurement Act)	3 medium high	2 medium low	2.45	In response to this risk the SK-Climate Programme Operator shall continue to carry out the following measures: - regular following of changes in relevant legislation and/or other documents under the legal framework on national and central level with impact on the Programme and Projects (e. g. the Act on Public Procurement and the Act on Financial Control and Audit); - timely informing the Project Promoters and updating the Guidelines for Project Promoters and/or seminars for Project Promoters.
Lack of project management experience and capacity of project promoters	1 low	1 low	1.00	Respecting the fact that in the year 2022 the implementation of another significant set of Projects started, the SK-Climate Programme Operator shall continue the following measures to mitigate this risk: - regular supervising of the Project implementation by the responsible Project Manager/Financial Manager in order to

				take the appropriate action in a timely manner; - user-friendly guidelines for Project Promoters, information emails and/or seminars for Project Promoters (if needed).
Insufficient administrative capacities in the PO structure	1 low	1 low	1.00	In order to maintain the stabilised administrative capacities within the organisational structure, the SK-Climate shall mitigate this risk by continuing the application of a stratified system of motivation (stable salaries, individualised training system of employees, suitable work equipment, emphasis on safe working environment, enabling the distance work, if appropriate etc.).
Long-lasting obtaining of permits necessary for project implementation (e.g. construction permits)	1 low	3 medium high	1.73	In order to mitigate the impacts of this risk, the SK-Climate Programme Operator shall continue the regular supervising of the Projects implementation by the responsible Project Manager in order to take the appropriate action in a timely manner, applying the case-by-case approach.
Shortcomings resulting from the public procurement procedures	3 medium high	3 medium high	3.00	In order to mitigate the impacts of this risk, the Programme Operator shall continue with the following measures: - systematic re-training of PO's employees in case of amendment of relevant legislation (mainly the Act on Public Procurement) with regard to the PO's system of public procurement control; - updating of guidelines for Project Promoters, information emails and/or seminars for Project Promoters (if needed); - publishing F.A.Q and/or other relevant information on the PO's web (if needed).
Objective obstacles for smooth implementation of Projects caused by the external, unpredictable factors beyond the control of the SK-Climate Programme Operator and/or Project Promoters	2 medium low	3 medium high	2.45	Based on the external circumstances that influence the implementation of Projects (COVID-19, uncertain geopolitical situation) the following measures shall be carry out: - flexible,

				appropriate and justified measures to assist the Promoters to implement and complete the Projects (granting additional funds); - updating of guidelines for Promoters, information emails, seminars for Promoters; - applying the case-by-case principle in assessing the situation; - regular communication with Promoters.
Overall risk of not absorbing most financing and achieving most targets (1-4):			2.00	

Annex 5: Monitoring plan

Please note this Annex is uploaded separately and is not visible in this document. Please download and print separately if needed.

Annex 6: Evaluation report

Not Available

Annex 7: Agreement conditions

Description	Type	Tracking	Fulfilled	Date of fulfilment	Description of measures taken
<p>1. For pre-defined project no. 1 (numbering under Section 5.1 of Annex II to the Programme Agreement), the National Focal Point shall ensure that the Programme Operator ensures that the appraisal foreseen in Article 6.5.3 of the Regulation is externalised and carried out by a legal entity independent of and unrelated to the Programme Operator.</p>	General	One-time fulfilment	Yes	07/04/2021	<p>The appraisal of the Pre-defined Project was externalised, carried out by a legal entity independent of and unrelated to the SK-Climate Programme Operator, selected based on the results of the public procurement.</p> <p>The National Focal Point notified on 22. March 2021 to the FMO the completion of the appraisal of the Pre-defined Project in accordance with the Art. 6.5.3 of the Regulation.</p>
<p>2. The National Focal Point shall ensure that the Programme Operator ensures that project promoters:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Keep any buildings purchased, constructed, renovated or reconstructed under the project in their ownership for a period of at least 5 years following the completion of the project and continue to use such buildings for the benefit of the overall objectives of the project for the same period; • Keep any buildings purchased, constructed, renovated or reconstructed under the project properly insured against losses such 	General	Continuously tracking	N/A		<p>In line with the Guideline on Forms issued by the National Focal Point, special provisions related to buildings are mandatory part of the Calls of proposals.</p> <p>Provisions related to buildings in the wording of the conditions set in the Programme Agreement are mentioned in the Chapter 8 of all the Calls for proposals launched by the SK-Climate Programme Operator.</p> <p>Condition of sustainability and durability of assets are defined in the Project Contracts and shall be monitored by the SK-Climate Programme Operator.</p>

<p>as fire, theft and other normally insurable incidents both during project implementation and for at least 5 years following the completion of the project; and</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Set aside appropriate resources for the maintenance of any buildings purchased, constructed, renovated or reconstructed under the project for at least 5 years following the completion of the project. The specific means for implementation of this obligation shall be specified in the project contract. 					
<p>No costs shall be eligible under pre-defined project 1 (number under Section 5.1 of Annex II to the programme agreement) before a detailed description, budget and the target for energy savings under the pre-defined project has been submitted and the FMC has confirmed the grant to the project as described in Annex II to this programme agreement. A detailed overview of the financing from all funding sources and the timeline for the realisation of all the activities related to the centre shall also be provided.</p>	<p>Pre-eligibility</p>	<p>One-time fulfilment</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>19/05/2020</p>	<p>The SK-Climate Programme Operator provided the FMO with the required documents on 20. February 2020. Based on the statement of the FMO from 19. May 2020, the FMO considers the pre-eligibility condition to be fulfilled.</p>