



ANNUAL PROGRAM REPORT
Academic Year 2019-2020

Bratislava, November 2020

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1. THE COMMISSION

Based on the Agreement between the Government of the Slovak Republic and the Government of the United States of America concerning the J. William Fulbright Commission for Educational Exchange in the Slovak Republic (198/2005 Coll. as amended), the Commission is responsible for administering and supervising the Fulbright Program in the Slovak Republic.

The Commission strives to:

- support outstanding individuals in both countries who can extend expertise in their field of specialization;
- engage leading U.S. and Slovak scholars, students and professionals in educational and research exchanges and to develop mutual relationship and cooperation;
- increase expertise in fields in which lecturing and/or research is conducted in both countries;
- extend activities to establish and support cost sharing programs with participating institutions;
- serve as an advising center for individuals and institutions that provides qualified and up-to-date information about study and research opportunities in both countries.

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

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.

Academic Year 2019 - 2020 Commission Board

Honorary Chairmen:

Martina LUBYOVÁ	Minister of Education, Science, Research and Sport of the Slovak Republic (until March 2020)
Branislav GRÖHLING	Minister of Education, Science, Research and Sport of the Slovak Republic (since March 2020)
Bridget BRINK	U.S. Ambassador to the Slovak Republic

U.S. Members:

David DUERDEN	Counselor for Public Affairs, U.S Embassy Bratislava, Treasurer
Griffin ROZELL	Deputy Public Affairs Officer, U.S. Embassy Bratislava (until July)
Tara HALL	Deputy Public Affairs Officer, U.S. Embassy Bratislava (since July)

Linda STEYNE Lecturer at the Department of British and American Studies,
Faculty of Arts, Comenius University in Bratislava

Aaron WALTER Associate Professor, Center for European Studies, Cyril and
Methodius University, Trnava/ Masaryk University Brno, Czech
Republic

Slovak Members:

Jozef BÁTORA Professor, Faculty of Arts, Comenius University in Bratislava

Marek MOŠKA Director General, Section of International Relations and European
Affairs - Ministry of Education, Science, Research and Sport of
the Slovak Republic, Alternate Treasurer

Daniela OSTATNÍKOVÁ Professor, Head of the Institute of Physiology, Comenius
University in Bratislava

Jana TOMKOVÁ Director, Department of Cultural Diplomacy - Ministry of Foreign
and European Affairs of the Slovak Republic

Fulbright Commission Office

Nora HLOŽEKOVÁ Executive Director (until June 15, 2020)

Lýdia TOBIÁŠOVÁ Executive Director (since June 15, 2020)

Denisa BEZÁKOVÁ Finance Officer

Zuzana KOPČANOVÁ Program and Study Officer

Dáša TAKO VELICHOVÁ Program Officer

2. THE FULBRIGHT AWARDS

The Commission administers and supervises a variety of high-profile award programs for U.S. and Slovak citizens that are based on an open, merit-based competition.

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

Academic year 2019-20 was heavily affected by a global Covid -19 pandemic. On March 11, 2020, the Centers for Disease Control issued a Level 3 Travel Warning (Avoid Non-essential Travel) for certain countries in Europe, including Slovakia. In light of this warning, ECA authorized the departure of all U.S. Fulbright Program participants in the countries subject to the Level 3 Travel Warning. All U.S. Fulbright grantees in affected countries were strongly urged to make arrangements to return to the United States as soon as possible.

All U.S. grantees and their families in Slovakia (total 19 people) were urged to seriously consider the situation and depart for the United States. All participants decided to do so. On March 16, 2020 all arrived safely in the United States. On March 19, 2020 the U.S. Fulbright Program was suspended worldwide.

Slovak grantees and their families (total 13 people) have been also strongly advised to consider the return to the home country. They were monitored by partner agencies and they were in contact with the Slovak Embassy in Washington, D.C. The Commission kept in touch hourly to monitor their situation. All returned back safely from the U.S. as originally planned. Only one, Adam Kurilla, decided to depart earlier, but he was able to finish his fellowship virtually. Radoslav Hlúšek has been granted extension until December 2020. Two grantees, Alžbeta Brozmanová Gregorová and Daniela Meressa Rusnoková were not able to travel to the U.S. and their scholarships were deferred.

Fulbright Scholarship for Graduate Studies

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

Slovak applicants may conduct an independent research, and if funding available, enroll in Master's programs. They can apply in any field except for clinical medicine, MBA and LL.M. Candidates without prior extensive U.S. study experience are given preference.

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

U.S. Students

Roman HLATKY	
Home Institution	University of Texas at Austin
Host Institution	Institute of European Studies and International Relations, Faculty of Social and Economic Sciences, Comenius University Bratislava
Project Title	Multiculturalism in Slovakia: EU and Russian Influence
Duration of Grant	9 months/beginning September 2019

Steven LEMKE	
Home Institution	University of Notre Dame, IN
Host Institution	Academy of Fine Arts and Design, Bratislava
Project Title	Remaking Slovak Domestic Space Through Installation Art
Duration of Grant	9 months/beginning September 2019

Slovak Students

Dominika JACKULIAKOVÁ	
Home Institution	Academy of Fine Arts and Design, Bratislava
Host Institution	Columbia College Chicago, IL
Project Title	Photographic Technology and its Use in the Context of Photography as Art
Duration of grant	8 months/beginning September 2019

Michal KOZÁK

Home Institution	University of Bergen, Norway
Host Institution	University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, NC
Project Title	Industrial Sociology
Duration of grant	6 months/beginning August 2019

Fulbright Awards for Research and Lecturing

U.S. scholars with comprehensive experience propose projects on research or lecturing at Slovak institutions. The applications are welcomed in any field; although preference may be given to the needs of Slovak academic institutions. Candidates without extensive research or lecturing experience in the Slovak Republic are given preference.

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

U.S. Scholars - Lecturers:

John McCARTHY

Home Institution	Robert Morris University, PA
Host Institution	Department of History, Faculty of Arts at Comenius University
Project Title	U. S. History: Modern America, Urbanism and Immigration
Duration of Grant	4 months/beginning February 2020

Douglas McKECHNIE

Home Institution	Airforce Academy, CO
Host Institution	Dpt. Constitutional Law, Law School Comenius University
Project Title	Comparative Constitutional Law
Duration of Grant	5 months/beginning February 2020

Russell John REISING*

Home Institution	University of Toledo, OH
Host Institution	Dpt. of American Studies, Faculty of Arts Comenius University
Project Title	American Culture and the Cold War
Duration of Grant	5 months/beginning February 2020

* For sudden medical emergency connected with urgent surgery, Mr. Russel REISING had to resign from his grant at the Department of British and American Studies, Comenius University Bratislava, as of February 28, 2020.

Slovak Scholars - Researchers:

Štefánia AULICKÁ

Home Institution	University Hospital of Brno, CR
Host Institution	University of Minnesota Twin Cities, MN
Project Title	Quantitative tracking of neurological disease in pediatric patients
Duration of Grant	4 months/ beginning September 2019

Alžbeta BROZMANOVÁ GREGOROVÁ

Home Institution	Matej Bel University, Banská Bystrica
Host Institution	Eastern Michigan University, MI
Project Title	Service-Learning in Higher Education – Building the Culture of Civic Engagement
Duration of Grant	3 months/ beginning April 2021

Ľubomír DUNAJ

Home Institution	Universität Wien, AT
Host Institution	University of North Florida, FL
Project Title	Between Critical Theory, Pragmatism and Chinese Philosophy
Duration of Grant	5 months/ beginning October 2019

Zoltán FÜSSY

Home Institution	Faculty of Science of the Charles University, BIOCEV, CR
Host Institution	University of California, San Diego, CA
Project Title	Investigation of genetic and cellular control of pleiomorphy in a model diatom
Duration of Grant	5 months/ beginning August 2019

Radoslav HLÚŠEK

Home Institution	University of St. Cyril and Methodius, Trnava
Host Institution	University of Wyoming, WY
Project Title	Sacred Mountains and Ritual Landscape of Great Plains Indians in the USA
Duration of Grant	6 months/ beginning March 2020

Viktória MAJLÁTHOVÁ

Home Institution	Pavol Jozef Safarik University, Kosice
Host Institution	University of South Carolina – Upstate, SC
Project Title	Blood Parasites in Squamates in the South-Eastern United States
Duration of Grant	6 months/ beginning February 2020

Ján MALOCH

Home Institution	TV Markiza, Bratislava
Host Institution	New York University, NY
Project Title	Solutions Journalism as a tool to protect the public interest
Duration of Grant	12 months/ beginning August 2019

Daniela MERESSA RUSNOKOVÁ

Home Institution	Freelance Documentary Filmmaker
Host Institution	Syracuse University, NY
Project Title	Grey Zone – Ballad About a Premature Baby
Duration of Grant	6 months/ beginning June 2021

Silvia ROSIVALOVÁ BAUČEKOVÁ

Home Institution	Pavol Jozef Safarik University, Kosice
Host Institution	University of Oregon, OR
Project Title	Food Studies: Understanding Culture through Food
Duration of Grant	5 months/ beginning January 2020

Fulbright English Teaching Assistant (ETA) 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.

Alexander BALAJEJDER	
Home Institution	Villanova University, PA
Host Institution	Secondary Vocational School of Viticulture in Modra
Project Title	TESOL
Duration of Grant	10 months/beginning September 2019
Allison BLACK*	
Home Institution	University of Nebraska - Lincoln
Host Institution	Gymnasium of A. H. Škultéty in Veľký Krtíš
Project Title	TESOL
Duration of Grant	10 months/beginning September 2019
Zachary BROWN	
Home Institution	Utah State University
Host Institution	Secondary Vocational School in Pruské
Project Title	TESOL
Duration of grant	10 months/beginning September 2019
Emily HALSTEAD	
Home Institution	Smith College, MA
Host Institution	Secondary Medical School in Trnava
Project Title	TESOL
Duration of Grant	10 months/beginning September 2019
Karen LASKA	
Home Institution	West Virginia University
Host Institution	Business Academy in Ružomberok
Project Title	TESOL
Duration of Grant	10 months/beginning September 2019
Grace PAWLUSZKA	
Home Institution	Central Michigan University
Host Institution	Secondary Vocational School of Economics in Spišská Nová Ves
Project Title	TESOL
Duration of Grant	10 months/beginning September 2019
Masayuki SAKAMOTO	
Home Institution	Middlebury College, VT
Host Institution	Secondary Medical School in Nitra
Project Title	TESOL
Duration of Grant	10 months/beginning September 2019
Carolyn SILIPIGNI	
Home Institution	Villanova University, PA
Host Institution	Business Academy in Stará Ľubovňa
Project Title	TESOL
Duration of Grant	10 months/beginning September 2019

* Ms. Allison BLACK, English Teaching Assistant at Gymnasium in Veľký Krtíš resigned from the grant, as of January 31, 2020.

3. OTHER PROGRAMS

Fulbright Specialist 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 must be completed within 3 months.

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.

- **Prof. Arthur PITZ**, Augusta College, IL, Courses on American Literature, Institute of British and American Studies, Faculty of Arts, Prešov University, 6 weeks October/November 2019;
- **Professor Kevin SIMPSON**, John Brown University, AR, Courses and exhibit on Peace & Conflict Resolution/Soccer under the Swastika, Jewish Museum Bratislava, 2 serial visits in March and May 2020; due to the Covid-19 pandemic his visits were cancelled.

Scholar-In-Residence Program

Scholar-In-Residence Program assists U.S. higher education institutions in expanding academic exchange programs. By supporting non-U.S. Scholars through grants for teaching at institutions with no strong international component, both the U.S. institution and the scholar grantee benefit.

Michal VAŠEČKA	
Home Institution	Bratislava Policy Institute, Bratislava
Host Institution	Lac Courte Oreilles Ojibwa Community College, WI
Project Title	Fulbright Scholar-in-Residence
Duration of Grant	4.5 months/ beginning September 2019

Humphrey Fellowship Program

The program enables mid-career professionals to participate in 10-month study and related professional experience at U.S. institutions in fields such as environmental management, finances, human resources management, urban planning, communications, drug abuse education, etc. Final selection of nominees from over 150 countries is made at the U.S. State Department:

Adam KURILLA	
Home Institution	Center for the Treatment of Drug Dependencies, Bratislava
Host Institution	Virginia Commonwealth University, VA
Project Title	Substance Abuse Education, Treatment and Prevention
Duration of Grant	10 months/beginning August 2019

2020 Study of the U.S. Institutes (SUSIs)

The Study of the U.S. Institutes are 5-week programs focusing on American Studies and civic society affairs. The candidates are selected through worldwide competition. Due to the worldwide COVID-19 pandemic, all SUSIs were cancelled for summer 2020. Candidates nominated for the Slovak Republic were as follows:

Study of the U.S. Institutes for Scholars:

- Petra FILIPOVÁ, Pavol Jozef Šafárik University Košice
- Ľudmila ELBERT, Pavol Jozef Šafárik University Košice

Study of the U.S. Institutes for Secondary Educators

- Tomáš GAŠPAROVIČ, Gymnasium Bílikova Bratislava
- Ján GONDA, Secondary Vocational School for Electro-engineering Bratislava

Study of the U.S. Institute for Student Leaders:

Institute on Civic Engagement:

- Klára POLÁKOVÁ, Charles University, Prague, Czech Republic, *principal*;
- Bernadeta BAROKOVÁ, Comenius University Bratislava, *alternate*;
- Filip KUBALA, Comenius University Bratislava, *alternate*.

Institute on Education and the Future of Work:

- Ivan SOKOLOVSKÝ, University of Economics Bratislava, *principal*;
- Vincent ORLOVSKÝ, Technical University Košice, *alternate*;
- Mária BEDNÁRIKOVÁ, Comenius University Bratislava, *alternate*

Inter-Country Travel Program

Inter-Country Travel Program provides Slovak Institutions with an opportunity to seek funding for travel expenses to invite U.S. Fulbright Grantees from other countries in Europe to lecture in Slovakia.

- Jonathan KELBER, Associate Professor of Biology, California State University, and Fulbright Scholar researching on Cancer at The University of Manchester, UK lecture at Jessenius Medical School, Comenius University Martin in April 2020; due to the Covid-19 pandemic the program was cancelled.

4. GRANT SUPPORTING ACTIVITIES

The Fulbright year consists of recruitment and selections of candidates for programs administered. It 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. Regular checks and visits have been made to host institutions to check on the professional performance of the grantees and the cooperation with the respective host institutions in both countries.

A/ September 10-13, 2019, Bratislava: **The Orientation Program** for U.S. grantees, AY 2019 - 2020, briefing on the terms and conditions that apply to respective awards, financial and health care insurance issues etc. The representatives of the U.S. Embassy David Duerden, Bryant Bennet, Matthew Pierson and Griffin Rozell discussed the U.S. - Slovak relationship, security issues, Embassy programs and activities with the grantees. The program also included seminar on geopolitical, social and cultural background of the host country and a reception in honor of the incoming grantees and their hosts.



B/ **Regional Enrichment Seminar on Media Literacy and Critical Thinking**, Prague, Czech Republic, October 18 -20, 2019, brought together ETAs placed in V-4 countries, their tutors from their host institutions and Fulbright staff. The program was composed of series of lectures on teaching media literacy and critical thinking in the classroom. The guest speakers were experts from V-4 countries.



C/ **25th Anniversary of FC**, receptions in Washington, D.C. (October 1), Bratislava (October 20), Košice (November 6), Banská Bystrica (November 20) took places, animated information on the Commission's history is available at <http://25.fulbright.sk/?lng=sk>. Mr. Scott Righetti, Academic Exchange Specialist, U.S. Department of State, visited the Fulbright Commission to discuss funding and administrative issues, and participated in the reception on October 22, 2019, in Bratislava.



D/ The annual **Mid-Year Conference** for U.S. grantees and their dependents took place January 29 – February 1, 2020, in Zvolen. The grantees presented their accomplishments and their host institutions. Mr. David Duerden and Mr. Griffin Rozell FC Board members, joined the grantees for their presentations and individual talks.

E/ Steven LEMKE, U.S. Graduate Student at Academy in Fine Arts in Bratislava, participated in Fulbright Seminar: **Our Voices: Navigating Identities in the Fulbright Program**, that was held in Amsterdam, NL, February 28 - March 1, 2020. The FC supported his participation.

5. ADVISING ACTIVITIES

EducationUSA Center by Fulbright Slovakia is part of worldwide advising network called EducationUSA. It is the official authority on providing information on educational opportunities in the U.S., sponsored by the U.S. Department of State.



Educational advising is an essential part of Commission's activities. The mission of the EducationUSA Advising Center is to provide accurate, comprehensive, current and unbiased information about study opportunities for those students who would like to pursue their higher education at accredited postsecondary institutions in the United States. The advising center provides free-of-charge services for those who wish to pursue their postsecondary education in the United States

through speaking engagements, participation in educational fairs, and contact with competent high school and university staff. Since March 2020, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, advising and outreach activities have been conducted virtually, using either Skype or Zoom platform.

The Commission's Advising Center actively cooperates with local American Spaces, located in Košice and Banská Bystrica. Both American Spaces are included in the official EducationUSA network and provide basic reference advising services.

Statistics:

Walk-in Visitors	Phone Inquires	E-mail Inquires	Outreach	U.S. Institutions Representatives	Web Unique Visitors
179	113	168	261*	2	31,990

*including EducationUSA webinars' participants

Outreach Activities:

- **Presentation on Fulbright programs and other exchange opportunities** at University of Economics in Bratislava (EDAMBA Conference, October 24; MERKUR Conference, December 6), Comenius University Bratislava (International & Erasmus+ Day, October 10), Technical University Košice (November 5), Matej Bel University in Banska Bystrica (November 20);
- **Advising on study opportunities in the U.S. for high school students** in InfoUSA Košice (November 5), InfoUSA Banska Bystrica (November 19), Gymnasium Ľudovíta Štúra Zvolen (November 21). Events also highlighted the International Education Week 2019;
- **Conference "Living Science"** in Bratislava (December 20), presentation on study possibilities in the U.S., Fulbright research grants and other fellowships;
- **Visit of Ms. Marianne Craven**, Managing Director for Academic Programs at the U.S. Department of State (December 4) to discuss the EducationUSA network cooperation and changes that the American Spaces are currently undergoing, now called InfoUSA centers;
- **GoUSA Košice (November 20) and GoUSA Žilina (February 26):** EducationUSA adviser from reference center in Banská Bystrica presented study possibilities in the U.S.;
- **Kam na vysokú Educational Fair:** EducationUSA advisers from Bratislava and Košice took part in two fair stops, i.e. in Košice (February 5) and Prešov (February 6);
- **Follow-up site visit of Regional Educational Advising Coordinator Gordana Mirchikj** to discuss EducationUSA advising program in the Slovak Republic; and current issues affecting advising and student mobility. Ms. Mirchikj suggested improvements regarding promoting EducationUSA services on social media, branding and new types of advising activities to attract more potential advisees. Ms. Mirchikj also conducted a conference call with coordinators in American Spaces in Košice and Banská Bystrica on summary of their advising activities in 2019. The Program and Student Advisor Zuzana



Kopčanová has received an EducationUSA grant to participate at EIAE conference in Barcelona, Spain, September 2020 that was postponed due to the COVID-19 pandemic;

- **Study in the USA (webinar, April 16):** introductory session on study opportunities in the U.S. (characteristics of U.S. higher education, how to choose the „best fit“ university, application process, required documents, standardized tests, funding);
- **Essay Writing Workshop (webinar, April 22):** virtual interactive workshop focused on Common Application Essay prompts co-organized with Ms. Zsuzsana Kovacs of New York University Abu Dhabi;
- **Virtual University Open Day (virtual educational fair, April 27):** short video presentation of EducationUSA services and study opportunities in the US (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aJuRzesrbd4>);
- **Fulbright Programs (webinar, April 30):** overview of Fulbright programs and grants for Slovak applicants
- **Fulbright Student Program (webinar, May 12):** webinar focused on Fulbright Graduate Studies program followed by Q&A sessions with Fulbright alumni Ms. Zuzana Reptová and Ms. Dominika Semaňáková
- **Your 4 Steps To U.S. Study (Facebook live, May 14/May 21/May 28/June 4):** series of four short Facebook live sessions guiding applicants through application process covering topics on researching options, funding, completing application and navigating through visa process and how to prepare for departure. The sessions were co-organized with American Spaces Slovakia and served as a training for coordinators in the centers;
- **Application Process Management (webinar, June 2):** webinar focused on nuances of application process and Common Application, co-organized with Central Washington University;
- **Understand U.S. Campus Culture: U.S. classroom teaching and academic behavior (webinar, June 10):** webinar on academic honesty, importance of critical thinking, evaluation, what is (im)polite when talking to professors, academic culture shock, co-organized with University of Northern Colorado.
- **The Slovak Spectator promo article and advertisement** - Fulbright Commission prepared a promo article and advertisements of Fulbright Programs in Slovakia in the Slovak Spectator, print and online version (published on August 31, 2020)
- **Fulbright Visiting Scholar Program (webinar, September 9):** – webinar focused on Fulbright Visiting Scholar program followed by a Q&A session with program alumni Ms. Silvia Rosivalová Baučeková, Ms. Viktória Majláthová and Mr. Radoslav Hlúšek.



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.

- Janeil Engelstad, independent artist and former Fulbright Fellow at Academy of Fine Arts created an interacting web page **Voices from the Center** <https://www.voicesfromthecenter.net/>, mapping the 30 years after the Velvet revolution in 1989. Also, the project has been promoting the 25th anniversary of the FC with the Commission's support.
- Evening with Michal Vašečka on „**Why is Slovakia getting brown color?**“ took place February 5, 2020, in Bratislava.
- Mr. Michal Kšiňan, Fulbright Fellow at George Washington University in DC in 2014-2015, was invited by the National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library, Cedar Rapids, IA, U.S. to give a lecture on the life of M.R. Štefánik. The lecture has been recorded for national dissemination and for educational archive of the Museum. Mr. Kšiňan also unveiled the bust of M.R. Štefánik, together with Slovak Ambassador to the U.S. Ivan Korčok. The Museum supported the commemoration with the exhibit "**Milan Rastislav Štefánik: A Legendary Figure**", that has been curated by Michal Kšiňan and supported by the FC.
- **Alumni Virtual Call (zoom webinar)** – July 21, 2020 – organized together with Slovak Fulbright Alumni Association on debriefing of the latest alumni and alumni news.

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 U.S. Government and allocation from the Slovak Government.

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 also audits the expenses from the Slovak government contribution separately.

Ms. Eleonóra Hložeková stepped down as Executive Director as of June 14, 2020 and for the period June 15 - June 30, 2020 served as advisor to the new Executive Director for smooth transition of duties and responsibilities. Ms. Lýdia Tobiášová was hired by the Commission through 3-round competition process. Ms. Lýdia Tobiášová was appointed as the Statutory representative and Executive Director of the J. William Fulbright Commission for Educational Exchange in the Slovak Republic as of June 15, 2020.

Review of Financial Sources Fiscal Year 2020

Income	USD
U.S. Government Contribution	\$487,210
Slovak Government Contribution	\$215,514
Subtotal	\$702,724
In-Kind Contributions not included in the Commission's accounting	USD
Fulbright Specialist Program	\$14,700
US Embassy Contribution	\$6,500
Humphrey Fellowship	\$15,967
Slovak Government/communication services	\$842
Subtotal	\$38,009
Surplus Funds from Previous Year	\$215,827
Expenses	USD
Program Expenses	\$396,000
Covid-19 unexpected expenses	\$76,701
Grant Supporting Expenses*	\$15,697
Administrative Expenses	\$237,603
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$726,001

*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.