

CSD 2014 PROFILES OF COUNTRIES

COUNTRY: SLOVAK REPUBLIC

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Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family of the Slovak Republic

Ministry of Health of the Slovak Republic

Ministry of Economy of the Slovak Republic

Ministry of Education, Science, Research and Sport of the Slovak Republic

Ministry of Transport, Construction and Regional Development of the Slovak Republic

Ministry of Finance of the Slovak Republic

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Ministry of Culture of the Slovak Republic

Ministry of Justice of the Slovak Republic

Ministry of Defence of the Slovak Republic

Statistical Office of the Slovak Republic

Nuclear Regulatory Authority of the Slovak Republic

District offices in the seat of region (8)

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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

APELL	Awareness and Preparedness for Emergencies at Local Level
CEFTA	Central European Free Trade Agreement
CFC	Chlorofluorocarbon
CGIAR	Consultative Group on International Agriculture Research
CILSS	Permanent Inter-State Committee on Drought Control in the Sahel
CSD	Commission for Sustainable Development
EBRD	European Bank for Reconstruction and Development
EEZ	Exclusive economic zone
ECA	Economic Commission for Africa
ECE	Economic Commission for Europe
ECLAC	Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment
ELCI	Environmental Liaison Centre International
EMAS	Eco Management and Audit Scheme
EMS	Environmental management system
EMINWA	Environmentally sound management of inland water
ESCAP	Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific
ESCWA	Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia
EST	environmentally sound technology
EU	European Union
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
GATT	General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade
GAW	Global Atmosphere Watch (WMO)
GEF	Global Environment Facility
GEMS	Global Environmental Monitoring System (UNEP)
GEMS/WATER	Global Water Quality Monitoring Programme
GESAMP	Joint Group of Experts on the Scientific Aspects of Marine Pollution
GHG	Greenhouse gas
GIPME	Global Investigation of Pollution in Marine Environment (UNESCO)
GIS	Geographical Information System
GLOBE	Global Legislators Organization for a Balanced Environment
GOS	Global Observing System (WMO/WWW)
GRID	Global Resource Information Database
GSP	Generalized System of Preferences
HCFC	Hydrochlorofluorocarbon
HIV	Human Immunodeficiency Virus
IAEA	International Atomic Energy Agency
IAP-WASAD	International Action Programme on Water and Sustainable Agricultural Development
IARC	International Agency for Research on Cancer
IBSRAM	International Board of Soil Resources and Management
ICCA	International Council of Chemical Associations
ICCO	International Organization for cocoa
ICES	International Council for the Exploration of the Sea
ICPIC	International Cleaner Production Information Clearing House
ICSC	International Civil Service Commission
ICSU	International Council of Scientific Unions
IEA	International Environment Agency
IEEA	Integrated environmental and economic accounting
IFAD	International Fund for Agricultural Development
IFCS	International Forum on Chemical Safety
ICAO	International Civil Aviation Organization
IGADD	Intergovernmental Authority for Drought and Development
IGBP	International Geosphere-Biosphere Programme (ICSU)
IGBP/START	International Geosphere-Biosphere Programme/Global Change System for Analysis, Research
ILO	International Labour Organisation
IMF	International Monetary Fund
IMO	International Maritime Organization

INFOTERRA	International Environment Information system (UNEP)
IOC	Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission
IPCC	Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change
IPCS	International Programme on Chemical Safety
IPM	integrated pest management
IRPTC	International Register of Potentially Toxic Chemicals
ISO	International Standards Organization
ITC	International Tin Council
ITTO	International Tropical Timber Organization
IUCN	International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources
MARPOL	International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships
NGO	non-governmental organization
ODA	official development assistance
OECD	Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development
PGRFA	plant genetic resources for agriculture
PHARE	Poland and Hungary Assistance for Reconstructing
PIC	prior informed consent procedure
SADCC	South African Development Co-ordination Conference
SARD	sustainable agriculture and rural development
UNCED	United Nations Conference on Environmental and Development
UNCTAD	United Nations Conference on Trade and Development
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNDRO	Office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Coordinator
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
UNIDO	United Nations Industrial Development Organization
UNITAR	United Nations Institute for Training and Research
UNU	United Nations University
US AID	Agency for International Development, United States
WCP	World Climate Programme (WMO/UNEP/ICSU/UNESCO)
WEC	World Environmental Centrum
WFC	World Food Council
WHO	World Health Organization
WMO	World Meteorological Organization
WTO	World Trade Organization
WWF	World Wide Fund for Nature (also called World Wildlife Fund)
WWW	World Weather Watch (WMO)

LIST OF NATIONAL ABBREVIATIONS

ASPEK	Association of Industrial Ecology in Slovakia
ADR	International Agreement on Road Transport
BSEC	Black Sea Economic Cooperation
CEFTA	European Free Trade Agreement
CU	Comenius University
DO	District Office
ETFA	European Free Trade Association
EK	European Commission
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
HSE	Health Strategy for Everybody
IAEA	International Atomic Energy Agency
MF SR	Ministry of Finance of the Slovak Republic
MoEc SR	Ministry of Economy of the Slovak Republic
MoC SR	Ministry of Culture of the Slovak Republic
MoD SR	Ministry of Defence of the Slovak Republic
MoAaRD SR	Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development of the Slovak Republic
MoLSAaF SR	Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family of the Slovak Republic
MoJ SR	Ministry of Justice of the Slovak Republic
MoESRaS SR	Ministry of Education, Science, Research and Sport of the Slovak Republic
NGO	Non-governmental organisations
MoI SR	Ministry of Interior of the Slovak Republic
MoTCaRD SR	Ministry of Transport, Construction and Regional Development of the Slovak Republic
MoH SR	Ministry of Health of the Slovak Republic
MoFaEA SR	Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs of the Slovak Republic
MoE SR	Ministry of Environment of the Slovak Republic
NEAP	National Environmental Action Programme
NHSP	National Health Support Programme
NC SR	National Council of the Slovak Republic
NSSD	National Strategy of Sustainable Development
NLO	National Labour Office
NRA SR	Nuclear Regulatory Authority of the Slovak Republic
RaW	Radioactive Waste
RTC	Regional Training Centre
SAoS	Slovak Academy of Sciences
SaMSE	Small and medium sized enterprises
SEA	Slovak Environment Agency
SEI	Slovak Environmental Inspection
SR Government	Government of the Slovak Republic
SCPC	Slovak Cleaner Production Centre
SO SR	Statistical Office of the Slovak Republic
UN	United Nations Organisation
UT	University of Technology

PREAMBLE

The Slovak Republic agreed with the accession to **Rio Declaration and to AGENDA 21** by the Slovak Government Resolution No.118 dated September 8 1992 to information on course and results of UN Conference on Environment and Development.

By the Slovak Government Resolution No. 978/2001 and by the Resolution of SR National Council the **National Strategy of Sustainable Development of the Slovak Republic** was approved as the key document determining priorities, aims, ways and means to achieve strategic goals of sustainable development in the conditions of the Slovak Republic.

In its **SR Government Statement of Policy for years 2012-2016**, the SR Government undertook to support comprehensive sustainable economic development of Slovakia. It stated that the main tool for achieving the balanced and sustainable development of SR national economy shall be the financial and economic policy, solving those aspects in finances and real economics which are decisive for the further development character. Individual policies will be designed to further enhance the value-based orientation of Slovakia to sustainable social market and environmental development of economy and to strengthen the certainties of life of its citizens.

The Slovak Republic supported the adoption of final document of Rio+20 conference **Future we want**, and so it confirmed its determination to continue on its way to the sustainable development.

The basic principles and goals of sustainable development in SR are included in long-term **strategic as well as concept and programming documents**. Short-term political priorities are always in balance with the long-term strategic goals. During 2012-2014 the wide range of documents was elaborated in relation to the SR Government Statement of Policy as well as to international commitments of Slovakia. Those documents are cited when enumerating the fulfilment of individual chapters of Agenda 21 and they concern practically all issues of society functioning-economic, social and environmental issues.

In June 2014 the Slovak Republic concluded with the European Commission a **Partnership Agreement on the Use of European Structural and Investment Funds in years 2014-2020**. The Partnership Agreement defines the strategy and priorities for effective and efficient investments in the amount of EUR 15.3 billion for the coming 10 years. The document was developed based on a broad consensus with socio-economic partners in the spirit of society sustainable development principles.

The priority of SR is focusing the investments on key sectors of growth as transport infrastructure, research, development and innovations, support of small and medium-sized enterprises, environmental protection, digital agenda, energy effectiveness, and renewable resources of energy. The investments in employment, education, social integration, and last but not at least also to the increase of efficiency of public administrations and environment will be equally important.

The given financial resources, together with the state budget resources and other domestic and foreign resources, shall be used for the implementation of ideas declared by the SR Government Statement of Policy as well as of goals and tasks determined in individual strategic, concept and programming documents in order to achieve **balanced growth of Slovakia and good living conditions for its citizens**.

Ing. Peter Žiga, PhD.
Minister of Environment of the Slovak Republic

NCSD – COORDINATION STRUCTURE OF NATIONAL LEVEL OF AGENDA 21 ACTIONS

(Basic details)

AUTHORITY RESPONSIBLE: MoE SR

SLOVAKIA

1. National coordinator (mechanism) for sustainable development (e.g. board, commission, intra-departmental working group).

Based on the Slovak Government Resolution No.655 dated September 16, 1997 was, in 1999 by the Slovak Government Resolution No.78 dated January 27, 1999, established the SR Government Council for sustainable development.

On March 2, 2011 the Slovak Government Council for sustainable development was cancelled by the Slovak Government Resolution No.135/2011 and all its competences were transferred to the newly formed Ministerial Council

The following competences were transferred to the Ministerial Council:

- Committee of Ministers for Drug Addiction and Drug Control,
- Ministerial Council for European Union Affairs,
- Government Council for Sustainable Development
- Government Council for Regional Policy and Supervision on Structural Operations

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2. Membership/Structure/Chairman

Chairman: Deputy Prime Minister for Knowledge Society, European Affairs, Human Rights and Minorities

Members: Ministers of relevant departments and statutory representatives of other central government bodies, regional environmental authorities, scientific and social life from the relevant organizations and associations of citizens oriented to sustainable development.

2a. List of concerned ministries and governmental organisations

- Ministry of Environment of the Slovak Republic
- Ministry of Economy of the Slovak Republic
- Ministry of Health of the Slovak Republic
- Ministry of Education, Science, Research and Sport of the Slovak Republic
- Ministry of Finance of the Slovak Republic
- Ministry of Interior of the Slovak Republic
- Ministry of Transport, Construction and Regional Development of the Slovak Republic
- Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development of the Slovak Republic
- Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family of the Slovak Republic
- Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs of the Slovak Republic
- Ministry of Culture of the Slovak Republic
- Ministry of Defence of the Slovak Republic
- Ministry of Justice of the Slovak Republic
- Nuclear Regulatory Authority of the Slovak Republic
- Statistical Office of the Slovak Republic
- District offices in the seat of region (8)

2b. Names of other authorities and institutions, including the participation of science institutions and private sector:

- Slovak Academy of Science in Bratislava
- Comenius University in Bratislava
- Slovak University of Technology in Bratislava
- University of Technology in Zvolen
- Matej Bel University in Banská Bystrica

2c. Names of non-governmental organisations:

- Gremium of Third Sector (EMVO - 3)
- Association of Industrial Ecology in Slovakia (ASPEK)
- Trade Union Confederation
- Association of Towns and Villages of Slovakia
- Union of Towns and Villages of Slovakia

3. Powers/roles of coordinator/council:

Government Council TUR is an advisory and coordination authority of SR Government for application of principles of sustainable development and Agenda 21 at the national level.

The Government Council's role was to:

coordinate the activities of individual ministries, other central authorities of public administrations and regional offices when applying Agenda 21, principles of sustainable development and evaluation of sustainable development indicators, to assess the coherence of strategies, concepts and sectoral and regional programmes from social, economic and environmental point of views, discuss the conclusions of process of assessing the elementary development concepts influences, in particular in the areas of energy, mining, industry, transport, agriculture, forestry and water management, waste management and tourism, as well as land planning documentation of large territorial units and settlement units of selected towns, on environment and to give opinion concerning their evaluation, to discuss by elaborators submitted drafts of generally binding legal regulations which may have negative influence on environment, to assess the evaluations of sustainable development indicators coordinated by individual resorts and to discuss the Report on Agenda 21 implementation in the Slovak Republic, help to the Slovak Republic Government to apply Agenda 21 and sustainable development principles in international context, and thus create a suitable environment for the integration of the Slovak Republic to European and worldwide structures which are based on them, coordinate the Slovak Republic's activities in relation to UN Commission for the sustainable development and other UN bodies.

AGENDA 21

1. PREAMBLE

Irrelevant to the evaluation at national level

PART I. SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC DIMENSIONS

CHAPTER 2

INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION TO ACCELERATE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES AND RELATED DOMESTIC POLICIES

AUTHORITY RESPONSIBLE: MoEc SR; MoAaRD SR; MoFaEA SR

Within an international cooperation, SR supports economic growth in developing countries and it actively participates in the activities of international organisations focused on the trade liberalisation and export support.

By the Slovak Government Resolution No. 107/2014 the Strategy of external economic relations for 2014-2020 was approved which includes also the solving of relations towards the developing countries. The SR Government Council for the support of export and investment is the overarching institutional structure for the area of external relations which gathers the representatives of public administrations and private sector. It is the advisory and coordination authority of SR Government for the area of state support of international economic cooperation and presentation of SR abroad.

Since 2001, before the World Trade Organisation (WTO) in Geneva, a new session of multilateral trade talks has been under way, focused on the further liberalization of world trade, titled "Doha Development Agenda (DDA)" the key objective of which is to support developing and the least developed countries. The content of talks includes the further liberalization of trade with goods, services, trade facilitation and issues of trade and development. EU continuously demonstrates ongoing willingness to achieve the progress in DDA talks; however, the progress reached so far is very small. In 2014, the goals and conclusions adopted at the 9th Ministerial Conference (9th MC) of WTO in December 2013 were fulfilled only partially. The protocol necessary for implementation of new multilateral Trade Facilitation Agreement (TFA) was approved only in December 2014 which is almost half a year later as supposed. Also further conclusions of 9th MC were implemented, concerning the ensuring of 5 ministerial decisions (TRIPS, work programme for electronic trade, work programme for small economies, Aid for Trade, and transfer of technologies), 4 agreements in agriculture (general services, public stocks for food safety, tariff quotas administration, export competition), 4 ministerial decisions in the area of the least developed countries' interests (preferential rules of origin, making the waiver work in services, duty-free and quota-free access to the market, monitoring mechanism for sustainable trade, as well as decisions on cotton trade. Later approval of protocol caused also the postponement of preparation of work programme post-Bali agenda DDA negotiations, from the originally determined end of year 2014 to July 31, 2015. In 2014 intensive negotiations of group of more than 20 WTO members continued (EU participated actively) on plurilateral Trade in Services Agreement. The main goal of these negotiations is to include the future agreement in the multilateral trade system in a later period when DDA negotiations will be more intensified. The negotiations regarding the updating and extension of already existing plurilateral Information Technology Agreement (ITA), which is currently covering the liberalization of app. 97% of world trade in this sector, are close to their conclusion.

Talks in the area of trade and development are aimed at support and better involvement of developing countries and the least developed countries to multilateral trade system, and that within negotiation issues and the issue of trade and development. The initiative Aid for Trade originated as a complementary tool for achieving development goals in consistence with DDA's goals. It is the initiative, officially launched by the WTO Ministerial Conference in Hong Kong in 2005. To support the trade for developing countries, WTO established Doha Development Global Trust Fund whereby

EU has been together with its member states the biggest, long-term provider of development aid in the world.

Currently, the priorities of common trade policy, besides the conclusion of negotiations within DDA, include the developing the cooperation with developing countries and the least developed countries through bilateral or regional agreements on free trade and agreements on economic partnership and cooperation. The examples of such agreements are Economic Partnership Agreements (EPAs) between EU countries and countries of Africa, Caribbean and Pacific area (ACP). The main objective of EPAs is to ensure a long-term development, economic growth and decreasing poverty in ACP countries, as well as involving ACP countries in world economy.

In 2014 the talks were concluded, signed and/or several EPAs started to be interim applied, substituting so called temporary EPAs with the most of ACP countries. However, a framework, fully-fledged EPA is being applied only with the Caribbean area countries (“Cariforum“). Negotiations on EPAs were successfully concluded in 2014 also with South African Development Community and West Africa countries. But in 2010 and 2011 the process of fully-fledged EPA finalisation with the remaining ACP regions was slowed down, and therefore the negotiations on them continued also in 2014. To accelerate this process, EU suggested the completion of Regulation on the access to the market related to some developing countries which negotiated on the agreements on economic partnership. The completion of the regulation suggests withdrawing benefits from those countries which haven’t ratified EPAs agreements up to this date.

The important tool of developing countries support is also the General System of Preferences (GSP), by which EU grants unilateral trade preferences to countries. The system established by the Council Regulation (EC) No. 732/2008, which was in force by the end of 2013, was substituted by the European Parliament and Council Regulation No. 978/2012. The new General System of Preferences concentrates more on poor countries, enhances and changes GSP+, which is created for the countries with low incomes, which ratified and implemented important international conventions on human and labour rights, environment and good administration of public affairs. The most important change is that the countries with high and medium-high income were rejected as of 1 January 2015, whereby the amount of preferential imports from those countries was more than 30% of total amount of imports from countries included into GSP. At the same time, in 2014 the countries which concluded agreements on preferential trade regimes and on free trade zones with EU, as well as overseas countries and territories of EU Member States, which used alternative trade agreements on the access to the market, were rejected from the system.

SR, as the member country of OECD and EU, has not only a moral and political interest, but also a strong potential to participate in helping the countries which urgently need that aid. From the position of an emerging donor, SR may contribute to the worldwide effort in the area of development aid not only financially, but also professionally and intellectually. It has experiences from transformation process which in past years has affected practically all areas of society life. Moreover, as the country which itself has lately received the aid, can perceive the needs of developing world.

At the UN SR expressly signed up to the implementation of Millennium Goals and it has been adopting all measures to achieve them successfully. The development aid has become the integral part of Slovak foreign policy.

CROSS-SECTORAL VIEWPOINTS

1. Structure of decision-making:

Final decision-making bodies are National Council of SR and SR Government. The body responsible for the issues is MoEc SR (Ministry of Economy of SR). Cooperating bodies are MoAARD SR and MoFaEA SR.

2. Potential creation /organization and competences:

Ministry of Economy of SR- Central authority of public administration for foreign trade and for the formation of foreign policy, economic development and implementation of sustainable development, the Government Council of SR for supporting export and investment - the advisory body of SR government,

MoFaEA SR - central body of state administration for foreign policies and relations of SR with the other states and international institutions, ensuring activities of economic diplomacy, Ministry of Finance, EXIMBANKA - financing and insurance of export operations, SARIO - Slovak Agency for Investment and Trade Development - professional support of foreign trade

3. Major Groups:

NC of SR, SR Government, the Central Authorities of Public Administration and their Professional organizations, embassies SR abroad, consular offices, economic associations, chambers, private enterprises, EXIMBANKA, SARIO

4. Finances:

State budget of SR, European structural and investments funds, ODA, private resources.

5. Regional/international cooperation:

WTO, UN and organisations of its system (FAO, UNCTAD), EU, OECD, CEFTA, EFTA, BSEC

CHAPTER 3

COMBATING POVERTY

AUTHORITY RESPONSIBLE: : MoLSaAF SR

The support of employment of jobseekers with the emphasis on disadvantaged groups on the labour market and the related support of new jobs creation as the most effective mean for ensuring the growth of population incomes was in 2014 applied mainly through active measures on the labour market pursuant to the Act No. 5/2004 Coll. on Employment services and on changes and amendments of some acts as amended (Employment Services Act).

The creation of new jobs for jobseekers and disadvantaged jobseekers was supported mainly through project solutions under the Section 54 of Employment Services Act, by realization of projects focused on the creation of new jobs in a private and public sector for the jobseekers up to the age of 29, by a project for the support of new jobs creation for jobseekers in the area of culture heritage reconstruction, and by a project aiming to support regional employment.

SR adopted a strategic political frame to support the employment of young people in the form of National plan of implementation of Guarantee for young people in SR, which was approved by the Slovak Government Resolution No.195/2014. The Implementation of Guarantee is addressed exclusively to the young people up to the age of 29 who are not employed, do not continue in an education process, nor participate in a vocational training, whereby in the age group from 25 to 29 it refers in particular to the long-term unemployed (over 12 months) or the young unemployed for over 6 months. The National plan includes reforms and projects in two main areas – an early intervention and activation, and supporting measures for the integration on the labour market.

Social indicators of sustainable development

	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Unemployment (%)*	143	11.6	10.4	8.4	7.7	11.4	12.5	13.2	14.0	13.5	12.8
Population suffering from material deprivation (%)**	7.1	6.9	7.0	7.0	5.8	5.9	6.9	6.8	6.6	6.7	6.0
Rate of poverty risk (%)		13.3	11.6	10.5	10.9	11.0	12.0	13.0	13.1	12.8	
Rate of poverty and social exclusion risk (%)		32.0	26.7	21.4	20.6	19.6	20.6	20.6	20.5	19.8	

* rate of registered unemployment, average per year

** average number of allowance in material deprivation recipients with jointly assessed persons out of the overall population

Source: MoLSaAF SR

The Slovak Government Resolution No. 326/2012 Coll. was approved by which the amount of minimum wage for 2013 is determined to EUR 337.70 per month for an employee reimbursed by a monthly wage, and to EUR 1.941 per hour worked by an employee for other employees.

Year-to-year increase of the amount of minimum wage for 2013, in comparison to the minimum wage amount determined for 2012 (EUR 327.20), was 3.2 %.

The support of families by the state is carried out in particular through the system of state social allowances which is the set of cash payments by which the state participates in coping with more life situations, mainly with the families with dependent children. State social allowances contribute to the coverage of expenses for maintenance and other needs of children, and also expenses connected with further social events. In 2013 the system of state social allowances consisted of following single and multiple allowances:

- child allowance
- supplement to the child allowance
- parental allowance
- childcare allowance
- childbirth allowance
- supplement to the childbirth allowance
- allowance for parents who have three or more children born at the same time or twins more than once in two years
- funeral allowance

Help in material deprivation is regulated by the Act No. 599/2003 Coll. on Help in material deprivation and on changes and amendments of some acts as amended. The act's objective is to ensure basic living conditions and to provide the help in material deprivation with the active participation of a citizen and natural persons who are assessed together with a citizen suffering from material deprivation. The help in material deprivation consists of material deprivation allowance (hereinafter only an "allowance") which is provided at six levels and of supplements to the allowance.

In 2013, 184 886 recipients of allowances and supplements were registered in average per month, that, in comparison to 2012, is the increase by 1%. In 2013 the financial means in the amount of EUR 270 576 397 were provided for the allowance and supplements. In comparison to 2012 the slight increase by EUR 1 906 491 of financial means was recorded, that is the increase by 0.7 %. The average amount of monthly allowance and supplements in 2013 reached EUR 121.73 that is in comparison to 2012 the increase by EUR 0.55.

In 2012, 1 108 965 people were in the risk of poverty or social exclusion in Slovakia, which was 20.5 % of overall population (under EU average 28 – 24.8%).

The groups which are most at the risk of poverty or social exclusion are incomplete families with children – 41.0 % and multiple families with more than three children – 40.0 %, and last but not at least also single people – 31.7 %.

Legislation measures for natural persons with severe disability are in SR, in the area of social aid, regulated by the Act No. 447/2008 Coll. on Cash allowances for severe disability compensation and on changes and amendments of some acts as amended. The respective act has regulated legal relations when compensating social consequences of severe disability in order that for the natural persons with severe disability the comparable opportunities in everyday life were created and barriers which they face were eliminated, aiming to protect this group of natural persons from social exclusion, with respecting their dignity.

To increase a living standard of retired persons MoLSAaF SR issued a measure No. 329/2012 Coll., by which the fixed amount of pension allowance and increase percentage of accident annuity are established in 2013. In consistence with the above said, in 2013, the pension allowances were revaluated in the extent from EUR 11.20 to EUR 1.90, depending on the type and proportion of pension allowance paid. The accident annuity was in 2013 increased by 3.05 %.

To mitigate disadvantageous social situations of low-income pension recipients in 2014, the act on "Christmas allowance" was again amended. The sum of Christmas allowance has been increased since October 1, 2014 from EUR 75 to EUR 87.26, and at the same time in 2014 also single increase of Christmas allowance by EUR 12.74 was provided to people with the sum of pensions in the amount of double subsistence minimum; i.e. to the pensioners with the pensions not exceeding the subsistence minimum sum was provided the Christmas allowance in the amount of EUR 100 in 2014. The number of people addressed in 2014 is estimated to app. 1 158 760 persons in case of Christmas allowance, or 784 790 in case of single increase of Christmas allowance.

An indicator "Population in material deprivation" is linked to an "unemployment rate" development, as well as to the development of unemployment allowance recipients. In 2014 the decrease of portion of citizens suffering from material deprivation was recorded in comparison to previous year. An indicator "poverty risk rate", reflects the proportion of population below the poverty line after social transfers. The poverty line is defined as 60% of disposable equivalent income median. The slight year-to-year decrease of poverty risk by 0.3 p. b. was recorded. When decreasing the poverty risk, providing social allowances (social transfers), within the valid legislation in the area of social inclusion, plays the important role. Considering a new definition which includes broader group of people living in the poverty risk or social exclusion, it is very important to observe also a poverty risk rate or social exclusion rate. Based on the above stated facts it is obvious that the situation in 2014 slightly improved as all values of mentioned indicators decreased.

Strengthening the existing measures as well as establishing new measures regarding the growing risk of poverty requires time sequentiality, and above all it depends on an economic situation in the country. Therefore, also within the new programme period 2014- 2020 the emphasis is put on the active inclusions, which in connection with active measures of labour market, lead to employability and work mobility and avoid the poverty trap deepening.

Citizens (individuals, families and their members), who are suffering from material deprivation, with insufficient or no income due to various reasons, are provided with social protection by the state. The social protection system is ensured mainly by tools of help in material deprivation.

Since January 1, 2014, the new amendment of the Act No. 417/2013 Coll. on Help in material deprivation and on changes and amendments of some acts as amended (Act on Help in material deprivation) has come into force. The emphasis is put on the fact, when providing the help in material deprivation, that meritocracy and directness but also the protection of those who themselves cannot or are not able to bring or increase the income in other way were ensured.

Emphasizing the meritocracy and in order to mitigate the risk of poverty occurrence, the measure has been established which should motivate natural persons to place themselves in the market labour and also to keep an employment with a low wage. One of measures relates to the activation of citizens suffering from material deprivation, and it is the conditioning of entitlement to the material deprivation allowance or its part by doing minor community services, activities of volunteers, or work for preventing or removing the consequences of natural perils, accidents, catastrophes, etc. in case of emergency situation declaration. At the end of 2014 the amendment of the act on Help in material deprivation was approved which came into force on January 1, 2015. By this amendment the measure focusing on long-term unemployed persons in the system of help in material deprivation aiming to employ them has been enhanced. A citizen receiving the material deprivation allowance who finds a job, and his/her income is at least in the amount of minimum wage, may receive a specific allowance along with the wage during twelve months (6 months in the amount of EUR 126.14 and 6 months in the amount of EUR 63.07).

Another supporting tool focused on the elimination of social exclusion is the Fund for European Aid for the most deprived for the programme period 2014-2020. In order to execute the fund in question SR has elaborated an Operational program of food and basic material help which was approved on December 11, 2014 by EC. The overall allocation for SR is EUR 64 838 286 mil., including co-financing. The programme aims to help people who are in difficult and onerous social situation, help them to decrease their economic burdens and extent of their material deprivation from lack of food. The programme shall be carried out through four measures by providing the food and hygiene packets to selected groups of material deprivation help receivers, by providing warm meals to homeless people, and also in the form of supporting the donated food distribution aiming to prevent significant wastage of food.

On January 1, 2014, also amendment of the Act No. 448/2008 Coll. on social services and on changes and amendments of the Act No. 455/1991 Coll. on Trade business (Trade Act) as amended (Act on social services) came into force, which regulates the conditions of social services provision. The objective of this act amendment on social services was to improve social service quality, their sustainability and accessibility. The Act on social services regulated again legal relationships and conditions of social service provision. It divides social services into several groups depending on the character of adverse social situation or on a target group to which they are intended for as follows: social services for ensuring necessary conditions for basic needs satisfaction, social services for the support of family with children, social services for solving the adverse social situation due to severe disability, adverse health condition or due to reaching the retirement age, social services with the use of telecommunication technologies and supporting services.

The act amendment on social services allowed the formation of new social service group, and that is crisis intervention social services which include community centres and field social service of crisis intervention which are going to be an important tool for solving problems in segregated communities which have not had legislation support so far. By the act amendment the term “staying in a spatially segregated locality with the presence of concentrated and by generations reproduced poverty” is being established, which is considered one of unfavourable social situations requiring the need of help within the frame of social services. At the same time the concentrated and by generations reproduced poverty is being defined and it means the long-term continuing unfavourable social situation of natural persons group due to the occurrence of several negative phenomena (e.g. high rate of long-term unemployment, material deprivation, low level of education, insufficient hygiene standards, inaccessibility of goods and services and occurrence of social-pathological phenomena which are highly tolerated).

Another new type of social services and professional activities is the service of early intervention, it is specified as the provision of social service in a supported housing facility in a flat or house, and an age limit for the stay in this facility and in the facility for elderly people is determined, the possibility of yearly stay in the social care home is limited.

The term “gender-based violence” was established, as the type of crisis social situation, so it is the threat to life or health of natural person and family which requires to be solved immediately by a social service. The amendment defined that an emergency accommodation facility may be provided also separately, only for some selected target group of natural persons whereby it is possible to maintain the anonymity of person.

The amendment thus allowed the provision of specialized social consultancy and services in the emergency accommodation facility for specific target groups, as are for example women at risk of violence.

Within the help from structural funds the National project “Community centres” is currently realized by which the prerequisites for the building of community centres net for persons socially excluded or at risk of social exclusion. The main aim of the project is to support a social inclusion and positive

changes in communities with the emphasis put on persons living in social exclusion and in by generations reproduced poverty, through the development of community work in community centres.

MoLSAaF SR has begun, through FSR, to carry out also a National project Field social work in municipalities (NP FSW), which is the continuation of performance of field social work in municipalities through demand-oriented projects. The field social work is at the moment carried out in 276 municipalities whereby 399 field social workers (FSW), 452 FSW assistants and 20 regional coordinators are financed. The number of target group persons participating in project activities has reached 74 097, and through social workers and their assistants 620 000 interventions have been provided in favour of target group. NP FSW in municipalities fundamentally changes and improves the performance of field social work, relieves the municipalities of administration and decreases expenses related to it, and it is one of the most significant tools of marginalized Roma community issue solving.

Since January 15, 2014, also a National project Care service support (NP CSS), the objective of which is the support of social inclusion by extending the accessibility of care service, has been realized. The important intention is to support the stay of clients in need of social services in their natural home environment. By realizing NP CSS the number of clients, who so far haven't been provided with care service, increased by 3 258 persons, and moreover, 3 092 jobs for care providers have been created, whereas within the project the costs for creation of these jobs are refunded to municipalities and non-public providers in the amount of EUR 644.00 monthly per one newly created job.

In the area of judicial protection of children and social guardianship, the process of deinstitutionalization and transformation of replacement care for children on the community level is significantly promoted. The specific emphasis is put on the prevention of taking children out of their original, biological families. The measures within replacement family care are developed, and step by step a classic institutional care is substituted by low-capacity accommodation forms (houses, flats) at a community level. The great attention is paid to the professional level of performance, especially to the performance of social care profession. The conditions of social work performance are for the first time comprehensively regulated by the Act No. 219/2014 Coll. on Social work and on conditions for the performance of some professional activities in the area of social affairs and family and on changes and amendments of some acts.

CROSS-SECTORAL VIEWPOINTS

1. Structure of decision-making:

Final decision-making bodies are National Council of SR and Slovak Government. The body responsible for the issues is MoLSAaF SR. Cooperating bodies are MF SR, MoTCRD SR, MoI SR, MoEc SR, Central Office of Labour, Social Affairs and Family, SO SR.

2. Potential creation /organization and competences:

MoLSAaF SR – state social support, help in material deprivation

MoTCaRD SR – social accommodation, asylum housing

MoI SR –local public administration performance in the social affairs division

MoEc SR – support of new job creation

SO SR – statistical observations and analysis

3. Major Groups:

NC of SR, SR Government, municipalities, Institute for research of labour and family, Institute of Sociology, Central Office of Labour, Social Affairs and Family, Institute of Forecasting, foundations and civic associations, charity organisations

4. Finances:

State budget of SR, European structural and investments funds, Central Office of Labour, Social Affairs and Family, Social insurance agency- individual basic funds of social insurance, Housing Development State Fund, self-government authorities' budgets, private law entities' budgets

5. Regional/international cooperation:

UN and organisations of its system (ILO), European Commission, World bank

CHAPTER 4

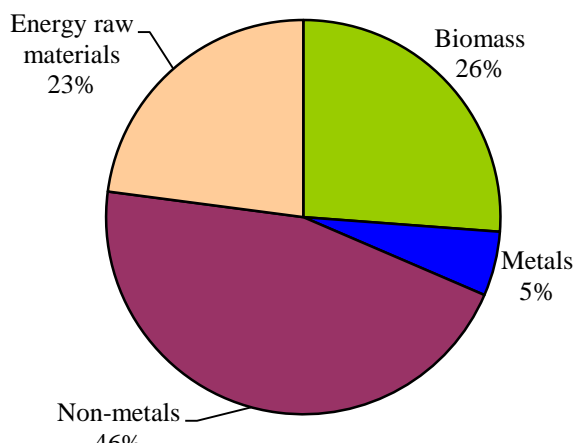
CHANGING CONSUMPTION PATTERNS

AUTHORITY RESPONSIBLE: MoEc SR

The Productivity of resources in SR economy, measured as domestic material consumption (DMC) to the gross domestic product in fixed prices to the year 2005 (GDP in s.c.05) was 0.79 EUR/kg in 2012. In comparison to 2000, when its value was 0.56 EUR/kg, it increased by 41.1 %, but despite this growth the SR is significantly far behind the average productivity of resources in EU 27 countries. In 2012 DMC in SR was 11.9 tonnes per capita (13.5 tonnes per capita in EU-27).

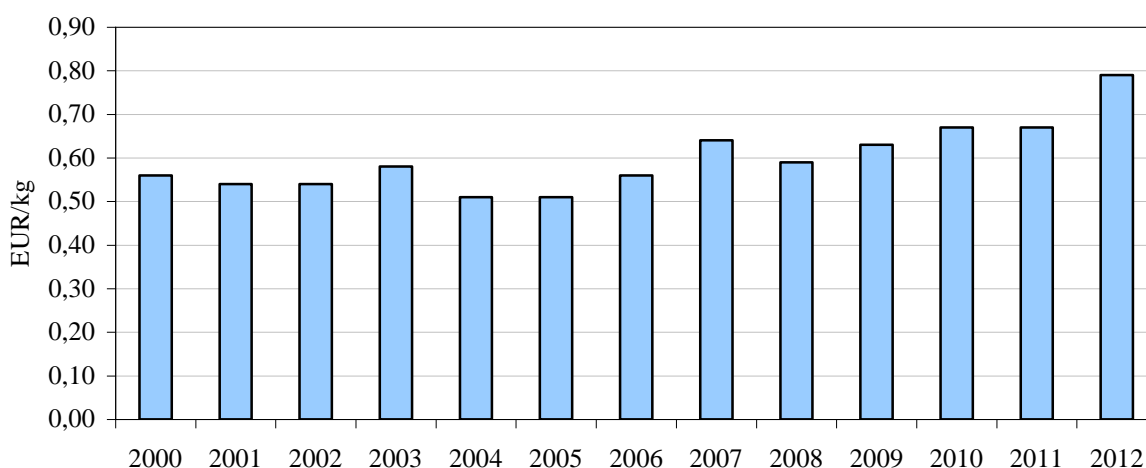
The more detailed overview of domestic material consumption composition provides the picture of the significance of individual materials and their respective potential for their recovery. DMC in SR in 2012 was above all (46 %) created by non-metal raw materials, followed by biomass with 26 %, energy raw materials (23 %) and metal minerals with less than 5 %.

Domestic material consumption (DMC) according to major categories, year 2012, %



Source: Eurostat

Resource productivity development in the SR, EUR/kg



Source: Eurostat

The gross domestic production of energy (GDP) reached in 2012 the lowest value for the whole reference period (698,6 PJ), which is 2.4 % decrease in comparison to the year 2011. During 2001 – 2012 the gross domestic production of energy decreased by app. 14.3 %.

The negative high share of waste landfills within the whole waste management (46 % for other than municipality waste and 69 % for municipality waste) has been persisting for the long period. In 2013 4.07 kg/capita of wastes from electric and electronic equipment were collected, SR met limits of recovery rate and recycling rate of individual categories of electro-wastes which are determined by the Slovak Government Resolution No. 206/2010 Coll. The share of reuse, recycling and recovery of old vehicle parts in terms of the EC Directive, SR achieved and met the prescribed limit. 468 tonnes of used portable batteries and accumulators were collected which is 48 % of collection share. In 2012, from the whole amount of wastes produced from packaging, more than 68 % was used by recycling, and almost 70 % from the overall wastes from packaging was recovered, including material recovery.

In total, 237 products have been assessed and granted EVP label in SR since 1997. The largest number of products in total with the right to use a national eco-label EVP – 148 was recorded in 2008 and 2009, in 2013 it decreased to 118.

Several strategic, concept and programme documents are focused on the change of consumption patterns. It is for example the Energy policy, Energy efficiency concept of SR, National action plan of renewable resources, SR Waste management plan for 2011–2015, SR Programme of waste prevention for 2014 – 2018, National programme of environmental evaluation and labelling of products.

CROSS-SECTORAL VIEWPOINTS

1. Structure of decision-making:

Final decision-making bodies are National Council of SR and SR Government. The body responsible for the issues is MoEc SR. Cooperating bodies are public administration authorities SR (MoAaRD SR, MoTCaRD SR, MoE SR).

2. Potential creation /organization and competences:

MoEc SR- national energy concept, industrial policy, raw-materials policy

Regional and district offices- regional energy concepts

MoE SR – waste management plans, application of voluntary instruments of care for environment

MoTCaRD SR, MoAaRD SR – creation of sectoral strategies and concepts

3. Major Groups:

NC of SR, SR Government, public administration authorities municipalities, manufacturing undertakings research institutions, universities, SAoS

4. Finances:

State budget of SR, European structural and investments funds, private resources

5. Regional/international cooperation:

OECD, MAAE, EU, European Council, World bank, etc.

CHAPTER 5

DEMOGRAPHIC DYNAMICS AND SUSTAINABILITY

RESPONSIBLE AUTHORITY: SO SR

As at December 31, 2013 the SR had population of 5 415 949. In 2013, 54 823 children were born alive, in comparison to 2012 it is a slight decrease (by 712 of alive born children less). 52 089 persons died (by 348 less than in 2012), a natural growth was 2 734 persons. By international migration the Slovak Republic gained 2 379 persons (5 149 persons immigrated and 2 770 persons migrated out). The total growth of population of Slovakia thus reached the value of 5 113 and its annual rate was reduced by 1 401 persons. 25 491 marriages were concluded, by 515 less than in 2012. 10 946 married couples divorced. The number of abortions decreased to 16 347 (by 30 abortions less than in 2012).

The basic and most essential facts of actual demographic development: the marriage rate is still decreased although the potential of population which could get married is high enough; rates of fertility are 30 years under the level of simple reproduction (i.e. two parents should have two live children); mortality is stabilized, life expectancy, although slowly, is growing; rate of divorces is not increasing any longer and the number of divorces of marriages with minor children is decreasing.

However; the main trend of demographic development is still the ageing of Slovak population. The reason of this negative trend is above all the fundamental change of reproduction behaviour of population which has caused that the Slovak population fertility is below the simple reproduction level. This fact very significantly influences the age structure of population, and in 90's the Slovak Republic population was transformed to a regressive type (post-reproduction part of population (50+) prevails over pre-reproduction (0-14). The process of ageing caused by low birth rate is even more intensified by the increase of life expectancy.

Number of population and natural growths in the SR, 2000 – 2013

Indicator	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
Population (in thous. as at 31 December)	5403	5403	5379	5380	5385	5389	5394	5401	5412	5425	5435	5404	5411	5416
Natural growth	2427	-844	-691	-517	1895	955	603	568	4196	8304	6965	8910	3098	2734
Growth caused by migration	1463	1012	901	1409	2874	3403	3854	6793	7060	4367	3383	2966	3416	2379

Source: SO SR

Age structure of population in the SR according to economic age groups, 2000 – 2013

Age groups	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
	Share in %													
0 – 14 age	19.18	18.72	18.13	17.55	17.06	16.59	16.14	15.76	15.45	15.32	15.28	15.41	15.35	15.32
15 - 64 age	69.35	69.89	70.42	70.92	71.31	71.67	72	72.27	72.46	72.42	72.34	71.81	71.52	71.14
65 and older	11.47	11.39	11.46	11.53	11.62	11.74	11.86	11.98	12.09	12.26	12.38	12.78	13.13	13.54

Source: SO SR

CHAPTER 6

PROTECTING AND PROMOTING HUMAN HEALTH CONDITIONS

RESPONSIBLE AUTHORITY: MoH SR

On 1 September 2007, the Act No. 355/2007 Coll. on Protection, support and development of public health and on changes and amendments of some acts came into force. The mentioned act determines also the organisation and execution of public health, performance of disease prevention and other health disorders, requirements for healthy living and work conditions, the obligations of natural and legal persons when protecting, supporting and developing the public health.

In 1999, the National programme of health support (NPHS) was adopted which was several times updated, in 2014 latest (by the Slovak Government Resolution No.438/2014). It joined more, on prevention focused national programmes: National Programme of Cardiovascular Disease Prevention, National diabetes programme; Screening programmes of oncology diseases – colon cancer, breast cancer and cervical cancer.

Every three years Public Health Authority of the Slovak Republic (PHA SR) drafts and submits the Report on the health condition of the Slovak Republic population. The last report was elaborated for the years 2009 – 2011 and approved by the Slovak Government Resolution No. 438/2012.

In cooperation with interested sectors, non-governmental organisations and other associations the tasks have been carried out which result from the adopted national programmes. The most important are the tasks from a reviewed national action plan Decade of Roma population inclusion for the years 2011 - 2015, National programme of care for children and adolescents in the Slovak Republic for the years 2008 – 2015, National programme of mental health, National programme of active ageing, National programme of obesity prevention, National programme for tobacco control, National programme for problems with alcohol for the years 2013 - 2020.

Within the fulfilment of National programme of health support's tasks, the national campaign MOST is implemented, which is the part of National Programme of Cardiovascular Disease Prevention. Within the health counselling, several health-educating activities for the public were carried out with the emphasis on the primary prevention of cardiovascular diseases.

The aim of regional activities in the area of National programme of active ageing is to improve the lifestyle and health awareness of elderly people, and thus eliminate the social isolation which has negative influence on mortality and morbidity of elderly people.

The Public Health Authority of the Slovak Republic and regional public health authorities of the Slovak Republic, in cooperation with a Slovak Alzheimer company, introduced an international activity “Brain Awareness Week” in 2014. It aims to draw the attention of the public to a human brain and its activity, and at the same time to speak about brain diseases and methods of their prevention. In the week from March 10 – 16, 2014 the staff members of 16 health support departments of regional public health authorities of the Slovak Republic carried out the lectures for the public. The educational activity included also cholesterol examination which is also important in the prevention of brain diseases.

Within the Movement for Health World day 13 regional authorities for the elderly people target group carried out the lectures focused on the importance of physical activity of elderly people, in the advisory centres related to physical activity the regular exercises for elderly people were held with the emphasis on muscle strengthening, physical conditions and correct postures.

“World day against osteoporosis 2014” – from October 20 till November 10, 2014 the staff members of RPHA carried out the health-educational events focused on the promotion of healthy lifestyle and importance of physical activity when preventing elderly people from osteoporosis. The nationwide questionnaire-based survey was carried out in the target group 50+ with 1 158 respondents, focused on the respondents’ awareness of osteoporosis and its prevention.

In consistence with the National programme of obesity prevention the EU project “School fruit scheme” was realized. The project intended to increase the fruit and vegetable consumption by pre-school and earlier school age children, influence the eating standards change and to prevent diseases caused by overweight and obesity. There were performed activities like “Open doors day” in Counselling centres of health protection and support, mobile health advisory centre activities (blood pressure measuring, anthropometric indicators measuring, BMI and WHR index determination, body fat percentage and CO level measuring, professional consultancy), exercises in Counselling centres of health protection and support to enhance the physical activity (men, women, elderly people), lectures and discussions on the importance of movement and obesity prevention. The Report on the performance of National programme of obesity prevention 2010 – 2013 was drawn up, approved by the Slovak Government Resolution No. 294/2014.

Within the implementation of National programme of care for children and adolescents in the Slovak Republic for the years 2008 – 2015 (NPCCA) approved by the Slovak Government Resolution No. 192/2008 the objectives and tasks are focused on realization of society-wide most important preventive programmes in the area of children and adolescent health support. Within the performance of selected tasks of NPCCA, PHA SR /Public Health Authority/ prepared and carried out a project titled “Safe Return Home”.

Other preventive activities with the emphasis put on children and adolescent health support were focused on the promotion of European Oral Health Day; demonstrations, practical drill of correct oral hygiene, distribution of educational materials related to the oral health, nutrition, lifestyle, etc. were organized.

The tasks of National action plan for problems with alcohol for the years 2013 – 2020 were implemented.

The actualization tasks of “Programme for healthier nutrition of SR population”. The advisory activity in the area of healthy nutrition was provided by Advisory centres of correct diet. Monitoring the intake of nutrition risk factors was performed within the project “Monitoring the nutritional status of selected age groups of adult population.”

The national Immunisation Programme of SR aims to decrease, eliminate or even remove diseases preventable by vaccination, sound ensuring of immunisation in particular of paediatric population. Currently, in the SR the paediatric population is obligatory vaccinated against 10 infectious diseases: diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis, poliomyelitis, hepatitis B, invasive Haemophilus infections,

pneumococcal invasive diseases, measles, mumps, and rubella. Vaccination coverage against these diseases vaccinated obligatory, long-term exceeds 95% recommended by WHO.

The tasks of National action plan for environment and population health IV (NEHAP IV) were implemented and their fulfilment was evaluated in the National report on NEHAP IV implementation status in SR.

PHA SR, within information on environment and health based on environment and health indicators, in cooperation with relevant sectors, has been still elaborating the list of available indicators by ENHIS methodology, i.e. in a structured form which clearly explains connections, describes trends and evaluates situation comprehensively (www.uvzsr.sk).

Within the issue of monitoring the influence of indoor air pollutants on children health in various regions of Slovakia, PHA SR has been implementing a project “Monitoring the Influence of Indoor Air Pollutants on Children Health in Various Regions of Slovakia” since 2013.

The project is focused on the monitoring of indoor air quality in Slovak schools for subsequent improvement of this environment quality through applying of environmental- health indicators and improving the prevention of acute and chronic respiratory diseases and allergies of children.

Within supporting activities focused on childhood accident rate, in 2010 PHA SR entered into a project TACTICS (Tools to Address Childhood Trauma, Injury and Child Safety) which was focused on accident rate and prevention. The first phase of project (2011 – 2012) focused on accidental injuries. The result of the project on national level was a prepared “Country profile for safety of children 2012” and “Information card on children safety 2012”. The Country profile for 2012 points out on the risk of accident rate of children and adolescents and examines social-demographic indicators which provide baseline point for the interpretation of Information card results per 2012. The second phase of project (2013-2014) was aimed at intentional injuries. As a result an informative brochure is made, the objective of which was to explain intentional injuries reasons, how serious this problem is in the EU context and in Slovakia. The brochure includes also the developed country profile assessing the prevention level within intentional injuries of children and youth from the viewpoint of adopted (non-) legislative character measures in the country.

Also in 2014, PHA SR was among institutions involved in an existing net ERA-ENVHEALTH the main objective of which is the coordination of research programmes and projects in the area of environment and health and the possible way of their financing.

Within the area of human biomonitoring the working sessions took place in 2014 at the level of Member States, EC and WHO on the biomonitoring implementation at the European level.

Population health – development of selected indicators

Indicator	2000	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
Life expectancy at birth										
• Men	69.14	70.11	70.40	70.51	70.85	71.27	71.62	72.17	72.47	72.90
• Women	77.22	77.90	78.20	78.08	78.73	78.74	78.84	79.35	79.45	79.61
Live births/1 000 inhabitants (‰)	10.21	10.10	10.00	10.08	10.61	11.34	11.12	11.27	10.27	10.13
Deceased up to the age of 1 / 1 000 Live births (‰)	8.58	7.20	6.59	6.14	5.86	5.65	5.69	4.93	5.78	5.49
Neonatal mortality (‰)	5.39	4.13	3.52	3.36	3.43	3.07	3.59	2.91	3.33	2.05
Deceased	52724	53475	53301	53856	53164	52913	53445	51903	52437	52089
Deceased/1 000 inhabitants (‰)	9.76	9.93	9.89	9.98	9.83	9.77	9.84	9.62	9.70	9.63

Source: SO SR

CROSS-SECTORAL VIEWPOINTS

1. Structure of decision-making:

Final decision-making bodies are National Council of SR and SR Government. The body responsible for the issues is MoH SR. Cooperating bodies are central public administration authorities and their subordinate organisations.

2. Potential creation /organization and competences:

MoH SR - health of population protection, health care provision

PHA SR – management and control of public administration execution in the area of public health

RPHA – public administration authorities in the public health sector at a regional level

SO SR – statistical surveys

MoE SR, MoAaRD SR, MoTCaRD SR , MoEc SR, MoLSAaF SR, MoESRaS SR- performance of obligations by sectors imposed in documents adopted

3. Major Groups:

NC SR, SR Government, all central public administration authorities and their subordinate organisations

4. Finances:

State budget of SR, European structural and investments funds

5. Regional/international cooperation:

UN and related organisations (/WHO, FAO), EU, EC, OECD , etc.

CHAPTER 7

PROMOTING SUSTAINABLE HUMAN SETTLEMENT DEVELOPMENT

AUTHORITY RESPONSIBLE: MoLSAaF SR; MoE SR, MoC SR; MoAaRD SR; MoEc SR; MoTCaRD SR ;MoJ SR; MoC SR

The development of human settlements and care for them is the part of regional policy. MoTCaRD SR has drawn up a draft of Actualisation of regional development national strategy which was approved by the Slovak Government Resolution No. 222/2014. It is an essential strategic document for the support of regional development at the national level aiming to determine a comprehensive strategic approach of the state to the support of regional development in Slovakia up to 2030.

The individual self-governing regions have elaborated their Programmes of economic and social development. SR has also developed the Concept of territorial development of Slovakia (KURS) 2001 in the wording of KURS 2011. It solves spatial arrangements and functional use of SR and it establishes the frame of social, economic, environmental and cultural requirements of the state for territorial development, care for environment and formation of SR landscape and its regions. It mainly establishes the arrangement and hierarchy of settlement structure and nodes of housing and business agglomerations in international and national connections, development of main urbanisation axes, ensuring the ecological stability and territorial development in order to create the equal life conditions in the whole SR territory.

MoTCaRD SR is the responsible authority for housing policy in SR. The Concept of national housing policy up to 2020 was developed and adopted by the Slovak Government Resolution No. 13/2015. As the state framework document for the area of housing it expresses the complex objectives of the state for the issue of housing policy, it defines the instruments for its achievement, and it also formulates the responsibility of citizens, state, municipalities, higher territorial units and private sector when ensuring housing.

The global goal of state housing policy is gradual increase of housing overall level so that it is accessible to the inhabitants and each household could have adequate housing. In that direction it is necessary to create the framework for the involvement of all subjects of housing development process when solving sub-tasks, create space for participation at all levels of decision-making and to enhance partnership between public, private and non-governmental sector at a horizontal and vertical level, while respecting the principles of sustainable development, energy and economic efficiency and social solidarity.

The existing system of housing support instruments is realised by the form of direct and indirect support.

The direct support of state is carried out through the provision of:

- subsidies provided by MoTCRD SR for procurement of rental apartments, technical equipment and elimination of apartment houses' system shortcomings, under the Act No.443/2010 Z. z. on subsidies for housing development and on social housing in terms of the Act No. 134/2013 Z. z.,
- subsidised loans provided by SFoHD /State Fund of Housing Development/, whereby this support is above all intended for the procurement of rental apartments, and housing stock renovation. Currently SFoHD functioning is regulated by the Act No 150/2013 Z. z. on State Fund of Housing Development.

The indirect support of state is carried out through the provision of:

- State support of housing stock renovation programme in the form of bank guarantee provision which was approved by SR Government in order to recover housing construction and create the conditions for housing stock renovation,
- mortgage financing in which the support is provided only to natural persons by the state in the form of state contribution to mortgage loans and state contribution to mortgage loans for young people under the Act No.483/2001 Z. z. on Banks and on changes and amendments of some acts as amended. The state contribution to mortgage loans for young people is granted to natural persons who as of the date of filing an application for a mortgage loan reached the age of 18 and are not older than 35. By this form the easier obtaining of mortgage loan for young families with limited incomes is enabled, for obtaining, building, reconstruction and renovation of the housing,
- system of building savings with a state support in the form of state premium to the building savings for natural persons and housing and non-housing premises owner associations under the Slovak National Council Act No. 310/1992 Coll. on Building savings as amended.
- at the same time other state budget resources are provided for activities connected with the housing development support in the form of subsidies provided by other bodies of public authority based on generally binding regulations (in consistence with the Act No. 523/2004 Coll. on budgetary rules of public administration and on changes and amendments of some acts).

Besides permanent housing in SR there are defined different forms of accommodation which are in the scope of powers of authority responsible for social policy in SR which is the Ministry of labour, social affairs and family of SR. In terms of the Act No.448/2008 Coll. on Social services and on changes and amendments of the Act No. 455/1991 Coll. on Trade business (Trade act) as amended, through the system of social services it is possible to provide social services to target groups in a negative social situation, the part of which is also the provision of accommodation in the form of a week or year stay, or for a certain time, or for 1 night. These are mainly social services in facilities for persons who don't have necessary conditions ensured for satisfying the basic needs (dormitory, shelter, half way home, emergency housing facility, low-threshold social service for children and family) and for people who are in need of other person help or reached a retirement age (supported housing facility, facility for elderly people, nursing care facility, rehabilitation centre, social services home, specialized facility, day care).

Since 1992, in the SR the housing stock older than 20 years has been renovated, mainly by insulating it and by remedying system shortcomings. Under the data from the Strategy of housing and non-housing building stock renovation, up to the end of 2013 more than a half of apartment houses and one third of family houses were renewed (at least partially) in Slovakia. Based on experiences so far and sufficient forms of apartment building renovation support it is expected that the apartment building renovation should continue further in the pace of 29 thousand flats in apartment houses and a

22 thousand flats in family houses annually. Therefore it is desirable that the pace of renovation would increase in the future.

Operational programme Transport for 2007-2013 (OPT) within the frame of its priority axis no. 4 “Infrastructure and means of transport of integrated transport systems” supports the development of public transport in agglomerations of two biggest cities in SR - Bratislava and Košice. Pursuant to the global objective of OPT, which is the support of sustainable mobility, the activities are focused on making the public passenger transport more attractive by modernisation and construction of transport infrastructure and recovery of rolling stock for the systems of ecological suburban and regional railway passenger transport and urban public transport (tramway and trolleybus).

Environmental management is understood as the integrated part of urban development policy.

The objectives mentioned in the chapter 7 of Agenda 21 are being fulfilled also through following measures 3.4.1 Main services for rural population a 3.4.2 Renovation and development of municipalities from the Rural development programme SR 2007 – 2013.

The implementation of these measures contributes to the improvement of basic services and investment development, and thus to ensuring the higher attractiveness of rural territories, life quality improvement in rural territories, and that mainly by the following:

- safer and better access to rural territories,
- improvement of condition of water network and sewage systems,
- creating the conditions for the provision of better quality public services,
- carrying out further activities connected with the improvement of rural population’s life conditions

The Regional operational programme (ROP) helps to the development of regions and improves the quality of its inhabitants. The interventions have usually the character of investment activities and are directed on the improvement of conditions of public infrastructure facilities and public amenities owned by the public sector. ROP created conditions for sustainable development of human settlements through ROP individual priority axes.

The contribution of ROP to the sustainable development is defined mainly in the measures 1.1 Infrastructure of education, 2.1 Infrastructure of social services, social-legal protection and social guardianship, 3.1 Enhancement of culture potential of regions, 4.1 Regeneration of settlements, 4.2 Infrastructure of non-commercial rescue services in several aspects.

Bratislava region (OPBR) operational programme deals with the issue of sustainable development of human settlements through the priority axis 1 Infrastructure, Measures 1.1 Regeneration of settlements and Measures 1.2 Regional and urban public transport.

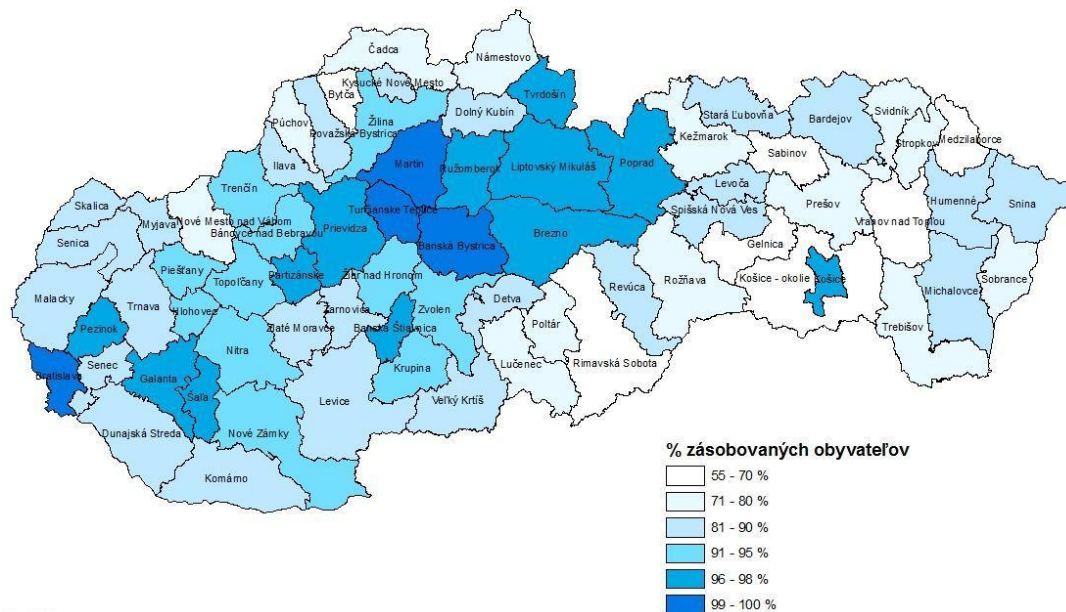
The fulfilment of objectives of the chapter 7 in the OPBK is achieved through the support of projects within the group of activities as follows:

- a) Separate, demand-oriented projects of settlement regeneration;
- b) Conservation and regeneration of natural heritage and support of cycle routes in order to develop tourism;
- c) Urban public transport support

The sustainable development of settlements is supported also by individual Operational programmes of cross-border cooperation of SR with neighbouring countries.

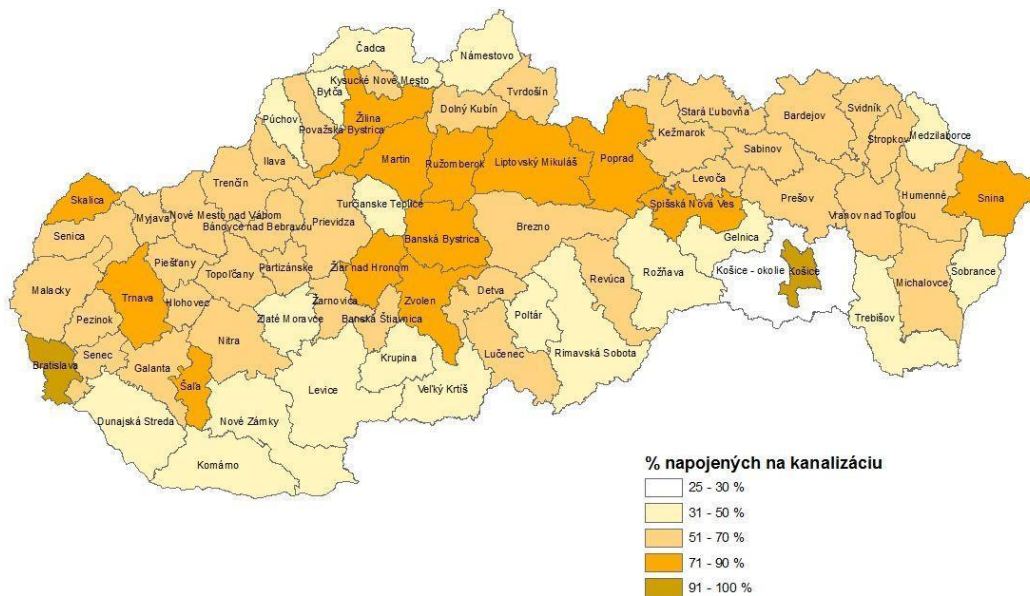
The Operational programme Environment is a significant financing source of complex infrastructure in the environment – building of water pipes, sewerage, wastewater treatment plant, waste management facilities, related facilities. It supports activities connected with the implementation of conceptual and programme documents adopted within these issues in SR.

Share of population supplied from public water mains 2013



Source: RIoWM

Share of population connected to public sewerage 2013



Source: RIoWM

One of the most important tools of landscape management and its sustainable use is the Act No. 24/2006 on Assessment of impacts on environment and on changes and amendments of some acts as amended. The act aims early and efficiently, in particular, to ensure the high level of environment protection and contribute to the integration of environmental aspects into the preparation and process of approving the strategic documents in regard to the support of sustainable development and determine measures which will prevent environmental pollution, mitigate environmental pollution and prevent the damaging of the environment.

CROSS-SECTORAL VIEWPOINTS

1. Structure of decision-making:

Final decision-making bodies are National Council of SR and SR Government. The bodies responsible for the issues are MoLSAaF SR; MoE SR, MoC SR; MoAaRD SR; MoTCaRD SR ; MoJ SR;

2. Potential creation /organization and competences:

MoTCaRD SR – strategic, planning and conceptual activity in the area of regional and territorial development, housing construction, MoAaRD SR –rural development, MoE SR - strategic, planning and conceptual activity in the area of environmental infrastructure, MoLSAaF SR – social policy, SO SR – economic statistics (methodology)

3. Major Groups:

SR Government, NC of SR, sectors, public administration authorities, organisations, self-governing authorities

4. Finances:

State budget of SR, European structural and investments funds, domestic cited funds

5. Regional/international cooperation:

UN and related organisations (WHO, FAO), EU, EC, OECD , etc.

CHAPTER 8

INTEGRATING ENVIRONMENT AND DEVELOPMENT IN DECISION-MAKING

AUTHORITY RESPONSIBLE: MF SR; MoE SR

The SR Government Statement of Policy for 2012 – 2016 declared that the main instrument for achieving the balanced and sustainable development of SR national economy shall be the financial and economic policy, solving those aspects in finances and real economics which are decisive for the further development character. These policies will be designed to further enhance the constitutional, value-based orientation of Slovakia to sustainable social market and environmental development of economy and to strengthen the certainties of life of its citizens.

The government undertook to support investments using the best technologies with the minimum impact on environment. Within the economic policy the government shall draw up separate programmes, for example for the creation of green jobs, in the area of water and waste management, construction, energy and research, development and innovations and technologies.

The government considers it necessary to create integrated system of green growth in order that it would become a transforming driver of production processes and consumption patterns, as the prerequisite for the formation of modern society. The SR government shall create conditions for the further development of regions and diminishing the differences between them, and that in particular by infrastructure building and enhancement of regions through production investments.

Before the policies, strategies, concepts, programmes and plans are adopted, they must undergo an assessment regarding impacts on the environment in order to find, describe and evaluate direct and indirect effects of suggested document on the environment, to clarify and compare advantages and disadvantages of strategic document draft and suggested activity, including their alternatives, also in comparison to no action, to determine measures which will prevent environmental pollution, mitigate environmental pollution or prevent damages caused to the environment, and to obtain professional ground for approving the strategic document for the issuance of decision on permit of activity under

specific regulations. (Act No. 24/2006 Coll. on Environmental impact assessment and on changes and amendments of some acts as amended).

The number of completed assessed strategic documents in v SR according to years and regions in 2006 – 2013

	BB region	BA region	NR region	KE region	PO region	TN region	TT region	ZA region	In total
2006	1	1	0	3	1	3	6	1	16
2007	10	6	8	11	22	4	14	6	81
2008	12	16	23	29	33	10	26	11	160
2009	12	19	13	12	11	6	24	2	99
2010	14	22	27	22	29	9	22	4	149
2011	13	13	16	17	42	7	25	3	136
2012	40	20	29	45	51	26	31	21	263
2013	32	28	32	30	65	37	44	22	290
In total	134	125	148	169	254	102	192	70	1 194

Source: MoE SR

Trough the Slovak Environment Agency MoE SR ensures systematic assessment of individual economy sectors' impacts on the environment. For this purpose the system of indicators was prepared and it is regularly evaluated, and in regular time intervals assessment reports are drawn up on the economy sectors environmental impacts (industry, agriculture, energy, forestry, transport and recreation, tourism). The impact of sectors assessment is also the part of regular annual report on the condition of environment. The indicators and reports are available on www.enviroportal.sk. The Environmental impact assessment is the part of regular, so called green reports on agriculture and food industry and on forestry.

The National Strategy of Sustainable Development is applicable to SR, adopted in 2001.

To the SR, as the EU Member State, the Regulation of EP and Council (EU) No. 691/2011 on European environmental economic accounts is applicable. In terms of this regulation the environmental economic accounts are developed also under the module for taxes related with the environment under the economic activity given in the Annex II of the regulation. In the mentioned annex there is stated that taxes related with the environment have the same system boundaries as ESA 95, they consist of obligatory, uncompensated payments in cash or in kind, collected by the public administration or Union institutions. Under the given regulation the Member States produce the statistics of taxes related with the environment under the following characteristics:

- energy taxes
- transport taxes,
- pollution taxes, and
- resource taxes.

CROSS-SECTORAL VIEWPOINTS

1. Structure of decision-making:

Final decision-making bodies are National Council of SR and SR Government. The body responsible for the issues is MF SR. Cooperating bodies are MoE SR, SO SR and also other sectors.

2. Potential creation /organization and competences:

MF SR – national accounts

SO SR - statistics (methodology), responsibility for the environmental economic account assessment

Sectoral ministries - responsibility for environmental management implementation in their sectoral policies.

MoE SR – central authority of environmental management, coordination of environmental impact assessment

3. Major Groups:

SR Government, NC of SR, public administration authorities and their professional organisations, self-governing authorities, production companies

4. Finances:

State budget of SR, self-government budgets, private sources

5. Regional/international cooperation:

UN and related organisations, EU, EC, etc.

PART II. CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT OF RESOURCES FOR DEVELOPMENT

CHAPTER 9 PROTECTION OF ATMOSPHERE

AUTHORITY RESPONSIBLE: MoE SR; MoEc SR; MoTCRD SR; MoLSAaF SR

Emissions of basic pollutants (TZL, SO₂, NO_x, CO) in a long-term period (1993 - 2012) decreased, however, the rate of decrease slowed down significantly after 2000. In 2003-2005 the slight increase of emissions was recorded temporarily, after 2005 the downwards trend was maintained up to 2009. In 2012, in comparison to 2011, the emissions of SO₂ a NO_x and CO decreased, conversely TZL as well as PM₁₀ and PM_{2.5} emissions increased slightly. The long-term downwards trend of ammonia emissions persists. Non-methane non-volatile organic substances emissions (NMVOC) in a long-term term (1993 - 2000) were decreasing permanently. After 2000 emissions increased slightly, subsequently its volume maintains approximately at the same level, with moderate variations in individual years. In 2012, NMVOC emissions decreased significantly. The emissions of persistent organic substances (POPs) decreased significantly in 1993 – 2000. By comparing the years 2000 and 2012, PCDD/PCDF emissions decreased by 50.1 %, however PCB emissions increased moderately by 1 % and PAH emissions as a sum increased by 5.9 %. Annually, the decrease of PCDD/PCDF emissions was recorded, and conversely PCB and PAH emissions increased slightly. SR fulfils its obligations in the air protection resulting from international documents without shortcomings.

Overall emissions of basic pollutants in SR in 2007-2012 (thous. of t)

			2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
TZL	Stationary sources - NEIS	Major sources ¹	6.020	5.406	4.966	4.936	5.139	5.283
		Medium sources ¹	1.979	1.764	1.554	1.474	1.404	1.348
		Small sources ²	26.821	26.921	27.083	26.214	28.507	28.745
	Mobile sources	Road transport	3.074	2.791	2.470	2.745	2.682	2.737
		Other transport	0.353	0.325	0.295	0.384	0.329	0.320
	In total		38.247	37.207	36.368	35.753	38.061	38.433
SO ₂	Stationary sources - NEIS	Major sources ¹	64.974	64.059	59.739	64.798	64.321	54.235
		Medium sources ¹	1.598	1.246	0.991	0.906	0.839	0.894
		Small sources ²	3.735	3.844	3.116	3.424	3.102	3.169
	Mobile sources	Road transport	0.204	0.210	0.194	0.211	0.204	0.2092
		Other transport	0.047	0.045	0.041	0.054	0.017	0.0161
	In total		70.558	69.404	64.081	69.393	68.483	58.523
NO _x	Stationary sources - NEIS	Major sources ¹	35.762	34.488	31.333	31.466	31.199	27.465
		Medium sources ¹	3.542	3.575	3.389	3.485	3.716	3.978
		Small sources ²	7.819	7.979	7.990	8.076	8.215	8.241
	Mobile sources	Road transport	43.838	43.249	37.638	40.510	37.773	37.087
		Other transport	4.654	4.568	3.854	5.058	4.327	4.219
	In total		95.615	93.859	88.204	88.595	85.011	80.990
CO	Stationary sources - NEIS	Major sources ¹	141.062	136.530	106.635	125.475	136.615	131.712
		Medium sources ¹	5.330	4.518	4.104	4.446	4.680	4.913
		Small sources ²	37.018	37.367	36.181	35.953	37.710	38.172
	Mobile sources	Road transport	59.244	65.068	59.568	53.489	46.880	45.079
		Other transport	1.533	1.446	1.360	1.542	1.339	1.342
	In total		244.187	244.929	207.848	220.905	227.224	221.218

1. under the Regulation of MoAEaRD SR No. 356/2010 Coll.

2. under the Regulation of MoE SR No. 144/2000 Coll. (2001– 2003), under the Regulation of MoE SR No. 53/2004 Coll. (2004–2009), under the Regulation of MoAEaRD SR No. 362/2010 Coll..(from 2010) The emissions from road and other transport specified as at 31.1.2013, emissions from other sectors specified as at 25.11.2013

Source: SHMI

Despite the continuing trend of pollutants emission decrease, in 2013 the limit values of selected air pollutants (NO_x, PM₁₀, PM_{2.5}), specified in order to ensure the human health protection, were again exceeded at several monitoring stations. The limit values of selected air pollutants (SO₂, NO_x), specified in order to protect vegetation were not exceeded. The excess was recorded in case of ground-level ozone.

The massive decrease of national ozone pre-cursors emissions in last years has not caused the decrease of ground-level ozone concentrations in the territory of SR. Some characteristics of ground-level ozone concentrations in 2013 remained at the relatively high level from the previous years.

The overall atmospheric ozone was below a long-term average with 1 % deviation below this average; the overall sum of daily doses of ultraviolet erythematous radiation decreased.

SR fulfils its obligations in ozone layer protection resulting from international documents. It doesn't produce any substances depleting Earth's ozone layer. The whole consumption of these substances is provided from export. These imported substances are used mainly in refrigerants and detecting gases, solvents and cleaning agents.

The development of ozone layer depleting substances consumption (tonnes)

Group of substances	1986/1989#	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
AI - freons	1 710.5	0.996	0.81	0.533	0.758	0.29	0.43	0.46	0.34	0.49	0.19	0.067	0.0016
AII - halons	8.1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
BI* - freons	0.1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
BII* - CCl ₄	91	0.01	0.009	0.047	0.258	0.045	0	0.016	0.099	0.119	0.039	0.072	-
BIII* - 1,1,1 trichloroethane	200.1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
CI*	49.7	71.5	52.91	38.64	48.76	43.94	41.32	34.35	31.12	0.578	-	0.496	0.057
CII - HBFC22B1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
E** - CH ₃ Br	10.0	0.48	0.48	0.48	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
In total	2 019.5	72.986	54.21	39.7	49.78	44.28	41.75	34.83	31.56	1.187	1.229	0.635	0.0586

baseline consumption

* baseline year 1989** baseline year 1991

Remark 1: In 2001-2004 0.48 tonne of methyl bromide was imported for SlovakoFarma as a raw material for medical products production which isn't included into consumption under the a valid methodology.

Remark2: Consumption of CI substance group in 2010 and in 2012 and 2013 is the import of regenerated R22. From January 1, 2010, in terms of the regulation No. 1005/2009/ES, only regenerated or recycled substances may be launched to the market and used for the maintenance and service of installations; import, launch and use of pure CI substance group is forbidden.

Source: MoE SR

The consumption of Earth's ozone layer depleting substances under control in 2013 according to their use (tonnes)

Use	Group of substances	
	AI	CI
Refrigerants		0.057
Detecting gases, solvents and cleaning agents	0.0016	

Source: MOE SR

Since January 1, 2010 the EP and Council Regulation No. 1 005/2009/ES on Ozone layer depleting substances has been applied. In connection with this regulation implementation, in 2012, a new Act No. 321/2012 Coll. on Protection of Earth's ozone layer and on changes and amendments of some acts was adopted.

Overall anthropogenic emissions of greenhouse gases per 2012 were 42 710 200 tonnes (expressed as CO₂ equivalents).

In comparison to 1990, the overall emissions decreased by 41.7 %, annually they decreased by 4.7 % (in comparison to 2011). After the decrease in 2009, owing to the economic crisis, the trend of overall anthropogenic emissions per 2010 and 2011 is relatively stable, and in 2012, another decrease was recorded.

Aggregate anthropogenic emissions of greenhouse gases in CO₂ equivalents (mil. t)

Year	1990	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
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Net CO ₂	52.72	31.24	33.75	31.34	32.76	33.77	37.25	34.21	32.80	34.41	30.28	31.81	30.99	27.11	
CO ₂ *	61.81	41.03	43.31	41.11	41.96	42.30	41.90	41.52	39.72	40.37	36.52	37.43	37.23	35.24	
CH ₄ *	4.82	4.26	4.30	4.93	4.76	4.62	4.48	4.48	4.40	4.42	4.24	4.11	4.15	4.19	
CH ₄	4.81	4.24	4.29	4.92	4.74	4.61	4.36	4.46	4.38	4.40	4.22	4.09	4.12	4.18	
N ₂ O*	6.40	3.60	3.78	3.75	3.80	3.82	3.78	4.05	3.98	3.86	3.54	3.42	2.88	2.81	
N ₂ O	6.34	3.57	3.75	3.73	3.78	3.80	3.76	4.03	3.96	3.84	3.53	3.40	2.86	2.80	
HFCs	F- gases	NA.NO	0.08	0.10	0.13	0.15	0.18	0.21	0.25	0.28	0.34	0.38	0.42	0.44	0.45
PFCs		0.27	0.01	0.02	0.01	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.04	0.02	0.04	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.02
SF ₆		0.00	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.02
Together with net CO ₂	64.22	39.19	41.96	40.18	41.50	42.43	45.66	43.04	41.50	43.08	38.48	39.80	38.49	34.61	
In total*	73.23	48.95	51.48	49.92	50.67	50.93	50.26	50.32	48.40	49.00	44.69	45.38	44.70	42.71	

Emissions determined as at 15.04.2014

In the chart the years 1990-2011 are calculated

* Emission exclusive of sinks in LULUCF sector (Land use-Land use change and forestry)

NA = Inapplicable, NO = doesn't occur

Source: SHMI

After the significant reduction of emissions after 1990, owing to the decrease of economic production, SR succeeded to maintain the trend of carbon intensity decrease also after 1997, so in the economic growth period. So far SR managed to maintain so called decoupling which is the slower increase of emissions in comparison to GDP growth dynamics.

By the Slovak Government Resolution No. 148/2014, the Strategy of Slovak Republic adaptation to the climate change consequences was adopted, the goal of which is to bring as broad information as possible on current adaptation processes of SR, and based on the analysis to suggest framework coordination mechanism which should help make them more effective, and also increase the overall awareness regarding this issue.

SR has acceded to international conventions in the area of protection of air, ozone layer and climate, and it fulfils the related obligations.

Since 2001 the energy intensity has been in decrease and till 2012 it decreased by 47 %. SR adopted a national objective to increase the share of renewable resources of energy in gross final energy consumption till 2020 to 14 %, in comparison to 2005 with the share of 6.7 %.

In 2012, the share of energy from RSE in the gross final energy consumption was annually reduced (1.7 %) and reached 11.7 %. 20.5 % of produced electricity from RSE. The most of electricity was produced in hydropower plants (77.5 %). In past years the electricity production in solar power plants increased, the share of thus made electricity in 2012 was 15.8 %. The share of biomass in the electricity production was 6.6 %, and app. 0.1 % of wind energy.

The share of energy from RSE in heating and cooling production was 10.5 % in 2012, with a dominant share of biomass usage (93.8 %).

The new Energy policy (updated policy from 2006, approved on 5.11.2014 based on the Slovak Government Resolution No. 548/2014), is the strategic document defining main aims and priorities of energy sector up to 2035, with a long-term time perspective up to 2050. It aims to contribute to sustainable growth of national economy and competitiveness by ensuring the long-term sustainable Slovak energy industry.

To meet the priorities of Energy policy, further documents were approved and implemented in practice:

By the Slovak Government Resolution No.732 dated October 15, 2008 the Strategy of energy safety of SR up to 2030 was approved. The objective of the strategy is to achieve competitive energy industry, providing safe, reliable and efficient supply of all forms of energy for acceptable prices with regard to a consumer protection, the environment protection, sustainable development, security of supply and technical safety. The following related legal regulations were adopted:

- Act No. 251/2012 Coll. on energy as amended, with the effect from 1.9.2012. This act regulates the conditions for business in energy industry, access to the market, rights and obligations of participants of the market in the field of energy, measures focused on ensuring the supply of electricity and gas safety and functioning of the internal market with electricity and gas, rights and obligations of persons whose rights and obligations may be affected by the participants of the

market in the field of energy, public administration in the field of energy and state supervision and control over business in the field of energy.

- Act No. 100/2014 Coll. by which Act No. 657/2004 Coll. on heat-power engineering as amended is modified and completed.
- Decree of MoEc SR No. 269/2012 Coll., by which the details on the principles of conversion of quantity volume units into energy and conditions under which the determination of gas volume and volume combustion heat is carried out.
- Decree of MoEc SR No. 270/2012 Coll. on Professional capacity for business in the field of energy.
- Decree of MoEc SR No. 271/2012 Coll. by which the details are established on the scope of technical conditions of access and connection to the system and network and rules of system and network operation.
- Decree of MoEc SR No. 416/2012 Coll. by which the details are established on procedure when applying restrictive measures in the event of emergency, and on measures focused on the elimination of emergency situation in the field of energy, and details on the procedure of crisis situation declaration and its level, on the declaration of restrictive measures in gas sector for individual categories of gas customers, on measures focused on the elimination of emergency situation and on the way of restrictive measures in gas sector determination, and measures focused on the elimination of emergency situation.

Energy efficiency:

The concept of energy efficiency of SR (the Slovak Government Resolution No. 576/2007) which represents the strategic framework of energy efficiency in SR for the period up to 2016. The concept is executed through three three-year action plans of energy efficiency. The third Action plan of energy efficiency for 2014 – 2016, with the perspective up to 2020 (the Slovak Government Resolution No. 350/2014) determines strategic aims and priorities, defines energy-saving measures, sets gradual steps necessary to achieve the goal and need of monitoring.

The concept of energy performance of buildings up to 2010, with the perspective up to 2020 (the Slovak Government Resolution No. 384/2008), the main objective of which is to create conditions for gradual improvement of SR energy performance of buildings through the setting of goals, priorities and system steps, and their fulfilment by determining austerity and motivating measures, programs and tasks, which should contribute to the achievement of significant use of existing potential of possible energy savings.

The actualisation of energy performance of buildings concept up to 2010 with the perspective up to 2020 (the Slovak Government Resolution No. 336/2012). The concept focused on the adoption of all new tasks in the field of energy performance of buildings which were not covered in an original concept (requirements of European Parliament and Council Directive 2010/31/EU on energy performance of buildings dated May 19, 2010). Based on the starting points it establishes which tasks shall be taken over and specified in legal regulations and which should be covered by other standards.

Related legal regulations:

- Act No. 529/2010 Coll. on Ecodesign and use of products (Act on Ecodesign)
- Act No 182/2011 Coll. on Labelling energy-related products
- Act No. 314/2012 Coll. on Regular check of heating systems and air-conditioning systems and on change of the Act No. 455/1991 Coll. on Trade business (Trade act) as amended
- Act No.321/2014 on Energy efficiency and on completion of some acts.
- Act No. 300/2012 Coll. by which the Act no. 555/2005 Coll. is completed, on Energy performance of buildings and on changes and amendments of some acts as amended and by which is changed and completed the Act no. 50/1976 Coll. on Territorial planning and building code (Building act) as amended.
- Act No. 321/2014 on energy performance and on changes and amendments of some acts.
- MoEc SR Decree No. 282/2012 Coll. by which the technical requirements are established for thermal insulation of heat and domestic hot - water distribution systems.
- MoEc SR Decree No. 337/2012 Coll. by which the energy efficiency of energy conversion during operation, reconstruction and building of installation for electricity production and installation for heat production is established.
- MoEc SR Decree No. 358/2013 Coll. by which the procedure and conditions in the field of implementation and operation of smart measuring systems in energy sector are specified.
- MoEc SR Decree No. 465/2013 Coll. on Technical requirements for electrical equipment

- MoEc SR Decree No. 196/2014 Coll. by which the MOE SR Regulation No. 465/2013 Coll. on Technical requirements for electrical equipment and electronic equipment is modified.

Renewable sources of energy:

By the Slovak Government Resolution No. 383/2007 the Strategy of further use of renewable energy sources of SR (RSE) was approved. Based on it, MoEc SR carries out measures given in the RSE strategy:

- Act No. 309/2009 on the Support of renewable sources of energy and on highly efficient combined production, and on changes and amendments of some acts. The act has been several times amended (in 2010, 2011, 2012 and 2013). The amendment which came into force on January 1, 2014 primarily completed the act's extent with small sources for electricity production from RSE, with overall installed capacity up to 10 kW, by which the process of connection of small source up to 10 kW was made significantly easier for households which cover a major part of their energy consumption by produced electricity. At the same time the amendment cancels the Slovak Government Regulation No.246/2006 Coll. on minimum quantity of fuel produced from renewable sources in petrol and diesel launched to the Slovak market as amended.
- MoEc SR Decree No. 373/2011 Coll. by which some provisions of the Act no.309/2009 Coll. are implemented on the Support of renewable sources of energy and on highly efficient combined production
- MoEc SR Decree No. 372/2011 Coll. by which the calculation method of annual heat production in the process of electricity production by combustion of biogas won by anaerobic fermentation is specified.
- MoEc SR Decree No. 373/2011 Coll. by which some provisions of the Act No.309/2009 Coll. on Support of renewable sources of energy and on highly efficient combined production are implemented.

MoEc SR drew up the National action plan for energy from renewable sources which was approved by the Slovak Government Resolution No. 677/2010. The plan determined national objectives for the share of energy from renewable sources consumed in the sector of transport, electricity production, heat and cooling production in 2020, the trajectories of expected growth of RSE use in individual sectors in 2010 – 2020, measures for goal achievement, supporting systems as well as overall expected contribution of measures of individual technologies of energy production from RSE, and in the field of energy efficiency and saving in order to meet binding objectives.

The concept of energy production from small renewable sources of energy development in SR (the Slovak Government Resolution No. 347/2013) which contains complex approach to legislative and possible financial support of small sources of energy development intended mainly for the households' consumption without a negative impact on the stability of distribution networks, and with the effect of financial savings for small sources operators and also for distribution companies. The supporting mechanisms are applicable to all kinds of renewable sources with an installed capacity 10 kW suitable for households; i.e. photovoltaic panels and small wind turbines, photo thermal collectors, heat pumps and boilers for heating by biomass.

The Concept of utilisation of hydro-energetic potential of SR water flows up to 2030 (the Slovak Government Resolution No. 178/2011) which aims to map out a current condition of hydro-energetic potential utilisation of water flows, to find potential environmentally acceptable possibilities of its further utilisation and to create supporting material for its further development.

The SR Government approved by the Resolution No. 223/2013 a document "National strategy of cycling and cycle tourism SR" (hereinafter only a Cycle strategy). The Cycle strategy include 30 measures in total, focused on the development of cycling and cycle tourism in SR, and that also including measures for the support of sustainable mobility in settlements. The draft of Permanent financial mechanism for Cycle strategy implementation, approved by the SR Government in 2014, deals with the ensuring of measure implementation financing.

In 2013, MoTCRD SR elaborated a document "Strategy of development of public passenger and non-motorized transport of SR" up to 2020, with 56 measures for the support of specified types of transport. The sustainability of regional and urban mobility is one of the strategy's basic aims which was approved by the Slovak Government Resolution No. 311/2014.

In August 2012, MoEc SR approved a document “Assessment of possibilities of direction and conditions of industrial production development in SR after 2013”, which is the starting point when ensuring regional development support, the increase of awareness on the most important needs of industry, allows to stimulate the direction of future development of Slovak industry. The document aimed to present the starting points for the processing of programme document of industry development support at the republic level, comprising the targeted measures and interventions focused on the development stimulation.

MoESRaS SR in cooperation with MoEc SR elaborated the Strategy of research and innovations for smart specialisation of Slovak Republic (RIS3). RIS3 was approved by the Slovak Government Resolution No. 665/2013. RIS3 is the key document, focused on the sustainable economic growth and employment increase in Slovakia through the targeted support of research and innovations and achievement of critical mass in individual strategic priorities while taking into account regional specificities. MoEc SR, in terms of the Slovak Government Resolution No. 665/2013, is preparing together with MoESRaS SR the first Action plan of RIS3 implementation, the objective of which is to determine tasks, key priorities and measures conditioning the successful implementation of RIS3 approved by SR Government.

On 23 April 2014, the Government approved the Draft of Action plan for competitive and sustainable steel industry in Slovakia. The aim of material is to analyse the support possibilities for the competitive steel industry, contribute to the maintenance of competitiveness and sustainability of steel sector, and determine real and achievable objectives in this field because it is one of the key pillars of SR industrial production which is the major driving force of SR economic development.

In the context of measures approved in RIS3, as well as measures of OP Research and innovations (and its synergies with Integrated regional OP), MoEc SR in cooperation with MK SR prepared the Strategy of creative industry development in SR, which in a framework maps out culture and creative sectors and also related areas from the viewpoint of their economic potential, and it suggests priorities and measures which react to the major shortcomings resulting from insufficient targeted support helping to the development of culture and creative branches. The document was approved by the Slovak Government Resolution No. 32/2015.

CROSS-SECTORAL VIEWPOINTS

1. Structure of decision-making:

Final decision-making bodies are National Council of SR and SR Government. The bodies responsible for the issues are MoE SR, MoEc SR and MoTCRD SR. Cooperating bodies are MoH SR, MoAARD SR, MF SR, MoD SR.

2. Potential creation /organization and competences:

NC SR – laws, SR Government- programmes, MoE SR- air protection, general responsibility, other sectors are responsible for the implementation of legal regulations and programmes within their competences.

MoTCRD SR –central body of public administration in the field of transport, MoEc SR – central body of public administration in the field of energy, heat and gas sector, as well as industry, MF SR – responsible for subsidy policy of public passenger transport (road, railway and Public transport services).

Road Transport Institution Bratislava – authority responsible for management and control of emission control stations (SEC).

RTS, SEC ensure the implementation of roadworthiness testing (RT) and observing emission limits of road motor vehicles in operation.

3. Major Groups:

SR Government, NC of SR, sectors, non-governmental organisations, production enterprises, civil associations, self-governments, associations, Transport Research Institute, Slovak Hydrometeorological Institution, Slovak Innovation and Energy Agency, research institutions, SAoS, universities.

4. Finances:

State budget of SR, European structural and investment funds, Environmental fund, private sources

5. Regional/international cooperation:

UN and organisations of its system (UNEP, UNECE), OECD, EU, EC, World bank.

CHAPTER 10

INTEGRATED APPROACH TO THE PLANNING AND MANAGEMENT OF LAND RESOURCES

AUTHORITY RESPONSIBLE: MoE SR; MoEc SR; MoAaRD

In November 2014, the SR Government approved a new Energy policy of SR which allows to fulfil also the aim of country resources management in greater exploitation of renewable energy sources (RSE).

The Energy policy of SR provides long-term perspective on the direction of energy sector up to 2035 with the perspective up to 2050. Since 2006, several acts and act amendments, as well as government resolutions and strategic materials have been issued. The following acts and amendments belong to key legislation standards in the reference period: the amendments of act on energy and regulation, acts on national nuclear fund, energy efficiency, renewable energy sources support and highly efficient combined production and its amendments.

The following documents have been produced in order to meet the priorities of Energy policy of SR and within the process of fulfilling the country resources management's objective:

- The Concept of SR energy efficiency (the Slovak Government Resolution No. 576/2007) the main purpose of which is to achieve, by optimizing the state intervention, gradual reduction of energy intensity, to create motivating surrounding for energy efficient behaviour of market participants and population, as well as to support sustainable energy solutions. The concept presents the strategic framework of energy efficiency in SR for the period up to 2016. The implementation tools of the concept are three three-year action plans of energy efficiency.
- The third Action plan of energy efficiency for 2014 – 2016 with the perspective up to 2020 (the Slovak Government Resolution No. 350/2014) determines strategic aims and priorities, defines energy-saving measures, establishes gradual steps for the objective achievement and need of monitoring.
- The National action plan for the energy from renewable sources, approved by the Slovak Government Resolution No. 677/2010, determines national objectives for the share of energy from renewable sources consumed in the sector of transport, electricity production, heat and cooling production in 2020, and specifies the measures which should be adopted in order to achieve these national overall aims.

The obligation to launch biofuels on the domestic market was for the year 2013 established in the section 14a par. 1 lett. a) of the Act No. 309/2009 Coll. on the Support of renewable energy sources and highly efficient combined production and on changes and amendments of some acts as amended (Act on RSE), by the reference value of 4%, whereby the minimum content of biofuels in each litre of individual type of fuels is specified in the annex no. 1 of the Act on RSE. In 2013, 85.937 PJ of motor fuels were released for consumption, out of which the bio components represented 4.6 %.

MoEc SR of energy is preparing a new Raw-material policy of SR which, together with energy policy, shall represent two fundamental strategic materials of national economy. The document shall determine the major objectives in the field of raw-material sources, the potential of domestic raw-material sources, the structure of import and export of raw-materials, and the share of secondary raw-materials in the overall consumption. There will be defined legislative, economic tools for ensuring the raw-material self-sufficiency of the republic in it. Currently, the Update of SR raw-material policy is applicable in the SR for the area of mineral raw-materials, approved by the Slovak Government Resolution No. 722/2004.

The Update of mining state support analysis was discussed in the SR Government on 5 September 2012 based on the Slovak Government Resolution No. 587/2011. The material specifies measures for making the functioning of mining support more effective, following the new system of trading with CO₂ emissions from 2013, and with the extension of working life of power plants in Nováky after 2015, in connection with the new environmental legislation on industrial emissions.

Ministry of Agriculture ensures the protection of agricultural land and forest ecosystems by applying the provisions of the Act No. 220/2004 Coll. on the Protection and utilisation of agricultural land and on the modification of the Act No. 245/2003 Coll. on Integrated prevention and control of environment pollution, and on changes and amendments of some acts as amended, in particular when protecting the best agricultural lands from unjustified occupation for building activities and from impacts of soil profile degradation (erosion, compaction,...).

The Action plan of SR agriculture development for 2014 – 2020, following the Concept of agriculture development for 2013 – 2020, was approved by the Slovak Government Resolution No. 33/2014. It specifies the efficient complex of instruments and measures for the discontinuance of agricultural land loss.

The Concept of nature and landscape is the basic programme document determining the strategic objectives in the field of nature and landscape protection and measures for their achievement. It was prepared for the period 2006 - 2015 and approved by the Slovak Government Resolution No. 471/2006.

The defined strategic objectives include:

- preservation and creation of conditions for the maintenance of landscape ecology stability

In order to support this aim, the project carried out by Slovak Environmental Agency was completed in 2013, within which 22 Regional territorial stability systems were updated.

SR acceded to international documents adopted for the purpose of landscape management- European convention on landscape, and to the Framework convention on protection and sustainable development of Carpathians and its protocols.

By the Slovak Government Resolution No. 222/2014 the Update of regional development strategy of SR was approved. It is a basic document for the support of regional development at the national level which aims to determine a comprehensive strategic approach of the state to the regional development support in Slovakia up to 2030. It defines objectives, priorities and development activities following the Europe 2020 strategy which will have to be carried out to ensure the policy of sustainable regional development in SR, based mainly on the growth of economic and social cohesion.

CROSS-SECTORAL VIEWPOINTS

1. Structure of decision-making:

Final decision-making bodies are National Council of SR and SR Government. The bodies responsible for the issues are MoE SR, MoAARD SR, MoEc SR and MoTCRD SR.

2. Potential creation /organization and competences:

MoAARD SR – competences within the protection of agricultural land and forest land,

MoEc SR – central body of public administration in the field of energy, extraction and processing of solid fuels, oil and gas extraction, metalliferous minerals and non-metalliferous minerals excavation, prospection and exploration of radioactive raw materials and their excavation, protection and utilisation of mineral raw-materials including main supervision over the protection and utilisation of mineral deposits,

MoE SR- central body of public administration for the protection of nature and landscape,

MoTCRD SR –coordination of urban and regional development policies

3. Major Groups:

SR Government, central bodies of public administration and their subordinate organisations

4. Finances:

State budget of SR, European structural and investment funds

5. Regional/international cooperation:

UN and organisations of its system, OECD, EU

CHAPTER 11

COMBATING DEFORESTATION

AUTHORITY RESPONSIBLE: MoAARD; MoD SR

Forests have a variety of functions which are classified as productive and non-productive functions. Within the non-productive functions of forests these are ecologic functions (soil conservation, water management, climate) and social ones (mainly in the field of health, culture, recreation, nature protection and water protection). From the point of view of utilisation of functions, forests are classified to the following categories: Economic – E, Protective – P, Special purpose – SP.

Proportion of forests in Slovakia according to forest category in 2013

Forest category	Stand land area	
	ha	%

Economic	1 382 804	71.22
Protective	332 501	17.13
Special purpose	226 216	11.65
Total	1 941 521	100

Source: MoAARD

The regeneration of forest in total reached 17 205 ha in 2013, and in comparison to 2012, it decreased by 4.7 %. The share of natural forest regeneration which in 2013 reached 37.94 %, has been approximately at the same level in recent years. In 2013 cleanings were carried out at 115.57 % of planned extent. In 2013 improvement fellings were carried out at 67.8 % of planned area.

Forest stands regeneration development

Indicator	Reality in the year							
	2004	2006	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
Forest regeneration in total ha	13 960	15 561	15 402	15 700	13 980	18 055	19 011	17 205
Artificial regeneration thereof, ha	8 866	9 256	9 985	9 143	8 520	10 923	11 964	10 678
Natural regeneration %	36.4	40.5	35.2	41.8	39.06	39.50	37.07	37.94

Source: NLC-ULZI; Summary information on the SR forest condition, 2014

During the reporting period (1999 - 2013) 5,829 forest fires were recorded with a total burnt area of 8,642 hectares. In the forest fires 34 people were wounded and 9 people were killed. Direct damage was estimated at over 24 million EUR.

In the long run, the public was a dominant category regarding the spectrum of forest fires causes (53%). These fires are mainly caused by negligence, tourists, children up to 15 years, by setting fires in nature. The second most numerous reason is the burning of grass on the agricultural lands (25%). The relatively high proportion - 8%, falls on unexplained reasons.

In 2013, 233 forest fires were registered in the SR with a total burnt area of 270 ha and damage quantification in the amount of 270 230 EUR. In comparison to the previous year (517 fires), the number of fires declined. No person was killed in forest fires. 1 person was injured.

The most significant source of turnovers and earnings in forestry (LH) is the sale of wood, which in 2013 constituted 81.70% of total sales and turnovers in forestry. This fact is more obvious in case of non-state entities, where the sale of timber in 2013 constituted 88.39% of turnovers. Wood is the basic raw material for the pulp and paper industry, thereby ensuring employment, turnovers and earnings even in this sector.

In 2013, the entities managing forests in Slovakia supplied 7 610.6 tis. m³ of timber to the domestic market (including its own consumption). In comparison to 2012 the supplies of timber to the domestic market were lower- by 261.8 thous. m³. The supplies of deciduous wood to the domestic market were higher by 145.7 thous. m³ whereby the supplies of coniferous wood decreased by 407.9 thous. m³. Currently, the reduction of wood in the rough supplies is caused by the decrease of logging, in particular of coniferous wood.

In 2013, 3 122 thous. m³ wood in the rough in total were exported. In case of coniferous wood in the rough, in export supplies Ist through IIIrd quality grading cut-outs dominated (46.3 % of total export). In case of deciduous range of wood in the rough, in export supplies fuel wood dominated (14.7 % of total export) and IVth and Vth quality grading (14.6 % of total export). The average monetisation of exported assortment of wood in the rough was approximately 68.50 EUR/m³ in case of coniferous assortments, or 51.30 EUR/m³ in case of deciduous assortments.

922 thous. m³ of wood in the rough were imported to Slovakia which is by 50 thous. m³ less than in 2012. The deciduous wood of IVth and Vth quality grading was imported the most, in the volume of 549 thous. m³, deciduous cut-outs of the Ist through IIIrd quality grading in the amount of 105 thous. m³ and fuel wood in the volume of 123 thous. m³.

When comparing the import and export of wood, it is necessary to draw attention to the fact that Slovakia exports mostly the wood of higher quality gradings and imports the wood of lower quality grading, which ultimately has a negative impact on the forestry-wood sector.

Wood biomass from forest, non-forest lands and residues after mechanical and chemical processing of wood are in Slovakia and together with hydropower, the most significant renewable sources of energy (RSE).

The exploitable potential of biomass in SR has over 61 % share in the overall exploitable potential of RSE. In case of wood, it is a raw material the quality of which and dimensions are not suitable for other forms of industrial processing, or such processing is economically disadvantageous.

Forestry is currently the biggest supplier of wood used for the production of energy to the Slovak market. The supplies are realized in the form of fuel wood and wood chips. Wood-processing plants use the majority of residues from wood-processing to cover their own energy consumption, and to the market they supply surpluses in the form of chips, wood billets, pellets, briquettes. Another significant sources of wood biomass for the domestic market are non-forest lands, mainly long-term unused agricultural lands.

In the past years the domestic demand for fuel wood biomass increased quickly owing to the increase of fossils fuel prices, emission limit tightening, favourable buying-in prices of electricity produced from RSE, and support of investments in this area. In 2013 the demand for energy wood stabilized which was caused by the changes in supporting measures and also by the eccentricity of localisation of built energy sources. In 2013, 3.9 mil. of tonnes of energy wood were consumed in the territory of SR. It represents the overall wood fuel consumption in the sectors of wood processing, energy, other industry and housing-municipal sphere. 1 440 thous. of tonnes were consumed from the sources of wood on forest lands, 820 thous. of tonnes of fuel wood and other wood thereof and 620 thous. of tonnes of chips, or wood from which chips were made.

The overall exploitable potential of forest fuel biomass is now 2.91 mil. of tonnes and 49 % are used thereof. Big part of raw-material used for energy purposes mainly from non-state forests is in fibrous wood quality. This is due to relatively low prices of fibrous wood, the worse economic availability of exploitable wood potential on forest lands (insufficient accessibility, unsuitable logging technologies) and also problems with the processing of deciduous logs in the SR.

In the future it is necessary to improve the economic availability of wood on forest lands, to harmonize the structure of wood range production, in particular deciduous wood, with domestic demand development for the sustainable coverage of increasing demand for energy wood from domestic sources on the forest lands.

In 2013, the supplies of forest fuel biomass represented 1.8 % of the overall consumption of primary SR energy sources. The supplies of forest fuel chips were in the amount of 30 % of annual consumption of wood fuels in power plants, heating plants and small heating centres in the territory of SR.

App. 1 500 employees were involved in the production of forest fuel chips including raw-material preparations, producing of chips, transport, handling and trade. These are almost exclusively private companies.

Summary of development of woody biomass amount for energy utilisation

Year	Forest chips		Fuel wood and others		In total	
	Thous. of t.	TJ	Thous. of t.	TJ	Thous. of t.	TJ
1990	2	19	368	3 496	370	3 515
2000	5	48	471	4 475	476	4 523
2005	120	1 140	640	6 080	760	7 220
2009	220	2 090	695	6 602	915	8 692
2010	250	2 375	695	6 602	945	8 977
2011	270	2 565	700	6 650	970	9 215
2012	530	5 035	780	7 410	1 310	12 445
2013	620	5 890	820	7 790	1 440	13 680

Source: NLC – LVÚ Zvolen

In the forestry new implementation projects are continuously introduced into the practice, which are by their content focused on the solving of current problems in forestry practice, but also on the rationalization of selected activities in the forestry. The content, structure and thematic focus of the projects are designed to form the relatively independent subsystems of Forestry Information System with mutual internal and external information linkages in the national and international context. Implementation outputs are a source of new or modified information about Slovak forests that significantly increase the information potential of the Forestry Information System information bank.

CROSS-SECTORAL VIEWPOINTS

1. Structure of decision-making:

Final decision-making bodies are National Council of SR and SR Government. The bodies responsible for the issues are MoAARD SR and MoD SR. Cooperating bodies are all central bodies of public administration and their subordinate organisations.

2. Potential creation /organization and competences:

MoAARD SR – competences within the field of forestry, district offices-land and forest departments

MoD SR – forests managed by military districts, Vojenské lesy a majetky, š.p., State forests of TANAP, Lesy SR, š.p.

3. Major Groups:

SR Government, National Council of SR, all central bodies of public administration and their subordinate organisations

4. Finances:

State budget of SR, European structural and investment funds

5. Regional/international cooperation:

UN and organisations of its system (FAO) , EU, EC, OECD, etc.

CHAPTER 12

MANAGING FRAGILE ECOSYSTEMS: COMBATING DESERTIFICATION AND DROUGHT

AUTHORITY RESPONSIBLE: MoAARD SR; MoE SR

The area of forest lands in SR was 2 013 419 ha in 2013, natural cover land 1 941 521 ha thereof. Forest cover reached 41 %. The settlement of property relationships to forests lands under the restitution acts was not finished. It refers mainly to forest lands of minor individual owners or share co-owners which cannot be clearly identified in terrain.

Area of forest lands and natural cover land

	1990	2000	2005	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
Forest lands (thous. of ha)	1 976.5	1 998.0	2 006.2	2 009.2	2 010.8	2 011.5	2 012.4	2 013.4
Natural cover land (thous. of ha)	1 921.7	1 921.4	1 931.6	1 937.6	1 938.9	1 940.1	1 940.3	1 941.5

Source: MoAARD SR

Projects "Innovations of cultivation systems in sustainable plant production in changing environmental conditions", "Genetic improvement of the economic characteristics of major crops" and a project "Biodiversity of wheat and its breeding for global changes and utilisation in organic farming" dealt with the care for ecosystems in a changing climate in 2013. Projects address, respectively solve (NPPC-VÚRV) some aspects related to desertification of land in Slovakia, or the research of resilience and resistance of field crops against abiotic stress, including drought and creating the new genetic resources and biological materials of selected field crops more resistant against drought (the creation of new biomaterials of summer wheat, winter triticale, oats and poppy seed more resistant against drought is also one of the priorities of listed crops breeding on Research and Breeding Stations VÚRV).

The research focused mainly on addressing the issue of growing technologies of field crops and their optimization in order to prevent further degradation and desertification, particularly of soil properties, which have a direct impact on soil fertility and consequent reduction in the plant production. The project also includes for 14 years operated long-term stationary experiment with different methods of farming, in which four technologies are observed - in addition to the classic conventional one also 3 reduced, resp. soil-conservation ones (minimisation, mulching and tillageless). The impact of these technologies is observed not only in terms of the production potential of grown crops (within a rotation cycle winter wheat - maize for grain - spring barley – soya bean), but also the parameters of soil properties and selected parameters affecting the protection of agricultural environment related to the introduction of reduced and soil conservation technologies are observed. The project includes also a stage dealing with the impact of superabsorbent on the sprouting of agricultural crops in conditions of water shortage.

In accordance with the Statute of the UN Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCDD), Slovakia claims to

be the developed and at the same time affected state, which means that it has to tackle its problems with desertification, land and landscape degradation and at the same time it undertakes to create conditions for professional or financial aid to other affected countries. SR acceded to UNCCD on 7. 1. 2002. At present (due to weather factors) in the territory of Slovakia the extreme desertification is occurring. The dynamics of wind and water erosion increases and the absorption capacity and soil fertility are reduced. Desiccation causes the risk of changes in hydrophilous flora and mesophilous types of grasslands, and the loss of rare species in xerophilous grasslands. Department of Research institute of grassland and mountain farming NPPC (NPPC - RIGMF) Banská Bystrica addressed the issue in question in 2013 when dealing with the sectoral research and development project Sustainable and effective systems of farming on grasslands, which deals with the rational management of agricultural land with an emphasis on its quality parameters maintenance.

Rational management of grasslands will at the same support non-production functions of grasslands. The role of research is the determination of the influence of water deficit on hydro-physical and chemical properties of soil and forage quality from grassland habitats and technological systems of grass replanting of soils at risk of erosion in changing conditions, in relation to the protection of agricultural land.

NPPC-RISSSP, as a UNCCD national contact point for SR, aims in their research tasks to fulfil the requirements arising from Slovakia's membership in the UNCCD, namely to contribute to the achievement of sustainable development in affected areas, particularly with regard to improving the productivity of land, regeneration or maintenance or increase of soil fertility and developing methods for sustainable land management. In 2005 NPPC - VÚPOP drew up an ACTION PROGRAM FOR THE UNITED NATIONS CONVENTION TO COMBAT DESERTIFICATION. At present a new version of the action plan in accordance with the 10-year strategic plan of the UNCCD and under the directives for its harmonization with the Convention is being prepared. In 2014, in the fifth reporting period, NPPC - RISSSP produced two national reports for the UNCCD reporting: Report from Slovakia as the affected country party and Report from Slovakia as the developed country party, and it produced an Informational questionnaire for the preparation of the Regional Action Programme of Central and Eastern Europe for sustainable landscape and risk management of drought.

CROSS-SECTORAL VIEWPOINTS

1. Structure of decision-making:

Final decision-making bodies are National Council of SR and SR Government. The body responsible for the issue is MoAARD SR. The cooperating body is MoE SR.

2. Potential creation /organization and competences:

MoA SR – agriculture, forestry, MoE SR- issues related to climate change, preparation and adopting of adaptation and mitigation measures.

3. Major Groups:

sectors, scientific-research base, professional organisations

4. Finances:

State budget of SR, European structural and investment funds

5. Regional/international cooperation:

UN and organisations of its system (FAO) , EU, etc.

CHAPTER 13

MANAGING FRAGILE ECOSYSTEMS:SUSTAINABLE MOUNTAIN DEVELOPMENT

AUTHORITY RESPONSIBLE: MoAARD SR, MoE SR

Wind and bark beetles have been the most important factors damaging forest condition for a long term. The frequency of bark beetles peaked in 2009 (3.2 mil. m³), since 2009 the annual decrease is recorded, to the current 1.48 million m³ in 2013. The main measures of protection against bark beetles included timely processing of contaminated and attractive mass. In 2013, 45 thousand of pheromone traps were used to control and protect stands against bark beetles (compared to 2012- increase by 10 thousand units) and 13.9 thousand of classic traps (an increase by 800 units). Wood material attacked by bark beetles was treated by removing bark or by chemical insecticides. In an integrated forest protection the biological products based on the entomopathogenic fungus

Beauveria bassiana were applied. On the calamity areas, especially in the Low Tatras, the protection of seedlings against *Hylobius abietis* was provided by the modern technology, mechanical protection of tree trunks by wax, which can also be used at higher levels of environmental protection. Approximately 100 thousand seedling pieces were treated by this method.

In terms of the ecological balance, the serious problems of forest protection include the damage of ash-trees by a fungus *Chalara fraxinea*. We expect that out of 30 thousand ha area 20 thousand ha were attacked. The fungus usually weakens trees, other factors (bark beetles on ash-trees) kill a tree. The protection consists of leaving the trees without signs of damage in the stand as a way of species breeding.

In 2013, the monitoring of invasive pine wood nematode *Bursaphelenchus xylophilus* and its vectors Monochamus of the genus *Monochamus* took place. In our forests, its occurrence has not been confirmed.

In 2013, an increased occurrence of pest *Lymantria dispar*, exceeding the critical value, was reported on the stand area of 114 ha. The pest was recorded on a total area of 11,442 hectares in 2013.

Since 2011, the Forest Protection Service has detected an increased occurrence of damage caused by pests of roots and trunks of seedlings and young spruce trees up to 5 years after planting. The damage was caused by *Hylobius abietis* and *Hylastes cunicularius*. It concerns the plantation after calamities caused by windstorm dated 19 November 2004, and subsequent wind disasters and calamities of bark beetles in thus disrupted stands. Damaged areas are mainly in the Low Tatras predominantly from the Liptov side. It is expected that the problem will continue for next 10 -15 years.

Mountains are an important source of water, energy, biodiversity and at the same time they are very sensitive to the ecological balance disturbing. Forestry should focus in practice on maintaining and improving the biodiversity and productivity of forest ecosystems.

The solution of the sectoral R & D project "*Sustainable and efficient grassland management systems*" by NPPC departments is dedicated to the sustainability of grassland ecosystems. The impact of different methods of management of grasslands has resulted in visible changes, whereby the impact of mineral fertilization seems to be one of the factors affecting the utilisation of revitalized abandoned stands for forage purposes. In order to maintain plant species diversity and also to reduce inputs in agricultural production, the utilisation of stands at least by one mowing may be recommended.

It is possible to maintain the grasslands in relatively unaltered condition (in terms of quality and nutritional value of forage) by applying minimum pratotechnique which can save the costs of their revitalization. Minimal inputs and different levels of pratotechnique are prerequisites for preserving and maintaining the biodiversity. In 2013, the project within the EU Structural Funds "*Manual of pratotechnique for ungulate game and favourable condition of the living conditions of Black Grouse in high mountain regions*" was addressed, the main output of which is a methodology for pratotechnique management of high-mountain grasslands to meet the needs of ungulate game and for the favourable condition of endangered species living conditions of Black Grouse.

The updated National Biodiversity Protection Strategy up to 2020 was approved by the SR Government on January 8, 2014 by the Resolution No. 12/2014. The updated National Biodiversity Protection Strategy up to 2020 is amended and completed by the National Biodiversity Protection Strategy in the Slovak Republic; its aim is to create a policy framework in order to discontinue the trend of biodiversity loss and to accelerate the transition of the Slovak Republic as an EU member state to the "green" economy, which can efficiently use natural resources in terms of the Europe 2020 strategy, and it reflects all concepts, strategies, plans and programmes approved and in force in Slovakia which have any relation to the conservation and utilisation of biodiversity. An action plan for the implementation of measures resulting from the updated National Biodiversity Protection Strategy up to 2020 (hereinafter referred to as the "Action Plan") contains a total of 167 tasks contributing to the achievement of 6 objectives, resp. 33 measures of the mentioned national strategy. It also includes measures supporting the sustainable mountain development, strengthening of ecosystem services, encouragement of activities in the field of suitable agricultural activities in mountain areas and the like.

CROSS-SECTORAL VIEWPOINTS

1. Structure of decision-making:

Final decision-making bodies are National Council of SR and SR Government. The body responsible for the issue is MoAARD SR. The cooperating body is MoE SR, MoTCRD SR.

2. Potential creation /organization and competences:

Mo A SR – agriculture, forestry, rural development, MOE SR- issues related to climate change, landscape and nature protection, MoTCRD SR - issues related to the regional development coordination.

3. Major Groups:

sectors, scientific-research base, professional organisations

4. Finances:

State budget of SR, European structural and investment funds

5. Regional/international cooperation:

UN and organisations of its system (FAO UNECE, UNEP), EU, etc.

CHAPTER 14

PROMOTING SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT

AUTHORITY RESPONSIBLE: MoAaRD SR; MoEc SR

The Agriculture Development Policy for the years 2013 - 2020 was approved by the Slovak Government Resolution No. 357/2013. It is primarily based on of the EU Common Agricultural Policy and the SR Government Statement of Policy for the years 2012 - 2016. The aim of this concept is to promote the utilisation efficiency of sources for smart, sustainable and inclusive growth of agriculture and rural areas. Subsequently, the Action Plan for the Development of Agriculture for the years 2014 - 2020 was approved by the Slovak Government Resolution No. 33/2014. It specifies the effective complex of instruments and measures in order to:

- discontinue the loss of agricultural lands;
- increase the share of land ownership in the total assets of farms;
- stop further drop of agricultural production;
- growth of gross livestock production and special plant production;
- increase the competitiveness of Slovak agriculture especially in pig, poultry and cattle breeding, and fruit and vegetable production;
- optimize the operation of the land market;
- improve the cooperation of farms when purchasing inputs and marketing their products;
- more efficient allocation of funds within the subsidy titles;
- increasing the rate of labour force reproduction and carrying out the necessary generation change;
- the increase of employment in the agricultural sector to the average EU level;
- the increase of labour productivity in the agriculture to app. 70-80% of the EU average;
- increasing the level of diversification of agricultural production and non-agricultural activities of farmers;
- the increase of property linkage of primary production with the food industry;
- activation of demand for specific goods and services in agriculture and food industry; and
- sustainable forest management.

The Rural Development Programme is the programming document for the use of funds from the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD).

The priorities of the SR Rural Development Programme 2007 - 2013 (RDP 2007-2013) include the support of modernization, innovation and effectiveness of agricultural, food and forestry operations, the maintenance and protection of environmental values of landscape, heritage conservation, creating jobs, increasing the skills of the rural population and improvement of quality of life in rural areas.

SR covers an area of 49 036 km². In 2012 SR had 5 424 322 inhabitants. The number of permanently resident population of the SR is increasing, but still in a slower pace. In 2012, 50.4% of the population lived permanently in the rural areas, 38.4% in transitional regions and 11.2% in urban areas.

The draft of the new Rural Development Programme for 2014-2020 was elaborated the priorities of which are to support knowledge and innovation transfer in the agriculture, forestry and rural areas, increasing the viability and competitiveness of all types of agriculture, promotion of innovative agricultural technologies and sustainable forest management. RDP SR also aims to support resource efficiency and a shift to low carbon and climate resilient agriculture, forestry and food.

Within the RDP 2007-2013, a measure 1.6 vocational education and information activities, in 2013 NPPC-RIAP

education projects 160TT1001329 "The Living Conditions of Dairy Cows and Farming of Suckler Cows" (42 graduates), 160TT1001328 "Livestock Farming in Marginal Areas" (publication) were carried out. Further the education is carried out on the basis of the Slovak Government Regulation No. 31/2011 Coll. 160 160NR0900912 "Education of Veterinarians' Assistants for the Stabilization of Bee Colonies" (51 graduates in 2013).

Training of pig caregivers in order to perform the job of pig caregivers, according to the Government Regulation No. 935/2002 Coll. Section 4, par. 1 (20 graduates in 2013).

Training of classifiers of livestock's carcasses - 48 graduates in 2013.

In the field of bee colonies protection when using POR on the stands, the NPPC-RIAP Nitra - Department of beekeeping is also involved in a beekeepers training - assistants of official veterinarians (OVA) who in practice, in their assigned region, cooperate with the producers and inform each other of stations of bee colonies, of cultivated crops and their chemical protection. In 2013 420 OVA were trained.

NPPC-RIPP was dealing with the issue of the production technologies of field crops within a departmental project "Innovation of production systems in sustainable plant production in changing environmental conditions", in which the various issues are monitored; such as the impact of crop rotation (especially their destruction on harvest and quality of achieved production), the issue of integrated plant protection, optimization of nutrition and fertilization, issue of utilization of soil conditioners, absorbents and growth stimulators in the production process of plants, production greening, the issue of little-known plant production for their use as a renewable energy source, whereby the different stages of the project are structured in the way that they fulfil the idea of ensuring the sustainable agriculture and rural development.

The issue of sustainable agriculture is dealt with at the NPPC-RIPP within the project "Development and installation of lysimeter equipment for rational land management in sustainable plant production", solved within the OP Research and Development. The solving of project is focused on the maintenance of ecological and productive functions of soil at different cultivation methods (soil diversity, assessment of soil quality in different agro-ecosystems, changes in physical and biological properties of soil, impact on the environment, especially monitoring the migration of nitrates in the soil environment).

In the context of sustainable agriculture and rural development NPPC-RIGMF deals with the project "Analysis, modelling and evaluation agro-ecosystem services", whose main objective is to create a system of evaluation and valuation of services for the territory of Slovakia. The project is a comprehensive analysis of agro-ecosystem services of the system soil - plant, which includes the capacity of the soil and the capacity of the vegetation cover (grassland and arable crops), as well as their interactions to provide the goods and services meeting the needs of human.

NPPC-VÚPOP addresses the task: Agro-environmental support within the RDP, and based on the principle of financial compensation which arises as a result of legislative and other constraints in the production process. This is a limitation of production intensity or preservation of its extensiveness and reimbursement of additional costs resulting from the need to carry out activities beyond normal agricultural practice. The purpose of the payments calculation is to demonstrate the relevance of payments and determine the amount of compensation. The second task is to determine the disadvantaged areas in SR RDP in the context of the proposed criteria of the European Commission and the determination of conditions and amount of payments for areas with natural handicaps.

Within the Chapter 14, the Food Research Institute (NPPC-RIA) in 2013 to addressed three educational projects RDP SR 2007-2013,

- Good hygiene practice and obtaining proficiency for the sale of raw milk and products thereof "directly from the farm" (Project Code: 160TT1001261, Duration: 03/2010 - 02/2013).
- Good hygiene practice for the sale of livestock meat "directly from the farm" (Project Code: 160TT1001259, Duration: 03/2010 - 02/2013).
- Good hygiene practice for the sale of other animal products (honey, eggs, ...) "directly from the farm" (Project Code: 160TT1001260, Duration: 03/2010 - 02/2013).

The implementation of measure 3.1 RDP SR 2007-2013 contributes to the diversification into non-agricultural activities, the development of non-agricultural activities and increase of rural employment, in particular by:

- the expansion of alternative sources of income through the establishment of additional productions of non-agricultural character,

- creating the new jobs and maintaining existing ones.

The implementation of measure 3.3 RDP SR 2007-2013 contributes to the improvement and support of human potential as a precondition for improving the quality of life in rural areas, in particular through:

- creating the preconditions for achieving the greatest possible benefit and added value,
- providing the necessary knowledge, skills and information to improve communication and promotion in rural areas, advice on lifelong learning, the use of information and communication technologies, environmental sustainability, the management of enterprises, etc.

The protection and use of agricultural land is governed by the Act No. 220/2004 Coll. on Protection and use of agricultural land and on the modification of the Act No. 245/2003 Coll. on Integrated Pollution Prevention and Control and on modification and amendment of certain acts.

This Act provides for

- the protection of properties and functions of agricultural land and ensuring its sustainable management and agricultural use,
- the protection of environmental functions of agricultural land, which are: biomass production, filtration, neutralization and transformation of substances in nature, maintenance of the ecological and genetic potential of living organisms in nature,
- the protection of agricultural land area from unauthorized occupation for non-agricultural use,
- how to change the type of land and the procedure when withdrawing the agricultural land for non-agricultural purposes.

The total area of Slovakia is 4 903 531 ha. In 2013 the share of agricultural land accounted for 49% of the total land area, the proportion of forest lands was 41.1% and non-agricultural and non-forest lands 9.9%.

Anthropogenic pressure on the utilisation of land for other purposes than for fulfilling its primary production and environmental functions causes its gradual loss. The development of land resources in the SR was in 2013 marked by the further loss of agricultural and arable land.

The development of soil contamination after 1990 is very gradual, without significant changes. Soils that were contaminated in the past are contaminated to this day. However, nearly 99% of agricultural land is regarding the hygiene suitable. The remaining part of the contaminated soil is linked mainly to the regions of industrial activities and to the areas affected by so-called geochemical anomalies - the mountain and foothill regions.

As for monitored risk elements (As, Cd, Co, Cr, Cu, Hg, Ni, Pb, Zn) in agricultural soils the statutory limits were in some cases exceeded but in the most of assessed samples the below the limit values were recorded.

In 2013 about 39.2% of the total area of agricultural land was threatened by water erosion and about 5.5% by wind erosion in Slovakia.

In the long term, comparing the area at the end of the 1st and 4th monitoring cycle (sample years 1993 and 2007), the acreage of soils affected by water erosion decreased on 169 780 ha and the acreage of soils affected by wind erosion on 21 854 ha.

The environmental burden is defined as the territory pollution caused by human activity, which constitutes a serious risk to human health or the rock environment, groundwater and soil.

In the years 2006-2008, the Systematic identification of environmental burdens was conducted, including the assessment of their risk and The Environmental burden information system was built. The environmental burden is defined as the area pollution caused by human activity, which constitutes a serious risk to human health or the rock environment, groundwater and soil.

The Regional studies of environmental impacts on the environment (2010) were elaborated. The Amendment of the Geological Act was adopted which defined the environmental burden and the likely environmental burden (as a condition of territory, where the presence of environmental burden is reasonably expected). The State program of environmental remediation of environmental burdens was prepared and approved by the government (2010), the Law on "environmental burdens" No. 409/2011 laying down the conditions for systemic tackling of the issue was adopted.

The Operational Programme Environment 2007-2013 provides the financing of projects for monitoring and examination of environmental burdens and risk analysis processing, remediation of the riskiest environmental burdens, completing the Environmental burden information system, training, education and awareness as the support for dealing with environmental problems. By the end of 2013 the Environmental burden information system contained 902 probable environmental burdens, 277 environmental burdens and 753 remedied and reclaimed sites.

In 2012, MoAARD SR developed the Slovak National Action Plan to achieve the sustainable use of pesticides. It consists primarily of qualitative and quantitative objectives, measures for the reduction of health and environmental risks and impacts of plant protection products use on the human health and on the environment, the support of the development and implementation of integrated protection against harmful organisms and alternative approaches or techniques used in plant protection.

Pesticide consumption in 2013 increased by 181.4 tons compared to 2012. In total 4 136.3 tons of plant protection products were applied; 2 399.5 tons of herbicides, 790.8 tons of fungicides, 272.8 tons of insecticides and 673.1 tons of other products thereof.

The consumption of fertilizers in 2013 amounted to 95.6 kg of pure nutrients (p.n.) per hectare of agricultural land.

In 2012, the reduction in the consumption of heat, electricity and gaseous fuels occurred year on year in the agricultural sector. Adversely, no or slight increase in the consumption of solid and liquid fuels was recorded year on year.

Consumption of selected fuels, heat and electricity in agriculture (TJ)

Fuel	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Solid fuels	133	131	82	65	55	58	45	33	33	22	22
Liquid fuels	2 665	2 987	3 250	3 423	3 000	2 874	3 001	2 703	2 839	2 835	2 836
Gaseous fuels	1 869	1 316	1 781	1 670	1 263	1 137	1 257	1 140	1 340	1 617	1 338
Heat	312	323	203	201	189	231	226	187	164	141	44
Electricity	1 850	1 796	1 530	1 411	1 325	1 278	1 195	1 152	1 030	1 080	1 026

Source: SO SR

In 2013, surface water abstractions for irrigation purposes amounted to 13 952 mil. m³ which represented a decrease by 23.08% in comparison to the previous year. The volume of groundwater used in the agriculture in 2013 in comparison to 2012 decreased by 7.9 ls⁻¹.

CROSS-SECTORAL VIEWPOINTS

1. Structure of decision-making:

Final decision-making bodies are National Council of SR and SR Government. The body responsible for the issue is MoAARD SR. The cooperating body is MoE SR, MoTCRD SR.

2. Potential creation /organization and competences:

MoAARD SR – agriculture, forestry, rural development, agricultural and protection, MoE SR- environmental burdens, air, climate, water protection and water management, landscape and nature protection, MoTCRD SR - regional development, National network of rural development, professional chambers, Agency for rural development, National agricultural and food centre

3. Major Groups:

sectors, scientific-research base, professional organisations

4. Finances:

State budget of SR, European structural and investment funds

5. Regional/international cooperation:

UN and organisations of its system (FAO) , EU, OECD, etc.

CHAPTER 15

CONSERVATION OF BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY

AUTHORITY RESPONSIBLE: MoE SR; MoAARD SR

In 2014, there was a change in the regulatory environment of nature and landscape. The amendments to the Act No. 543/2002 Coll. on Nature and landscape protection as amended allowed the expansion of economic instruments (compensation for restrictions of land management for owners of protected areas), the financial compensation was supplemented by the possibility of land exchange, purchase, lease and contractual protection, the regulations of non-native and invasive plant and animal species were modified, the process of protected area designation was amended, including the transfer of competence to declare protected areas from nature conservation authorities to the Government of the Slovak Republic, some shortcomings of the existing national legislation regarding the application of the Council Directive 92/43/EEC on the Conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and plants and the Parliament and Council Directive 2009/147/EC on the Conservation of wild birds were remedied, and the issue of protection of wood species was updated.

In the amendment to the SR Ministry of Environment Decree No. 24/2003 Coll., implementing the Act on nature and landscape protection, changes in the documentation on the nature protection were reflected, but also the List of invasive species of animals and methods for their elimination was included into the Annex no. 2.

Also several strategic documents were approved. The most important of these is the updated National Biodiversity Protection Strategy up to 2020 (the Slovak Government Resolution No. 12/2014) and the Action Plan for the implementation of its measures (SR Government Decree No. 442/2014). The strategy reflects the international commitments of the Slovak Republic, in particular from the Convention on Biological Diversity, as well as the commitments taken by the EU following the 10th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention (Nagoya, Japan, October 2010). It includes 9 goals and it is extended by the area of green infrastructure, ecosystem services and invasive species, it reflects the policy of biodiversity protection at the EU level and it pays an increased attention to including the biodiversity protection and protected area management between the priorities when planning the financing instruments from the EU funds. The Action Plan contains 167 tasks for the achievement of 6 goals, resp. 33 measures specified in the national strategy.

In December 2013, within the CITES issue, the SR Government approved a National Action Plan of the Slovak Republic 2014 - 2019 for promoting the application of Council Regulation (EC) No. 338/97 on the Protection of wild fauna and flora species by regulating trade with them. In 2013 MOE SR issued 204 permits for import/export/re-export (especially for parrots and hunting trophies), 572 exemptions from the prohibitions of commercial activities (especially for parrots, birds of prey, owls and turtles) and 5 approvals for the transfer of specimens. The detention and forfeiture of 4 shipments of horns (8 horns in total) of Southern White Rhinoceros (*Ceratotherium simum simum*) in favour of the state was recorded. It was the first detection of illegal import of this kind in Slovakia.

In 2013, a body of state inspection (National Forest Centre) conducted surveillance concerning the production of forest reproductive material (FRM) and its placing on the market at 124 subjects performing activities with FRM and at 29 forest managers. The seed quality controls – determination of germinative activity of 112 sections, purity determination of 149 sections, determination of life-time of 68 sections and determination of moisture of 6 sections- were carried out in a specialized seed laboratory.

The most widespread source of FRM in Slovakia are recognized forest stands. Their area varies slightly each year and reflects the needs of resource managers. Compared to 2012, the slight reduction of the area of Norway spruce, Scotch pine and European beech tree species was recorded. Number and area of other recognized FRM sources are approximately the same as they were in 2012.

In order to conserve the genetic resources of forest tree species, 130 genetic bases with a total area of 26,072 ha are established in Slovakia as at 31.12.2013.

The current legislation of FRM issues creates appropriate conditions to ensure a sufficient number of recognized FRM sources for all major tree species in Slovakia.

Forest seedery – in the harvest season 2012/2013 there was moderate harvest regarding all our major economic plants. There is still a lack of seeds of European beech in the 6th forest vegetation zone, oak in the 1st forest vegetation zone and Norway spruce in the 6th and 7th forest vegetation zone. Forest trees seeds are processed and stored mainly in the spinoff Semenoles Liptovský Hrádok.

The area of forest tree nurseries, as well as the area of productive land is stabilized. The total production of planting stock showed a slight decrease.

In 2013, the National Agricultural and Food Centre - Animal Production Research Institute (NPPC-RIAP) actively contributed to the goals of the Convention on Biological Diversity and the related Community Strategy for Biodiversity which includes a program of measures for the conservation of biodiversity and the protection of genetic resources in agriculture, activities related to the protection of animal genetic resources (AGR) of livestock within Slovakia, FAO and OECD.

The research and development project RPVV 3 "Research methods for biodiversity conservation", which deals with alternative biotechnological processes for the AGR preservation and promotion of agrarian country biodiversity, continued. The related supporting documentation was developed and provided to MoAARD SR for implementing the Greening programme.

Within the National Programme for Protection of Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture in the Slovak Republic for 2010-2014 (NPPGR), at the National agricultural and food centre - Plant Production Research Institute (NPPC-RIPP) in 2013, the task of professional assistance for MoAARD SR SR "Operation of Gene Bank of the Slovak Republic"(GB SR), located in Piešťany, in which more than 21,000 GZR seed samples have been long-term held, was solved. The solution was based on the fundamental tasks imposed by the Convention on Biological Diversity, the World Plan of Actions in the Action Plan for the implementation of the National Biodiversity Protection Strategy in Slovakia for the years 2003-2010, and in particular by the NPPGR. The approval and funding (85% of EU structural funds - ERDF and 15% from the SB SR) of 3 projects, carried out under the Operational Programme Research and Development for 2007-2013 through the MoESRaS SR Agency for the EU Structural Funds, and coordinated by NPPC-VÚRV – of projects "Transfer, use and dissemination of research results of Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture" (duration of the project 10/2009 - 03/2014), "Implementation of GZR research and its support in the sustainable development of the Slovak economy" (duration 01/2011 - 03/2015) and "System biology for the protection, reproduction and use of Slovak plant resources" (duration 10/2012 - 12/2014) constituted an important contribution to the improvement of RIPP activity.

Within the "Strategy 2020" and related development of conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity, NPPC-RIGMF (Research Institute of Grasslands and Mountain Agriculture) addresses a departmental project "Sustainable and efficient systems of management at grasslands", which deals with these issues in a research sub-phase "Possibilities of grassland recovery from species-rich meadows", the main objective of which is the ecological restoration of grasslands and conservation of grassy-herbaceous ecosystem biodiversity.

NPPC-FRI (Food Research Institute) operates a departmental collection of food microorganisms, which is the only one in the resort, and they come from a cooperation with manufacturing practices and from a cooperation with research institutions. In 2013, 48 strains of *Listeria monocytogenes* from food manufacturing environment were included in the collection, then two strains of *Listeria ivanovii*, 1 strain of *Staphylococcus aureus* and 4 species of *Lactobacillus sp.* from the collection of CCM Brno.

In 2013, SOP SR began to implement a comprehensive field monitoring of species and habitats of Community importance (CI) oriented to track the 146 kinds of animals, 49 species of plants and 66 habitat types of CI, which continued also in 2014, and also the comprehensive information and monitoring system of habitats and species was prepared.

The status of endangerment of individual species of flora and fauna is processed according to the current red lists (Baláž, Marhold, Urban, 2001). The status of endangerment of molluscs (Šteffek) and orthopterans (Gavlas, Krištín) is given according to the updated red lists, produced in 2005, and the state of endangerment of fish (Koščo, Holčík) produced in 2008. In 2013, the Red List of birds of Slovakia was elaborated (Demko, Krištín, Puchala). This year the preparation of red lists of endangered habitats, species of flora and fauna has continued throughout the Carpathian region within the project Integrated management of biological and landscape diversity for a sustainable regional development and ecological connectivity in the Carpathians (BioREGIO, Carpathians), funded by the transnational program South East Europe.

The current red lists of plants and animals contain different categories of endangerment of 3057 plant taxa, 2058 invertebrate taxa and 257 vertebrate taxa.

The endangerment of lower plants in Slovakia is currently 17.6% (including fungi), or 11.3% only in more stringent categories of CR, EN and VU. The endangerment of higher plants is 42.6%, respectively 30.3% only in CR, EN and VU categories. The endangerment of invertebrates in Slovakia is currently about 8.5% (resp. 6.4% only under more stringent categories of CR, EN and VU). Regarding vertebrates, 60.9% (resp. 23.5% only in the CR, EN and VU categories) are endangered.

The number of plant taxa protected by state represents 1,419 taxa, out of which 823 taxa occur in Slovakia (vascular plants – 713, bryophytes - 23, higher fungi - 70, lichens - 17). The number of state protected taxa is currently 813 taxa at the species and subspecies level, and 12 taxa at the genus level.

In 2013, no elaborated rescue programs were submitted for approval. Conservation programs for 9 plant species were implemented (*Liparis loeselii*, *Tephrosieris longifolia* ssp. *Moravica*, *Herminium monorchis*, *Spiranthes spiralis*, *Drosera*, *Radiola linoides*, *Lycopodiella inundata*, *Alkanna tinctoria* and *Colchicum arenaria*) and 3 taxa of animals (Castor fiber, *Mustela lutreola*, butterflies of the genus *Maculinea*).

In terms of saving flora and fauna in situ, the transfers of 9 endangered plant species (resp. 58 individuals), and transfers and restitution to suitable habitats in the wild for 3 taxa of protected and endangered animals (*Amphibia*, *Spermophilus citellus*, bats) were organized in 2013.

In rehabilitation centres, 992 injured individuals or otherwise disabled animals in total were rehabilitated in 2013. 387 individuals in total were released back to the wild.

In 2013, within the organizational units of SOP SR, the surveillance of 87 nests of 6 kinds of predators was ensured, and 80 juveniles were successfully fetched out from them.

Within the practical care of protected animals, the installation of foil barriers and subsequent transfer of amphibians, mainly frogs, through the road is carried out on the problematic sections of roads during the spring migration of amphibians. In total, 75,549 pieces of amphibians were transferred and 26,750 m of barriers were installed in 2013.

In 2013, together 68 localities of invasive plant species in protected areas or in their restricted areas were mapped on the area of 1 252.25 hectares, and 62 sites in the area with the first level of protection on the area of 743.4 hectares. The removal of non-native invasive and invasively behaving plant species was carried out at 77 sites in protected areas on the area of 30.7 hectares (following the measures implemented in previous years) and outside protected areas at 50 locations on the area of 37.6 hectares. It involved 17 kinds of non-native and invasive plant species.

In order to improve the favourable status of habitats and plants, management measures were implemented in 89 localities of protected areas, on the area of 179.3 hectares in total, outside the protected areas in 35 localities (gene pool areas) on the surface of 26.9 ha in 2013.

In 2013, the second report was drafted on the state of habitats and species of Community interest within the meaning of Article 17 of the Habitats Directive (for the years 2007-2012). For the SR the report assesses the status of 195 kinds and 66 types of habitats of Community importance. Based on a comparison of the status of species and habitats with the assessment in 2007, we can conclude that there was an improvement of knowledge, i.e. fewer evaluations show the status unknown. The overall proportion of species and habitats with favourable condition evaluation has improved, which is mainly due to the improvement of knowledge mentioned. The proportion of species found in poor condition is more or less unchanged, which suggests that the necessary measures to restore habitats or species populations, or to revitalize sites on which they are located, are still poorly applied.

In 2013, also the Report on the status of individual species of birds was drafted within the meaning of Article 12 of the Directive on Birds. In total, 243 kinds of birds were assessed. Most species in Slovakia has an estimated population smaller than 10,000 pairs. The result is the high vulnerability of individual species of birds, especially in populations up to 2,000 pairs which is the size of approximately half of the species nesting in Slovakia. The trend of bird population in Slovakia is with 55% of species stable or increasing, on the contrary, one-third of the bird species in our country is shrinking. 76% of species have stable or expanding area, which is quite positive result.

Evaluation of ecosystem services in Slovakia has been so far carried out in the Slovak Paradise National Park (2009), NP Veľká Fatra (2011) and the Tatra National Park (2012). Partial evaluations have been developed for some forest ecosystems. In 2012, the assessment of Muránska planina NP began. Within the activities of MoE SR with relevant institutions, the LIFE+ project for ecosystem accounting was drawn up. It also includes the assessment of ecosystem services in NP Poloniny, including a questionnaire-based survey of socio-economic opportunities and ecosystem services.

In connection with the performance of the tasks under the Convention on Biological Diversity and the EU Strategy for Biodiversity up to 2020, a cooperation was secured in order to prepare the methodology for the valuation of ecosystem services in protected areas of SR.

Within the building of protected areas as a basic tool of protection and preservation of ecosystems, the MoE SR Decree on designating the last PBA Levočské Hills came into force in 2013 and in 2014 the MoE SR Decree No. 466/2013 Coll., which amends the MoE SR Decree No. 440/2008 Coll., which declares the Special Protection Area Danube river basins came into force. The rules concerning 9 protected areas were updated, and 3 protected areas were cancelled. The process of designating other protected areas was suspended due to the aforementioned changes in legislation. Thereby the legislative environment taking into account owners' entitlements was created, which is a prerequisite not only for meeting the objectives of nature conservation, but also for reaching an agreement with the owners, and last but not least, for funds saving.

The total area of national protected areas was unchanged in 2013 and it was 1,142,151 hectares, which represents 23.3% of the Slovak territory. In addition to the above, in the SR there are 41 designated special bird protection areas with a total area of 1,282,811 ha (26.16% of the area of SR) and 473 Community importance areas with the area of 584,353 ha (11, 9%) within the building of a European network of protected areas NATURA 2000.

From the internationally protected areas there are 2 areas in Slovakia which have awarded the Council of Europe Diploma, 4 areas included in the network of biosphere protected areas (within the UN Program Man and the Biosphere), 2 international projects registered in the UNESCO World Heritage List and 14 wetland sites inscribed in the List of Wetlands of International Importance (Ramsar sites), within the Convention on Wetlands of the International Importance, especially as waterfowl habitats.

In 2013, 1 program for protected area management was approved. 2 projects from the Operational Programme Environment started to be implemented, which aim to develop 131 care programs for selected protected areas of Natura 2000 and pilot programs of care for 3 protected areas (PL, NP). A project aiming to develop 34 programs for protected bird areas is in progress.

In the field of practical care for specially protected nature and landscape parts, specialized nature protection organizations carried out regulatory interventions (mainly mowing, mulching and removal of volunteer woody plants).

Nature protection organizations developed in total 8 402 expert opinions for the proceedings of public administration authorities.

CROSS-SECTORAL VIEWPOINTS

1. Structure of decision-making:

Final decision-making bodies are National Council of SR and SR Government. The bodies responsible for the issue are MoE SR and MoAARD SR. The cooperating bodies are other public administration authorities and their professional organisations.

2. Potential creation /organization and competences:

MoE SR- central body of public administration for the area of nature and landscape protection, executing body
CITES

MoAARD SR – central body of public administration in agriculture,

National forestry centre- supervision over the forest reproduction material

National agricultural and food centre – research activities within the genetic resources protection

The State Nature Protection of SR - professional organization in the field of nature and landscape, CITES Scientific Authority

Slovak Environmental Inspection - control activity

3. Major Groups:

NC SR and SR Government, resorts, SAoS, research institutions, universities

4. Finances:

State budget of SR, European structural and investment funds, UN, Norwegian financial mechanism, Swiss financial mechanism, LIFE+

5. Regional/international cooperation:

OECD, EU, UN, secretariats of international conventions.

CHAPTER 16

ENVIRONMENTALLY SOUND MANAGEMENT OF BIOTECHNOLOGY

AUTHORITY RESPONSIBLE: MoAARD SR; MoE SR; MoH SR

The National Agricultural and Food Centre – The Animal Production Research Institute conducted activities related to the increase of food and feed availability, and to the search for alternative, economically more favourable commodities. The research activities related to the substitution of soya by domestic resources (especially peas) were realised. As an alternative feed, dried stillage (DDGS) from maize were tested. The results of experiments conducted at deer, fallow deer, roe deer and wild boars show a good possibility of using DDGS in the diet of ungulates.

The project Technology of obtaining the natural substances suitable for the production of health-supporting food and organic food was addressed. Its aim was to create a knowledge base for the development of innovations and production in the domestic production of health-supporting foods and organic foods, and to enable and encourage the own, domestic production of such food. At the same time, to identify domestic sources of biologically active natural substances, and propose, and with using a pilot verification unit to verify the procedures for their preparation and application to real food, with an emphasis on the use of mild procedures, comprehensive utilization of resources and the feasibility of closed, an environment friendly technologies feasible in terms of organic farming and food production.

Within the solving of other projects, there were carried out experiments aimed at optimizing the process of bovine and rabbit embryos freezing. Experiments focused on the assessment of the effect of cows' body condition (BCS) and season on an oocyte quality and embryo development in vitro continued, and in vitro experiments there were also analyzed effects of additions of green tea extracts, curcumin and resveratrol on the function of swines' ovarian cells.

A biotechnological process "Magnetic separation of animal cells for use in biomedical and agricultural areas" was drawn up. The results point to the possibility of the potential use of magnetic separation to improve individual reproductive performance of domestic rabbit males, of New Zealand white breed resp., if necessary, the use of a particular male to preserve a genus or lineage.

In the area of crop production, the attention was paid in particular to the use of biotechnology in developing new prospective biological materials (varieties), including biological materials with genetically modified features of economic significance and for the cultivation of genetically modified plants.

Summary of field experiments – release into the environment in 2013

GMO experimentally produced in SR in 2013			User	Purpose of use	Permit period
Species	Name	Specification			
maize	MON89034 x NK603	resistance against species of genus <i>Lepidoptera</i> ,	NPPC (VÚRV)	Release into environm..	2012-2014
		tolerance to herbicides with active substance glyphosate	Monsanto Slovakia	import	
sugar beet	H7-1	tolerance to herbicides with active substance glyphosate	NPPC (VÚRV) -in cooperation with SES VanderHave company	Release into environm..	2013-2015

Source: MoE SR

In practice, drugs, diagnostics, serums and vaccines produced by several kinds of biotechnology, resp. by biotechnological processes are used. The production is subject to authorization of SR Ministry of Health for the production of medicines, and to the meeting of requirements of good manufacturing practice in accordance with the requirements of the Act no. 362/2011 Coll. on Medicinal products and medical devices and on amendments and modifications to certain laws. If the subject of the pharmaceutical, non-clinical and clinical testing are active substances, excipients and drugs that are genetically modified organisms, or they contain such organisms, also the

consent of the MOE SR is required, under the Act No. 151/2002 Coll. on Use of genetic technologies and genetically modified organisms.

The EP and Council Regulation (EC) No. 1394/2007 on Advanced therapy medicinal products, amending the Directive 2001/83/EC and Regulation (EC) No. 726/2004, allows the production of medicines based on new technologies in SR, such as tissue engineering and production of new kinds of medicinal products for somatic cell therapy and gene therapy.

Based on the Act no. 489/2008 Coll., the individual preparation of advanced therapy medicinal products is allowed in hospitals.

The SR Government has issued the Government Regulation No. 120/2009 Coll., laying down analytical standards, non-clinical standards, clinical standards and protocols related to the documentation on the results of pharmaceutical tests, non-clinical testing and clinical testing, conducted for the purposes of medicinal product registration, as amended by the SR Government Regulation No. 68/2010 Coll. and the SR Government Ordinance No. 346/2009 Coll., laying down the chemical, pharmaceutical and analytical procedures, safety and residue tests relating to the dossier on the results of pharmaceutical tests, non-clinical testing and clinical testing conducted for the registration of veterinary medicines purposes.

In 2014, the European Parliament and Council Regulation (EC) No. 536/2014 was approved on Clinical trials of medicinal products for human use, by which the Directive 2001/20/EC is cancelled. The purpose of this legislation is to increase the harmonization level of rules of medicinal product clinical trials in the EU Member States.

CROSS-SECTORAL VIEWPOINTS

1. Structure of decision-making:

Final decision-making bodies are NC SR and SR Government. The bodies responsible for the issue are MoAARD SR, MoH SR and MoEc SR. The other cooperating bodies are MoD SR, MoE SR, MoFA SR, MF SR, State Institute for Drug Control, Department of State Control of Veterinary Biopharmaceuticals and Medicaments, State Veterinary Administration, the public health authorities.

2. Potential creation /organization and competences:

MoAARD SR field of research and utilization of knowledge in water purification and treatment, development and production of veterinary medicines

MoH SR - research, development and production of immunobiological products, state control and supervision over production in pharmaceutical and immunobiological industries

MoEc SR - research, development and manufacturing of medicines

MoE SR - Legislative area of biotechnology application in water management practice, research and utilization of knowledge in water purification and treatment, legislation in the area of GMOs

3. Major Groups:

NC SR and SR Government, resorts, SAoS, research institutions, public health authorities, universities

4. Finances:

State budget of SR, European structural and investment funds, UN, private resources

5. Regional/international cooperation:

UN and its system organisations, OECD, EU, etc.

CHAPTER 17

PROTECTION OF THE OCEANS, ALL KINDS OF SEAS, INCLUDING ENCLOSED AND SEMI-ENCLOSED SEAS, AND COASTAL AREAS AND THE PROTECTION, RATIONAL USE AND DEVELOPMENT OF THEIR LIVING RESOURCES (ATYPICAL FOR SR WITH POSSIBILITY OF APPLICATION ONLY TO WATERWAY TRANSPORT)

AUTHORITY RESPONSIBLE: MoTCRD SR

As at 31 December 2013, 8 vessels flying the flag of the Slovak Republic were registered at the Maritime Authority of the Slovak Republic. In the case of marine pleasure boats, the number of registered vessels is 981 vessels. The most important international conventions on the protection of the seas and oceans, which the SR acceded to, include mainly:

- International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships (1973), followed by the 1978 Protocol (the Protocol signed in London on 17 February 1978),
- International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea (1974), followed by the 1978 Protocol (the Protocol signed in London on 17 February 1978),
- UN Convention on the High Seas (Geneva, 1958), published in the Collection of Laws under No. 92/1964. Coll.
- UN Convention on coastal waters and adjacent zone (Geneva, 1958), published in the Collection of Laws under No. 101/1965 Coll.
- UN Convention on the Law of the Sea (Montego Bay, 1982), published in the Collection of Laws under No. 242/1996 Coll., ratified on 22 April 1996 and valid for the SR from 7 June 1996.

The protection of seas, oceans and the marine environment is within the Slovak Republic regulated by the Act No. 453/2000 Coll. on Maritime Navigation, as amended, and its implementing regulations.

CROSS-SECTORAL VIEWPOINTS

1. Structure of decision-making:

Final decision-making bodies are NC SR and SR Government. The body responsible for the issue are MoTCRD SR, a cooperating body is Slovenská plavba a prístavy, a. s.

2. Potential creation /organization and competences:

MoTCRD SR - waterway transport

3. Major Groups:

NC SR and SR Government, resorts, enterprises, customs authorities

4. Finances:

State budget of SR

5. Regional/international cooperation:

Danube navigation commission, CEFTA, EU.

CHAPTER 18

PROTECTION OF QUALITY AND SUPPLY OF FRESHWATER RESOURCES: APPLICATION OF INTEGRATED APPROACHES TO THE DEVELOPMENT, MANAGEMENT AND USE OF WATER RESOURCES

AUTHORITY RESPONSIBLE: MoE SR; MoAaRD SR; MoH SR

Integrated water resources development and care for water resources in Slovakia is solved by the management plan of river basin district (i.e. Water Plan of Slovakia) which was, in more detailed breakdown, elaborated for 10 sub-basins of SR. The Slovak Water Plan was prepared in 2009 in accordance with the Art. 13 and 11 of the European Parliament and Council Directive 2000/60 / EC, establishing a framework for Community action in the field of water policy (RSV), and was approved by the Slovak Government Resolution No. 109 dated February 10, 2010. The binding part of Slovakia's Water Plan consists of program of measures, which was announced in the SR Government Regulation No. 279/2011 Coll. dated August 17, 2011, declaring a binding part of Slovakia's Water Plan, containing the program of measures to achieve environmental objectives. Currently, there is on-going work on the preparation of the second planning cycle for the period 2016-2021. In 2013, it was made available for public to comment an interim overview of significant water management issues, and in 2014, the draft of Management plan of the river basin of the Danube (2016-2021).

To support the implementation of Slovakia's Water Plan and the relevant EU legislation, in Slovakia there were adopted:

- several amendments to the Act No. 364/2004 Coll. on Water and on modification and amendment of the

Slovak National Council Act No. 372/1990 Coll. on Offenses as amended (Water Act) (last amendment in terms of the Act No. 35/2014 Coll., and Act no. 409/2014 Coll.),

- SR Government Regulation No. 269/2010 Coll., laying down the requirements for the achievement of good water status, as amended by SR Government Regulation No. 398/2012 Coll.
- SR Government Regulation No. 270/2010 Coll. on Environmental quality standards in the field of water policy, as amended by the SR Government Regulation No. 126/2014 Coll.
- SR Government Regulation No. 282/2010 Coll., laying down the threshold values and the list of groundwater bodies,
- MoAEaRD SR Decree No. 418/2010 Coll. on Implementation of the Water Act certain provisions,
- Decree dated September 16, 2010 No. 2/2010, establishing the details on the definition of the river basin districts, environmental objectives, economic analysis and water planning (notice no. 396/2010 Coll.),
- SR Government Regulation No. 201/2011 Coll., establishing the technical specifications for chemical analysis and monitoring of water status,
- SR Government Regulation No. 279/2011 Coll., declaring a binding part of Slovakia's Water Plan, containing a program of measures to achieve environmental objectives,
- SR Government Regulation No. 416/2011 Coll. on Evaluation of chemical status of groundwater body,
- Decree of the SR Ministry of the Environment No. 73/2011 Coll., laying down the details of the determination of significant and sustained upward trends of pollutant concentrations of groundwater and the procedures for their reversal,
- Decree of the SR Ministry of the Environment No. 220/2012 Coll., establishing the details of the water supply for a period of crisis situation.

The assessment of water resources is carried out annually by means of water management balance of surface water and groundwater quantity. In 2013, the rate of water use (i.e. the ratio of total abstractions to the annual runoff from the territory of the Slovak Republic) was 4.5% (year 2012 - 8.89%), and the use of groundwater expressed by the ratio of abstraction amounts to the usable quantities of groundwaters reached the value 13.23% in 2013 (year 2012 - 13.58%).

The annual surface water abstractions, as a percentage of available water resources of surface water

Year	2001	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
annual runoff from the territory of the Slovak Republic (mil. m ³)	11 812	10 097	12 401	14 900	9 264	10 146	10 832	22 939	9 362	7 597	14 214
abstractions (mil. m ³)	1 138.40	1 028.2	907.04	763.07	689.74	664.59	627.82	602.27	593.01	675.39	639.08
utilisation as % of available surf.wat. resources	9.64	10.18	7.31	5.12	7.45	6.55	5.80	2.63	6.33	8.89	4.50

Source: SHMI

The annual groundwater abstractions, as a percentage of available water resources of groundwater

Year	2001	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
Usable quantities (L.s ⁻¹)	76 087.90	76 549.00	76 799.24	76 748.76	76 830.76	77 079.50	78 556.81	78 671.70	78 801.06	78 938.93	78 886.74
abstractions (L.s ⁻¹)	13 397.90	12 200.40	11 867.46	11 665.20	11 365.96	11 122.09	11 044.60	10 819.52	10 601.79	10 719.35	10 438.84
utilisation as % of available groundwater resources	17.61	15.94	15.45	15.20	14.79	14.43	14.06	13.75	13.45	13.58	13.23

Source: SHMI

Density of hydrological networks (hydrometric station of surface water)

Year	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
km ² per 1 monitoring object	122.9	127.0	123.5	122.6	121.1	118.7	117.3	116.5	117.0	117.0	117.3	117.3

Source: SHMI

3 types of protection are determined for the protection of water resources in the SR, namely:

- restricted areas of water sources, which are, in accordance with the section 32 of the Act No. 364/2004 Coll. on Water, determined by a decision of a state water management authority on the basis of mandatory expertise of the health protection authority, aiming to ensure the protection of yield, quality and health safety of water in water supply resource. The area of restricted areas of water resources (surface and ground) is 17.57% of the SR territory in Slovakia.
- river basins of water flows that are used or usable as water sources for drinking water abstraction. The list of water flows is stated by the MoE SR Decree No. 211/2005 Coll., laying down the list of water flows important regarding water management and water-related water flows.
- protected water management areas (PWA), as defined in terms of the section 31 of Act no. 364/2004 Coll. on Water, as amended by the Act No. 384/2009 Coll. The List of protected water management areas is stated in the SR Government Regulation No. 46/1978 Coll. on the Protected area of natural accumulation of water in the Rye Island as amended, and in the SR Government Regulation No. 13/1987 on Certain protected areas of natural water accumulation. PWAs cover 14.16% of the SR territory and accumulate 39.96 m³.s⁻¹ of usable quantities of water resources.
- Number of used water resources with an abstracted quantity subject to a notification obligation, the scope of their restricted areas, as well as the PWA area remained unchanged compared with the previous year (i.e. in 2012).

In 2013, the fundamental and operational monitoring of surface water took place in 255 monitoring sites. According to the Section 4a, par. 9 of the Act 364/2004 Coll. on Water represents the quality assessment; it is the evaluation of short- and long-term changes in water quality, the assessment of trends in water quality, quality assessment in relation to impacts on water quality, and in relation to water use. The SR Government Regulation No. 269/2010 Coll. as amended by SR GR no. 396/2012 Coll., establishes limit values generally for the use of water and surface water quality objectives for the most important purposes of exploitation, thus allowing to perform a quality assessment in relation to water use. In 2013, the requirements were not met, at least in one indicator, by 58.82% of the total number of 255 monitoring sites. Nitrite nitrogen was an often exceeding indicator in all sub-basins. In the group of synthetic substances, water quality was exceeded by for example, arsenic, cadmium, mercury; in the group of non-synthetic substances it was hexachlorobenzene, di (2-ethylhexyl) phthalate (DEHP), and in the group of hydrological and microbiological parameters for example saprobic index of bioestone, chlorophyll-a, coliform bacteria. In 2013, 41.7% of monitored sites were for the coliform bacteria indicator, in accordance with the requirements of SR Government Regulation No. 269/2010 Coll., and 93.6% of the monitoring sites for the biochemical oxygen demand indicator (without suppressing nitrification).

The quality of groundwater was in 2013 monitored in 165 basic monitoring objects (i.e. in objects which are not affected by point sources of pollution) and in 220 objects of operational monitoring (i.e. in objects which are likely to capture the possible penetration of pollutants into groundwater from potential pollution sources). Within the objects of basic groundwater monitoring, the issue of adverse oxidation-reduction conditions stands out, as shown by the most frequently exceeding of permissible concentrations of total Fe (56 times), divalent Fe (46 times), Mn (53 times) and NH₄⁺ (14 times). The recommended percentage value of saturation of water with oxygen determined in the field was achieved in 75% of samples in basic monitoring objects.

The resort of SR Ministry of Health is an authority responsible for the performance of internationally binding document Protocol on Water and Health to the Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes of 1992, which Slovakia ratified in 2001. In 2013, the national report on the fulfilment of Protocol objectives for the period 2011 - 2013 was sent to WHO and EHK UN, and the report on the fulfilment of the Protocol objectives was prepared for the SR Government meeting. During the year 2013, two workshops of groups established under the Protocol were held (February 2013: the 2nd Training for the submission of reports to the Protocol and the 6th Meeting of the Working Group on indicators and reporting in Geneva, July 2013: 6th Meeting of the Working Group Water and Health in Geneva). In November, the 3rd Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Protocol took place in Oslo, the conclusion of which was to set up the orientation of the Protocol on current issues such as waste water, water supply, water-related diseases, protection and management of surface waters and drinking water sources in general, the support of the implementation of security plans, climate changes, floods, droughts etc. At the end of 2013, the SR Ministry of Health resort, in collaboration with the SR Ministry of the Environment, started to work at updating the national goals of the Protocol.

Measures concerning water represent the most important strategy for public health protection. They are in particular focused on:

- monitoring the quality of drinking water at the consumer's place and in the public water supply, quality of bathing water during the bathing season,
- the implementation of state health surveillance of drinking water and water for bathing,

- mandating measures to ensure and increase the health safety of drinking water from public water supplies,
- the prohibition or restriction of the use of drinking water which is not safe for health,
- a ban on swimming in recreational waters that from a health perspective are unsuitable,
- updating of national laws and regulations in accordance with the criteria and recommendations of the WHO and the EU,
- making information on drinking water and bathing water quality available,
- participation in international activities relating to drinking water and water for bathing, preparing the European legislation and reporting the data on drinking water and bathing water quality,
- interdepartmental cooperation and collaboration and communication with organizations, institutions and responsible persons in the field of water,
- training and educational activities aimed at informing about the importance of water, the health risks resulting from the use of drinking water that does not meet the requirements of health safety and the use of unsatisfactory bathing water.

The supply of drinking water from public water system is considered medically safest. According to data from public health authorities, 87.09% of Slovakia's population were served in 2013. The long-term highest share of population served is in Bratislava region (97%), and the lowest share (about 80%) is in Košice and Prešov region. In Bratislava, Trnava and Nitra region only groundwater resources are used for the drinking water supply, in other parts of Slovakia it is a combination of surface and groundwater, with the most supply from surface water sources used in eastern Slovakia. In many areas of Slovakia there is, due to the pricing policy, the lack of interest of population in the connection to the new public water supply systems, with giving preference to the utilisation of individual water sources, which in many cases do not reach the desired quality.

The issue of drinking water from a health perspective is governed by the Act No. 355/2007 Coll. on the Protection, promotion and development of public health and on modifications and amendments of certain acts as amended. Its quality is assessed by the SR Government Regulation No. 354/2006 Coll., laying down requirements for water intended for human consumption and for the quality control of water intended for human consumption, as amended by the SR Government Regulation No. 496/2010 Coll., in which the EC Directive 98/83 /EC is transposed on the quality of water intended for human consumption.

According to the monitoring of quality of drinking water from public water supply system at a consumer's place, which is carried out by public health authorities, 15.87% of the total amount of analyzed samples exceeded the limit values of drinking water quality in 2013. Most non-compliant samples (about 66%) accounted for the samples, in which one physico-chemical indicator was exceeded. Frequently exceeded chemical indicators were iron and manganese, which do not represent a risk for the human body. Other chemical parameters were exceeded only occasionally or sporadically. Microbiologically, the most frequently exceeded indicators were cultivable microorganisms (at 22° C and 37° C) and coliform bacteria, and that indicates the general or faecal contamination and disinfection failure.

The development of public sewerage in SR lags behind the development of public water supply systems. In 2013, the share of inhabitants living in houses, connected to public sewerage reached 63.3% of the total population of Slovakia. In 2013, the report of water companies, municipalities and other entities included 648 wastewater treatment plants (WWTP), the largest share of which was created by mechanical-biological waste water treatment plants.

The issue of wastewater discharge is in the Slovak Republic solved by the Act No. 364/2004 Coll. on Water, as amended, and by the Act No. 442/2002 Coll. on Public Water Supply System and Sewerage, as amended. By the Act No. 364/2004 Coll. on Water and its related implementing regulations, in Slovakia the EC Directive 91/271/EEC was transposed, concerning urban waste water purification, which requires that wastewater is discharged by collecting systems from all agglomerations of over 2,000 equivalent population, the application of the Directive's requirements on the removal of organic pollutants in urban waste water produced in agglomerations over 2 000 equivalent population, and the application of requirements on the removal of nutrients from urban waste water generated in agglomerations over 10,000 equivalent inhabitants located in sensitive areas.

In 2003, the entire territory of Slovakia was declared a sensitive area by the SR Government Regulation No. 249/2003 Coll., laying down the sensitive areas and vulnerable areas, which has been replaced by the SR Government Regulation No. 617/2004 Coll., establishing the sensitive areas and vulnerable areas. That has the effect that the waste water produced in agglomerations over 10,000 EP must be subjected to more thorough treatment, i.e. secondary treatment, including not only the removal of organic contamination but also the intensified removal of nitrogen (N) and phosphorus (P) compounds.

The Slovak Republic has in recent years made significant progress in the discharge and treatment of urban waste water. At present, an attention is focused mainly on the construction of new wastewater treatment plants and sewage systems, or on the reconstruction of WWTP, and in necessary extent on the reconstruction of sewage system. Projects for the construction or reconstruction of the sewage network, and/or for the construction or reconstruction of municipal wastewater treatment plants were addressed in the Operational Programme Environment 2007 – 2013, and its implementation will continue in the next programme period.

In Slovakia, in the context of climate change, there are not expected significant changes of total annual precipitation; however, it is expected that there will be more uneven distribution of total precipitation during the year and in different regions of Slovakia. This will correspond also to the development of runoff conditions in Slovakia. Several climate scenarios show that significant effects of climate change in our country may be the prolonged periods of drought in the summer and autumn months, associated with water scarcity. These dry periods may be interrupted by several days lasting rain with high rainfall or by strong storm activity with intensive rainfall causing floods.

The Slovak Republic prepares regularly in four-year cycles the SR national reports on climate change in accordance with the obligations under the Article 4 and 12 of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, the Kyoto Protocol, and also the current decisions of the Conference of Parties to the Convention.

The strategy of SR adaptation to the adverse effects of climate change, approved by the Slovak Government Resolution No.148/2014, is the first more complex document on adaptation to climate change, which seeks, in as many areas and sectors as possible, to link scenarios and possible consequences of climate change with the proposals of appropriate proactive adaptation measures. The strategy prioritizes: the dissemination of information and knowledge on adaptation issues at all levels of management, as well as for the general public; the strengthening of institutional framework for adaptation processes in the SR; elaborating and developing the comprehensive risk assessment methodologies in connection with the climate change from the national to the local level; the development and application of methodologies for the economic assessment of adaptation measures (macroeconomic impacts) and the development and implementation of a tool for the selection of investment priorities based on the assessment of cross-sectoral aspects of adaptation measures.

In order to protect the country against floods, the Act No. 7/2010 Coll. was adopted in Slovakia in 2010, on Flood protection as amended by the Act No. 180/2013 Coll., and it was followed by 7 implementing rules:

- MoE SR Decree No. 204/2010 Coll., laying down details on the implementation of flood forecasting service,
- MoE SR Decree No. 252/2010 Coll., laying down details on the submission of interim reports on the flood situation and summary reports during the floods, their consequences and the measures taken,
- MoE SR Decree No. 261/2010 Coll., laying down details on the contents of flood plans and procedures for their approval,
- MoE SR Decree No. 313/2010 Coll. laying down the details of the preliminary flood risk assessment and of its review and updating,
- MoAaRD SR Decree No. 419/2010 Coll., laying down details on the production of flood hazard and flood risk maps, on the reimbursement of expenses for their preparation, review and updating and on designing and the display of inundation area range on maps
- MoE SR Decree No. 112/2011 Coll., laying down the details of the content, review and updating of the flood risk management plans,
- MoE SR Decree No. 159/2014 Coll., laying down details on the evaluation of expenditures on flood securing and rescue activities and flood damage.

The Act No. 7/2010 Coll., inter alia, transposes the requirements of European Parliament and Council Directive 2007/60/EC on the assessment and management of flood risks. In accordance with the requirements of Directive 2007/60/EC, there was, in 2011, carried out a preliminary flood risk assessment in Slovakia to identify areas where potential significant flood risks exist or where their occurrence might be expected. Subsequently, in 2013, flood hazard maps were developed, showing the extent of flooding of area with different return periods and flood risk maps, showing the likely consequences of these floods on the population, economic activities, cultural heritage and the environment. In 2014, preparatory works were conducted for the treatment of flood risk management plans, which will include specific measures to reduce the adverse impact of floods, ordered according to the urgency of their implementation. The finalisation of plans is expected in December 2015.

CROSS-SECTORAL VIEWPOINTS

1. Structure of decision-making:

Final decision-making bodies are NC SR and SR Government. The body responsible for the issue are MoE SR, other cooperating bodies are MoL SR, MoH SR, MoI SR, MoEc SR, SIŽP, SEA, district offices

2. Potential creation /organization and competences:

MoE SR- protection of water, balance and rational water utilisation

MoAARD SR- water utilisation for irrigation

MoH SR- state health supervision over mass supply of inhabitants by drinking water and natural and artificial swimming pools, monitoring of drinking water at consumer's site and monitoring of water quality intended for bathing during bathing season

MoEc SR- use of water in industry, energy

3. Major Groups:

NC SR and SR Government, resorts, district offices – departments of care for environment, professional organisations, water management undertakings, public water supply and sewage system operators

4. Finances:

State budget of SR, European structural and investment funds, finances of cities and municipalities, water management undertaking private finances, industry finances, loans

5. Regional/international cooperation:

Danube commission (waterway transport), bilateral cooperation at border waters with Ukraine, Hungary, Poland, Austria and Czech Republic, ICPDR, EU, EEA, UN and organisations of its system

CHAPTER 19

ENVIRONMENTALLY SOUND MANAGEMENT OF TOXIC CHEMICALS, INCLUDING PREVENTION OF ILLEGAL INTERNATIONAL TRAFFIC IN TOXIC AND DANGEROUS PRODUCTS

AUTHORITY RESPONSIBLE: MoEc SR; MoH SR

The significant contribution of the EU in minimizing the harmful effects of chemicals on human health and the environment within the management of chemicals and in fulfilment of Agenda 21 is the European Parliament and Council Regulation (EC) No. 1 907/2006 concerning the Registration, Evaluation, Authorisation and Restriction of Chemicals (REACH), and on Establishment of European Chemicals Agency (ECHA), which entered into force on June 1, 2007. REACH regulates in particular the free movement of substances on their own, substances in mixtures and products, obligations of manufacturers, importers, downstream users in their marketing and handling, responsibilities and obligations of Member States in promoting it. REACH lays down the system of substance registration and their data reporting, evaluation of substances, authorization and restriction of substances at the Community level, whereby it supports the development of alternative methods for assessment of hazards of substances, innovation and competitiveness of European industry. For the group of "substances of very high concern", into which the selected carcinogenic, mutagenic and substances toxic to the reproduction of category 1 and 2, persistent, bioaccumulative and toxic (PBT) and vPvB (very persistent and very bioaccumulative) substances are included, it introduces the authorization as a temporary limited authorization for the specified use of substance under the condition of ensuring the proper control of substance and its gradual replacement by technically and economically feasible alternative substances or technologies. REACH regulation addresses also the system of providing information up and down the supply chain, and informing the general public about the risks arising from substances and about their safe use.

By the adoption of the EU Parliament and Council Regulation (EC) No. 1 272/2008 of December 16, 2008 on classification, labelling and packaging of substances and mixtures, on amending and repealing of Directives 67/548/EEC and 1999/45/EC, and on amending and completing the Regulation (EC) No. 1907/2006 - CLP (Classification, Labelling & Packaging), EU fully implements the UN GHS, thereby contributing to the global harmonization of criteria of classification and labelling of chemicals hazard. CLP came into force on January 20, 2009; however it established a transition period for substances until December 1, 2010 and for mixtures up to June 1, 2015. During that period the substances are classified, labelled and packaged in accordance with the Directive 67/548/EEC, mixtures according to the Directive 1999/45/EC, whereby during the transitional period the simultaneous use of the classification, labelling and packaging of substances and mixtures under the existing regulations and under the new CLP Regulation is allowed. Directives 67/548/EEC and 1999/45/EC shall be repealed with the effect from June 1, 2015.

REACH regulation together with the CLP Regulation have become the main legislative instruments for implementing the objectives of the Strategy for a future Chemicals Policy of 2001, which are consistent with the objectives of sustainable development within the environmentally sound management of toxic chemicals. Under the CLP regulation, entrepreneurs, i.e. manufacturers, importers and downstream users are responsible for identifying hazards. The most important information tools on the hazards of chemicals are label and safety data sheet introduced in REACH.

In connection with the REACH and CLP regulation, many additional related rules were adopted, and in 2014 they were as follows:

- Commission Regulation (EU) No. 301/2014 of March 25, 2014, amending the Annex XVII to the European Parliament and Council Regulation (EC) No. 1907/2006 concerning the Registration, Evaluation, Authorisation and Restriction of Chemicals (REACH), as regards hexavalent chromium compounds
- Commission Regulation (EU) No. 317/2014 of March 27, 2014, amending the European Parliament and Council Regulation (EC) No. 1907/2006, concerning the Registration, Evaluation, Authorisation and Restriction of Chemicals (REACH), as regards the Annex XVII (CMR substances)
- Commission Regulation (EU) No. 474/2014 of May 8, 2014, amending the Annex XVII to the European Parliament and Council Regulation (EC) No. 1907/2006, concerning the Registration, Evaluation, Authorisation and Restriction of Chemicals ("REACH"), in respect of 1,4-dichlorobenzene
- Commission Regulation (EU) No. 895/2014 of August 14, 2014, amending the Annex XIV to the European Parliament and Council Regulation (EC) No. 1907/2006, concerning the Registration, Evaluation, Authorisation and Restriction of Chemicals (REACH)

MoEc SR, as the authority responsible for the implementation of chemicals legislation, prepared the Act No. 67/2010 Coll. on the Conditions of launching the chemical substances and mixtures on the market and on amending some laws (Chemicals Act), which came into force from 1 April 2010. The Chemicals Act regulates the scope of responsibilities of the competent public administration bodies, it lays down the system of remedies and amount of sanctions for effective enforcement of the entrepreneurs' obligations, laid down by the EU legislation, whereby it regulates a transitional period for the current use of the so-called old and new classification of substances up to 1 December 2010 and for mixtures up to 1 June 2015. Substances and mixtures placed on the market before the mentioned dates do not have to be classified and packaged again in accordance with the new requirements for further two years, i.e. up to 1 December 2012 for substances and by 1 June 2017 in the case of mixtures.

Pursuant to the section 18 of the Chemicals Act, the MoEc SR is the competent authority for the REACH and CLP regulation, and it is responsible for the management of public administration performance in the field of production, import, export and marketing of materials, substances contained in mixtures and products, for the launching onto the market of detergents and biocidal products, for the cooperation with the EC and ECHA. Under the Slovak Government Resolution No. 263/2010 and Act No. 319/2013 Coll., the Ministry of Economy ensures, by the Centre for Chemical Substances and Preparations department (Centre), an access to information on chemicals from REACH-IT system, which is operated by ECHA. The Centre cooperates with the EC, ECHA, EU Member States, OECD bodies and concerned SR public administration bodies when assessing the risks of substances, and it also plays the role of the national helpdesk in order to provide advice to entrepreneurs on their respective responsibilities and obligations under REACH.

The cooperation of SR with the ECHA authorities is provided through representatives appointed by the MoEc SR to the Governing Board, the Member State Committee, Committee for Risk Assessment, Committee for Socio-economic analysis and information exchange forum for the promotion. The Act extended the competences of the MoH SR which is, through the National Toxicological Information Centre, responsible for receiving information from manufacturers, importers and downstream users regarding the effects of chemicals on human health and the information regarding the therapeutic or preventive measures in case of health threat. Under the Act No. 67/2010 Coll., the control authorities are the Slovak Trade Inspection and regional inspectorates, the Public Health Agency and regional public health agencies, Slovak Environmental Inspection and an inspectorate, the National Labour Inspectorate and labour inspectorates, Central Mining Authority and district mining offices, customs authorities and the SR Ministry of Defence.

To the Act. No. 67/2010 Coll. the MoEc SR issued the following orders:

- Order of the Ministry of Economy of the Slovak Republic No. 2 of April 15, 2010, establishing the List of no-longer polymers, which have been assigned the European Community number and
- Order of the Ministry of Economy of the Slovak Republic No. 3 of April 15, 2010, laying down the details on general requirements for the classification, labelling and packaging of hazardous substances and mixtures.
- Order of the Ministry of Economy of the Slovak Republic No. 4 of October 28, 2013, amending and supplementing the Order of the Ministry of Economy of the Slovak Republic No. 3/2010 of April 15, 2010, laying

down the details on general requirements for the classification, labelling and packaging of hazardous substances and mixtures.

The MoEc SR, as the authority responsible for the implementation of chemicals legislation, prepared the Act on Public administration authorities for making biocidal products available on the market and on their use, and on amending and supplementing of certain laws (Biocidal Act), which was published in the Collection of Laws under the No. 319/2013 Coll. The Act came into force on 1.11. 2013. The act aims to create conditions for the implementation of the EP and Council regulation No. 528/2012 of May 22, 2012, on Making biocidal products available on the market and on their use in Slovakia.

In accordance with the BPR regulation, the SR participates in the evaluation of active substances of biocidal products by the Centre, which for the SR as rapporteur Member State provides assessment of active chlorine for five types of biocidal products, and of terbutryn for three types of biocidal products.

The Government Regulation No. 340/2013 Coll. establishes the subject, requirements and rate of payments and annual payments for making biocidal products available on the market and their use.

In 2014, the MoEc SR prepared the Act No. 262/2014 Coll., on the Competence of public administration authorities in matters of explosives precursors and on amending certain laws, which implemented the EP and Council Regulation (EU) No. 98/2013 concerning the placing of explosives precursors on the market and on their use.

The aim of the adopted act was to adjust the scope of public administration authorities' competences in matters of import, possession, use of explosives precursors, and of making them available under the conditions of Slovakia, and at the same time to lay down measures relating to substances and mixtures listed in the annexes of the said regulation, which could be diverted to the illicit manufacture of explosives. The Act introduced a registration scheme, which requires economic operators to register any transaction with members of the general public in accordance with the provisions of Article 8 of the Regulation.

The SR Ministry of Interior in cooperation with the Ministry of Economy established a contact point where the economic operators, who make explosives precursors available or use them, in accordance with the section 7 paragraph 3 of the Act No. 262/2014 Coll. and Regulation No. 98/2013, shall immediately notify any suspicious transaction or attempt for it, refused suspicious transaction, loss or theft of explosives precursors.

CROSS-SECTORAL VIEWPOINTS

1. Structure of decision-making:

Final decision-making bodies are NC SR and SR Government. The body responsible for the issue is MoEc SR. The cooperating bodies are MoH SR, MoE SR, MoAaRD SR, MoI SR and other central public administration authorities.

2. Potential creation /organization and competences:

MoEc SR- performance of public administration in the field of production, import, export of chemical substances and mixtures, detergents and biocidal products or their launching onto the market

MoH SR- legislative changes in the issue of working environment chemical factors and of handling poisons

3. Major Groups:

NC SR and SR Government, resorts, entrepreneurs (producers, importers, downstream users of chemicals)

4. Finances:

State budget of SR

5. Regional/international cooperation:

EU, OECD, Council of Europe, UN and organisations of its system (WHO, UNEP, ILO, UNEP, UNIDO, UNITAR), etc.

CHAPTER 20

ENVIRONMENTALLY SOUND MANAGEMENT OF HAZARDOUS WASTES, INCLUDING PREVENTION OF ILLEGAL INTERNATIONAL TRAFFIC IN HAZARDOUS WASTES

AUTHORITY RESPONSIBLE: MoE SR

By the Resolution No. 69/2012 the SR Government approved the Waste Management Programme of the Slovak Republic for the years 2011-2015. This document is an essential planning and strategic document for waste management of the Slovak Republic for five year period.

The strategic objective of SR Waste Management is to divert waste from landfill, or reducing the amount of waste placed to landfills. This requires the following:

- to implement measures for waste prevention, for reduction of hazardous properties of waste and to promote reuse of products,
- to establish an integrated waste management system in a given area which would be associated with the rational use of energy produced from waste in this area,
- establish support for the use of materials obtained from recycled waste to produce products and improve market conditions for such materials,
- increase the level of material recovery and energy recovery.

Compared with 2012, it represents the year-on-year increase of waste placed onto the market in 2013, about 13.7%. Despite the increased amount of waste placed onto the market, domestic producers were involved in the delivery of waste for recovery and disposal to entities authorized for waste management with smaller quantities of hazardous waste (364 541.60 tons compared to 371 553.28 t in 2012). Even in the view of long-term assessment, an overall volume of hazardous waste shows decreasing trend.

Balance of waste placed onto the market in 2013 (t)

Waste category	Quantity (t)
Hazardous waste	364 541.60
Other waste	7 750 050.87
Municipal waste*	1 744 428.65
Total	9 859 021.12

**Remark: the amount of waste placed onto the market - waste the producers of which had to, under the Waste Act, offer it for recovery or disposal to entities authorized for handling waste
In MW there are represented both categories of waste (O and H), its allocation is necessary because of the special nature of the waste and the regime which applies to MW*

Source: SEA and SO SR

Out of the total volume of hazardous waste, 93 710 tonnes were recovered and 262 128 tonnes disposed of in 2013. The above amounts do not include hazardous waste, which is the part of the municipal waste.

The Slovak Government Resolution No. 729/2013 approved the Program of waste prevention of SR for 2014 - 2018 (PWP). The PWP SR is a strategic document, whose main aim is a shift from material recovery to waste prevention.

Waste prevention is at the top of the waste management hierarchy, which is defined in the Article 4 of the Waste Framework Directive, and it was adopted into the law of the Slovak Republic by the Waste Act as follows:

- a) waste prevention,
- b) preparation for reuse,
- c) recycling;
- d) other recovery, e.g. energy recovery,
- e) disposal.

It is the MoE SR that is responsible for the waste management. The waste prevention must be dealt with also by other sectors, where an extraction of raw materials, production, distribution and sale of goods and services are carried out.

The Instrument of accession of the former Czechoslovak Federative Republic to the Convention on the control of hazardous waste movements through country borders and their disposal was deposited with the UN Secretary General on July 24, 1991. The Convention entered into force on May 5, 1992. The notification of succession of the Slovak Republic to the Convention was held on May 28, 1993, with effect from January 1, 1993. Permits for waste transport are issued by MoE SR.

In 1997, in the SR the Regional Training Centre for the implementation of the Basel Convention for Central and Eastern Europe was established, the task of which is to support the implementation of the principles of the Basel Convention in the Member States and promoting the acquisition of new Member States.

The last information in accordance with the Articles 13 and 16 of the Basel Convention was submitted to the Secretariat of the Convention in 2013.

Development of hazardous waste in Slovakia, its import and export

	1996	2000	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
Hazardous waste production (mil. tonnes)	2.1	1.6	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.6	0.56	0.47	0.38	0.37	0.36
Hazardous waste import (tonnes)*	1 040	-	17 890	12 380	14 850	5 101 **	6 150	2 200	4 701 **	7 000	6 314
Hazardous waste export (tonnes)*	13 557	8 827	10 140	10 290	6 484	5 917	7 383	8 691.3	8 870	16 079.5	11 039.4

* data on quantity for which permits were issued

** data include also the waste quantity from re-import

Source: MoE SR

CROSS-SECTORAL VIEWPOINTS

1. Structure of decision-making:

Final decision-making bodies are NC SR and SR Government. The body responsible for the issue is MoE SR. Other cooperating bodies are MoEc SR, MoAARD SR, MoH SR, SO SR.

2. Potential creation /organization and competences:

MoE SR- waste, legal framework

MoAARD SR, MoEc SR- waste management (as biggest producers)

MoH SR- health and hygiene aspect

3. Major Groups:

NC SR and SR Government, Directorate General of Customs of SR

4. Finances:

State budget of SR, the European structural and investment funds, Environment Fund, Recycling Fund

5. Regional/international cooperation:

UN and organisations of its system (UNEP), EU, OECD, EEA, EUROSTAT, etc.

CHAPTER 21

ENVIRONMENTALLY SOUND MANAGEMENT OF SOLID WASTES AND SEWAGE-RELATED ISSUES

AUTHORITY RESPONSIBLE: MoE SR

The SR Government approved the Waste Management Programme of the Slovak Republic for the years 2011-2015. This document is an essential planning and strategic documents for waste management of the Slovak Republic for five year period. Its objectives and balance of waste production are given in the Chapter 20. The program sets targets for waste management and measures to achieve them.

In the long term, the negative high share of waste landfill in the overall waste management persists (46% for waste outside municipal w. and 69% for municipal waste).

In 2013, 4.07 kg/capita of electrical and electronic equipment waste were collected. The SR thus fulfilled a limit set by the EC Directive.

In 2013, Slovakia met the limits of recovery and recycling rates of individual categories of WEEE, determined by the SR Government Regulation No. 206/2010 Coll.

The rate of reuse, recycling and recovery of parts of old vehicles in terms of ES SR reached and thus fulfilled the prescribed limit.

In 2013, 468 tonnes of used portable batteries and accumulators were collected, which represents 48% of collection rate. SR thus fulfilled a limit laid down in the Directive 2006/66/EC.

In 2012, more than 68% of the total amounts of generated packaging waste were recycled, and almost 70% of the total amounts of packaging waste, including material recovery, were recovered.

In 2013, 124 landfills were operated in the SR.

The number of landfills in the SR by regions

Region	Landfill for internal waste	Landfill for non-hazardous waste	Landfill for hazardous waste	Landfills in total
Bratislava	2	3	2	7
Trnava	1	13	1	15
Trenčín	2	13	1	16
Nitra	4	14	2	20
Žilina	2	14	0	16
Banská Bystrica	2	13	1	16
Prešov	1	15	1	17
Košice	4	10	3	17
Total	18	95	11	124

Source: MoE SR

In 2013, a total of 19 waste incineration plants were operated, thereof 2 incineration plants for municipal waste, 7 incinerators for industrial waste, 5 for medical waste and 5 facilities for waste co-incineration plants. In Trnava and Banská Bystrica there was no incineration plant operated in 2013.

Number of incineration plants and facilities for waste co- incineration in the SR by regions

Region	Municipal waste	Industrial waste	Medical waste	Waste co-incineration	Total
Bratislava	1	1	-	1	3
Nitra	-	1	-	-	1
Trenčín	-	-	3	2	5
Trnava	-	-	-	-	0
Banská Bystrica	-	-	-	-	0
Žilina	-	2+1*	2	-	5
Prešov	-	1	-	-	1
Košice	1	1	-	2	4
Total	2	7	5	5	19

Explanatory notes:

1* - incineration plant for rendering fats

Source: MoE SR

In 2013, in total 1,744,428.65 tonnes of municipal waste (MW) were produced in the SR, which represents app. 322 kg of MW/capita, which is in comparison with 2012 a decrease by 1 kg. In the long monitoring, the development of the amount of MW is roughly constant.

The dominant activity of MW management was landfill. The share of waste placed to landfills, for the first time in history, fell below 70%. Other activities of MW management include significant proportion of energy recovery (about 9.96%), material recovery reached a level of 11.39%.

Sewage sludge is a necessary by-product of wastewater treatment process. The production of sludge from urban waste water treatment plants in the territory of Slovakia (managed by water companies) was 57 433 t of sludge dry matter, 50 787 t of sludge dry matter were recovered (88.43%). In the soil processes 45 779 tonnes were used (79.71%) - 518 t (0.90%) were applied directly into farmland, for the production of compost 35 209 tonnes (61.30%) were used, 10 052 t of sludge DM (17.50%) were used otherwise in soil processes (reclamation of landfill space, the production of growing medium, etc.).

In addition, 5 008 t (8.72%) were processed biologically and recovered for energy. 1 666 t (2.90%) were placed on the landfills, and 4 980 t of sludge DM (8.67%) were stored temporarily in the WWTP premises.

Sludge produced in wastewater treatment plants (t)

Year	Quantity of sludge (tonnes of dry matter)							
	Total	Recovered				Disposed		Temporarily stored
		application into farmland	application into forest land	composting and other recovery	recovery for energy	incineration	landfill	
2007	55 305	0	0	42 315	0	0	3 590	9 400
2008	57 810	0	0	38 368	0	0	8 676	10 766
2009	58 582	0	0	47 056	0	0	2 696	8 830
2010	54 760	923	0	47 140	0	0	16	6 681
2011	58 718	358	0	50 111	0	0	2 306	5 943
2012	58 706	1 254	0	46 446	3 196	0	1 615	6 195
2013	57 433	518	0	45 261	5 008	0	1 666	4 980

Source: WRI

The mission of the Environment Fund results from the Act No. 587/2004 Coll. on the Environment Fund and on amendments to certain acts as amended. The Environment Fund is established to provide state aid for environment protection and creation of the environment on the principles of sustainable development. The main mission of the Environment Fund is to provide funding to applicants for the support of activities aimed at achieving the objectives of the state environmental policy at a national, regional or local level, in the form of subsidies or loans, or by their combination, depending on the nature of the project. In this way the prerequisites for effective, comprehensive and effective implementation of environmental projects are created.

In the field of waste management, subsidies or loans are aimed at the area of the closure and rehabilitation of landfills, separation and recovery of biodegradable waste, introduction of separate collection, building of collection sites and final-separation facilities. The amount of support of waste management projects amounted to 2 048 thousand Euros without loans in 2013.

By the Act No. 223/2001 Coll., the Recycling Fund was established. It is a non-state-specific fund that collects funds of importers and commodity producers, obliged to pay contributions under this Act. Its primary function is to support, from the collected funds and in the form of subsidies and loans, projects establishing and developing separate collection and recycling of waste included in the categories of commodities under this Act and breakdown of the Fund. Another function covers financial support to municipalities and to their associations for waste separation and its further transfer for further recovery.

Incomes of Recycling Fund in 2013, coming from contributions paid by producers and importers of monitored products and materials amounted to 10.88 million of Euros, which was by 1.27 million of Euros less than in 2012.

Recycling Fund in 2013 granted 1 994 applications for funding provision from municipalities and business entities. The amount of appropriations for applicants accounted for almost 7.62 mil. Euros.

The funds paid from the sectors of the Recycling Fund in 2013 (EUR)

Sector	Funds paid
Spent batteries and accumulators	172 256.55
Waste oils	148 306.05
Worn tires	40 956.78
Multilayer composites (MLC)	20 641.55
Electrical and electronic equipment	8 759.04
Plastics	237 865.77
Light sources with mercury	0

Paper	554 103.41
Glass	672 414.75
Vehicles	3 210 144.88
Metal packaging	32 868.21
General sector	4 221.19
Municipalities Section 64	2 642.013
In total	7 744 551.18

Source: MoE SR

Waste management is one of the priority axes of the Operational Programme Environment to receive aid from EU funds for 2007-2013. At the end of 2013, approximately 56% of the total allocation for this priority axis were drawn, which represents the amount of 472 776 470 EUR.

A specific issue is the management of waste from extractive industries, which is in Slovakia regulated by the Act No. 514/2008 Coll. To ensure the implementation of all the requirements of European Parliament and Council Directive 2006/21/EC on the management of waste from extractive industries, amending the Council Directive 2004/35/EC and the mentioned act, a coordinated state supervision was carried out in 2014 at three storage facilities of extractive waste of Category A and fourteen B Category storage facilities. Between May 1, 2013 and April 30, 2014, there were no events recorded in SR that could affect the stability of the storage of waste from extractive industries, nor adverse environmental impacts in the management of waste from extractive industries.

CROSS-SECTORAL VIEWPOINTS

1. Structure of decision-making:

Final decision-making bodies are NC SR and SR Government. The body responsible for the issue is MoE SR. Other cooperating bodies are MoEc SR, MoAaRD SR, MoH SR, SO SR.

2. Potential creation /organization and competences:

MoE SR- waste including waste from extractive industry, legal framework, creation of policies and programs to collect information outside the municipal waste

MoAaRD SR, MoEc SR- waste management (as biggest producers)

MoH SR- health and hygiene aspect

SO SR - collection of information for municipal waste

District offices- performance of local public administration

Central Mining Authority, Local mining offices - activities related to the operation of extractive waste storage facilities

SEI - control activities

Self-governing bodies - the creation of local policies, permitting buildings

NGOs - implementation of training, educational and feasibility projects and activities

3. Major Groups:

NC SR and SR Government, departments and their professional organisations, Environment Fund, Recycling Fund

4. Finances:

State budget of SR, the European structural and investment funds, Environment Fund, Recycling Fund, private sources

5. Regional/international cooperation:

UN and organisations of its system, EU, OECD, EEA, EUROSTAT, etc.

CHAPTER 22

SAFE AND ENVIRONMENTALLY SOUND MANAGEMENT OF RADIOACTIVE WASTES

AUTHORITY RESPONSIBLE: MoEc SR; NRA SR

The basic act for the safe and environmentally sound management of radioactive waste (RAW) is the Act No. 541/2004 Coll. on the Peaceful Use of Nuclear Energy (Atomic Energy Act), NRA Decree no. 57/2006 Coll., laying down details on the requirements for the transportation of radioactive materials, and NRA Decree No. 30/2012 Coll., laying down details on the requirements for management of nuclear materials, radioactive waste and spent nuclear fuel. Legislative support further consists of the Act No. 238/2006 Coll. on the National Nuclear Fund for decommissioning of nuclear installations and the management of spent nuclear fuel and radioactive waste (Nuclear Fund Act), which sets rules for management, contributions and scope of the Fund for the decommissioning of nuclear installations.

The state supervision over radiation protection is assured by the Public Health Authority of the Slovak Republic (PHA SR) in terms of the Act No. 355/2007 Coll. on the Protection, promotion and development of public health. The Authority of the Head Hygienist (OoHH) of MoTCRD in terms of this act carries out the state health supervision in the transport of nuclear fuel.

The assessment of nuclear installations impact on the environment is covered by MoE SR and it is performed in accordance with the Act No.24/2006 Coll. on the Assessment of the environmental impacts.

The Atomic Energy Act defines radioactive waste (RAW) as any unusable materials in gaseous, liquid or solid form which may not be placed into the environment owing to the content of radionuclides in them or their level of contamination with radionuclides. A special group of radioactive waste includes so called institutional RAW produced during the utilization of ionising radiation sources in industry, medicine and research (i.e. institutional radioactive waste -IRAW).

The producer of RAW must maintain the quantity and activity of produced RAW at the lowest possible, reasonably achievable level, applying the technical and organizational measures. The Program of radioactive waste minimization, which is regularly evaluated, is the part of the documentation of the quality of any nuclear installation. Year-on-year trend of RAW production is constantly declining. In relation to the protection of human health and the environment, RAW is paid an adequate attention through the system's requirements of its management.

Slovakia operates 4 units with nuclear reactors of VVER – 440 type in total; two units at Jaslovské Bohunice (SE-EBO 3, 4, known as JE V2), and two at Mochovce (SE - EMO1, 2). Two units (EBO V1) are in the process of decommissioning. Spent fuel from these units was transported to the Interim Spent Fuel Storage (ISFS). At the Jaslovské Bohunice site there is located JE A1, fuelled with natural uranium, with heavy water reactor, cooled with carbon dioxide (HWGCR - 150MW). JE A1 was shut down in 1977 after an accident (INES 4) and it is currently in the second stage of decommissioning. Spent nuclear fuel was, based on the original contract, transported to the Russian Federation. Transports were completed in 1999. Technologies for radioactive waste processing are located in the Jaslovské Bohunice and Mochovce sites. They are the part of the so-called Bohunice Processing Centre of RAW (RAW BPC), which has been in operation since 1999, and so called Final processing of liquid radioactive waste (LRAW FP), which has been in operation since 2007. Experimental facilities for RAW processing are at the Jaslovské Bohunice site, presently they are in the process of decommissioning, in a protection storage phase. A National storage facility of low- and intermediate- level radioactive waste (RAW NSF) has been in operation since 1999, located at Mochovce. At the Jaslovské Bohunice site there has been ISFS in operation since 1987, where a project to improve safety and increase storage capacity was carried out.

The state supervision of nuclear safety in the management of radioactive waste from nuclear installations is performed by the Nuclear Regulatory Authority of SR (NRA SR), which together with the supervisory authorities of the Ministry of Health control also the management of institutional RAW, release of radioactive substances into the environment and recycling of materials containing radioactive substances. The safety of installations and technological processes is assessed within the licensing process for nuclear installations, which consists of 5 steps: siting, construction, commissioning and operation, decommissioning, exemption from the Act. When drafting and assessing the safety documentation, in Slovakia there are applied the recommendations of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), OECD / NEA and EC documents, or approaches of American Supervisory Body (US NRC).

Based on the Slovak Government Resolution No. 610/2009 and the Slovak Government Resolution No. 802/2011, on the Draft of procedure for the management of institutional radioactive waste and captured radioactive materials in the Slovak Republic, the JAVYS, a. s. company is responsible for building a specialized

facility for long-term storage and disposal of radioactive waste with the date of entry into service on June 30, 2016.

In 2013, the Act No. 143/2013 Coll. was approved, amending the Act on Nuclear Fund. The proposed legislation mainly aimed to clarify formulations regarding the payment of the levy on the account of National Nuclear Fund (NNF). Previous method of levy payment on the account of NNF was substituted by the levy paid to the state budget - budget chapter of the SR Ministry of Economy. The aim of the amendment to the act also was to achieve balanced budgets of NNF.

The basic concept of radioactive waste management is determined by the Strategy of the final part of the peaceful nuclear energy use in Slovakia, which was approved by the Slovak Government Resolution No. 26/2014 of January 15, 2014.

It followed up on the previous Strategy of nuclear energy final part, approved by the Slovak Government Resolution No. 328/2008. An approach to the Strategy formulation respects the IAEA guidance document on the issue. It complies with the relevant requirements of Council Directive 2011/70/Euratom, which establishes a Community framework for the responsible and safe management of spent fuel and radioactive waste.

By the Resolution No. 256/2014, the SR Government approved Policy, principles and strategy for the further development of nuclear safety.

CROSS-SECTORAL VIEWPOINTS

1. Structure of decision-making:

Final decision-making bodies are NC SR and SR Government. The body responsible for the issue is MoEc SR and PHA SR. Other cooperating bodies are MoH SR, MoI SR, MoTCRD SR, MoLSAaF SR, Labour Inspectorate.

2. Potential creation /organization and competences:

MoEc - central government body for nuclear energy, including the nuclear fuel and radioactive waste management
NRA SR - execution of state supervision over nuclear safety in the management of RAW and spent nuclear fuel and over nuclear installations

MoH SR - the central public administration authority in the field of health, setting the exposure limits and conditions of RAW management in terms of health protection

PHA SR state supervision of radiation protection

MoI SR – the central public administration authority for the conceptual management and control of fire protection, the preparation of an integrated rescue system including civil protection of people and property, public order and safety of persons

MoTCRD SR - central public administration authority for transport

Authority of the Head Hygienist (HHA) of MoTCRD SR - permits for the transport of nuclear fuel, public health surveillance in the transport of nuclear fuel

MoLSAF - central public administration authority for health and safety at work and labour inspection

Labour Inspectorate Nitra - inspection activity - Occupational safety and health at nuclear installations

3. Major Groups:

NC SR and SR Government, departments, state enterprises, joint stock companies, affected municipalities, civic associations, research institutes, SAoS, universities,

4. Finances:

State budget of the Slovak Republic, the National Nuclear Fund, international loans

5. Regional/international cooperation:

EU, OECD, UN and organisations of its system (WHO), IAEA, IEA, IAEA, Council of Europe, international banks, etc.

PART III. STRENGTHENING THE ROLE OF MAJOR GROUPS

23. PREAMBLE

Irrelevant to the assessment at national level

CHAPTER 24

GLOBAL ACTION FOR WOMEN TOWARDS SUSTAINABLE AND EQUITABLE DEVELOPMENT

AUTHORITY RESPONSIBLE: MoLSAaF SR

In the political bodies of the Slovak Republic at the national, regional and local level, the representation of women achieves less than 30 per cent share, and it is similar in management positions in the public or private sphere.

The Slovak Republic supported the initiative of March 2011 "Women on the Board - Pledge for Europe" calling on business leaders to promote the equal participation of women in the decision-making process at all levels and in all areas, including the companies' management boards. According to this call, the representation of women in the companies' management boards should increase to 30% by 2015, while in 2020 it should be 40%. In January 2012, Slovakia with its share of 13.5% of women in the management boards of biggest publicly listed companies was the "most average" EU country. In comparison with October 2010, however, there was a significant decrease from 21.6%.

By the change of the Competence Act, the responsibility for coordination of gender equality policy was laid down for the Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family of the Slovak Republic and a separate financial subsidy scheme for support of gender equality was created under the Subsidies Act in the field of competence of the MoLSAaF SR.

The Government Council of the Slovak Republic for Human Rights, National Minorities and Gender Equality is a permanent expert, advisory, coordinating and consulting body of the Government of the Slovak Republic in the field of human rights protection. It consists of key bodies and institutions of public administration and civil society and it strengthens the participation of the civil sector in the decision-making processes.

The Committee on Gender Equality of the Government Council of the Slovak Republic for Human Rights, National Minorities and Gender Equality performs tasks in order to increase the level of support, protection and respect of equality of rights and opportunities between the sexes. The basis of work of the Committee on Gender Equality are working groups, which can deal more deeply and more intensively with relevant issues and present the findings through expert opinions. In the interest of flexibility, other working groups may occur ad hoc. In 2014, these working groups were working with the Committee:

- Working group on the development of strategies in the field of gender equality,
- Working group on economy, labour market and harmonisation of family and work life,
- Working group on the elimination of violence against women,
- Working group on education, science and research,
- Working group on health,
- Working group on gender inequalities in science,
- Working group on parenthood and private life,
- Working group on multiple disadvantaged women.

The implementation of basic documents of the Government of Slovak Republic continued in the field of gender equality policy - and these are the following:

- National Strategy for the Prevention and Elimination of Violence against Women and Violence in Families (2004), National Action Plan for the Prevention and Elimination of Violence against Women for the years 2014–2019 (2013),
- Measures for Harmonisation of Family and Work Life,
- National Strategy of Gender Equality for the years 2009–2013 (2009),
- National Strategy of Gender Equality for the years 2014–2019 (2014),
- National Action Plan of Gender Equality for the years 2010–2013 (2010),
- Action Plan of Gender Equality for the years 2014–2019 (2014).

Summary reports on the state of gender equality in Slovakia are compiled on a regular basis.

In 2014, the 12th edition of competition "Employer supporting the family, gender equality and equal opportunities" was announced, and 21 employers joined it. Five employers were awarded - the ones who provide men and women with equal chances to succeed in the career development including the support and specific measures for harmonisation of work, family and personal life and the use of flexible forms of work.

In 2014, the preparation of new programming period 2014–2020 for spending of EU funds was an important process. In autumn 2013, there was a new obligation added - the application of so called ex-ante condition "gender equality", which conditions the spending of funds for member states by the creation of an adequate institutional mechanism for application of gender equality and education of main actors. The elimination of gender disparities, in particular with focus on labour market and education, is an integral part of the new operational programme Human Resources for the period of 2014–2020.

Under the subsidy scheme for support of gender equality, MoLSAF SR supported the project of civic association Heart of Slovakia (Srdce Slovenska), which aims to open a dialogue on how to increase the representation of women in the decision-making positions and how to use women's potential in the economy. In 2014, the civic association organized 2nd edition of the forum "Company of 21st century". The topic of the forum included measures for families in companies and their impact on the performance of companies. The civic association created a corporate platform in order to connect the corporate, state and third sector for harmonisation of family and work life by providing the space for mutual exchange of views, ideas, solutions, sharing and dissemination of messages for harmonic life of people in work as well as in private.

In 2014, the implementation of the national project "Institute of gender equality" was completed. It was supported by the operational programme Employment and Social Inclusion. Within the project, regional contact points for gender equality were created. The objectives of the project were as follows:

- to create the environment, effective mechanisms, tools and methods of implementation of gender equality and elimination of gender inequality in the labour market,
- to improve the awareness, consultancy and to raise legal awareness in the field of discrimination,
- to create the e-system of gender equality application and its national coordination,
- to enhance the expertise of actors for the purpose of prevention and elimination of discrimination,
- to improve the databases of information and monitoring of situation in the field of gender equality in the labour market.

Slovak Republic is a party to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women of the United Nations and its Optional Protocol, which was signed by the Slovak Republic in June 2000 and ratified later that year. For the Slovak Republic it entered into force on February 17, 2001.

CROSS-SECTORAL VIEWPOINTS

1. Structure of decision-making:

Resulting decision-making bodies are the Government of the Slovak Republic and National Council of the Slovak Republic. Body responsible for given issue is MoLSAaF SR.

2. Creation of potential/organizational support and competences:

MoLSAaF SR - coordinating body for the issue of gender equality and equal opportunities, Government Council of the Slovak Republic for Human Rights, National Minorities and Gender Equality and its Committee on Gender Equality, Central government authorities according to their competences and tasks defined in these documents, Institute for Labour and Family Research - research in the field of social and family policy, labour market and employment policy, relations of employees, Legal Aid Centres, Commission for equal opportunities of men and women of the Confederation of Trade Unions of the Slovak Republic and Labour Inspectorates, Public Defender of Rights

3. Main groups:

Government of the Slovak Republic, National Council, central government authorities and their subordinate organizations, self-governing regions, towns and municipalities, non-governmental organizations

4. Finances:

State budget of the Slovak Republic, EU structural and investment funds, private resources

5. Regional/international cooperation:

UN and organizations of its system, EU, OECD

CHAPTER 25

CHILDREN AND YOUTH IN SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

AUTHORITY RESPONSIBLE: MoESRaS SR

The Youth report 2014 is the second complex material that presents current life of young people in Slovakia on the basis of research and findings of many experts.

Youth up to 30 years represented 36.3% out of total population, it means 1 963 986 people (51.2% of men and 48.8 % of women).

Slovakia is in the sixth place among EU countries with the highest rate of unemployment of young people (33.6%). It has one of the highest percentages of NEET – 18.7%, compared with European average 15.4% in 2011 (NEET - percentage of young people who do not work for longer time, who do not study nor otherwise educate themselves).

Interest in politics among young people stands at 25%, whereby only 3-4% of them express deeper interest in politics. Although the right to be elected is according to the Constitution of the Slovak Republic granted to citizens from 21 years of age, the representation of young people in the parliament is persistently low. The proportion of Members of Parliament younger than 30 years represented in 2012 only 5 people, out of total number of 150 members (3.33% of all the members of the National Council of the Slovak Republic).

More than 70% of young people (from a sample of 1 012 respondents) consider leaving Slovakia.

In Bratislava region, the risk of poverty ranged on average at 6.3%, the worst figures were registered in Prešov region, where the poverty risk rate reached 19.9%.

While in the whole population the rate of voluntary involvement was 27.5%, among young people it reached 25.7%. The lowest rate of involvement was registered in the age group of 15 to 19 year old young people. The biggest area of activity of young volunteers is the area of social services for various target groups.

There is 1 789 registered organizations in Slovakia, which direct their activities at children and youth. State resources are most often spent on activities outside teaching and regular group activities only for youth up to 15 years of age.

By the Slovak Government Resolution No. 192/2014, the Strategy of the Slovak Republic for youth for the years 2014–2020 was approved. It reflects on the results of given report and determines the strategic policy objectives in relation to youth. The strategy for youth defines the needs of youth mainly in the field of education, employment, creativity and entrepreneurship of young people, their participation, health and healthy lifestyle, social inclusion and volunteering. It also deals with global topics and determines the strategic objectives for the work with youth, and proposals of measures needed to achieve individual objectives.

The environment also belongs to the key areas of the state policy in relation to children and youth. In this area the state supports measures aimed at strengthening the process of building the environmental awareness of children and youth in the intentions of sustainable development, further it supports the promotion of environmental protection, environmental programs and projects in the field of formal and non-formal education, it motivates children and youth to measures and activities focused on the improvement of environment.

The legal framework of work with youth is represented by the Act No. 282/2008 Coll. on Support of work with youth, amending the Act No. 131/2002 Coll. on Universities and on amendments of certain acts as amended. By its content, the Act ensures better conditions for the formation of young people as active citizens, who are involved in creation of their high quality lives.

The involved institutions fulfil the tasks of the fourth Action plan of implementation of National strategy for global education for the period of 2012–2016. It is an educational approach that leads to deeper understanding of diversity and inequality in the world, to the causes of its existence and possible solutions of problems related to it.

In the pedagogical and organizational instructions for given school year MoESRaS SR publishes information, guidance, recommendations and advices for schools and educational facilities relating to school year organization and educational process, also for the area of global education and environmental education, e.g. it recommends schools to apply a global dimension in the curriculum of the School Educational Programme, as well as to develop the environmental education of children and pupils in all connections, and to engage in various national and international competitions, projects and programs, etc.

Every year the financial resources are allocated for schools on the implementation of successfully wide-spread development projects, focused on the support and development of environmental education and general education in primary and secondary schools under the name of Enviroprojekt - for the area of healthy lifestyle, support of health and safety in schools (Health and safety in schools), etc. In the period of 2004-2014 more than 400 projects were supported and realized in primary and secondary schools within Enviroprojekt. Within the scope of environmental projects realization, the schools organize various meetings, competitions, workshops, seminars; they create methodological materials, workbooks and textbooks, also in cooperation with experts from this field. In various regions of Slovakia the students build the educational paths, clean the parts of water courses or deal with issues relating to the use of energy, renewable energy sources, waste etc.

Methodological and Pedagogical Centre (MPC) educates the pedagogical staff within accredited programs of continuing education. So far accredited educational programs are published on the MPC

website. It is still possible to submit the applications for accreditation of educational programs in the field of environmental education.

IUVENTA – Slovak Youth Institute, manages 2 national projects funded from the resources of European Social Fund: Komprax- Competences for Practice – the Project is focused on the support of quality of work with youth, which will - among others - help in the education of young active generation in order to improve the chances of young people to succeed in the labour market. Young leaders and workers together with youth realized their small projects on the topic of ecology, environmental protection and environmental education. PRAKTIK – practical skills through non-formal education in work with youth, this project contributes to a better linkage between formal and non-formal education. The project also includes the creation of Thematic regional centres (TCM) in each regional capital. Each TCM is specifically focused on various areas, including environmental education and awareness.

IUVENTA is the seat of the National Agency of the EU program Erasmus+ for the field of youth and sport. Within its permanent priorities the program reflects on topics of global education, including the support of environmental education. Through this program there were 136 projects supported in 2014, 16 projects thereof reflected on topics connected with environmental protection.

In accordance with applicable legislation, leisure centres create the conditions for non-formal education; they organize and provide educational activities through the development of interests of children and youth.

Leisure centres create the conditions, organize and provide the educational, interest, recreational and sport activities for children and youth during the whole calendar year, including the school holidays.

The Government of the Slovak Republic adopted the documents National programme of care for children and adolescents in the Slovak Republic for the years 2008-2015 and National programme of obesity prevention, the part of which also relates to children's nutrition and physical activity and with which it is necessary - for the fulfilment of stated objectives - to know the starting level of eating habits or individual consumption of food in the sensitive part of population.

Within the programme "School Fruit" there were various educational activities realized in cooperation with workers of Regional Authority of Public Health in the Slovak Republic, and these activities related to the consumption of fruit and vegetables, health awareness, physical activity and healthy lifestyle of children, students and parents. In 2014, the realization of project Monitoring of eating habits and food preferences of the selected population of children in the Slovak Republic continued, and this also included the evaluation of exposure to the selected risks connected with the consumption of food. The long term goal of the project is the evaluation of exposure to the selected risks connected with the consumption of food in sensitive population groups in the Slovak Republic.

Healthy nutrition is closely related to the food safety. There was another project realized in this context - Monitoring of consumption of selected additives in children's food - its goal was to get an overview about quantities of selected additives (food colours) ingested through food by children of preschool and school age. Monitoring of consumption, as a precautionary measure, allows creating a basis for the protection of health and adoption of legislative measures.

Within the context of realization of the National Programme of care for children and adolescents in the Slovak Republic for the years 2008–2015 (NPDD), there were several health-educational activities and events organized, and these were focused on the field of health support among children and adolescents. The Public Health Authority of the Slovak Republic realized the project with the name "Safe return home". The project is focused on the prevention of risks in the transport related behaviour of adolescents.

The Ministry of Environment of the Slovak Republic, as a central government authority for the creation and protection of environment, supports the environmental education within its activities

under the applicable statute. In 1997, the Government of the Slovak Republic approved the Concept of Environmental Education under the National Environmental Action Programme II. and the National Strategy for Sustainable Development of the Slovak Republic. The Ministry of Environment of the Slovak Republic creates the space for the development of environmental awareness of children and youth on the basis of non-formal education through the activities of these directly controlled organizations: Slovak Environment Agency, State Nature Conservancy of the Slovak Republic, Slovak Museum of Nature Protection and Speleology, State Geological Institute of Dionýz Štúr, Slovak Hydrometeorological Institute, Water Research Institute, Slovak Mining Museum, Zoological Garden. The activities of directly controlled organizations of the department in the field of environmental education have nationwide, regional as well as local focus. With respect to the content, they cover the issues of lifelong learning in the field of environment; they are focused on non-formal education for various levels of the school system, on public education and professional training of environmental specialists. The main instruments include the tasks of the program and project nature, and a conceptual activity based on the objective of environmental awareness formation, especially of children and youth.

Slovak Environment Agency (SEA) realized the educational project - Improvement of environmental awareness in the field of nature and landscape protection. Its goal was to make the environmental education more attractive not only for students, but also for teachers, professional workers and general public. Within this project the schools may participate in the program "Ecological Footprint". "NATURA Tour" is the name of another program, in which schoolchildren map the occurrence of selected species of plants and animals. The observations of exploration groups are regularly evaluated and analyzed by the team of experts, which guarantees the scientific value of results and the possibility of their use in practice.

Another important project of SEA is presently the project called "Edification, work with public as support in solving the environmental burdens in Slovakia", the part of which is the school program and outdoor game called "Enviróza", developed for the purpose of acquiring and disseminating information on environmental burdens in Slovakia. The program is designed for primary and secondary schools, and it is realized through a web portal of SEA.

The awareness-raising centres with their activities are also significantly participating in the work with youth.

CROSS-SECTORAL VIEWPOINTS

1. Structure of decision-making:

Resulting decision-making bodies are the National Council and the Government of the Slovak Republic. Body responsible for given issue is MoESRaS SR

2. Creation of potential/organizational support and competences:

MoESRaS SR - central government authority of the Slovak Republic, which ensures the implementation of the state policy in relation to children and youth

Ministry of Culture of the Slovak Republic – central government authority for the awareness-raising activities

Ministry of Interior of the Slovak Republic – central government authority for the internal management

Ministry of Environment of the Slovak Republic – coordination activities in the field of environmental education of children and youth

Ministry of Health of the Slovak Republic – coordination of health-education activities of children and youth

District offices – departments of education – execution of state administration at the district level

The Government Council for professional education and training – advisory body of the Government of the Slovak Republic in the field of professional education and training

Founding authorities of schools

Centre of Scientific and Technical Information – statistics of development and forecast, IUVENTA – Slovak Youth Institute – work with youth outside schools and families, National Awareness Center - professional-methodical centre for the awareness-raising activities, Regional awareness centres, Leisure centres, SEA, professional organizations of the environment department – environmental education

3. Main groups:

National Council of the Slovak Republic, Government of the Slovak Republic, departments of education and culture and their professional organizations, nursery schools, primary, secondary schools and universities, founding authorities of schools

4. Finances:

State budget of the Slovak Republic, EU structural and investment funds, environmental fund, private resources, UN

5. Regional/international cooperation:

OECD, EU, UN and organizations of its system, etc.

CHAPTER 26

RECOGNIZING AND STRENGTHENING THE ROLE OF INDIGENOUS PEOPLE AND THEIR COMMUNITIES

Irrelevant to the assessment at the level of SR

CHAPTER 27

STRENGTHENING THE ROLE OF NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS: PARTNERS FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

AUTHORITY RESPONSIBLE: DISTRICT OFFICES IN GIVEN REGION

One of the key conditions of a well-functioning democracy is the participation of citizens in good governance and public affairs. An important role in this regard is played by non-profit-making non-governmental organisations that transfer opinions, findings and proposals in the field of public administration into activities of state bodies. Through their actions, these bodies greatly influence public opinion and they often interpret the opinions on solutions adopted by public authorities in all sectors of social, political, cultural and economic life including the environment.

One of the instruments enabling the fulfilment of the Policy Statement of the Government of the Slovak Republic in this field is the activity of advisory body – the Government Council of the Slovak Republic for non-profit-making non-governmental organisations. The Council is designed so that its action contributed to the strengthening of participatory democracy in the society, so that the adopted government documents in the field of public policy were not only effective, fair and democratic, but also adopted with a wide consensus of governmental and non-governmental sector and so that their fulfilment was controlled by civil society.

The Council replaced the functions of the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations, which acted from 2011.

Another advisory body of the Government of the Slovak Republic is the Plenipotentiary of the Government for the Development of Civil Society. The plenipotentiary's statute was approved by the Slovak Government Resolution No. 309/2012. His role is mainly to provide and coordinate the

creation of initiatives and strategies that primarily focus on strengthening of citizens' position towards state and its bodies, support of activities that increase citizens' participation and their influence on public policy.

Several conceptual and programming documents were adopted. The most important is the Concept of development of civil society in Slovakia approved by the Slovak Government Resolution No. 68/2012. The Concept analyzes the state of civil society in Slovakia; it identifies the priorities of its development and specifies the measures for intensifying the cooperation between government authorities and civil society.

In September 2011, Slovakia entered the membership of the international Initiative of Partnership for open governance. Its aim is to improve the governance and management of public affairs by increasing the transparency of public administration, its efficiency and responsibility, as well as by creating opportunities for citizens to participate in the governance.

The Office of the Government's Plenipotentiary for the Development of Civil Society finalized a new action plan - Initiatives for open governance for the years 2014-2015. The majority of the action plan draft was created at the end of 2013 with the help of consultations of a wide range of organizations and working groups, there was also a broad discussion in the regions of Slovakia with the representatives of non-governmental organisations, and the comments of individual departments were included in the material.

The topics and tasks of the action plan follow the completed plan from the period of 2012–2013: Open information – portal of open data and web application for the EU structural and investment funds, EEA Financial Mechanism, Norwegian Financial Mechanism, Swiss Financial Mechanism and subsidy schemes from the state budget of the SR; government open for dialogue - public policies and electronic mass application; open justice. In addition to this, a new topic was added: open education - open educational sources and open access to the results of science and research.

For the purpose of defining the cooperation, the Declarations on the cooperation of individual departments and non-governmental organisations (NGOs) in fulfilling the departments' tasks were adopted in 2013.

The role of NGOs in the matter of participating in the environmental protection is ensured by the institutional means of several laws applied in the field of environmental care.

The strengthening of the role of the public, it means its individuals as well as NGOs, in the decision-making processes in the section of environmental care, was significantly increased by the last amendment of the Act No. 24/2006 Coll. on the Assessment of impacts on environment and on amendments of certain acts adopted on October 14, 2014 with effect from January 1, 2015 (amendment - Act No. 314/2014 Coll.)

According to this amendment, the processes of the assessment of impacts of proposed activity on the environment (examination procedure and obligatory assessment) will be completed by the decision of competent authority, which will be issued according to the Administrative Procedure. The public will be given the right to appeal against decision - even if it was not involved in the examination procedure or procedure on the issue of final opinion. The public, which expressed its interest in the procedure on the assessment of impacts, is in the position of a party to the procedure in the subsequent authorisation procedure carried out e.g. under the Building Act or the Mining Act. After having exhausted the ordinary legal remedies towards decision, the public will be able to take legal action.

In the authorisation procedure carried out under the Building Act or Mining Act, which was preceded by the process of the assessment of impacts on the environment, the public can become a party to the procedure, and under certain conditions even if it did not express its interest (in writing) to be a party to the procedure in the process of the assessment of impacts of proposed activity on the environment.

Non-governmental organisations can also be parties to the procedure on imposition of preventive remedies and legal remedies under the Act No. 359/2007 Coll. on the Prevention and remedying of environmental damage and on amendments of certain acts.

Act No. 543/2002 Coll. on Nature and landscape protection, as amended, gives possibility to associations with legal personality, whose subject of activity is nature and landscape protection, to be a party to the procedure in proceedings of various bodies of nature and landscape protection.

CROSS-SECTORAL VIEWPOINTS

1. Structure of decision-making:

Resulting decision-making bodies are the National Council and the Government of the Slovak Republic.

2. Creation of potential/organizational support and competences

The Plenipotentiary of the Government for the development of civil society – creation of initiatives and strategies and coordination of their fulfilment, individual departments – cooperation with NGOs in the fulfilment of departments' tasks and in the fulfilment of rights laid down by laws.

3. Main groups:

National Council of the Slovak Republic, Government of the Slovak Republic, competent departments and their professional organizations, non-governmental organisations, local government, private institutions, research organizations

4. Finances:

2% from taxes of natural and legal persons, voluntary contributions (donations) of natural persons and corporate philanthropy, public collections, membership fees of NGO members, revenues from own activities of NGOs, public finances from foreign sources, especially from Norwegian and Swiss funds, public finances from EU structural funds, public resources at the level of subsidy mechanisms of individual departments, public resources at local governments' level

5. Regional/international cooperation:

EU, UN and organizations of its system

CHAPTER 28

LOCAL AUTHORITIES INITIATIVES IN SUPPORT OF AGENDA 21

AUTHORITY RESPONSIBLE: DISTRICT OFFICES IN GIVEN REGION

Local government in the conditions of the Slovak Republic is performed at the level of municipalities and higher territorial units.

Act No. 369/1990 Coll. on Municipal Administration, as amended, regulates matters relating to the execution of local government at the level of municipalities. In relation to the issue of sustainable development, the municipality ensures mainly the following activities:

- it controls the economic activities in the municipality,
- it ensures the construction and maintenance and realizes the administration of local roads, public spaces, municipal cemetery, cultural, sport and other municipal facilities, cultural monuments, historic sites and monuments of the municipality,
- it ensures the municipal waste management, maintenance of cleanliness in the municipality, management and maintenance of public green areas and public lighting, water supply, waste water disposal, treatment with waste water from septic tanks and local public transport,

- it creates and protects healthy conditions and a healthy way of life and work of municipality residents, it protects the environment, as well as creates conditions for the provision of health care, education, culture, awareness-raising activities, interest artistic activities, physical culture and sport,
- it procures and approves the urban planning documentation of residential units and zones, the development concept of individual areas of municipality life, it procures and approves the programs of housing development and participates in the creation of adequate living conditions in the municipality,
- it ensures the protection of cultural monuments under special regulations,
- it performs the tasks in the section of social assistance.

The municipalities ensure the elaboration of their Programs of economic and social development (PESD). The aim of PESD is to formulate such idea about direction of the municipality, which expresses the economic and social interests of its citizens, and is in accordance with adopted concepts of the state, higher territorial unit, development strategy of relevant micro-region, or with departmental strategies, interests of environment protection, cultural heritage etc. It is a program of targeted measures designed to boost the social, economic and cultural development of the municipality, which on the basis of results of the annual evaluation will be continuously updated and supplemented.

At the municipality level, a basic urban planning document is the territorial plan of the municipality or zone. Territorial planning creates conditions for permanent harmony of all activities in the area, with particular regard to the environmental care, achieving of ecological balance and ensuring of sustainable development for the considerate use of natural resources and for the preservation of natural, civilization and cultural values (Act No. 50/76 Coll. as amended). Individual intentions submitted within the preparation of PESD must be in accordance with existing approved urban planning documentation, or background papers, and the municipality development program determines only a level of support of its individual intentions.

In the Slovak Republic there were 2 891 municipalities as at June 2014, out of which 1 299 municipalities have their own urban planning documentation.

By the Act of the National Council of the Slovak Republic No. 302/2001 Coll. on the Administration of higher territorial units, the National Council approved the establishment of eight higher territorial units.

Within the execution of local government, the self-governing region takes care of the all-round development of its territory and needs of its residents. It especially

- ensures the creation and implementation of the program of social, economic and cultural development of the self-governing region's territory,
- carries out the planning activities relating to the self-governing region's territory,
- procures, discusses and approves the urban planning documents of the self-governing region and territorial plans of regions,
- participates in the creation and protection of the environment,
- creates preconditions for the optimal arrangement of mutual relations of residential units and other elements of its territory,
- creates conditions for the development of education, mainly in secondary schools, and conditions for the development of further education,
- creates conditions for the formation, presentation and development of cultural values and cultural activities, and ensures the protection of the historical monuments fund,
- coordinates the development of tourism,
- coordinates the development of physical culture and care of children and youth,
- cooperates with municipalities in the creation of programs of social and economic development of municipalities.

The fundamental development documents at the level of self-governing regions include programs of economic and social development and territorial plans. All the self-governing regions have these

programs and plans approved. The self-governing regions have also several elaborated strategies for the development of tourism, as well as strategies for the field of innovative development.

Strategic documents at the level of municipalities and regions which are to be adopted are the subject of their assessment in terms of impacts on environment under the Act No. 26/2014 Coll. on the assessment of impacts on environment, as amended. Under this Act, the procedure of participation of public in the process of assessment must be realized, and a public discussion regarding prepared documents must be enabled.

The approach Leader (combining the activities that support the economic rural development) is applied in Slovakia within the Rural development programme. Its aim is to improve the quality of life in rural areas, and to improve the economic opportunities and social conditions of the rural population. This aim is in the conditions of the Slovak Republic fulfilled through the implementation of integrated strategies of territory development, under which the projects of individual applicants are realized. Integrated strategy of territory development for certain area is elaborated by the Local Action Group (LAG), through which the principles of Leader approach are put into practice. LAG consists of various subjects participating in the development of region, and a significant role is played by local government authorities.

CROSS-SECTORAL VIEWPOINTS

1. Structure of decision-making:

Resulting decision-making bodies are the National Council of the Slovak Republic, Government of the Slovak Republic. Bodies responsible for given issue are local government authorities of municipalities and higher territorial units

2. Creation of potential/organizational support and competences:

Municipalities and higher territorial units according to the above-mentioned competences, interest groups – Association of towns and municipalities of Slovakia, Association for Rural Development, Public-private partnerships, Local action groups, Association of mountain settlements of Slovakia

3. Main groups:

National Council of the Slovak Republic, Government of the Slovak Republic, municipalities, higher territorial units, associations

4. Finances:

Budgets of towns, municipalities, higher territorial units, state budget of the SR, EU structural and investment funds

5. Regional/international cooperation:

Cooperation at the level of partnership municipalities and regions abroad

CHAPTER 29

STRENGTHENING THE ROLE OF WORKERS AND THEIR TRADE UNIONS

AUTHORITY RESPONSIBLE: MoLSaF SR

In the Art. 29 the Constitution of the Slovak Republic guarantees the right to associate freely. Everyone has the right to associate with others in unions, societies or other associations. Under the Art. 37 of the Constitution, everyone has the right to freely associate with others in order to protect his economic and social interests. The trade union association is the association of unionized employees. The specific conditions of activity as well as the rights of these associations are regulated by the Act No. 83/1990 on Association of Citizens, as amended.

In 2007, the Economic and Social Council of the Slovak Republic was established as a common national authority to ensure the tripartite consultations on economic and social policy of the Government of the SR. Its establishment was preceded by the adoption of the Act No. 103/2007 Coll. on Tripartite Consultations at the National Level and on amendments to certain acts (Tripartite Act). The Tripartite Act guarantees the social partnership on the basis of a trilateral dialogue between the government and social partners, which are involved in the formulation of economic and social policy, which means the application of democracy and recognition of social partners.

In the participatory relations the trade union association acts as the representative of employees, and the employer has certain specific rights and obligations towards this trade union association. The trade union association guarantees - in the specified range - the participation of employees in the company's management.

A Labour law reform resulted in the adoption of the new Labour Code (Act No. 311/2001 Coll.). There was also a divestment and change in the applicable legislation of labour relations in public and civil service, which was caused by the adoption of the Act on civil service and Act on public service, which was in 2003 replaced by the Act on the execution of work in the public interest. The Labour Code was amended several times in the following period.

Significant changes were made by the Act No. 361/2012 Coll., amending the Act No. 311/2001 Coll. Labour Code, as amended, and amending some other acts. The aim of this amendment was to promote the balance of application of rights and obligations corresponding to them between the employee and the employer, as well as the creation of dignified working conditions with particular emphasis on discussing these conditions with social partners.

As of June 1, 2014 the Article II of the Act No. 58/2014 Coll. on Explosives, explosive articles and ammunition came into force, amending the Act No. 311/2001 Coll. Labour Code, as amended, which adapted the subsidiary scope of the Labour Code on labour-law relations of employees working in the manufacture and processing of explosives, explosive compounds, black powder, ammunition, explosive articles and explosive pyrotechnic compounds.

As of July 1, 2014 the Article V of the Act No. 103/2014 Coll. on Theatre and music activity came into force, amending the Act No. 311/2001 Coll. Labour Code, as amended, which adapted the subsidiary scope of the Labour Code for employees, who act as theatre or music artists.

As of July 1, 2014 the Article II of the Act No. 183/2014 Coll. came into force, amending the Act No. 43/2004 Coll. on Retirement pension saving and on amendments to certain acts as amended, amending the Act No. 311/2001 Coll. Labour Code, as amended, which adapted the maximum duration of agreements on work performed outside the employment for a period of 12 months. It was also established that the provisions of Labour Code on the due date of wage, its payment and execution of deductions from wage apply to remunerations arising from these agreements. In accordance with these legislative changes, the remuneration for work performed on the basis of work performance agreements and student work agreements must be - as of July 1, 2014 - payable and paid off until the end of the calendar month following after the month, in which the work was performed.

The last amendment to the Labour Code, effective as of January 1, 2015, was approved by the National Council of the Slovak Republic on December 2, 2014. The amendment aims to solve problems in the field of temporary assignment of employees, especially the circumvention of provisions on temporary assignment, circumvention of provisions on comparable working and wage conditions of temporarily assigned employees and its aim is also to ensure the fair competition between temporary employment agencies and employers.

In the section collective labour relations the Labour Code regulates the participation of employees in the creation of fair and satisfactory working conditions at employers in the implementation of labour-law relations. It enables to protect the interests of employees in relation to the employers - through the

representatives of employees, i.e. trade union associations, works councils and works delegates - in the case of an employer with a small number of employees. Under the Act No. 124/2006 Coll. on Safety and Health Protection at Work, the employees' representative - in respect to safety and health protection at work - is also the representative of employees for safety and health protection at work.

All legal forms of representation of employees' interests regulated by the Labour Code are the voluntary forms of representation. The Labour Code ensures conditions for application of rights of employees' representatives for information, negotiation, co-determination, collective bargaining and control. The Labour Code enables the simultaneous operation of trade union association, works council or works delegate with the employer.

In 2013, the amendment to the Act on collective bargaining was adopted by the Act No. 416/2013 Coll., with effect from January 1, 2014, the purpose of which is to regulate the extension of binding force of a higher level collective agreement to all employers in the proposed sector, and provided that some of the laid down exceptions does not apply to them.

The proposal for extension of binding force of a higher level collective agreement can be submitted collectively by the contracting parties of collective agreement or individually, by one of these contracting parties. The extension of binding force of a higher level collective agreement is not subject to the approval of the employer to whom the extension is proposed.

The Slovak Republic is bound by 69 conventions of the International Labour Organisation (ILO), while 57 conventions were ratified gradually from 1919 to 1992 by the former Czechoslovak Republic, Czechoslovak Socialist Republic and by the Czech and Slovak Federative Republic. Since its establishment on January 1, 1993, the Slovak Republic has taken over the obligations of 57 ILO Conventions on the basis of succession – Notification of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Slovak Republic No. 110/1997 Coll. on the Confirmation of Succession of the Slovak Republic into the Obligations of Relevant Multilateral Contractual Documents of the International Labour Organization, which are deposited by the director-general of the International Labour Organization. From January 1, 1993, the Slovak Republic has gradually ratified 18 ILO Conventions, and it has denounced 6 ILO Conventions.

The improvement of safety and health protection at work is ensured by the social policy of the government, cooperation of social partners, and in particular by prevention and specific programs and measures aimed at elimination of risks and factors conditioning the occurrence of work accidents, occupational diseases and other damages to health, and thus the working conditions at employers are improving. In the Slovak Republic, the safety and health protection at work is ensured mainly by the Act No. 124/2006 Coll. on Safety and Health Protection at Work, of the Labour Code, by the Act No. 355/2007 Coll. on Protection, Support and Development of Public Health and by the Act No. 125/2006 on Labour Inspection. Fundamental principles and rights in the field of safety and health protection at work are regulated mainly by the ILO Convention on Occupational Safety and Health and the Working Environment No. 155 from 1981, which came into force in Slovakia on February 25, 1989.

In 2013, the Strategy on Health and Safety Protection at Work in the Slovak Republic, as well as the program of its implementation for the years 2013-2015 with a perspective up to 2020 was approved by the Slovak Government Resolution no. 391/2013.

According to data from the Statistical Office of the SR on sick leave, due to illness or injury there were 8 577 work accidents registered in the SR in 2013, and in comparison with 2012 (8 767) it represented a decrease by 190 work accidents, while a number of fatal work accidents remained almost unchanged (in 2012 there were 52 fatal accidents and in 2013 there were 53 accidents).

The indicator of frequency of work accidents per 100 employees in the SR reached a value 0.34 in 2013, and in comparison with 2006 (0.68) it represented a decrease by 50.0%.

According to data from the Ministry of Health of the Slovak Republic, there were 301 cases of newly diagnosed occupational diseases and occupation related poisonings registered in 2013. Compared to 2012, there was a decrease of reported occupational diseases by 43, which is the lowest number of reported occupational diseases in the past few years (in 2005 there were 413 reported cases and 301 cases in 2013).

The issues of health and safety protection at work and risk prevention methods are in Slovakia the subject of teaching in schools, preparing pupils and students for the exercise of profession and further adult education, including retraining.

Natural and legal persons may, in accordance with the Act No. 124/2006 Coll. on Safety and Health Protection at Work, organize and conduct the training and education in the field of work protection only on the basis of an authorisation. Requirements and scope of educational activity for individual educational and training activities are laid down in the Decree No. 356/2007 Coll., laying down the details on requirements and scope of the educational activity, project of education, keeping the prescribed documentation and verification of knowledge of educational activity participants.

CROSS-SECTORAL VIEWPOINTS

1. Structure of decision-making:

Resulting decision-making bodies are the National Council and the Government of the Slovak Republic. Body responsible for given issue is MoLSaF SR.

2. Creation of potential/organizational support and competences:

MoLSaF SR - central government authority, Central Office of Labour, Social Affairs and Family - manages, controls, coordinates and methodically directs the execution of state administration in the field of social affairs and employment services, the execution is ensured by Offices of Labour, Social Affairs and Family, National Labour Inspectorate - controls and directs the labour inspection, which supervises the compliance of labour-law regulations, regulations on occupational safety and health. The execution is ensured by Offices of Labour, Social Affairs and Family, the Ministry of Health of the Slovak Republic – central government authority in the field of public health protection, public health authorities – execution of state supervision in the field of health protection at work.

3. Main groups:

National Council of the Slovak Republic, Government of the Slovak Republic, Economic and Social Government Council of the Slovak Republic, MoLSaF SR and its professional organizations, state and private companies, schools, research institutes

4. Finances:

State budget of the Slovak Republic, EU structural and investment funds

5. Regional/international cooperation:

UN and organizations of its system (ILO), EU, OECD, etc.

CHAPTER 30

STRENGTHENING THE ROLE OF BUSINESS AND INDUSTRY

AUTHORITY RESPONSIBLE: MoEc SR

Consumer's protection is in the SR ensured within the legislative and non-legislative area, while the basic strategic document of consumer policy in the years 2014-2020 will be the Consumer Policy Strategy of the Slovak Republic (Strategy), which was approved by the Slovak Government Resolution no. 502/2014 as a programming document ensuring the gradual increase of consumer's protection in all

areas in accordance with European Programme for Consumers – Support of confidence and growth. Currently, the emphasis is put on the promotion of consumers' interests, provision of high level of their protection, contribution to the protection of their health, safety and economic interests, as well as promotion of their rights to information, awareness-raising and creation of associations to protect the consumer's interests. Consumers with strengthened position, who can rely on a strong framework ensuring the safety, information, education, rights, remedies and means of law enforcement, can actively participate in the market and make it work in their favour.

The following legal regulations deal with the issues of trade and consumer's protection:

- Act No. 40/1964 Coll., Civil Code – the Amendment extended the enumeration of unacceptable contractual conditions and laid down the prohibition of securing the fulfilment of consumer's obligation arising from a consumer contract through collateral right to real estate, which was extended to any security transfer of right for the purpose of securing the consumer's obligation, it means including the security transfer of right to movable property, which is in case of consumer contracts considered inadmissible.
- Act No. 250/2007 on Consumer Protection and on Amendment to Act of the Slovak National Council No. 372/1990 Coll. on Offences, as amended, which regulates the rights of consumers and obligations of producers, sellers, importers and suppliers, the scope of activity of public administration bodies in the field of consumer protection, as well as the position of legal persons established or formed for the purpose of consumer's protection. This Act significantly strengthened the consumer's rights to obtain products and services in good quality, rights to the application of complaint, damage compensation, education, information, protection of health, safety and economic interests and submission of initiatives and complaints to the authorities of supervision and control. Every consumer has the right to protection against unacceptable conditions in consumer contracts, which are the contracts concluded under the Civil Code or the Commercial Code. The Act also regulates the issues of product safety together with Regulation of the Government of the Slovak Republic No. 404/2007 Coll. on General Product Safety and decrees of the Ministry of Economy of the SR related to the safety requirements for certain consumer products. By the adoption of the Act No. 102/2014 Coll. on Consumer Protection related to selling or providing of services based on a distance contract, or a contract concluded outside operational premises of the seller and on amendments to certain acts, by which this Act was also amended, there was a significant strengthening of consumer protection in the area of recovery of claims or securing of obligations. Court and other authorities deciding the dispute must take into account the extended circle of facts on their own motion, and not only on the proposal of the consumer, e.g. the limitation of claim.
- Act No. 22/2004 Coll. on Electronic Commerce, by which the Directive 2000/31/EC has been implemented, created the conditions for electronic commerce, online provision of services and exemptions from legal liability of provider of the information society services.
- Act No. 161/2011 Coll. on the protection of customers in provision of certain tourism services implemented the Directive on the protection of consumers, in respect of certain aspects of timeshare, long-term holiday product, resale and exchange contracts.
- The amendment to the Act No. 147/2001 Coll. on Advertising and on amendments to certain acts allowed that the propagator of advertising may also be other subject than the entrepreneur. An existing regulation was unduly restrictive and it did not give the opportunity to propagate the advertising outside the business activity. The amendment also prohibited the propagation of advertising on consumer credits and loans, if these do not meet the requirements laid down by law.
- In accordance with EU legislation, the protection of children against dangerous toys was strengthened by the Act No. 78/2012 Coll. on Safety of Toys amending the Act No. 128/2002 Coll. on State Control of Internal Market in the Consumer Protection Issues and on amendments to certain acts as amended by the Act No. 140/2013 Coll. and by the Decree of the Ministry of Economy of the SR No. 225/2013 Coll., which implements certain provisions of the Act No. 78/2012 Coll. on Safety of Toys, amending the Act No. 128/2002 Coll. on the State Control of Internal Market in the Consumer Protection Issues and on amendments to certain acts as amended by the Act No. 140/2013 Coll., and in terms of the Decree of the Ministry of Economy of the SR No. 45/2014 Coll.

An important component of industry and trade are small and medium enterprises (SMEs). The support of their funding was ensured through JEREMIE initiative.

It is a joint initiative of the European Commission and European Investment Bank Group with the purpose of improving the access of SMEs to the funding within EU structural funds (EU SF) for the period of 2007-2013. The main objective of initiative is the provision of support for access to the capital for SMEs with a good business plan and innovative idea with commercial potential.

The implementation of JEREMIE in the SR includes the debt instruments (bank guarantees and credits) and equity instruments (venture capital), which are provided to SMEs indirectly - through selected financial intermediaries (commercial banks, venture capital fund managers).

JEREMIE Holding Fund is in the programming period 2007-2013 funded in the SR from the EU SF in the amount of 100 million EUR from three operational programs: Operational Programme Competitiveness and Economic Growth (OP CaEG), Operational Programme Research and Development (OP RaD), Operational Programme Bratislava Region (OP BR), and it is managed by the European Investment Fund through SZRF, s.r.o. company. From the OP CaEG there were a total of 67.06 million EUR allocated to the JEREMIE initiative.

Financial resources will be used on financing the following instruments: Risk Capital (RC) in the amount of 31 million EUR, First Loss Portfolio Guarantee (FLPG) in the amount of 42.98 million EUR and Portfolio Risk Sharing Loan (PRSL) in the amount of 20.02 million EUR.

In regard to the significant delay in the implementation of JEREMIE initiative in Slovakia, all the financial instruments were successfully put in place in 2014: FLPG, PRSL and RC. Therefore the SMEs in Slovakia can apply for loans financed by JEREMIE initiative. Financial intermediaries, it means commercial banks are continuously providing JEREMIE loans to SMEs, and they are currently assessing other loan applications. JEREMIE loan products within FLPG instrument are provided to SMEs by: Tatra banka, a.s. (Tatra), UniCredit Bank Slovakia a. s. (UCB), Slovenská záručná a rozvojová banka, a.s. (SZRB) and Slovenská sporiteľňa, a.s. (SLSP). Within PRSL instrument the SMEs can apply for loans from the following financial intermediaries: Sberbank Slovensko, a.s. (SBERBANK) and OTP Banka Slovensko, a.s. (OTP).

It is expected that thanks to JEREMIE support it will be possible to generate funds for loans for SMEs in the total amount of 282.2 million EUR. The SMEs may receive help through preferential investment loans and working capital loans until December 31, 2015. The support of SMEs through FLPG and PRSL instruments is in Slovakia directed to all regions outside the territory of Bratislava Self-Governing Region.

The Ministry of Economy of the SR elaborated the material - Evaluation of possibilities of direction and conditions for the development of industrial production in Slovakia after 2013 - as the basis for the use of structural funds in the programming period 2013-2020, and Working committee of the Ministry of Economy approved this material in August 2012. This material includes the proposed starting points for processing of the programming document of industrial development support so that the aid is directed mainly into the following fields:

- innovative, knowledge-based sectors,
- some selected sectors of industrial production with tradition and/or potential of growth without excluding the marginal sectors in terms of their share in the industrial production of the SR,
- measures facilitating the changes by improving the regulation of product market,
- innovations and investment in education and lifelong professional training.
- By the Resolution no. 665/2013 the Government approved the Research and Innovation Strategy for Smart Specialisation of the Slovak Republic (RIS3). The objectives of RIS3 are as follows:
 - to deepen the integration and anchoring of key industries that increase the local added value by the cooperation of local supply chains and by the promotion of their mutual networking,
 - to increase the contribution of research to economic growth by the way of global excellence and local relevance,

- to create the dynamic, open and inclusive innovative company as one of the preconditions for improving the quality of life,
- to improve the quality of human resources for innovative Slovakia.

The strategic part is represented by a set of measures, activities and instruments leading to the fulfilment of above objectives, and it determines the systems of management and implementation of strategy, its financing, monitoring, evaluation and control, in the responsibility of all relevant departments and key actors.

Under the Slovak Government Resolution no. 665/2013 the Ministry of Economy of the SR (MoEc SR) prepares together with MoESRaS SR the first Action plan of RIS3 implementation, which aim is to determine the tasks, key priorities and measures conditioning the successful implementation of RIS3 approved by the Government of the SR.

The MoEc SR represents the Slovak Republic in the management group of priority area 8 – Support of Competitiveness and Creation of Clusters within the Danube Strategy. This priority area is focused on the following priorities: innovations and technological transfer; excellence clusters; professional training; corporate training; competitiveness of rural and urban regions. In the future, the MoEc SR would like to contribute by taking over the control over a newly proposed priority - environment and efficient use of energy sources. The MoEc SR actively contributes to merging of priorities within the priority area 7 – Development of knowledge society (research, education, information and communication technology), priority area 8 and priority area 9 – Development of human resources.

One of the forms of support of environmentally friendly behaviour of enterprises is also the certification of management systems. In 2013, 44 new organizations with established and certified EMS accrued in Slovakia, and the total number of registered organizations with certified EMS (Environmental Management System according to ISO 14001) increased since 1996 to 1 292. The conditions for participation of organizations in the European Community Eco-Management and Audit Scheme (EMAS) are laid down by the Regulation (EC) no. 1221/2009 of the European Parliament and of the Council on the voluntary participation of organisations in EMAS III scheme, and at the national level it is the Act No. 351/2012 Coll. on Environmental Verification and Registration of Organizations within the EU Scheme for Environmental Management and Audit and on amendments to certain acts, with effect from December 1, 2012. There were 4 companies registered in the EMAS register at the end of 2013.

CROSS-SECTORAL VIEWPOINTS

1. Structure of decision-making:

Resulting decision-making bodies are the National Council and the Government of the Slovak Republic. Body responsible for given issue is MoEc SR. Other cooperating parties are the Ministry of Environment of the SR (MoE SR), and the Ministry of Education, Science, Research and Sport of the SR (MoESRaS SR).

2. Creation of potential/organizational support and competences

MoEc SR - conceptual and legislative activity in the field of trade and industry, statistics in the field of internal trade and services, MoESRaS SR – science, research, innovations, MoE SR – voluntary instruments of environmental policy including the environmental management

3. Main groups:

National Council of the Slovak Republic, Government of the Slovak Republic, departments, banks, private companies

4. Finances:

JEREMIE Fund, state budget of the Slovak Republic, EU structural and investment funds

5. Regional/international cooperation:

UN and organizations of its system (UNIDO, UNCTAD), EU, OECD, EEA, EUROSTAT

CHAPTER 31

SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNOLOGICAL COMMUNITY

AUTHORITY RESPONSIBLE: MoESRaS SR

Research and development belong to basic preconditions of competitiveness and sustainable development of the society and are the conditions for long-term growth of living standards.

For the purpose of ensuring the independent research in the field of sustainable development, more efficient use of scientific and technical information and knowledge, improvement of conditions for the work of scientists, increase of Slovakia's competitiveness in the field of science and technology, the communication and cooperation between scientific and technical community, as well as between decision-making sphere and the public were intensified.

One of the key documents in the field of research and innovations is the Government-approved Research and Innovation Strategy for Smart Specialisation of the Slovak Republic (RIS3), which the Government of the SR approved by the Resolution no. 665/2013 and the preparation of which was realized through the close cooperation of MoESRaS SR, MoEc SR, Government Office of the SR and representatives of business, academic and research sector. The close cooperation of all sectors is applied in the creation of all documents in the field of science and technology and their implementation, and it is a precondition for promotion of Slovak science at the international level.

The Government Council of the Slovak Republic for Science, Technology and Innovations is an expert, advisory, initiative and coordinating body of the Government of the SR in the field of science, technology and innovations. Under its statute, approved by the Slovak Government Resolution no. 114/2013, its role is to coordinate the cooperation of organizations of public and private sector as well as to ensure the objectives of state science, technology and innovation policy and comprehensively assess the materials of all central government authorities from the field of science, technology and innovations, presented in negotiations of the Government of the SR, to EU bodies and international organizations.

The Government Council has 23 members. The chairman of the Government Council is the Prime Minister of the SR; the vice-chairmen are the Minister of Education, Science, Research and Sport of the SR, Minister of Economy of the SR, Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Finance of the SR and the president of the Slovak Academy of Sciences.

The public has also the opportunity to express its opinions and ideas on how to better use science and technology to their advantage through public comments on materials of science and technology, or websites focused on science, research and innovations, as well as through popularisation activities, the example of which is the "Week of Science and Technology", discussion forums with scientists and public "Science in the Centre" (scientific café), popularisation meetings of scientists with students of primary and secondary schools (scientific patisserie) etc. These activities are annually organized by the National Centre for the Popularisation of Science and Technology in Society (NCP S&T), which is a department of the Slovak Centre of Scientific and Technical Information (SCSTI). NCP S&T, established under SCSTI, creates an institutional basis which should ensure that popularisation of science and technology in compliance with Strategy for the Popularisation of Science and Technology in Society, approved by the Government of the SR through the Resolution no. 103/2007. By its activity, it contributes not only to overcoming of communication barriers between scientific community and the rest of the public, but also to improving of public awareness on the importance of science and technology as one of the three pillars of knowledge society development: education – science and technology – innovations.

NCP S&T ensures the management and operation of the Central Information Portal for research, development and innovations. It is a basic, generally accessible source of information for all concerned parties for the area of science, research, development and innovations.

Within the interconnection and realization of cooperation between various subjects, the Slovak Academy of Sciences (SAoS) created the Office for Technology Transfer of SAoS. Its aim is to provide the professional support for intensifying the cooperation of SAoS Research Institutes with commercial sector, as well as the cooperation with other organizations funded from the state budget, dealing with issues of technology transfer. SAoS Scientific Organizations cooperate with several universities in Slovakia. The cooperation is realized on the basis of cooperation agreements - within common workplaces or on an informal basis. The cooperation covers a whole range of activities. The priority is the development of scientific cooperation on the basis of solving the domestic and foreign projects (APVV, VEGA, EU framework programs), creation of common workplaces and cooperation in building the research infrastructure (projects of EU structural funds). Another significant factor is the cooperation in the field of education, particularly in doctoral studies, but also in other pedagogical activities at all levels of university education, including the memberships in commissions for the defence of doctoral theses and doctoral dissertation theses.

On December 4, 2014 the presidents of the Association of Industrial, Research and Development Organizations and of the Association of Slovak Scientific and Technological Societies signed a cooperation agreement, which aim is to intensify common activities in the realization of tasks arising from responsibilities of both associations, mainly in the area of promotion of science and technology results and promotion of educational activities. The main topics of cooperation include the participation in preparation of conceptual documents from the field of science, research and innovations, the consultations of legislative standards from this field, the support of activities arising from the international cooperation in science and technology, and an active participation in ensuring conferences, educational activities and other socio-beneficial activities of both associations.

CROSS-SECTORAL VIEWPOINTS

1. Structure of decision-making:

Resulting decision-making bodies are the National Council and the Government of the Slovak Republic. Body responsible for given issue is MoESRaS SR.

2. Creation of potential/organizational support and competences:

MoESRaS SR – central government authority for science, SRDA - Slovak Research and Development Agency – research and development support by providing financial resources, SATEU - Agency of the Ministry of Education, Science, Research and Sport of the SR for the EU structural funds, research and development realization – SAoS, workplaces of universities

3. Main groups:

National Council of the Slovak Republic, Government of the Slovak Republic, departments, business operators, schools, research and development organizations

4. Finances:

State budget of the Slovak Republic, EU structural and investment funds (Operational Programme Research and Development, Operational Programme Competitiveness and Economic Growth), the 7th EU Framework Programme for Research and Development, Horizon 2020, European Science Foundation, NATO, EC Programme for Atomic Energy, Official Development Aid of the SR

5. Regional/international cooperation:

UN and organizations of its system, EU and its organizations, CERN – European Organization for Nuclear Research, SUJV Dubna – Joint Institute for Nuclear Research Dubna, OECD, European research initiatives and programs (e.g. ECSEL – European Components and Systems for European Leadership, JTIs - Joint Technology Initiatives, ENIAC JU – Joint European Technological Project),

ERA – European Research Agency, bilateral cooperation in regional, European and broader global context

CHAPTER 32

STRENGTHENING THE ROLE OF FARMERS

AUTHORITY RESPONSIBLE: MoAaRD SR

The basic conceptual document in the field of agriculture is the Concept of agriculture development for the years 2013–2020, approved in the Government of the SR by the Resolution no. 357/2013. It is mainly based on the Common Agricultural Policy of the EU and on the Policy Statement of the Government of the Slovak Republic for the years 2012–2016. The aim of this Concept is to support the efficient use of resources in the interest of smart, sustainable and inclusive growth of agriculture and rural areas.

The following activities have been realized from this Concept:

- transfer of financial resources allocated within Common Agricultural Policy, from the IInd pillar to the Ist pillar of Common Agricultural Policy, in the total amount of 345.44 million EUR, it means 21.306 % of EU funds allocated to the Rural Development Programme of the SR for the years 2014-2020 (RDP);
- creation of a new support mechanism for Slovak agriculture, so called sandwich system;
- continuation of realization and implementation of the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP);
- approval of the Action plan of Agriculture development of the SR for the years 2014–2020;
- EU funds for increasing the competitiveness of food and wood processing industry are provided through the opening of EU structural funds;
- the MoAaRD SR cooperates to promote the employment of vulnerable groups of population, which will have open opportunities of employment in the agriculture and initial processing of agricultural products;
- support of sugar beet cultivation;
- support of planting and management of orchards (in 2013, there were 85 ha of orchards planted);
- continuation of promoting the fruit and vegetable cultivation through Rural Development Programme of the SR for 2014-2020;
- continuation of promoting the viticulture and viniculture, solving of property relations to lands, accessibility of land for new planting and protection of existing areas of vineyards;
- increase of swine production efficiency;
- increase of gross domestic production of cattle;
- improvement of situation in case of slaughter chicken;
- preparation of new National Programme for stabilization and development of Slovak beekeeping for the year 2013/2014 to 2015/2016, the main role of which is to support the beekeeping sector development;

Rural development is supported by the European Community countries in 2007–2013 from the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD), and the following aims are pursued:

- increase of competitiveness of agriculture, food and forestry sectors,
- improvement of state of landscape and environment,
- improvement of quality of life in rural areas and diversification of rural economy.

A programming document for the use of financial resources from the EAFRD is a Rural Development Programme.

The priorities of Rural Development Programme of the SR for 2007-2013 include the support of modernization, innovation and efficiency of agricultural, food and forestry businesses, maintenance and protection of landscape environmental values, conservation of cultural heritage, creation of job

opportunities, improvement of professional skills of the rural population and improvement of quality of life in rural areas.

The draft of a new Rural Development Programme of the SR (RDP SR) for the years 2014-2020 was elaborated. Its priorities include the support of knowledge and innovations transfer in agriculture, forestry and rural areas, increase of viability and competitiveness of all kinds of agriculture, support of innovative agricultural technologies and sustainable forest management. RDP SR is also focused on the support of resources efficiency and transition to low carbon and climate-resistant agriculture, forestry and food sector.

CROSS-SECTORAL VIEWPOINTS

1. Structure of decision-making:

Resulting decision-making bodies are the National Council and the Government of the Slovak Republic. Body responsible for given issue is MoAaRD SR.

2. Creation of potential/organizational support and competences

MoAaRD SR – strategic, conceptual area, coordination of Rural Development Programme including the financial resources

3. Main groups:

National Council of the Slovak Republic, Government of the Slovak Republic, departments, district offices, professional organizations – National Agricultural and Food Centre, National Forest Centre, Rural Development Agency, universities

4. Finances:

State budget of the Slovak Republic, EU structural and investment funds, other EU resources, UN

5. Regional/international cooperation:

UN and organizations of its system (FAO), PIC, OECD, EU

PART IV. MEANS OF IMPLEMENTATION

CHAPTER 33

FINANCIAL RESOURCES AND MECHANISMS

AUTHORITY RESPONSIBLE: MoF SR, OTHER DEPARTMENTS AND OTHER CENTRAL GOVERNMENT AUTHORITIES ENSURING FINANCIAL RESOURCES AND MECHANISMS FOR DEVELOPMENT

The Government gross debt as a share of GDP reached at the end of 2013 a level of 54.6 % of GDP. In 2014 a change of national accounts was implemented, which positively affected the end value of debt for the whole time series. Assuming the fulfilment of budgetary targets, the rate of debt increase will gradually slow down. Thanks to more favourable macroeconomic growth and lower government deficit, the debt should start to fall from 2015. Despite historically good conditions of public debt financing, the share of debt service in exports was increased in 2013 together with total debt.

Gross debt and debt service of the SR

	i.u	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
Government gross debt (Maastricht)	% GDP	28.18	35.93	41.10	43.45	52.11	54.60
Debt service	% export	1.49	2.05	1.68	1.74	1.89	1.99

Source: MoF SR (The Ministry of Finance of the SR)

The total, officially acquired or provided aid to the development reached the following values in 2013 (in thousands of euros):

- Revenues from EU funds 2 185 358 thousand EUR (2.97% of GDP)
- Expenses to the EU 825 098 thousand EUR (1.12% of GDP)
- Transfers abroad apart from levies to the EU 67 152 thousand EUR (to foreign governments, individuals and international organizations) (0.09 % of GDP).

The development of this indicator for the past three years shows a growing trend.

Overview of financial flows

Item	2013	2012	2011
Revenues from EU funds (thousand EUR)	2 185 358	2 137 849	2 041 093
% of revenues to GDP	2.97	2.96	2.91
Expenses to the EU (thousand EUR)	825 098	722 831	704 656
Transfers abroad apart from levies to the EU (thousand EUR)	67 152	62 168	55 251
Total expenses (thousand EUR)	892 250	784 999	759 907
% of expenses to GDP	1.21	1.09	1.08
GDP in current prices	73 593 156	72 184 745	70 159 763

Source: Draft of the state final account of the SR for 2012; Financial statements 1-04 for the years 2011-2013

The works related to the new programming period for the years 2014–2020 were actively realized during 2013 and 2014. Simultaneously, in the process of comments on key documents for the new programming period, the Position document of the European Commission to the partnership agreement and programs of the SR for the years 2014-2020 was elaborated and presented. The position document identifies - from the EC perspective - the main development needs with possibility of financing of measures within the funds of Common Strategic EU Framework in the conditions of

SR. This document also represents a basis for negotiations with the European Commission on the partnership agreements and operational programs of the SR for the years 2014-2020.

Partnership agreement determines the strategy, priorities and conditions of the SR for the use of EU funds so that it would be possible to achieve the priorities of Europe 2020 strategy. Therefore, it is a basic national document that covers all the operational programs of the SR for the new programming period. The proposal of the Partnership agreement of the SR for the years 2014-2020 was, after long discussions, approved by the Slovak Government Resolution No. 65/2014. Subsequently, the work was realized together with preparation of new operational programs. Slovakia will be using the EU funds through six basic operational programs:

1. Research and innovations,
2. Quality of environment,
3. Integrated infrastructure,
4. Integrated regional operational program,
5. Human resources,
6. Efficient public administration.

The separate mode will be applied to programs Technical Assistance, Rural Development, Fisheries, European Territorial Cooperation and INTERACT programme, which are managed according to the specific EC guidelines.

Other selected financial resources for the sustainable development funding were as follows:

- LIFE+ Programme

Within the calls in the years 2007–2012, with a total allocation of 26 095 663 EUR, there were 17 projects approved for the SR and 3 projects, in which Slovak partners are participating. The total amount of grants provided for these projects was 21 675 963 EUR.

Under the call for projects from 2012, there were 5 Slovak projects approved in 2013, and the amount of grant from LIFE+ was 4 904 284 EUR.

- Global environmental support (GEF)

In the period from July 1, 2006 to June 30, 2010, the fourth programming period (GEF 4) took place within the GEF Programme, in which the priority areas were narrowed to climatic changes and biodiversity. In the area of biodiversity the SR was included in the group of 93 countries with an average allocation for country up to the maximum amount of 3.5 million USD by 2010. In the area of climatic changes there was an individual allocation provided for the SR, in the total amount of 5.7 million USD by 2010, and the approved projects will be realized up to 2014.

The SR has been participating in GEF initiative since 1994. In total, 13 national projects were approved with a grant in the amount of 22.57 million USD with co-financing of the SR in the amount of 32.53 million USD. Within approved regional and global projects, the SR participated in 17 projects. In 2013, there were 2 last projects realized: BA Transport (Sustainable Transport in Bratislava) and Small Grants Programme, the realization of which should be completed in 2014.

- Swiss Financial Mechanism

The representatives of the SR and Swiss Confederation signed on December 20, 2007 the Framework Agreement on the implementation of the Swiss-Slovak Cooperation Programme between the Government of the Slovak Republic and the Swiss Federal Council. It also defined the areas within which it is possible to prepare various projects. Within the above financial mechanism there is an allocated amount of financial resources with a total sum of 66 866 thousand Swiss francs (CHF) provided for the SR, it means approximately 41 million EUR, to the 2nd priority area "Environment and Infrastructure", which includes the following areas of focus:

- 2.1 - Renewal and Modernization of Basic Infrastructure and Improvement of Environment
- 2.2 - Nature Protection.

Within the area of focus 2.1 there were 6 projects realized in 2013, and within the area of focus 2.2 there were 2 projects approved.

The Environmental Fund belongs to the most significant projects from domestic financial resources. It was established by the Act No. 587/2004 Coll. on the Environmental Fund and on amendments to certain acts. It is focused on providing the state aid for the environmental care and creation of environment on the principles of sustainable development, while it put the emphasis on the support of applicants, who are unable to obtain the foreign aid (e.g. municipalities with less than 2 000 inhabitants in case of sewerage construction) with the aim of gradual completion of unfinished constructions of environmental infrastructure.

Overview of subsidies provided from the Environmental Fund in 2013 (EUR)

Area of subsidies	Number	EUR
Air and ozone layer protection	13	1 303 532.00
Protection and rational use of waters	133	14 352 234.00
Waste management development	22	2 170 348.00
Nature and landscape protection	7	1 687 685.00
Environmental education, training and promotion	11	455 088.00
Exploration, research and development focused on identification and improvement of the state of the environment	3	1 089 313.00
Accidents	3	46 033.11
In total	192	21 104 233.11

Source: Environmental Fund

The support in the form of a subsidy in the number of 63 and in the amount of 300 000 EUR was provided on the Village Renewal Programme. In total, there were 255 applications with the total amount of 21 404 233.11 EUR supported in 2013 by the form of subsidies.

In the period of 2011–2013, the measures were focused on the improvement of energy efficiency and they were funded from various national financial mechanisms, mainly from the State Housing Development Fund (SHDF) and Slovseff II Programme.

Measures in the buildings sector for the period of 2011-2013 (outside EU funds):

- Insulation of residential buildings from the SHDF, duration since 1996, real investment for 2011-2013: 326 862 thousand EUR
- Insulation government program II, duration since 2009, real investment for 2011-2013: 47 027 thousand EUR
- Slovseff II, duration 2010 – 2014, real investment for 2011-2013: 72 551 thousand EUR
- SHDF-JESSICA 2013-2014, real investment for 2011-2013: 14 637 thousand EUR

Measures in the industry sector for the period of 2011–2013 (outside EU funds):

- Slovseff II, duration 2010-2014, real investment for 2011-2013: 25 124 thousand EUR

Measures in the public sector for the period of 2011-2013 (outside EU funds):

- EkoFond – Program O2 The Improvement of energy efficiency in public buildings, real investment for 2011-2013: 6 270 thousand EUR

Measures in the transport sector for the period of 2011-2013 (outside EU funds):

- EkoFond: real investment for 2011-2013: 326 thousand EUR

Measures in the appliance sector for the period of 2011-2013 (outside EU funds):

- Own resources, benefits from sellers and producers (white goods varying), real investment for 2011-2013: 129 895 thousand EUR

On January 15, 2014 the Government of the SR approved the third [Medium-Term Strategy for Development Cooperation of the Slovak Republic for 2014–2018](#), which defines the vision, goals,

principles, territorial and sectoral priorities of development co-operation of the Slovak Republic for the next five years.

The development cooperation of the SR is focused on 10 priority countries – 3 program countries (Afghanistan, Kenya, Moldova), 6 project countries (Albania, Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia, Kosovo, Ukraine) and 1 country with extraordinary humanitarian and development needs (South Sudan).

CROSS-SECTORAL VIEWPOINTS

1. Structure of decision-making:

Resulting decision-making body is the Government of the Slovak Republic. Bodies responsible for the given issue are the Ministry of Finance of the SR, other departments and other central government authorities ensuring financial resources and mechanisms for development.

2. Creation of potential/organizational support and competences:

Government Office of the SR, Ministry of Finance of the SR, other departments and other central government authorities ensuring financial resources and mechanisms for development and their executive institutions

3. Main groups:

The Government of the SR, departments, their professional organizations

4. Finances:

State budget of the Slovak Republic, EU structural and investment funds, Environmental Fund

5. Regional/international cooperation:

UN and organizations of its system (UNEP), EU, etc.

CHAPTER 34

TRANSFER OF ENVIRONMENTALLY SOUND TECHNOLOGY, COOPERATION AND CAPACITY-BUILDING

AUTHORITY RESPONSIBLE: MoEc SR; MoESRaS SR

The Eco-innovation Action Plan (EcoAP), as one of the main initiatives of Europe 2020 strategy, supports the efforts in the field of eco-innovations, it helps better respond to global ecological issues, and it uses the opportunities in global markets in accordance with strategy aims. EcoAP provides new tools to achieve the objectives and it determines the future framework for eco-innovations.

According to the EcoAP definition, eco-innovations present any form of innovations, the aim of which is significant and demonstrable progress towards achieving the sustainable development by reducing the impact on environment, strengthening the resistance to environmental pressures, or by attaining a more efficient and responsible use of natural resources.

The open platform "Innovation Forum Slovakia", which associates the innovation experts from all over Slovakia on the basis of written expression of interest to participate in its activities, worked successfully during 2014. The platform is coordinated by BIC Bratislava company (coordinator of representation of the Enterprise Europe Network in Slovakia), MoESRaS SR, MoEc SR in cooperation with Slovak Centre of Scientific and Technical Information (SCSTI). The platform organizes regular meetings to discuss current issues in the field of support and management of innovations, technology transfer and their application in innovative business, as well as in the field of reactions to relevant legislative changes. Membership in the Innovation Forum is open for public sector institutions

(departments and public agencies), institutions of local and regional government, universities, research organizations, innovation centres, technology transfer centres, associations and unions, clusters, technological parks, incubators, innovation experts or financial organizations.

In the SR the technology transfer is supported by SCSTI through building the National technology transfer support system (NTTSS), within implementation of the national project National infrastructure for supporting technology transfer in Slovakia - NITT SK. SCSTI is a contributory organization established by MoESRaS SR, and it is the national information centre and specialized scientific public library of the SR focused on technical fields and selected fields of natural, economic sciences and humanities.

The part of NTTSS is also the National Portal for Technology Transfer - NPTT, which represents a single point of access to important information about protection and commercialization of intellectual property.

An important EU financial instrument for the support of research, development of new technologies and development of innovations for the period of 2014-2020 is Horizon 2020 programme, which combines research with innovations, and it focuses on three main areas: excellent science, industrial leadership and societal challenges. Horizon 2020 programme pays special attention to small and medium enterprises (SMEs), which are a major source of jobs and innovations. They can cooperate on projects as a part of consortium and they can receive support through dedicated instrument, designed specifically for extremely innovative smaller companies.

The implementation of Horizon 2020 programme falls within the competence of MoESRaS SR, which is the national coordinator in Slovakia. The Ministry proposes, and in cooperation with partners (SCSTI and Research and Development Agency) realizes measures to support the participation of Slovak universities, research organizations and businesses in Horizon 2020. The support of increased participation of Slovak organizations in comparison with previous programs (e.g. 7th FP) is also anchored in the new strategic document for Slovak science by 2020 "Research and Innovation Strategy for Smart Specialisation of the Slovak Republic" (RIS3), and it is one of the main priorities of research and development policy in the coming period.

MoESRaS SR created the system of national support structures for Horizon 2020, composed of national delegates, new professional office of national contact points and Slovak Liaison Office for Research and Development in Brussels. Their aim is to defend the interests of the SR in the preparation of calls for Horizon 2020, as well as to inform and assist Slovak researchers who are interested in participation in Horizon 2020.

In relation to research and innovations, the basis of the operational programme Competitiveness and Economic Growth (OP CaEG), the managing body of which is MoEc SR, is the Priority axis No. 1 "Innovations and growth of competitiveness". Within it, there have been a total of 456 projects supported so far - with contractually bound, non-repayable financial contribution of approx. 395 million EUR, which includes 83 new businesses throughout Slovakia. The projects resulted in the increase of number of innovations, technologies and products in businesses and services, prototypes and tests, innovation of management systems etc. There were almost 2 000 new jobs created. Since the projects still continue, it is possible to expect the creation of further 2 000 jobs in the future. Under "Innovations and technology transfers" measure aimed at innovations and technology transfer, there were a total of 403 projects supported, out of which 376 were the projects of SMEs, which were mainly interested in purchase and renewal of technology park.

For the purpose of initiation, as well as intensification of direct cooperation between entrepreneurs and selected scientific and research institutions, the MoEc SR announced in August 2014 the call for applications for the provision of non-repayable subsidy in the form of innovation vouchers. Vouchers are funded from the state budget resources and they should support the development of innovative activities in enterprises. The entrepreneurs may apply for support of activities which are focused on the innovation of their own products, services or technologies. The MoEc SR will support research

and development activities in enterprises and in the industrial cluster organizations by the sum exceeding 360 thousand EUR. The aid was received by 45 enterprises and 7 industrial cluster organizations. The successful applicants include the projects with the focus on mechanical engineering and manufacturing technologies, biochemistry and food industry, building industry, ICT, as well as social innovations. Their outputs should be focused on improving the technical parameters, new innovative manufacturing and technological procedures, and qualitative improvement of existing products as well as the development of new products. For this well-proven form of support, the MoEc SR plans in the period of 2015–2020 to allocate the financial resources in the amount exceeding 2.8 million EUR.

The further effort of the SR Government to encourage and develop the innovative activities required the creation of appropriate support tools. One of them is the Award of the Minister of Economy of the Slovak Republic called "Innovative Action of the Year". The competition for the award of the Minister of Economy is organized every year in three categories:

1. Product innovation,
2. Technological innovation,
3. Innovation of service (non-technological process).

According to the statute, innovative projects implemented in 2014 participate in the competition at the beginning of the following year, and they are also assessed and awarded in that year.

The SR is widely involved in international activities in the field of research, development and innovations by the form of bilateral agreements on scientific and technical cooperation with the EU countries as well as countries outside the EU. Slovakia is a member of IEA; through the workplaces of universities and SAoS it participates in the scientific and technical cooperation within the EU through the 7th EU Framework Programme (hereinafter referred to as "7th EU FP") and EURATOM.

The support of science and research represents one of priorities of EU 2020 strategy. The European Commission adopted a strategic document "Strategic Energy Technology Plan" (SET-Plan), which represents the technological pillar of the EU energy policy. One of industrial initiatives relates to nuclear energy.

Within it, the SR is involved in Allegro Project (Fast Reactor Project), which is the project of cooperation in the field of nuclear energy between Slovakia, Hungary, Czech Republic and France.

CROSS-SECTORAL VIEWPOINTS

1. Structure of decision-making:

Resulting decision-making bodies are the National Council and the Government of the Slovak Republic. Body responsible for given issue is MoEc SR and MoESRaS SR. Other cooperating parties are the Ministry of Environment of the SR (MoE SR) and the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development of the SR (MoAARD SR).

2. Creation of potential/organizational support and competences:

MoEc SR - conceptual and legislative activity in the field of trade and industry, statistics in the field of internal trade and services, MoESRaS SR – science, research, innovations, MoE SR – voluntary instruments of environmental policy including the environmental management, Statistical Office of the SR – statistical monitoring and surveys, Slovak Centre of Scientific and Technical Information - national information centre and specialized scientific public library, Research and Development Agency – research and development support by providing financial resources.

3. Main groups:

National Council of the Slovak Republic, Government of the Slovak Republic, departments, businesses, schools, research and development organizations

4. Finances:

State budget of the Slovak Republic, EU structural and investment funds, 7th EU Framework Programme, EC Programme for Atomic Energy

5. Regional/international cooperation:
UN, EU, OECD, EEA, EUROSTAT

CHAPTER 35

SCIENCE FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

AUTHORITY RESPONSIBLE: MoESRaS SR

Research and development are the main factors of sustainable development of the SR. The Government of the SR is aware that without a significant increase in overall spending on research and development, in particular greater involvement of the business sector, it will not be possible to achieve significant progress in innovations, in improving the competitiveness of the domestic economy and their application in production and technological process, and in synergy of research and development in the SR. Expenditures on research and development therefore grow systematically in absolute, as well as relative terms. In 2010, expenditures on research and development represented 0.63 % of GDP, in 2011, it was 0.68 %, in 2012 it was 0.82 % and in 2013, the expenditures represented 0.85 %.

Expenditures on research and development according to source of funding

Expenditures on research and development according to source of funding (thousand EUR)	2010	2011	2012	2013
From state and public sources	206 398.96	233 061.45	243 301.75	237 616.21
From business sources	145 797.27	158 579.55	220 664.28	245 540.83
From foreign sources	61 064.17	66 324.76	109 144.60	109 748.79
From private non-profit organizations	1 165.08	1 816.35	2 011.54	1 205.13
From resources of universities	1 761.26	8 657.26	10 103.07	16 765.22

Source: Statistical Office of the SR

Expenditures on research and development

Indicator	2010	2011	2012	2013
Expenditures on research and development in total (thousand EUR)	416 368.75	468 439.35	585 225.23	610 876.18
Capital expenditures	63 073.20	94 798.56	109 336.52	97 299.69
Current expenditures	353 295.55	373 640.80	475 888.71	513 576.49
The share of expenditures on research and development from GDP (%)	0.63	0.98	0.82	0.85

Source: Statistical Office of the SR

The positive fact is also the increase of number of employees in the field of research and development, as well as increase of number of researchers in recent years, although in 2013 there was a slight decline of them registered. In 2013 there were 27 823 employees working in the field of science and research.

The quality of scientific-research system lags behind in several criteria. The SR has a relatively low number of patents granted per million of inhabitants. To December 2013 there were 14 218 paid patents registered, out of which 2 755 were granted by a national way. In 2013 there were 210 patent applications submitted, which is by 7 more than in the previous year. Out of this number, 184 applications were submitted by national applicants and 26 by foreign applicants. There were 115 patents in total granted. In 2013 there were also 339 national applications for utility models and 90 foreign applications submitted. The number of registered utility models was 287. In respect to applications for trademarks, there were 3170 of them accepted in 2013, out of which 2 447 were national applications. As at December 31, 2013 there were 48 729 valid trademarks registered in the register of Industrial Property Office of the SR and 1 861 international trade marks.

On November 13, 2013, the SR Government approved - by its Resolution No. 665/2013 - the material "By Knowledge to Prosperity" - Research and Innovation Strategy for Smart Specialisation of the Slovak Republic 2020 (RIS3 strategy), which determines the direction of Slovak science in the period up to 2020. The material is based on the priorities of the Policy Statement of the SR Government and priorities of the European Research Area, following the EU strategic document Europe 2020. The aim is to direct

the science for sustainable growth - in order to improve the environment as well as its protection. The aim is to launch such instruments in the field of science and technology, which will be focused on the following:

- priorities of research and development: material research and nanotechnologies, information and communication technologies, biomedicine and biotechnologies,
- technological priorities: industrial technologies, sustainable energetics and energy, agriculture and environment,
- social priorities: selected areas of social sciences (with respect to the most acute problems of society, which are the greatest burdens for Slovak society).

At the same time it is necessary to take into account the environmental aspects for the growth of competitiveness of national economy and for sustainable development.

Currently, the Action plan to RIS3 strategy is being prepared, which will present the concretization of RIS3 strategy on specific tasks for the next period. In accordance with the approved strategy, the legislative changes in the context of complex amendment of the Act No. 172/2005 Coll. on Organisation of State Support for Research and Development are prepared.

CROSS-SECTORAL VIEWPOINTS

1. Structure of decision-making:

Resulting decision-making bodies are the National Council and the Government of the Slovak Republic. Body responsible for given issue is MoESRaS SR.

2. Creation of potential/organizational support and competences:

MoESRaS SR – central government authority for science, SRDA - Slovak Research and Development Agency – research and development support by providing financial resources, SATEU - Agency of the Ministry of Education, Science, Research and Sport of the SR for the EU structural funds, research and development realization – SAoS, workplaces of universities, Industrial Property Office of the SR

3. Main groups:

National Council of the Slovak Republic, Government of the Slovak Republic, departments, businesses, schools, research and development organizations

4. Finances:

State budget of the Slovak Republic, EU structural and investment funds (Operational Programme Research and Development, Operational Programme Competitiveness and Economic Growth), the 7th EU Framework Programme for Research and Development, Horizon 2020, European Science Foundation, NATO, EC Programme for Atomic Energy, Official Development Aid of the SR

5. Regional/international cooperation:

UN and organizations of its system, EU and its organizations, CERN – European Organization for Nuclear Research, SUJV Dubna – Joint Institute for Nuclear Research Dubna, OECD, European research initiatives and programs (e.g. ECSEL – European Components and Systems for European Leadership, JTIs - Joint Technology Initiatives, ENIAC JU – Joint European Technological Project), ERA – European Research Agency, bilateral cooperation in regional, European and broader global context

CHAPTER 36

PROMOTING EDUCATION, PUBLIC AWARENESS AND TRAINING

AUTHORITY RESPONSIBLE: MoESRaS SR, MoC SR

The overview of selected long-term (strategies, concepts), mid-term (programs, action plans) and short-term supporting instruments contributing to the implementation of sustainable development principles at national level applied in the MoESRaS SR:

- Civil liability and cooperation – Policy Statement of the Government of the Slovak Republic for the period 2010–2014,
- National Reform Programme of the SR 2014,
- Stability Programme of the SR for the years 2011-2014,
- By Knowledge to Prosperity – Research and Innovation Strategy for Smart Specialisation of the Slovak Republic,
- Concept for the Development of Education in the SR for the next 15–20 years (Millennium Project),
- Strategy of computerisation of regional education,
- Plan of human rights education in the Ministry of Education for the years 2005–2014,
- Concept of education and training of children with disabilities,
- Concept of education and training of national minorities,
- Concept of integrated education of Roma children and youth,
- Concept of integrated education of Roma children and students including the development of secondary and university education,
- Concept of special pedagogical consulting,
- Concept of education and training of national minorities,
- Concept of development of information and consulting activities for youth.

A large share in the field of education changes towards sustainable development is represented by EU supported programs. Erasmus+ program: Under the program administration, the following long-term priorities are promoted: environmental education, education of youth to human rights, education to multiculturalism and global issues. Projects of young people focused on these topics are assessed with special priority. During 2014, IUVENTA launched the European Youth Portal also in Slovak language version, where a separate section is created, reflecting global education with title: "Think globally". IUVENTA is the seat of the National Agency of the EU program Erasmus+ for the field of youth and sport. Through this program there were 136 projects supported in 2014, out of which 16 projects reflected on topics connected with environmental protection.

The increase of public awareness towards environmental problems and sustainable development is supported by provisions of several acts in the scope of MoC SR. This is particularly the Act No. 532/2010 Coll. on Radio and Television of Slovakia and on amendments to certain acts as amended (Act No. 532/2010 Coll.). RTVS is a broadcaster whose mission is to provide public with services in the field of broadcasting. The program service of RTVS consists of news, journalistic, documentary, drama, music, sport, entertainment and educational programs, programs for children and youth and other programs, which

- a) are based on principles of democracy and humanism and contribute to legal awareness, ethical awareness and to environmental responsibility of the public,
- b) provide objective, verified, unbiased, actual, understandable, balanced and pluralistic information on various events in the SR and abroad - for free formation of opinions,
- c) develop national awareness and cultural identity of Slovak population, regardless of sex, race, colour, language, age, faith and religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, nationality or ethnic group, property, origin or other status.
- d) create conditions for social agreement on public matters in order to deepen mutual understanding, tolerance and to support the cohesion of diversified society.

Under the relevant provisions of law, a program in public interest is also a program, which promotes the protection of nature and environment.

The overview of selected long-term (strategies, concepts), mid-term (programs, action plans) and short-term supporting instruments contributing to the implementation of sustainable development principles at national level applied in the MoC SR:

- Concept of historical monuments fund protection,
- Development strategy of local and regional culture,

- Development strategy of awareness-raising activities,
- Concept of focus and support of research and development in the MoC SR,
- Concept of media education in the Slovak Republic in the context of lifelong learning,
- Project of systematic renovation of audiovisual heritage of the Slovak Republic,
- Sectoral concept of professional education and training of students for the exercise of occupation and professional activities in the Ministry of Culture,
- Concept of protection of historical monuments fund and cultural heritage in crisis situations.

The strategy for the field of education is to link the educational system with the needs of labour market and to increase the involvement of employers in creation and innovation of educational content, as well as to support the formation of partnerships between education providers and employers. An important area requiring the change is the support of professional education and interconnection of learning with practice. Similarly, the area of university education requires the enhancement of quality and content of especially bachelor study, so as to ensure that the needs of practice are in accordance with the objectives of national Strategy of smart specialisation RIS3 SK. The objectives and priority areas of RIS3 SK should be reflected in all supported areas of education. Another strategic area is lifelong learning and consulting for adults. Interventions to the above mentioned areas of education will contribute to the fulfilment of specific recommendations of the Council to National Reform Programme - "to take measures in order to attract young people to teaching profession and to improve the results of education. In professional training and education - to improve the provision of practical teaching directly in companies. In university education - to create more jobs-oriented bachelor programs. To promote the effective knowledge transfer by supporting the cooperation between universities, research community and business sector. To intensify efforts connected with the improvement of access to high quality and inclusive pre-school and school education of marginalized communities including the Roma".

Summary of selected findings in relation to the education and professional preparation of children and youth

Relative change of school-age population (population in the age of 6–15)

Period of 1998–2013: -2.33 %

After 15-year steady decline of number of school-age population, there was an increase of this group of inhabitants by 0.05 % registered in 2014.

Number of school-age population

Year	Number of school-age population ¹	Annual decrease (-) / increase (+)	
		abs.	in %
1998	816 835	x	x
1999	800 285	-16 550	-2.03
2000	777 694	-22 591	-2.82
2001	758 371	-19 323	-2.48
2002	732 250	-26 121	-3.44
2003	707 797	-24 453	-3.34
2004	682 304	-25 493	-3.60
2005	659 025	-23 279	-3.41
2006	634 190	-24 835	-3.77
2007	607 686	-26 504	-4.18
2008	584 362	-23 324	-3.84
2009	563 557	-20 805	-3.56
2010	551 115	-12 442	-2.21
2011	548 634	-2 481	-0.45
2012	542 890	-5 744	-1.05
2013	538 995	-3 895	-0.72
2014	539 269	274	0.05

Geometric mean of changes in 1999–2013	-2.33
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Note:

¹ Population at the age of 6–15 (situation as of December 31 of given year); a figure for 2014 is anticipatory (= number of inhabitants at the age of 5–14 as of December 31, 2013). Data are calculated from definitive results of the Statistical Office of the SR on final state (situation as of December 31) of Slovak population according to the age units for the period 1998–2013.

Source: Statistical Office of the SR

Gross percentage of population enrolled in primary schools

2012: 96.56 %

2013: 96.88 %

2014: 96.27 %

In the SR, there is a 9-year primary school. Children, who reached the age of 6 until August 31 of given year, usually start their first year in school.

Gross percentage of population enrolled in primary schools

Year	Number of population at typical age ¹	Number of students ²	Percentage of students from population at typical age (in %)
2012	484 344	467 706	96.56
2013	482 147	467 085	96.88
2014	483 292	465 276	96.27

Notes:

¹ Number of inhabitants at the age of 6–14 (situation as of December 31 of given year); a figure for 2014 is anticipatory (= number of inhabitants at the age of 5–13 as of December 31, 2013). Data are calculated from definitive results of the Statistical Office of the SR on final state (situation as of December 31) of Slovak population according to the units of age for 2012 and 2013.

² Students of 1st–9th year of primary school, including students of 1st–9th year of special primary schools and special classes, students of 1st–4th year of 8-year study in grammar schools and 8-year dance conservatory, students of 1st–2nd year of 6-year study in grammar schools and students of 1st year of 5-year study in grammar schools.

Source: Statistical Office of the SR

Net percentage of population enrolled in primary schools

2012: 90.25 %

2013: 90.34 %

2014: 90.08 %

Since the primary school is obligatory in Slovakia, it is practically attended by every child at the appropriate age (age of 6–14). The difference from 100 % is represented by children, who reached the age of 6 in the period from September 1 to December 31, and pupils with delayed school attendance.

Net percentage of population enrolled in primary schools

Year	Number of inhabitants at the age of 6–14 ¹	Number of students at the age of 6–14 ²	Percentage of students in primary schools from total population at the age of 6–14 (in %)
2012	484 344	437 134	90.25
2013	482 147	435 553	90.34
2014	483 292	435 359	90.08

Notes:

¹ Situation as of December 31 of given year; a figure for 2014 is anticipatory (= number of inhabitants at the age of 5–13 as of December 31, 2013). Data are calculated from definitive results of the Statistical Office of the SR on final state (situation as of December 31) of Slovak population according to the units of age for 2012 and 2013.

² Students of 1st–9th year of primary school, including students of 1st–9th year of special primary schools and special classes, students of 1st–4th year of 8-year study in grammar schools and 8-year dance conservatory, students of 1st–2nd year of 6-year study in grammar schools and students of 1st year of 5-year study in grammar schools.

Source: Statistical Office of the SR

Gross percentage of population enrolled in secondary schools

2012: 94.71 %

2013: 91.53 %

2014: 90.00 %

In Slovakia students usually start secondary school after completing the 9th year of primary school, it means at the age of 15 years. Study at secondary school lasts 2-5 years, usually 4 years.

Gross percentage of population enrolled in secondary schools

Year	Number of inhabitants at typical age ¹	Number of students ²	Percentage of students from population at typical age (in %)
2012	244 752	231 807	94.71
2013	236 111	216 105	91.53
2014	231 100	207 983	90.00

Notes:

¹ Number of inhabitants at the age of 15–18 years (situation as of December 31 of given year); a figure for 2014 is anticipatory (= number of inhabitants at the age of 14–17 years as of December 31, 2013). Data are calculated from definitive results of the Statistical Office of the SR on final state (situation as of December 31) of Slovak population according to the units of age for 2012 and 2013.

² Full-time study only. The data include the students of special secondary schools, vocational schools and practical schools. On the contrary, they do not include the students of higher vocational education and post-graduate study, students of 1st – 4th year of 8-year study in grammar schools and 8-year dance conservatory, students of 1st – 2. year of 6-year study in grammar schools, students of 1st year of 5-year study in grammar schools and students of secondary schools of the Ministry of Interior of the SR and Ministry of Defence of the SR.

Source: Statistical Office of the SR

Net percentage of population enrolled in secondary schools

2012: 76.65 %

2013: 75.98 %

2014: 75.51%

Net percentage of population enrolled in secondary schools

Year	Number of inhabitants at the age of 15–18 years ¹	Number of secondary schools students at the age of 15–18 years ²	Percentage of students in secondary schools from total population at the age of 15–18 years (in %)
2012	244 752	187 597	76.65
2013	236 111	179 396	75.98
2014	231 100	174 513	75.51

Notes:

¹ Situation as of December 31 of given year; a figure for 2014 is anticipatory (= number of inhabitants at the age of 14–17 years as of December 31, 2013). Data are calculated from definitive results of the Statistical Office of the SR on final state (situation as of December 31) of Slovak population according to the units of age for 2012 and 2013.

² Full-time study only. The data include the students of special secondary schools, vocational schools and practical schools. On the contrary, they do not include the students of higher vocational education and post-graduate study, students of 1st – 4th year of 8-year study in grammar schools and 8-year dance conservatory, students of 1st – 2. year of 6-year study in grammar schools, students of 1st year of 5-year study in grammar schools and students of secondary schools of the Ministry of Interior of the SR and Ministry of Defence of the SR.

Source: Statistical Office of the SR

Relative adult literacy

2001: 99.64 %

The school education of Slovak inhabitants is monitored during population census, which takes place more or less regularly every ten years. The percentage is calculated from the results of the penultimate census which was realized on May 26, 2001. (It is not possible to calculate this figure from so far published results of the last census, which took place in 2011).

Relative adult literacy

Number of 15-year-old and older inhabitants ¹	Out of which without school education ¹	Percentage of 15-year-old and older literate population (in %)
4 363 962	15 529	99.64

Note:

¹ Including inhabitants, who did not state the age.

Source: Statistical Office of the SR

Literacy

2001

Men: 99.66 %

Women: 99.63 %

The school education of Slovak inhabitants is monitored during population census, which takes place more or less regularly every ten years. The percentage is calculated from the results of penultimate census, which was realized on May 26, 2001. (It is not possible to calculate this figure from so far published results of the last census, which took place in 2011).

Literacy

Number of 15-year-old and older inhabitants ¹	Of which without school education ¹	Percentage of 15-year-old and older literate population (in %)
Men		
2 092 919	7 055	99.66
Women		
2 271 043	8 474	99.63

Note: ¹ Including inhabitants, who did not state the age.

Source: Statistical Office of the SR

Children, who reached the 5th year of primary education

The percentage of pupils, who complete the compulsory education sooner than in the 5th year, is minimal. Almost every child reaches at least 5th year of primary education and therefore receives the basic literacy.

Probable length of school attendance

2010: 16.4

2011: 16.4

2012: 16.3

Source: Education at a Glance, OECD, 2012, 2013 and 2014.

Total length of school attendance depends on the highest achieved education:

- a minimum of 10 years (compulsory education),
- in case of completion of secondary school with school-leaving exam 13–14 years, without school-leaving exam 12 years
- in case of completion of university education of Ist and IInd degree 17–19 years.

After the completion of compulsory school attendance, a student can advance to a higher level of education according to his/her interests and skills and on the basis of knowledge tests.

The difference between the proportion of boys and girls enrolled in schools (primary and secondary)

2012: 1.74 points

2013: 1.84 points

2014: 1.84 points

The difference between the proportion of boys and girls enrolled in schools (primary and secondary)

Year	Number of students of primary and secondary schools together ¹	Of it		Percentage (in %) from total number of students of primary and secondary schools		The difference between proportion of boys and girls (in percentage points)
		boys	girls	boys	girls	
2012	671 726	341 729	329 997	50.87	49.13	1.74
2013	655 776	333 924	321 852	50.92	49.08	1.84
2014	646 377	329 132	317 245	50.92	49.08	1.84

Note:

¹ Full-time students only. The data do not include the students of special schools and classes, schools in special educational facilities, schools of the Ministry of Defence of the SR and Ministry of Interior of the SR.

Source: Statistical Office of the SR

In 2013 the number of girls per 100 boys in secondary school was 98 (2011 – 99, 2012 – 98).

Gross domestic product intended for education

Expenditure on education determined as a share of gross national product

2011: 4.05

2012: 3.99

2013: 4.15

Source: Set of economic indicators for 2013. The Institute of Information and Prognoses of Education: Bratislava, 2014

In 2013, the average monthly salaries of workers in education amounted to 781.9 EUR.

CROSS-SECTORAL VIEWPOINTS

1. Structure of decision-making:

Resulting decision-making bodies are the National Council and the Government of the Slovak Republic. Bodies responsible for given issue are MoESRaS SR and MoC SR

2. Creation of potential/organizational support and competences:

MoESRaS - central government authority for nursery schools, primary schools, secondary schools and universities, educational facilities, lifelong learning, science and technology

Ministry of Culture of the Slovak Republic – central government authority for the awareness-raising activities

Ministry of Interior of the Slovak Republic – central government authority for the internal management

District offices – departments of education – execution of state administration at the district level

The Government Council for professional education and training – advisory body of the Government of the Slovak Republic in the field of professional education and training

Founding authorities of schools

Centre of Scientific and Technical Information – statistics of development and forecast, IUVENTA –

Slovak Youth Institute – work with youth outside schools and families, National Awareness Center - professional-methodical centre for the awareness-raising activities, Regional awareness centres

3. Main groups:

National Council of the Slovak Republic, Government of the Slovak Republic, departments of education and culture and their professional organizations, nursery schools, primary, secondary schools and universities, founding authorities of schools

4. Finances:

State budget of the Slovak Republic, EU structural and investment funds, budgets of local governments and churches as founding authorities of schools, private resources, UN

5. Regional/international cooperation:

OECD, EU, UN

CHAPTER 37

NATIONAL MECHANISMS AND INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION FOR CAPACITY-BUILDING IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

RESPONSIBILITY: MoFaEA SR; MoEc SR; MoF SR; MoE SR; MoTCaRD SR

Development cooperation is an integral part and instrument of Slovak foreign policy. Its aim is to contribute to the sustainable development, in particular through reduction of poverty, strengthening of democracy and good governance. The SR builds on its historical experience and specific story of a country, which went through a difficult and successful transformation process.

In terms of legislation, the area of development cooperation is regulated by the Act No. 617/2007 Coll. on Official Development Assistance and on amendment to the Act No. 575/2001 Coll. on the Organisation of the Activities of the Government and on the Organisation of the Central State Administration as amended. Except for selected departments, there are other bodies participating in the development cooperation of the SR - some other central government authorities, regional and local governments and other major players are also non-governmental and private sector. The above mentioned law also established the Slovak Agency for International Development Cooperation (SAIDC).

In 2013 it was ten years since the establishment of Official Development Aid mechanism. During this decade there were more than 400 projects implemented under the SlovakAid logo in almost twenty countries in Africa, Asia and Europe. The year 2013 was a significant milestone for the SR, as it became a full member of the Development Assistance Committee of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (DAC OECD). This step represented not only the recognition of effort to build the quality and effective mechanism of development cooperation of the SR, but it was also a challenge to go on with this effort.

Development cooperation activities funded from the state budget of the SR, which meet the definition of DAC OECD, are referred to as the Official Development Assistance (ODA), or as other official development flows. Activities funded from private resources, e.g. from sources of foundations, charitable organizations, non-governmental organisations, private sector, are referred to as private flows. All these mentioned development flows are the part of development cooperation of the SR. The development cooperation of the SR has a bilateral or multilateral character. The bilateral development cooperation consists mainly of implementation of development projects and programs in developing countries, while the multilateral cooperation is based on voluntary or mandatory contributions of the SR to selected international organizations. In case of Slovakia, the proportion of bilateral and multilateral ODA is 19% to 81% (2013).

The strategic framework of SR development cooperation consists of 5-year strategy, which is the main planning instrument of the development cooperation and it defines its direction in the medium-term perspective. The strategy is implemented by annual orientations of bilateral development cooperation, which specify the use of available financial resources for given year. On January 15, 2014 the Government of the SR approved the third Medium-Term Strategy for Development Cooperation of the Slovak Republic for 2014–2018, which defines the vision, goals, principles, territorial and sectoral priorities of development co-operation of the Slovak Republic for the next five years.

The development cooperation of the SR is focused on 10 priority countries – 3 program countries (Afghanistan, Kenya, Moldova), 6 project countries (Albania, Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia, Kosovo, Ukraine) and 1 country with extraordinary humanitarian and development needs (South Sudan).

In relation to sectoral priorities, the development cooperation of the SR is focused on the following seven areas:

1. education – professional education focused on entry on the labour market and own business, education of teachers, equipment of school facilities;

2. health – basic health care, nutrition programs, education and awareness-raising activities of population in the field of prevention and health care, education of healthcare professionals;
3. good governance and the development of civil society – management of public finances, public sector reform, support of legally consistent state and participation of civil society in democratic processes, security sector reform, activities of civil experts in the international crisis management;
4. agriculture and forestry – introduction of new techniques and procedures, processing of agricultural products with focus on their marketing and sale, food security, soil protection;
5. water and sanitation – drinking water supply, water management and waste management;
6. energetics – with focus on energy security and alternative sources;
7. support of market environment formation and support of small and medium enterprises.

Bilateral development cooperation of the SR in 2014–2018 includes eight key programs:

1. Program of development interventions
2. Program of transformation experience sharing
3. Program of business partnerships
4. Program of humanitarian aid
5. Program of government scholarships
6. Program of posting the development workers and civil experts to developing countries
7. Program of development education and public awareness in the SR
8. Program of capacity building

Other selected documents shaping the strategic and legislative framework of the development aid of the SR:

- National Strategy for Global Education for 2012-2016 approved on January 18, 2012 by the Government of the SR
- Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Slovak Republic Program for Sending Volunteers to Developing Countries within Official Development Assistance approved on February 23, 2012 by the MoFaEA SR
- Concept for Involving Business Entities in Development Cooperation of the Slovak Republic approved on October 4, 2012 by the MoFaEA SR
- Strategy of the SR for development cooperation with the Republic of Moldova for the years 2014-2018
- Strategy of the SR for development cooperation with the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan for the years 2014-2018
- Strategy of the SR for development cooperation with Kenya for the years 2014-2018

There are 10 territorial priorities of ODA SR determined for the years 2014-2018. In two key programs of SlovakAid – Program of development interventions and Program of transformation experience sharing - the SR will be cooperating with partner countries as follows:

Programme countries: Afghanistan, Kenya, Moldova

Project countries: Albania, Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia, Kosovo, Ukraine

Country with extraordinary humanitarian and development needs: South Sudan

In 2013, ODA SR provided the sum in the amount of 64.8 million EUR, what represents a share of 0.09 % of gross national income (GNI). Compared to 2012 there was an increase of sum provided by ODA SR by almost 4 million EUR and the growing trend is also planned for 2014.

The highest amount of ODA SR in 2013 was provided for Afghanistan, which belongs to the group of the least developed countries (LDC). Kenya is in the second place and Serbia is in the third place (due to a high amount of provided government scholarships).

CROSS-SECTORAL VIEWPOINTS

1. Structure of decision-making:

Resulting decision-making bodies are the National Council and the Government of the Slovak Republic. Coordinating body is the MoFaEA SR, other bodies responsible for given issue are relevant central government authorities.

2. Creation of potential/organizational support and competences

MoFaEA SR – preparation of strategic and conceptual documents, process coordination, Slovak Agency for International Development Cooperation – ensuring the implementation of ODA SR, MoF SR, MoAaRD SR, MoE SR, MoESRaS SR – the participants of program ODA SR, Nuclear Regulatory Authority of the SR, Industrial Property Office of the SR, Slovak Office of Standards, Metrology and Testing, Ministry of Interior of the SR, MoTCaRD SR, MoEc SR, MoH SR, MoE SR, MoLSAaF SR, MoAaRD SR – the participants of program, contributions of the SR to international institutions

3. Main groups:

National Council of the Slovak Republic, Government of the Slovak Republic, competent departments and their professional organizations, foundations, non-governmental organizations, local government, private institutions, research organizations

4. Finances:

State budget of the Slovak Republic, local governments budgets, private resources, resources of non-governmental organizations and foundations

5. Regional/international cooperation:

OECD, EU, UN and organizations of its system, International Development Association, International Atomic Energy Agency, banks etc.

CHAPTER 38

INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENTS

AUTHORITY RESPONSIBLE: MoFaEA SR

SR actively promotes the global partnerships and effective multilateral cooperation. The membership in the United Nations is therefore one of the main pillars of Slovak foreign policy.

On June 24, 2013 the Foreign Affairs Council approved the priorities of the European Union for 68th session of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA). Subsequently, the directive for procedure of delegations was approved, which defines the attitude and opinions of the SR. Within the area of environment and sustainable development, a need to intensify efforts of entire global community was declared - in order to create a basis of a new institutional framework, as well as the content of development agenda after 2015. In the UN, SR paid special attention to the formulation of prepared sustainable development goals (SDGs), which will respect all three dimensions of sustainable development – social, economic and environmental. It declared the importance of ensuring the development of low carbon technologies and of achieving the international goals in the field of climate changes with regard to respect of human rights, good governance, democracy, legally consistent state, strengthening of women's position and gender equality. The SR also undertook to actively participate in the debate on financing the development, with regard to strategic role of the Official Development Assistance (ODA) and innovative funding sources, also through membership of Permanent Representative of the SR to the UN in New York in the International Committee on Sustainable Development Financing.

SR will continue to actively promote the implementation of conclusions of the International Conference on Sustainable Development Rio+20 (Rio de Janeiro, June 2012). In particular, it will focus on activities supporting the transition to so called green economy - also through the involvement of the private sector and civil society.

Following the results of the conference in Cancun, Durban and Doha, the SR will be actively promoting - by 2015 at the latest - the adoption of comprehensive and generally binding legal agreement on climate change. It will also support the activities focused on solving the consequences of

biodiversity loss in accordance with objectives of Aichi, and it will also intensify efforts to combat the illegal treatment of free-living animal species, logging, deforestation and desertification.

SR will be actively engaged in activities aimed at strengthening the role of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) as a central platform for environmental issues.

In the context of efforts to achieve the Millennium Development Goals, the SR will be actively promoting the activity of relevant UN bodies, particularly the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), which play an important role in strengthening the position of an individual in the process of poverty elimination and in the process of achieving the sustainable development with an emphasis on social integration, full employment and dignified work for all. The SR will pay special attention to solving the issues of food security and malnutrition with regard to the close link of its humanitarian and development dimension.

Together with other EU countries, the SR will pay special attention to issues of the least developed countries (LDCs), mainly in the context of the ongoing Istanbul Action Plan, as well as issues of small island developing states (SIDS) and landlocked developing countries (LLDC).

The SR will participate in activities focused on protection and sustainable use of marine biodiversity outside the areas of national jurisdiction, in particular for the purpose of taking decision on the establishment of international instrument related to this area.

The SR will strive to achieve a positive result of the high level dialogue on migration and development.

In the context of efforts to extend and deepen activities in the field of development and humanitarian aid, the SR will put emphasis mainly on the support of security and resistance of communities towards disasters and conflicts as an integral part of humanitarian and development policy.

On February 18-22, 2013 the Slovak delegation participated in Nairobi, Kenya, in the 27th session of the Governing Council of the UN Environment Programme (UNEP). Within the UN Human Settlements Programme (UN-HABITAT), the SR focused in 2013 on the preparation of materials for the elaboration of document "National Report on the development of settlement and housing in Slovakia". On September 20, 2013, the SR representatives also attended the last meeting of the UN Commission on Sustainable Development, and subsequently on September 24, 2013, they attended the first meeting of the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development as a new platform for the sustainable development. The SR representatives also participated in activities covered by the United Nations Economic Commission (UNECE) under a sub-program Environment as one of its priorities.

In order to use the positive experience of cooperation in priority countries of SlovakAid, especially in Moldova, the document defining the cooperation between the SR and UNDP in 2014–2016 was signed - "Slovak Republic – UNDP Partnership for Results in the International Development Cooperation".

CROSS-SECTORAL VIEWPOINTS

1. Structure of decision-making:

Resulting decision-making bodies are the National Council and the Government of the Slovak Republic. Body responsible for given issue is MoFaEA SR and relevant departments according to their competencies.

2. Creation of potential/organizational support and competences:

MoFaEA SR - central government authority for the area of foreign policy and relations of the Slovak Republic to other states and international organizations, relevant departments according to their competencies.

3. Main groups:

National Council of the Slovak Republic, Government of the Slovak Republic, departments

4. Finances:

State budget of the Slovak Republic

5. Regional/international cooperation:

UN and organizations of its system, EU

CHAPTER 39

INTERNATIONAL LEGAL INSTRUMENTS AND MECHANISMS

AUTHORITY RESPONSIBLE: MoFaEA SR

International treaties are a major source of both bilateral and multilateral legal regulation of relations between states and provide a legal basis for all-round international cooperation. All this objectively increases the role and importance of international treaties as a significant means of ensuring not only the specific relationships between two or more states, but a large number of them regulate the whole areas of international relations, including the sustainable development.

This trend also relates to the interest of SR in building the efficient and comprehensive contractual basis, which we were actively forming since our establishment on January 1, 1993. These international treaties correspond to the foreign policy orientation of the Slovak Republic. The priorities of the SR in this area include the continuation of modification process of contractual basis, which follows the accession of the SR to the European Union, - so that its compliance with EU law is achieved to the fullest possible extent. The SR further pays special attention to the improvement of contractual basis, in particular with respect to the creation of most favourable conditions for international cooperation.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the SR is responsible for basic political treaties, treaties related to human rights and treaties concluded within UN and other international governmental organizations, if the conclusion of these treaties does not belong to the competence of another department.

The sustainable development includes a wide spectrum of areas falling within the competence of individual central government authorities of the SR. On the basis of close cooperation with authorities responsible for individual treaties, it is possible to say that the majority of international contractual documents, by which the SR is bound, are performed smoothly and properly, and that confirms the equal and sovereign position that SR holds within the world community.

The contractual basis of the SR is stable and it will further develop in accordance with international commitments made not only at regional, but also at universal level.

In 2012, the SR became a contracting party to the following multilateral international treaties relating to the sustainable development:

1. Protocol on Sustainable Tourism to the Framework Convention on the Protection and Sustainable Development of the Carpathians
 - signed on the 3rd session of the Conference of the Parties on May 25–27, 2011 in Bratislava)
 - the Resolution of the Government of the SR No. 4/2012
 - the instrument of approval of February 13, 2012 sent to the Government of Ukraine as depositary of the Protocol

2. Protocol of 1997 amending the Protocol of 1978 to the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships, the integral part of which is the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution From Ships of 1973
 - the Resolution of the Government of the SR No. 679/2012
 - the Resolution of the National Council of the SR No. 76/2012
 - the instrument of accession was deposited with the depositary (Director-General of the International Maritime Organization - IMO) on October 8, 2012, the protocol shall enter into force on January 8, 2013 (art. 6, paragraph 2 hereof)

In 2013, the SR became a contracting party to the following multilateral international treaties relating to the sustainable development:

Amendment to the Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes

- the SR instrument of acceptance thereof, deposited on March 14, 2013
- entry into force for the SR on June 12, 2013

EU Conventions:

An agreement amending for the second time the Partnership agreement between the members of the African, Caribbean and Pacific Group of States of the one part, and the European Community and its Member States, of the other part, signed in Cotonou on June 23, 2000, as first amended in Luxembourg on June 25, 2005

- the Resolution of the Government of the SR No. 278/2012
- the Resolution of the National Council of the SR No. 272/2012
- the instrument of ratification signed on November 13, 2012
- the Government approved the provisional application of the Agreement (paragraph B.2 of the Government Resolution No. 272/2012), President of the Slovak Republic approved the provisional application of the Agreement on September 14, 2012

CROSS-SECTORAL VIEWPOINTS

1. Structure of decision-making:

Resulting decision-making bodies are the National Council and the Government of the Slovak Republic. Body responsible for given issue is MoFaEA SR and relevant departments according to their competencies.

2. Creation of potential/organizational support and competences:

MoFaEA SR - central government authority for the area of foreign policy and relations of the Slovak Republic to other states and international organizations, relevant departments according to their competencies.

3. Main groups:

National Council of the Slovak Republic, Government of the Slovak Republic, departments

4. Finances:

State budget of the Slovak Republic, EU structural and investment funds

5. Regional/international cooperation:

UN, EU, OECD, Council of Europe, Visegrad Four, Central European Initiative

CHAPTER 40

INFORMATION FOR DECISION-MAKING

AUTHORITY RESPONSIBLE: Statistical Office of the SR

By the Resolution No. 655/1997 the Government approved the proposal of Agenda 21 implementation and evaluation of indicators of the sustainable development in the SR. It imposed on the ministers and heads of other central government authorities of the SR an obligation to assess - according to UN requirements and methodology and according to the determined gestorship - the application of individual chapters of Agenda 21 and indicators of sustainable development in the SR every year by January 31. On authorities responsible for the sustainable development indicators it also imposed the task to require every year their involvement in the Programme of State Statistical Surveys.

The Statistical Office of the Slovak Republic is the central government authority of the SR for the area of state statistics. Its status is regulated by the Act No. 575/2001 Coll. on the Organisation of the Activities of the Government and on the Organisation of the Central State Administration as amended. The Office performs tasks under the Act No. 540/2001 Coll. on State Statistics as amended, as well as tasks set by other generally binding legal regulations.

The Act of the National Council of the SR No. 540/2001 on State Statistics regulates the conditions for obtaining statistical information necessary to assess the socio-economic development, status and competence of authorities exercising the state statistics, tasks of public authorities in the area of state statistics, rights and obligations of parties responsible for providing information, protection of confidential statistical data against misuse, provision and publication of statistical data, ensuring of comparability of statistical information and fulfilment of obligations arising from international treaties in the area of state statistics, by which the SR is bound.

Statistical surveys are governed by the decree Program of State Statistical Surveys for the period of three years, which is elaborated by the Office in collaboration with individual departments and state organizations. The Program contains all the important and necessary surveys, including surveys conducted by central authorities and departments. Except for surveys included in the Program, the Office also conducts special surveys of natural persons (e.g. population and housing censuses, agricultural censuses etc.).

The strategy of public administration informatization is a major strategic document for the regulation of public administration informatization. It was approved by the Slovak Government Resolution no. 131/2008.

The National Concept for Informatization of Public Administration is a strategic document which addresses the principles of e-Government formation and the introduction of electronic services in Slovakia. The National Concept for Informatization of Public Administration determines the architecture of integrated information systems of public administration and proposes the concept of their building so that on the basis of compliance with standards these information systems are independent of technological platforms to ensure the smooth interoperability and enable easy interconnection and mutual cooperation of all public administration systems. The document "National Concept for Informatization of Public Administration" was approved on May 21, 2008.

On October 21, 2009 the Government of the SR adopted at its session a new strategic document "Information Society Strategy for 2009-2013".

An Operational Programme Information Society (OPIS) is a reference document, on the basis of which the support will be provided for all the projects of society informatization which are supported from structural funds. It defines the global objective, which is "the creation of inclusive information society as a mean for the development of high-performance, knowledge-based economy". Further it defines the priority axes, measures and activities that are supported in the period of 2007-2013.

The Operational Programme Integrated Infrastructure was adopted for the following programming period 2014–2020. Within it, the MoF SR is a body responsible for the fulfilment of its priority axis 7 Information Society.

The overview of selected legal regulations in the area of society informatization, creation of comprehensive information framework, improvement of system of data collection and use, improvement of assessment methods and data analysis in the SR

- Act No. 275/2006 Coll. on Information Systems in Public Administration as amended
- Decree No. 55/2014 Coll. on Standards for Information Systems of Public Administration
- Decree No. 478/2010 Coll. on Basic Code List of Public Administration Sections and Public Administration Agendas
- Act No. 305/2013 Coll. on the Electronic Form of Governance Conducted by Public Authorities and on amendments to certain acts (e-Government Act)
- Decree of the Government Office of the SR No. 8/2014 Coll., which implements certain provisions of the e-Government Act
- Decree No. 25/2014 Coll. on Integrated Service Points and Conditions for their Creation, Labelling, Operation and on Tariff Charges
- Decree of the MoF SR No. MF/009269/2014-173 on a Single Format of Electronic Messages Generated and Transmitted through Access Points
- Decree of the MoF SR No. 275/2014 Coll. on Guaranteed Conversion
- Act No. 351/2011 Coll. on Electronic Communications
- Act No. 153/2013 Coll. on National Health Information System
- Act No. 215/1995 Coll. on Geodesy and Cartography (automated IS of geodesy, cartography and cadastre (cadastral register))
- Act No. 253/1998 Coll. on the Reporting of Citizen Residency and on the Registry of Inhabitants of the Slovak Republic (register of inhabitants)
- Act No. 211/2000 Coll. on Free Access to Information as amended (disclosure of information (also on the internet))
- Act No. 540/2001 Coll. on State Statistics (code lists)
- Act No. 530/2003 Coll. on Commercial Register
- Act No. 3/2010 Coll. on the National Infrastructure for Spatial Information (requirements for geographic information systems)

Evaluation of sufficiency of appropriate information for decision-making (2014)

Agenda 21 - Chapters		Very good	Good	Some of them good but a lot of them are missing	Insufficient
2.	International cooperation and trade		x		
3.	Fight against poverty	x			
4.	Change of consumption models		x		
5.	Demographic dynamics and sustainable development	x			
6.	Public health		x		
7.	Human settlements		x		
8.	Integration of environment and development in the decision-making processes		x		
9.	Air protection	x			
10.	Integrated planning and management of land resources		x		
11.	Fight against deforestation	x			
12.	Fight against desertification and drought		x		
13.	Sustainable development in mountains		x		

Agenda 21 - Chapters		Very good	Good	Some of them good but a lot of them are missing	Insufficient
14.	Sustainable development of agriculture and rural areas	x			
15.	Biodiversity protection		x		
16.	Biotechnologies		x		
17.	Oceans, seas, coastal areas and their resources		x		
18.	Freshwater resources		x		
19.	Toxic substances		x		
20.	Hazardous waste		x		
21.	Solid waste		x		
22.	Radioactive waste		x		
24.	Women and sustainable development	x			
25.	Children and youth		x		
27.	Non-governmental organizations		x		
28.	Local governments		x		
29.	Workers and trade unions		x		
30.	Trade and industry		x		
31.	Scientific and technological community		x		
32.	Farmers		x		
33.	Financial resources and mechanisms		x		
34.	Technologies, cooperation and creation of potential		x		
35.	Science and sustainable development		x		
36.	Education, training and awareness-raising activities	x			
37.	International cooperation and creation of potential		x		
38.	International institutional arrangement	x			
39.	International legal instruments	x			
40.	Information and decision-making		x		

Source: Statistical Office of the SR, departments

CROSS-SECTORAL VIEWPOINTS

1. Structure of decision-making:

Resulting decision-making bodies are the National Council and the Government of the Slovak Republic. Body responsible for given issue is the Statistical Office of the SR. Other cooperating parties are the MoE SR, MoESRaS SR, MoTCaRD SR, MoAaRD SR, MoH SR, MoLSAaF SR, MoC SR, MoF SR.

2. Creation of potential/organizational support and competences

Statistical Office of the SR – central government authority in the field of state statistics, realization of statistical surveys, departments – authorities conducting departmental statistical surveys, statistics as well as collection and evaluation of other data within the departmental scope, MoF SR – coordination of informatization of society, Government Office of the SR – controlling body of the operational programme Informatization of Society

3. Main groups:

National Council of the Slovak Republic, Government of the Slovak Republic, Statistical Office of the SR, departments, Geodesy, Cartography and Cadastre Authority, statistical bodies

4. Finances:

State budget of the Slovak Republic, EU structural and investment funds

5. Regional/international cooperation:

UN, EU, OECD, EEA, EUROSTAT