

Completed project summary examples

Priority sector: Funds for Non-Governmental Organisations

[N.B. THE SUMMARY SHOULD CONTAIN A MAXIMUM OF 2 500 CHARACTERS INCLUDING SPACES]

CONTEXT - why was the project needed? Describe the challenges / issues / problems (fact-based)

Slovakia is home to one of the densest concentrations of Roma communities in Europe. Many are settled in ghettos hampered by poverty, low literacy levels and discrimination. According to the EU Agency for Fundamental Rights, just 16% of Roma (compared to 90% of the Slovak population as a whole) have completed upper secondary education. Only 0.3% have finished university. Problems start early with Roma often penalised by poor pre-school opportunities. Many are inappropriately placed in 'special schools' for children with disabilities, or ethnically segregated in schools with limited prospects. This reinforces marginalisation and negative stereotypes.

OBJECTIVE – to what extent was the longer-term goal achieved?

The project set out to address barriers facing Roma in education and break the cycle of inequality. Partnerships established with schools and universities in non-Roma areas have increased educational access and opportunities for Roma students. These are set to continue, with other institutions planning to adopt similar programmes.

OUTPUTS – what was delivered or produced as a result of the activities financed by the project?

Children and their parents received advice with selecting a secondary school and help with preparing admissions. Free coaching was offered to help students prepare for university entrance exams, individual consultations and assistance with seeking scholarships to help overcome financial barriers. A designated coordinator at the prestigious University of Economics (EUBA) in Bratislava organised tailored learning support and help with practicalities. Pilot partnerships were put in place with the Trnava Higher Regional Unit (regional government administrative area) and the city of Skalica at primary level, and with the EUBA for third level.

OUTCOME – what change or effect was actually achieved for the target group? Include concrete facts and figures

As a result of the project, 20 Roma children passed from primary schools to quality secondary schools in non-traditional Roma areas in Skalica. At secondary level, four Roma students from disadvantaged backgrounds passed the admission exams for the University of Economics in Bratislava. They are the first students of Roma origin to have enrolled in the EUBA.

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CONTEXT - why was the project needed? Describe the challenges / issues / problems (fact-based)

According to the national statistics office, there are 23 500 homeless people in Slovakia. Of these, estimates suggest that somewhere between 4 000 – 5 000 people are sleeping rough in the capital, Bratislava. With less than 500 beds across only four shelters and four dormitories, and three drop-in centres, services are insufficient for covering the demand. The shelter capacity is one of the lowest per capita in central Europe.

OBJECTIVE – to what extent was the longer-term goal achieved?

The project has helped to support vulnerable groups by addressing the gap in service provision for homeless people. This was achieved through the successful establishment of the day care and integration centre 'DOMEC' in Bratislava for homeless people. This is the first facility of its kind in the country.

OUTPUTS – what was delivered or produced as a result of the activities financed by the project?

Construction work on the day care centre was completed and a programme of services developed. DOMEC now offers a full range of services, from basic hygiene, clothing and food to specialist counselling. It also crucially provides guidance and support for helping clients to integrate back into society (permanent housing, job placements and a social network). The Salvation Army Norway was actively involved as a partner. It has a longstanding tradition as a service provider for homeless people. Particularly important has been its experience in street work and in working with local communities.

OUTCOME – what change or effect was actually achieved for the target group? Include concrete facts and figures

The project has surpassed its ambitions: 26 032 clients have accessed the centre and used the various services available. 258 clients have taken part in leisure activities, 207 clients are involved in regular work activities and 16 clients completed the full integration process. Vagus has also shared its experience, know-how and training materials developed with 50 professionals from other NGOs through a series of seminars.

Priority sector: Protecting cultural heritage

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CONTEXT - why was the project needed? Describe the challenges / issues / problems (fact-based)

Before the outbreak of the Second World War, Poland was home to the largest Jewish community in Europe. This community, and much of its heritage, was largely annihilated during the war. Lingering anti-Semitism also continues to threaten the survival of what remains. There is a critical need to save and protect the surviving Jewish heritage for future generations.

OBJECTIVE – to what extent was the longer-term goal achieved?

By increasing knowledge of Jewish heritage and history, the project has contributed to improving tolerance and cultural understanding. This was achieved through support for the educational and cultural programme at the Museum of the History of Polish Jews in Warsaw. Learning about the past has helped to raise awareness of shared values and the importance of cultural diversity for a tolerant society.

OUTPUTS – what was delivered or produced as a result of the activities financed by the project?

A wide variety of educational activities, largely addressed to children, young people and teachers, have taken place: free programmes for schools, theatre and music workshops, lectures, exhibitions and performances. Innovative components included a 'Museum on Wheels', which brought a multi-media mobile exhibition to local communities; and a Virtual Shtetl, which provides a record of the Jewish settlements across Poland. The project was run in close cooperation with several Norwegian institutions.

OUTCOME – what change or effect was actually achieved for the target group? Include concrete facts and figures

More than three million people have benefited from the project so far. This includes 440 000 school children who have taken part in activities at the Museum or online. Forty-three towns have been visited by the touring exhibition (Museum on Wheels). Eight hundred teachers received training. Of those, 50 have become POLIN ambassadors. A total of 2.6 million people use the online Virtual Shtetl. All of these activities have highlighted the country's rich Jewish heritage, and made it accessible for millions of people. The touring and virtual exhibitions have also opened up culture for people with limited access, including those with disabilities.

Priority sector: Justice and Home Affairs

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CONTEXT - why was the project needed? Describe the challenges / issues / problems (fact-based)

The European Commission (EC) have criticised the General Directorate Security (GDS) and raised concerns on the effectiveness and fairness of the judicial system in Bulgaria, including the compliance of human rights standards.

OBJECTIVE – to what extent was the longer-term goal achieved?

The main objective was capacity building of GDS staff and drafting of proposals for amendments to legislation. The intention was to improve the activity of the Directorate and make sure GDS staff carries out their duties in line with international standards.

OUTPUTS – what was delivered or produced as a result of the activities financed by the project?

GDS drafted and distributed analyses and summaries on good practices in a Manual of good practices, trained staff and filed two sets of proposals for legislative amendments with the Ministry of Justice.

OUTCOME – what change or effect was actually achieved for the target group? Include concrete facts and figures

All the planned activities were implemented. The project was successful and met the predefined expectations.

All target groups have reported on positive impact and that general awareness and understanding of human rights are increased.

All GDS security officers that are providing physical security for magistrates, and a good number of GDS security staff, participated in training. GDS officers have participated in study visits, roundtables and expert discussions, contributed to the drafting of the manual and the proposal for legislative amendments. GDS officials have better capacity in their jobs and they have a good dialogue with national and international organisations with similar tasks and challenges.

The Council of Europe have supported the project by providing overall advice on the implementation and information on European standards counterparts, assisting with the planning and organisation of the outputs and assisted in finding foreign experts to participate in the project activities.

Priority sector: Environmental protection and management

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CONTEXT - why was the project needed? Describe the challenges / issues / problems (fact-based)

Every 20 minutes one species disappears from the surface of the Earth. One in four mammal species and one in eight birds is threatened with extinction. In Poland, as elsewhere, there is a need for increased awareness and education about the importance of biodiversity and the value of ecosystems. By explaining people's dependency on nature, the aim of the project was to contribute to positive attitudes towards the environment in children 4 to 9 years of age. The hope is that this will carry over to adulthood and contribute to better protection of the environment.

OBJECTIVE – to what extent was the longer-term goal achieved?

Through a national educational campaign aimed at children and their teachers, the project set out to increase the awareness of the importance of biodiversity and ecosystems and of the educational activities promoting protection of and sustainable use of nature. Clear messages communicated through carefully selected media and educational tools, contributed to the wide reach and interest in the campaign.

OUTPUTS – what was delivered or produced as a result of the activities financed by the project?

To reach children, a series of cartoons about biodiversity and how people and the environment depend on and need each other was shown on children's TV channels in Poland, reaching in total more than two million people between 4 and 9 years of age and their parents. More than 130 500 people used the website where children can play online games with the same characters as in the cartoons. Another important part of the project was training of primary school and kindergarten teachers. 100 teachers took part in a four-day workshop that was held in four national parks. Here, surrounded by nature, the participants learnt about innovating teaching techniques and developing of tools to teach children about biodiversity. More than 1200 teachers also used an online incentive system where they could find educational activities and information about trips to national parks etc. In total, 15 educational tools were used for increasing the awareness on biodiversity and promoting sustainable usage of the environment.

OUTCOME – what change or effect was actually achieved for the target group? Include concrete facts and figures

As a result of the projects, a wide audience of children, parents and teachers have been informed about the importance of biodiversity in an attractive and interesting way. This contributes to more biodiversity friendly attitudes and raised awareness among teachers of educational tools and activities in this field. The project reached a higher number of people than expected and proved to be very effective.

Priority sector: Green industry innovation

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CONTEXT - why was the project needed? Describe the challenges / issues / problems (fact-based)

The Latvian enterprise Polipaks is producing packaging material for food and non-food industry and trade. The company generates plastic waste that could be recycled and used to produce a new product. This would contribute to reduction of emissions and more efficient use of energy.

OBJECTIVE – to what extent was the longer-term goal achieved?

The aim of the project was to establish a new garbage bag production line and technology that would reuse recycled plastic waste from production of other products. The use of this type of plastic garbage bags is experiencing a consistent growth of about 5 to 10 per cent per year in the Baltic States. The funding contributed to the realisation of the project's objective.

OUTPUTS – what was delivered or produced as a result of the activities financed by the project?

Equipment for production of household garbage bags were bought as well as equipment to reduce air pollution during the production. Three new jobs were created in the company.

OUTCOME – what change or effect was actually achieved for the target group? Include concrete facts and figures

As a result of the project, the company's production of low-density polyethylene (LDPE) waste (a form of plastic) is reduced to zero as all the LDPE waste is recycled and used for production of garbage bags. Furthermore, the installation of new equipment results in a 100 per cent reduction of air pollution from the production process. All in all, this contributes to reduced costs related to pollution as well as reduced energy costs for the company.

Priority sector: Public Health Initiatives

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CONTEXT - why was the project needed? Describe the challenges / issues / problems (fact-based)

The number of HIV cases in Romania has increased dramatically in recent years, going from 4% in 2007 to 29% in 2013. HIV and Hepatitis B and C (HBV/HBC) have high costs for society. The patients tend to be of low socioeconomic status and live in poverty in unsafe and poor environmental conditions. They often face discrimination from their communities and are at risk of unemployment. They are also likely to suffer from other illnesses that are consequences of the low level of immunity, such as TB and different types of cancer.

OBJECTIVE – to what extent was the longer-term goal achieved?

The project aimed to counter the spread of HIV, HBV and HCV infections among injecting drug users and to increase the effectiveness of screening programmes for high-risk groups. This was done by providing testing for HIV and HBV and HCV, increasing the availability of clean needles and condoms for drug users, training both specialists and general doctors on HIV prevention, and with awareness campaigns.

OUTPUTS – what was delivered or produced as a result of the activities financed by the project?

Through the project, 883 drug users were tested for HIV. Another 37 500 HIV, HBV, HCV tests were completed among other individuals with a high risk of chronic infections. In order to reduce the risk of infection, over 580 000 disposable syringes were made available for drug users through needle exchange programmes and 267 054 condoms were distributed.

OUTCOME – what change or effect was actually achieved for the target group? Include concrete facts and figures

As a result of the project, around 2000 drug users have received support aimed at reducing their vulnerability to HIV and Hepatitis B and C, including counselling, needle exchange programmes and condoms. Through the training of medical professionals, health care services are better equipped to prevent these diseases.

Priority sector: Research and Scholarship

[N.B. THE SUMMARY SHOULD CONTAIN A MAXIMUM OF 2 500 CHARACTERS INCLUDING SPACES]

Project title: Modelling precipitation in a mountain environment using an orographic precipitation model. Towards a better understanding, assessment and prediction of water resources in Sierra de Guadarrama National Park.

Country: Spain

Programme: EEA Scholarship programme

Project number: ES07-0026

Project cost: € 8 300

From EEA Grants: € 8 300

CONTEXT - why was the project needed? Describe the challenges / issues / problems (fact-based)

The Sierra de Guadarrama National Park place a crucial role in supplying fresh water to the Madrid metropolitan area, industry and agriculture. However, not much is known about the summer draughts and dry spells that happen in the area. Current observation and modelling techniques aimed at assessing rain and snow have their limitations, particularly as they require a lot of time and resources.

OBJECTIVE – to what extent was the longer-term goal achieved?

The project aimed to increase the understanding of mountain precipitation by performing a high resolution assessment of the water and snow catchment in the national park. The assessment was made by using on-site measurements and mathematical modelling. The modelling was specifically designed to measure orographic precipitation – that is, rain, snow, or other precipitation that happens when moist air is lifted as it moves over mountains.

OUTPUTS – what was delivered or produced as a result of the activities financed by the project?

Through the project, a complete set of reliable measurements have been made available. This was done by applying a simple and fast tool for modelling precipitation at mountains which was developed by the Norwegian project partner, Uni Research. A database of precipitation during 1989-2013 in the Sierra de Guadarrama National Park was developed.

OUTCOME – what change or effect was actually achieved for the target group? Include concrete facts and figures

The project has contributed to increased knowledge about the nature of mountain precipitation in an area that serves as a highly important water source for both current and future generations. The knowledge acquired can therefore be beneficial for future water management and policy making.

Priority sector: Climate change and renewable energy

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CONTEXT - why was the project needed? Describe the challenges / issues / problems (fact-based)

Research indicates that the typical Polish resident has a negative image of the costs associated with energy saving houses. Indeed, the construction of a standard house is 10-20% cheaper. However, as the amount spent on maintenance, water, heating and energy use is much higher than in energy saving houses, the costs quickly add up.

OBJECTIVE – to what extent was the longer-term goal achieved?

The project aims to raise public awareness on the cost-saving benefits of energy efficient housing in Poland. An educational campaign promoting environmental awareness and energy savings in households proved to be very successful. The experience gained from the project will allow for more effective planning of educational and promotional activities in the future.

OUTPUTS – what was delivered or produced as a result of the activities financed by the project?

Through the project, a campaign called 'House That Saves for Me' invited people to take a closer look at the benefits of energy efficiency through educational and promotional activities in media. TV spots were produced highlighting how money saved by reducing heating costs can be spent on other things. A user-friendly website was launched encouraging users to explore the benefits of energy efficient housing. The website provides the users with information on energy saving construction, as well as a savings calculator. A mobile app was developed aiming to reach young people about to start their own families and build new homes. The app provides practical advice on energy efficiency construction, and can help visualise the building process of an energy saving house, as well as the costs associated with it.

OUTCOME – what change or effect was actually achieved for the target group? Include concrete facts and figures

The campaign was very successful in raising public awareness on energy efficiency, and exceeded its established target with more than 40%. In 2014, the campaign received the 'Social Campaign of the Year' award for its efforts to promote responsible practices and environmental awareness.