



**ANNUAL PROGRAM REPORT  
Academic Year 2016-2017**

**Bratislava, November 2017**



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## **1. THE COMMISSION**

Based on the Agreement between the Slovak Republic (SR) and the United States of America (USA, 198/2005 Law register, the J. William Fulbright Commission for Educational Exchange is responsible for administering and supervising the Fulbright Program.

The Commission strives to:

- To support outstanding individuals in the SR who will contribute to extend expertise in their field of specialization;
- To bring leading U.S. scholars, students and professionals to the SR and to support the establishing of relationship and cooperation;
- To increase expertise in fields in which lecturing is provided and/or research is conducted in both countries;
- To extend activities by establishing cost sharing programs with participating institutions;
- To serve as an advising center on study and research possibilities in the SR for U.S. universities, students and academics.

The bi-national **Board of the Directors** oversees the operation of the Commission. Both the Slovak Minister of Education, Science, Research and Sport and the U.S. Ambassador to Slovak Republic appoint the Board members and serve as Honorary Chairmen.

The Board has the responsibility for setting long term goals and priorities of the program, program activities, selection and nomination of grantees, and coordination of finances of the Commission.

An amendment of the Agreement on the J. W. Fulbright Commission with an additional paragraph on the national visa for both U.S. and Slovak grantees and their dependents was approved in June 2017 by both governments.

Fulbright grantees from the United States are now eligible to receive no-fee non-immigrant visas which will allow them to enter the Slovak Republic and teach, research and study at Slovak institutions. This amendment also installs reciprocity in visa procedures for all grantees.

### **Academic Year 2016 - 2017 Commission Board**

#### **Honorary Chairmen:**

<b>Martina LUBYOVÁ</b>	Minister of Education, Science, Research and Sport of the Slovak Republic (since August 2017)
<b>Peter PLAVČAN</b>	Minister of Education, Science, Research and Sport of the Slovak Republic (till August 2017)
<b>Adam STERLING</b>	U.S. Ambassador to the Slovak Republic

**U.S. Members:**

<b>Bruna JAKUB</b>	Entrepreneur, Treasurer of the Commission
<b>Stephanie FITZMAURICE</b>	Assistant Public Affairs Officer, U.S. Embassy Bratislava (till July 2017)
<b>Jason KHILE</b>	Public Affairs Officer, U.S Embassy Bratislava
<b>Griffin ROZELL</b>	Assistant Public Affairs Officer, U.S. Embassy Bratislava (since July 2017)
<b>Aaron WALTER</b>	Center for European Studies, Cyril and Methodius University, Trnava

**Slovak Members:**

<b>Marek MOŠKA</b>	Director General of the Section of International Relations and European Affairs, Ministry of Education, Science, Research and Sport of the Slovak Republic, Alternate Treasurer
<b>Zuzana POLAČKOVÁ</b>	Regional Manager, epic job services, Bratislava
<b>Jana TOMKOVÁ</b>	Director of the Department of Cultural Diplomacy, Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs of the Slovak Republic
<b>Michal VAŠEČKA</b>	Associate Professor, Faculty of Social Studies, Masaryk University Brno, Czech Republic, BISLA Bratislava.

**Fulbright Commission Office**

<b>Nora HLOŽEKOVÁ</b>	Executive Director
<b>Denisa BEZÁKOVÁ</b>	Finance Officer
<b>Juraj BRYCHTA</b>	Program and Study Officer
<b>Dáša TAKO VELICHOVÁ</b>	Program Officer

**2. THE FULBRIGHT AWARDS**

The Commission implements a variety of high-profile award programs for U.S. and Slovak citizen based on open and merit based competition.

The Commission Board takes into account the recommendations of selection committees focusing on professional skills, academic achievements, promising career development, financial means available, and other program requirements; and announces the final nomination of Fulbright grantees.

### **Fulbright Scholarship for Graduate Studies**

Slovak and U.S. graduate students can apply for up to 9-months fellowships for independent research or study at Slovak or U.S. institutions, respectively. Candidates are required to have an outstanding university record and to submit high-quality, well-conceived projects.

Slovak applicants can conduct independent research; and if funding available to enroll in non-degree or Master's programs. They can apply in all fields except clinical medicine, MBA and LL.M. Candidates without extensive U.S. study experience are given preference.

U.S. applicants can pursue individual research projects under the leadership of a Slovak expert in the respective field. Knowledge of Slovak is required for commensurate with the level needed in fields such as political science, history, linguistics, and anthropology.

#### **U.S. Students**

<b>NAME</b>	<b>HOME INSTITUTION</b>	<b>PROJECT</b>	<b>PLACEMENT</b>	<b>*</b>
<b>RAJCAN</b> Vanda	Northwestern University, MI	Slovak Retribution Courts 1945-1948	Historical Institute, Slovak Academy of Sciences, Bratislava	10
<b>SHOWERS-CURTIS</b> Kathryn	University of Kentucky	Slovaks' Geospatial Linguistics	Faculty of Arts, Comenius University Bratislava	10

\*Duration/Month

#### **Slovak Students**

<b>NAME</b>	<b>HOME INSTITUTION</b>	<b>PROJECT</b>	<b>PLACEMENT</b>	<b>*</b>
<b>HROZENSKÝ</b> Tomáš	Faculty of International Relation Matej Bel University Banská Bystrica	International Relations – Politics in Outer Space	George Washington University, Washington, D.C.	6
<b>HUSÁR</b> Milan	Slovak Technical University Bratislava	Territorial Governance for Metropolitan Area	Arizona State University, Tempe	6
<b>CHUDÝ</b> Marek	Vienna Technical University Austria	Financial and Economic Time Series Analysis	University of Chicago, IL	6
<b>NOVOTNÝ</b> Michal	Faculty of Natural Sciences University Bratislava	Theoretical and Quantum Chemistry	Stony Brook University, NY	6
<b>DEFEO FIUZA</b> <b>ŠIPOŠOVÁ</b> Katarína	Academy of Fine Arts Bratislava	Artistic Jewelry	State University of NY, New Pfalz	6

\*Duration/Months

### **Fulbright Awards for Research and Lecturing**

U.S. scholars with comprehensive academic and professional experience propose projects on research or lecturing at a Slovak host institution. The applications are welcomed in any field; although preference may be given to the needs of Slovak academic institutions (invitation letter is desired). Candidates without extensive research or lecturing experience in SR are given preference.

Slovak scholars who hold a PhD. degree (in arts and some other fields they prove comparable professional experience) must include an invitation letter from the U.S. institution in the application. All areas of research or lecturing except clinical medicine are eligible. Candidates without extensive U.S. research or study experience are given preference.

#### ***U.S. Scholars***

<b><i>NAME</i></b>	<b><i>INSTITUTION IN U.S.</i></b>	<b><i>PROJECT</i></b>	<b><i>PLACEMENT IN SR</i></b>	<b><i>*</i></b>
<b>CONNORS</b> Vincent	University of South Carolina, Upstate	Biology/Parasitology	Institute of Biology and Ecology, Pavol Šafarik University Košice	4
<b>RODRIGUEZ</b> Yoel	City University of New York	Biomedicine/Biophysics	Institute of Exper. Pharmacology, Slovak Academy of Sciences Bratislava	4
<b>Van GAASBECK</b> Kristin	California State University, Sacramento	Courses on International Finances	Faculty of National Economy University of Economics, Bratislava	4

\*Duration/Months

#### ***Slovak Scholars***

<b><i>NAME</i></b>	<b><i>INSTITUTION IN SR</i></b>	<b><i>PROJECT</i></b>	<b><i>PLACEMENT IN USA</i></b>	<b><i>*</i></b>
<b>BOHMEROVÁ</b> Adela	Faculty of Arts, Comenius University Bratislava	Research on Educational Materials for Early Slovak Immigrants	Slovak Institute and Library, St. Andrew Abbey, Cleveland, OH	3
<b>KROŠLÁK</b> Daniel	Trnava University	Research on Legal and Social Cohesion in Europe	University of Southern California, LA	6
<b>MOCHTÁK</b> Michal	Masaryk University Brno Czech Republic	Electoral Violence in Post-Communist Europe	Yale University, CT	6

\*Duration/Months

#### **Fulbright English Teaching Assistantship Program**

The Slovak secondary schools receive assistance in strengthening English language instructions by establishing a qualified native speaker presence. At the same time, U.S. participants gain from intensive cross-cultural interaction and research opportunities.

#### ***Assistants***

<b><i>NAME</i></b>	<b><i>INSTITUTION IN U.S.</i></b>	<b><i>PLACEMENT IN SR</i></b>	<b><i>*</i></b>
<b>CARNEVALI-DOAN</b> Rosa	Kenyon College, OH	Gymnázium Janka Jesenského, Bánovce nad Bebravou	10
<b>GEIGER</b> Taylor	Tulane University, LA	Spojená škola, Detva	10
<b>GILL</b> Grant	Belmont University, TN	SPŠ stavebná, Trnava	10
<b>KEPA</b> Justyna	American University, DC	Súkromné gymnázium, Bardejov	10
<b>KRANZ</b> Bridget	Bowdoin College, ME	Spojená škola, Nižná	10
<b>SMITH</b> Courtney	Transylvania University, KY	1. Stredná odborná škola Púchov, 2. Gymnázium Púchov	10
<b>TERRY</b> Keyana	University of Central Florida, FL	Obchodná akadémia Račianska, Bratislava	10
<b>WROBLEWSKI</b> Zachary	Berry College, GA	Gymnázium, Krompachy	10

\*Duration/Months

### 3. OTHER PROGRAMS

#### Fulbright Specialist Program



The program is a short-term complement to the traditional Fulbright Scholar Program. It attracts those U.S. experts who otherwise would not be able to participate in one or two semester program.

Slovak academic institutions can invite a U.S. expert for 2 - 6 weeks to lecture, assist in developing curricula and educational materials, participate or lead seminars or workshops, assist in faculty development, etc. The selection and placement can be handled within 3 months. These 2 projects could be implemented in AY 2016-2017:

Gregg Losinski reaching the peak in HighTatras.

NAME	INSTITUTION IN U.S.	PROJECT	PLACEMENT IN SR	*
HANNA Brian	Children's Hospital in Philadelphia	Pediatric Expertise Training	Medical School at Comenius University and Pediatric Cardiac Center in Bratislava	2
LOSINSKI Gregg	Idaho Colleges and Universities	Course on Nature Conversation and Management of Wildlife	Faculty of Natural Sciences at Matej Bel University Banská Bystrica	6

\*Duration/Weeks

#### Inter Country Travel Program



This program provides Slovak institutions with an opportunity to seek funding for travel expenses to invite Fulbright grantees from other countries in Europe to lecture in the Slovak Republic.

- Professor Schuyler Foerster, U.S. Fulbright Grantee in the Czech Republic, gave presentation on U.S. NATO and Security Issues at the Department of Political Sciences, Faculty of Arts, Comenius University Bratislava, February 2017.

#### The United States Institute for European Student Leaders

The competition for 5-weeks study and training program was open for undergraduate students from non-elite backgrounds, underserved population or people with disabilities. 2 Slovak principal candidates were invited to participate:

NAME	CURRENT AFFILIATION	INSTITUTE	AFFILIATION	*
URBLÍK Peter	Pavol Jozef Šafárik University Košice	European Student Leaders on Environmental Stewardship	University of North Carolina	5
MITRÁŠ Miroslav	Matej Bel University Banská Bystrica	European Student Leaders on Civic Engagement	University of Oregon	5

\*Duration/Weeks

### **Ronald and Eileen Weiser Award for Professional Development**

The University of Michigan (U-M) Weiser Center for Europe & Eurasia in Ann Arbor invites faculty and artists teaching at institutions of higher education in the Slovak Republic or at U-M to apply for one (4-weeks or 3-months) award. Applicants propose projects in any field of research or teaching. The final selection at U-M is very competitive for one slot available.

<b>NAME</b>	<b>HOME INSTITUTION</b>	<b>PROJECT</b>	<b>*</b>
<b>KROČANOVÁ Dagmar</b>	Associate Professor, Department of Slovak Language, Faculty of Arts, Comenius University Bratislava	Literary Studies/Teaching Drama Theory	5

\*Duration/Weeks

#### **4. GRANT SUPPORTING ACTIVITIES**

The Fulbright year consists of recruitment and selections of candidates for the variety of programs administered. The administration also requires planning of academic cycles, finances, advertising, outreach activities. There is an Emergency Action Plan in place to provide guidance to grantees in variety of situations.

Additionally, the Commission invites the U.S. grantees to events organized by the U.S. Embassy, the Slovak Ministry of Education, Science, Research and Sport and other Slovak institutions.

A/ **The Orientation Program** September 21 - 23, 2016, Bratislava. The incoming U.S. grantees were briefed on the terms and conditions that go with respective awards, and on Slovak history, culture, economy and politics. The representatives of the U.S. Embassy Jason Khile (Public Affairs Officer), and Selena Nelson-Salcedo (Consul), discussed the U.S. - Slovak relationship with the grantees. Part of the orientation was also the annual Fulbright reception for meeting with Slovak Fulbright Alumni and contacts.



The English Teaching Assistants took part in a session led by Ms. Lynda Steine, Education Specialist, and Ms. Autumn Siegel, former Fulbright Teaching Assistant. The training focused on methodology and practical issues connected with teaching English at Slovak secondary schools.

B/ The annual **Mid-Year Conference** for U.S. grantees affiliated in the Slovak and Czech Republics took place January 29 – February 1, 2017, Trenčianske Teplice, Slovak Republic. The grantees presented their projects and the results of their affiliation at Slovak and Czech institutions.



U.S. Ambassador to Slovak Republic Mr. Adam Sterling joined the grantees for 2 days to discuss their experiences and to listen to presentations. U.S. Embassy Prague representative Ms. Erin Kotheimer, Cultural Attaché, together with Mr. Jason Khile, Public Affairs Officer at the U.S. Embassy in Bratislava joined the grantees in the meeting. Ms. Mária Chudíková, Press Specialist at the U.S. Embassy in Bratislava, recorded interviews with English Teaching Assistants affiliated in SR about the program and their experiences.



C/ **Debriefing Program** for English Teaching Assistants took place June 8 – 10, 2017, in Piešťany. The event focused on ETAs experiences, their reflections on teaching, and their personal development; The retreat also provided the Commission with evaluation on the administration provided for the program. Enrichment activities included a rafting day at the river Vah.

D/ The **Pre-Departure Program** for the Slovak Fulbright Grantees departing to the U.S. in AY 2017-2018, was held on June 20, 2017, in Bratislava. Its program focused on all aspects of the departure such as visa, health insurance, financial matters, housing, and on terms and conditions under which the Fulbright grants are being provided.

Mr. Jason Khile, (Fulbright Board Member, PAO) and Mr. Nick Trendowski (Consul) addressed the grantees with information on the current U.S. – Slovak relations. Meetings with Slovak Fulbright Alumni were also significant part of this one-day meeting.

#### **4. OTHER COMMISSION ACTIVITIES**



In October 2016 the **Study Abroad Capacity Building Workshop** in Bratislava brought together U.S., Slovak and international educators (altogether 40 participants from 19 institutions) to provide them with theoretical and hands-on experience with study abroad programs, and to motivate them to develop collaborations with local and international partners. The workshop and individual meetings were an excellent opportunity for getting an overview of common education abroad program

model, to become familiar with U.S. institutional requirements for study abroad programs; and requirements policies and procedures that go with it.

#### **5. ADVISING ACTIVITIES**

Part of the Commissions activities is the operation of its Advising Center, that also is a part of the worldwide network EducationUSA, sponsored by the U.S. State Department.



The Fulbright staff works together to provide services for those contemplating undergraduate and graduate studies in the U.S. through speaking engagements, participation on fairs, and contact with appropriate staff at schools and universities. Speaking engagements highlight Fulbright grant opportunities and also feature student advising, and vice versa. All opportunities are used to create synergy between grant promotion and advising. All services are being provided free of charge.

The library of the Center contains catalogues of schools, educational programs, financial aid resources, fellowship opportunities, information on U.S. standardized tests, including test registration, testing procedures and test preparation. However, most of the materials and catalogs are accessible online, and webinars on variety of topics concerning U.S. higher education provide excellent platform for advising.

The Commission cooperates with local InfoUSA Centers, which provide resources on political, economic, cultural, educational and social life in the U.S. These are located in cities of Košice, Bratislava and in Banská Bystrica.. The InfoUSA Centers in Košice and in Banská Bystrica are also a part of e EducationUSA worldwide network.

**Statistics:**

<b>Walk-in Visitors</b>	<b>Phone Inquires</b>	<b>E-mail Inquires</b>	<b>Outreach</b>	<b>FaceBook</b>	<b>U.S. Institutions Representatives</b>	<b>Web Unique Visitors</b>
67	36	184	2,686*	921	7	34, 263

\*including visitors of InfoUSA Centers

**Outreach Activities:**

❖ October 2016

- Seminar on Sports Scholarships in the U.S. at University Library Bratislava, in cooperation with the agency Sport&University Brno;



❖ November 2016

- LLM Fair Vienna – continuing joint project of the Fulbright Commissions in Austria, Czech Republic, Hungary, Slovak Republic, U.S. Embassy Ljubljana and EducationUSA network to promote U.S. law schools and scholarships.



- AZU Big Day of Internships – fair focusing on job opportunities, internships, study abroad programs and study opportunities available to Slovak students. The event took place at the Technical University in Kosice. Fulbright Programs and study opportunities in the U.S. were presented during the fair.

- Seminar for Graduate Students of the Pavol Jozef Šafarik University in Košice on U.S. Higher education and Fulbright programs.



- Presentation on U.S. Higher Education and activities of the Fulbright Commission to members of InfoUSA Košice.

- GOUSA! Educational Fair in Žilina celebrated the International Education Week in the venue of the Shopping Mall Aupark. Over 200 visitors – mostly high school and university students from all over the Žilina region participated. Besides the Fulbright Commission, the booths were represented by the U.S. Embassy, Open Society Fund and other agencies enabling work and travel programs for Slovak students.



❖ April 2017

- Presentation on U.S. Higher Education to students at Spojená škola Detva. The event was a joint effort of Fulbright English Teaching Assistant placed at the school and the Program and Student Officer of the Commission.



❖ May 2017



- The *American Universities Student Fair* with presence of representatives of with U.S. university representatives from North West Missouri State University, MO and Susquehanna University, PA, attracted participation of approx. 30 Slovak students mainly from Bratislava region. Students were provided with information about programs and services available to them at the Fulbright Commission and the EducationUSA network.

Students also had a chance to discuss visa issues with representatives of Consular Section of the U.S. embassy. As a part of the event a raffle was organized for vouchers for TOEFL and SAT tests (Helfenova and Guo).

❖ September 2017

- Juraj Brychta, Fulbright Program and Study Officer and Zuzana Kopčanová, EducationUSA Adviser from InfoUSA Banská Bystrica participated in *EducationUSA Regional Forum in Madrid, Spain*, that was organized by the U.S. State Department.

The event consisted of one- training and a three-day conference. The program focused on professional development, hand-on experiences with presenting and promoting study in the U.S. and an educational fair for U.S. higher education institutions.



## 6. ALUMNI

Both the U.S. and Slovak alumni remain in close contact with the Commission. They are invited to participate in the evaluation and selection procedures for the various program competitions, and they serve as contacts and hosts for the incoming grantees.

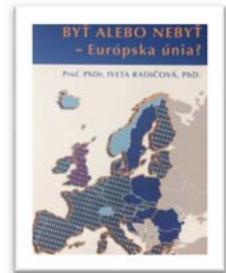


- The U.S. Fulbright Alumni Association's 2016 Annual Conference: *Fulbright at 70: Meeting New Challenges* focused on dialogue, exchange, and mission that go with the Fulbright Program. Over 350 people from the U.S. and all over the world, including Fulbright Executive Directors, discussed different experiences and a wide array of expertise and perspective. Senator Richard Lugar was awarded the Fulbright Prize for his commitment to the worldwide Fulbright Program.

- *Slovak Fulbright Alumni Association* in cooperation with the Fulbright Commission held its annual meeting on January 12, 2017. The participants commemorated the **70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Fulbright Program**. The freshly returned grantees presented on their accomplishments during their research stay in the U.S.

- Monika Mitášová, Fulbright Alumna 2009-2010, organized a guided tour of the exhibit **Dream x Reality** at Slovak National Gallery Bratislava. The exhibit provided overview of the art and culture during the Slovak State 1939 -1945. Members of the Slovak Fulbright Alumni Association and other partners discussed the exhibit with its curators.

- Ivetta Radičová, Fulbright Alumna 1999, published her research and interviews with European Union Leaders entitled “**To Be or Not to Be – European Union?**”



## **7. ADMINISTRATION, STAFF AND FUNDING**

The respective fiscal year of the Fulbright Commission is observed as set by U.S. (October 1 – September 30) and Slovak (January 1 – December 31) regulations. The financial income is composed of two sources of funding: allocation from the Slovak Government and the Government of the U.S.A.

In-kind contributions to the Commission include tuition waivers, funds allocated to other programs through other U.S. or Slovak government activities, health insurance for the grantees, private in-kind sponsorship etc.

Annually the Commission is subject to an independent audit of receipts and disbursements and on the internal control structure. The Slovak Ministry of Education, Science, Research and Sport audits the expenses from the Slovak government contribution separately.

### **❖ November 2016**

ED Nora Hložeková participated in the commemoration of the 25th Anniversary of the Czech Fulbright Commission, NY. In the period 1991-1994 the program with separate budgets for Czech and Slovak participants was administered under the Agreement signed in 1991. In 1994 the Commission was formally split to comply with the legal requirements of the successor states of Czechoslovakia. In 1996 both Commissions launched regional cooperation and since then the annual midyear conference is organized for U.S. grantees affiliated in both republics.

In Washington, D.C. the ED met with representatives of the U.S. State Department and also participated in the Central Europe peer review of U.S. scholar applications at the Council for Exchange of International Scholars.

### **❖ December 2016**

The Fulbright staff invited *InfoUSA representatives* Jozef Fabrici, Zuzana Kopčanová and Ľudo Zupko to discuss changes in the operation of the Commission and planning of outreach activities.

### **❖ March/April 2017**

Juraj Brychta, Program and Study Officer participated in the *EducationUSA Adviser Training Institute - Level 1* in the U.S. The training in Washington, D.C. focused on cooperation with the State Department and other agencies and institutions involved in educational affairs. The site visits to academic institutions in Arkansas gave the participants hands on experience with structure of various types of U.S. higher institutions, admission and services for international students.



❖ April 2017

*Annual Fulbright Executive Directors Meeting in Rome, April 5-7, 2017* - the European Directors met with high representatives of U.S. State Department to discuss the funding for FY 2017 and FY 18, and outlining the Fulbright strategy for the future.

❖ May 2017

The Program and Study Officer visited the Czech Fulbright Commission to discuss future cooperation in the Fulbright Teaching Assistantship Program, and to get acquainted with structure of advising services

The annual *NAFSA (Association of International Educators) Conference*, Denver, CO, provided platform for Fulbright staff Nora Hložeková and Daša Tako Velichová to meet with partners from U.S. higher institutions, to present information on study, grant and research possibilities in the Slovak Republic.

During the conference the cooperating agency Institute for International Cooperation, responsible for administrative issues that go with recruitment, selection of U.S. grantees, with placement and visa issues concerning foreign Fulbright grantees, presented the restructuring of its organization structure, responsibilities and teams.

❖ July/August 2017

Mr. Martin Tong, Graduate Student at University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, joined the Commission as a Summer Intern. He was assisting with developing of computer templates, macros and databases that focus on administration documents. activities of the Commission and the Educational Advising Center.

**Review of Financial Sources Fiscal Year 2016-2017**

<b>Income</b>	<b>USD</b>
U.S. Government Contribution	390,509
Slovak Government Contribution	217,470
Other U.S. Government Contribution	29,300
Surplus Program Funds from previous FY	157,195
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>794,474</b>
<b>In-Kind Contributions not included in the Commission's accounting</b>	<b>USD</b>
Fulbright Specialist Program	11,200
Fulbright Scholar-In-Residency Program	42,850
Humphrey Fellowship	31,000
Study Institutes	20,000
Private Sector and Other Sources	10,000
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>115,050</b>
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>1,024,574</b>
<b>Expenses (in USD)</b>	<b>USD</b>
Program Expenses	380,435
Grant Supporting Expenses*	63,772
Administrative Expenses	182,772
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>626,979</b>

\*Grant Supporting Expenses cover:

- Information Programs for U.S. and Slovak Grantees
- Grant Supplement Expenses for U.S. and Slovak Grantees
- Educational Material
- Web Page and Social Media Management
- In-country Travel
- Operation of the Advising Center

Not included are costs for the Accident and Sickness Insurance for all grantees provided by the U.S. State Department.