

UNDP RBEC Istanbul Regional Hub
Minutes of the Virtual Local Project Appraisal Committee Review
Project: UNDP-Slovakia Partnership: Effective Development Cooperation Solutions for the SDGs

Date: 18-25 June 2018

1. Present

Name	Title
Rastislav Vrbensky	Deputy Regional Director, IRH/RBEC, Chairperson
Matilda Dimovska	Team Leader, Country Office Support Team, IRH, LPAC Member
Janthomas Hiemstra	Country Director, UNDP in Ukraine, LPAC Member
Steliana Nedera	Deputy Resident Representative, UNDP in Serbia, LPAC Member
Miodrag Dragisic	Assistant Resident Representative, UNDP in Montenegro, LPAC Member
Shelley Inglis	Governance and Peacebuilding Cluster Leader, IRH, LPAC Member
Bharati Sadasivam	Team Leader, Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment, IRH, LPAC Member
Andrey Pogrebnyak	Operations Advisor, IRH, LPAC Member
Ekaterina Paniklova	Senior Programme Coordinator, IRH, Quality Assurance
Ivan Zverzhanovski	Team Leader, New Donors and Emerging Partnerships Team, IRH, Presenter
Mara Niculescu	Partnerships Analyst, New Donors and Emerging Partnerships Team, IRH, Ex-officio
Marina Ten	Head of Programme Support Unit / RBM Monitoring Specialist, IRH

2. Project review

LPAC review was initiated for a new project "UNDP-Slovakia Partnership: Effective Development Cooperation Solutions for the SDGs."

The project is continuation of a long-standing partnership between UNDP and Slovakia. Through this partnership, the UNDP and the Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs of the Slovak Republic will support putting development effectiveness principles into practice, thus contributing to advancing the effectiveness of global development efforts to achieve the ambitious SDG agenda.

The project will be composed of 3 components: 1) creating an enabling environment for Slovak private companies to contribute to Slovakia's international development cooperation and piloting new ODA programming modalities capitalizing on additional financial and non-financial resources from the private sector; 2) strengthening Slovakia's positioning as development cooperation provider in the field of security sector reform, one of the niche areas of Slovakia's ODA; and 3) equipping the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Slovak Republic with the skills, procedures and programmatic/strategic tools to provide effective and high-quality ODA to its partners. In addition, this project will contribute to the development of ODA capacities in Western Balkans EU accession countries, inter alia by sharing Slovakia's experience in this field.

The QA Assessment for design and appraisal (attached) gave the project highly satisfactory rating. The project is exempted from the Social and Environmental Screening as the project activities mainly include preparation of reports and information dissemination and mostly focus on knowledge management work.

The planned duration of the project is 3 years (2018-2021), and the funding of approximately \$1 million is coming from the Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs of the Slovak Republic. The project will be directly implemented by the Istanbul Regional Hub, with the project team to be based in Bratislava.

3. Summary of LPAC member comments / Review of the QA Assessment

The project is supported by the LPAC members subject to some comments to be addressed in the final project document. Detailed comments log is presented in Annex 1. All suggestions raised by the LPAC members have been reflected in the revised project document.

4. Final LPAC recommendation:

LPAC recommends to approve the project, which is of sufficient quality to continue as planned.

Prepared by:

Mara Niculescu, Partnerships Analyst, Partnerships Team, Istanbul Regional Hub



28.06.2018

Cleared by:

Ekaterina Paniklova, Senior Programme Coordinator, QA



LPAC recommendation is approved by:

Rastislav Vrbensky
Deputy Assistant Administrator
Deputy Regional Director, Istanbul Regional Hub
Chairperson of the LPAC Review

Annex 1: Comment Log to the draft Project document “UNDP-Slovakia Partnership: Effective Development Cooperation Solutions for the SDGs”

Comments from LPAC members	Response by Project Developer
<p>Comments from Andrey Pogrebnyak, IRH</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. I noted the Output indicator 1.7. <i>Number of mini-grants offered for 2 companies engaged in PSE activities with clear development outcomes</i>. UNDP as per its current FRRs, can't provide mini-grants to the private sector organizations. Also, we do not put specific number of companies in the indicator – this is our target. 2. As the funding envisaged for the security sector reform in both 2) and 3) components will be used to support SEESAC, won't it make sense to add the funding to SEESAC project directly? 3. I also noted that there may be a need to adjust the project management structure. MFEA is both – Beneficiary and Supplier. Also, IRH is in 3 places - executive, beneficiary and supplier. It is not clear what is the role of TEAM B. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Target was revised as per suggestion. The project will use the innovation challenge as per POPP and follow corporate procedure. 2. The partners' programming priorities correspond to those pursued by UNDP through SEESAC project. Therefore, this is an opportunity to join efforts and contribute to a regional, well established initiative, which the donor agreed to, in conjunction with an event and a specialized secondment. 3. In terms of the project management structure, the MFEA will act as beneficiary only when it regards capacity building activities which UNDP will facilitate, including trainings on private sector engagement, a new gender mainstreaming manual, implementation support, etc. The MFEA will serve as a Supplier as they provide financial resources and human resources (a secondee who will deliver some of the results of the project). The key Beneficiary role will be performed by IRH COST who will represent the beneficiary countries (Ukraine, Western Balkan sub-region. Team B was deleted.
<p>Comments by Matilda Dimovska, IRH</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Innovation in relation to private sector engagement is planned and introduction of a Private Sector Engagement (PSE) facility: which is very timely in view of UNDP's search for new modalities for working with private sector. I find the focus of this component on the thematic priorities particularly relevant. Further clarification of activity result 1.1, points 4 and 5 is needed, as I found it difficult to capture the intention. Further, the document says that the project implementation will be ensured by COs (WB and Moldova) – hence my question if this has been consulted with the COs and sufficiently budgeted (given the aggregate level of the budget I could not see this detail)? Activity 1.3 is about supporting the Ukraine EE Secretariat with the aim to contribute to the 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The total budget of the PSE facility is 85.000 EUR, reflecting the budgetary priorities and availability of funds of the donor. The activity is meant to pilot 2 private sector engagement mini-projects using the innovation challenge modality. Depending on the level of interest and buy-in of local and Slovak companies, the funds can be implemented either by the Slovak Partnership team, with the support of the service provider that will assist with the capacity building component for the Slovak private companies OR by 2 COs who would support with the identification of relevant proposals and private sector partners. The preferred option is the second one, as the desired outcome is to link these funds to existing activities at the Country Office level, such as the Private Sector Engagement project in the Moldova Country Office. This activity is meant to be implemented in the second year of the project, building up on for example, the capacity building results of the first year. The project

<p>energy efficiency reform, an activity which I leave for Janthomas to comment.</p> <p>2. Slovak ODA capacity: again focused (on gender knowlwdge/mainstreaming) on area for which UNDP has lot to offer. Of particular interest is the ODA capacity to WB emerging donors, though this activity could be more elaborated to get better understanding of the type of planned support/activities.</p>	<p>manager will consult with the relevant Country Offices in due time, and will ensure that the implementation modality will prioritize integration and coordination of UNDP's efforts in the partner countries. Further clarifications were added in the project document as per the above.</p> <p>2. The Partnerships team and the respective COs are currently negotiating with both Serbia and Montenegro a package of actions to support the development of a coherent ODA management structure, so a comprehensive list of activities is not yet available. The type of support that is requested includes the development of primary and secondary ODA legislation, the development of ODA strategies, training for ODA practitioners in the respective national institutions and support for developing tools to monitor, report and implement ODA. The funding made available through this budget will be coordinated with the projects developed by the 2 respective Country Offices with UNDP IRH support. Further clarifications were added in the project document as per the above.</p>
<p>Comment from Miodrag Dragistic, UNDP in Montenegro In addition, Miodrag Dragistic suggest some additional text reflecting the status of the Country Office's work on ODA capacity building with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Montenegro. The suggested text was accepted in full, and is reflected in the amended project document.</p>	<p>The suggested text is reflected in the final project document.</p>
<p>Comments from Blerta Cela, UNDP in Ukraine The expectations cannot be as high as included in the proposal. With this amount of money, I can only hire one expert and possibly do a couple of events and report on year one only. We will not have any resources and will not be able to make commitments for year two and three without any financial resources and people here to monitor activities of the hub. We have informed the VPM office about this funding and we will have to work with him on the TOR of the expert.</p>	<p>The suggested changes in the project document were accepted, with the note that the original indicators and the narrative section of the prodoc on the Energy Hub were pre-agreed with the Ukraine CO (the initial indicators were suggested by the Country Office in late May 2018).</p>
<p>Endorsment with no further comments was received from Steliana Nedera, Deputy Resident Representative, UNDP in Serbia, and Irakli Kotetishvili, Anticorruption Specialist (on behalf of Shelley Inglis), Governance and Peacebuilding Team, IRH.</p>	<p>No action required</p>