



RESTRICTED CALL
PREVENTION OF NON-COMMUNICABLE DISEASES IN SLOVAK SELF-GOVERNING REGIONS
(Sk - HEALTH)
Swiss Contribution
SLOVAKIA

1. BASIC DATA AND CONDITIONS

The Restricted call “Prevention of non-communicable diseases in Slovak Self-Governing Regions” (hereinafter referred to as “Restricted call”) is the Programme Component 2 of the “Swiss-Slovak Health Programme” (hereinafter referred to as “the Programme”).

The **aim** of the Restricted Call is to strengthen the systemic approach to preventing non-communicable diseases (NCDs) and promoting health by ensuring the active participation of all Self-Governing Regions (SGRs) in the Programme. This initiative complements Programme Components 1 and 3. Across all Programme components, the focus is on developing an effective management model and enhancing cross-sectoral, multi-level collaboration among key stakeholders in the field of NCDs prevention and health promotion.

The main **objective** of the Programme shall be **reduction of death rate from preventable and treatable causes and reduction of preventable NCDs, while all the Components shall contribute to this objective by fulfilling the complementary partial objectives and actions.**

The Restricted call shall support the pilot initiatives at the regional level focused on activities promoting health and healthy lifestyle.

Call launching:	19 May 2025
Call closure:	30 September 2025 23:59 CEST
Call number:	HLT02
Programme impact:	Reduction of death rate from preventable and treatable causes and reduction of preventable NCDs
Programme output(s):	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Governance model for NCDs prevention and health promotion endorsed • Coordinated involvement of the self-governments in NCDs prevention and health promotion • Awareness and understanding of the NCDs and health promotion among the general public increased • Improved coordination and communication at the municipal level in the area of NCDs prevention and health promotion
Maximum project grant to be applied for:	EUR 1,039,888
Minimum project grant to be applied for:	EUR 500,000
Co-financing:	Co-financing is not required.
Total allocation:	EUR 8,319,110
Announced by:	Ministry of Investments, Regional Development and Informatization of the Slovak Republic
Eligible applicants:	Self-Governing Regions



<p>Eligible partners:</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National administration, excluding the Ministry of Health of the SR and the Public Health Authority of the SR; Regional Public Health Authorities are eligible Partners, however, Regional Public Health Authorities which are part of Component 1 of the Programme cannot be awarded the project grant. • regional administration (including associations), • local administration (including associations and cities), • university/academic sector and schools, • NGO/non-profit sector, • private sector and other organizations established as a legal person either in Switzerland or Slovakia and international organizations to be actively involved in, and effectively contributing to, the implementation of a Programme Component.
<p>Further conditions:</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Programme Component objective shall be in line with the objective of the Programme, which is the reduction of death rate from preventable and treatable causes and reduction of preventable NCDs rate in Slovakia. 2. The Programme Component Operator shall dedicate 1-2 FTE of the new or existing personnel capacities to perform a set of tasks in the area of NCDs prevention and health promotion, defined in Annex No. 3 as a Tasks and Qualification Requirements of the role of the Prevention Coordinator. Self-Governing Regions shall sustain the active fulfilment of the tasks during the sustainability period. 3. The Programme Component Operator shall accept the methodological supervision under the leadership of the Programme Component 1 Operator, the Ministry of Health of the Slovak Republic and follow its methodology. 4. The Programme Component Operator shall become member of and actively participate in the multi-sectoral network and communication platform created and maintained by the Ministry of Health of the Slovak Republic. 5. The Programme Component Operator must present the intervention implemented within the Programme for evaluation and incorporation to the National Portal of Best Practice. 6. Interregional cooperation during the implementation and sustainability period. 7. The Programme Component selected through this Call for Proposals shall be implemented in line with applicable state aid rules. 8. The application shall, for the eligible activities 3–11 defined in chapter 5 of this document, include: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Description of the planned outputs of the activities to be reached at population / patient level: number of inhabitants / patients included or addressed, method for evaluation of the results based on the baseline and follow-up measurement, b. Description of the way in which hard-to-reach communities will be addressed by the activity, c. Description of the synergies / complementarities between already existing activities in the region (conducted either by Public Health Authorities, Self-Governing region, NGOs or private sector) and the activity planned within the application,



	d. Basic information about construction work planned <u>if relevant: objective/-s of construction work and relation to the planned outputs, planned budget for construction work, planned timeline.</u>
Funding source(s):	Swiss Contribution and State Budget of the SR

2. CONTEXT AND RELEVANCE

The second **Swiss-Slovak Cooperation Programme** is implemented based on [the Framework Agreement between the Swiss Federal Council and the Government of the Slovak Republic on the implementation of the Second Swiss Contribution to selected EU Member States to reduce economic and social disparities within the EU](#) (hereinafter referred to as “the Framework Agreement”), signed on 19 September 2023. The conclusion of the Framework Agreement allows the Slovak Republic to receive funds from the Second Swiss Contribution under the so-called cohesion allocation of CHF 44.2 million (approx. EUR 46.41 million), of which CHF 15 million has been allocated for the Health Area (approx. EUR 17.65 million).

The basic framework of the Programme, including its thematic areas of support, financial allocation, duration, objectives and specific conditions of implementation are defined in Annex of the Framework Agreement Country-Specific Set-up.

The Programme was approved by the Swiss authorities on 18 December 2024. The Support Measure Agreement was signed on 1 April 2025.

The implementation of the Programme is carried out in accordance with the [Regulations on the implementation of the Second Swiss Contribution to selected EU Member States to reduce economic and social disparities within the EU](#) (hereinafter referred to as “the Regulation”), the Framework Agreement, the Support Measure Agreement and [other implementing programme documents](#).

"SWISS-SLOVAK HEALTH PROGRAMME" (SK-HEALTH)

The Programme is implemented by the Ministry of Investments, Regional Development and Informatization of the Slovak Republic as the Programme Operator. The cooperating entity is the Ministry of Health of the Slovak Republic as the line Ministry and the Programme Component 1 Operator.

The **objective** of the Programme is to support the implementation of the Slovak Strategic framework for health care for 2014-2030, in particular the prevention and control of non-communicable diseases (NCDs) and the advancement of health promotion. This shall be done via creation and endorsement of the Governance model for NCDs prevention and health promotion, coordinated involvement of the self-governments, strengthened awareness and understanding of the NCDs and health promotion among the general public, and improved coordination and communication at the national, regional and municipal level.

Pre-defined Programme Component 1 “Strengthening governance of the NCDs prevention and health promotion in Slovakia”

Pre-defined Programme Component 1 will be implemented by the Ministry of Health of the Slovak Republic as the Programme Component 1 Operator in cooperation with the Public Health Authority and 8 regional Public Health Authorities as the Programme Component 1 Partners.

Programme Component 1 is focused on:



- a. Creation of the Governance model for coordinated system of NCDs Prevention and Health Promotion,
- b. Establishment of the Digital Platform called “National Portal of Best Practice” as a Toolbox and Accumulator of best practice in field of NCDs Prevention and Health Promotion,
- c. Health Promotion and Disease Prevention Personal Capacities strengthening.

Programme Component 2: Restricted Call for Proposals for Self-Governing Regions

The Restricted call builds on the foundation laid by Programme Component 1, focusing creation and maintenance of the network of prevention coordinators and at the same time on the implementation of specific measures on regional level. These measures directly address needs of the specific region in the area of prevention of NCDs and/or health promotion.

Programme Component 3: Open Call for Proposals on prevention of NCDs in Slovak cities and towns

The Call builds on the foundation established by Programme Component 1, focusing on the creation and maintenance of a network of prevention coordinators while simultaneously supporting the implementation of targeted measures on local level. These measures are designed to directly address the specific needs of each municipality in the areas of NCDs prevention and health promotion.

The synergy is ensured by the complementarity of the three components, as the pillars of systemic approach towards NCDs prevention and health promotion in Slovakia. While Component 1 focuses on development of governance model and coordination mechanisms, Components 2 and 3 further develop complexity of the coordinated network at all levels of governance and moreover, implement targeted actions. Together, they contribute to reduction of death rate from preventable and treatable causes and reduction of preventable NCDs rate by improved governance, coordination among actors and awareness among public.

3. RESTRICTED CALL EXPECTATIONS

According to the updated Strategic framework for health care for 2014-2030, NCDs, such as cardiovascular diseases, cancers, diabetes and chronic respiratory diseases **account for more than 80% of mortality, morbidity and disability in Slovakia**. Around 13 700 people died of cancer in 2019 – the second highest mortality rate in the EU. Slovakia has one of the highest death rates in the EU from preventable and treatable causes.

Long-term effects of NCDs and their progression over time, in combination with the ageing of the population, create enormous strain on public resources and health-related expenses. As a result, health is not only a social issue but also a critical economic concern, with these two dimensions being closely interconnected.

The most serious gaps identified in Slovakia were **absence of systematic and coordinated approach in the area of prevention and health promotion, shortage of capacities and resources, and absence of functioning governance mechanisms and processes**.

The ambition of the Restricted Call is, inter alia, to support **the cooperation** of entities active in the field of NCDs prevention and health promotion in order to implement **wide range of measures** and increase awareness and education with the aim **to protect health of population, with emphasis on hard-to-reach communities**.

The supported Programme Components shall implement **meaningful actions** in the following areas:



1. Dedication of 1-2 FTE of the new or existing personnel capacities to perform a set of tasks in the area of NCDs prevention and health promotion, defined in Annex No. 3 as a Tasks and Qualification Requirements of the role of the Prevention Coordinator.
2. Active engagement of supported applicants in the multi-sectoral network of stakeholders and the communication platform coordinated by Ministry of Health of the Slovak Republic, facilitating knowledge exchange and collaboration
3. Implementation of at least 1 intervention from a range of eligible activities, aimed at enhancing NCDs prevention and health promotion in regions. The list of eligible activities is listed in Chapter 5.
4. Presentation of implemented interventions by practice owners as examples of best practice. These examples of best practice shall be evaluated and added to National Portal of Best Practice through “Call for best and promising practices in the field of health promotion and NCDs prevention” organized by Ministry of Health of the Slovak Republic.

The Applicants are **encouraged to reach out to the hard-to-reach communities**. This term indicates existing barriers in terms of not only social exclusion, but also geographical barriers, age and health barriers, lack of knowledge barriers, economic barriers (e.g. many in-habitants living in distant areas do not have car and are immobile).

The Applicants are also encouraged to **Slovak-Swiss cooperation** with the aim of **strengthening the bilateral relationship in the area of NCDs prevention and health promotion**, as well as mutually sharing experience, know-how and best practices.

The importance of the **balance between primary and secondary prevention** in activities is strongly emphasised and will be followed-up during the programme evaluation process.

4. LOGFRAME

Programme Components supported under the Programme shall contribute to the Programme Impact defined as **“Reduction of death rate from preventable and treatable causes and reduction of preventable NCDs”** and to the following **Programme Outcomes** and **Programme Outputs**:

- *Outcome 1: “Governance model for NCDs prevention and health promotion endorsed” specifically to its output 1.3 “National Portal of Best Practice established”*. The Programme Components selected in this Call do not contribute to any of the indicators for this Outcome directly, but are necessary for the successful implementation of this Outcome
- *Outcome 2: “Coordinated involvement of the self-governments in NCDs prevention and health promotion” specifically to its outputs 2.1 “Self-governments actively engaged in de-fined tasks in the area of NCDs prevention and health promotion”, 2.2 “Self-governments informed on best practices in the area of NCDs prevention and health promotion”*
- *Outcome 3: “Awareness and understanding of the NCDs and health promotion among the general public increased” specifically to its output 3.1 “Interventions in the area of NCDs prevention and health promotion implemented by the self-governments”*

In the Application Form, the Applicants are required to set target values for the Programme Outcome and Output Indicators that their Programme Component is supposed to contribute to.

For all indicators, target values must be provided. The target value must be higher than zero. Some indicators may have their target values fixed by the Programme Operator.



Indicators:

Outcome 2: Coordinated involvement of the self-governments in NCDs prevention and health promotion

- **Mandatory indicator – 2.1** Number of Self-Governing Regions actively involved in NCDs prevention platform – target value fixed to 1
Definition: It is expected that if the Self-Governing Regions are active in the platform (actively attend meetings organized by national authorities, initiate meetings with regional PHAs) then their engagement in the NCDs prevention is active.

Output Indicators:

Output 2.1 Self-governments actively engaged in defined tasks in the area of NCDs prevention and health promotion

- **Mandatory indicator - 2.1.1** Compliance of all Self-Governing Regions with set of tasks in field of NCDs prevention and health promotion defined in Support Measure Proposal – target value fixed to 1
Definition: Each of 8 Self-Governing Regions will be committed to dedicate 1-2 FTE of the new or existing personnel capacities to perform a set of tasks in the area of NCDs prevention and health promotion, defined in Annex No. 3 as a Job Description for Prevention Coordinator. Fulfilment of these tasks shall not necessarily be connected to new positions at the Self-Governing Regions. Each Self-Governing Region will receive financial remuneration for 1-2 FTE for the duration of the project to be able to cover the personnel costs. Self-Governing Regions are obliged to sustain active fulfilment of the tasks during the sustainability period.
- **Mandatory indicator - 2.1.3** Number of interventions implemented by self-governments
Definition: It is expected that each Self-Governing Region, as well as each City / Town will implement at least one activity from the pre-defined list of interventions.

Output 2.2 Self-governments informed on best practices in the area of NCDs prevention and health promotion

- **Mandatory indicator - 2.2.2** Number of Self-governments attending the Market Place event - – target value fixed to 1
Definition: Market place events are important mechanism for endorsement of common and replicable solutions for regional / local NCD challenges. The aim is to introduce options and motivate stakeholders to implement innovative approach and solutions. Attendance of the main actors in field of NCDs prevention and health promotion is essential for the spread of knowledge and implementation into the practice.
- **Mandatory indicator – 2.2.3** Number of meetings between the Self-Governing Regional and Regional Public Health Authorities
Definition: It is important that the Self-Governing Regions are active on the platform and that their members attend the platform meetings. It is also important that the regional level of state administration and self-government levels meet regularly, through bilateral or multilateral meeting.

Outcome 3: Awareness and understanding of the NCDs and health promotion among the general public increased

Output Indicators:

Output 3.1 Interventions in the area of NCDs prevention and health promotion implemented by the self-governments

- **Mandatory indicator - 3.1.1** Number of interventions/activities conducted in the area of NCDs prevention or health promotion 2025-2029



Definition: It is expected that the awareness and understanding of the general public will be increase mostly through the activities implemented by regional and local stakeholders, especially by the Self-Governing Regions and the towns and cities. This includes activities such as Health days/ prevention days, school activities, employer education activities etc.

The full Logframe of the Programme is listed in the Support Measure Agreement.

5. ELIGIBLE ACTIVITIES

The grant shall support activities built on cooperation of Self-Governing Regions on health prevention programmes, as mandated by relevant legislation.

Eligible Activities and Initiatives:

1. Position of Prevention Coordinator establishment and its maintenance / or dedication of 1-2 FTE of the new or existing personnel capacities to perform a set of tasks in the area of NCDs prevention and health promotion (mandatory activity).

Set of mandatory tasks and qualification requirements is defined in Annex No. 3 (Tasks and Qualification Requirements of the role of the Prevention Coordinator)

Self-Governing Regions are obliged to sustain active fulfilment of the tasks during the sustainability period.

2. Active participation in the multi-sectoral network of stakeholders and the communication platform coordinated by Ministry of Health of the Slovak Republic. This involvement includes regular engagement, collaboration, and contribution to discussions and initiatives within the network to support NCD prevention and health promotion efforts (mandatory activity).

In addition to the mandatory activities defined above, the applicant shall implement at least one activity from the list below, or activity of his choosing relevant to the Objective of the Programme, which is the **reduction of death rate from preventable and treatable causes and reduction of preventable NCDs rate.**

3. Initiatives to increase Health literacy:

1. Health education for general public – e.g. children / teachers / parents / elderly people,
2. Training for health experts (General Practitioners).

4. Initiatives that promote healthy behaviour and lifestyle:

1. Public awareness campaigns, and workshops on topics like nutrition, physical activity, and substance abuse prevention,
2. Media and communication strategies to disseminate information and encourage healthy behaviours (e.g. social media campaigns, public service announcements, health promotion materials like brochures and posters).
3. Initiatives to increase physical activity levels among populations, e.g. creation and development of fitness programs, physical education in schools and organizing various physical activities on regional and local level

5. Activities that identify risk factors or early signs of diseases in asymptomatic individuals, e.g. Blood pressure screenings, Cholesterol checks, Genetic testing for predisposition to certain conditions, Glycaemic control, BMI.



- 6. Implementation of measures and policies designed to create healthier environments and reduce exposure to health risks**, e.g. Smoking bans, Restrictions on advertising unhealthy foods to children, Regulations on workplace safety.
- 7. Access to and raising of awareness of services that support health maintenance and disease prevention**, e.g. regular health check-ups, screening of diseases, prenatal care, and counselling for lifestyle changes.
- 8. Services provided by the SGR (in coordination with municipalities) to ensure navigation and early access of target groups to health care services.**
- 9. Programs designed to improve dietary habits**, e.g. school lunch programs, snack programs, menu creation, food labelling initiatives, and community gardens.
- 10. Actions to improve health equity at community level inspired by [Marmot Places Concept](#)**
- 11. Introducing the concept of HIA (Health Impact Assessment) into decision-making process.**

The interventions should be tailored to specific communities to address local health issues and may involve partnerships with community organizations, local governments, and health services to deliver targeted interventions.

6. SELECTION PROCESS

The Application must meet all the conditions defined in Chapter 1 of this Restricted Call.

7. ELIGIBLE EXPENDITURES

An eligible expense is generally one that meets all of the following conditions:

1. it complies with the principles of effectiveness, efficiency and economy pursuant to Act No. 357/2015 on Financial Control and Auditing and on Amendments to Certain Laws as amended and Act No. 523/2004 Coll. on Budget Rules of the Public Service and of Change and Amendment of Some Acts as amended;
2. it was incurred in accordance with the terms of this call;
3. it is necessary for the implementation of the Programme Component, directly related to the execution of its activities and aimed at achieving the Programme Component objectives;
4. it was incurred and paid by the Programme Component Operator or Programme Component Partner within the specified time period set for Programme Component implementation;
5. it was actually incurred, recorded in the accounting documents of the Programme Component Operator or Programme Component Partner, is identifiable and verifiable, supported by original documentation in accordance with Act No. 431/2002 Coll. on Accounting as amended and on amendments of some acts.

Except for the so-called “ineligible expenditures” listed in Article 6.6 of the [Regulation](#), all types of expenditures may be eligible, provided that they meet the conditions listed in this Call and in Article 6.1 and 6.2 of the Regulation¹.

The period of eligibility of expenditure for each Programme Component will be set out in the Programme Component Contract. As a rule, expenditure under a Programme Component is eligible

¹ More information can also be found in the [Project Implementation Manual](#).



from the date of the decision on approval of the Programme Component by the Steering Committee for the Programme. Expenditure may be eligible until **31 December 2028**.

Expenditure shall be deemed to have been incurred when the subject matter of the expenditure has been delivered (in the case of goods) or performed (in the case of services and works), invoiced and paid for. In exceptional cases where the subject of the expenditure has been delivered or performed in the last month of the eligibility period, expenditure shall be deemed to have been incurred within the eligibility period even if the invoice was issued in the month immediately following the end of the eligibility period and paid within 30 calendar days of the date of issue.

The grant rate of the Programme Components is 100% for all Applicants.

Office and administrative expenses are part of a flat rate and their expenditure is not proven. Office and administrative costs are reimbursed at the flat rate of 7% of the eligible direct costs for staff employed under the Programme Component, as specified in the Programme Component Contract. Office and administrative costs shall be limited to the elements listed in chapter D, point 8.6.3 of the [Project Implementation Manual](#). No other form of reimbursement is possible, and these types of costs are not covered under any other cost categories.

Within each Programme Component, one general item called Reserve in the amount of 5% of the Total Eligible Expenditure of the Programme Component shall be obligatory, and the following expenses shall be financed from this item in particular:

- (a) expenditure on audits that may be required by the Audit Authority,
- (b) expenditure on translations of tender documents, if requested by the Swiss Party,
- (c) expenditure on reports by an independent auditor or a qualified and independent public official²,
- (d) a provision for foreign exchange losses of the Swiss counterparts,
- (e) other expenses for unforeseen circumstances.

Value added tax relating to eligible expenditure is an eligible expenditure if the Programme Component Operator is not liable to pay this tax or is not entitled to deduct this tax.

The recommended limits for certain expenditure are set out in [Annex 5](#) of the Project Implementation Manual.

Swiss and international organisations whose primary seat is outside Slovakia shall submit a report from an independent auditor qualified to carry out statutory audits of accounting documents, confirming that the claimed expenditure has been incurred in accordance with the Regulation, national legislation and relevant national accounting practices. This report shall, subject to paragraph 6.8.1 of the Regulations be considered sufficient proof of the expenditure incurred.

A report issued by a competent and independent public officer recognised by the relevant national authorities as having a budget and financial control capacity over the entity incurring the costs and who has not been involved in the preparation of the financial statements, certifying that the claimed costs are incurred in accordance with the Regulations, the relevant law and national accounting practices, shall, subject to paragraph 6.8.1 of the Regulations, also be accepted as sufficient proof of expenditure incurred.

² According to Articles 6.8.4 and 6.8.5 of the Regulations.



8. RECOMMENDED MILESTONES AND TIMEFRAME

The Programme Operator highly recommends that the Programme Components comply with the following time frame:

Event/Milestone	Expected date
Call launching	19 May 2025
Expected Date of Information Day on the Call (online)	June 2025
Call closure – deadline for submission of applications	30 September 2025 23:59 CET
Expected date of announcement of the results of the Call	30 November 2025
Expected possible start date of Programme Component implementation	31 January 2026
Latest date for completion of Programme Component	31 December 2028
End of eligibility of the Programme Component expenditures	31 December 2028
Deadline for submission of the Last Payment Application (Final Project Report)	15 January 2029

9. PARTNERSHIP

Programme Components **can** be implemented in partnership. The eligible Programme Component partners are set in chapter 1 of the Restricted call. A Programme Component application can have up to 4 Programme Component Partners.

Partnership statement, letter of intent or other similar documents proving the Partner's interest in participating in the Programme Component shall be submitted along with the Application. The document should be signed and submitted as a scanned version or .PDF version, if a digital signature is integrated.

The involvement of the Swiss partner in the implementation of the Programme Component is positively perceived. The Swiss partner is not subject to any co-financing obligation and does not bear any exchange rate risks. The Applicant shall provide the co-financing of the Swiss partner.

The partners' expenses can be included in the Programme Component budget. Expenditure by Swiss Programme Component Partners is reported under a separate Activity. Partnership agreements must be concluded between the applicant and the Programme Component partner/-s.

Partnership agreements with financially participating partners will be submitted at the latest before the first payment is made to the Programme Component Operator.

Partnerships can represent an important opportunity to enhance the quality and expand the potential of a Programme Component.

Partnership does not and must not replace:

- Providing routine project administration, such as preparing monitoring reports, maintaining accounts, etc. These activities are a standard part of project management but do not, in themselves, define a partnership.
- The provision of standard commercial services available on the market and required during the project (e.g. IT services, marketing services, etc.). Suppliers that typically provide



commercial services are not considered partners unless there is a deeper collaboration that adds value beyond traditional services.

- Delivery of goods and construction work.

Partnerships must not be used as a means of circumventing business relations. When selecting suppliers, it is essential to comply with the Public Procurement Act³.

In relation to the Programme Operator, it is important to realise that the Applicant is responsible for all commitments and irregularities of the Partner.

10. PARTNERSHIP WITH SWISS ENTITIES

One of the objectives of the Swiss Contribution is to strengthen the bilateral relations with the Swiss entities. Partnership Programme Components with organisations from Switzerland may be considered an advantage.

Programme Component partners from Switzerland shall be actively involved in the development of the Programme Component and effectively contribute to its implementation. The eligible activities in cooperation with the Swiss Programme Component partner within the Programme Component are e.g. skills sharing, examples of good practise and know-how transfer, joint workshops, study trips, studies and other bilateral activities supporting the objective, outcome and outputs achievement.

11. DECISION

The Administrative Compliance Check and the Eligibility Check of the application and of the applicant is ensured by the technical means of the EGRANT system.

The Programme Components will be selected in a restricted call that is called "Vyzvanie" in Slovak and will take a form of direct letter sent to all eight Self-Governing Regions with an invitation to submit proposal. For the sake of simplification, we will use the term Restricted Call in further text.

Since the call is restricted to an already defined group of applicants and its main mission is to engage, if possible, all Slovak Self-Governing Regions, no ranking shall be established and no expert assessment is required. Instead, the Programme Operator shall review all submitted applications to ensure they meet the compliance conditions set in chapter 6 of the Restricted Call. Applications meeting these criteria will be presented to the Steering Committee for approval. If necessary, the Programme Operator may seek the assistance of the Ministry of Health of the Slovak Republic with the compliance review.

Decision-making is *mutatis mutandis* governed by the Rules of Procedure of the Steering Committee for the relevant Support Measure.

The core principle of the Restricted Call is to engage all 8 Self-Governing Regions. If, by the deadline of the Restricted Call, not all Self-Governing Regions have submitted their applications, or if some fail to meet the compliance criteria, the Restricted Call will be re-opened, with invitations sent again to the remaining Self-Governing Regions.

If any Self-governing region fails to submit its Programme Component application successfully within three months of the regional elections (October 2026), the uncommitted allocation might be

³ Act No. 343/2015 Coll. on Public Procurement



reallocated to other Programme Components within the Restricted Call, in accordance with Article 4.12.6.c) (ii) of the Regulations ("for reallocations among Programme Components: no Programme Component may receive reallocated funds of more than 25% of its initial budget or of more than CHF one million").

12. FINANCING AND REPORTING

Payments of the Project Grant shall take the form of **Advance Payment**. The Programme Operator shall ensure the payment of the Project Grant to the Programme Component Operator through Advance Payments **up to 100% of the Project Grant amount**, unless otherwise provided in the Programme Component Contract. The amount of **each Advance Payment shall not exceed 20%** of the amount of the Project Grant awarded.

The first Advance Payment shall be paid following the signature of the Programme Component Contract, unless a condition precedent is set out in Programme Component Contract. In such case the first Advance Payment shall be paid on the fulfilment of such condition. The first Advance Payment shall be made in accordance with the Indicative Reimbursement Plan, which follows a four-month frequency, in the amount as per the approved Application and within **fifteen working days from the date of entitlement**, which is defined as the date when all conditions for payment specified in the Programme Component Contract are fulfilled.

The Programme Component Operator submits a **Programme Component Interim Report** at specified intervals, called Reporting Periods, to the Programme Operator in order to regularly inform about the quality and progress of the Programme Component implementation. In the EGRANT system, the Programme Component Interim Report is a part of the Payment Request. The frequency of submission of Payment Requests is normally once every 4 months. The Programme Component Operator shall submit the Payment Request within 15 working days of the end of the relevant Reporting Period.

The Programme Component Operator declares the completion of the Programme Component with the last payment request. Unless otherwise agreed, the Programme Component Operator is obliged to submit the completed last Payment Request by 15 January 2029 at the latest.

Reports and Payment Requests shall be submitted in the Slovak language.

Sustainability is the period during which Programme Component Operators must maintain the purpose, objectives and outputs of the Programme Component. The sustainability of the Programme Component will be described in the Application and must be set for a minimum of 3 years. The minimum sustainability period of the Programme Component will be specified in the Programme Component Contract. The Programme Component sustainability report will be submitted as part of the Programme Components reports. During the sustainability period, the Programme Component Operators will be required to provide a report on the maintenance of the Programme Component's outputs, and compliance with conditions may be verified on-site.



13. STATE AID

The Programme Operator shall, in line with Article 3.3.8 of the Regulation, ensure that any public support under the Swiss Contribution complies with the procedural and substantive State aid rules applicable at the time when the public support is granted.

The activities eligible under the Call are aimed at NCDs prevention and health promotion in Slovakia. The activities are non-economic in nature, they are supposed to be aimed at public interest, carried out by predominantly public or non-governmental organisations, without direct economic activity and are therefore generally not considered as providing *de minimis* or State aid.

However, before approving an Application the Programme Operator will carry out a State aid test and each application will be assessed individually to ensure compliance with the *de minimis* or State aid rules.

If the Programme Operator finds that the grant may constitute *de minimis* or State aid, it will verify whether the aid can be granted as *de minimis* aid within the meaning of an existing *de minimis* aid scheme.

14. PROJECT APPLICATION SUBMISSION

Applications shall be submitted electronically via EGRANT system accessible at direct link by the date and time of the restricted call closure specified in Chapter 1 of this Restricted call (Basic data and conditions). In the EGRANT system it is necessary to register for the Restricted call.

The procedure for submitting the Application is set out in the Project Implementation Manual. Instructions for completing the Application Form are provided directly in the Application Form in the EGRANT system. The Application Form shall be submitted in Slovak language with a summary in English language. The Executive Summary is necessary and important due to the involvement of persons from abroad at different stages of the evaluation.

The following mandatory attachments shall be submitted along with Application:

1. Partnership statement, letter of intent or other similar documents proving the partner's interest in participating in the Programme Component, if the Programme Component is planned to be implemented in partnership,
2. Title deeds for all properties on which construction work will take place (to be assessed as part of the Programme Component), if relevant. If the applicant or partner is not the owner of the property, attach a lease, property management agreement or other agreement declaring the relationship to the property. This agreement must be valid for the period of the duration of the project and the sustainability period.

Optional attachments may be submitted within the Application. Relevant supporting documentation demonstrating compliance with individual criteria, if relevant, is recommended as optional annexes.

15. FURTHER INFORMATION

There is no legal entitlement to the Project Grant.



Before and during preparation of an Application the Applicant is strongly advised to comply with the following documents, as amended:

- Project Implementation Manual, including Annexes,
- EGRANT system instructions for completing the Application (Annex No. 1b) [insert hyperlink].

Further recommended documents to be consulted are:

- [SUPPORT MEASURE AGREEMENT](#) between the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation and the Ministry of Investments, Regional Development and Informatization of the Slovak Republic on the Support Measure „Swiss-Slovak Health Programme“,
- [the Management System of the Second Swiss-Slovak Cooperation Programme,](#)
- [Framework agreement on the implementation of the second Swiss contribution,](#)
- [The Regulation on the implementation of the second Swiss contribution to selected Member States of the European Union,](#)
- Other documents published at the webpage www.swiss-contribution.sk.

The Programme Operator will also introduce and regularly update a document with questions and answers regarding the call every Monday, if relevant.

The Programme Operator can be contacted for queries by:

- e-mail: swiss-contribution@mirri.gov.sk (the request needs to be linked to the call – by call code HLT02; questions received by e-mail will be responded within 7 days);
- phone: +421-2-2092 8450.

16. CALL ANNEXES

Annex No. 1a): Application form – Preview

Annex No. 1b): Instructions for completing the Application

Annex No. 2: Rules of Procedures of Steering Committee

Annex No. 3: Tasks Description and Qualification Requirements of the position “Prevention Coordinator”