Cooperation of Slovak Secondary Schools and Universities with Partners in Norway, Iceland and Liechtenstein

EEA SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAMME SLOVAKIA

ICELAND LIECHTENSTEIN NORWAY
eea grants

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About EEA Grants

The European Economic Area (EEA) is created by 31 member states that share common access to the internal market and interest in the free movement of goods, services, persons and capital.

The EEA Grants represent the contribution of Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway to reducing economic and social disparities and to strengthening bilateral relations with 16 EU countries in Central and Southern Europe and the Baltics.

The contribution from the EEA Grants to the Slovak Republic was in the programme period 2009 – 2014 more than 38 mil. euro (see also www.eeagrants.org and www.eeagrants.sk).

One of the objectives of the EEA Grants is enhanced human capital and knowledge base in Beneficiary States. This objective is being achieved through Scholarship Programmes, in 11 EU countries.

About the Programme

EEA Scholarship Programme Slovakia has been one of nine Programmes in Slovakia funded by the EEA and Norway Grants. It has been a unique tool increasing students, PhD students and staff mobility at higher education institutions (HEIs), as well as strengthening inter-institutional cooperation between Slovakia on one hand and Donor States – Norway, Iceland and Liechtenstein on the other hand.

Norway, Iceland and Liechtenstein contributed via the EEA Grants 85 % of the Programme budget, the Slovak Republic covered remaining 15 % of the budget. Total Programme allocation is 2 255 882 euro. The Government Office of the Slovak Republic as the National Focal Point of EEA Grants in Slovakia established SAIA, n. o. as the Programme Operator of the EEA Scholarship Programme Slovakia.
SAIA, n. o. implemented the Programme in close cooperation with Donor Programme Partners – The Norwegian Centre for International Cooperation in Education (SIU), The Icelandic Centre for Research (Rannís) and The Agency for International Education Affairs (AIBA) in Liechtenstein.

The EEA Scholarship Programme Slovakia contributed from March 2014 until April 2017 to not only higher education institutions mobility of students, PhD students and academic staff between Slovakia, Norway, Iceland and Liechtenstein, but also to the development of the cooperation of Slovak upper secondary schools and higher education institutions with partner schools from Norway and Iceland. The Programme was designated for institutions, not individuals, and within 5 Calls for Proposals involved 11 upper secondary schools and 10 higher education institutions. New study programmes, teaching aids and methods were developed, many joint scientific papers

published and schools organised dozens of conferences, seminars, workshops and excursions.

Slovak upper secondary schools and higher education institutions could participate in the Programme via following measures:

- Preparatory visits and meetings;
- Mobility projects between higher education institutions;
- Inter-institutional cooperation between higher education institutions;
- Inter-institutional cooperation in upper secondary education/training.

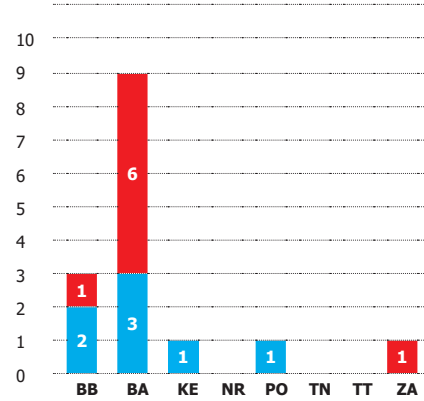
In this publication, we would like to acquaint you with the utilisation of financial support from EEA Grants and state budget of the Slovak Republic allocated for the area of education in Slovakia and strengthening bilateral relations with Norway, Iceland and Liechtenstein in the programming period 2009 – 2014. On the following pages, you can find information about all projects of upper secondary schools and higher education institutions supported from the EEA Scholarship Programme Slovakia.

Preparatory visits and meetings

Objective of the Preparatory visits and meetings was establishment of new cooperation or further development of previous institutional contacts with the focus on project proposal preparation. There were 2 Calls for Proposals announced, where 27 grant applications were submitted. Successful applicants attended the preparatory visits and meetings in Autumn 2014 and at the beginning of year 2015.

In total € 29,445 was spent by the academic staff of 7 upper secondary schools and 8 higher education institutions for max. 5-day long visits at the partner institutions. 2 Norwegian teachers visited Slovakia and 21 Slovak teachers travelled to Donor States (3 to Iceland and 18 to Norway). Out of 15 Preparatory visits and meetings between Slovakia, Norway and Iceland 14 resulted in submission of project proposal under one of other measures of EEA Scholarship Programme Slovakia.

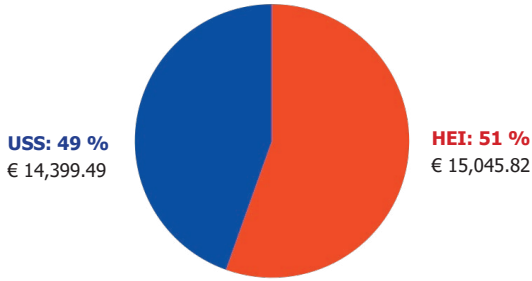
Distribution of Project Promoters according to the Region



upper secondary schools (USS)
higher education institutions (HEI)

BB – Banská Bystrica, **BA** – Bratislava, **KE** – Košice, **NR** – Nitra, **PO** – Prešov, **TN** – Trenčín, **TT** – Trnava, **ZA** – Žilina

Distribution of the project grant between upper secondary schools and higher education institutions

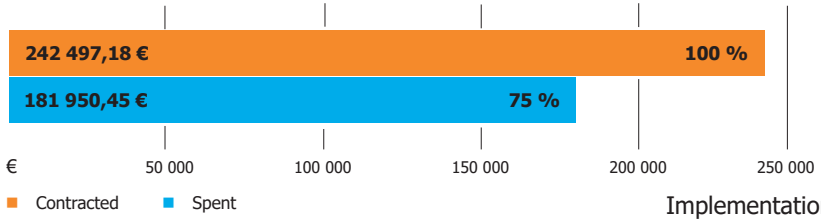


Mobility projects between higher education institutions

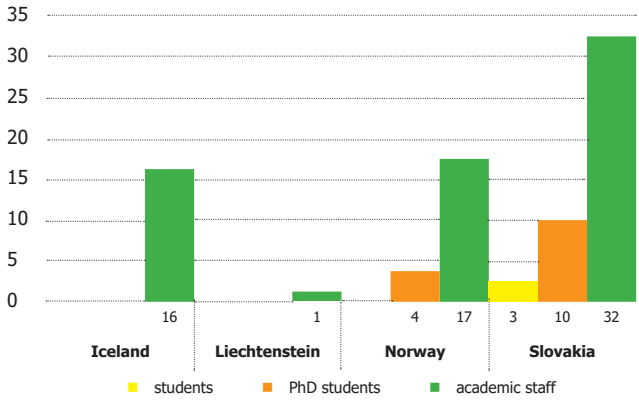
Slovak higher education institutions could participate in Mobility projects that aimed to increase international mobility of students, PhD students and academic staff at higher education institutions through long-term mobility of students and PhD students and teaching assignments of academic staff. Involvement of at least one partner higher education institution from Norway, Iceland or Liechtenstein holding an Erasmus University Charter was expected. The only Call for Proposals was announced in September 2014, with total allocation of € 600,000. 4 applications of Slovak higher education institutions were submitted and approved, involving 8 partners from all Donor States – 4 higher education institutions from Norway, 2 from Iceland and 1 from Liechtenstein.

Total budget spending of HEIs mobility projects was € 181,950, representing 75 % spending. Remaining financial resources were re-allocated for the Inter-institutional cooperation projects.

Budget spending in HEIs mobility projects



Mobility according to sending country



Implementation of projects lasted for 16 – 18 months, mainly during the academic year 2015/2016. In total 83 mobilities took place. 3 Slovak students, 10 PhD students and 32 academic staff visited partner countries. 4 PhD students and 34 academic staff came to Slovakia. Thematic focus of the mobilities was mainly in social and behavioural studies (political science, economics, education), engineering, architecture and natural sciences (biology).

Mobility project of the University of Economics in Bratislava

SK06-II-01-001

Project Promoter: **University of Economics in Bratislava**

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Project grant spent: € 39,128.49
Project implementation: 19. 2. 2015 – 18. 8. 2016

The aim of the project realised by the Faculty of International Relations, University of Economics in Bratislava, the University of Iceland and the University of Akureyri was to accelerate the transfer of knowledge and best practices between Slovakia and Iceland in small states studies, focusing on the fields of international economics, international politics and international law. The objective was to contribute to better exchange of scientific information and to a higher level of education in the participating institutions, through mobility of highly qualified experts with the aim of teaching assignments at the partner university.

The first pre-condition of the success was selection of the participating staff. 9 teachers from the University of Economics in Bratislava, 6 teachers from the University of Akureyri and 5 from the University of Iceland in Reykjavík took part in the project. The involvement of teachers of the University of Economics in Bratislava in the educational process in Iceland and vice versa, was a very important moment. The teachers had opportunity to discuss chosen issues of international political and economic relations or the European integration with Icelandic students (and vice versa) and to confront different way of teaching process. That kind of experience is one of the pre-condition how to improve teaching process at sending institution.

Another contribution of the project was the possibility to offer to Slovak students a point of view of Icelandic colleagues on various issues international economic and political relations, economics, politics, and environmentalism. The lectures created opportunity to develop critical thinking of the students. Teachers from Slovakia gave very interesting lectures to Icelandic students of various topics related to Slovak context and the relation between Slovakia and Iceland. Given lectures were interesting for students and fitted into classes. The University of Akureyri arranged also open lectures for the public of Akureyri interested in Slovakia.

This kind of project is a very good way how to exchange experience in the pedagogical and scientific area and to deepen cooperation in the common areas of interest in the future. In the period of dynamic changes, it is necessary to react quickly to sustain competitiveness and to prepare students for labour market. The goals of the project were fulfilled. It created opportunity for the cooperation among all three partners. Examples of fruitful cooperation are scientific projects proposals, common textbooks and exchange of the experience in the education. All project partners were showing a high level of willingness to participate in the events organised during their stay at the host institution. There is no doubt that one of the project results is the deepening of the cooperation and partnership between all three universities. The partners are ready to cooperate in joint scientific and pedagogical projects also in the future.

Mobility project of the University of Prešov

SK06-II-01-002

Project Promoter:

University of Prešov

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Queen Maud University College of Early Childhood Education

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Project grant spent: € 46,786.22
Project implementation: 24. 4. 2015 – 15. 9. 2016

The University of Prešov used an opportunity to strengthen and expand cooperation with three partner institutions from countries, which until then did not belong to the most active partners in cooperation. The Faculty of Humanities and Natural Sciences cooperated with the Icelandic University of Akureyri, the Faculty of Management with the University College of Southeast Norway (former Buskerud and Vestfold University College) and the Faculty of Education with the Queen Maud University College of Early Childhood Education in Trondheim.

The main objective of the project was to analyse the study programmes and research fields at partner universities. Students and teachers have the opportunity to participate in preparation of bilateral and multilateral projects for student, as well as academic research. The mobility project also provided space for exploring the educational process, methods and approaches applied in the teaching. The discussion about its

effectiveness and efficiency contributed to improvement of the quality of higher education.

During the project activities, 8 teachers, 2 PhD students and 1 student from the University of Prešov participated in exchange mobility. On the other hand, 10 teachers from partner institutions participated in exchange mobilities at the University of Prešov. During the project, a number of new bilateral partnerships were created. New contacts were established and strengthened, which resulted in very favourable conditions for further cooperation. Given that, participants of the project could visit also other departments, which were not participating in the project. Further contacts were made from various departments, which might lead to the cooperation with other departments in the future. New contacts were also established with other institutions in the region.

Established bilateral contacts resulted in further cooperation. Participants developed project cooperation in several areas, such as joint research, preparation of joint scientific and professional publications, cooperation in research activities of PhD students on their dissertations, participation in conferences and seminars organised by partners, joint evaluation of scientific outcomes, cooperation in the framework of improving the professional training of graduates, joint participation in editorial boards, the possibility of mutual use of research capacity and research facilities in the common interests, the acquisition of good practices in establishing of study programmes and educational processes, as well as gaining good practices in the use of modern methods and techniques of education.

As a result of good experience and satisfaction of cooperation the University of Akureyri and the University of Prešov have concluded Erasmus+ agreement for study programmes education and foreign languages, and the Faculty of Management concluded Erasmus+ agreement with the University College of Southeast Norway. Existing Erasmus+ agreement between the Faculty of Education and Queen Maud University College of Early Childhood Education was broadened to Master degree study programmes.

Mobility project of the University of Veterinary Medicine and Pharmacy in Košice

SK06-II-01-003

Project Promoter: **University of Veterinary Medicine and Pharmacy in Košice**

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Project grant spent: € 32,189.37
Project implementation: 1. 5. 2015 – 30. 9. 2016

The University of Veterinary Medicine and Pharmacy in Košice and the Nord University in Bodø have been cooperating since the year 2010 and since the academic year 2010/2011 is taught joint bachelor study programme in "Animal Science".

Both universities see the need to increase the level of education and practical instruction in aquaculture and related areas that will promote a growing aquaculture industry by providing highly qualified experts. The reason for this project was therefore to continue and expand the existing and highly successful cooperation between the two universities, to increase mobility between the University of Veterinary Medicine and Pharmacy in Košice and the Nord University in Bodø and provide the opportunities for future research collaborations.

The tool for achieving this objective was reciprocal long-term mobility of PhD students and teaching assignments of academic staff.

The long-term mobilities of 5 PhD students have helped to gain new insights into their studies, new skills and knowledge, learn about the hosting country, its culture, customs, mentality,

standard of living, and make new contacts. The PhD students saw their stay abroad, inter alia, as an effective training in communication skills.

Teacher mobility of 7 academics, which involved lecturing, giving seminars, or consultations in the hosting university, benefited the students, PhD students, academics, and even professional public; it has broadened their communication skills and professional relationships with the colleagues in the hosting institution, and established contacts and cooperation with experts in the hosting country.

Exchange of knowledge, experience and long-standing partnership of the two institutions are reflected in their evaluation, which increases their rating and attractiveness as a result. A secondary effect is promotion of both countries among students, academics, and professional public. The long-running successful cooperation offers a prospect for creation of other joint study programmes, courses or summer schools and the related mobility.

Mobility project of the Slovak University of Technology in Bratislava

SK06-II-01-004

Project Promoter:

Slovak University of Technology in Bratislava

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Norwegian University of Science and Technology

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University of Liechtenstein

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Project grant spent: € 63,846.37
Project implementation: 2. 6. 2015 – 30. 9. 2016

The aim of the project was to support international mobility of students, PhD students, and staff members of four participating faculties of the Slovak University of Technology (STU) in Bratislava with partners from the Norwegian University of Science and Technology (NTNU) in Trondheim and the University of Liechtenstein in Vaduz.

Mobility initiated academic cooperation between the University of Liechtenstein and STU in Bratislava in construction, architecture, and space planning, focusing on the use of alternative energy sources in operation of buildings, including computer-aided simulations of energy needs and internal environment, and spatial planning of rural settlements as well. The Faculty of Civil Engineering hosted short teaching assignment of an academic from the Institute of Architecture and Planning of the Liechtenstein University and reciprocally sent to teaching assignments also one of the academic staff. Teacher mobility has taken place on the basis of mutual acceptance and compatibility of topics. One Slovak PhD student has

attended a 4-month study stay at the University of Liechtenstein.

In addition to the abovementioned initiation of cooperation, mobility has had a positive impact on the mutual transfer of information and knowledge in these areas and has also achieved a multiplier effect through joint publication and joint research projects.

The mobility project further has also contributed to the further development of existing cooperation in the field of advanced methods of automatic control between NTNU and 3 faculties of STU in Bratislava – the Faculty of Chemical and Food Technology, the Faculty of Mechanical Engineering and the Faculty of Electrical Engineering and Information Technology. 2 students and 6 PhD students visited partner university for long-term mobility and 17 teaching assignments of academic staff were organised. At the Faculty of Electrical Engineering and Information Technology, the joint contacts contributed to preparation of several scientific publications. Based on discussions with partner from NTNU, the Faculty of Chemical and Food Technology has modernised subjects in the field of automatic control. Cooperation also resulted in the preparation of joint scientific publication.

Inter-institutional cooperation projects

The main focus of the EEA Scholarship Programme Slovakia was implementation of projects of inter-institutional cooperation between higher education institutions and in upper secondary education/training.

More than 1.76 mil. € was available for upper secondary and higher education institutions within 2 joint Calls for Proposals. Condition for awarding the grant was involving at least 1 partner upper secondary or higher education institution from Norway, Iceland or Liechtenstein, while it was possible to include also partners from Slovakia. The Project Promoters had to contribute by 10 % of approved projects costs. Thematic focus of the projects was not set as the aim was to promote balanced partnerships involving activities beneficial to all involved actors.

First Call for Proposals with total allocation of € 814,306 was open from June to September 2014. Project application was submitted by 7 upper secondary and 10 higher education institutions. Requested project grant of all applications was more than € 1.5 mil., i.e. almost twice as much as call allocation. Based on the results of the selection process 5 applications of upper secondary schools and 4 applications of higher education institutions were supported. Partners in these projects were 5 upper secondary and 4 higher education institutions from Norway and 1 higher education institution from Iceland. 94 % of the Call funds, which represent € 767,261, was awarded. Implementation of the projects from the first Call for proposals started in February 2015 and projects were completed by April 2016, at the latest. Projects lasted from 9 to 15 months.

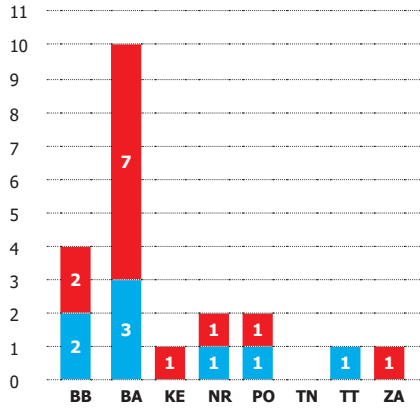
Second joint Call for Proposals was open from March to May 2015. Out of 20 submitted grant applications 5 was from upper secondary schools and 15 from higher education institutions. Total allocation of the Call was higher than in the first Call, more than € 0,9 mil., but requested project grant of all applications was again almost twice as high, € 1.6 mil. Supported were 3 applications of upper secondary schools and 9 applications of higher education institutions. Partners in these projects were 2 upper secondary and 8 higher education institutions from Norway and 1 upper secondary and 1 higher education institution from Iceland and, in addition, 1 Slovak higher education institution. Awarded was € 945,724, which represent almost 100 % of the Call funds. Implementation of the projects from the second Call for proposals started in September 2015 and projects were completed by August 2016, at the latest. Projects lasted from 10 to 12 months.

In the years 2015 – 2016 more than € 1.7 mil. was awarded to upper secondary schools and higher education institution for implementation of 21 projects of institutional cooperation. Projects have enabled mutual learning, exchange of experience and expertise through the mobility of students, teachers, PhD students and researchers, as well as management and administrative staff. Project participants jointly organised seminars, trainings, summer schools, competitions, excursions, or conferences with a variety of expertise.

Number of supported projects of Inter-institutional cooperation

	1st Call		2nd Call		Total	
	applications	projects	applications	projects	**applications**	**projects**
Upper secondary schools	7	5	5	3	**12**	**8**
Higher education institutions	10	4	15	9	**25**	**13**
Total	17	9	30	12	**37**	**21**

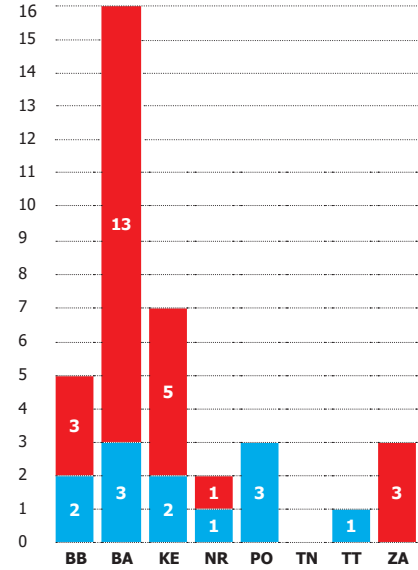
Distribution of applicants according to the Region and type of applicant



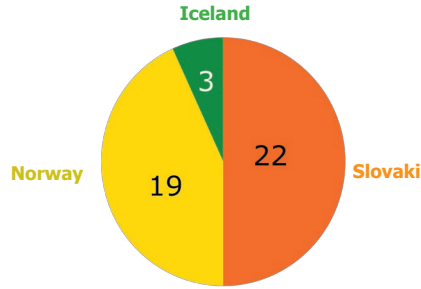
upper secondary schools (USS)
higher education institutions (HEI)

BB – Banská Bystrica, **BA** – Bratislava,
KE – Košice, **NR** – Nitra, **PO** – Prešov,
TN – Trenčín, **TT** – Trnava, **ZA** – Žilina

Distribution of Project Promoters according to the Region



Involved organisations according to the country



At the level of higher education there was cooperation in the field of political science, didactics, social work, architecture and woodworking, textile and jewellery, but also topics such as biophysics, cryptography, Alpine ecology, geohazard and veterinary medicine. 33 joint scientific articles and publications, 40 new teaching aids and methods, 2 joint study programmes and modules have been developed from cooperation. 8 summer schools and intensive courses and 46 seminars, conferences and workshops were organised. Academic staff presented the results of cooperation at various international conferences. A total of 143 students, 56 PhD students, 160 academics and 28 management and administrative staff from Slovakia, Norway and Iceland were directly involved in the implementation of 13 projects of higher education institutions during the years 2015 and 2016. Budget spending at higher education level was on average 84 % of the budget contracted.

The upper-secondary schools focused mainly on the development of skills and competences of students and teachers, history and culture of Slovakia, Norway and Iceland. Two intensive courses focused on language and work with a control system for automation of engineering production, 9 seminars and workshops and 21 knowledge competitions on different themes, from the history of the partner country and English to the environment, human rights, mathematics and physics were organised. Teachers jointly prepared 23 new teaching aids and methods. However, the focus of secondary school projects was the organisation of 111 excursions in Slovakia, Norway and Iceland, attended by 244 students and 100 teachers. Mobility to a partner institution with the aim of developing school management was attended by 10 management staff. Budget spending at upper-secondary schools was on average at 77 % of the budget contracted.

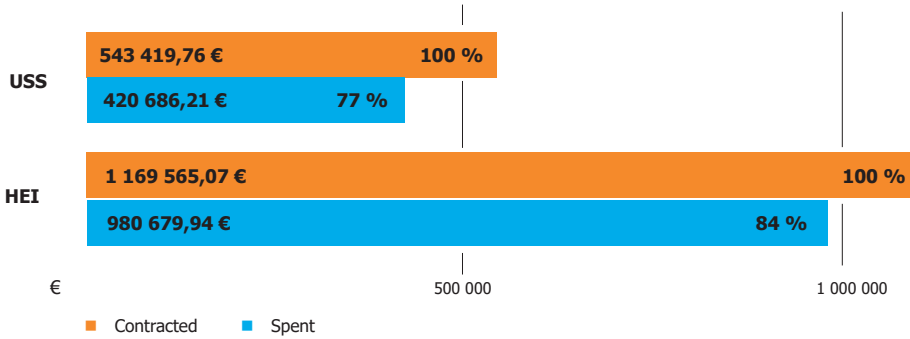
Projects outputs

	HEI	USS	Total
Joint study programmes/modules	2	-	**2**
Joint scientific articles and publication	33	12	**45**
New teaching aids and methods	40	23	**63**
Summer schools, intensive courses	8	2	**10**
Seminars, conferences, workshops	46	9	**55**
Knowledge contests	-	21	**21**
Excursions	-	111	**111**

Mobility in inter-institutional cooperation projects

	HEI	USS	Total
Students on mobility	143	244	**387**
PhD students on mobility	56	-	**56**
Academic staff/teachers on mobility	160	100	**260**
Management and administrative staff on mobility	28	10	**38**

Budget spending in inter-institutional cooperation projects



Innovation in Education through the Development of Key Competences – Secondary Vocational School, Levice

SK06-V-01-002

Project Promoter: **Secondary Vocational School**

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Project grant spent: € 53,497.17
Project implementation: 12. 3. 2015 – 30. 4. 2016

The project was developing bilateral cooperation between secondary vocational schools in Levice and Elnesvaagen. The need for the project was affected by common needs of the partners to develop key competences of students, upgrade the school curriculum, to gain knowledge about the latest trends in vocational training, to expand the use of ICT in teaching. It was also needed to adapt vocational training to the requirements of employers in the regions Nitra and More og Romsdal and thereby increase graduates´ adaptability in the labour market. The project strengthened competitiveness of schools in the region and extended the application of the principles of sustainable development in education.

The main topics of the project were natural and cultural heritage, tourism, energy and sustainable development. Project objectives were fulfilled through 6 transnational meetings, development of common materials, organising 2 intensive courses and plenty of excursions. All excursions were conducted in accordance with the focus and themes of the project. 12 Slovak and 12 Norwegian students and teachers from both schools recognised the natural, technical and cultural heritage of partner countries, waste and energy management, including alternative energy sources, prospective forms of tourism, organic production of organic food, automation of machine production in the automotive components industry, and various aspects of sustainable development.

The result of the project are both tangible and intangible benefits for participants: PC presentations, videos, photographs, publicity and methodological materials from the

workshops and excursions, 3-lingual English-Norwegian-Slovak dictionary with phrases and vocabulary related to tourism, cultural heritage, energy, sustainable development, pedagogical documentation, setting up the room of regional and European traditions, new knowledge from geography, history, energy, ecology, technology, tourism, marketing communication, ethnography, development of communication skills, tolerance and multiculturalism.

The planned goals were met. Created materials bring new forms of education in technical fields – automation and programming, developing entrepreneurial skills, enhancing the European dimension in education. The project ensured gender equality and involved the students from socially disadvantaged areas. Experience gained from the project will both partner schools use to develop next common projects. The project strengthened the position of both schools in the system of vocational education in the region.

Wider benefits of the partnership are reflected in improvement of cooperation of both schools with the social partners, local authorities and employers at the local, regional and international level in order to strengthen the position of schools in the context of an open school system. The partnership will use acquired knowledge, experience and developed materials to improve the quality of education at both schools, thus reinforcing the European dimension in education and implementation of the best practice in their own work.

BraDraShip – Grammar School Grösslingová, Bratislava

SK06-V-01-003

Project Promoter: **Grammar School Grösslingová**

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Partner: **St. Hallvard Upper-Secondary School**

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Project grant spent: € 85,350.80
Project implementation: 21. 2. 2015 – 20. 3. 2016

Grammar School Grösslingová in Bratislava and St. Hallvard Upper-Secondary School in Lier have had previous experience in building partnership with schools from abroad, but none of the exchanges or collaborations was focusing on natural sciences, rather on humane ones. The project BraDraShip had different aims that involved both students and teachers. For the students there were two major goals, extend the knowledge of natural sciences in English and broaden the knowledge and understanding of the history, culture and social life in Norway and Slovakia, as well as sharing know-how regarding the organisation of after school activities.

30 Slovak and 30 Norwegian students and 7 teachers from both countries had an opportunity to get to know new school system in person, compare advantages and disadvantages of different ways of teaching, evaluation and technical equipment of the schools. Teachers prepared 11 new teaching aids that are available for teachers from both schools in printed form for subjects such as English language, sociocultural subjects and natural sciences. In electronic form, all teaching aids are available on the project's website, where they are also accessible to the wider public.

The variety of themes targeted by the project has made it possible to address and involve in the project students with different interests. At the same time, students and teachers were given the opportunity to engage in activities they would not otherwise be engaged in at all. Work on assignments from natural subjects alternated with political, historical, or cultural workshops. Each student had the opportunity to represent his country on the topic closest to him. For many, it was a great challenge

to present their knowledge in English, especially if professional terminology was a necessity. A great motivation was the friendly atmosphere and the interest of the participants in the topics. Unforgettable experience will certainly be the moments spent exploring the partner country, its culture and traditions. Schools organised 5 knowledge contests for students from both partner schools. 4 contests took place during students mobility, last knowledge contest was in the form of distance cooperation (assignment was drawn up by Slovak-Norwegian couples, the evaluation was common). The aim of the knowledge competitions was to verify the knowledge acquired by the students during the educational activities of the project.

The project also had a major impact on interpersonal relationships. Although Slovakia and Norway are on the same continent, they know little about each other. This project was a great opportunity to make new friends and relations, which happened both among students and among teachers. That is why both involved schools are willing to continue in the very good established partnership and cooperation.

Training for Students and Teachers – Secondary Vocational School Senec

SK06-V-01-004

Project Promoter: **Secondary Vocational School Senec**

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Project grant spent: € 64,647.22
Project implementation: 6. 2. 2015 – 29. 2. 2016

The main reason for the project was the need to gain more training and international experience in marketing in tourism. Secondary Vocational School Senec provides, among others, education in four-year-long field of study called Business School, where students apply their theoretical knowledge in Training Firm. For short time, Norwegian students became part of the Slovak Training Firm – travel agency Trip Travel Ltd.

One of the main objectives was to show Senec and Bergen as regions rich in natural beauties, history, customs and traditions. Work was divided into some basic fields – extend the portfolio of the Training Firm to cooperation with Norway, work out segmentation of the market and marketing mix, gain skills in communication in foreign language. Students and teachers carried out activities on both schools and together during mutual visits. Four mobilities took place, involving 12 Slovak and 12 Norwegian students, 6 Slovak teachers and 8 Norwegian teachers. In total 29 excursions were organised. Their aim was to find interesting sites in the regions of Bergen and Senec and the surrounding area.

Students had also distance cooperation on joint assignments, such as preparing catalogues of the travel agency. They exchanged information, suggestions, recommendations, pricing, and experience from creating the marketing mix. In Bergen Åsane Upper-Secondary School students have developed a catalogue of destinations in the Senec region, and the Secondary Vocational School Senec students have created their catalogue of destinations in Bergen.

There were several project outputs, for instance: questionnaires to ascertain interest of people in Norwegian and Slovak destinations, catalogues, promotional CDs, innovated portfolio of the travel agency, a handbook of basic phrases useful for a tourist, presentations on Project Method of teaching. Sustainability of the project results will be ensured by the use of project outputs on English and Economics lessons.

The project had remarkable impact; students utilised skills learnt during the project implementation in taking part in compulsory training in different firms focused on the field of tourism.

An important benefit was strengthening the position of both schools in a competitive landscape in area of upper-secondary vocational education. The donor partnership achieved many educational ideas in teaching process. Norwegian teachers will implement some of the teaching methods seen at the Secondary Vocational School Senec including more practical work in the classroom, teachers will benefit from additional value of teamwork.

Long Live the Forest! – Secondary Vocational School of Services and Forestry, Banská Štiavnica

SK06-V-01-005

Project Promoter: **Secondary Vocational School of Services and Forestry**

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Project grant spent: € 57,550.73
Project implementation: 11. 2. 2015 – 10. 11. 2015

The project aim was to increase bilateral cooperation between upper-secondary vocational schools in Banská Štiavnica and Sønsterud. Realised activities have influenced all the students and employees at both partner institutions. Except the other benefits, participants have learnt about the topics of their common interest – nature, protection, forest, national parks, and eco-tourism. The outcome of the cooperation is improvement of bilateral relationships, as well as new teaching materials and publicity materials.

10 Slovak and 8 Norwegian Students visited the partner country. 4 knowledge contests for students, and 33 excursions were organised, as well as distance cooperation. In total the project involved more than 300 persons form both countries. Participants learnt the different cultural and social environment in Slovakia and in Norway and gained experience with international project.

Teachers prepared 8 joint teaching materials and exchanged the ideas for teaching as well as for the school management. Teaching materials are used on several subjects – national language, English, forestry, ecology, management, tourism, history, biology. They can be used as didactical aids in different years and in several thematic units. Schools have been inspired to develop curricula and teaching aids that can be used in everyday practice. Participants learnt about the school system in Slovakia and Norway.

At the meetings of 4 school leaders, the staff has discussed the Slovak and Norwegian education system, the financial and material possibilities of the school in the creation

and implementation of educational programmes, excursions, everyday school practice in individual departments.

The project raised awareness for the environmental protection and students as well as teachers have practiced communication in English. Mobility have helped to reduce regional economic and social differences, allowing to travel abroad for the students who, for economic reasons, lack of confidence and the support of the neighbourhood, could not afford to travel or take part in the activities, which were realised thanks to the project.

Wider effect of the project was the meeting of both Slovak and Norwegian teachers and students with the government officials – Ambassadors of both countries. Both schools created the "time and space" for the mutual meetings with the local government representatives – mayors of Banská Štiavnica and Flisa (Sønsterud). Partnership of schools is an example of a good practise, showing the possibilities of international cooperation for wider community in Slovakia and Norway.

Modern Technologies and Modern Education – Associated School, Detva

SK06-V-01-007

Project Promoter: **Associated School**

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Partner: **Charlottenlund Upper-Secondary School**

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Project grant spent: € 33,194.91
Project implementation: 24. 1. 2015 – 30. 4. 2016

International partnership is part of the strategic intent of both partners. The aim of schools is to prepare young people for both work at home and abroad, but also to provide as good conditions and benefits at labour market as possible. The main purpose and theme of the project were common activities using in the greater extent information and communication technologies. The project supported experiential learning and communication with peers in the process of common education, with little speaking barriers.

The important aim was also to conceive common outputs and teaching materials, which can be applicable in educational process. The realisation of the project brought new components to education, which has a positive influence on its content and organisation. Schools applied new methods in practice, which will be profitable for future work with the young, as well as better interaction between the school and local institutions and community.

Teachers prepared 3 new teaching aids: presentations about the attractions in Slovakia, presentations about the attractions in Norway and trilingual dictionary of the terms concerning tourism with tourist information from partnership regions. The teaching materials are mainly in English language and can be used by the teachers of geography, history, tourism and English language.

50 students and seven teachers from Slovakia, 30 students and 8 teachers from Norway, as well as 3 managers participated in the project. Four mobilities for 22

students and 3 managers were realised within 15 months of the project implementation. The participants were involved in the common knowledge quiz, several excursions, workshops, surveys and discussions.

Students got to know each other and made new friends. They improved their language and communication skills, as well as the ICT skills. The project enabled the students to develop their qualities such as self-action, responsibility, frankness and creativity. Participants are appropriate multipliers of the need to respect and understand other cultures and to tolerate each other. Both partner schools will be able to use the results of the project in the educational process. The results of the experience exchange acquired during mobilities (at the level of both managements and particular fields of education) will be applied to the educational programme of both schools.

The participants got to know each other through common activities, which enabled them to show their qualities that do not depend on their age, gender, race or social status. Common activities contribute to understanding of diversity and have positive impact on the development of a personality and enhancement of self-confidence.

Improving Environmental Awareness of Students – Grammar School of J. B. Magin, Vrbové

SK06-V-02-001

Project Promoter: **Grammar School of J. B. Magin**

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Project grant spent: € 53,991.84
Project implementation: 1. 9. 2015 – 30. 6. 2016

Project aimed to create cooperation between Icelandic Upper-Secondary School Fjölbrautaskóli Vesturlands, Akranes and Grammar School of J. B. Magin in Vrbové through mutual realisation of cultural and social activities focusing on improvement of environmental education and international mobility of students in order to gain new skills and knowledge in area of green energy, alternative resources, especially geothermal energy.

20 students from Slovakia and 20 students from Iceland visited partner country, took part in various excursions and environmental workshops. As a part of joint environmental project, 40 small trees were planted in Iceland and a small forest was established, and an herbal garden was planted in Slovakia. To bring together a group of students from two rather different environments has proved to be the most fruitful form of their training, for the students this has brought about an experience that is unique for their whole study period. Meeting students from far away, sharing their experience and point of view, has taught them more than hours and hours in the classroom.

The implementation of the project included verification of language skills, presentation of culture, traditions and customs of both countries in the form of 4 knowledge contests and through a joint magazine issued by both schools. The main benefit was the knowledge of the modern world and the way of controlling the future development in order to ensure sustainable development for the next generation.

Teachers involved shared teaching materials, especially in geography, and English teaching. Icelandic school based on the project implementation created courses for students that involved topics dealt with in workshops and discussions.

The final conference held in Slovakia in May 2016 was attended by representatives of the Trnava Self-Governing Region and the Municipality of Vrbové as well as an Icelandic partner who, contributed to the conference with presentation of the history and geology of Iceland.

Schools intend to continue in mutual cooperation and further develop their bilateral relations. These might include involving into another mutual project and activities.

Play! – Private Secondary School, Bratislava

SK06-V-02-003

Project Promoter: **Private Secondary School**

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Project grant spent: € 30,425.48
Project implementation: 4. 9. 2015 – 30. 6. 2016

Playful learning and pupils' creative potential development were the main goals of the project of Private Secondary School in Bratislava and Norwegian Løkenåsen School, Lorenskog. The project has created the opportunity to get to know each other and to establish new friendships and learn about the way of life in Slovakia and Norway as much as possible. The project inspired and motivated participants to use English, understand the importance of sport in our lives, and prepared young people to respond to the blatant topics of the present. Cross-cutting themes focused on the environment, geography, history, and art and culture have all encompassed areas of life that are very important for the development of students and their knowledge. This created a space for the realisation of students while not only in classes, but also filled their leisure time, which they spent meaningfully with unforgettable experience for the future.

The main objective was to give opportunity to participate in different lessons focused on drama, golf and diplomacy. Playful methods and methods of experiencing were used which are the most effective and sustainable in the process of learning.

Especially due to mobilities, 13 Slovak students and 14 Norwegian students as well as 7 teachers, got to know the culture, history, political system, the way of teaching and lifestyle of the other partner country. Students gained knowledge in abovementioned subjects and became more confident in presenting their knowledge, ideas and defending it. They improved their PC skills as well as command of English.

The students devoted themselves to literary-drama education and preparation of a performance dedicated to the presentation of a national hero presented at a partner school. A total of 5 knowledge contests were held, both on mobility and on-line lessons, and focused on information on excursions as well as on human rights and political systems in Slovakia and Norway.

In addition to the main results of the activities planned in the project, we have been able to address other topics such as the environment, traditions and holiday celebrations, and learning mentality through guest families and shared time. Students have created a positive relationship to sport and art, with the project trying out activities that would otherwise not be attractive. The Norwegian partner school changed the view of the former post-communist country and found out how much the people of two different countries have in common.

Understand me – Grammar School of Leonard Stöckel, Bardejov

SK06-V-02-005

Project Promoter: **Grammar School of Leonard Stöckel**

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Partner: **Molde Upper-Secondary School**

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Project grant spent: € 42,028.06
Project implementation: 1. 10. 2015 – 14. 8. 2016

The need for the realisation of the project was in discovering other cultures, understanding of different ways of life, understanding and acceptance of other views than are ours, changing stereotypes in thinking about the life of other nations and thus prevent misunderstandings or violent conflicts between nations.

Cooperation of Grammar School of Leonard Stöckel in Bardejov with Molde Upper-Secondary School started already in 2008. The main objective of this project was to continue working together and through learning about cultural heritage, traditions and historical values and customs we would like to help young people understand better their own culture, find common features and differences from the unique view for seeking and maintaining their own identity.

The students got lots of new information about partner country, their life and culture, as both, 15 Slovak and 14 Norwegian students were staying in host families. This allowed them to get the first-hand experience of the country. In addition, their social skills developed in the interaction with foreign students. Finally, yet importantly, they learnt some basic Norwegian and Slovak phrases. 8 excursions were organised, where participants gained information through expert guides. Students and experts prepared seminars on various topics, about the history of Slovakia, education systems and the school system in Norway, about the communism in Slovakia, the history of the Jewish community in Bardejov, and a seminar on environmental protection and waste separation methods. 10 language lessons were delivered and a trilingual glossary was prepared. During the project implementation, students prepared 6 articles on the project, which were published in Slovak and Norwegian media, as well as on the project website.

The outcome was the cultural, social, or even linguistic enrichment on both sides of the involved parties. The exchange programme reached its full potential, as students experienced various events and trips, including lectures, sightseeing, sports events, etc. The main benefit was the cultural exchange. Slovakia with its communist history and Norway with its royal history have more in common than one would think – they are almost the same as to the number of their population, and by their determination to fight for their country, speech, freedom.

The mutual cooperation between the Slovak and Norwegian party which started some years ago and has continued until today was only reaffirmed in this project. Schools plan to continue the cooperation with partner school, work on the agreed topics, create some new interesting topics, communicate and implement mobility. There is a possibility to invite a new partner into this bilateral partnership.

Cryptography Brings Security and Freedom – Slovak University of Technology in Bratislava

SK06-IV-01-001

Project Promoter:

Slovak University of Technology in Bratislava, Faculty of Electrical Engineering and Information Technology

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Partner:

University of Bergen, Faculty of Mathematics and Natural Sciences

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Project grant spent: € 88,638.78
Project implementation: 10. 4. 2015 – 31. 3. 2016

Main objective of the project was to promote cryptography research and education in a bilateral cooperation between project participants. Cryptography is an important building block for solving important problems in information security. It is of demanding importance to train young researchers in cryptography.

The project focused on exchanging students and staff between the research groups from both universities. 8 students and 7 PhD students from Slovakia attended one-week long seminar and workshop in Bergen and 7 Norwegian PhD students participated in one-week long seminar organised in Bratislava. The participating students were well satisfied with the course.

One of the main outputs was the proceeding from joint conference in cryptography held in Bergen February 8 – 10, 2016. This conference had more than 20 talks and included invited speakers from other research groups in Norway. Academic staff involved in the project prepared 2 joint publications and published in 2 scientific papers.

Both research group have exchanged information on problems and discussed future challenges in cryptology. The partners stayed in contact even after the project completion. Norwegian partner has very recently received funding in cryptography including several research project from the Norwegian Research Council and certainly plans to invite Slovak colleagues to future research visits in Bergen in the coming years.

Good connection between the research groups that lasts still after the end of the project includes collaboration in scientific papers that will be submitted to international conferences and journals. The two research groups have created a good network between the students and staff. They participate in activities such as organisation of conferences CECC 2016 in Slovakia and Arctic Crypt 2016 in Norway.

Training and Education of Students in Bionanotechnology Focused on Targeted Drug Delivery – Comenius University in Bratislava

SK06-IV-01-005

Project Promoter:

Comenius University in Bratislava, Faculty of Mathematics, Physics and Informatics

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Partner:

Norwegian University of Science and Technology, Faculty of natural sciences

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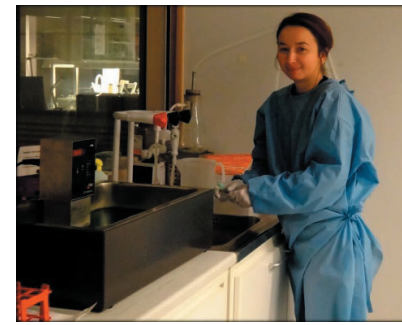
Project grant spent: € 62,251.78
Project implementation: 25. 2. 2015 – 30. 4. 2016



The main objectives of this project were establishment of joint PhD module, joint research focused on mechanisms of targeted drug delivery by means of nanoparticles, mobilities of PhD students and academic staff, as well as preparation of joint scientific articles.

The project was necessary for continuing the collaboration between the Faculty of Mathematics, Physics and Informatics of the Comenius University in Bratislava and the Norwegian University of Science and Technology in Trondheim in research and education. Due to necessity of building of the laboratory of cell cultures in Bratislava it was crucial to obtain skills in the methods of cell biology, in the study of nanoparticle toxicity and cell viability. Norwegian partner is an expert in these fields. Therefore, the training of PhD students in above-mentioned methods was necessary for continuing the research at the Comenius University in Bratislava. 2 Slovak PhD students spent 6 weeks in partner institution and 1 Norwegian PhD student visited university in Bratislava also for 6 weeks. PhD students acquainted with the methods used at the partner institution and delivered lectures from their focus.

Important part of the project consisted in preparation of the joint module of PhD study in biophysics and medical technology that contributed into the quality of PhD study. Teaching protocols and a compiled list of recommended lectures for PhD students that could be visited at partner institutions within the doctoral study have been developed.

Joint module of PhD study and building of new laboratories allow continuing bilateral collaboration and high quality research.

During the realisation of the project, 2 articles were prepared and sent to international scientific journals. Project participants presented 3 contributions to scientific events that were published in conference proceedings.

The results of the project are valuable for continuing in bilateral collaboration between the Faculty of Mathematics, Physics and Informatics of the Comenius University in Bratislava and the Norwegian University of Science and Technology, for improvement of PhD study as well as for optimisation of targeted therapy of cancer diseases by means of nanoparticles and DNA aptamers.

AiM – Comenius University in Bratislava

SK06-IV-01-006

Project Promoter:

Comenius University in Bratislava, Faculty of Mathematics, Physics and Informatics

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Partner:

Norwegian University of Science and Technology, Faculty of Social and Educational Sciences

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Project grant spent: € 96,437.12
Project implementation: 10. 2. 2015 – 30. 4. 2016

The project was needed to forge international research and development collaborations in mathematics education and develop new technology for teaching with ICT. Its aim was to improve the teaching of difficult parts of school mathematics in Slovakia and Norway, through educational applications for mobile devices, which are lately an indispensable part of life for every student.

Students, PhD students and academic staff had the opportunity to work in an international team to develop applications, test and comment on them, as well as learn local culture in the partner country. In addition, academic staff exchanged their expertise with partners they want to follow up on other joint projects and publications. Due to joint meetings in Slovakia and Norway, 10 students, 2 PhD students and 6 academic staff from Slovakia visited Norway and 4 students, 1 PhD student and 4 academic staff from Norway visited Slovakia. Applications were during their development tested by mathematics teachers at schools in Slovakia and Norway.

The result of the cooperation is 25 educational mathematics apps, that have recently been published on Apple's App Store and Google's Play Store and are freely available for teachers and pupils for support in selected mathematical topics. All students and academics involved in the project also participated in the creation of a methodological guide for teachers, which is available on the project website. It was written in two languages, Slovak and Norwegian.

The opportunity to meet in person on a fairly regular basis and experience traditional activities, cuisine and culture was a key factor in reaching an understanding of the educational needs of the partner country, and establishing the trust and common enthusiasm required to plan and follow through with larger international projects.

The project has, thanks to cooperation of IT department and mathematics education department, spurred an entirely new branch of research where the participants continue making new online tools for mathematics for both teaching and research purposes. Partners would like to continue the collaboration with digital mathematics on an international scale.

Improving Quality of Higher Education Based on Development of Multilateral Institutional Cooperation – University of Constantine the Philosopher in Nitra

SK06-IV-01-008

Project Promoter:

University of Constantine the Philosopher in Nitra

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Partners:

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Project grant spent: € 92,438.49
Project implementation: 28. 2. 2015 – 30. 4. 2016

The project activities have been aimed at improving the quality of education for future teachers of mathematics as well as higher quality of research into the field of theory of the Math teaching with the use of dynamic mathematical software. Educational activities of the project were related to the activities aimed at development of cooperation in other academic areas, search for workplaces and contacts at partner universities with a perspective of institutional multilateral cooperation.

The University of Constantine the Philosopher in Nitra organised in 2015 Summer School of Mathematics and Autumn Conference for PhD Students with participation of academic staff and PhD students from partner organisations. Partners presented innovative methods of mathematics education and consulted final thesis of Slovak PhD students. During the project 6 foreign PhD students, 10 academic staff and 1 administrative staff visited Slovakia.

Teachers cooperated in preparation of innovative mathematics textbook "Staircase to Even More Interesting Mathematics Teaching". The textbook can be used for teaching of higher education students and PhD students, as well as in secondary schools.

3 PhD students and 6 academic staff from Slovakia visited both partner universities in Norway and/or Iceland with the aim of exchange of experience and participation in seminars and workshops for Norwegian and Icelandic students.

Parallel to the above-mentioned expert activities, the University of Constantine the Philosopher in Nitra carried out a mapping of the university's potential for future cooperation with partner universities. Study programmes were identified at partner universities that are corresponding to the Slovak study programmes and a mapping questionnaire was developed. Results of mapping at all faculties was processed and presented which led to signing of Erasmus+ agreements with the University of Iceland as well as the University of Bergen. 4 Slovak representatives of management visited together with academic staff and PhD students both partner universities. Contacts have been created for new collaboration and inspiring stay has brought new ideas in the field of marketing, PR, innovative teaching of natural subjects and preparation of a new project in mathematics within Erasmus+.

Issues in Local Development Policy in Norway and Slovakia – Matej Bel University in Banská Bystrica

SK06-IV-02-001

Project Promoter: **Matej Bel University in Banská Bystrica, Faculty of Economics**

Univerzita Mateja Bela v Banskej Bystrici, Ekonomická fakulta,
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Partner: **Sogn og Fjordane University College**

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Project grant spent: € 64,583.26
Project implementation: 30. 9. 2015 – 31. 8. 2016

The aim of the project was to establish a long-term active collaboration between the Faculty of Economics of the Matej Bel University in Banská Bystrica and the Sogn og Fjordane University College focusing on exchanges of students and academic staff, common research interests, preparation of joint scientific papers and publications, workshops, etc.

Thematically, the project was oriented to selected areas of local development policies in Norway and Slovakia. The attention was concentrated on comparative research of three main issues: building networks and partnerships in rural areas, monitoring the performance and financial situation of local governments and bioenergy local production systems in rural areas. These issues are involved in new joint teaching materials and common book publication that were prepared during the project. Educational DVD was created and tested for 6 lessons. From the joint research, a professional book publication entitled „Local development policies in small countries – a comparative review of Norway and Slovakia" was created. 5 joint papers were published at international scientific conference.

4 students and 3 PhD students from Slovakia attended a seminar and workshop organised in Norway and 2 Norwegian students attended a seminar and workshop organised in Slovakia. During the implementation of the project, 10 Slovak and 7 Norwegian academics were mobilised to acquire new expertise, as well as cultural and linguistic enrichment.

All participants appreciated the high level of project meetings, seminars, workshops on which other institutions (from practice) also actively participated. The students appreciated the possibility of finalising their bachelor/master/PhD thesis, which would not be possible if the project would not be supported.

Partnership of the Matej Bel University in Banská Bystrica and the Sogn og Fjordane University College brought fruitful research cooperation and has built basis for student and academic exchanges within signed Erasmus+ and Memoranda on Cooperation was signed. Partner cooperation continues in the area of entrepreneurship research (young people in rural areas).

Modern Teaching Methods in Alpine Ecology – University of Žilina

SK06-IV-02-003

Project Promoter: **University of Žilina, Institute of High Mountain Biology**

Žilinská univerzita v Žiline, Výskumný ústav vysokohorskej biológie,
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Partner: **University College of Southeast Norway, Faculty of Technology, Natural Sciences and Maritime Sciences**

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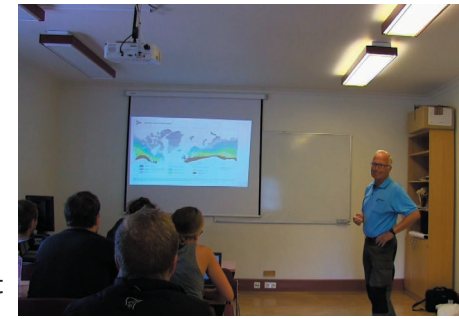
Christian Robstad, contact person
christian.a.robstad@hit.no, www.usn.no

Project grant spent: € 93,754.13
Project implementation: 29. 9. 2015 – 31. 8. 2016



Objective of the project was to support cooperation of the Institute of High Mountain Biology of the University of Žilina in Tatranská Javorina and the University College of Southeast Norway in launching of the new joint master degree programme "Alpine Ecology". Secondly, it was needed to enrich the teaching process of both institutions.

The aim and main outcomes of the project were two summer schools of Alpine Ecology, in Iceland and in Liechtenstein, involving mobility of 20 Slovak and 20 Norwegian students and 12 academics from participating institutions. The other outcome was to create an eLearning database with the videos from the teaching at summer schools.

The database is used and will be used by students and academics of both institutions as a summary of knowledge from summer schools. The advantage is that it can serve in this purpose also to the students who have not been able to get there. In the future, it will be used for uploading the videos from joint degree programme in Alpine Ecology. In this way, it will help to implement the eLearning as an effective way of education into their syllabus.

Summer schools gave an opportunity to the students to educate themselves abroad and acquire valuable knowledge in their field of study from international experts and academics. They also had an opportunity to communicate and cooperate in the international milieu, which is very desirable but not easily obtained experience.

We believe that our teaching gained quality by this project and that they will become better professionals.

Academics had opportunity to cooperate with colleagues from foreign country, compare their knowledge and methods of teaching. They also had chance to create new contacts and professional relationships. Therefore, they will become better staff members and have higher potential to initiate new international cooperation and get better results.

After the end of the project, the cooperation between the Institute of High Mountain Biology and the University College of Southeast Norway will continue within the mentioned joint degree programme and the Erasmus+ programme. Newly forged contacts and strengthening of the old relationships will promote better and more effective cooperation.

Experimental Wooden Climatic Chamber (EWCC) – Slovak University of Technology in Bratislava

SK06-IV-02-004

Project Promoter: **Slovak University of Technology in Bratislava, Faculty of Architecture**

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Partner: **Bergen School of Architecture**

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Project grant spent: € 65,022.14
Project implementation: 01. 10. 2015 – 31. 8. 2016

Project Experimental Wooden Climatic Chamber between the Faculty of Architecture of the Slovak University of Technology in Bratislava and the Bergen School of Architecture was needed for strengthening the bilateral cooperation between the partners and for transferring the expertise in the wood engineering and design. It has enriched the standard curricula with the experimental, practical and environmental approach to designing and building with wood.

During 2 designing workshops and 2 building workshops mobility of 12 Slovak and 10 Norwegian students and 4 Slovak and 3 Norwegian academics took place. At these workshops, a bird watching platform DUNA at Hrušovská zdrž on Danube near Bratislava was created. The object during the whole process has served like a learning tool for students and teachers. The process of designing and building was documented in details so it can serve like a study material, inspiration and technical guideline for next students and professionals with similar goals. Teaching aid for architects and designers working with CNC machines was prepared and is available.

There were also executed mobilities of academic and managing staff with the aim to improve the inter-institutional cooperation and project administration and coordination, as well as several events for public with the aim to inform about the project and nature watching was organised.

The main benefit of the project was improving of different professional and personal skills. The practical character of the project enriched the standard learning

programmes. Students designed the object with specific function into particular environment, where they had to learn to think and act in a complex way and in the broad context. To be a part of this process, taking and managing this challenge was a strong experience shifting on higher professional and personal level for all participants. They have seen the whole process since designing, preparation of technical documentation for production and legislation process, prefabrication and the building on the site.

Moreover, by the team work students and teachers have strengthened their communication and collaboration skills. In case of this project, the whole designing and building process was already a main goal that was achieved. This project has influenced also a further education in the field of wood engineering in architecture at the Faculty of Architecture of the Slovak University of Technology in Bratislava.

In the broad context project contributes to a development of nature watching as a progressive branch of ecotourism and it helped to create a new spot worthy to visit – a point of interest in surrounding of Bratislava, with a strong environmental character and added informative value.

Development of Tools for Enhancing the Quality of University Teachers´ Scholarship of Teaching and Learning – Comenius University in Bratislava

SK06-IV-02-006

Project Promoter: **Comenius University in Bratislava, Faculty of Education**

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Partner: **University of Bergen, Faculty of Psychology**

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Project grant spent: € 38,373.36
Project implementation: 9. 9. 2015 – 31. 8. 2016

The main objectives of the project are intensifying of research and development of tools for improving the quality of university teachers´ scholarship of teaching and learning in both partner organisations and the creation of appropriate conditions for their long-term cooperation in this area.

During the project 2 information seminars and 6 workshops in Bratislava and Bergen were organised, with 99 participants. There were 5 joint working meetings of 33 academic staff. The aim of these meetings was to systematically examine the teaching and learning processes (research on own learning, identification of problems to be addressed, preparation of small research projects), improving own practice and outcomes of student teaching (verifying the effectiveness of learning and teaching, recording and analysing experience) and sharing knowledge of other teachers (collegiate commenting, feedback, publishing on a separate project website). A community of university teachers wishing to develop in the area of exploration and management of teaching and learning processes was created in Slovakia.

The results of the joint research have been shared in 3 book publications (”Tools for the Development of Teaching at University“, ”A Guide to Better Teaching at University“, ”Pedagogická príprava a prax úspešných vysokoškolských učiteľov“). All three publications were published in the Comenius University Publishing House in Bratislava.

Overall, 11 Slovak and 5 foreign academics, as well as 3 Slovak and 4 Norwegian students, visited the partner organisation and participated in organised seminars and workshops. Numerous and intensive short-term mobilities allowed the establishment of a solid partnerships of partner institutions and individuals participated in project, which continue their common work also after the project end.

Partnership against Geohazards – PARAGEO – University of Žilina

SK06-IV-02-007

Project Promoter:

University of Žilina, Faculty of Civil Engineering

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Partners:

University of Iceland, School of Engineering and Natural Sciences

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Þorsteinn Sæmundsson, contact person
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Comenius University in Bratislava, Faculty of Natural Sciences

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Project grant spent: € 107,456.17
Project implementation: 5. 9. 2015 – 31. 8. 2016

PARAGEO project helped to establish and enhance collaboration between the University of Žilina, the Comenius University in Bratislava and the University of Iceland. Project supported sharing and exchange of knowledge and promoted professional cooperation. The contact between the University of Iceland and Slovak universities was not there in forehand in the fields of geology and geotechnical engineering. PARAGEO had collaborative multi-disciplinary approach to delivering new educational tools and research methods, developed, led and delivered by practising researchers and teachers from all institutions.

The beneficiaries in the project, both students and teachers, were actively involved in the project, participating in preparation and planning of activities. The main focus was the organisation of 2 practical trainings, which consisted of seminars, excursions and field trials. 3 students and 3 PhD students, together with 4 academic staff from Iceland, underwent a week-long training in Slovakia accompanied by Slovak students, PhD students and academic staff. 1 student, 7 PhD students and 7 academics from Slovakia also attended a week-long training session in Iceland, accompanied by

Icelandic partners. Several teaching aids, including the "Handbook on Geohazards" and the e-Learning Website, were prepared from the trainings.

1 student, 5 PhD students and 7 academics from Slovakia and Iceland attended also individual mobilities with the aim of consultations, training and field surveys. Based on the results of joint research, 9 joint scientific contributions were prepared and published at conferences or other national and international events.

The partnership has provided a new open contact between two countries and a better insight into various natural hazard problems, which these countries are dealing with and opened new pathways for collaboration in the years to come. The main project impact may be seen in extended students' knowledge of geohazards problems and established scientific collaboration among teachers.

LIVING MEMORY_ DIGITAL FUTURE Save the Heritage of TEXTILE and METAL Arts and Crafts for the Future – Academy of Fine Arts and Design in Bratislava

SK06-IV-02-008

Project Promoter:	**Academy of Fine Arts and Design in Bratislava, Department of Textiles** Vysoká škola výtvarných umení v Bratislave, Katedra textilnej tvorby, Drotárska cesta 44, 811 02 Bratislava doc. MA Mária Fulková, project coordinator maria.fulkova@uhk.cz, http://zivapamat.vsvu.sk
Partner:	**University College of Southeast Norway, Faculty of Humanities, Sports and Educational Science** Høgskolen i Sørøst-Norge, Fakultet for humaniora, idretts- og utdanningsvitenskap, 864 Rauland 1, Norway Bodil Akselvoll, contact person Bodil.Akselvoll@usn.no, www.usn.no

Project grant spent: € 77,898.82
Project implementation: 9. 9. 2015 – 31. 8. 2016

The interest of teachers of the Academy of Fine Arts and Design in Bratislava and the University College of Southeast Norway to strengthen relationships and cooperation in the field of creativity and common presentation of arts was there for a long time. The platform where the arts and crafts are connected proved to be a useful form of communication and enrichment for both participants.

During the realisation of the project, 5 workshops were organised on different themes and the result of the cooperation was two exhibitions which presented the works of students and academics. The artworks followed the traditional crafts directly or indirectly. The Norwegian expert and lay audience got to know the Slovak art and culture through both exhibitions.

5 Slovak academics attended the Vinterfestival in Rauland, which included 2 lectures by Slovak pedagogues, a bobbin workshop and an exhibition of their works. 1 Slovak PhD student completed a monthly study stay at a partner organisation. 4 Norwegian academics visited Slovakia, where they delivered 2 lectures and led 3 workshops for Slovak and 8 Norwegian students. 2 administrative staff, with the aim of sharing experience and good practice, also took part in the visits of the partner institution.

The main culmination of the project was the exhibition at the Knust Museum Knut Skinnarland in Norway, which was attended by 8 Slovak students. Each student

presented at the exhibition his/her work, created during the workshops and during the semester after the workshops. The exhibition was opened on 18 August 2016 on the occasion of the opening of the academic year at the partner university in Rauland. The President of the Norwegian Parliament, Olemic Thommenssen, as well as the Dean of the Faculty attended. About 150 – 200 people visited the exhibition.

Another output of the project is a catalogue, documenting all activities that took place in the project. The catalogue will serve as a representative material for both schools.

The platform for the exchange of professional skills of teachers was created by the reciprocal cooperation. The students have acquainted with the old traditional skills and could practice their language skills. The results of the project are reflected in students` interest in their own history. Students as representatives of future generation, will be able to keep old crafts alive, develop them with new technologies and mediate their knowledge to further generations.

Democratic Governance and Differentiation in Europe – Comenius University in Bratislava

SK06-IV-02-010

Project Promoter: **Comenius University in Bratislava, Faculty of Arts**

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Partner: **University of Oslo, ARENA – Centre for European Studies**

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Project grant spent: € 54,103.27
Project implementation: 5. 9. 2015 – 31. 8. 2016

The objective of project was closer bilateral cooperation between the Faculty of Arts of Comenius University in Bratislava and the Centre for European Studies ARENA in Oslo. The main benefit was strengthened bilateral ties and new kinds of practices set up and maintained at the Comenius University in Bratislava. The donor partnership achieved strengthened cooperation in research and education on differentiated governance and crises in the EU.

During the implementation of the project, 10 research seminars were organised for Slovak PhD students, led by 3 Norwegian academics and academics from wider international academic environment. Two intensive two-week intensive courses for PhD students were organised, where lecturers and consultants were also from the partner organisation. 2 Slovak PhD students and 2 academics attended a short stay at ARENA. A full-day workshop was held in Oslo to facilitate scientific dialogue between leading academics working with both partner sites to prepare a joint scientific publication. An analytical framework for the book and the preliminary concepts of individual chapters were developed.

In cooperation with UNESCO, the Centre for Human Rights Education at the Comenius University in Bratislava, the project prepared and conducted a competition for the best essay and professional discussion for Slovak secondary school students in the spring of 2016. This activity included more than 30 selected students throughout

Slovakia. In June 2016, a summer school for PhD students was organised, attended by 19 Slovak PhD students and 11 lecturers, of which 3 were from ARENA. The PhD students had the opportunity to get acquainted with the latest research findings and trends in exploring democratic governance and the development of the EU's political order.

The project was needed because the PhD study in Slovakia lacks internationalisation and the benefits of the project have helped to improve the situation in the field of political science. The results will be sustained in the form of upcoming joint workshops, joint book publication, and practices such as research seminars at the Comenius University in Bratislava that will be performed in the coming years.

Strengthening Cooperation between UVMP in Košice and UiN in Bodø – University of Veterinary Medicine and Pharmacy in Košice

SK06-IV-02-012

Project Promoter: **University of Veterinary Medicine and Pharmacy in Košice**

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Partner: **Nord University, Faculty of Biosciences and Aquaculture**

Nord Universitet, Fakultet for biovitenskap og akvakultur,
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Project grant spent: € 93,605.78
Project implementation: 1. 9. 2015 – 31. 8. 2016

The main reason for the project and its aim at the same time was expanding the degree of bilateral institutional cooperation between the two universities through preparation of joint PhD study programme, an innovative teaching method, intensive courses for students and PhD students and reciprocal mobility.

Outcome of 4 working meetings and intensive cooperation of universities is draft of the accreditation file including the annexes in accordance with the requirements of the Accreditation Commission for the new joint PhD study programme "Aquatic Health and Welfare". The new 3-year study programme included in the fields of study "Animal Hygiene and the Environment" and "Food Hygiene" will be taught in English.

The Slovak academic staff, in cooperation with the technical staff of the Norwegian university, has developed a new e-learning teaching method that has been introduced into the existing subject „Biophysics" taught at the Norwegian university within the framework of a joint bachelor study programme "Animal Science". It consists of 51 videos for better understanding of the subject and a set of 116 questions (including test) and examples. A new method of teaching is planned to be introduced into other subjects and educational activities.

4 Slovak students underwent a two-week intensive course at a partner university dedicated to the aquaculture area, part of which included, in addition to the theoretical

part, practical exercises and excursions to a company that is engaged in the freshwater farm of Atlantic salmon. They visited not only several fjords where salmon are kept in seawater, but also so-called Salmon rivers.

3 Norwegian PhD students took part in a two-week intensive course in Slovakia, in the field of animal nutrition, physiology, immunology and pathology. Practical exercises in laboratory techniques and a 2-day excursion to the Veterinary and Food Institute in Dolný Kubín and a fishing facility in Biely Potok supplemented the theoretical part.

Over the course of the project, 9 academics and 8 management representatives and administrative staff from Slovakia and 6 academics and 8 management representatives and administrative staff from Norway undertook mobility. Both partners participated in the project to the same extent, within each activity. The project has greatly enriched the partnerships of partner universities at both institutional and personal levels, which is also its major asset. As a result, there is a stronger partnership between the two universities and the prospects for future cooperation during the implementation of project outputs.

Social Services in Education of Social Workers in Slovakia and Norway – Matej Bel University Banská Bystrica

SK06-IV-02-014

Project Promoter:	**Matej Bel University Banská Bystrica, Faculty of Education** Univerzita Mateja Bela v Banskej Bystrici, Pedagogická fakulta, Ružová 13, 974 11 Banská Bystrica PhDr. Michaela Šavrnochová, PhD., project coordinator michaela.savrnochova@umb.sk
Partner:	**Lillehammer University College, Department of Education and Social Work** Høgskolen i Lillehammer, Avdeling for pedagogikk og sosialfag, Gudbrandsdalsvegen 350, 2604 Lillehammer, Norway Hans Jørgen Wallin Weihe, contact person H-J.Wallin.Weihe@hil.no, www.hil.no

Project grant spent: € 46,478.60 €

Project implementation: 5. 9. 2015 – 31. 8. 2016

The project reacted to the need of developing training of social workers and reacting in it to the actual problems of practice in the international context. The objectives of the project were focused on increasing the quality of education of social workers in Slovakia and in Norway, strengthening the interdisciplinary education and creating the preconditions for long-lasting and sustainable cooperation between the partners. The intention of the project was to assist increasing the quality of services in social work practice.

A new university textbook in Slovak and Norwegian languages "Sociálna práca a súčasnosť. Slovensko-Nórske perspektívy" („Social work and present. Slovak-Norwegian perspectives") is one of the results of cooperation of 5 Slovak and 3 Norwegian academics. Its focus can make a significant contribution to increasing the quality of study programmes in both countries, as it includes a unique knowledge base for both participating parties. Two common articles were also published.

The focus of the project was the organisation of a joint 2-day international conference „Perspectives in the protection of children and youth in the context of social work in Slovakia, Norway and other countries". The conference included 4 main lectures and 18 professional workshops. Two proceedings and expert articles were published at the conference, available on the project website.

3 Slovak students attended a weeklong stay at a partner institution where, besides lectures, they also participated in excursions to social services facilities. Subsequently, they talked about their experience to the academic and other audience at the international scientific conference.

The output of the project is also a proposal for a joint research project, which is the basis for further cooperation and the conclusion of the Erasmus + teacher and student mobility agreement from the academic year 2016/2017. The research project focuses on migrants' life situations and their everyday lives, with a view to deepening their understanding of their needs, challenges and subsequently setting up intervention programmes towards their successful integration into society.

The project strengthened the cooperation between the two university institutions but also between other universities and between the academic ground and practice (preferably through the conference). The outputs can be used not only in the educational process but also in practice of social work in both countries at increasing the quality of its services. The asset of the project is also the improvement of the mutual understanding of both cultures and context in which the social work and university education is developing.

List of USSs ad HEIs involved in the projects

Slovakia

Name of the institution in English | ***in Slovak***	page
Academy of Fine Arts and Design in Bratislava, Department of Textiles | *Vysoká škola výtvarných umení v Bratislave, Katedra textilnej tvorby*, project SK06-IV-02-008	54
Associated School, Detva | *Spojená škola, Detva,* project SK06-V-01-007	28
Comenius University in Bratislava | *Univerzita Komenského v Bratislave* Faculty of Arts/ *Filozofická fakulta,* project SK06-IV-02-010 Faculty of Education | *Pedagogická fakulta*, project SK06-IV-02-006 Faculty of Mathematics, Physics and Informatics | *Fakulta matematiky, fyziky a informatiky*, project SK06-IV-01-005 and SK06-IV-01-006 Faculty of Natural Sciences | *Prírodovedecká fakulta*, project SK06-IV-02-007	 56 50 38, 40 52
Grammar School Grösslingová, Bratislava | *Gymnázium Grösslingová, Bratislava*, project SK06-V-01-003	22
Grammar School of J. B. Magin, Vrbové | *Gymnázium J. B. Magina Vrbové* project SK06-V-02-001	30
Grammar School of Leonard Stöckel, Bardejov | *Gymnázium Leonarda Stöckela*, *Bardejov*, project SK06-V-02-005	34
Matej Bel University in Banská Bystrica | *Univerzita Mateja Bela v Banskej Bystrici* Faculty of Economics | *Ekonomická fakulta*, project SK06-IV-02-001 Faculty of Education | *Pedagogická fakulta*, project SK06-IV-02-014	 44 60
Private Secondary School, Bratislava | *Súkromné gymnázium, Bratislava* project SK06-V-02-003	32
Secondary Vocational School of Services and Forestry, Banská Štiavnica | *Stredná odborná škola služieb a lesníctva, Banská Štiavnica*, project SK06-V-01-005	26
Secondary Vocational School, Senec | *Stredná odborná škola, Senec,* project SK06-V-01-004	24
Secondary Vocational School, Levice | *Stredná odborná škola, Levice*, project SK06-V-01-002	20
Slovak University of Technology in Bratislava | *Slovenská technická univerzita v Bratislave,* project SK06-II-01-004 Faculty of Architecture | *Fakulta architektúry*, project SK06-IV-02-004 Faculty of Electrical Engineering and Information Technology | *Fakulta elektrotechniky a informatiky*, project SK06-IV-01-001	14 48 36
University of Constantine the Philosopher in Nitra | *Univerzita Konštantína Filozofa v Nitre*, project SK06-IV-01-008	42

Name of the institution in English | *in Slovak*	page
University of Economics in Bratislava | *Ekonomická univerzita v Bratislave*, project SK06-II-01-001	8
University of Prešov | *Prešovská univerzita v Prešove*, project SK06-II-01-002	10
University of Veterinary Medicine and Pharmacy in Košice | *Univerzita veterinárskeho lekárstva a farmácie v Košiciach*, project SK06-II-01-003 and SK06-IV-02-012	12 8
University of Žilina | *Žilinská univerzita v Žiline* Faculty of Civil Engineering | *Stavebná fakulta*, project SK06-IV-02-007, Institute of High Mountain Biology | *Výskumný ústav vysokohorskej biológie*, project SK06-IV-02-003	52 46

Norway

Name of the institution in English | *in Norwegian*	page
Åsane Upper-Secondary School | *Åsane videregående skole*, Bergen, project SK06-V-01-004	24
Bergen School of Architecture | *Bergen Arkitekthogskole*, Bergen, project SK06-IV-02-004	48
Charlottenlund Upper-Secondary School | *Charlottenlund videregående skole,* Trondheim, project SK06-V-01-007	28
Fræna Upper-Secondary School | *Fræna vidaregåande skole*, Elnesvaagen, project SK06-V-01-002	20
Lillehammer University College, Department of Education and Social Work | *Høgskolen i Lillehammer, Avdeling for pedagogikk og sosialfag*, project SK06-IV-02-014	60
Løkenåsen School | *Løkenåsen skole*, Lorenskog, project SK06-V-02-003	32
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