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| **CCI number** |  |
| **Title in English** | Programme – Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund |
| **Title in the national language** | Program – Fond pre azyl, migráciu a integráciu |
| **Version** | 1.0 |
| **First Year** | 2021 |
| **Last Year** | 2027 |
| **Eligible from** | 1.1.2021 |
| **Eligible until** | 31.12.2027 |
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| **Member State amending decision entry into force date** |  |
| **Non substantial transfer (Article 24(5))** | Yes/No |

* 1. **Programme strategy: main challenges and policy responses**

Strategic documents of the European Union

Regarding the Programme, strategic documents of the European Union (hereinafter “EU”) have been taken into account especially the **European Pact on Immigration and Asylum, Stockholm Programme,** **Global Approach to Migration and Mobility, Common Basic Principles for Immigrant** **Integration Policy in the EU,** Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union (2016 / C 202/02); Commission Communication of 1 September 2005 on a Common Inclusion Program - Framework for the integration of third-country nationals into the European Union (COM (2005) 0389); Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions; Action Plan for the Integration of Third-Country Nationals (COM (2016) 377); Conclusions of the Council and of the Representatives of the Governments of the Member States on the integration of third-country nationals legally resident in the EU - (9 December 2016) and Recommendations of the Indicators of Immigrant Integration (2015).

Strategic documents on the national level

The strategic framework for the priorities of the Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund (hereinafter “AMIF”) on the national level is the *Migration policy of the Slovak Republic with a perspective until the year 2020* (hereinafter “**Migration Policy**”) adopted on 31 August 2011 (the resolution No. 574 as of 31 August 2011 of the Government of the Slovak Republic). New Migration Policy is in preparation process.

The resolution of the Government of the Slovak Republic No. 45 of 29 January 2014 (the Integration Policy) is still valid at the national level.

In the field of **labour mobility**, the Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family of the Slovak Republic (hereinafter “MLSAaF), in cooperation with several ministries and social partners, drew up the first strategic document regulating the employment of third-country workers in Slovakia. The document entitled Strategy of Labour Mobility of Foreigners in the Slovak Republic (hereinafter “Labour Mobility Strategy”) was approved by the Government of the Slovak Republic on 10 October 2018 by Government Resolution No. 473. The Strategy represents a comprehensive solution of needs of the Slovak economy, especially strategic investors. Despite the proposed measures, the Strategy strives for the planned management of managed and regulated labour mobility of foreigners to the labour market in the Slovak Republic (hereinafter “SK”).

Main challenges identified

The most significant challenge is the flexibility of the AMIF Programme 2021-2027 (hereinafter referred to as AMIF) in order to respond to current changes in migration flows. From the point of view of the migration policy, the strengthening of ties or coactions as concerns migration and development still represents a great challenge.

The main challenge to be addressed by the AMIF:

* to ensure the continuity of financing the services supported under the AMIF Programme 2014-2020, especially those, which are targeted on the direct support of the target group. All actions financed by AMIF Programme should ensure the protection of migrants, people granted international protection, asylum seekers and vulnerable people threatened by violence, by exploitation and abuse, with aim to ensure their support and right for protection under specific law frameworks
* to provide professional services for asylum seekers, taking into account their specific needs
* to ensure the best possible integration of persons with granted international protection into Slovak society

Specific Objective 1

Under specific objective 1 “**to strengthen and develop all aspects of the Common European Asylum System, including its external dimension**” the aim of the SR is to ensure effective asylum system based on appropriate quality of individual's life.

The aim should be reached via actions adopted on the level of administrative improvement by capacity building and by improving the reception conditions of asylum seekers in asylum facilities of the Ministry of the Interior of the Slovak Republic, by improving and reconstructing internal and external equipment of asylum facilities, adapting asylum facilities to vulnerable groups such as disadvantaged people, adapting asylum facilities to independence of asylum seekers.

There is no plan to increase the capacity of asylum facilities, as these are sufficient taking into account the number of asylum applications in recent years. Increasing of existing capacities can be considered in the event of a political decision by the Government of the Slovak Republic is adopted and a very high number of relocated persons would be approved.

The improvement is expected also on the level of target group via different kind of services, as social, legal and psychological consulting or interpretation targeted on individual needs of TCNs. The needs of vulnerable groups will be secured case by case, especially via activities, as for example psychological counselling, art therapy, music therapy, then creating specific services for vulnerable groups and via capacity building of cooperation with consulting, supporting services for TCNs.

Training courses and upgrading qualifications for people who are in contact with foreigners with special needs or who are vulnerable, could contribute to fulfilling the target. The police forces, the migration office and employment offices, NGOs, cultural mediators, interpreters, teachers and health workers should be involved in this process.

Information activities are necessary for acceptation of public opinion, so migration, integration and asylum policy cannot be the exception. These should also contribute to the filling of target.

Specific Objective 2

In the field of specific objective “**to support legal migration to the Member States including to contribute to the integration of third-country nationals**” SK considers the communities of TCNs as inseparable part of society and appreciates their addition in economic, cultural and social area.

Activities aimed at integration of legal TCNs will be supported in cooperation with the MLSAaF, while activities aimed at beneficiaries of international protection will be coordinated with the Migration Office (hereinafter “MO”).

Managed economic migration (labour mobility) is also determined by so-called megatrends, such as labour market changes, population aging, changes in education systems, geopolitics, new technologies.

The Slovak government adopted the Integration policy in January 2014, which sets overall framework for integration mainstreaming. The emphasis is on justice, equality, efforts to compensate disadvantages, prevention of discrimination, respect for human rights and freedoms, protection of vulnerable groups and adherence of legal acts and international commitments.

The programme is specifically focused on measures supporting a bottom-up approach to policies. Focus is on local and regional level with aim to create social cohesion between different communities and major society. There is no integrated approach to the individual in accessing the labour market in relation to his basic needs and skills acquired in the country of origin, as well as overall effective communication between stakeholders when a national enters the labour market in order to improve integrated access in this area. The success of the integration of foreigners at the local level is significantly influenced by how cities (municipalities) and regions approach the integration of foreigners, the arrival of foreigners is accompanied by various concerns - problems with civic coexistence, different lifestyles, prejudices.

Integrated approach to integration should be ensured through strengthening the cooperation between relevant actors. The aim of the Programme is to support activities, which can bring the biggest added value for life of individuals, who have chosen SK as a destination country.

Creation of permanent platform in a field of asylum, integration and legal migration, including the representatives of nongovernmental sector and foreigner's communities should be beneficial, as well as an inter-institutional exchange of information and procedures, common controlling actions and exchange of information between institutions of neighbouring countries, from where the employees are sent. For this reason, the integration of foreigners should take place in constant dialogue and cooperation with local and state authorities, as well as non-governmental organizations, from which local and state authorities can order integration services - such as counselling and assistance in housing, integration into the labour market, vocational education and language courses, health, psychological and social support. The aim is to support the integration of foreigners by developing local integration policies (strategies), which will become an important tool for maintaining social cohesion, preventing conflicts and preventing segregation and ghettoisation.

The establishment of workplace for a contact point regarding the creation of platform “EU MOBIL” within the System of information exchange of European migration network (EMN IES) focused on the exchange of information between national contact points of Member States in a field of legal migration would contribute to the filling of the target. The Bureau of Border and Foreign Police   
intends to finance the equipment of the workplace with the necessary material and technical equipment.

Information packages and awareness-raising campaigns on legal means of migration to the EU are also necessary.

Specific Objective 3

SK supports return policy, which emphasizes the human rights and dignity and takes a part on a filling of specific objective “**to contribute to countering irregular migration and ensuring effectiveness of return and readmission in third countries**”. SK emphasizes dignified return in a process of voluntary or forced return. The Programme ensures continuity of successful measures of AMIF. The assisted voluntary return (hereinafter “AVR”) is preferable possibility in comparison with forced return, if it is allowed according to the specific case and procedures. In addition to the voluntary departure, i.e. the travel period imposed in the administrative expulsion decision, which is based on the Return Directive, the TCNs can also benefit from the AVR.

AVR is based on the Cooperation Agreement between the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and the Ministry of the Interior of the Slovak Republic. In particular, EU funding will support a wide range of accompanying measures as well as reintegration. Only in unavoidable cases the irregular TCNs have to be detained in order to ensure the enforcement of forced return. Readmission and bilateral agreements with countries of transit or countries of origin have proven to be an important instrument of regulation. Based on the national strategy, Slovakia needs to take measures that will contribute to reducing the number of irregular TCNs through sustainable AVR as well as effective forced return. The Programme recognizes the need to build capacity and facilitate return operations, as well as the need to provide services to TCNs with unauthorized residence. In addition to services and capacity building, the Programme also includes measures aimed at increasing the effectiveness of the EU system for the return of irregular migrants, the need to set up an information campaign to provide migrants with information on the program and to register for AVR. The Programme attaches the same importance to the implementation of training (educational activities) in the field of legal and illegal migration, which will be addressed to all those whose activities and tasks are related to the issue of migration.

The Programme should also provide the monitoring system of forced returns, which is currently provided from the state budget, but the Programme's ambition should be to set up a monitoring system independent of state funds.

Specific Objective 4

Regarding specific objective 4 “**to enhance solidarity and fair sharing of responsibility between the Member States, in particular as regards those most affected by migration and asylum challenges, including through practical cooperation**” the current position of the Slovak Republic on two instruments of solidarity in the field of migration (relocation and resettlement) follows the negative attitude of the government, considering the renewal of the trilateral agreement on humanitarian transfers (terminated in 2018). It is assumed that within the time frame of the AMIF program, the principle of voluntariness and decision-making autonomy of the Slovak Republic in the field of flexible solidarity instruments will be adopted to the extent that will enable follow-up to pilot projects in the year 2015 and 2016.

* 1. **Specific objectives** (repeated for each specific objective other than technical assistance)
  2. **Title of the specific objective [300]**

**Specific objective 1:**

To strengthen and develop all aspects of the **Common European Asylum System**, including its external dimension

* + 1. **Description of specific objective**

**Baseline situation**

The asylum process is carried out in the facilities of the Migration Office (hereinafter referred to as the MO) with the help of non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and municipalities. The asylum procedure begins with the foreigner's declaration to the relevant police service that he / she applies for asylum or subsidiary protection.

First, asylum seekers are limited to no more than 30 days in the Reception centre in Humenne, with a total capacity of 550 beds, due to the quarantine necessary to avoid the risk of spreading communicable diseases. Later, asylum seekers are transferred to one of the Accommodation centre (hereinafter "AC") in Opatovská Nová Ves or in Rohovce with a total capacity of 140 beds for each camp. AC in Opatovská Nová Ves is primarily used by vulnerable groups. While staying in asylum facilities, the focus is on identifying vulnerable groups as well as providing specific care to those identified.

In all asylum facilities the MO provides the basic services which are accommodation, food, emergency health care, basic toiletries, social work, information about asylum procedure and about cultural orientation in Slovakia, etc. The additional services are currently provided by NGOs funded by the AMIF 2014-2020 and the state budget. Within these services, psychological counselling, leisure time activities, Slovak language teaching, interpreting, music therapy, art therapy, legal counselling, cultural mediation, supplementary material and medical assistance are provided for asylum seekers in asylum facilities or outside them.

Specific care is provided by one social worker of the MO, three cultural mediators, a nurse, a doctor and a psychologist.

The identification of vulnerable persons may be made at any time during the asylum procedure, in particular during the first contact of the asylum seeker with BBaFP, during medical examination, social work or psychological counselling, during the asylum interview and the like. Very specific tailor-made assistance for vulnerable groups is provided, for example, by psychiatric assistance, etc. depending on the case.

By default, the duration of the first instance of the asylum process cannot exceed 6 months in accordance with national legislation.

**Current situation**

Projects implemented under AMIF 2014-2020 within SO 1 have contributed mainly to the improvement of the quality of life of individuals during the asylum procedure in accordance with international standards through the provision of several types of services taking into account the individual needs of asylum seekers and have paid special attention to vulnerable groups. Currently there are two types of supported activities.   
The first type is legal advice and general legal aid for asylum seekers, including special attention to vulnerable groups, as well as the provision of interpretation and translation related to the provision of legal aid. The second type of projects / activities is the provision of professional care by asylum seekers (social, psychological counselling, education, additional material assistance and health care).

**Statistics**

In the last years of the AMIF programming period 2014-2020, the number of asylum seekers has remained at 146 in 2016, 166 in 2017, 178 in 2018, 232 in 2019 and 282 in 2020. During 2014-2020 SK granted asylum to 242 persons, while the number of the people granted subsidiary protection is 260 persons. Based on the data provided, international protection provides on average about 30% of asylum seekers.

Since January 2014, national law provides the possibility of detention of asylum seekers. Asylum seekers in detention will be provided with approximately the same set of services as is provided to irregular TCNs in the same unit of police detention for foreigners (hereinafter referred to as “UPDF”) or asylum seekers in RC.

Also in 2014-2017, Slovakia supported **burden sharing and solidarity** through humanitarian transfers of people waiting for final resettlement at the Evacuation Transit Centre in Humenné (ETC). These were carried out on the basis of an agreement between the SK Government, UNHCR and IOM dated 18 November 2015, valid until 31.12.2017.

Since 2009, 1047 persons have been admitted to the territory of the SK, of which 502 children (17 children were born in the territory of the SK) of which 1043 persons were transferred to other countries.

The SK carries out **internal and external monitoring of the asylum process**. Internal monitoring is carried out by an independent employee of the MO every three months. The results are discussed internally and appropriate system improvements are introduced. In addition, external audits may only be carried out by responsible and reliable persons for the protection of personal data. External monitoring is therefore carried out by the UNHCR.

**Implementing measures and indicative types of actions**

In the field of SO 1 the aim is to improve asylum system based on sufficient quality of life of individuals through wide range of services.

**a) actions aimed at enhancing awareness of asylum, integration, legal migration and return policies among stakeholders and the general public**

It is necessary to carry out information activities in the form of prevention of xenophobic attitudes, verbal and physical attacks, not only in relation to the public, but also in relation to TCNs.

**b) the exchange of information, best practices and strategies, mutual learning, studies and research, the development and implementation of joint actions and operations and the setting-up of transnational cooperation networks**

Training and upgrading for those who come into contact with TCNs (with special needs or vulnerable persons). The education/upgrading process should include: police, municipalities, labour offices, social affairs and family, but NGOs, cultural mediators, interpreters, educators and health professionals. Training can be common and can be carried out, for example, in the form of simulated training sessions (example: OSCE training in the fight against trafficking in human beings), helping to share knowledge and concentration.

**c) identifying applicants with special procedural or reception needs**

It is necessary to continue to provide a different set of services to asylum seekers in asylum facilities. The activities sought are, for example, psychological assistance, social and legal assistance, as well as the creation of specific services for vulnerable groups. These will be provided on a case-by-case basis, in particular through activities such as psychological counselling, art therapy, music therapy, etc. In case of identification of a person who has been a victim of trafficking in human beings, the MO will be contacting the Information Centre for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings and Crime Prevention. Victims will be placed in a residential camp dedicated to vulnerable people, where they will be provided with special psychological and social care and other services, if necessary.

**d) establishing or improving reception accommodation infrastructure including the possible joint use of such facilities by more than one Member State**

The intention is to improve the reception conditions of asylum seekers in asylum facilities of the Ministry of the Interior of the Slovak Republic by improving and reconstructing internal and external equipment of asylum facilities, adapting asylum facilities to vulnerable groups such as disadvantaged people, adapting asylum facilities to independence of asylum seekers, e.g. by setting up kitchens for cooking and improving the conditions for leisure activities. Improving the quality of residence of asylum seekers will also be possible by introducing an electronic system of cards for food, hygiene needs, proof of entry to asylum facilities and, where appropriate, proof of other services and activities provided. It is also necessary to ensure the safety and health of asylum seekers in asylum facilities, for example. camera systems, biometric cards of the applicant for granting, electronic health records and their connection with databases of the Ministry of Health of the Slovak Republic, etc.

In terms of access of persons with special needs or vulnerable persons to quality services it is necessary to ensure the emergence of sheltered housing for persons with special needs or vulnerable persons outside the municipalities' facilities (smaller accommodation units, privacy, etc.) in larger cities where specific services are also available (e.g. psychiatrists, specialist physicians).

**e) establishing, developing, and improving effective alternatives to detention, in particular in relation to unaccompanied minors and families**

Provision of accommodation and the necessary material and financial assistance for persons who have been placed in the alternative of detention.

* + 1. **Operational support**

The operational support in accordance with Art. 18 The AMIF Regulations will be provided to the following entity whose activities cover specific objective 1:

**Migration Office of the Ministry of the Interior of the Slovak Republic**

The Migration Office of the MoI SR (hereinafter referred to as the “MO”) is a specialized department of the MoI SR in the areas of asylum, migration, integration, documentary, foreign cooperation and the Dublin Centre.

As a first-instance administrative body deciding on granting asylum and granting subsidiary protection to foreigners, the MO proceeds in accordance with the provisions of Act No. 543/2002 Coll. 480/2002 Coll. on asylum, reflecting in particular the 1951 Geneva Convention on the Status of Refugees, the New York Protocol on the Status of Refugees of 1967, as well as the relevant European directives or regulations governing the international protection of aliens.

In particular, it shall carry out the following tasks:

* draws up substantive bills of laws and other legal regulations within the competence of the Migration Office;
* ensures activities related to the approximation of Slovak law with the law of the European Communities and the EU, ensures compliance of the submitted legislative proposals with the law of the European Union, Council of Europe documents and relevant international treaties and agreements within the competence of the Migration Office;
* ensures and performs legal representation of the Ministry in the asylum, subsidiary protection and temporary refugee courts;
* performs the tasks of the coordinator of the MIGRA information system in the part of the international protection data fund, decides on access rights to this information system in the given part, provides information to authorized persons and keeps the relevant records,
* performs statistical tasks in accordance with the requirements of Eurostat, the European Asylum Support Office (EASO) and the Statistical Office of the Slovak Republic in the field of asylum procedures.

Operational support will cover:

**staff costs:**

* 1 employee of the Migration Office, who will be responsible for coordinating projects with international and European partners and finding new opportunities to participate in sharing the experience of the Slovak Republic in the field of migration and asylum. The mentioned employee will ensure the active sharing of this form of solidarity by the Slovak Republic.
* the creation of a 'mobile team' of specialist staff at the Migration Office to deal with ad hoc problems in the camps, providing professional care to asylum seekers, as well as assistance to the Migration Office staff. There would be two cultural mediators, a psychologist, a supervisor. These employees would receive a financial award at the systemic position level of the "Chief State Counsellor" in accordance with Act no. 55/2017 Coll. on civil service and on amendments to certain acts
* as part of staff costs, it would also be necessary to introduce English, Arabic and Russian language courses, which are most commonly used in work with asylum seekers and persons granted to migrants, who are in direct contact with the target group; international protection.

**service costs, such as maintenance or replacement of equipment or IT systems:**

* maintenance and replacement of IT equipment of migration office and the IT equipment in asylum facilities  in order to ensure the smooth reception of asylum applicants and to ensure an effective asylum procedures
  + 1. **Indicative breakdown of the programme resources (EU) by type of intervention**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Action** | **EU contribution** |
| a) | 150 000,00 |
| b) | 375 000,00 |
| c) | 2 400 000,00 |
| d) | 2 250 000,00 |
| e) | 75 000,00 |
| Operational support | 1 731 090,18 |
| **SO 1 TOTAL** | **6 981 090,18** |

**2.2 Title of the specific objective [300]**

**Specific objective 2:**

To support legal migration to the Member States including to contribute to the integration of third-country nationals.

* + 1. **Description of specific objective**

**Baseline situation**

Measures aimed at the integration of TCNs within AMIF 2014-2020 are mainly implemented at national level. In 2014, a pilot project was implemented that shifted integration to regional and local levels with considerable results requiring further support. There is also a need to emphasize self-enhancing activities, as well as cultural and social integration, which provide opportunities to acquire basic language skills, knowledge of history, institutions, socio-economic aspects, cultural life and the basic norms and values of the host country. These measures are primarily aimed at ensuring easier access to the labour market. The research activities brought significant results from the description and evaluation of the labour market and the conditions of TCNs for entrepreneurship and proposals for measures to improve their economic integration. Another research worth mentioning was the research focused on the causes, forms and consequences of violence perpetrated against the TCNs in the Slovak Republic.

Regarding the initiatives against trafficking of human beings, there are some procedures, e.g. in case of such a victim, the MO will be contacting the Information Centre for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings and Crime Prevention. Victims are placed in a residential camp dedicated to vulnerable people, where they are provided with special psychological and social care and other services, if necessary.

**Current situation**

Projects implemented within the AMIF 2014-2020 have contributed to the fulfilment of objectives in the field of integration policy, especially to prevent the risk of economically, socially and culturally divided society, and the creation of closed communities of TCNs by providing services and assistance to the target group trial. In general, legal regulations in the field of state support in the context of migration and integration of TCNs respect the principle of equal treatment in relation to TCNs and guarantee the same position of legally living TCNs in the SK territory as the position of Slovak citizens.

Concerning Specific Objective 2, the Integration Policy recognizes the need to transfer part of the integration activities to the regional / local level. AMIF 2014 – 2020 has helped raise awareness of this level with the aim of bringing integration activities closer to legal TCNs and beneficiaries of international protection. The program provides space for activities such as administrative counselling, cultural training, etc. In order to ensure sustainability and continuity, AMIF will support activities that have received positive feedback from TCNs, such as centralized assistance provided in migration centres or awareness-raising campaigns to create an environment in which TCNs can integrate into a responsive Slovak society.

AMIF 2014-2020 has supported following projects:

* the information centre providing TCNs with comprehensive services "under one roof" in the field of legal, integration counselling and support of community life;
* project aimed at the provision of comprehensive legal assistance to TCNs with legal residence, for the application of legal regulations governing the stay of foreigners in the SK and the acquisition of Slovak citizenship
* provision of comprehensive services related to the integration of persons who have been granted international protection in the Slovak Republic

**Statistics**

The number of residence permits issued has been steadily increasing in recent years. As of 31 December 2020, 150 012 foreigners were registered on a valid stay in the SK, which is more than double the number registered at the end of 2013. The trend of a low number of TCNs compared to the total number of foreigners ended in 2017. Since then, the number of TCNs has been higher than the number of EU citizens (UK is included) and has been growing year on year. By the end of 2020, the number of TCNs with a valid residence amounted to 90 806, which is 60,5% of the total foreigners on a valid stay. During the period since 2004, the legal migration has increased seven times. Although the increase of foreign population in Slovakia in years 2004 – 2008 was the second highest among the EU states, the representation of foreigners in population remains low. Nowadays the foreigners represent 2.75 percent of population and their number is slowly increasing. In December 2020, there were about 6,937 more foreigners living in Slovakia than the year before, which represents an increase of 4.9%. However, a significant figure is the constant year-on-year increase in the number of applications for individual types of stay and the related increase in the agenda and increase in the burden on police officers. A total of 12 Foreign Police Departments received (including EU citizens registration) 26 092 applications in 2016, 33 126 applications in 2017, 45 629 applications in 2018, 57 069 applications in 2019 and 48 081 applications in 2020 (the lower number of applications in 2020 was due to the impact of the COVID-19-related movement restrictions). The most frequently registered applications were for the purpose of employment, business and family reunification (temporary stays). The reason for this increase is mainly an increase in economic activities and the related pull factors of the working and business environment in the SK (increased demand for low-skilled workers).

Currently, there are 90 806 TCNs with legal residence in the SK, of which 20 775 TCNs have permanent residence permit. In terms of gender, there are more men in the SR and it represents 64% share of TCNs in the legal stay, the share of women is 36%. The largest communities of TCNs are Ukrainians, Serbs, Vietnamese, Russians, Chinese, North Macedonians, Koreans and Iranian citizens. In the case of spreading TCNs across almost 2/3 working areas, there are low-skilled workers and production operators. Slovakia, like many other Member States, is facing so-called “Brain waste”, where highly skilled TCNs do not have adequate jobs. The program is therefore aimed at reducing the diversity of the labour market by eliminating language, cultural barriers and problems of understanding. Implementation of various measures and specialized courses for the needs of individuals, to make them more efficient

Integration of foreigners into the labour market and increasing the entry of individuals into the labour market in accordance with the direct needs of the employer - for example better understanding of technical terms, removing language barriers, easier completion of specific skills courses, easier integration in the labour market in case of job loss - prevention of social barriers (prevention of vulnerable groups), education in the field of cultural diversity prevention of xenophobia, segregation, ghettoisation.

Proven measures to improve integration are programs by which employers introduce foreigners to life in the region in which they live in SK, our culture and traditions, or orientation in the city.

Implementation of community volunteer programs in companies aimed at helping cities and municipalities in which foreigners live and work - the programs improve the atmosphere among the population, as well as the cooperation of local government representatives with employers.

Particular attention is also paid to vulnerable groups and the role of regional and local authorities. Integration policy defines measures at different levels of government, including national, regional and local authorities, as well as their cooperation with individual actors.

Within the years 2014 - 2020, 465 persons were granted international protection. Given their specific life situation, they are provided with additional assistance. So far, integration has been ensured with the help of the AMIF 2014-2020 and the state budget, in particular to facilitate social integration. SK shifts the focus to professional counselling as social, legal and psychological counselling, early integration into working, school and social life as part of the process of strengthening their self-sufficiency and also ensuring their linguistic integration.

**Implementing measures and indicative types of actions**

**a) the setting up of administrative structure, and systems, including the development of IT systems and the interoperability of databases, tools and training of staff, including local authorities and other relevant stakeholders**

The interconnection of the systems will not only reduce bureaucracy, but also lead to a more efficient exchange of information between the BBaFP, the Central Office of Labour, Social Affairs and Family (hereinafter referred to as the “OLSAaF”) and the Social Insurance Agency (hereinafter “SIA”). with all state authorities. The interconnection of information systems between the institutions involved may also be linked to the introduction of a single identifier, the allocation of which would be the responsibility of only one institution - the MoI SR (e.g. the foreigner's identification number, which would be used by each institution concerned together with the National Labour Inspectorate).

A comprehensive solution of the electronization of some procedures through a new and modern IS will also lead to targeted collection of data of the foreigners with granted stay on the SK territory, which will enable the evaluation of efficiency, effectiveness, relevance, suitability and sustainability of labour mobility policies. This objective is also in line with the long-term measures “Data collection” and “Comprehensive solution of electronization” from the document Strategy of Labour Mobility of Foreigners in the Slovak Republic. The comprehensive solution should also include a reporting tool for the production of statistical outputs not only for national purposes but also to ensure the provision of statistics under Regulation (EC) No. 862/2007 on Community statistics on migration and international protection, as amended by Regulation (EU) 2020/851 of the European Parliament and the Council of 18 June 2020.

**b) the exchange of information, best practices and strategies, mutual learning, studies and research, the development and implementation of joint actions and operations and the setting-up of transnational cooperation networks**

The priority in implementing this action is to establish a permanent platform on asylum, integration and legal migration from selected actors, including representatives of the non-governmental sector and foreign communities. It would be appropriate for this platform to be expanded or created in addition to MECOMIC, and it should be consisting of a non-governmental sector, which is active in the area of migration and integration of TCNs and plays an irreplaceable role, especially in the direct provision of services.

Several institutions are involved in the process of granting temporary stays and their follow-up (BBaFP, OLSAaF, NLI, SIA, health insurance companies, etc.) and therefore inter-institutional exchange of information and procedures, joint control actions as well as exchange information between the competent institutions of the neighbouring states from which the workers are delegated are necessary.

Actions should include the promotion and implementation of diverse information campaigns on the integration of TCNs at local level, targeting both the majority society and the TCNs themselves, as well as support for information campaigns targeting specific TCNs groups (women, seniors, etc.).

**c) assistance and support services consistent with the status and the needs of the person concerned, in particular the vulnerable groups**

In order to ensure adequate protection and respect for unaccompanied minors (UMs) rights, it is essential that professional assistance and care for children will be provided by specially qualified persons prepared to work with such a specific group of children. Public authorities and, in particular, the social and legal protection of children and the social guardianship authority, must ensure access to legal counselling and legal assistance and psychological care for UMs and prepare the implementation of integration measures targeted at UMs as well as transition to adulthood and subsequent integration of TCNs, which would reflect their needs.

The action needs to introduce specific integration measures in relation to UMs and families, building capacity centres for families with children, building capacity for professional families, providing cultural mediation and community interpreting, and developing supported housing models for young adults

**d) information packages and campaigns to raise awareness of legal migration channels to the Union, including on the Union legal migration acquis**

As part of the action, it is necessary to ensure that TCNs are informed at all departments of the BBaFP through various tools such as electronic information boards and information materials available in several language versions. Information materials will offer foreigners enough quality information on their labour rights and obligations, and will serve to prevent illegal employment or various forms of exploitation and smuggling. This objective is also in line with the long-term measure “Information Forums and Local Platforms” from the document Strategy of Labour Mobility of Foreigners in the Slovak Republic.

It is necessary to providing information in the field of migration. The aim is to create a so-called "Information offices" that would handle all requests for information addressed to the Bureau of Border and Foreign Police of the Presidium of Police Force.

**e) development of mobility schemes to the Union, such as circular or temporary migration schemes, including training to enhance employability**

Supporting the creation of strategic documents or action plans for the mobility of qualified foreigners to the labour market in the SK with the aim of: a) ensuring sustainable economic growth and improving the quality of life of citizens as well as foreigners living in Slovakia; (b) respond to new technologies and changes in the labour market; (c) to respond to changes in demographic trends and the related effects on the social security and pension systems.

**f) cooperation between third countries and the recruitment agencies, the employment services and the immigration services of Member State**

It is necessary to ensure the protection of the rights of labour migrants in labour mobility schemes and to prevent unethical practices in the recruitment process.

Within this action, there is an intention to help in countries that are source countries of migrants and refugees in order to prevent irregular migration to Member States.

**g) integration measures such as tailored support in accordance with the needs of third-country nationals and integration programme focusing on education, language and other training such as civic orientation courses and professional guidance, administrative and legal guidance, one-stop shops for integration providing general advice and assistance to third country nationals in areas such as housing, means of subsistence, psychological care, health care, etc.**

It is important to provide qualified social, psychological, legal counselling and financial assistance, courses in the Slovak language and cultural realities and other necessary services to persons granted international protection, which are provided under the current AMIF 2014-2020.

Another activity under this action is to provide accommodation for persons granted international protection in the initial phase of integration, which is a prerequisite for starting the integration process. It is also necessary to take into account the needs of vulnerable persons and provide suitable accommodation for them in cooperation with social service providers.

Another activity under this action will include also integration measures focusing on whole target groups within SO2.

**h) cooperation between governmental and non-governmental bodies in an integrated manner, including through coordinated integration-support centres, such as one-stop shops**

The objective in this area is the implementation of pilot projects of capacity building of single contact points in regions that will provide comprehensive services to foreigners living and working in all regions of Slovakia in the areas of integration counselling, courses of cultural orientation, Slovak language courses and support for community life of TCNs. The aim is to provide specialized counselling in the regions, to expand services based on implemented projects funded by AMIF 2014-2020 in regions of the SK and build pilot services for TCNs directly at the level of city, municipality or region.

**i) actions enabling and supporting third-country nationals introduction to and active participation in the receiving society and actions promoting acceptance by the receiving society**

Within integration, the importance of the regional and local level for the successful integration of TCNs is growing. For this reason, the integration of TCNs should take place in constant dialogue and cooperation with local and national authorities, as well as NGOs, where local and national authorities can order integration services- such as advice and assistance on accommodation, training and preparation, provision of language courses and health, psychological and social support.

Therefore, it is important to assist in the integration of TCNs by developing local integration policies (strategies), which will become an important tool for maintaining social cohesion.

**j) promoting exchanges and dialogue between third-country nationals, the receiving society and public authorities, including through the consultation of third-country nationals, and intercultural and inter-religious dialogue**

The objective is to create a platform aimed at sharing information between state authorities, local governments, religious representatives and representatives of individual nationalities and NGOs. That would promote intercultural and inter-religious dialogue with state institutions, as well as with NGOs and local authorities

* + 1. **Operational support**

The operational support in accordance with Art. 18 The AMIF Regulations will be provided to the following entity whose activities cover specific objective 2:

**Department of International Relations and European Affairs of the Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family of the Slovak Republic**

Department of International Relations and European Affairs of the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs of the Slovak Republic (hereinafter only "DIRaEA"), within the scope of its competence, fulfils all liaison tasks of the Ministry in the field of European and international relations, ensures foreign relations and contacts of the Ministry with foreign institutions, international organizations, embassies and partner ministries abroad, prepares strategic plans in international and coordinates the Ministry's foreign policy in the areas of labour, employment, labour migration, integration of foreigners, social security, social policy and the family.

In particular, it shall carry out the following tasks:

* draws up and coordinates draft bilateral international agreements in the field of mutual employment and social security
* coordinates the application of the provisions of Regulation (EEC) No 1612/68 on freedom of movement for workers within the Community in cooperation with the substantive departments of the Ministry
* ensures the application of European Union legislation in the field of coordination of social security systems and free movement of persons and case law of the EU Court of Justice and notifies generally binding Slovak legislation transposing EU directives
* coordinates and ensures the preparation of draft positions on key documents for meetings of working groups and committees of international organizations.
* operates as a coordinating office for matters of migration and integration of foreigners
* is responsible for policy-making and preparation of concepts of labour migration and integration of foreigners into society at the inter-ministerial level
* cooperates in the creation of a unified EU integration policy
* coordinates the application of the proposed integration measures resulting from the Integration Policy of the Slovak Republic in cooperation with other central state administration bodies, non-governmental and intergovernmental organizations, social partners and self-government bodies,
* participates in the fulfilment of the tasks of the material manager in the implementation of projects financed from the resources of the Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund 2014-2020 in the Slovak Republic
* draws up draft bilateral agreements on the employment of migrant workers, takes positions on free movement agreements and coordinates the implementation of the tasks arising therefrom.
* ensures the analysis of departmental legal regulations and measures in terms of their impact on the position of foreigners in the labour market and the process of their social integration,

**Operational support will cover:**

* **staff costs:**
* 4 employees of DIRaEA , who perform the above-mentioned tasks of the Department in the field of international relations and European affairs, labour migration and integration of foreigners, the mentioned employees will have a .financial evaluation in accordance with the description of their civil service position according to Act no. 55/201 7 Coll. on Civil Service and on Amendments to Certain Acts
* As a part of a staff costs it is also necessary to include language courses which are most commonly used (English, French, Russian) in work or direct contact with the target group to ensure better fulfilment of tasks of employees.
* **service costs**
* provision of IT equipment or systems and maintenance for DIRaEA staff performing the tasks of the Department in the field of international relations and European affairs, labour migration and integration of foreigners, including anticipation of possible crisis situations and emergency measures, e.g. as a result of the COVID-19 health pandemic

**Bureau of Border and Foreign Police Presidium of the Police Force (hereinafter referred to as “BBaFP”)**

BBaFP and its organizational units fulfil tasks especially in the area of border control, fight against illegal migration and crime related to the state border and human trafficking, risk analysis, cooperation with the European Border and Coast Guard Agency, travel document analysis, residence regime foreigners, foreigner returns, detention and expulsion of foreigners, visa practice and, to a limited extent, asylum procedures and the implementation of the Dublin Regulation.

In the field of **asylum**, it is the fulfilment of tasks related to the implementation of primary operations concerning asylum seekers in the SK. It also acts in the field of Dublin proceedings.

In the area of **returns**, it is, among other things, the fulfilment of tasks resulting from the cooperation of the SK with Frontex. Furthermore, activities related to detention of foreigners and their placement in the UPDF; issuing and enforcing a decision on administrative expulsion; readmission of persons and police transfers across the internal and external borders of the SK. It also fulfils tasks related to the execution of a court sentence of expulsion, the implementation of the AVR and the identification and issuing of alternative travel documents.

In the field of **foreigners 'residence**, these concerns, inter alia, the tasks related to the granting of foreigners' residence, renewal of residence and cancellation of residence. Furthermore, activities in the field of combating counterfeiting and alteration of travel documents, visas, residence permits and other documents. In the field of checking the authenticity and validity of travel documents and other documents. Detecting and documenting cases of unauthorized entry and residence of foreigners in the SK.

In all three areas it ensures the fulfilment of tasks in the field of training and education of members of the Police Force; in the field of cooperation with relevant non-ministerial bodies and organizations; compiles statistical surveys on legal and illegal migration; fulfils the tasks of the information system operator, among other things, also IS MIGRA. It also performs tasks in the field of risk analysis and statistics, such as: evaluates and analyses information on legal and illegal migration; organizes and ensures the collection of data of legal and illegal migration, etc. In the area of coordination of data processing, it fulfils the tasks of the coordinator of the information system IS MIGRA; provides control, correction and updating of data in IS MIGRA.

**Operational support will cover:**

* setting up a contact point for the creation of the 'EU MOBIL' platform within EMN IES, aimed at exchanging information between Member States' national contact points in a field of legal migration - currently in force for the directives: blue cards, intra-corporate transfer, long-term stay, researchers, students. Currently, the platform is not fully deployed, testing is in progress
* A contact point should be established to ensure the fulfillment of the tasks related to the operation of the platforms established and operating in the framework of the European Migration Network Information Exchange System (hereinafter "EMN IES"). It is a platform aimed at providing up-to-date, objective, reliable and comparable information on migration and asylum through national contact points in order to support policy-making in these areas within the EU.

Currently, the Slovak Republic is involved in the following platforms:

1.) EU MOBIL (Exchange of information in the framework of legal migration, currently valid for the Blue Card Directive, intra-corporate transfer, long-term residence, researchers, students).

2.) Return and Reintegration Assistance (RRA).

3.) EMN Return Expert Group (Platform for Operational Cooperation and Expertise Sharing. Builds synergies by providing structures for further tracking, planning and monitoring of practical cooperation on return activities to ensure an integrated approach to return).

* + 1. **Indicative breakdown of the programme resources (EU) by type of intervention**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Action** | **EU contribution** |
| a) | 1 500 000,00 |
| b) | 375 000,00 |
| c) | 375 000,00 |
| d) | 150 000,00 |
| e) | 150 000,00 |
| f) | 150 000,00 |
| g) | 4 800 000,00 |
| h) | 375 000,00 |
| i) | 150 000,00 |
| j) | 150 000,00 |
| Operational support | 1 731 090,18 |
| **SO 2 TOTAL** | **9 906 090,18** |

**2.3 Title of the specific objective [300]**

**Specific objective 3:**

To contribute to countering irregular migration and ensuring effectiveness of return and readmission in third countries

* + 1. **Description of specific objective**

**Baseline situation**

In the area of SO 3, SK understands the preventive role of sustainable return policy and therefore prefers voluntary returns over forced returns. TCNs can choose to use voluntary return regardless of whether they are illegal TCNs, asylum seekers or persons granted international protection, whether they are in detention, accommodation centre or anywhere in SK.

As a first point of contact for illegal TCNs, the BBaFP departments offer a special room for TCNs where they are provided with refreshments / food, medical or legal assistance if necessary. If the return (voluntary or forced) cannot be made directly from BBaFP departments, the illegal TCNs are transferred to one of the two UPDF in Medveďov or Sečovce. UPDF Sečovce is suitable for families with a total capacity of 176 beds and total capacity of UPDF Medveďov is 152 beds.

Supplementary assistance to TCNs in UPDF who should be returned by forced return or voluntarily, such as social, psychological or legal assistance, as well as the education of minors, is provided by the AMIF 2014-2020.

Complementary assistance shall also be provided for return operations by means of translations and interpreting or facilitating transport in order to reduce the side effect of the return operation.

Regular training of police officers as well as staff of the institutions concerned in the field of migration (legal, illegal) is a prerequisite for the effective functioning and management of migration. The implementation of project activities will contribute to increasing the professional qualifications of employees involved in the process of forced returns and thus to ensuring successful return operations and effective management of return policy in SK.

**Current situation**

Within the AMIF 2014-2020 four types of activities have been supported: providing services in the process of forced return, capacity building in the area of return, assisted voluntary returns and forced returns.

The aim is to ensure accessible and high-quality services provided in the process of forced and voluntary return with regard to vulnerable groups of people. Detained TCNs face a specific life situation while awaiting deportation and it is therefore important to provide them with services such as social or psychological assistance, legal aid and advice, material assistance, etc. Alternatives to detention are implemented according to the Slovak legislation (article 89, 404 Act of 21 October 2011 on Residence of Foreigners and Amendment and Supplementation of Certain Acts). Instead of detention, the police department acting in the matter of detention may impose a duty on the third country national a) to report the place of residence; or b) pay warranty deposit.

SK is actively involved in alleviating the migration crisis through the joint operations of the European Border and Coast Guard Agency (hereinafter referred to as "Frontex"). It cooperates proactively with the V4 countries mainly in the area of ​​ensuring the control of external borders. Within the framework of cooperation, SK sends members of the Police Force to the assistance of the EU Member States and within the framework of bilateral agreements to the territory of third countries. It is mainly about the help of our experts in the field of border control and border surveillance, forced returns, risk analysis, interrogation and registration of illegal migrants placed in hotspots in the Italy and Greece.   
Regarding the cooperation in the field of forced returns, the legal basis is in particular Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council (EU 2016/399 of 9 March 2016 establishing a Union Code on the rules governing the movement of persons across borders (Schengen Borders Code), EP and Council Directive 2008 / 115 / EC of 16 December 2008 - Return Directive and Regulation (EU) 2019/1896 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 13 November 2019 on the European Border and Coast Guard.

**Statistics**

Since the migration crisis in 2015 until 2019, the number of illegal TCNs has risen above 2,000 TCNs per year. During the years 2017 - 2019, the overall development of illegal migration in the SK territory was influenced mainly by illegal migration of TCNs from the nearest third countries - Ukraine and Serbia. In 2020, illegal migration was influenced mainly by COVID-19 crisis. The total illegal migration on our territory in 2020, compared to 2019, decreased by 40,9 % and the share of individual categories changed significantly. Secondary transit migration has been involved in irregular migration overall 37% share (in 2019 - 6% share, in 2018 - 2% share). This trend of a high share of secondary transit migration continues in 2021

There is a slight variation in the number of **forced returns** of TCNs to the country of origin, the country of transit or other third country receiving them or to the Member State where they are granted residence or international protection: 353 TCNs were returned in 2017, 450 TCNs were returned in 2018 in 2019 forced returns fell to 287. In 2020 forced returns fell even further to 194 due to COVID-19.

In the last 3 years, forced returns were most often made against citizens of Ukraine, Vietnam and Serbia. Readmission across the external land border was the preferred option over the forced air returns.

The volatility of statistics is highly dependent on the current global situation. The number of forced returns also depends on the number of TCNs illegally crossing the external border or detected on an unauthorized stay. In addition, the number of forced returns is also influenced by the rate of administrative expulsion decisions issued with a set deadline for departure to be fulfilled (voluntary departure) and the rate of assisted voluntary returns made.

Within the context of the SK, based on the agreement signed between IOM and the government of the SK in 1998 and also as stipulated in national legislation, IOM is the only operator of the AVR program in SK. AVR program is implemented on the basis of ensuing projects with IOM being the only implementing partner of the AVR program in SK. During implementation of the AVR program, IOM co-operates with other organizations and institutions, e.g. embassies, NGOs working with migrants, or government institutions such as Foreign Police or Migration office. However, when delivering services of all three components of the AVR program, i.e. provision of information on AVR, assistance with return, assistance with reintegration, only IOM staff is in direct contact with returnees both in SK or in countries of origin where reintegration assistance is provided.

**Assisted Voluntary Returns** and reintegration are an integral part of a comprehensive approach to migration management, with a particular focus on organized and humane return and reintegration of TCNs who cannot or do not want to stay in host countries, do not have the funds and wish to return voluntarily to their country of origin. In the long term, the SK prefers the implementation of voluntary returns over forced returns, which is also included in the relevant strategic documents.

The target group of the AVR program includes unsuccessful asylum seekers and TCNs found to be illegally present. At the same time, the proportion of vulnerable persons among returnees has also increased (in 2016=2 persons, in 2017= 1 person, in 2018 =7 persons, until 30.06.2019 = 81 persons[[1]](#footnote-1)). In recent years, there has also seen an increase in the number of potential victims of human trafficking and UMs.

In 2017, there were 49 voluntary returns, while in 2018 it was almost double - 80 voluntary returns, in 2019 the number increased to 108 voluntary returns, in 2020 the number dropped to 80. Voluntary returns were most often made in 2018 to countries such as Vietnam, Ukraine, Azerbaijan, Serbia, Iraq, and in 2019 voluntary returns were most often made to Serbia, Ukraine, Iran, Iraq, Turkey, in2020, voluntary returns were most often made to Serbia, Ukraine and Georgia. Since 2007, when it began to be provided under the AVR program reintegration aid, until 2019 (as of 5 November 2019), this aid was granted to 287 individuals or families in 36 countries of the world. Most reintegration aid was provided in Vietnam, Moldova, Ukraine, Georgia or Serbia. Migrants were most interested in helping with business activities (59.9%), repairing houses or flats (18.8%), or renting (8%), which has been increasingly in demand in recent years.

**Implementing measures and indicative types of actions**

SK would like to continue the successful models set by the RF, followed by the AMIF 2014-2020 and implement activities that support the preventive nature of the return policy.

AMIF will therefore focus on:

* services provided by civil society
* measures aimed at building the capacities of the employees involved in the return process
* ensuring a smooth return.

**a) the setting up of administrative structure, and systems, including the development of IT systems and the interoperability of databases, tools and training of staff, including local authorities and other relevant stakeholders**

SK plans to continually carry out training (educational activities) in the area of legal and illegal migration. The trainings will take place in the territory of the SR and also abroad at the relevant embassies.

It is also necessary to provide language trainings for departments of BBaFP: Foreign Police Department, Asylum Department, Border Control Department, Mobile Intervention Unit, Mobile Units, Police Detention Units for Foreigners The aim of language education is primarily to improve the language skills of foreign languages ​​(English, Russian) in performing tasks and activities in the field of returns, legal migration, granting of residence and asylum, residence permit control , border controls, etc.

Provision of information to TCNs at foreign police units of the Police Force through various tools (TCNS are informed by the officers of BBaFP and IOM:

* in writing, on the basis of written requests,
* by telephone, via established telephone lines,
* orally, in personal contact with employees of basic departments,
* by passing on instructions,
* through the distribution of leaflets in several language versions, etc.

Every migrant issued with an expulsion order is informed about AVR program in writing as a part of the expulsion order also including information on how to contact IOM. The obligation of the Foreign Police to inform migrants issued with expulsion order about the possibility of assisted voluntary return is also stipulated in law (ACT No 404/2011 on Residence of Aliens as amended: § 125, sec. (5).  In case a migrant is interested in learning more about the AVR option during the interpreted interview with the foreign police (resulting in expulsion), IOM is contacted immediately after the interview is over in order to provide first hand information on the AVR program usually using the same interpreters.

**b) assistance and support services consistent with the status and the needs of the person concerned, in particular the vulnerable groups;**

Individual cases are increasingly complex and require a wider range of services aimed at pre-return social and health assistance to the target group (medical treatment / health services, accommodation, social assistance, etc.).

**c) actions aimed at enhancing awareness of asylum, integration, legal migration and return policies among stakeholders and the general public;**

In order to inform the target group about the AVR program, an information campaign is needed to provide migrants with information about the program and to register for the AVR program (AVR website, information line, information posters and leaflets, information provided directly by workers and via social networks). Information on AVR Program is provided as a continuation of previously implemented projects under the project component of *Information Campaign*, which forms an integral part of all Slovak AVR projects.

In order to disseminate information on AVR, following channels are used: info-meetings with IOM staff (individual or group meetings); AVR brochures and posters distributed to MoI facilities, but also to consulates and other locations where migrants are residing; AVR website – avr.iom.sk with articles and videos of former returnees; social media (FB); low-priced phone line 0850 211 262; Email; online communication via platforms such as Viber, Skype, Telegram, etc..

In 2020, AVR returnees reported a) *Former returnees*, b) *AVR website* and c) *Foreign police officers* as the most frequently used sources of information about AVR.

**d) establishing or improving reception or detention infrastructure, including the possible joint use of such facilities by more than one Member State**

In the SK territory, there are two UPDF for placement of TCNs (asylum seekers, illegal migrants). They need to be modified/renewed. Each police detention unit consists of an accommodation room, a social and cultural room, a visitor room, areas intended for catering, areas for the provision of health care, an area for outdoor walks and an area with a separate detention regime, where TCNs are located in special cases (aggressive behaviour, violation of internal order, quarantine due to infectious disease, etc.

The good condition and sufficient equipment of these spaces are closely related to meeting the needs of the target group in the process of return.

**e) introduction and reinforcement of independent and effective systems for monitoring forced return, as laid down in Article 8(6) of Directive 2008/115/EC**

The system of forced return monitoring is currently provided through state budget funding. The directive was transposed into national legislation of law no. 404/2011. The MoI monitors the execution of administrative expulsion decisions and the execution of deportation sentences, while cooperating with non-governmental organizations or the Office of the UNHCR.

The monitoring process is divided into several phases:

1. Compliance with the rights and obligations of the TCN placed in UPDF

2. Compliance with the obligations of the police department and facility in relation to the detention of a TCN

3. Checking the removal performance during the preparation and during the removal

4. Release of foreigners from UPDF

5. Transfer of the foreigner from UPDF to an international border crossing

6. Execution of the removal of a TCN from the SK territory.

7. Checking the performance of removal after the end of removal to the country of return

The ambition of the new AMIF should be to set up a monitoring system independent of national budget.

**f) countering incentives for irregular migration, including the employment of irregular migrants, through effective and adequate inspections based on risk assessment, the training of staff, the setting-up and implementation of mechanisms through which irregular migrants can claim back payments and lodge complaints against their employers, or information on awareness-raising campaigns to uniform employers and irregular migrants about their rights and obligations pursuant to Directive 2009/52/EC**

EU Member States are currently discussing the adoption of appropriate measures in the international fight against irregular and illegal work and abuse of workers' mobility rules.

The largest number of detected illegal employees was among nationals of the Republic of Serbia and Ukraine. E.g. In 2017, the control authorities found illegal employment of 95 EU / EEA citizens and up to 882 third-country nationals. Illegal employment of TCNs weakens the development of labour mobility policies based on regulated migration and can act as a factor in promoting illegal immigration and leading to exploitation.

It is therefore important to actively seek out employers who illegally employ TCNs in order to prevent illegal employment; improving staff training, raising awareness to inform employers and irregular migrants about their rights and obligations. This objective is also in line with the long-term measure "Illegal Employment" of the document Strategy of Labour Mobility of Foreigners in the Slovak Republic.

Therefore, it is necessary to introduce awareness-raising measures in order to inform employers and irregular migrants about their rights and obligations - publishing constantly updated leaflets or brochures in Ukrainian/ Serbian / Slovak and English language on valid procedures for obtaining legal employment in Slovakia, rights and obligations towards institutions, thematically focused brochures on various life situations, e.g. dismissal, complaint of working conditions, entitlement to social security contributions, etc., which could be distributed in the country of origin.

Another measure should focus on the training of employees and should concern the staff of labour inspectorates as well as labour, family and social affairs offices, who will carry out inspections of illegal employment. Training should take the form of seminars, with the active participation of lecturers from the institutions concerned by the employment and residence of third-country nationals.

In order to counter incentives for irregular migration, it **is necessary to** intensify repressive activities, including the detection, investigation and prosecution of illegal employment. It is necessary to increase the number of operations and investigative actions andto purchase vehicles and special equipment - translators from foreign languages. The proposed activities cover the strengthening of operational activities and the support of criminal investigators' actions to obtain evidence and the subsequent prosecution of perpetrators of smuggling and trafficking in human beings, which also include illegal employment of third-country nationals under criminal law.

**g) preparation of return, including measures leading to the issuing of return decisions, the identification of third-country nationals, the issuing of travel documents and family tracing**

In connection with the preparation and implementation of forced returns by the BBaFP, it is necessary to ensure travel expenses (air tickets), interpretation, age expert examination, identification and issue of replacement travel documents, health care, technical equipment (purchase of computers, cars and other technology necessary for the activities of departments that ensure the fulfilment of tasks in the field of legal and illegal migration).

Within this action it is necessary to cover interpretation in the case of asylum proceedings

It is necessary to cover specific needs of TCNS (psychological assistance, social counselling, material assistance, leisure activities, education, complementary health care, etc.).

It is also necessary to change the technical equipment of the Migra IS (fingerprints) used on units of police force and UPDF to register foreigners staying illegally in SK.

Equally important is the provision of document control facilities in this action

1. Document readers - technical equipment for reading and evaluating documents and electronic documents

2. mobile and stationary special equipment for rapid document checking

**h) return assistance, in particular assisted voluntary return and information about assisted voluntary return programs**

It is necessary to adapt services within AVR program and take into account the specific needs of clients before, during and after returning to their country of origin, including reintegration and possible reference of the client to the local assistance program. It is also necessary to prepare measures for the implementation of the information campaign in organizations and institutions whose employees come into contact with the target group and can act as multipliers of reporting on the AVR program.

The proposed measures in the area of AVR constitute a comprehensive program of assistance to TCNs returning to the country of origin and represent one of the effective tools of migration management in the SR.

**i) removal operations, including related measures, in accordance with the standards laid down in Union law, with the exception of coercive equipment**

In the context of the preparation and execution of forced returns by the BBaFP, it is necessary to provide interpretation, expert examination of age, travel expenses (air tickets) in connection with the organization or participation in joint return operations.

**j) measures to support the returnee‘s durable return and reintegration, including cash-incentives, training, placement and employment assistance and start-up support for economic activities**

In order to increase the sustainability of return, in addition to return assistance, the TCNs should also provide reintegration assistance to try to mitigate or eliminate the factors that caused migration. For this purpose, reintegration aid may be provided in cash or by material performance.

**k) facilities and services in third countries ensuring appropriate temporary accommodation and reception upon arrival, including for unaccompanied minors and other vulnerable groups in line with international standards**

Accommodation is one of the main needs after returning to the country of origin. Providing short-term accommodation (up to 8 weeks) will enable TCNs to focus on addressing other social needs, health care or livelihoods.

* + 1. **Operational support**

The operational support in accordance with Art. 18 The AMIF Regulations will be provided to the following entity whose activities cover specific objective 3:

**Bureau of Border and Foreign Police Presidium of the Police Force (hereinafter referred to as “BBaFP”)**

BBaFP and its organizational units fulfil tasks especially in the area of border control, fight against illegal migration and crime related to the state border and human trafficking, risk analysis, cooperation with the European Border and Coast Guard Agency, travel document analysis, residence regime foreigners, foreigner returns, detention and expulsion of foreigners, visa practice and, to a limited extent, asylum procedures and the implementation of the Dublin Regulation.

In the field of **asylum**, it is the fulfilment of tasks related to the implementation of primary operations concerning asylum seekers in the SK. It also acts in the field of Dublin proceedings.

In the area of **returns**, it is, among other things, the fulfilment of tasks resulting from the cooperation of the SK with Frontex. Furthermore, activities related to detention of foreigners and their placement in the UPDF; issuing and enforcing a decision on administrative expulsion; readmission of persons and police transfers across the internal and external borders of the SK. It also fulfils tasks related to the execution of a court sentence of expulsion, the implementation of the AVR and the identification and issuing of alternative travel documents.

In the field of **foreigners' residence**, these concerns, inter alia, the tasks related to the granting of foreigners' residence, renewal of residence and cancellation of residence. Furthermore, activities in the field of combating counterfeiting and alteration of travel documents, visas, residence permits and other documents. In the field of checking the authenticity and validity of travel documents and other documents. Detecting and documenting cases of unauthorized entry and residence of foreigners in the SK.

In all three areas it ensures the fulfilment of tasks in the field of training and education of members of the Police Force; in the field of cooperation with relevant non-ministerial bodies and organizations; compiles statistical surveys on legal and illegal migration; fulfils the tasks of the information system operator, among other things, also IS MIGRA. It also performs tasks in the field of risk analysis and statistics, such as: evaluates and analyses information on legal and illegal migration; organizes and ensures the collection of data of legal and illegal migration, etc. In the area of coordination of data processing, it fulfils the tasks of the coordinator of the information system IS MIGRA; provides control, correction and updating of data in IS MIGRA.

Operational support will cover:

* **staff costs**

police officers of the basic units of the Border and Foreign Police Service (departments of Police Force, departments of Border Police, Asylum Departments, Police Detention Units for Detention of Foreigners), which perform tasks in the areas of residence, illegal migration and asylum. Police officers of the Foreigners Police Department of the BBaFP

* + 1. **Indicative breakdown of the programme resources (EU) by type of intervention**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Action** | **EU contribution** |
| a) | 787 500,00 |
| b) | 1 125 000,00 |
| c) | 150 000,00 |
| d) | 375 000,00 |
| e) | 210 000,00 |
| f) | 201 000,00 |
| g) | 1 801 500,00 |
| h) | 1 500 000,00 |
| i) | 525 000,00 |
| j) | 315 000,00 |
| k) | 75 000,00 |
| Operational support | 865 545,09 |
| **SO 3 TOTAL** | **7 930 545,09** |

**2.4 Title of the specific objective [300]**

**Specific objective 4:**

To enhance solidarity and fair sharing of responsibility between the Member States, in particular as regards those most affected by migration and asylum challenges, including through practical cooperation***.***

**2.4.1 Description of specific objective**

**Baseline situation**

In 2015, the Slovak Republic responded to the migration crisis in Europe by accepting 149 Assyrian Christians from Iraq. The group was thanks to private sources, help of non-governmental organization called Peace and Good and the Roman Catholic Church integrated in the villages around Nitra. However, more than half of the Iraqis had difficulty leaving their homeland and not accepting their surroundings, and they returned to Iraq. In 2016, at the request of the European Commission, the Slovak Republic relocated 16 people (mothers with children) from refugee camps in Greece, and was willing to accept up to 100 people (from Greece and Italy). This offer went unanswered by partners from Italy. In the period 2009-2017, the Slovak Republic was involved in the humanitarian transfer of refugees and persons under the protection of UNHCR recognized persons who were exposed to the threat of deportation or in need of international protection. The transfer was based on a tripartite agreement between the Slovak government, UNHCR and IOM. Persons under this contract came from the country of their temporary residence to the Emergency Transit Center (ETC) Humenné for a limited period on the basis of a national visa, where they remained until the process of their resettlement to a third country was completed. For this purpose, the ETC with a capacity of max. 250 persons was established. SK within the framework of temporary placement in the ETC, provided food, accommodation, hygiene needs to the same extent as to asylum seekers for a period of max. six months. During the duration of the contract (8 years), a total of 1047 persons from seven countries of origin passed through the established ETC. Most people were accepted by the United States, others were relocated to Canada, Norway and Sweden. In 2021, the government approved financial assistance for the implementation of a joint project with Austria, which aims to improve medical equipment and the provision of medical services for asylum seekers in refugee camps in Greece. The project is implemented by IOM on the basis of bilateral agreements with both countries.

**Current situation**

The current position of the Slovak Republic on two instruments of solidarity in the field of migration (relocation and resettlement) follows the negative attitude of the government, considering the renewal of the trilateral agreement on humanitarian transfers (terminated in 2018). It is assumed that within the time frame of the AMIF program, the principle of voluntariness and decision-making autonomy of the Slovak Republic in the field of flexible solidarity instruments will be adopted to the extent that will enable follow-up to pilot projects in the year. 2015 and 2016.

**Statistics**

In 2015, 149 people from Iraq were admitted humanitarianly, in 2016, 16 people were relocated from Greece. In the years 2009-2017, a humanitarian transfer through the territory of the Slovak Republic was provided to 1,047 persons.

**Implementing measures and indicative types of actions**

**a) the implementation of voluntary transfers from one Member State to another of either applicants for international protection or beneficiaries of international protection**

In the case of government approval of the provision of assistance to EU member states in the form of relocation of persons on a voluntary basis, the Slovak Republic will submit projects aimed primarily at integration and care for this target group.

**b)** **operational support in terms of seconded staff or financial assistance provided by a Member State to another Member State affected by migration challenges, including support provided to the EASO;**

The **i**mplementation of projects in EU member states burdened by high numbers of migrants in the form of posting migration office staff and other experts in the field of migration from the Slovak Republic sharing Slovak experience in asylum and migration, logistical support, reducing tensions in camps using social work techniques and individual social and psychological support vulnerable groups, cultural mediation, etc.

**c) the voluntary implementation of national resettlement or humanitarian admission schemes;**

In the case of government approval of the solution to the migration crisis in the form of resettlement or humanitarian admission of persons on a voluntary basis, the Slovak Republic will submit projects focused mainly on integration and care for this target group.

* + 1. **Indicative breakdown of the programme resources (EU) by type of intervention**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Action** | **EU contribution** |
| a) | 150 673,61 |
| b) | 375 000,00 |
| c) | 1 875 000,00 |
| **SO 4 TOTAL** | **2 400 673,61** |

* 1. **Financial plan**

**3.1 Total financial allocations**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Specific objective** | **EU contribution** |
| 1 | 6 981 090,18 |
| 2 | 9 906 090,18 |
| 3 | 7 930 545,09 |
| 4 | 2 400 673,61 |
| Technical assistance | 1 633 103,94 |
| **TOTAL** | **28 851 503,00** |

1. **Programme authorities**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Table 11** | **Name of the institution** [500] |
| Managing authority | Ministry of Interior of the Slovak Republic |
| Audit authority | Ministry of Finance of the Slovak Republic (Government Audit Office) |
| Body which receives payments from the Commission | Ministry of Interior of the Slovak Republic |

1. Source: internal database of IOM, data valid to 30. June 2019 [↑](#footnote-ref-1)