

**CSD 2009  
COUNTRY PROFILES**

**Review of progress made since  
UNCED - June 1992**

**COUNTRY: SLOVAKIA**

**This country profile has been reviewed and updated by:**

**Name of Ministry/Office:** Ministry of the Environment of the Slovak Republic

**Date:** March 2009

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## ACRONYMS

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 on 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 Organisation 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 Organisation 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
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 and Training



**ACRONYMS (Cont'd)**

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 Environment 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)

## NATIONAL ACRONYMS

ASPEK	Association of Industrial Ecology in Slovakia
ADR	International Agreement on Road Transport
CPZ	Centre for Pollution Prevention
EK	European Commission
HDP	Gross domestic product
KEAP	Regional Environmental Action Programme
KÚ	Regional Office
MAAE	International Agency for Atomic Energy
MDPT SR	Ministry of Transport, Post and Telecommunication of the Slovak Republic
MF SR	Ministry of Finance of the Slovak Republic
MH SR	Ministry of Economy of the Slovak Republic
MK SR	Ministry of Culture of the Slovak Republic
MO SR	Ministry of Defense of the Slovak Republic
MP SR	Ministry of Soil Management of the Slovak Republic
MPSVR SR	Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family of the Slovak Republic
SME	Small and medium enterprises
MS SR	Ministry of Justice of the Slovak Republic
MŠ SR	Ministry of Education of the Slovak Republic
MVO	non-governmental organisations
MV SR	Ministry of Interior of the Slovak Republic
MVRR SR	Ministry of Construction and Regional Development of the Slovak Republic
MZ SR	Ministry of Health of the Slovak Republic
MZV SR	Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Slovak Republic
MŽP SR	Ministry of the Environment of the Slovak Republic
NEAP	National Environmental Action Programme
NPRR SR	National Plan of Regional Development of the Slovak Republic
NPPZ	National Programme for Health Support
NR SR	National Council of the Slovak Republic
NSTUR	National Strategy for Sustainable Development
NÚP	National Labour Office
OEAP	District Environmental Action Programme
OÚ	District Office
OSN	United Nations
RaO	Radioactive Waste
RŠS	Regional Training Centre
SAV	Slovak Academy of Science
SAŽP	Slovak Agency of the Environment
SCČP	Slovak Centre of Cleaner Production
SEI	Central European Initiative
SIŽP	Slovak Environmental Inspection
SZO	Strategy of Health for All
ŠÚ SR	Office for Statistics of the Slovak Republic
TU	Technical University
TUR	Sustainable Development
ÚBP SR	Office for Labour Safety of the Slovak Republic
ÚJD SR	Office for Nuclear Control of the Slovak Republic
UK	Comenius University

## OVERVIEW

The Slovak Republic agreed with accession to Rio Declaration and to AGENDA 21 by the Resolution of the Government of the Slovak Republic No. 118 of 8 September 1992 on the information on the UN Conference on the Environment and Development and its results. Implementation of principles of sustainable development was also reflected in the European Agreement on Accession between the European Communities and their member states on one side and the Slovak Republic on the other side (Luxembourg, 1993).

The basic principles and objectives of sustainable development in Slovakia have been incorporated into the long-term strategic documents with a focus on evaluation of long-term effects resulted from implementation of these documents. The short-term policy priorities are always in balance with the long-term strategic objectives. The Slovakia's strategic documents include the international commitments of the country in the area of sustainable development.

In the area of the environment following the adopted documents and resolutions, Ministry of the Environment of the Slovak Republic worked out **the Strategy, Principles and Priorities of the State Environmental Policy**. This Strategy was approved by the Slovak Government by the Resolution No. 619/1993 and by the National Council of the Slovak Republic unanimously by the Resolution No. 339 from 18 November 1993. Measures for achieving the objectives of the Strategy in all ten sectors of protection and creation of the environment were introduced by the first **National Environmental Action Programme (NEAP)**, adopted by the Resolution of the Slovak Government No. 350/1996, which is followed by 8 regional environmental action programmes (KEAP) and 79 district environmental action programmes (OEAP) worked out in 1997. The **updated NEAP II**, which was adopted by the Government Resolution 1112/1999 in December 1999. In 2007 a Strategy of the Use of Voluntary Environmental Policy instruments was adopted.

In the social area more conceptions were worked out, e.g. **Conception of Social Sector Transformation, Conception of State Family Policy**. This also includes other important policy documents, e.g. in the sectors of health protection, education and culture.

In the economic area there are strategies (policies, programmes) of state policy of development of industry, trade, tourism, energy production, agriculture, forestry, transport, construction, etc.. **Social development** (policy) is aimed at policy of employment and labour market, income and revenue policy, state family and housing policy, health care, education, social and labour legislation and culture. **Environmental policy** contains measures aimed first of all at protection of air and ozone layer, protection and rational use of water, waste management, protection of nature and landscape and environmental burdens.

In the Slovak Republic, on the basis of the state policies (economic, social, and environmental) the **National Strategy of Sustainable Development (NSSD)** was worked out in 2001. The NSSD was adopted by the Slovak Government in 2001 and by the National Council in 2002. In 2005, the first Action Plan for sustainable development was adopted for the 2005-2010 period (Resolution of the Government 574 of 13 July 2005).

**UNCSD - NATIONAL LEVEL COORDINATION STRUCTURE OF AGENDA 21 ACTIONS**  
(Fact Sheet)

**Responsibility: MŽP SR**

**SLOVAKIA**

**1. Key National Sustainable Development Coordination Mechanism(s)/Council(s).**

According to the Resolution of the Government of the Slovak Republic No. 655 of 16 September 1997, in 1999 the Council of the Government of the Slovak Republic for Sustainable Development was established by the Resolution of the Government of the Slovak Republic No. 78 from 27 January 1999.

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**2. Membership/Composition/Chairperson**

**Chairman:** Vice-Prime Minister for Knowledge Society, European Affairs, Human Rights and Minorities

**Members:** Ministers of relevant sectors and statutory representatives of other central state administration bodies, regional environment offices, statutory representatives of relevant scientific and social organisations and associations of citizens oriented towards sustainable development

**2a. List of ministries and governmental agencies involved:**

- Ministry of the Environment of the Slovak Republic
- Ministry of Economy of the Slovak Republic
- Ministry of Health of the Slovak Republic
- Ministry of Education of the Slovak Republic
- Ministry of Construction and Regional Development of the Slovak Republic
- Ministry of Finance of the Slovak Republic
- Ministry of Interior of the Slovak Republic
- Ministry of Transport, Post and Telecommunication of the Slovak Republic
- Ministry of Agriculture of the Slovak Republic
- Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family of the Slovak Republic
- Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Slovak Republic
- Ministry of Culture of the Slovak Republic
- Ministry of Defence of the Slovak Republic
- Office for Nuclear Control
- Office for Statistics of the Slovak Republic
- Regional Environment Offices (8)

**2b. Names of para-statal bodies and institutions involved, as well as participation of academic and private sectors:**

- Slovak Academy of Science
- Faculty of Natural Sciences of Comenius University
- Slovak Technical University

**2c. Names of non-governmental organizations:**

- Association of the Third Sector (EMVO-3)
- Association of Industrial Ecology in Slovakia
- Confederation of Trade Unions
- Association of Municipalities of Slovakia
- Union of Municipalities of Slovakia

**3. Mandate role of above mechanism/council:**

Council of the Government for Sustainable Development is a subsidiary and coordinating body of the Government of the Slovak Republic for implementation of principles of sustainable development and Agenda 21 on the national level.

The role of the Council is:

1. To coordinate activities of the ministries, other central state administration bodies and regional offices in implementation of Agenda 21, principles of sustainable development and evaluation of indicators of sustainable development.
2. To assess linkages of strategies, conceptions and sectoral and regional programmes from the social, economic and environmental points of view.
3. To discuss the conclusions of process of environmental assessment of impacts of basic development conceptions, first of all in the area of energy production, mining, industry, transport, agriculture, forestry and water management, waste management and tourism, as well as impacts of spatial planning documentation of large territorial units a settlement units of selected cities and to comment on their assessment.
4. To discuss submitted proposals of generally binding regulations, which may have adverse impacts on the environment.
5. To assess the evaluation of indicators of sustainable development in responsibility of individual sectors and to discuss the Report on Implementation of Agenda 21 in the Slovak Republic.
6. To assist the Government of the Slovak Republic to implement the Agenda 21 and principles of sustainable development in an international context and in such a way to create appropriate conditions for integration of the Slovak Republic into the European and world structures.
7. To coordinate activities of the Slovak Republic related to the UN Commission for Sustainable Development and further UN bodies.

**4. If available, attach a diagram (organization chart) showing national coordination structure and linkages between ministries:**

**AGENDA 21 CHAPTER 2: INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION TO ACCELERATE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES AND RELATED DOMESTIC POLICIES (with special emphasis on TRADE)**

**Responsibility: MH SR (cooperating MP SR, MZV SR)**

**NATIONAL PRIORITY:**

**STATUS REPORT:**

The Slovak Republic, within its international cooperation, supports the economic growth in developing countries and actively contributes to the activities of international organizations toward liberalization of trade and support of exports (as a member of WTO, EU, UNCTAD and OECD).

Within the WTO in Geneva there has been a new round of multilateral trade negotiations since 2001 oriented towards further liberalisation of the world trade under the title “Doha Development Agenda (DDA)”. Key areas of these negotiations include agriculture, access to the market in industrial products (NAMA), further liberalisation of trade in services and issues of trade and development. This round of negotiations is expected to be finalised by the end of 2006 but due to important differences in attitudes among the key WTO members this round was suspended on 24 July 2006.

The trade and development issues have belonged to the essential elements of the previous DDA negotiations. The whole Doha Development Agenda has been oriented to support and better involve developing and the least developed countries in the multilateral trade system. The development dimension of negotiations is included in each negotiated issue (agriculture, industrial products, services...) and one of key themes of DDA negotiations is the trade and development agenda devoted to the needs of developing and the least developed countries. An Aid for Trade initiative was created as a supplementary tool to achieve development goals. The Aid for Trade initiative officially started in 2005 at the Hong Kong Ministerial Conference which would help the developing countries (especially the least developed countries – LCDs) to promote their economic development through support of export capacities and infrastructure. In this relation the EU Council for general affairs and external relationships (GAERC) in October 2007 adopted the EU Aid for Trade strategy. This strategy includes inter alia a commitment to increase contributions within the technical assistance to EUR 2 billion by 2010 (of that EUR 1 billion for a Community and EUR 1 billion for member states) and to increase the assistance in other countries (production capacities, infrastructure). The development assistance in the area of trade is in the EU included in the overall official development assistance.

At present, the priorities of the common trade policy together with conclusion of DDA negotiations include development of cooperation with development and the least developed countries through bilateral and multilateral free trade agreements and economic partnership and cooperation agreements. Examples of such agreements include economic partnership agreements (EPAs) between the EU and countries of Africa, the Caribbean and Pacific areas (ACP countries). The basic objective of EPA is to achieve a long-term development, economic growth and poverty reduction in ACP countries as well as to involve ACP countries in the global economy. In 2008, such an agreement was signed with the Caribbean countries. Along with this agreement the EU accepted the so called temporary or framework agreements on economic partnership with the Central Africa, Cost of Ivory, Ghana and with the countries of the South African Development Community (SADC), countries of the Eastern and South Africa (ESA) and countries of the Eastern African Community (EAC).

In the framework of the Common Trade Policy Slovakia through the EC actively participates in multilateral and bilateral negotiations with countries in their accession process towards the WTO. At present, a number of countries negotiate their accession to WTO, in particular developing and the least developed countries. There are important partners of Slovakia in this accession process (Russian Federation, Ukraine, Belarus, Serbia, Montenegro, Bosna I Hercegovina, Kazakhstan, etc.). Slovakia supports their early accession to WTO. Slovakia was actively supporting the accession process of Ukraine which became a WTO member in 2008.

As a member country of the OECD and the EU it is not only morally and politically motivated but it also has a strong potential to participate in providing assistance to the countries which need this assistance. As an emerging donor Slovakia can contribute to global efforts in development assistance not only financially but as well through its expertise and intellectual experience from transformation processes which has affected practically all areas of society in the course of last 15 years. Moreover, as a country which used to adopt assistance in the past it is capable to sensitively perceive need of the developing world. Last year, Slovakia completed accession process to IEA in the framework of OECD and on 30 November 2007 it became a full member of this organisation. This will allow to participate in the work and decisions of this prestigious organisation dealing with issues like energy safety, effectiveness, alternative energy sources and sustainable development.

In the framework of cooperation within FAO the Ministry of Agriculture of the Slovak Republic actively takes part in support of

developing countries under the FAO Programme for sustainable and rural development (SARD) as well as in the whole processes of global and regional initiatives resulted from the on food security, which led to adoption by the EU Council of a so called Barroso initiative. As an active member of the Committee for the global food security Slovakia participated in creation of plans and recommendations for implementation of the strategic actions to alleviate the adverse situation in food security in the developing world. The Slovak experts also contributed within the Common FAO/WHO Programme in creation of food standards and regulations in developing countries enabling the developing countries to enter in agri-food commodities.

Within the UN Slovakia unambiguously supported the fulfilment of the Millennium targets and tries to fully meet them. The development assistance has become an integral part of the Slovak foreign policy – see the Chapter 37.

### Cross-Sectoral Issues

**1. Decision-Making Structure:**

The NR SR and the Slovak Government are the resulting decisive bodies. MH SR is the responsible body for the area. MP SR and MZV SR are cooperating bodies.

**2. Capacity-Building/Technology Issues:**

Ministry of Economy of the Slovak Republic - foreign trade, creation and implementation of economic indicators of sustainable development.

**3. Major Groups:**

The NR SR, the Slovak Government, sectors

**4. Finance:**

State budget of the Slovak Republic and structural funds

**5. Regional/International Cooperation:**

WTO, UNCTAD, UN, EU, OECD, CEFTA, EFTA, FAO, BSEC, CEI, ITC, UNCTAD/WTO

## AGENDA 21 CHAPTER 3: COMBATING POVERTY

Responsibility: MPSVR SR

### NATIONAL PRIORITY:

**STATUS REPORT:** One of main social consequences of the Slovak economic transformation is a growing number of persons exposed to risks of poverty and social exclusion. These persons include mainly the unemployed, representatives of Roma minority, the handicapped, the elderly, persons of problematic social inclusion (persons after serving a prison sentence, homeless persons, and alcohol and/or drug addicts), families with many children, and incomplete families with dependent children, young people living in disadvantaged social and familial environments, migrants, refugees and asylum seekers. These persons are prevalingly characterized by long-term exclusion from the labour market, dependency on social assistance benefits and borderline destitution. This requires the state to pay increased attention and care to the concerned groups of the population.

### Focus of national strategy

- The Resolution of the Government 976/2006 of 29 November 2006 approved the National Report on Social Protection of and Social Inclusion Strategies for the 2006 – 2008 period. This document has been worked out in accordance with the Lisbon Strategy.
- A National Action Plan to Combat Social Exclusion has been worked out in the framework of the National Report on Social Protection and Social Policy Strategies. The Action Plan describes priority objectives and measures which Slovakia considers to be crucial in the 2006 – 2008 period in order to achieve the objective of eliminating and preventing the poverty and social exclusion.
- A National Action Plan for Women and the evaluating process of the UN Convention on human rights in connection to the World Summit on Women in 1995 in Beijing.
- In Rome in November 2007 an Action Plan to support women in rural areas was adopted at the 34<sup>th</sup> conference of FAO with participation of Slovakia. The Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family of the Slovak Republic also contributes to creation of statistics on food safety in the framework of FAO.

Sustainable reduction of poverty and elimination of social exclusion requires more massive investments into human capital development on the side of policy makers, service providers and persons excluded as it is mentioned in the Lisbon Strategy for Slovakia and the 2006-2008 National Reform Programme which is also reflected in the National Strategic Reference Framework and the operational programmes for the Structural Funds for the 2007 – 2013 (Employment and Social Inclusion). The Operational Programme Employment and Social Inclusion includes a separate priority axis 2 (Support of social inclusion) with a financial allocation of EUR 187,800,000.

These programmes include one or more specific measures through which the social inclusion is supported according to territorial jurisdiction of the nomenclature territorial units. The state labour market policy and dealing with concrete market problems are carried out in the form of national projects implemented nationally. Solving the social inclusion problems is a specific contribution of the national projects. Evaluation of effectiveness of particular measures is a subject of final reports on individual programmes. At present there is no programme from the 2004-2006 completed. In the new programming period six calls for project submission were declared within measures oriented to support of social inclusion.

The Slovak Government in its programme declaration declares that its priority will be to assure a financial stability of the running pension scheme so that this system provides adequate financial support for the pensioners.

In order to alleviate the social situation of the pensioners, disability pensioners and social pensioners, the Act on provision of a Christmas contribution to some pensioners was adopted. In 2006, 2007 and 2008, the Government adopted a resolution on sums of this Christmas contribution. The Christmas contribution in the amount of SKK 1500 – 2000 was paid to 1.1 million of pensioners. This number of eligible pensioners was increased in 2008 by the pensioners accepting widow or orphans annuity (by passing the Act 463/2008 amending the Act 592/2006 on provision of the Christmas contribution to some pensioners).

A so called two-level protection was introduced for handicapped persons after achieving the retiring age. The amendment allows to assign a disability pension also after achieving a retiring age in case of a policy holder who has not fulfilled the condition for assigning a retirement pension by the date of reaching the retiring age. The second guarantee of the amount of retirement pension (ensuring that it is not lower than the amount of previous disability pension). That means that the newly assigned retirement pension shall not be lower than the assigned disability pension and the higher pension shall be paid.

Since there is growing occurrence of situations where a citizen on a day of disability assignment does not comply with a condition of a required minimal insurance period for assignment of disability pension, which leads to failure to assign a retirement pension, the Slovak Government adopted a legislative amendment. After 1 January 2010, new, softer conditions for assignment of retirement pension shall be applied, depending on the age of a policy holder and on the period of retirement insurance for the whole period of active work of a policy holder, not only based on recent ten years, as it is today.

In order to maintain real value of all pensions, their purchase power, a mechanism of pension indexation (increase) has been

introduced in Slovakia which consists of a sum of 0.5 per cent of inter-annual growth of consumer prices (inflation) and 0.5 per cent of inter-annual growth of average salary in the Slovak national economy. It is a so called Swiss valorisation. The objective of this valorisation is to increase the living standard of the pensioners. After 1 January 2009, the pension and injury payments shall be increased each year on 1 January instead of 1 July. This change brings a quicker reaction to growth of consumer prices and shall lead to growth of pensioners' incomes. Taking into account the average retirement pension, the shift of valorisation from 1 July to 1 January (starting from 1 January 2009 shall increase the pensioners' incomes during a half of a year by roughly SKK 4000 (EUR 133). On 1 January 2009 the pension and injury payments were increased by 6.95 %.

**The Ministry of Construction and Regional Development of the Slovak Republic** is a management authority for the Operational Programme Bratislava Region 2007 – 2013 (OPBR). In relation to the above-mentioned a special attention within OPBR, priority axis 1, measure 1.1 Regeneration of Settlements, is paid to integrated strategies of development of urban areas threatened or damaged by physical destruction and social exclusion. The projects should have been implemented exclusively on the basis of urban development strategies. The call for the priority axis 1 Infrastructure, Measure 1.1, activities 1.1.1 Preparation and implementation of integrated strategies for urban development in selected areas of Bratislava pursuant to Article 8 of the Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council (EC) 1080/2006 has not been published. The call will be published after defining the criteria values for selection of eligible urban areas in partnership between Slovakia and the European Commission and after approval by the Monitoring Committee for OPBR. These projects shall enable to invest in housing in buildings owned by public administration authorities or by non-profit organisations who shall use the investment for housing devoted to low-income households or to persons with special needs.

**The Ministry of Culture of the Slovak Republic** within its granting scheme established in 2004 a sub-programme "Culture of disadvantaged groups" offering a support to development of culture of marginalised groups (handicapped persons, the elderly, children and youth, homeless people, migrants, marginalised Roma community, women, gender issues). There was more-or-less symbolic amount of money in 2004 (SKK 400,000). However, a sum of SKK 3 million was earmarked for this sub-programme in 2005 within the programme "Cultural Art Activities". In 2006, a separate granting programme (Culture of disadvantaged groups) was established with a sum of SKK 3 million. In 2007 and 2008, the sum achieved SKK 6 million. This has created within the culture sector an optimal space for systemic support and development of culture of disadvantaged groups of the society as well as conditions for social inclusion of these groups.

Within the granting system of the Ministry of Culture of the Slovak Republic – a granting programme Culture of Disadvantaged Groups – a sum of SKK 6 million (EUR 199,163.51) is distributed each year by a grant commission. More than 80 per cent of this sum is allocated for handicapped people.

The Ministry of Culture has been fulfilling its cultural tasks in the area of development of culture of handicapped citizens also within the National Programme for development of living conditions of handicapped persons in all areas of life. It also tries to optimise the conditions for culture of handicapped persons through new initiatives. The need to make cultural events accessible for handicapped persons has been reflected in the measures included in the Strategy for development of museums and galleries in the Slovak Republic by 2011 which was adopted by the Government in 2006. In 2007, the Ministry of Culture of the Slovak Republic established a working group for development of culture of handicapped persons. The task of this working group is to look for new mechanisms to create equal opportunities and to motivate budgetary organisations under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Culture facilitating the access of the handicapped to culture. The working group has worked out a methodological guide on cultural needs of the handicapped which provides an assistance to budgetary organisations within the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Culture in preparation of similar cultural events. The guide is available on the web page of the Ministry of Culture ([culture.gov.sk](http://culture.gov.sk)).

Supporting culture in the marginalised Roma communities. In relation to support of the process of integration of the Roma communities, the Ministry of Culture in 2005 created a working group involving representatives of civic associations and registered churches. The working group has defined its priority to support elaboration of model cultural projects for the marginalised Roma communities in ghettos. The projects are funded from the granting scheme of the Ministry of Culture of the Slovak Republic.

The project "Missionary activities in the Roma ghettos". One of the priority objectives of the Ministry of Culture of the Slovak Republic in the area of development of the Roma culture is to build institutional mechanisms enabling a systemic work with children and youth directly in the Roma ghettos with the aim of better integration and better life. Missionary work with the youth is one of the integration tools allowing to better adopt also other social and educational programmes of the state and of the non-governmental organisations. In 2007, the Ministry of Culture supported from the granting system a project of a Roma mission in Lomnička with a sum of SKK 300,000. In 2008, the support was SKK 200,000.

One of the partial solutions leading to improvement of the life of Roma children and the youth is a project "Wandering Theatre", demonstrating importance of certain values (hygiene, education, etc.) in a form acceptable by children. The Ministry of Culture in 2006 supported a project of a civic association "Lačho Drom" in Kokava nad Rimavicou "Roma string wandering" with a sum of SKK 250,000. In 2008, this sum was SKK 200,000. The "Wandering Theatre" project was implemented in 2006 and 2007 also by the Roma ethnic theatre Romathan in Košice (allocated sum of SKK 450,000).

In 2005, the Ministry of Culture prepared a draft document “Strategy of development of disadvantaged groups by 2007”. The basic objective of this document was to define cultural needs of the disadvantaged persons and to find a number of alternatives of support and development of their cultural activities. One of the objectives was also to look for tools develop and cultivate sensitivity of the society to the issues of disadvantaged groups and to support the integration of these groups into the society.

The Ministry of Culture supports activities for the marginalised Roma communities also through a granting programme “Culture of ethnic minorities”. This includes mainly artistic workshops and summer camps, musical competitions and festivals.

### Cross-Sectoral Issues

#### 1. Decision-Making Structure:

The NR SR, the Slovak Government and the ministries are the resulting decisive bodies. MPSVR SR is a responsible body for this area. MF SR, MVVP SR, MV SR, MH SR, NÚP and ŠÚ SR are cooperating bodies.

#### 2. Capacity-Building/Technology Issues:

MPSVR SR - state social support, social aid, employment

MVRR SR - social housing, asylum housing

MV SR - execution of local state administration in the area of social care

MH SR - support of creation of job opportunities

ŠÚ SR - statistical investigation and analysis

#### 3. Major Groups:

The NR SR, the Slovak Government, sectors, municipalities, Institute for Labour and Family Research, Sociological Institute, Centre of Labour, Social Affairs and Family, Prognostic Institute, foundations and civic associations, charity organisations

#### 4. Finance:

State budget; Centre of Labour, Social Affairs and Family; Social Insurance Company – retirement insurance, health insurance; State Fund for Housing; budgets of self-government authorities, private stakeholders.

#### 5. Regional/International Cooperation:

local offices, non-governmental organisations, church organisations, EU - PHARE, European Commission, World Bank

	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Unemployment (%)*	17.31	18.24	18.25	17.82	15.19	14.26	11.64	10.37	8.43	7.65
Population living in absolute poverty	10.8	11.5	-	-	10.1	7.1	6.9	7.02		
Population in material need									7.2	

\* Unemployment rate registered – annual average

## AGENDA 21 CHAPTER 4: CHANGING CONSUMPTION PATTERNS

Responsibility: MH SR

### NATIONAL PRIORITY:

#### STATUS REPORT:

##### Sustainable development and business policy

For sustainable development and business policy in the EU member states the supporting financial programmes, state aid, etc. are important:

- to protect the environment against pollution during production and disposal of goods,
- to protect domestic market against undesired access to the market,
- to promote competitiveness growth,
- for technologies and financial resources to eliminate impacts on the global environment,
- for education of people in the EU member states and in the candidate countries,
- to remove barriers and measures to improve the environment of the landscape, etc.

Generally it was agreed that it was necessary to integrate the issues of production and consumption models into policies, programmes and sustainable development strategies.

In accordance with the Resolutions of the Slovak Government 792/2002, a Report on situation in the business environment of Slovakia together with proposals for improvement is submitted to the Government each year on 31 December in order to evaluate the situation in the business sector. The Report includes international comparisons of business environment quality in Slovakia based on the ranking made by the World Bank and by the World Economic Forum. Taking into account the achieved level of the business environment, the Report also includes a set of proposals- recommendations to further improve the quality of the business sector in Slovakia, contributing so to a better dynamism of business in Slovakia. Since 2005, the Report has also included partial themes related to the issues of the business environment and support provided by the state as well as small and medium business, assessment of legislative changes affecting the business environment after 2007 and information on progress in the better regulation agenda. In accordance with the Resolution of the Government 265/2007 (point B.2) concerning the draft Innovation Strategy of the Slovak Republic for 2007-2013, the Report contains a Report on fulfilling the Innovation Strategy for 2007-2013 which includes an evaluation of progress in particular measures for the period from approval of the Strategy in March 2007 till 31 August 2008.

The Report on situation of the business environment in Slovakia with proposals for improvement (for 2008) was approved by the Slovak Government No. 18 of 14 January 2009. Evaluation of business organisations shows that there are no major obstacles in business in Slovakia. Slovakia belongs to the countries which effectively develop the business sector. There is a competitive disadvantage in the form of high taxation and levy burden, higher expenditures for agricultural policy (due to geographic conditions), administrative burden, lower effectiveness of public expenditures, clientism, distrust to the police and politicians and under-developed capital market. Based on the evaluation made by the World Economic Forum, Slovakia occupies the 46<sup>th</sup> position and the World Bank has ranked Slovakia at the 36<sup>th</sup> position. Slovakia has maintained its position mainly due to creation of Unified Contact Points at all Business Offices in Slovakia which started their activity on 1 October 2007. These contact points have simplified the procedures and requirements for entrance to business both for natural persons and legal entities who run their business according to the Business Act. The Unified Contact Points have enabled the entrepreneurs to meet their obligations resulted from the legislation at one workplace. They represent a new approach to business on the EU internal market, a new organisational division of the Slovak administrative structure and procedures in starting business. They have affected the extent of competence of a number of institutions and state bodies. In 2008, the competent state authorities started to perform activities leading to creation of such Unified Contact Points also for service providers who run their business out of the extent of the Business Act. Effectiveness of the Unified Contact Points shall be in the future strengthened by extending the opportunities of the entrepreneur do fulfil their requirements electronically. Further extension of functions of the Unified Contact Points will be supported by legislative changes, namely through the Act on service on the internal market which is being prepared by the Ministry of Economy of the Slovak Republic.

### Cross-Sectoral Issues

#### 1. Decision-Making Structure:

The NR SR is the resulting decisive body. MH SR is the body responsible for this area to the Government of the Slovak Republic. Bodies of state administration (MP SR, MVRR SR) are cooperating bodies.

**2. Capacity-Building/Technology Issues:**

MH SR - national energy policy, industrial policy, resource policy

Regional and district offices - regional energetic conceptions

**3. Major Groups:**

The NR SR, the Government of the Slovak Republic, bodies of state administration, production enterprises

**4. Finance:**

State budget, State fund for liquidation of nuclear facilities with radioactive waste, internal sources, PHARE

**5. Regional/International Cooperation:**

Research institutes, SAV, TU, UN, OECD, IAEA, Council of Europe, World Bank and others.

**Annual consumption of energy per capita**

	1995*	2000*	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Gross domestic consumption of energy (PJ)	776	768	815	812	816	812	803	779	754
Gross domestic consumption of energy (Mtoe)	18.53	18.34	19.46	19.41	19.49	19.41	19.18	18.60	18.01
Number of inhabitants (millions)	5.38	5.40	5.38	5.38	5.38	5.38	5.38	5.38	5.38
Consumption per capita (toe)	3.45	3.40	3.62	3.61	3.62	3.61	3.56	3.46	3.35

\*different methodology till 2000, primary energy sources used to be presented

	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
No. of products marked with „environmentally friendly product“ label	26	29	47	79	96	104	144

## GOVERNMENT POLICIES AFFECTING CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION.

### 1. Goals and Agents (Stakeholders)

Indicate with a (√) those agents which your Governments policies are meant most to influence.

Goals	Agents	Producers	Local authorities	Central Government	Households	Civil society
Material efficiency		√	√	√	√	√
Energy efficiency:		√	√	√	√	√

### 2. Means & Measures and Agents (Stakeholders)

Indicate with an (R) those agents who assume primary responsibility for any of the policy measures indicated; indicate with an (I) the agents for which the impact is expected to be especially significant.

Agents Means & Measures	Producers	Local authorities	Central Government	Households	Civil Society
Improving understanding and analysis	R	R	R	I	I
Information and education (e.g., radio/TV/press)	R			I	I
Research	R		R		
Evaluating environmental claims	R	R	R	I	I
Form partnerships	R	R	R	R	R
Applying tools for modifying behaviour	R	R	R	R	R
Community based strategies	I	R	R	I	I
Social incentives/disincentives (e.g., ecolabelling)	R	I	R	I	I
Regulatory instruments	I	R	R	I	I
Economic incentives/disincentives	I	R	R	I	I
Voluntary agreements of producer responsibility for aspects of product life cycle	R	R	R	I	I
Provision of enabling facilities and infrastructure (e.g., transportation alternatives, recycling)	I	R	R	I	I
Procurement policy	I	R	R	I	I
<u>Monitoring, evaluating and reviewing performance</u>	R	R	R	I	I
Action campaign	R	R	R	I	I
Other (specify)					

Comments:

## AGENDA 21 CHAPTER 5: DEMOGRAPHIC DYNAMICS AND SUSTAINABILITY

Responsibility: ŠÚ SR

<b>NATIONAL PRIORITY:</b>				
<b>STATUS REPORT:</b>				
<p>In 1990s, major changes in the demographic development started which can be characterised as a transition to a new model of reproduction behaviour of Slovakia's inhabitants. Main features of this new model include the decreasing number of marriages, increasing number of divorces, dramatic drop of natality, stable but not very favourable mortality, changes in abortion rate. At the beginning of the 21<sup>st</sup> century there were surviving adverse trends from the 1990s, but there was some compensation-stabilisation period during recent six years. Comparing to the global trends, the demographic changes in Slovakia appear with a certain time shift, lagging behind the most developed countries. On the other hand, there are still some specific demographic features due to geographic, historical, cultural, religious, political, social and economic circumstances and conditions.</p> <p>From the point of view of population development, in 2007 the natural growth trend continued. 54,424 children were born and 53,856 persons died. Slovakia gained 6,793 persons through migration. Total increase of population was 7,361 persons. On 31 December 2007, Slovakia was inhabited by 5,400,998 inhabitants.</p> <p>Ageing of population is a fundamental characteristic of the current demographic development of the Slovak. This phenomenon has to be accepted as a matter of fact. In general, it is possible to conclude that the population is ageing due to decreasing natality and fertility and due to increasing life expectancy (70.5 years for men and 78.1 years for women in 2007).</p>				
<input type="checkbox"/> Check the appropriate boxes below: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>				
• Governments view on population growth	<input type="checkbox"/> Too high	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Too low	<input type="checkbox"/> Satisfactory	
• Governments view on fertility level	<input type="checkbox"/> Too high	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Too low	<input type="checkbox"/> Satisfactory	
	<b>To lower the rate</b>	<b>To maintain status quo</b>	<b>To raise the rate</b>	
• Governments intervention on population growth	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
• Governments view on intervention on fertility level	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	

## Number of inhabitants in Slovakia, 1997 – 2007

Indicator	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Population (thousand) as of 31 December	5 388	5 393	5 399	5 403	5 403	5 379	5 380	5 385	5 389	5 394	5401
Natural growth	6 987	4 426	3 821	2 427	-844	-691	-517	1 895	955	603	568
Growth by migration	1 731	1 306	1 454	1 463	1 012	901	1 409	2 874	3 403	3 854	6793

Source of data: ŠÚ SR

## Ageing structure of population in Slovakia, 1997 – 2007

Age groups	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
	%										
0 - 14 years	21.05	20.43	19.81	19.18	18.72	18.13	17.55	17.06	16.59	16.14	15.76
15 - 64 years	67.72	68.25	68.80	69.35	69.89	70.42	70.92	71.31	71.67	72.00	72.27
65 and more	11.23	11.32	11.40	11.47	11.39	11.46	11.53	11.62	11.74	11.86	11.97

Source of data: ŠÚ SR

## AGENDA 21 CHAPTER 6: PROTECTING AND PROMOTING HUMAN HEALTH

Responsibility: MZ SR

<p><b>NATIONAL PRIORITY:</b></p>	
<p><b>STATUS REPORT:</b></p> <p>The Act 355/2007 on protection, support and development of public health and amending some other Acts entered into force on 1 September 2007. This Act, inter alia, lays down organisation and application of health service, prevention of diseases and other health difficulties, requirements for healthy living and working conditions, duties of natural persons and legal entities in protection, support and development of public health.</p> <p>Within the framework of protection and support of health, activities are carried out oriented to monitoring the health state, health-educational intervention, including advisory activities. In 1999, the “National Programme for Health Support – Health for All in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century” was adopted in 1999 and amended in 2005. The current programme has 11 objectives. Its main objective is to improve health state of inhabitants. Achieved results are regularly controlled and reported to the Government and the Parliament of Slovakia.</p> <p>In collaboration with other sectors of the national economy, non-governmental organisations and other associations, the tasks resulted from national documents are being implemented. These documents include the National Action Plan for Roma Inclusion, the National Programme for protection of the elderly, the Concept of the State Policy for children and youth, the National Anti-Drug Programme and the National Programme of development of living conditions of the handicapped, National Tobacco Control Programme and National Action Plan for problems with alcohol adopted by the Slovak Government in 2006. The National Programme of Obesity Prevention was adopted by the Government in January 2008.</p> <p>In accordance with the National Programme for health protection of the elderly the Public Health Authority carried out a project “I am 65+ and I am happy to live healthily” which was aimed at increasing health and health awareness of the elderly over 65 years of age. The project is divided into 6 phases aimed at social environment of the elderly, preparation and publication of educational materials, educational programme for the elderly assured through a series of seminars in particular Slovak regions, including preparation of a methodology for regional public health authorities, control of quality of provided information in a community of seniors and health monitoring and health awareness raising.</p> <p>The State Health Policy, worked out in accordance with the WHO strategy and policy for Europe in 21<sup>st</sup> century, is a policy and strategic document of the health sector adopted by the Government in January 2008.</p> <p>The Immunisation Programme of the Slovak Republic, which is being implemented in accordance with WHO and EU recommendations (The Health for All in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century programme), belongs to the fundamental tasks. Its aim is to reduce, eliminate or eradicate preventable diseases through vaccination of child population. It is a programme presenting a priority task of the health sector in health protection, where Slovakia achieves a high standard. Most of priority objectives of the WHO programme have been achieved by fulfilment of the Immunisation Programme.</p> <p>Monitoring of HIV/AIDS in Slovakia was introduced in 1985. Special monitoring is aimed at risky and more exposed groups. Examination on HIV is available to anyone and anonymous based on the request of a patient. HIV-positive people and persons with AIDS are monitored permanently which is important from prevention point of view. HIV/AIDS prevention is carried out in accordance with the National Programme of HIV/AIDS Prevention which is being currently updated.</p> <p>In accordance with the conclusions of the Fourth Ministerial Conference on the environment and health (Budapest 2004) the National environmental health action plan of the Slovak Republic (NEHAP III) has been amended, which is aimed at minimisation of risks caused by the environment with the aim to maintain the environment in the conditions which do not threaten the public health. NEHAP III works out four regional priority objectives of the Children Environmental Health Action Programme in Europe (CEHAPE) – information system of health and the environment, climate changes and biomonitoring, research in education in the area of environmental health.</p> <p>In the framework of NEHAP III an international project “Quality of in-door air in European schools” is being carried out and is aimed at evaluation of quality of in-door quality in selected schools and impacts on health of children with focus on respiratory diseases. Recommendations for improvements will be prepared.</p> <p>The Action Plan of Sustainable Development for the 2005 – 2010 period was adopted by the Resolution of the Slovak Government 574 of 13 July 2005. In the area of health care the Action Plan focuses on improvement of health state of inhabitants through selected determinants of health – lifestyle, the environment and working conditions.</p> <p>Life expectancy has been laid down as an indicator.</p> <p>In accordance with monitoring of health state of population in Slovakia and monitoring of health awareness a report on health state of population was elaborated by the Public Health Authority, ŠÚ SR and NCZI and discussed by the Slovak Government in September 2006.</p>	
<p><b>Cross-Sectoral Issues</b></p>	
<p><b>1. Decision-Making Structure:</b></p>	

The Government of the Slovak Republic, the NR SR, MZ SR are the resulting decisive bodies. MZ SR is the body responsible for this area. All other central state administration bodies and organisations under their competence are cooperating bodies.

## 2. Capacity-Building/Technology Issues:

MZ SR - protection of human health, provision of health care

## 3. Major Groups:

The Government of the Slovak Republic, NR SR, all central state administration bodies and organisation under their competence - all conception materials are subject of discussion at the Council of Economic and Social Treaty.

## 4. Finance:

The state budget of the Slovak Republic, the State Fund of Health Protection

## 5. Regional/International Cooperation:

UN, WHO, EU, EC, OECD, FAO, and others.

### STATISTICAL DATA / INDICATORS

	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Average age										
Male	36.9	37.2	37.5	37.6	38.02	38.35	38.66	38.96	39.25	39.5
Female	33.8	34.1	34.4	34.5	34.89	35.2	35.49	35.7	36.06	36.3
Infant mortality	8.8	8.3	8.6	6.2	7.63	7.85	6.79	7.2	6.59	6.1
Newborn mortality	5.4	5.1	5.4	4.1	4.7	4.5	3.9	4.1	3.5	3.4
Maternal mortality rate (per 1000 live births)	0.09	0.11	0.02	0.16	0.08	0.04	0.06	0.04	0.06	-
Life expectancy at birth										
women	76.7	77	76.7	77.6	77.6	77.62	77.83	77.9	78.2	78.08
men	68.6	69	68.9	69.5	69.9	69.77	70.29	70.11	70.4	70.51

Source: NCZI (ŠÚ SR)

Explanations:

Infant mortality: number of infants dying within a period of 1 year after birth per 1,000 born alive

Newborn mortality. number of infants dying within 28 days after birth per 1,000 born alive

Maternal mortality rate: number of women dying in relation to pregnancy, birth and after-birth period per 1,000 born alive

## AGENDA 21 CHAPTER 7: PROMOTING SUSTAINABLE HUMAN SETTLEMENT DEVELOPMENT

Responsibility: MŽP SR, MVVP SR, MPSVR SR, MK SR, MP SR, MH SR, MDPT SR, ÚRSVT SR, MŠ SR, MF SR

### NATIONAL PRIORITY:

#### STATUS REPORT:

In 2008, the Ministry of Construction and Regional Development of the Slovak Republic was implementing the tasks related to housing development in the area of legislation and policy making. The tasks were oriented to modifying the framework of support tools for housing development and to resolving the relations between house owners and tenants. At the same time the housing development activities were continuing.

In 2008, the state budget contributed to housing development with the sum of SKK 5,952,043 thousand with the following division:

- State Fund for Housing Development – SKK 2,154,043 thousand
- Housing Development Programme – SKK 1,658,000 thousand
- State Premium for housing saving – SKK 1,420 million
- State contribution to mortgage credits – SKK 720 million

In the area of energy efficiency of buildings we arranged and coordinated the process of preparation of energy certification of buildings and fulfilled the tasks resulted for the Ministry from Article 9 of the Act 555/2005 on energy efficiency of buildings and on amendment to some other Acts and from the Decree of the MVRR SR 625/2006 implementing the Act on energy efficiency of buildings. The Ministry of Construction and Regional Development of the Slovak Republic ensured:

- Elaboration of a new Decree implementing the Act on energy efficiency of buildings,
- Elaboration of a Concept of energy efficiency of buildings by 2010 with a perspective till 2020,
- speeches for experts who will work in the area of energy certification of buildings.

The **MVRR SR** actively cooperates with UNMS SR, SUTN and other specialised institutions (Building Faculty of the Slovak Technical University Bratislava, Technical University Košice, ZU Žilina) in implementing the state policy of standardisation, metrology and testing, in the area of creation of technical standards, first of all in the area of creation of standards for construction products in accordance with the guidelines and decisions of the European Commission and the Permanent Committee for Construction. In 2008, the Ministry focused its attention to coordination and support of transition of the whole spectrum of standards for drafting building constructions (euro-codes).

It also took part in increasing the quality of professional education and preparation of young people for professions in the building industry through active cooperation with state educational institutions, self-governments and business associations. The activities are oriented to creation and innovation of basic pedagogical documents, contents, forms and methods of education, creation of new educational fields and reassessment of vocational education network. In 2008, the activities of the Council for secondary vocational schools, established within the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Construction and Regional Development, were oriented to reaching a harmony among social and individual needs with economic needs and market requirements.

The Ministry of Construction and Regional Development of the Slovak Republic (MVRR SR) is a management authority for the Regional Operational Programme (ROP) which is aimed at the utilisation of financial assistance from the European Regional Development Fund in the regional infrastructure. The ROP was approved by the European Commission on 24 September 2007. Interventions are aimed at increasing quality and availability of services provided by various types of civil infrastructure (education, social services, social protection, infrastructure of memory and fund institutions at local and regional levels, unused real estate cultural monuments, infrastructure of non-commercial rescue services) and at meeting the current quantitative and qualitative requirements for equipment of a territory (tourism infrastructure, material infrastructure of settlements and regional roads as transport services for regions). An eligible territory for the ROP is the territory of the objective Convergence, i.e. the territory of seven self-governmental administrative regions except for the Bratislava self-governmental administrative region. Contribution from the ERDF for ROP is EUR 1.445 billion.

The Ministry of Construction and Regional Development is a Management Authority for the Operational Programme Bratislava region (OP OPBK). On 31 March 2008, the Ministry declared a call for the priority axis 1 Infrastructure, Measure 1.1, groups of activities:

1.1.2 Separate demand oriented projects of settlement regeneration

- renovation and development of the physical environment in the framework of the separate demand-oriented projects of the

settlements regeneration executed in the settlements identified as the cohesion and growth poles including their core of settlements.

1.1.3 Conservation and renovation of natural heritage and support of cycling routes with the aim of tourism development - conservation and renovation of the natural heritage including the NATURA 2000 localities and settlements and support cycle tracks with an aim to create the conditions for using natural localities for the relevant forms of tourism

The call was declared as a running call during which 5 assessment rounds were held which were limited by a maximal number of requests for financial assistance set for one round.

By 31 December 2008, 34 requests for financial assistance for these groups of activities of the measure 1.1 was accepted with a total eligible expenditures SKK 553,961,792.67 (EUR 18,388,162.81). By 31 December 2008, 3 projects of the measure 1.1 were approved with a total sum of eligible expenditures SKK 29,900,688.17 (EUR 992,521.02). The projects submitted to the OPBK Management Authority in the framework of the 5<sup>th</sup> assessment round are in the phase of evaluation.

Spatial planning tools are decisive tools to support sustainable development of human settlements from the point of view of spatial development which determines regional policy and investment process. These tools define optimal an optimal spatial structure and functional use of territory. In 2001, the Slovak Government adopted a Spatial Development Concept which addresses the development of Slovakia in connection to international relationships, national interests and regional perspectives.

In 2006, the MVRR SR ensured the updating of this national spatial planning documentation. On regional level all regional authorities have worked out spatial plans of regions in accordance with the Act 50/1976 on spatial planning and building code as amended. Spatial plans of municipalities play the most important role in placing concrete activities in the territory.

The MVRR SR financially contributes to elaboration of spatial plans of municipalities in the framework of the Programme for support of spatial development of municipalities.

Survey of subsidies for elaboration of spatial planning documents of municipalities:

2006: SKK 1 million (7 municipalities)

2007: SKK 1.9 million (16 municipalities)

2008: SKK 7 million (32 municipalities)

#### Survey on a number of spatial planning documents in Slovakia

	Municipalities over 2001 inhabitants		Municipalities with 1001-2000 inhabitants		Municipalities below 1000 inhabitants	
	2007	2008	2007	2008	2007	2008
Number of municipalities	412		562		1948	
Year	2007	2008	2007	2008	2007	2008
Municipalities without spatial plan	18	55	188	133	1381	1256
Municipalities with spatial plan under preparation	114	*				
Municipalities with approved spatial plan	280	356	374	429	567	693

Note: Spatial plan – this data not monitored in 2008

Slovakia ensures implementation of trans-boundary cooperation programmes HU-SK, SK-AT, SR-CR, PL-SK and implementation of the programme of the European Neighbourhood and Partnership Instrument (ENPI) HU-RO-SK-UA in the 2007-2013 programming period. Objective of these programmes is to strengthen integration in the border regions, in particular in the area of economy, education, science and research, human cooperation, environment, nature protection and accessibility. The specific objectives of the programmes are oriented to creation of a solid basis for a common development of border regions, cities and towns. The programmes, with regard to specific needs and potentials of a concrete programming territory, support to ensure and improve the balance of horizontal principles respected by all parties, where one of objectives is to support sustainable economic and social development of the EU member states.

In the framework of the Community Initiative INTERREG III aimed at a trans-European cooperation and support of a harmonised and balanced development of the European region the programmes of transboundary cooperation SK-AT, SR-CR, PL-SK and HU-SK-UA were implemented in the monitored period. Approved and implemented projects were aimed at support in the area of science and research, education, cultural activities, tourism, people-to-people activities, construction of cycle-routes and roads. All these projects contribute to achieving the objectives of the National Strategic and Reference Framework, in particular to development of border regions, cities and towns.

**The Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family (MPSVR SR)** through the system of aid in poverty in accordance with the Act 599/2003 on aid in poverty as amended supports the housing of special groups of population, providing them with financial contribution to the housing. The contribution is provided to persons in poverty and to persons who can be considered together with those in poverty. The contribution is provided to cover housing costs if the recipients comply with relevant conditions to be applied. The contribution amounts to SKK 1570 per month (EUR 52.12), if there is one person concerned, or SKK 2510 (EUR 83.32) if there are other persons who are considered together with that one in poverty. Persons entitled to the contribution include owners of house or flat, house or flat tenants or tenants of a living room intended to living. On 1 January 2007, an amendment to the Act 675/2006 on aid in material need which has specified that housing for purposes of the Act on aid in material need includes also housing in social service facilities where such a person lives during the entire year. Another amendment to the Act 562/2008 (with effect starting from 1 January 2009) has specified that housing for the purposes of this Act includes also housing in a house or flat where a person in material need and natural persons living together with a person in material need have a right of permanent housing.

#### **Protection of monuments and cultural heritage**

The Slovak Government adopted by its Resolution 666 of 8 August 2008 a draft Policy of care of traditional folk culture, elaborated by the Ministry of Culture of the Slovak Republic in cooperation an advisory body of the minister – the Council for the protection of non-material cultural heritage based on a Plan of Government Work for 2007. The policy deals with a broad spectrum of problems connected to traditional culture management. The objective is to create such conditions and management tools which will enable to conserve these culture phenomena in their natural environment for the current and future generations. The policy deals with coordinated measures aimed towards identification, inventory, documentation, archiving, protection and development of the traditional folk culture. It puts an accent on support of more efficient distribution of information and promotion of traditional folk culture in a broader cultural and social context. The basic target of the policy is to change the perspective on a traditional folk culture and to specify concrete tools and strategic tasks in order to achieve the defined objectives.

Based on the Plan of the Government Work for 2007 the Ministry of Culture of the Slovak Republic submitted to the Government a Policy of development of local and regional culture which was adopted by the Resolution of the Government 160 of 12 March 2008. The draft policy has been elaborated by the Ministry of Culture in cooperation with the Ministry of the Environment. Preparatory works involved also the National Edification Centre, the ZMOS and other self-governmental representatives. The objective of the draft policy is to present a consolidated framework document addressing the main problems and needs of development of local and regional culture. This policy is followed by two strategic documents: a Strategy of development of edification activities and a Strategy of development of local and regional culture which shall be submitted to the Government by the Ministry of Culture in 2009. The Ministry of Culture has submitted to the Government also a draft Act on museums and galleries which the Government has approved and submitted to the National Council of the Slovak Republic. Based on the proposal by the Ministry of Culture the Government adopted a Resolution 943/2007 on the Strategy of development of the Slovak libraries for the period of 2008 – 2013. The document is a mid-term material defining priority areas of the state cultural policy in the area of libraries for the 2008 – 2013 period. . and on the protection of subjects of museum and gallery value as amended. The Act was adopted by the Government Resolution 876 of 17 October 2007 and submitted to the National Council of the Slovak Republic. Strategic tasks have been laid down with regard to the needs of continual development of the library system in the following areas:

1. Informatisation of libraries
2. Ensuring information sources for libraries
3. Development of library-information services
4. Creating, protecting and making available the digitalised cultural and scientific heritage
5. Inventory and protection of historical library funds
6. Development of human resources and education of library staffs
7. Support of lifetime education and increase if information skills of users
8. Construction and reconstruction of libraries, protection of the library fund

The objective of the Action Plan for Sustainable Development for 2005 – 2010 is to ensure orientation of transport development in accordance with sustainability principles and to solve interlinkages between the environment and transport sectors.

In 2005, the Government by its Resolution 445 of 8 June 2005 adopted a basic long-term strategic document - **Transport Policy** till 2015. This document defines basic orientation of transport development in connection to challenges resulted from growing transport demands while reducing negative impacts on the environment. The framework objective is to ensure sustainable development respecting economic development, social and regional solidarity and acceptance from the point of view of the environment.

In order to support public passenger transport the Slovak Government approved by the Resolution 377/2005 a Concept of Passenger Bus and Railway Transport which is oriented to creation of conditions to carry out effective public services financed from the public resources in order to ensure transport needs of the population (transportation to schools, offices, health care facilities, jobs, etc.).

In order to encourage development of human settlements in Slovakia the Act 43/2007 was adopted in December 2006 amending the Act 168/1996 on road transport. From the point of view of development of human settlements the Act deals with transport services in the regular bus transport, lays down arrangements in transport services through intermodal connections between public bus transport and public passenger transport on railways. In this context the municipalities are obliged to work out plans of transport services.

The **Operational Programme Transport (OPT)** was approved as a basic strategic document of the Slovak Republic for the use of assistance from the European Union funds in the transport sector for the 2007 – 2013 period. Its global objective is the support of sustainable mobility through development of transport infrastructure and development of public passenger transport. This objective will be met through a system of specific objectives:

- **Modernisation and development of railway infrastructure** through the progressive improvement of technical and technological parameters level of railway traffic routes, to create conditions for growth and competitiveness of railway transport, increase of its safety and achievement of interoperability.
- **Modernisation and development of road infrastructure** through increasing the density of higher class road network, improvement of smoothness and safety of road traffic, accessibility improvement of SR, individual regions and their interconnection.
- **Modernisation and development of intermodal transport infrastructure** through improvement of intermodal transport position and thereby the creation of conditions for the change of transport work division in behalf of more ecological transport modes.
- **Development of public passenger transport** through creation of conditions for public passenger transport performance growth, especially in urban, suburban and regional transport (especially railway transport – upgrading the mobile park of the Railway Company).

These specific objectives will be implemented with the aim to ensure permanently growing transport needs (goods and passengers) within a required time and quality with a maximal effectiveness, while reducing negative impacts of transport on the environment and human health.

Development of transport infrastructure will be achieved also with the help of the sources from the national budget and through the public-private partnership (PPP). In order to speed up construction and upgrading of transport infrastructure the Slovak Government has approved:

- Programme of preparation and construction of highways for the 2007 – 2013 period (Resolution 1084/2007),
- Programme of upgrading and development of rail way infrastructure for the 2007 – 2013 period (Resolution 1086/2007),
- Act 275/2007 amending the Act 129/1996 on some measures to speed up preparation of construction of highways as amended by the Act 160/1996,
- Act 669/2007 on single, extraordinary measures in preparation of some highways and amending the Act 162/1995 on cadastre as amended.

In 2008, the Managing Authority for the Operational Programme adopted a Programming Manual for the Operational Programme Transport 2007 – 2013. The Programming Manual to the Operational Programme Transport 2007 – 2013 constitutes a more detailed elaboration of the operational programme. The Programming Manual defines measures within particular priority axes and objectives, eligible activities and eligible territories for provision of assistance, categorisation of assistance areas, eligible beneficiaries, financial plan and indicators.

The Government by its Resolution 492/2008 adopted extension of highway network to which updated highway programme applies. The extension includes the highway R8 and extension of R1 in direction to Ružomberok with Donovaly bypass.

An Action Plan for development of passenger public transport was adopted by the Government Resolution 675/2008 in order to support sustainable development of human settlements. The document is determined by the Resolution of the Government 660/2006 on Programme Declaration of the Government. Its objective is to increase attractiveness of the public transport when compared to private transport through a number of measures till 2013. The measures are oriented towards improvements of infrastructure, introduction of intelligent and integrated transport systems, renewal of mobile park and the use of public procurement. The other objectives include creation of demand for reduction of private road transport. Proposed measures are determined by the Transport Policy till 2015, especially as regards reduction of adverse environmental impacts and support of

sustainable mobility of population.

The principles of sustainable development are also included in the global objective of the Rural Development Programme, co-financed from the EAFRD sources. The main objective of this programme is sustainable development of human settlements. This programme is to support revival of rural areas, rural environmental values, ensuring agricultural production and development of the smallest villages (this part is only an addition of ERDF from the Operational Programme Regional Development). The Rural Development Programme is supplemented also by the LEADER programme aimed at creation of local action partnerships while utilising the rural potential.

### Cross-Sectoral Issues

**1. Decision-Making Structure:** The Government of the Slovak Republic is the resulting decisive body. MŽP SR is the responsible body for this area. MVRR SR, MPSVR SR, MK SR, MH SR, MDPT SR, MŠ SR, MF SR and MP SR are the cooperating bodies.

**2. Capacity-Building/Technology Issues:**

MŽP SR - ecological aspects of spatial planning

MVRR SR - spatial planning and building code, housing policy, regional development

MPSVR SR - social aid

MK SR - cultural heritage

MH SR - supply of energy and heat

MDPT SR - construction and reconstruction of road network

MŠ SR - education

MF SR - finances for housing

MP SR - agriculture, forestry, rural development

**3. Major Groups:**

the Government of the Slovak Republic, the NR SR, sectors, local state administration bodies, organisations, municipalities, production enterprises, civic associations, non-governmental organisations, foundations, inhabitants of municipalities and other legal entities

**4. Finance:**

State budget, budgets of municipalities, sectoral funds, foundations, sponsors, structural instruments of the EU

**5. Regional/International Cooperation:**

OECD, IAEA, IEA, US AID, UNICEF, European Council, World Bank, PHARE, Czech Republic - Austria - Slovakia, European Commission, EU, V4 group, WTO, UN ECE, Central European Initiative

### The share of population living in urban settlements of Slovakia in 1997 - 2007

Indicator in %	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Urban population	56.93	56.81	56.68	56.59	56.05	55.91	55.71	55.55	55.42	55.40	55.21
Largest city population	8.38	8.34	8.30	8.28	7.96	7.94	7.91	7.90	7.89	7.90	7.90

Data source: ŠÚ SR

## AGENDA 21 CHAPTER 8: INTEGRATING ENVIRONMENT AND DEVELOPMENT IN DECISION-MAKING

(See pages vii and viii at the beginning of the profile)

Responsibility: MF SR, MŽP SR

<b>NATIONAL PRIORITY:</b>	
<b>STATUS REPORT:</b>	
<p>Certain tax laws in the SR legal system partially take in account environmental aspects, but - in accordance with the approved concept of the tax reform - tax laws stipulate no specific tax preferences and exceptions relating to the environmental protection issue.</p> <p>The Act 98/2004 on excise duty imposed on mineral oils applies different tax rates to motor petrol, depending on the lead content thereof: the rate applying to motor petrol containing in excess of 0.013 g/l of lead is 18 000 SKK/1000 l, while that on petrol with max. 0.013 g/l is 15 5000 SKK/1000 l. In accordance with the Act on excise duty imposed on mineral oils the biogene substances (e.g. biogas, ETBE) are not mineral oil and are not subject to taxation. Tax allowance in the form of tax refunds applies to mineral oils containing rapeseed oil methyl ester in the sense of the law on the excise duty on mineral oils. The environmental aspects are applied by the Act 609 on excise tax on energy, coal and natural gas and amending the Act 98/2004 on excise tax on imposed on mineral oil, especially as regards exemption from taxation of electricity produced from renewable energy resources, i.e. electricity produced in solar facilities, wind plants, geothermal plants, hydropower plants, plants using biomass, plants using methane from abandoned coal mines and fuel cells.</p> <p>The new Income Tax Act allows taxpayers to transfer 2 % of their taxes to third-sector organizations, including foundations and civil associations in the field of environmental protection.</p> <p>From accountancy viewpoints, monitoring of expenditures on the basis of environmental effects is as yet not included in any EC accounting directive. Expenditures are monitored in a type-dependent structure (e.g. payroll expenses, expenses for materials, expenses for services, rather than expenses for environmental improvement). Accountancy applies only to appraisable types of assets, i.e. the purity of water or of the atmosphere cannot be accounted for in the bookkeeping. Amendment to the act on accounting which is in force since 1 January 2005 included in Article 20, paragraph 1 also obligation of accounting subjects to provide in the annual reports information on impact of an accounting subject on the environment with reference to data provided in the accounting balance.</p> <p>In the field of customs, before accession to the EU, the duty rates were specified in the tariff of rates (pursuant to SR Government Decree No. 573/2003 on the issuance of the tariff of duty rates), representing the results of the multilateral GATT Uruguay Round projected in the Slovak List of duty concessions, as well as the results of bilateral agreements with the Czech Republic, as the Slovakia's partner state within the existing customs union.</p> <p>After joining the EU on 1 May 2004, Slovakia implements duty rates in compliance with the joint tariff of rates of the European Union. In the framework of EU decision-making processes, SR representatives (Ministry of Economy) participate in the discussions of relevant EC working groups, e.g. of the working group for economic issues in the customs rates, where qualified requirements relating to duty rates are discussed, including those taking environmental and agricultural requirements in account.</p>	

### Cross-Sectoral Issues

#### 1. Decision-Making Structure (please also refer to the fact sheet):

The Government of the Slovak Republic is the resulting decisive body. MF SR is a body responsible for this area. MŽP SR and ŠÚ SR are the cooperating bodies.

#### 2. Capacity-Building/Technology Issues:

MF SR - national accounts

ŠÚ SR - economic statistics (methodology)

#### 3. Major Groups:

The Government of the Slovak Republic, NR SR, sectors, state administration authorities, organisations, municipalities, production enterprises

#### 4. Finance:

State budget

**AGENDA 21 CHAPTER 9: PROTECTION OF THE ATMOSPHERE**

Responsibility: MŽP SR, MH SR, MDPT SR, MP SR

**NATIONAL PRIORITY:****STATUS REPORT:****Convention on long-range transboundary air pollution - CONVENTION ON LONG-RANGE TRANSBOUNDARY AIR POLLUTION**

- CONVENTION ON LONG-RANGE TRANSBOUNDARY AIR POLLUTION - succession in 1993
- EMEP Protocol - succession in 1993
- Sulfur Protocol (1985) – succession in 1993
- NO<sub>x</sub> Protocol - succession in 1993
- Sulfur Protocol (1994) - signature in 1994, ratification in 1998
- VOC Protocol (1994) - accession in 1999
- Heavy Metals Protocol (1998) – signature in 1998, adoption in 2002
- POP Protocol (1998) - signature in 1998, adoption in 2002
- AcEtO Protocol (1999) – signature in 1999

**Stockholm Protocol on Persistent Organic Pollutants**

\* signature 22 May 2001, ratification in 2002, entering into force 17 May 2004

**Vienna Convention on protection of ozone layer of the Earth**

- Vienna Convention – succession in 1993
- Montreal Protocol (1987) – succession in 1993.
- London Amendment (1990) – ratified in 1994.
- Copenhagen Amendment (1992) - accession in 1998
- Montreal Amendment (1997) – accession in 1999
- Beijing Amendment (1999) – ratification in 2002
- Recent report to the Montreal Protocol Secretariat worked out in 2002

**United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change – UNFCCC**

UNFCCC - signature in 1992, approved in 1994

Kyoto Protocol (1997) - the Government of the Slovak Republic approved signature of the Protocol in 1999, ratification in 2002. The recent report to the UNFCCC Secretariat submitted in 2002.

**Additional comments relevant to this chapter:**

Slovakia adopted the Act 117/2007 amending the Act 572/2004 on emission quota trading and amending some other Acts. This amendment transposes the directive 2004/101/EC linking the emission trading scheme with Kyoto flexible mechanisms (linking directive). On 4 October 2006 a report on calculation of allocated allowances according to the Kyoto Protocol was submitted to the Secretariat of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change.

Based on Article 8 of the Kyoto Protocol and in accordance with the Decision 22/CMP.1, a deep inspection of the *Initial report of the Slovak Republic under the Kyoto Protocol on AAUs determination* and inventory of greenhouse gases emissions were carried out in March 2007 with participation of an international expert team.

The review results are presented in a so called Initial review report (IRR), published on 19 September 2007 on the Convention web page. Based on these results Slovakia received an official authorisation to use flexible mechanisms under the Kyoto Protocol pursuant to Articles 6, 12 and 17.

In 2005, the tenth amendment to the Act 478/2002 on air protection. This amendment (by the Act 571/2005) entered into force on 1 January 2006. Two amendments to the implementing Decree 706/2002 entered into force on 1 July 2005 and 27 December 2005, respectively. The following directives were transposed by these amendments:

- Council Directive 92/112/EEC of 15 December 1992 on procedures for harmonizing the programmes for the reduction and eventual elimination of pollution caused by waste from the titanium dioxide industry
- Directive 2000/76/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 4 December 2000 on the incineration of waste
- Directive 2001/80/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 October 2001 on the limitation of emissions of certain pollutants into the air from large combustion plants.

In 2006, Slovakia adopted following amendments to legal acts:

Decree of the Ministry of the Environment 488/2006 amending the Decree of the Ministry of the Environment 53/2004 laying down requirements for quality of fuels and keeping records on fuels as amended by the Decree of the Ministry of the Environment 102/2005. This Decree entered into force on 1 September 2006 and transposed the following EU Directives:

- Directive 98/70/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 13 October 1998 relating to the quality of petrol and diesel fuels and amending Council Directive 93/12/EEC;
- Directive 2003/17/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 3 March 2003 amending Directive 98/70/EC relating to the quality of petrol and diesel fuels;
- Council Directive 1999/32/EC of 26 April 1999 relating to a reduction in the sulphur content of certain liquid fuels and amending Directive 93/12/EEC;
- Directive 2005/33/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 6 July 2005 amending Directive 1999/32/EC;
- Directive 2003/30/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 8 May 2003 on the promotion of the use of biofuels or other renewable fuels for transport.

The Decree of the Ministry of the Environment 131/2006 entered into force on 15 March 2006 and lays down national emission ceilings of sulphur oxides expressed as sulphur dioxide for 2007 – 2010, national emission ceilings for nitrogen oxides expressed as nitrogen dioxide, national emission ceilings for ammonia and volatile organic compounds for 2010.

The Decree of the Ministry of the Environment 132/2006 amending the Decree of the Ministry of the Environment 409/2003 laying down emission limits, technical requirements and general conditions for operation of sources and their facilities where organic solvents are used entered into force on 1 April 2006. The Decree has transposed the following Directives:

- Council Directive 1999/13/EC of 11 March 1999 on the limitation of emissions of volatile organics compounds due to the use of organic solvents in certain activities and installations;
- Directive 2004/42/CE of the European Parliament and of the Council of 30 April 2004 on the limitation of emissions of volatile organic compounds due to the use of organic solvents in certain paints and varnishes and vehicle refinishing products and amending Directive 1999/13/EC.

In 2007, the Slovak Government approved a Strategy of Higher Use of Renewable Energy Sources. Simultaneously, Ministry of Agriculture of the Slovak Republic cooperates on elaboration of an Action Plan for the use of biomass for the 2008 – 2013 period, which is currently under preparation for the next Government discussion. The agriculture sector will considerably contribute to reduction of greenhouse gas emission through implementation of objectives defined in these two documents.

In 2007, Slovakia adopted following amendments to legal instruments:

The Act 203/2007 amending the Act 478/2002 on air protection and amending the Act 401/1998 on charges for air pollution as amended (Air Act);

The Act 401/1998 on payments for air pollution as amended (Air Act);

The Act 529/2007 amending the Act 478/2002 on air protection and amending the Act 401/1998 on payments for air pollution as amended;

The Decree of the Ministry of the Environment of the Slovak Republic 351/2007 amending the Decree of the Ministry of the Environment of the Slovak Republic 705/2002 on air protection;

The Decree of the Ministry of the Environment of the Slovak Republic 457/2007 amending the Decree of the Ministry of the Environment of the Slovak Republic 409/2003 laying down emission limits, technical requirements and general conditions for operation of sources and facilities using organic solvents;

The Decree of the Ministry of the Environment of the Slovak Republic 631/2007 amending the Decree of the Ministry of the Environment of the Slovak Republic 706/2002 on air pollution sources, emission limits technical requirements and general conditions for operation, on change of pollutants, on categorisation of air pollution sources and on requirements to ensure dispersion of pollutant emissions.

These legal instruments have transposed into the Slovak legal system the following directives:

Directive 2004/107/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 15 December 2004 relating to arsenic, cadmium, mercury, nickel and polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons in ambient air

Directive 2001/80/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 October 2001 on the limitation of emissions of certain pollutants into the air from large combustion plants

Directive 1999/13/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 March 1999 on the limitation of emissions of volatile organic compounds due to the use of organic solvents in certain activities and installations

Directive 2004/42/CE of the European Parliament and of the Council of 21 April 2004 on the limitation of emissions of volatile organic compounds due to the use of organic solvents in certain paints and varnishes and vehicle refinishing products and amending Directive 1999/13/EC.

In 2008, Slovakia adopted the following amendments to the legal instruments:

The Act 515/2008 amending some environmental Acts in relation to introduction of the Euro currency in Slovakia – this Act amended also the Act 478/2002, the Act 401/1998 and the Act 76/1998;

The Decree of the Ministry of the Environment of the Slovak Republic 203/2008 amending the Decree of the Ministry of the

Environment of the Slovak Republic 131/2006 specifying the national emission ceilings and total allowances of pollutants; The Decree of the Ministry of the Environment of the Slovak Republic 573/2008 amending the Decree of the Ministry of the Environment of the Slovak Republic 706/2002 on air pollution sources, emission limits technical requirements and general conditions for operation, on change of pollutants, on categorisation of air pollution sources and on requirements to ensure dispersion of pollutant emissions;

The adverse development in CO<sub>2</sub> production in the transport sector is being addressed on the level of the EU Council where a draft Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council is under preparation specifying the output emission standards of new passenger vehicles as a part of the Community integrated approach to reduction of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions from utility vehicles (Slovakia is represented by the Ministry of Economy in cooperation with the automobile business sector in preparation of this regulation). The objective of the Regulation is to define new output emission standards for new passenger cars registered in the Community which shall guarantee the meeting of the average emission target 120 g CO<sub>2</sub>/km by 2012 and a correct functioning of the passenger automobile industry. After intensive negotiations with the representatives of the automobile industry, an integrated approach of the Community has been selected to reduce CO<sub>2</sub> emissions of an average new car to 130 g of CO<sub>2</sub>/km through improving the engine technology. Further 10 g of CO<sub>2</sub>/km reduction shall be reached by means of other technological and non-technological instruments, including biofuels, transport organisation, etc. This Regulation should not cause any unreasonable distortion of economic competition among car producers nor worsen availability of cars and should be in accordance with good regulation principles. The integrated approach, proposed by the Commission in order to reduce CO<sub>2</sub> emissions from motor vehicles, should lead to contribution by all actors to reduction of harmful emissions. This should also increase competitiveness of the car industry, fuel efficiency and application of environmental technologies. Implementation of this Regulation is expected in 2009.

#### **Part B.1 - Development, effectiveness and consumption in energy production**

The Energy Policy was adopted by the Slovak Government in January 2006 (Resolution 29/2006) as a strategic document defining basic objectives and framework of development of energy in the perspective till 2030. It is determined by the fact that ensuring sustainable development is conditioned by reliable energy resources at optimal costs and environmental protection. The Energy Policy constitutes a starting point of concept documents in the area of electric energy, thermal energy, gas industry, extraction, transport and processing of crude oil, coal extraction and use of renewable energy resources which will lead to ensuring energy needs of Slovakia and sustainable reduction of energy intensity. In order to meet the energy policy objectives and priorities, the following documents have been adopted and implemented:

- A Concept of Energy Effectiveness of Slovakia (Resolution of the Government 576/2007). The task of this Concept is to reach an optimal intervention of the state authorities and to reduce energy intensity, to create a motivating environment affecting the energy market stakeholders and to support application of sustainable solution in the energy sector.
- An Action Plan of Energy Effectiveness for 2008 – 2010 (Resolution of the Government 922/2007) defining strategic objectives and priorities, energy saving measures and actions oriented towards achieving the defined objectives, including monitoring. Particular measures of the Action Plan are to create basic legislative conditions and proper environment for assuring a substantial improvement in energy efficiency and long-term energy savings.
- Increasing energy efficiency in the area of equipment of buildings is ensured by the Act 17/2007 on regular inspections of boilers, heating systems and air-conditioning systems and amending some other Acts. This Act defines procedures and frequency of regular controls of boilers, heating systems and air-conditioning systems and professional capability to carry out control of boilers, heating systems and air-conditioning systems in non-production buildings consuming energy. In 2008, two implementing Decrees were adopted to support the implementation of this Act: The Decree of the Ministry of Economy of the Slovak Republic 195/2008 laying down details of the test for professional qualification to carry out regular inspections of boilers, heating systems and air-conditioning systems and the Decree of the Ministry of Economy of the Slovak Republic 548/2008 laying down a procedure in regular inspections of boilers, for individual special inspections of heating systems and air-conditioning systems.
- In order to increase energy effectiveness in the area of products consuming energy the Ministry of Economy prepared and the National Council of the Slovak Republic approved the Act 665/2007 on environmental drafting and use of products consuming energy (Eco-design Act). Preparation of this Act resulted from implementation of the European directives. This Act lays down requirements for environmental drafting and use of products consuming energy so that they can be placed on the market or put into operation with the aim to ensure a free movement of these products on the internal market.
- On 4 November 2008, the National Council of the Slovak Republic adopted an Act 476/2008 on effectiveness in energy use (Energy Effectiveness Act) and amending the Act 555/2005 on energy efficiency of buildings and amending some other Acts as amended by the Act 17/2007. This legal instrument creates a legal framework for rational use of energy, specification of requirements for energy effectiveness in transfer, distribution and consumption of energy, monitoring of energy effectiveness, defining duties of natural persons, entrepreneurs, legal entities and state administration authorities in energy use. Its objective is to increase efficiency of the end use of energy and to support development of energy services.
- On 16 October 2008, the Ministry of Economy of the Slovak Republic adopted a Programme for supporting the energy

effectiveness which represents a financial instrument for application of a sustainable reduction of the end consumption of energy in Slovakia in accordance with the European energy policy. The programme entered into force on 1 January 2009. The programme supports the projects for reduction of energy consumption in households, public sector and business sectors. The key project is the monitoring system for which a special scheme is defined and which has been created also pursuant to the Energy Effectiveness Act.

- In relation to the document “Draft Implementation of the Directive 2003/30/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 8 May 2003 on the promotion of the use of biofuels or other renewable fuels for transport” adopted by the Slovak Government Resolution 1065/2004, the Ministry of Economy submitted a National Programme of Biofuels Development which was adopted by the Resolution of the Slovak Government 1022/2005 of 21 December 2005. Based on the Resolution of the Government 14/2007 and in accordance with the Directive 2003/30/EC a Report on the use of bio-components in engine fuels for 2006 was submitted pursuant to the Regulation of the Government 246/2006.

The Resolution of the Government 383 of 25 April 2007 adopted a Strategy of the higher use renewable energy sources in Slovakia. Based on this Resolution the Ministry of Economy of the Slovak Republic prepares implementation of legislative measures laid down in the strategy.

- In 2007 the Ministry of Economy worked out a Programme of the higher use of biomass and solar energy in households.
- In 2008, a draft Act on support of renewable energy sources and high-efficient combined electricity and heat production. Its objective is to implement the Directive of the European Parliament and of the Council 2004/8/EC on the support of demand based co-generation of heat on the internal market in energy amending the Directive 92/42/EEC and the Directive of the European Parliament and of the Council 2001/77/EC on the support of electric energy produced from renewable energy sources on the internal market in energy. The Acts creates conditions for environmental protection and for the development of high-efficient combined production of heat and electricity from renewable energy sources. These instruments are going to enter into force in the 1<sup>st</sup> half of 2009, based on the legislative procedures. The objective is at least 10 % saving of the primary energy consumption compared to the decentralised production of heat and electricity.

In Slovakia a number of co-generation units have been built. The biggest one is in Bratislava (1 MW output) with the assistance of the Dutch grant. A PHARE project is running to support the Slovak energy policy where one of the sub-projects is aimed directly on the energy effectiveness.

### **Part B.3 - Industrial development**

The Ministry of Economy of the Slovak Republic adopted in 2005 a document “Background documentation for working out the innovation policy in industrial production for the 2007 – 2013 period”. This document was a basis for to define concrete orientations of support of research, development and innovations in the industrial production in Slovakia in the framework of the structural funds for the 2007 – 2013 period. A specific accent has been put to the area of information society, biotechnologies, eco-innovations and environmental technologies. Incorporation of innovations into the Slovak legislation together with the approved strategic documents (the Innovation Strategy of the Slovak Republic for the 2007 – 2013, approved by the Government Resolution 265/2007, and the Innovation Policy of the Slovak Republic for the 2008 – 2010 period, approved by the Government Resolution 128/2008) shall create a comprehensive legislative framework for the area of innovation activities and for support of innovating companies.

The Innovation Strategy of the Slovak Republic accepts innovations as a means of transfer of research and development results in the areas of materials, products, technologies and processes and its objective is to create a framework for identification and successful implementation of particular measures through which the objectives of the Lisbon strategy and the National Strategic Reference Framework for 2007 – 2013 will be achieved with a focus on growth of competitiveness and industrial production which is the biggest applicator of research and development outputs. The strategic objective of the Innovation strategy till 2013 is to achieve that innovations become one of the main tools of development of the knowledge economy and achieving the high economic growth. The main objective of the Innovation policy of the Slovak Republic for the 2008 – 2013 period is to work out particular measures of the Innovation strategy for the 2007 – 2013 period in the form of concrete measures and tasks which are to create proper conditions for creation and implementation of support mechanisms for appearance of regional innovation structures, innovative enterprises, partnership and cooperation among universities and enterprises in the area of research, development and innovations. In 2008, within the Report on the state of the business environment, the Government Resolution 18/2009 adopted a Report on fulfilment of the Innovation strategy of the Slovak Republic for the 2007 – 2013 period which clarifies how particular measures were being fulfilled in the period from March 2007 to 31 August 2008. When specifying ambitious objectives, it was assumed that the Slovak Government would support the Innovation strategy financially. In the 2007 – 2008, needed financial resources were not allocated. The structural funds are the only funding sources of funding at present. In relation to strengthening the industrial base, a requirement for increasing the effectiveness of the use of mineral resources and energy was reflected in the Report on implementation of the National Reform Programme approved in June 2007. This will be reflected in practice in the use of direct assistance through the Operational Programme Competitiveness and Economic Development.

Development in CO<sub>2</sub> production in relation to complying with the Slovak commitments resulted from the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change was more unfavourable in 2007 than in 2006. This means that the unfavourable trend still continues since 2001. CO<sub>2</sub> production in transport in 2000 was lower than expected according to the optimistic scenario of the original National Programme of stabilisation and reduction of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions in the transport sector of the Slovak Republic. Production of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions in transport was in 2007 higher by 14.7 percent than that one in 2006. The production of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions was in 2007 higher than prognosed according to the pessimistic and basic scenarios of the updated national programme.

When creating a balance of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions in the transport sector it is necessary to take into account the fuel consumption as one of the most important factors. As regards automobile gasoline, the consumption grew by 6% when compared to 2006. This growth can be considered as moderate when compared to 2006 when a decrease by 10.6% was recorded. In case of diesel the situation is different. After 4.5% decrease in 2006, 21% growth was recorded in 2007. The trend of decreasing consumption of LPG by approximately 14 % was continuing. When it comes to consumption of hydrocarbon fuels, consumption in 2006 decreased by 6.7% and grew in 2007 by 15.7%.

Growth of fuel consumption in 2007 can be assigned to a high growth of economy, increasing number of vehicles, increasing outputs in passenger and freight transport. These factors have caused higher consumption of fuels and emission production.

### Cross-Sectoral Issues

#### 1. Decision-Making Structure:

The NR SR and the Government of the Slovak Republic are the resulting decisive body. MŽP SR and MDPT SR is the responsible body for this area. MH SR, MDPT SR, MZ SR, MP SR, MF SR, MO SR, MŽP SR are the cooperating bodies of state administration.

#### 2. Capacity-Building/Technology Issues:

NR SR - legislation, the Government of the Slovak Republic – programmes, MŽP SR - air protection, general responsibility, other sectors are responsible for implementation of legislative regulations and programmes within their competence  
MDPT SR – author of the act 315/1996 on road traffic and its implementing decree 116/1997 on conditions of road traffic and the decree 308/1999 dealing with air protection issues in operation of cars (emission limits and control aspects)  
MF SR – responsible for subsidy policy in public passenger transport (road, railway, urban)  
MH SR – responsible for development of ecologically more favourable basis of automobile fuels

#### 3. Major Groups:

The Government of the Slovak Republic, the NR SR, sectors, non-governmental organisations, production enterprises, civic associations, municipalities, Research Transport Institute in Žilina – annual monitoring of transport emissions and dealing with other air protection issues for MDPT SR.

Road Transport Institute in Bratislava – guidelines for emission control stations and technical control stations.

#### 4. Finance:

State budget of the Slovak Republic to support public passenger road and railway transport, including public urban transport. Financial resources for development of road infrastructure from the state budgets and funds.

#### 5. Regional/International Cooperation:

Research institutes, SAV, universities, OECD, EU, Programme PHARE, UN, EBRD, IAEA, Council of Europe, World Bank, participation in the EU project - CORINAIR (assessment of emission burden caused by economic sectors, including transport in member states and associated countries of EU, co-operation with the UN on elaboration of national reports on climate change.

Cooperation with UN in relation to participation of MDPT SR and Research Transport Institute in working out National reports on climate change and in evaluation of impacts of measures taken to reduce and stabilise greenhouse gas emissions from transport.

Participation in EU-CORINAIR project (assessment of emission load from economic sectors, including transport in EU members and associated countries.

### STATISTICAL DATA/INDICATORS ( for mobile sources in Slovakia)

Year	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
CO <sub>2</sub> emissions (eq. million tons)	4.8214	4.3188	4.8871	5.59	5.143	5.44	6.395	5.963	6.838

SO <sub>x</sub>	"	0.0011	0.0009	0.0009	0.0009	0.0008	0.0009	0.0002	0.0002	0.0003
NO <sub>x</sub>	"	0.0429	0.0378	0.0405	0.0447	0.0391	0.041	0.0418	0.0338	0.0356
CH <sub>4</sub>	"	0.0011	0.001	0.0011	0.0014	0.0012	0.0012	0.0014	0.0011	0.0011
Expenditure on air pollution abatement in US\$ equivalents (million)				0.020*	0.020*					

Source: VUD (Transport Research Institute) in Žilina

\* resources used for project "Analytical materials in the area of the environment in the transport sector. Environment monitoring and analysis."

#### Consumption of fossil fuels in transport by road vehicles per capita in Slovakia per year.

INDICATOR	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Number of inhabitants of Slovakia (medium)	5,379,780	5,378,009	5,378,958	5,382,178	5,387,285	5,391,184	5,397,766
Total consumption of automobile petrol by engine vehicles	701,760	640,213	662,876	628,483	699,994	625,726	663,467
Consumption of automobile petrol by engine vehicles per capita	130.44	119.03	123.24	116.78	129.93	116.06	122.96
Total consumption of diesel by engine vehicles	726,376	827,298	843,626	966,575	1,193,966	1,140,674	1,380,265,
Consumption of diesel by engine vehicles per capita	135.02	153.81	156.84	179.59	221.63	211.58	255.71
Total consumption of gaseous fuels by engine vehicles	21,787	28,501	30,483	30,735	29,965	24,818	21,473
Consumption of gaseous fuels by engine vehicles per capita	4.05	5.30	5.67	5.71	5.56	4.60	3.98
Total consumption of fossil fuels by engine vehicles	1,449,923	1,496,012	1,536,985	1,625,793	1,923,955	1,791,218	2,065,205
Consumption of fossil fuels by engine vehicles per capita	269,51	278,14	285,75	302,08	357,13	332,24	382,65

Notes:

In 2001, 2002, 2003, the number of inhabitants was modified according to data from the Statistical Office (number of inhabitants on 31 December 2007 was 5,397,766 – medium)

Consumption of gaseous engine fuels has been monitored since 1999.

## AGENDA 21 CHAPTER 10:

INTEGRATED APPROACH TO THE PLANNING AND  
MANAGEMENT OF LAND RESOURCES

Responsibility: MŽP SR, MP SR, MH SR

**NATIONAL PRIORITY:****STATUS REPORT:**

In 2006, the Government approved the Energy Policy of the Slovak Republic which will allow to meet objectives of landscape resource management and greater use of renewable resources. This objective has also been supported by the National Study of energy effectiveness which also includes an Action Plan of energy effectiveness and an Action Plan of renewable energy development in Slovakia. In 2002, a Conception to increase use of renewable energy resources was worked out and in 2004 the Government approved a Report on progress in use of renewable energy resources assessing utilisation of natural and economic potential of renewables. In 2006, a Strategy of the increased use of renewable energy resources was worked out, laying down objectives in this area till 2015. The Conception of Energy Effectiveness (2007) adopted measures oriented towards the increase of energy effectiveness in all sectors.

Taking into account the long-term loss-making of the extraction and processing of ore resources in Slovakia the Slovak Government adopted a Resolution 246/1991 on the decline programme in the ore mining sector. All ineffective mining facilities are being liquidated with subsequent recultivation of the environment, including removal of damages related to mining activities. The decline of the ore mining and liquidation of the mining facilities will continue with financial support from the state budget. On 20 April 2005, the Slovak Government accepted the year 2009 as a deadline for termination of decline works. After this date only works directly related to environmental protection and monitoring will continue. In the course of 2007 the following legal instruments were amended:

- the Act 44/1998 on the protection and use of mineral resources (Mining Act) – by the Act 219/2007;
- the Act 51/1998 on mining activity, explosives and state mining administration as amended – by the Act 577/2007;
- the Act 569/2007 on geological works (Geological Act);
- the Regulation of the Government 50/2002 on payment for mining area, payment for extracted minerals and payment for storage of gases or liquids by the Regulation of the Government 618/2007. A Strategy of Energy Safety was worked out which is currently a subject to cross-sectoral commenting. Other materials in the energy sectors are also in the process of elaboration.

In 2004, the Resource Policy of the Slovak Republic was updated. The updated policy was adopted by the Government Resolution 722 of 14 July 2004. The Act 533/2004 amended the Act 51/1988 on mining activity, explosives and state mining administration. The Resolution of the Slovak Government 356 of 4 May 2005 approved a general economic interest for the use of domestic coal for electricity production and electricity producers have been given tasks related to the use of domestic coal for electricity production.

Sustainable development of the society requires comprehensive geological information to formulate a resource policy of the state, evaluate a resource potential of the territory and rational use and protection of the national natural resources. These tasks have been incorporated in the Concept of geological research of the Slovak Republic for the 2007 – 2011 period with a perspective till 2015 which was adopted by the Government Resolution 1001/2007. The concept ensures coordination of geological research and has been worked out in accordance with the Concept of sustainable use of rock environment which was adopted by the Government Resolution 907/2002. Its implementation is connected to the energy, industrial and resource policies, principles and priorities of the national environmental policy, national sustainable development strategy and regional development strategy and provides outputs for decision-making processes at various levels of the state administration, regional self-governments and stimulation of new economic activities. It deals with location and distribution of mineral reserves on the basis of geological research which is a condition of positive identification of mineral resources. An accent is put on analysis and assessment of fuel resources with possibility to use them and economic effectiveness. A special methodological approach requires prognostic assessment of energy resources where the attention is paid to model processing, balancing and spatial definition of hydrocarbon potential so far undiscovered.

In the framework of fulfilling the Updated resource policy of the Slovak Republic approved by the Government Resolution 722/2004 an analysis of the number of registered deposits of mineral resources has been carried out with a proposal to reduce the number of deposits by 25 deposits of ore resources and 9 deposits of non-ore resources based on the use capacity from a long-term perspective. The Government approved a Report on records and balances of mineral resource reserves and deposits and an Analysis of registered deposits for the reduction purposes (Resolutions of the Government 479/2005 and 277/2008). The document “Report on research in ore resources”, worked out based on the measure 1 of the updated resource policy, was approved by the Government Resolution 370/2008. In accordance with Article 29, paragraph 4 of the Act 44/1988 on the protection and the use of mineral resources (Mining Act) as amended, the resource balance of deposits is updated annually.

In the course of 2008, the Act 569/2007 on geological works (Geological Act) was updated by the Act 515/2008 amending some Acts in the area of environmental management in relation to introduction of the Euro currency in Slovakia.

A new Act 514/2008 on mining waste was passed, entering into force on 15 December 2008.

Number of registered deposits of reserved and non-reserved mineral resources:

Year		2004	2005	2006	2007
Number of reserved deposits	Energy deposits	91	90	90	90
	Ore deposits	70	45	45	45
	Non-ore deposits	506	508	507	505
Number of non-reserved deposits		331	406	408	425

In accordance with the Concept of the use of geothermal energy in Slovakia, adopted by the Government Resolution 771/2006, a regional research and investigation were carried out in the areas of Liptovská kotlina, Popradská kotlina, Skorušinská panva, Galanta region, Ďurkov structure, Žiarska kotlina, Hornonitrianska kotlina and Humenský chrbát. Results from the hydro-geothermal research of Rimavská kotlina are being processed currently.

### Extraction capacity of coal mines in Slovakia

The effective extraction of extractable resources of coal allows by 2010 and with a perspective by 2030 to extract in our mines the following amounts (thousand tonnes)

		2007	2008	2009	2010	2015	2020	2030
HBP, a. s.	kt	1 945	2 200	2 200	2 300	1 500	1 400	560
Dolina Mine, a. s.	kt	146	150	150	(100)	-	-	-
Čáry Mine, a. s.	kt	22	100	(250)	(300)	(350)	(350)	(350)
Slovakia total	kt	2 113	2 450	2 600	2 700	1 850	1 750	910

Source: Ministry of Economy

Notes:

Data for 2008 describe a fact, data in brackets intentions of the organisation

The „Čáry“ mine should opened the operation in 2008

The „Dolina“ mine is completing extraction by extracting remnants of coal deposits in the framework of decommissioning

### Oil

Oil extracted in Slovakia by Nafta Gbely company covers only 1 – 1.5% of current total Slovak demand for oil for processing and it is not likely that this situation will change in the future. Consumption of oil for processing to cover domestic demand ranges between 3 to 3.2 million tonnes.

Oil safety of Slovakia and related activities in time of oil shortage are addressed by the Acts 69/2001 and 170/2001. These Acts define 90-day reserves in oil goods (our model of solution includes: oil and three product categories from oil processing) are fully a specific kind of material reserves in the framework of state material reserves. By the end of 2008, Slovakia has achieved a required level of total target level of emergency oil reserves corresponding to 90-day consumption, that means that the storage commitment towards the EU was fulfilled.

### Natural gas

Consumption of natural gas in Slovakia achieved in 2007 the amount of 6.0 billion m3 annually. Domestic extraction of natural gas achieved ca 105 million m3 annually (i.e. ca 2 % of total consumption of natural gas in Slovakia). The rest is imported from the Russian Federation.

### Share of consumption of renewable resources

Years	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Share of renewables in primary energy sources (%)	2.6	2.8	3.9	3.8	3.2	3.9	4.3	4.4	5.3

### Decentralisation of management of natural resources on local level

According to the Act 44/1988 on protection and use of mineral resources as amended by the Act 498/1991 the mineral resources in Slovakia are divided to reserved and non-reserved. The deposits of reserved minerals (reserved deposits) constitute mineral wealth which is owned by the Slovak Republic. Deposits of non-reserved minerals, such as gravel, sand, peat, cultural layer of soil, are integral part of a land, that means that they are owned by the land owner. Responsibility for management of natural resources qualified as non-reserved, is in hands of all district offices according to competence. The Main Mining Office and District Mining Offices supervise economic and ecological rationalisation of the use of mineral resources. These offices also issue permits for extraction of mineral resources to business entities. That means that there is practically 100% decentralisation of non-reserved natural resources. Specific quantitative data on decentralisation of management of natural resources on the local level are not known.

#### **Sustainable use of natural resources in mountain areas**

The Act 51/1998 on mining activity, explosives and state mining administration and the Act 44/1988 on rational use of mineral resources define conditions for the use of natural resources generally. Any activities in protected areas designated by the law are subject to legislative standards in responsibility of the Ministry of the Environment and Ministry of Economy.

The Ministry of Agriculture participated in the previous period in addressing the climate change issues by means of a number of measures. This issue has been incorporated into the mid-term agriculture policy for the 2004 – 2006 period approved by the Government in 2003 and it is a priority of the agriculture science and research till 2015. The climate change issue is in accordance with the Action Plan for the UN Convention to Combat Desertification and Soil Degradation. Draft adaptation measures in the Slovak agriculture have been worked out as a support measure and they should be included in the agri-environmental programmes.

#### **Cross-Sectoral Issues**

##### **1. Decision-Making Structure:**

The NR SR and the Government of the Slovak Republic are the resulting decisive bodies. MŽP SR is the body responsible for this sector. All other central authorities are the cooperating bodies.

##### **2. Capacity-Building/Technology Issues:**

MŽP SR - hydro-ecological plans and co-operation with the Ministry of Soil Management in working out a General Plan of protection and rational use of water; classification, keeping registers and balance of mineral resources

MH SR - energy production, industry

MP SR – agriculture, forestry

Regional and district offices – regional energetic conceptions

##### **3. Major Groups:**

the NR SR, the Government of the Slovak Republic, sectors, state administration authorities, production enterprises, municipalities, non-governmental organisations, civic associations

##### **4. Finance:**

State budget of the Slovak Republic, State Fund for Soil Fund Protection and Management, State Fund for Forest Management, State Water Management Fund, municipalities, internal sources, PHARE

##### **5. Regional/International Cooperation:**

Research institutions, universities, SAV, EU, OECD, IEA, Council of Europe, World Bank

In accordance with recommendation of 1993 Helsinki Conference the monitoring system “Lesy” (Forests) is being implemented in Slovakia which is aimed at monitoring the health state of forests. It is a part of the European monitoring system “FOREST”. There is also the monitoring system “PÔDA” (SOIL).

## AGENDA 21 CHAPTER 11: COMBATING DEFORESTATION

Responsibility: MP SR, MO SR

## NATIONAL PRIORITY:

## STATUS REPORT:

## Statistical data and indicators

Afforested area (km <sup>2</sup> )	675
Area of protected forests (thousand ha)	4.388
Production of timber (volume in million cubic metres)	0.181
Deforestation (square km) per year	0.08
Afforestation (square km) per year	5.01

## Part A

**Maintenance of a number of tasks and functions of all types of forests, forest soil fund and forest landscape.**

All the tasks and functions have been maintained (production, ecological, social). State defence function in forests exclude recreational activities. The area of state forest land on a territory under the responsibility of Military Forests and Properties company (VLM SR) in 2008 dropped by 8 hectares due to extension of a sand pit in VLM SR Malacky. Total reduction of afforested area by ca 671 hectares in 2008 was caused by extension of the sand pit (8 hectares) and other 663 hectares of afforested area in VLM SR Kežmarok (VO Javorina) were transferred to the original owners (restitutions). This is still a forest area, but not owned by the state. In 2008, investments which could lead to decrease of the afforested area dit not continue – a project of a “Technological-Innovation Park Eurovalley – Innovation City in the military district of Záhorie (VLM SR Malacky) covering 1,700 hectares and a project of residential-recreational-entertainment area “Vtáčie údolie” which is partly situated in the military district Valaškovce (VLM SR Kamenica nad Cirochou), in its adjacent area belonging to municipalities of Porúbka, Chlmec where the expected area “Vtáčie údolie” is also out of the military district Valaškovce. There is a proposal to take away 250 hectares of forest lands from the military district Valaškovce, part of it should remain as forest lands and part as built-up area with deforestation.

## Part B

**Improvement of protection of sustainable use and maintenance of all types of forests and green areas in damaged areas through afforestation, renewal of forest vegetation and other rehabilitation means.**

There are categories of commercial forest, protected forests and special purpose forests under the responsibility of VLM SR. Protection and sustainable use of forests is applied through ten-year forest management plans which are worked out for all forest lands according to local conditions. The area of upper Spiš is damaged from the forestry point of view (military district Javorina). This area permanently suffers from attacks by bark-beetles. In 2008, the bark-beetle calamity extended in the Sklené forest unit where, however, it was stopped due to efficient measures taken in harvesting and timber protection. In 2008, renewal of forest land was carried out on 189 hectares within the Javorina military district. First afforestation on cleared areas in renewal of forest stands was carried out on 501 hectares within the VLM SR (including natural renewal). Further extension of state forest lands on the territory of military districts is limited by categorisation of the forest soil fund, while in the category of lands 21 lands cannot be afforested. Partial extension of the forest soil fund is possible in the category 13 (category “other lands”). This extension can be plan only after completion of new spatial plans for military districts (10 year period) and under condition of receiving financial sources in the social interest.

## Part C

**Support of effective use and evaluation of full use of goods and services provided by forests, forest vegetation and forest landscapes.**

Due to specific character of a territory under the responsibility of VLM SR, especially timber producing function and sideline production are used. Other services and goods provided by forests, forest vegetation and forest landscapes are limited in this environment, though in 2008 the public was given a promise that the military forests would be made more available for their acceptable activities. Organisation of VLM SR Pliešovce is a member of the Association of forest certification of Slovakia in Zvolen. After accreditation of the Slovak certification system and accreditation of certification bodies in 2006, the VLM SR Kežmarok and Kamenica nad Cirochou submitted in 2008 an application for carrying out a certification audit and issuing a certificate on sustainable forest management in the forests under the responsibility of the VLM SR. The VLM SR received a certificate in accordance with the Slovak certification system confirming sustainable forest management – for the area of 14,611 hectares in VLM SR Kamenica nad Cirochou and 18,263 hectares in VLM SR Kežmarok (32,874 hectares as total).

## Part D

**Building or extending capacities for the planning, assessing and systemic monitoring of forests and related programmes, projects and activities, including trade and commercial processes.**

The VLM SR Pliešovce includes a Centre of economic arrangements of forests of VLM SR Kežmarok as a capacity for planning forest management. Building and extending other capacities is not expected. Periodical assessment of forest development managed by the VLM SR in the 2009 – 2013 period will be carried out by the experts from the National Forestry Centre in Zvolen during renewal of forest management plans. VLM SR Pliešovce managed the forest property in 2007 in sustainable way with the aim to protect vitality and biological diversity on their territories.

The programming plan of the Ministry of Defence for the 2009 – 2014 period allocates EUR 909,513 (SKK 27,400,000) annually for the Military Forests of the Slovak Republic (VLM SR).

In accordance with the Decision of the Ministry of Defence of the Slovak Republic SEOPMVL-105-79 2007-OdL, amending the Decision of the Ministry of Defence of the Slovak Republic SELP/K-15/3-487 on providing subsidies under the responsibility of the Ministry of Defence of the Slovak Republic, tasks related to ensuring ecological stability and the environment in 2008 received SKK 12.9 million (VLM SR Pliešovce). This sum was used to elaboration and implementation of ecological projects pursuant to Article 4, paragraph 2 of this Decision (SKK 3,503,500). Other resources were used for following purposes:

- SKK 641,550 to cover increased costs of production due to military operation in a military district on agricultural land in accordance with Article 4, paragraph 1 of this Decision;
- SKK 8,754,950 to build an access road in the Valaškovce military district in accordance with Article 4, paragraph 2b) of this Decision.

The difference between the above mentioned subsidies and the total allocation for the Pliešovce VLM SR was provided to cover material loss of land owners.

The Ministry of Defence of the Slovak Republic allocates financial resources from the capital expenditures for forest management plans for the District Office of the Military District Javorina according to the following table:

**Survey of the inventory of procured property as of 31 December 2008 (incomplete investments)**

No. of procured investment	Name of procured investment	Procurement period (start – planned end)	Planned financial resources	Invested by the end of previous year	Invested in 2008	Total value of procured investment as of 31 December 2008
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
41000213	Elaboration of forest management plan in LC Urban Forests Stará Ľubovňa 1359/2007 with amendment 1 (No. 3496/2007)	8 August 2007	SKK 97,827.00	SKK 97,827.00		SKK 97,827.00
41000214	Elaboration of forest management plan in LC Municipal Forests Hviezdne 1358/2007 with amendment 1 (No. 3495/2007)	8 August 2007	SKK 399,861.00	SKK 399,861.00		SKK 399,861.00
41000240	Elaboration of forest management plan in LC Municipal Military Forests Vrbov ZbD 6263/2008	28 March 2008	SKK 128,752.00		SKK 128,752.00	SKK 128,752.00
41000241	Elaboration of forest management plan in LC Municipal Military Forests Zvarožná ZbD 6262/2008	28 March 2008	SKK 111,156.90		SKK 111,156.90	SKK 111,156.90
41000242	Elaboration of forest management plan in LC Municipal Military Forests Ľubica ZbD 6161/2008	28 March 2008	SKK 999,456.00		SKK 999,456.00	SKK 999,456.00
TOTAL			SKK 1,737,052.90	SKK 497,688.00	SKK 1,239,364.00	SKK 1,737,052.90

Note:

Column 1 – number generated in the SAP RG system

Column 4 – total volume of financial resources planned to procure the given investment

Column 5 – all paid costs to procure investment by the end of previous year

Column 7 – sum of columns 5 and 6 after inventory

Based on the monitoring of a long-term trend in forest soil area in Slovakia, the Statistical Office can conclude that there is a permanent growth in forest area. This trend is given by the result of a professional management pursuant to the Act 326/2005 on forests as amended. Growth of harvesting areas is expected in the future.

This trend relates to increasing age structure and accidental harvesting due to increasing calamity occurrence. Natural regeneration is under consideration, which could solve this problem. The extent of artificial regeneration of forest increased slightly in 2006 and 2007 therefore.

### Cross-Sectoral Issues

#### 1. Decision-Making Structure:

The Slovak Government is the resulting decisive body. MP SR is a body responsible for this sector. MŽP SR, MO SR and state forest organisations are the cooperating bodies.

#### 2. Capacity-Building/Technology Issues:

MP SR - forestry, agriculture

#### 3. Major Groups:

The Slovak Government, sectors, state forest organisations, non-state forest subjects

#### 4. Finance:

State budget of the Slovak Republic - policy of subsidies for forestry and agriculture

#### 5. Regional/International Cooperation: FAO

## AGENDA 21 CHAPTER 12: MANAGING FRAGILE ECOSYSTEMS: COMBATING DESERTIFICATION AND DROUGHT

**Responsibility: MP SR, MŽP SR**

<b>NATIONAL PRIORITY:</b>	
<p><b>STATUS REPORT:</b>  <b>International Convention to Combat Desertification in Countries Experiencing Drought and/or Desertification Particularly in Africa – approved in 2001</b>  <i>Each party shall file reports on implementation with the Conference of Parties, as often and in the form to be determined. Parties are to report on development of national action programmes. The Conference shall assist affected developing countries to make reports.</i>          Accession ( ) signed on 7 January 2001, entering into force on 7 April 2002.</p> <p><b>Additional comments relevant to this chapter</b>          A study related to the issue of desertification for support of accession to the Convention to Combat Desertification has been prepared. In 1999 the research project “Impacts of Predicted Changes on Properties and Functions of Soil in the Slovak Republic” was completed. All technical conditions for accession to the Convention to Combat Desertification have been fulfilled. In September 2001 the National Council of the Slovak Republic agreed with accession of the Slovak Republic to the UN Convention to Combat Desertification.          A Strategy of soil protection was adopted in Slovakia in 2000. In December 2001, the Government adopted Principles of National Policy of Soil Use and Protection.          Concerning this Convention, in particular Annex 5 applies to Slovakia as it relates to implementation of the Convention in affected parties in Central and Eastern Europe.          The exposure of forests in Slovakia to risks and consequences of climatic changes has been given attention since 1996. The proposed strategy of adaptation, considering the specificities of forestry, included the following adaptation measures:          - Preparation of a strategic study          - Elaboration of the state forest policy and framework measures,          - Realization of measures in short-termed and long.-termed time frames.</p> <p>Within the framework of intensified regional cooperation with countries under Annex 5 of the Conference, the National Coordination Centre in Bratislava initiated several activities toward improving the methods and measures applied against degradation of soils and desertification, e.g. in the framework of the UNDP project on the fulfilment of covenants arising from environmental agreements, the Desertification Day in the SR, and participation of the SR’s representative at the Conference plenary sessions.          The National Forest Centre in Zvolen was taking part in preparation of an assessment report on the needs of capacity development for the relevant UN Convention to Combat Desertification which is the basic global agreement. The National Forest Centre in Zvolen deals with three research tasks of the Ministry of Agriculture and issues of climate change impacts on forests, directly connected to forest protection and the planting of more resistant species (till 2009). A current contribution is represented by accent to impact of climate change on forests, vitality and adaptability of forests, modelling and assessment of water balance as a part of a project FutMon – system of forest monitoring on the EU level.          In relation to protection of agricultural soil pursuant to the 2002 Convention our activities were oriented to designation of administrative and action units. In order to take into consideration this Convention the Slovak Government adopted the Principles of Soil Policy. However, in Slovakia there is not a comprehensive legal instrument contributing to protection of soil against drought and desertification. This issue is addressed only by partial legal instruments. In relation o accession of Slovakia to the European Union an agricultural practice started to be supported which also promotes the use of ecological techniques. Slovakia actively participates in activities under the Convention – participation at the 5<sup>th</sup> committee of the Convention in Buenos Aires, participation of the Ministry of Agriculture at the 8<sup>th</sup> Conference of the Parties in Madrid (November 2007). At the occasion of the International days for combating drought a number of information materials were worked out on the use of soil. A national report on implementation of the Convention was worked out and adopted by the Secretariat in 2007. A cross-sectoral working groups is currently working on ensuring activities under the Convention.</p>	
<b>Cross-Sectoral Issues</b>	
<p><b>1. Decision-Making Structure:</b>          The NR SR and the Slovak Government are the resulting decisive bodies. MP SR is the body responsible for this sector. MŽP SR is a cooperating body.</p>	

<p><b>2. Capacity-Building/Technology Issues:</b> MP SR - agriculture, forestry</p> <p><b>3. Major Groups:</b> sectors, scientific and research basis, professional organisations</p> <p><b>4. Finance:</b> State budget</p> <p><b>5. Regional/International Cooperation:</b> UN, EU, FAO</p>	
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## AGENDA 21 CHAPTER 13: MANAGING FRAGILE ECOSYSTEMS: SUSTAINABLE MOUNTAIN DEVELOPMENT

Responsibility: MP SR, MŽP SR

<p><b>NATIONAL PRIORITY:</b></p> <p><b>STATUS REPORT:</b></p> <p>Managing fragile forest ecosystems in mountain areas is being carried out mainly through “the Implementation Programme for Removal of Damages Caused by Human Activities, in Particularly by Immissions in Forest Ecosystems”. During recent years the state of forest health started to stabilise. This health state is, however, considerably worse than the European average. The worst situation is situated in the upper border forests where there is a threat of destruction of forests. Share of accidental felling is high.</p> <p>In order to improve the current adverse situation, the Slovak Government in 2002 adopted a Resolution 1041 of 18 September 2002 on adoption of the Programme of removal of damages in forest ecosystems till 2010. In accordance with the Resolution of the Government 990/2007 in 2008 a sum of SKK 355 million was allocated to conservation of spruce vegetation and SKK 61 million was allocated to the measures against harmful impacts. As this task closely relates to the activities of the Ministry of Agriculture of the Slovak Republic, the Resolution mentioned entailed elaboration of a common guidance of the Ministry of Agriculture of the Slovak Republic and the Ministry of the Environment of the Slovak Republic in implementation of the measure in accordance with Article 28, paragraph 3 of the Act 326/2005 of 28 March 2008 on forests as amended.</p> <p><b>Protection against harmful agents and details on plant protection preparations</b> are being realized in accordance with Act No. 285/1995 Coll. on plant protection care, as amended by later legislation, and with related legal regulations. Improving the forest health is a priority of not only forestry but of the state as well, taking into account their importance in landscape and due to the fact that primary reasons of bad conditions in forests are out of the forestry.</p> <p>In relation to wind calamity and forest vegetation damage some measures were taken to manage these impact, including four projects (calamity processing, forest protection, revitalisation of forest ecosystems, fire protection). In connection with calamity in the 4<sup>th</sup> and the 5<sup>th</sup> nature protection level, there were no interventions in this area due to absence of permit to intervene. The Government Resolution 990/2007 on report on forest health state approved the needs of financial resources to prevent the worsening of the forest vegetation health state with prevailing fir. Objective of the measures is to ensure a stable forest ecosystem fulfilling production and non-production forest functions. Conditions and requirements of sustainable development principles can positively affect some measures of the PRV SR for 2007 – 13, such as increasing economic value of forests, forest-environmental payments, renewal of forest potential, etc.</p>	
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### Cross-Sectoral Issues

#### 1. Decision-Making Structure:

The Slovak Government is the resulting decisive body. MP SR and MŽP SR are the bodies responsible for this sector. State forest organisations, non-state forest subjects and the Slovak Agency of the Environment are the cooperating bodies.

#### 2. Capacity-Building/Technology Issues:

MP SR - agriculture, forestry

#### 3. Major Groups:

The Government of the Slovak Republic, sectors, professional sectoral organisations

#### 4. Finance:

State budget of the Slovak Republic

#### 5. Regional/International Cooperation: FAO

## AGENDA 21 CHAPTER 14: PROMOTING SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT

Responsibility: MP SR, MH SR

### NATIONAL PRIORITY:

#### STATUS REPORT:

The Rural Development Programme of the Slovak Republic for 2007-2013 reflects the support of agricultural and non-agricultural activities with the aim to conserve rural values. After approval this document will create conditions for sustainable development of the rural areas and agriculture in the future.

The European Agricultural Rural Development Fund contributes through the Rural Development Programme with a total sum of EUR 1,969,418,078 which is used to support sustainable development in Slovakia. As the area of rural development represents a broad spectrum of support in rural areas covering various beneficiaries, while enabling environmental protection, maintaining agricultural activities in less favourable areas together with settlements, the implementation of these programmes has belonged to the most successful programmes of the structural funds.

The Ministry of Economy of the Slovak Republic has supported sustainable rural development through the support provided to tourism development. A strategic objective of the tourism development is to increase its competitiveness together with a better use of the potential in order to reduce regional disparities and to create new job opportunities, to satisfy the needs of the tourism stakeholders in the undisturbed conditions so as to ensure and improve quality of life and to bring benefits for the national economy. This objective has been defined through important Governmental strategic documents: National Tourism Development Programme (2001), Tourism Development Strategy of the Slovak Republic till 2013 (2005), Regionalisation of Tourism in the Slovak Republic (2005), updated New Tourism Development Strategy till 2013 (2007), State Tourism Policy (2007). Sustainable tourism activities are supported by action programmes in the framework of national tourism strategies in the area of the environment and by other documents under preparation (carrying capacity of territories, principles of tourism in protected areas) and structural funds from the point of view of financial resources.

In 2008, possible differences between the interests of the environment and sustainable tourism were identified as one of preconditions for reassessment of NATURA 2000 in order to try to harmonise these different interests. 481 of 2920 municipalities in Slovakia have identified conflicts of interests. 125 municipalities have specified planned business activities in the affected territories. In other municipalities there is a problematic fact that even built-up areas belong to the areas with higher protection level. 41 of 180 ski centres have identified conflicts in interests. Quality of background documents which have been sent by addressed stakeholders is various, depending on the level of development of the tourism in a given territory or centre and depending on the area and size. Prevailing or the higher interest in accordance with Article 6 of the Council Directive 92/43/EEC on habitats will be decisive in determining the priorities between sustainable development of tourism and rural development and nature protection in relation to reassessment of NATURA 2000. Therefore it will be necessary to create a new institute – a social value of the tourism as an equivalent to the social value of habitats. Defining this notion will be in 2009 a subject of a study and working out a methodology for determination of social value of tourism in a measurable unit. One of the other new instruments, which seems to be necessary to comply with the sustainable tourism conditions, is the Act on tourism.

The SOP PS allocated in the 2004-2005 programming period a sum of EUR 301,257,763 for three measures: measure 2.1 “Support of building and reconstruction of tourism infrastructure”, measure 2.2 “Support of business activities in tourism”, measure 2.3 “Promoting tourism and information system”. The main objective of this support is to increase the dynamism of tourism while using natural, cultural, historical potentials, to increase the tourism quality, presentation and promotion.

Ensuring the growth of competitiveness and efficiency of tourism will be supported from the structural funds in the programming period 2007 – 2013 in the Operational Programme Competitiveness and Economic Growth within the priority axis 3 Tourism. There are two measures: measure 3.1 Support of business activities in tourism and the measure 3.2 Development of information services of tourism, presentation of regions and of Slovakia. Three calls for submission of project proposals were declared in 2008, one of the has been already completed. The objective of these measures is growth of competitiveness and efficiency of tourism in locations out of the Bratislava region where 80 % of territory is created by rural areas with focus on building complex tourism centres and facilities, which can be used the entire year.

## TOURISM STATISTICS I.-X.2008

## Bank statistics

	2007			2008			INDEX 08/07		
	SKK	USD	EUR	SKK	USD	EUR	SKK	USD	EUR
Incomes (mil.)	40 748.4	1 625.0	1 203.0	44 382.1	2 113.8	1 410.1	108.9	130,1	117,2
Expenditures (mil.)	32 347.3	1 290.0	955.0	38 310.4	1 824.7	1 217.2	118.4	141,4	127,5
Balance (mil.)	8 401.1	335.0	248.0	6 071.7	289.2	192.9	72.3	86,3	77,8
Exchange rate SKK/USD/EUR		25.076	33.871		20.996	31.475			

- **incomes** from active foreign tourism according to preliminary data of the National Bank of Slovakia achieved during the first ten months of 2008 the amount of **SKK 44,382.1 million**, which is growth by **8.9%** as compared to the same period of previous year,
- individual tourism made **91.7%** in total amount of incomes, organised **7.9%** and non-bank exchange offices **0.4%**,
- **expenditures** of Slovak citizens **according to preliminary data of the National Bank of Slovakia** in the monitored period were **SKK 38,310.4 million** which is growth by **18.4%** as compared to the same period of previous year,
- the largest part of expenditures went to **individual tourism – 81.8%**, followed by **organised tourism – 13.8%** and foreign business trips **4.4%**,
- **balance of foreign tourism** is still **active** in the amount of **SKK 6,071.7 million** which is decrease by **27.7%** as compared to the previous period

Source: National Bank of Slovakia

## Cross-Sectoral Issues

**1. Decision-Making Structure:**

The Slovak Government is the resulting decisive body. MP SR is the body responsible for this area. The cooperating bodies are: MH SR, MŽP SR, MPSVR SR, MV SR, MK SR, MVRR SR, MF SR.

**2. Capacity-Building/Technology Issues:**

MP SR – agriculture and rural development

MH SR - small enterprising

**3. Major Groups:**

The Slovak Government, sectors, other central state administration authorities, professional organisations, research institutions, associations, non-governmental organisations, foundations, municipalities

**4. Finance:**

State budget of the Slovak Republic, sectors, EU structural tools

**5. Regional/International Cooperation:**

FAO, The British Know-How Fund, Council of Europe

## AGENDA 21 CHAPTER 15: CONSERVATION OF BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY

Responsibility: MŽP SR, MP SR

## NATIONAL PRIORITY:

## STATUS REPORT:

**Convention on Biological Diversity**

*Parties are to develop national strategies, plans and programmes for sustainable use and conservation of biodiversity and integrate them into general development plans.*

*Parties shall identify, monitor and maintain data on components of biodiversity.*

*Parties shall introduce appropriate procedures requiring EIAs for projects likely to have significant adverse effects on biological diversity.*

*Parties shall submit reports on measures which it has taken for the implementation of the Convention, at intervals to be determined.*

(+) Convention text adopted in May 1992 in Nairobi (Kenya)

(+) Convention text open for signature in June 1992 in Rio de Janeiro (Brazil)

(+) Convention entered into force in December 1993

(+) approval of the Slovak Government of accession to the Convention in April 1993

(+) ratification of the Convention by the President of the Slovak Republic in August 1994

(+) a Secretariat for the Convention established at the Ministry of the Environment of the Slovak Republic in September 1994

(+) the Minister of the Environment appointed a Slovak Commission of the Convention in November 1995 (at present there is a new commission appointed in March 2007)

The Convention includes a broad spectrum of problems which led to three main objectives:

- conservation of biological diversity
- sustainable use of biological diversity components
- equal distribution of benefits from the use of gene resources

The Convention in its Article 26 sets the obligation of each Party to submit to the Conference of the Parties reports on measures adopted to implement the Convention and their applicability in meeting the Convention objectives. The Ministry of the Environment of the Slovak Republic in 1998 coordinated elaboration of the First national report on implementation of the Convention on biological diversity in Slovakia, in 2001 elaboration of the Second report on implementation of the Convention on biological diversity in Slovakia, in 2005 elaboration of the Third report on implementation of the Convention on biological diversity and at present there is the Fourth report on implementation of the Convention on biological diversity under preparation (planned date March 2009).

A National Strategy for the protection of biological diversity was worked out in Slovakia in 1997 in the area of conservation of biological diversity. The Strategy has defined these main principles and strategic objectives:

- biodiversity has to be conserved in its entirety – preferentially in situ
- artificial loss of biodiversity has to be compensated in the maximal extent
- landscape diversity has to be conserved so as to conserve variability of forms of the life at all levels
- natural resources have to be used in a sustainable manner
- each person has to be responsible for the protection and sustainable use of biodiversity.

The National strategy for the protection of biological diversity is being implemented by means of action plans which are linked to each other. The first Action Plan for the implementation of the National strategy for the protection of biological diversity in Slovakia for the 1998-2010 period, prepared on the basis of background documents provided by particular sectors, was approved by the Slovak Government in August 1998. In March 2001, the National Council of the Slovak Republic took note of the Assessment of the Action Plan for the implementation of the National strategy for the protection of biological diversity in Slovakia for the 1998-1999 period and subsequently in 2002 the Assessment of the Action Plan for the implementation of the National strategy for the protection of biological diversity in Slovakia for the 2000-2001 period. In November 2002, the Government approved by its resolution the Updated Action Plan for the implementation of the National strategy for the protection of biological diversity in Slovakia for the 1998-2010 period. This Resolution has specified the duty to submit in regular three-year intervals (2005, 2008, 2011) assessments of implementation of particular tasks resulted from the adopted action plan. Based on this duty, in 2005, the Government approved the Assessment of the fulfilment of particular tasks resulted from the Updated Action Plan for the implementation of the National strategy for the protection of biological diversity in Slovakia for the 2002-2003 period and comments were provided to the Assessment of fulfilment of particular tasks resulted from the Updated Action Plan for the implementation of the National strategy for the protection of biological diversity in Slovakia for the 2004-2006 period.

The Convention requires definition of indicators to monitor the situation and trends in biological diversity as well as definition of indicators for the implementation of the Convention. The first set of indicators to monitor the state and conservation of

biodiversity in Slovakia was approved by the Government Resolution in January 2001. This Resolution has also specified the duty to publish assessment of the indicators each five years starting from 2005. The first report on assessment of the biodiversity indicators for the 2001 – 2005 period was published in 2006, the second report on biodiversity indicators for the 2006 – 2010 period will be published in 2011.

In October 2007, the Government approved the Updated set of indicators to monitor the state and protection of biodiversity in Slovakia which is determined by the first set of indicators monitored in the 2001 – 2005 period, but takes also into account the draft SEBI 2010, i.e. a set of new European indicators proper for Slovakia. Important events in the area of the protection of biological diversity in Slovakia can include the 4<sup>th</sup> session of the Conference of the Parties which was held in Bratislava in May 1998.

#### **Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora**

*Parties to take appropriate measures to enforce regulatory provisions and prohibit trade in specimens in violation thereof. Convention also governs treatment of animals in shipment.*

*Each party to prepare periodic reports on its implementation of the convention and to prepare: (a) an annual report listing export permits issued and species involved, and (b) a biennial report on legislative, regulatory and administrative measures taken.*

(+) Convention signed in March 1973 in Washington

(+) ratified in 1992 (Czechoslovakia), succession in 1993 (Slovakia)

The member states adopt measures to comply with the provisions of the Convention and against illegal trade in relevant species. The Convention enables to adopt stricter national legal instruments concerning the trade, holding and transport of specimens of the concerned species or to ban such practices. Each state prepares periodical reports on implementation of the Convention: a) annual report with a list of issued permits and species and b) report on legislative, regulatory and administrative measures (biannually).

The biannual report was submitted in 2005, annual report for 2005 was submitted in 2006.

A forest research has been oriented also the issues of biodiversity, ecological stability, integrated protection and conservation of gene sources. In 2002 a scientific-research project “Research of methods of mountain forest management on a sustainable principle” was completed. Area of protected sites (23.2% of the Slovak territory which is 43% of forest area) shows a relatively favourable situation in the area of forest biodiversity. In 2004, the Act on forest reproduction material and subsequent legislative instruments were approved, creating so conditions rules in the area of production and registration of reproduction material of forest wood plants. In 2005, the Act on forests was approved. In 2007 a Hunting Act was approved. The National Strategic Plan for Rural Development of Slovakia for 2007 – 2013 period has been determined by the Lisbon strategy as well as by the Gothenburg strategy as it develops relationships of sustainable rural development and ensures ecological stability of the landscape and strengthens social and economic development. It is also in compliance with the National Strategy for the protection of biodiversity in Slovakia, complying with principles of the protection of biodiversity. Slovakia actively participates in activities of the International Agreement on Plant Sources for food and agriculture and in activities related to the Agreement on establishment of the World Fund for crop diversity IAPGRFA. The objective of the agreement is sustainable development of the use of plant genetic sources and to ensure food and agriculture world-wide. Slovakia actively participates in the work of the eleventh regular session for genetic sources within the framework of the 1<sup>st</sup> global conference on animal genetic sources – Interlaken 9/2007. An amendment to the original Forest Act 326/2005 in 2007 created conditions for sustainable forest management and maintenance of biological diversity. Conservation of genetic diversity was a determining factor for implementation of the Directive EC 199/105 on trade in reproduction material or the Act 217/2004, including approved National Programme for the protection of forest genetic resources for the 2005 – 2009 period and the Decree 571/2004. By adopting these instruments Slovakia clearly demonstrated the interest in sustainable management in forests and maintenance of biological diversity.

In 2008, a national server of animal gene sources of the Slovak Republic was put into operation in order to support the efforts to maintain animal species diversity of commercial animals. The Ministry of Agriculture of the Slovak Republic has allocated financial in the framework of funding the expert assistance in application of legislative measures concerning records and protection of animal sources in Slovakia. Forest research and advisory services have also been oriented to the issues of biodiversity, ecological stability and integrated protection of gene sources. The Ministry of Agriculture of the Slovak Republic adopted for 2005 – 2009 a National Programme for the protection of gene sources of plants for food and agriculture and a National programme for the protection of forest gene sources, declaring so an interest for sustainable forest management and conservation of biological diversity.

## Cross-Sectoral Issues

**1. Decision-Making Structure:**

The Slovak Government is the resulting decisive body. MŽP SR is the body responsible for this area. The cooperating bodies comprise other ministries, organisations of the educational and research sectors, the State Nature Protection of the Slovak Republic and non-governmental organisations.

**2. Capacity-Building/Technology Issues:**

MŽP SR - nature protection, water management

MP SR - forestry

**3. Major Groups:**

The Slovak Governments, sectors, organisations of education and research, professional organisations, non-governmental organisations

**4. Finance:**

State budget of the Slovak Republic, international research programmes, various funds

**5. Regional/International Cooperation:**

EU, UNESCO, FAO

Category	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999
National park	5	5	5	5	5	7	7	7
Protected landscape area	16	16	16	16	16	15	16	16
State natural reservation	369	448	448					
Protected discovery place	105	104	104					
Protected study area	19	19	19					
Protected park and garden	4	4	4					
Protected natural product and protected natural monument (except trees)	294	306	326					
Protected area				172	174	174	175	179
Natural reserve				330	332	347	355	363
National natural reserve				229	229	229	229	231
Natural monument				210	209	214	217	225
National natural monument				38	45	45	45	45
Category	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
National park	7	7	9	9	9	9	9	9
Protected landscape area	16	16	14	14	14	14	14	14
State natural reservation								
Protected discovery place								
Protected study area								
Protected park and garden								
Protected natural product and protected natural monument (except trees)								
Protected area	181	185	191	192	181	179	170	168
Natural reserve	369	375	383	386	383	383	384	385
National natural reserve	231	231	231	222	219	219	219	219

Natural monument	227	230	232	233	230	228	228	225
National natural monument	45	60	60	60	60	60	60	60
Protected bird areas						3	5	5
Protected landscape component								1

Note: The act No. 287/1994 on nature and landscape protection has changed the categorisation of protected sites of Slovakia (since entering into force of this Act on 1 January 1995). Two new types of protected areas have been added after entering into force of the new Act 543/2002 on nature and landscape protection (1 January 2003).

State of knowledge about endangering of individual species of vertebrates

Group	Numer of taxons	EX	CR	EN	VU	LR	DD	NE
Fish	79	6	7	8	1	22	2	0
Amphibians	18	0	0	3	5	10	0	0
Reptiles	12	0	1	0	4	6	0	0
Birds*	219	2	7	23	19	47	4	19
Mammals	90	2	2	6	12	27	15	4

*EX - extinct, CR - critically endangered, EN - endangered, VU - vulnerable, LR - less endangered, DD - insufficient data, Ed - endemites*

State of knowledge about endangering of individual plant species

Group	Numer of taxons	EX	CR	EN	VU	LR	DD	Ed
Upper plants	3352	77	266	320	430	285	50	220
Bryophyte	909	26	95	104	112	85	74	0
Iceland moos	1508	88	140	48	169	114	14	0
Cyanophytes and alga	3008	0	7	80	196	0	0	0

*EX - extinct, CR - critically endangered, EN - endangered, VU - vulnerable, LR - less endangered, DD - insufficient data, Ed - endemites*

**AGENDA 21 CHAPTER 16: ENVIRONMENTALLY SOUND MANAGEMENT OF BIOTECHNOLOGY****Responsibility: MP SR, MZ SR, MŽP SR**

<p><b>NATIONAL PRIORITY:</b></p> <p><b>STATUS REPORT:</b></p> <p>The interest of the Ministry of Agriculture is to use all available proper biotechnologies. In the area of plant production the attention was oriented to the cultivation of genetically modified plants in accordance with the legislation in force and the recommendation 2003/556/EC. In 2007, genetically modified plants were cultivated by 16 cultivators on area of almost 1 thousand hectares. The issues of genetically modified plants are addressed by sectoral research institutes – UKSUP Bratislava, SCPV Nitra and SCPV-VURV Piešťany. Use of biotechnologies in animal production is dealt with by SCPV-VUZV Nitra (dealing with 3 research projects in this area). These projects should lead to further reduction of environmental burden. In the framework of sustainable development an assistance within Rural Development Programme 2007 – 2013 and the Fisheries Operational Programme started. In 2007 and 2008, the Ministry of Agriculture took part in addressing the issues of climate change in the form of a task “Adaptation measures in agriculture and climate change”. In the forestry the biotechnologies are used to reproduce wooden plants, forest stand cultivation for energy purposes, forest protection. Implementation of the results of these tasks in the practice is expected to reduce environmental burdens.</p> <p>The sector of public health uses several types of biotechnologies and/or biotechnological processes for the purposes of production of drugs, diagnostic formulations, serums and vaccines. This production is subject to SR Ministry of Health licences, preconditioned by fulfilment of the requirements of proper laboratory practice in accordance with the Act 140/1998. The Slovak Republic, as a component of the international pharmaceutical inspection scheme, is supervised by international inspection bodies in respect of the aforesaid productions.</p> <p>If pharmaceutical (Article 14, paragraph 4), toxico-pharmaceutical (Article 14, paragraph 6) or clinical (Article 16a, paragraph 2n) testing (the Act 140/1998 on medicines and medical devices) includes drugs, auxiliary substances or medicines produced from genetically modified organisms, the Act 151/2002 on use of genetic technologies and genetically modified organisms requires a consent of the Ministry of the Environment. The request for registration of drugs (Article 21, paragraph 15), which contain genetically modified organisms, must include a written consent of the Ministry of the Environment to introduce products with genetically modified organisms.</p> <p>On 30 December 2008, a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council 1394/2007 of 13 November 2007 on medicine for innovative therapy amending the Directive 2001/83/EC and the Regulation (EC) 726/2004 (OJ EU L 324, 10 December 2007) enabling production in Slovakia of medicines on the basis of new technologies, such as tissue engineering, and production of new medicines for cell somatic therapy and gene therapy. Individual preparation of medicines for innovative therapy is allowed in hospitals after 30 December 2008 based on the Act 489/2008 amending the Act 140/1998 on medicines.</p> <p>Ministry of Health in co-operation with the Ministry of Soil Management completed legislative arrangements in the area of new foods and GMO foods on 1 May 2004. At present, the Slovak legislation is fully harmonised with the EU legislation. Introduction of GMOs on the market is subject to the Ministry of Soil Management since 1 January 2005. New sorts of foods are subject to approval by the Ministry of Health in accordance with the Act 152/1995 on foods.</p>	
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Cross-Sectoral Issues</b></p> <p><b>1. Decision-Making Structure:</b></p> <p>The NR SR and the Slovak Government is the resulting decisive body. MP SR, MZ SR and MH SR are the bodies responsible for this area. The cooperating bodies are: MO SR, MŽP SR, MZV SR, MF SR, Institute of Preventive and Clinical Medicine, State Institute for Control of Medicaments, Institute of State Control of Veterinary Bio-preparations and Medicaments, State Veterinary Service, State Health Care Institutes in the Slovak Republic.</p> <p><b>2. Capacity-Building/Technology Issues:</b></p> <p>MP SR - research and use of knowledge in water treatment, development and production of veterinary medicaments  MZ SR - research, development and production of immunobiological preparations, state control and supervision over production in pharmaceutical and immunobiological industries  MH SR - research, development and production of medicaments</p>	

MŽP SR - legislation in the area of application of biotechnology in water management practice, research and utilisation of knowledge in cleaning and treatment of water

**3. Major Groups:**

The NR SR, the Slovak Government, sectors, SAV, research institutes, health care institutes, universities

**4. Finance:** State budget of the Slovak Republic, internal sources, UN, EU, MF SR

**5. Regional/International Cooperation:** FAO, PIC, OECD, EU, WHO, governmental and non-governmental international organisations

**AGENDA 21 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**

**Responsibility: MDPT SR**

<p><b>NATIONAL PRIORITY:</b></p>	
<p><b>STATUS REPORT:</b>  At this time (31 December 2008) Slovakia registers 35 ships. As regards recreational vessels, the number of registered vessels is around 450. The Act 581/2003 amending the Act 435/2000 on marine navigation is applicable.  The most important international conventions in the area of oceans and seas, to which Slovakia has acceded, include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• International Convention on Prevention against Pollution from Ships (1973) with subsequent 1978 Protocol, the Protocol signed in London on 17 February 1978,</li> <li>• International Convention on Safety of Human Life on Sea (1974) with subsequent 1978 Protocol, the Protocol signed in London on 17 February 1978,</li> <li>• UN Convention on Open Sea (Geneva, 1958), published in the Collection of Acts as the Act No. 92/1964,</li> <li>• UN Convention on coastal waters and adjacent zone (Geneva, 1958), published in the Collection of Acts as the Act No. 101/1965,</li> <li>• UN Convention on Sea Law (Montego Bay, 1982), published in the Collection of Acts as the Act No. 242/1996, ratified on 22 April 1996 and for the Slovak Republic in force since 7 June 1996.</li> </ul>	

**Cross-Sectoral Issues**

**1. Decision-Making Structure:**

The NR SR and the Slovak Government are the resulting decisive body. MDPT SR is the body responsible for this area. Joint-stock company Slovenská plavba a prístavy is the cooperating subject.

**2. Capacity-Building/Technology Issues:**

MDPT SR - ship transport

**3. Major Groups:**

the Slovak Government, the NR SR, sectors, enterprises, custom offices

**4. Finance:**

State budget of the Slovak Republic

**5. Regional/International Cooperation:**

EU, CEFTA, Danube Navy Commission

**AGENDA 21 CHAPTER 18: PROTECTION OF THE QUALITY AND SUPPLY OF FRESHWATER RESOURCES: APPLICATION OF INTEGRATED APPROACHES TO THE DEVELOPMENT, MANAGEMENT AND USE OF WATER RESOURCES**

**Responsibility: MŽP SR, MP SR, MZ SR**

**NATIONAL PRIORITY:**

**STATUS REPORT:**

The assessment of the current situation in drinking water supply from the public supply systems shows that it is not sufficient. On 1 January 2008, the share of population supplied with drinking water from the public water supply was 86.2 %.

As regards particular regions, the most favourable situation is in the Bratislava region where 95.7 % of the population is supplied with water from the water supply systems. The above-average supply rate is achieved also in the Nitra, Žilina and Trenčín regions. The Banská Bystrica region is on the average level. The Prešov, Košice and Trnava regions are lagging behind.

There are very diverse levels in supplying rates among the districts. The situation in the cities of above-district importance is very good (99.7 – 99.9 % of population supplied with drinking water from the public water supply systems (Bratislava, Košice)). The good situation is also in the districts of Prievidza, Topoľčany, Martin, Banská Bystrica, Turčianske Teplice and Tvrdošín.

The lowest level of water supply is in the districts of Vranov nad Topľou, Košice – okolie and Sabinov.

On 31 December 2007, Slovakia registered 2 891 municipalities, of which 2 257 municipalities had a water supply system which is 70.1 %. The most favourable situation is in the Bratislava region and in the Žilina region. On the other hand, the low share of municipalities with water supply system is in the Eastern Slovakia (Košice and Prešov regions and in the Banská Bystrica region especially in the southern districts).

Even greater differences are on the level of districts. In 12 districts (Bratislava, Košice, Pezinok, Prievidza, Šaľa, Dolný Kubín, Čadca, Kysucké Nové Mesto, Turčianske Teplice, Tvrdošín, Banská Bystrica and Brezno) the water supply systém is built in all municipalities.

Very adverse situation is in the districts of Rimavská Sobota, Veľký Krtíš, Poltár, Humenné, Svidník and Vranov nad Topľou.

Drinking water supply from the public water supply systems is ensured in accordance with the Act on municipalities by a municipality. After transformation of state-owned water and sewerage companies the municipality fulfils this role mainly through trade companies.

Quality water resources are one of the decisive factors in water supply. Their amount, quality and localisation are fundamentally important to determine development of water supply systems. Groundwater is preferentially used for public drinking water supply. In the areas with lack of groundwater the inhabitants use direct withdrawals from watercourses and first of all large-volume water reservoirs.

The data of the Slovak Hydrometeorological Institute (SHMU) show that natural sources of groundwater on the Slovak territory represent amount of 146,700 l/s, of which there is documented usable amount of water 76,198 l/s (2007). Of the usable amount the volume of 45,149.7 l/s was approved by the Ministry of the Environment Commission for assessment and approval of final reports on amount of water and geothermal energy. Sources and reserves of groundwater are diverse depending on the location and time. Their quality is also diverse. Though, they are periodically renewed, they are not unlimited and one has to use them correctly.

Groundwater resources have to comply with a number of criteria and conditions, have to be rather rich, have to provide qualitative and hygienic guarantee, technical possibilities of their use, economic criteria and water resource protection.

A survey of groundwater volumes in hydrogeological units, based on implemented and approved hydrogeological surveys and calculations of groundwater amounts (usable amounts of groundwater were calculated on the basis of hydrogeological survey by means of a long-term pump test and on the basis of assessing the existing hydrogeological investigation; natural amounts of groundwater only based on assessing the existing hydrogeological investigation):

	2005	2006	2007
<b>Usable amount of groundwater (l.s<sup>-1</sup>)</b>	2,803.24	2,937.16	2,937.16
<b>Natural amounts of groundwater (l.s<sup>-1</sup>)</b>	9,299.93	9,851.76	9,851.76

Other water resources used to supply the inhabitants with drinking water include:

- direct withdrawals from watercourses – these are most vulnerable and are used only if proper sources cannot be found. Based on recommendation by hygienists, these sources are being gradually eliminated. Direct withdrawals from surface

water bodies – these are most frequent in the Eastern Slovakia – 62 direct withdrawals with a total capacity of 1,960 l/s. Direct withdrawals are used mainly in the Žilina and Banská Bystrica regions to provide the water supply systems with water. Water reservoirs allow quality water withdrawal which is after treatment suitable for drinking purposes for people in areas with shortage of groundwater. There are 8 water reservoirs built on the Slovak territory with a total capacity of 4,100 l/s. Usable capacity of reservoirs is determined by the capacity of water treatment plants on these reservoirs – at present it is 2,390 l/s.

#### Protection of water quality and water resources

Protection of used water resources has to be ensured in accordance with the EU water directive and has to be perceived as an integrated protection of water quality and water quantity as regards both groundwater and surface water.

Protection of quantity of water is based on increasing the accumulation capacity of a landscape and on a control of calculated amounts for water withdrawal. Limits of groundwater resource use are calculated for this purpose – ecological limits – as well as binding minimal water flow rates on watercourses according to principles of surface water management in individual river basins.

The two aspects of water protection (quantity and quality) are covered by a system of territorial protection. As regards the extent of territorial protection - it can be considered as reasonable. Reserves, however, can be found in a real efficiency of legal instruments and standards and in legal awareness of the society and enforcement of protection measures in practice.

The main task of **the health sector** is managing the health protection of people. The health protection strategy in the area of drinking water is oriented to:

- drinking water supply for inhabitants in sufficient quantity and quality, primarily from groundwater resources,
- protection of water quality in water resources,
- control of quality of drinking water and evaluation of human health,
- adoption of measures to achieve compliance of drinking water with all indicators resulted from the national and European legislation and reduction of the number of exemption due to exceeding limit values for drinking water quality
- updating of legal acts in accordance with WHO and EU criteria,
- reducing health risks from use of water from all resources (groundwater, water reservoirs, surface watercourses) used to provide drinking water to inhabitants, increasing effectiveness of drinking water utilisation in industry and for commercial purposes (except for food processing and pharmaceutical industries),
- provision of information to the inhabitants on the quality of drinking water from the water supply systems, quality of water from individual wells and on health risks connected to the use of water which does not comply with legislative requirements for drinking water,
- education of inhabitants to understanding of value of drinking water and increasing the level of awareness on responsibility of a man for maintaining quality of drinking water as a precondition for life of the present and future generations.

The issue of drinking water is legislatively arranged in the Act 355/2007 on public health care and amending some other Acts. Quality of drinking water is assessed according to the Government Regulation 354/2006 laying down requirements for water intended to human use and control of quality of water intended for human use.

Use of mineral water for curative purposes and production of natural mineral table water is subject to a specific permitting procedure at the level of the Ministry of Health. Quality of water intended for recreation is assessed according to the Government Regulation 252/2006 on details of operation of bathing pools and on details of requirements for bathing water quality and its control.

Ministry of Agriculture ensures water for irrigation purposes through the operator of melioration facilities, which is at present the state enterprise Hydromeliorácie, carrying out also monitoring of quality of irrigation water in cooperation with the operator of important water courses (SVP, š.p.). Monitoring of quality has been carried out since 1995. Since this date, depending on climate conditions and based on requirements from agri-entrepreneurs, 10 to 90 million m<sup>3</sup> of irrigation water was supplied. Monitoring of irrigation water has shown that no sample has exceeded the limit value for harmful substances defined in the Act 364/2004.

The Water Act 364/2004 defines for the Ministry of Agriculture obligation to work out drafts for determination of water bodies or their parts suitable for irrigations. This is assessed according to the Government Regulation 296/2005 laying down requirements for quality of water and quantitative objectives of surface water, limit values for indicators of waste water and special water pollution.

### Cross-Sectoral Issues

#### **1. Decision-Making Structure:**

The NR SR and the Slovak Government are the resulting decisive bodies. MŽP SR is the body responsible for this area. The other cooperating bodies are MP SR, MZ SR, MV SR, MH SR, SIŽP, SAŽP, district offices of the environment

administration.

**2. Capacity-Building/Technology Issues:**

MŽP SR - water protection, review and rational use, drinking water supply, sewerage services and waste water treatment

MP SR - use of water for irrigation

MZ SR - state health control over public drinking water supply for inhabitants, hygienic control of drinking water

MH SR - use of water in industry and energy production

**3. Major Groups:**

The NR SR, the Slovak Government, sectors, district offices of the environment, professional organisations, water management enterprises, enterprises of water pipelines and sewer systems

**4. Finance:**

State budget of the Slovak Republic, finances of cities and towns, internal sources of water management enterprises, finances of industry, loans, EU funds.

**5. Regional/International Cooperation:**

district offices of the environment, the Danube Commission (water transport), bilateral cooperation on frontier waters with Ukraine, Hungary, Poland, Austria and the Czech Republic, WHO, UN

		2005	2006	2007
Drinking water supply from public supply systems	%	95.8	96.1	96.1
Number of inhabitants connected to sewerage systems	%	93.0	93.2	93.3
Groundwater source capacity	mil.m3/year	154.90	154.84	154.84
	l/s	4.912	4.910	4.910
Sources with water treatment	%	34.9	34.9	34.9
Water withdrawn from sources	thous.m3/year	57.329	58.120	60.007
	% capacity	37.0	37.5	38.8
Water for use	thous..m3/year	61.309	63.620	64.537
	% capacity	39.6	41	41.6

**AGENDA 21 CHAPTER 19: ENVIRONMENTALLY SOUND MANAGEMENT OF TOXIC CHEMICALS, INCLUDING PREVENTION OF ILLEGAL INTERNATIONAL TRAFFIC IN TOXIC AND DANGEROUS PRODUCTS**

**Responsibility: MH SR, MZ SR**

**NATIONAL PRIORITY:**

**STATUS REPORT:**

Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council (EC) No 1907/2006 concerning the Registration, Evaluation, Authorisation and Restriction of Chemicals (REACH) and establishing a European Chemicals Agency contributes considerably to minimisation of harmful impacts of chemical substances to human health and the environment in the framework of chemical management. It entered into force on 1 June 2007 and is directly implemented by the Member States. It deals primarily with free movement of chemical substances as such, substances in preparations and products, obligations of producers, importers, users in placing those substances on market and manipulation, responsibility of the Member States in enforcement of the regulation. It lays down a system of registration and data reporting evaluation of substances, authorisation and restriction of substances, supports development of alternative methods of evaluation of hazards related to substances, innovation and competitiveness of the European industry. For the group of substances calling for serious concern, which includes selected carcinogenic and mutagenic substances and substances damaging reproduction of the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> category, persistent, bioaccumulative and toxic (PBT) and vPvB substances it introduces authorisation as temporary permit for a defined method of the use under the condition of ensuring adequate control of such a substance and its gradual phase-out and replacement with economically and technically feasible alternative substances or technologies. The REACH regulation addresses also provision of information to the public on risks resulted from the substances and on their safe use through competent authorities in the member states.

On 16 December 2008, the European Union adopted a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council 1272/2008 on classification, labelling and packaging of substances and mixtures, amending and repealing Directives 67/548/EEC and 1999/45/EC, and amending Regulation (EC) No 1907/2006 (CLP Regulation) which fully implements UN GHS. The CLP Regulation enters into force on 20 January, laying down a transition period for substances till 1 December 2010 and for mixtures till 1 June 2015. Within this period the substances are classified, labeled and packed in accordance with the Directive 67/548/EEC and mixtures in accordance with the Directive 1999/45/EC (transposed into the Act 163/2001 and subsequent application instruments. In the course of the transition it is possible to use classification, labeling and packaging of substances and mixtures pursuant to both the new and previous CLP Regulations. The Directives 67/548/EEC and 1999/45/EC are repealed with effect from 1 June 2015. In relation to the CLP the following legal instruments of the European Union were published:

- Directive 2008/112/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 16 December 2008 amending Council Directives 76/768/EEC, 88/378/EEC, 1999/13/EC and Directives 2000/53/EC, 2002/96/EC and 2004/42/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council in order to adapt them to Regulation (EC) No 1272/2008 on classification, labelling and packaging of substances and mixtures. The Directive harmonises the legislation related to cosmetic products, toys, emissions of volatile organic compounds, vehicles after their lifetime and electronic waste in accordance the CLP Regulation and specifies obligation to harmonise relevant legal instruments in the member states by 1 June 2010.
- Regulation (EC) No 1336/2008 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 16 December 2008 amending Regulation (EC) No 648/2004 in order to adapt it to Regulation (EC) No 1272/2008 on classification, labelling and packaging of substances and mixtures, volume L 348 of 23 December 2008 harmonising the Regulation on detergents with the CLP Regulation.

The CLP and REACH Regulations have become major legal instruments to implement the 2001 Strategy for future EU chemical policy which are coherent with the objectives of sustainable development within the framework of environmentally management of toxic chemicals.

**Legislative arrangements of implementation of the chemical legislation in Slovakia:**

- Entering into force of the Act 405/2008 amending the Act 163/2001 on chemical substances and chemical preparations on 1 November 2008 created basic conditions for implementation of the REACH Regulation in Slovakia. This Acts has also amended the Act 217/2003 on conditions of introduction of biocide products on the market which has fully transposed the Directive 98/8/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 16 February 1998 concerning the introduction of biocide products on the market into the legislation of Slovakia (by specifying data needed to authorise biocide products in Article 4, paragraph 4, taking into account the protection of ownership of data). Competent authorities for REACH are:
  - a) Ministry of Economy of the Slovak Republic, responsible execution of state administration in production, import,

export and introduction on the market of substances, substances contained in preparations, products, introduction of detergents and biocide products, coordination of inspection activities and cooperation with the European Commission and ECHA, and

- b) Centre for chemical substances and preparations (CCHLP) as a state administration body with a position of a national body of Slovakia for the sector of introduction of substances, preparations, detergents and biocide products on the market, classification, labelling and keeping records on substances, international exchange of information concerning chemical substances, cooperation with the EC, ECHA, EU member states and OECD bodies in assessing their risks. Ensuring the tasks of a national assistance centre for providing advisory services to entrepreneurs concerning their responsibilities and duties resulted from the REACH Regulation, mainly as regards the registration of substances. The activity of the CCHLP assistance centre is coordinated within the ECHA communication network.
- The Act 163/2001 on chemical substances and chemical preparations deals with import and export of selected hazardous preparations in accordance with the Rotterdam Convention on the prior informed consent (PIC) procedure for certain hazardous chemicals and pesticides in international trade. A consent for import of selected hazardous chemical substances and selected hazardous preparations, which are subject to the PIC procedure, is provided by the Ministry of Economy of the Slovak Republic after comments provided by the Ministry of Health of the Slovak Republic, Ministry of the Environment of the Slovak Republic and Ministry of Agriculture of the Slovak Republic. The Ministry of Economy keeps records on consents provided.

Specific legal instruments and international conventions on transport of hazardous items (ADR, RID) are in force for international movement of poisonous and hazardous preparations, which is subject to approval by the Ministry of Transport, Posts and Telecommunications of the Slovak Republic.

Fulfilment of the commitment from the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation (point 22c) concerning the introduction of a new global harmonised system of classification and labelling of chemicals and its implementation by 2008 is fully supported by Slovakia which is also demonstrated in Slovak positions to the draft Regulation of the European Parliament of the Council submitted by the Commission to the legislative co-decision procedure in June 2007.

In relation to the legal acts of the European Union in the area of manipulation with hazardous substances Slovakia adopted three approximation regulations which entered into force on 1 June 2006.

Requirements for protection of health and safety of employees against risks related to exposition to chemical factors at work and to prevention of these risks are laid down in the Regulation of the Government 355/2006 on protection of employees against risks related to exposure to chemical factors as amended by the Government Regulation 300/2007. Requirements for protection of health and safety of employees against risks related to exposition to carcinogenic and mutagenic factors at work and to prevention of these risks are laid down in the Regulation of the Government 356/2006 as amended by the Government Regulation 301/2007. The third approximation regulation of the Slovak Government 253/2006 deals with protection of health and safety of employees against risks of asbestos or asbestos containing materials and prevention of these risks. These regulations adopted the Directive of the Council 98/24/EC, Directive of the Commission 2000/39/EC, 91/322/EEC, 2006/15/EC, Directive of the European Parliament and the Council 2004/37/EC, the Council Directive 83/477/EEC, 91/382/EEC and the Directive of the European Council and the Council 2003/18/EC.

The global issue of public health protection in Slovakia is tackled by the Act 355/2007 on protection, support and development of public health and amending some other Acts with effect from 1 September 2007. The Act defines rights and obligations of natural and legal persons in the area of health protection.

Regional Public Health Offices in regional centres in accordance with article 6, paragraph 6b and article 15, paragraph 3, of the Act 355/2007 establish commissions to test capabilities for the work with very poisonous substances and preparations and with poisonous substances and preparations, issue certificates on capabilities and run a register of authorised persons to work with very poisonous substances and preparations.

Article 16 of the Act 355/2007 specifies conditions for being authorised to work with very poisonous substances and preparations and with poisonous substances and preparations with regard to:

- content of application for verification of capabilities,
- education,
- duration of practice to get authorisation for trading or the use of very poisonous substances and preparations and poisonous substances and preparations,
- obligation to pass / not to pass a test at the commission,
- harmonisation of conditions with EU member states.

Article 52, paragraph 3, of the Act 355/2007 lays down conditions – prohibitions for natural persons-entrepreneurs and legal entities who trade in or manipulate with very poisonous substances and preparations and with poisonous substances and preparations.

In order to ensure a unified procedure of Regional Public Health Offices the Public Health Office of the Slovak Republic has prepared a draft methodological guidelines for verification of capabilities to work with very poisonous substances and

preparations and with poisonous substances and preparations, with desinfectious preparations for professional use, with preparations for regulation of animal pests for professional use and in issuing certificates on expert capabilities for citizens of the Slovak Republic carrying out these activities on the territory of the Slovak Republic.

The Toxicological Information Centre (established in 1968) at the Occupational Medicine and Toxicology Department of the Dérer Hospital in Bratislava) has a status of a National Toxicological Information Centre (NTIC). NTIC is a member of the European Association of Toxicological Panel and Clinical Toxicologists (EAPCCT) at WHO and since 1992 it has cooperated with the International Programme for Chemical Safety at WHO. For the purposes of quality and comprehensive solution of issues of illegal transportation of hazardous substances in Slovakia in accordance with the requirements and recommendations of IFCS and SAICM the members of the cross-sectoral working group agreed on 10 November 2006 to involve in membership a national contact person for the Stockholm Convention, Montreal Convention, SAICM, a representative of the Association of Chemical and Pharmaceutical Industry in Slovakia, the Slovak Trade Inspection and the Police.

**Environmental proper management of poisonous chemical substances, including elimination of illegal transportation of poisonous and hazardous substances.**

An amendment to the Act 163/2001 on chemical substances and chemical preparations has reassessed and modified the competence of the Ministry of the Environment of the Slovak Republic due to adoption of the Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council 1907/2006 on REACH. The Act laid down tasks for the Slovak Environment Agency (a professional organisation working under the responsibility of the Ministry of the Environment) which has been authorised to carry out some responsibilities of the Ministry of the Environment in the area of REACH. Concrete tasks have been defined for the Slovak Environment Inspection in the area of inspection and control of implementation of this Act.

Principles of Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM) and REACH are oriented to chemical policy and chemical safety. SAICM supports the outputs from the REACH Regulation in a free movement of chemicals which ceased to fulfil their substantial role within their protection. Deep inspection of all used chemicals and their alternatives will be very important in order to minimise major adverse effects on human health and the environment within the REACH system. The Ministry of the Environment of the Slovak Republic is a focal point for SAICM.

### Cross-Sectoral Issues

**1. Decision-Making Structure:**

The NR SR and the Slovak Government are the resulting decisive bodies. MH SR and the Centre for Chemical Substances and Preparations are the bodies responsible for this area. MZ SR, MŽP SR and other central state administration authorities are the cooperating bodies.

**2. Capacity-Building/Technology Issues:**

MH SR (Ministry of Economy) – execution of state administration in introduction of chemical substances and biocide products on the market

MŽP SR (Ministry of the Environment) – cooperation

MZ SR (Ministry of Health) – legislation in the area of poisonous chemical factors

**3. Major Groups:**

The NR SR, the Slovak Government, sectors

**4. Finance:**

State budget of the Slovak Republic

**5. Regional/International Cooperation:**

EU, OECD, Council of Europe, WHO, IPCS, UN, ILO, UNEP, IRPTC, UNITAR, IFCS, IOMC, FAO, UNIDO

**AGENDA 21 CHAPTER 20: ENVIRONMENTALLY SOUND MANAGEMENT OF HAZARDOUS WASTES, INCLUDING PREVENTION OF ILLEGAL INTERNATIONAL TRAFFIC IN HAZARDOUS WASTES**

**Responsibility: MŽP SR**

**NATIONAL PRIORITY:**

**STATUS REPORT:**

**The Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal**

*Parties shall cooperate to disseminate information on transboundary movement of hazardous wastes. Parties shall cooperate to promote environmentally sound low-waste technologies, to transfer technology and cooperate in developing codes of practice. Parties to assist developing countries.*

*Parties shall immediately inform affected parties as to accidents. Prior to the end of each calendar year, parties shall provide the following information on the preceding calendar year: (a) the authorities handling Convention matters; (b) information regarding the transboundary movement of hazardous wastes; (c) measures adopted to implement convention; (d) available statistics on human health and environmental effects of generation, transport and disposal of hazardous wastes; (e) information on agreements entered into; (f) information on accidents; (g) information on disposal options; and (h) information on development of waste-reduction technologies;*

The National Council of the Slovak Republic agreed with accession of the Slovak Republic to the Amendment to the Convention adopted at the third conference of the parties on ban of export of hazardous wastes from member states to non-member states of OECD in 1998. At the fourth conference of the parties in 1998 new amendments to the Convention were adopted. In 1998 the Slovak Government decided to adopt the new amendment without reservations and the amendment entered into force on 6 November 1998.

- Basel Convention [√] signed in 1989 [√] ratified in 1993
- The latest information according to the Articles 13 and 16 of the Basel Convention was submitted to the Secretariat for 2003.

**Additional comments relevant to this chapter**

In 1997 Regional Training Centre for Implementation of the Basel Convention for Central and Eastern Europe was opened in Slovakia, which is to support the implementation of principles of the Basel Convention in parties and to acquire new parties. A Plan of activities of the Regional Centre for was worked out. There were consultations between Slovakia and the Basel Convention Secretariat on signing the Agreement between the Slovak Republic and the Basel Convention Secretariat on behalf of the Conference of Parties of the Basel Convention for training and technology transfer for the Central Europe. The agreement laid down basic rules and activities of the Centre.

Lands contaminated by hazardous wastes is one of sustainable development indicators. Contaminated soils is a sign of unsustainable development. Reducing area of contaminated soil is a sign of a trend towards sustainable development, i.e. decreasing risk from effects of hazardous substances on human health and the environment. This indicator can be used to evaluate the current situation in threatening the human health and the environment, evaluating the risks resulted from contaminated soil and in defining priorities in decontamination and remedial measures.

The document Strategy, principles and priorities of the state environmental policy was adopted by the Slovak Government Resolution 610 of 7 September 1993 and by the National Council of the Slovak Republic Resolution 339 of 18 November 1993.

In accordance with the state environmental policy the environmental protection is an integral part of an overall development of the society. Its main tasks is to prevent the major causes of environmental damages and remove existing causes and adverse consequences.

The section "Orientation, principles, priorities and objectives of the state environmental policy" proposes *revitalisation of disturbed environment* (especially removal of strong and extreme environmental damages, areas threatening human health, elimination of worsening in other areas) and *creation and implementation of revitalisation programmes and projects* in extremely damaged territories and *assessment of environmental carrying capacity*.

The sector F of this document points out at the necessity to decontaminate the most polluted soils and reduction of soil and forest contamination to acceptable level, minimisation of chemicals use, introduction of biotechnologies and alternative way of agricultural soil use, reduction of amount of carcinogenic and other harmful substances, especially in protected zones of natural curative water sources and mineral water sources.

In relation to the document Strategy, principles and priorities of the state environmental policy the Government adopted a **National environmental action programme II (NEAP II)** by its Resolution 1112/1999 for the 1999-2003 period. The draft **NEAP III** has been worked out for the 200-2007-2010 period. It continues in the achievement of the environmental policy and in the new environmental situation in the world, Europe and Slovakia. The accent is put to update of priorities, objectives,

measures, sources to remove trans-regional, the most important regional sources of environmental pollution and other major environmental problems. The Ministry of the Environment has an ambition to submit the NEAP III to the Government in 2009. Time horizons for measures are specified for 2010, 2012 and after 2012.

The draft document is within solution of environmental problems oriented to the following priorities:

1. Elimination of environmental contamination by mineralised mining water and by waste pile leakage with toxic substances,
2. Minimisation and gradual elimination of threatening and polluting the environment with contaminated areas due to industrial and agricultural production,
3. Ensuring the facilities and structures against leakage of hazardous and health threatening substances.

Objectives to achieve these priorities:

Objective 1: Creation of a system of assessment of environmental burden on the environment and methods of their liquidation,

Objective 2: Reducing the environmental damage caused by environmental burdens,

Objective 3: Laying down limits to liquidation of old mining works and their undesirable environmental impacts in particular mining regions of Slovakia,

Objective 4: Liquidation of notified impacts of old mining works on the environment

Meeting the above mentioned objectives will be carried out by activities aimed at:

- A. Improving the environmental burden management in Slovakia
- B. Implementing a research, risk analyses and monitoring of environmental burdens
- C. Recultivation of environmental burdens

Schedule of planned activities:

Period	2008	by 2010	2010 - 2012	After 2012
Activities to solve EB	Implemented	Planned		
		Improvement of EB management in Slovakia	Research and monitoring of EB	EB recultivation
Programme measures	Draft Act on EB and implementing instruments	Adoption of Act on EB, implementing instruments and methodological procedures	Research in the most risky EB	Recultivation of the most risky EB sites
	Inventory of EB in Slovakia	Adoption of a state programme of recultivation	Research of the most probable EB	Recultivation of sites affected by former Soviet Army activities
	EB information system	To work out an Atlas of recultivation methods	Analysis of risks on natural locations of EB	Monitoring of recultivation works
			Monitoring of the most risky EB locations	

EB – environmental burdens

### Cross-Sectoral Issues

#### 1. Decision-Making Structure:

The Slovak Government and the NR SR are the resulting decisive bodies. MŽP SR is the body responsible for this area. Other cooperating bodies are MH SR, MP SR, MZ SR.

#### 2. Capacity-Building/Technology Issues:

MŽP SR - wastes, legislative framework

MP SR, MH SR - waste management (as the largest producers)

MZ SR - health and hygienic aspects

**3. Major Groups:**

The NR SR, the Slovak Government, sectors, Custom Directorate

**4. Finance:**

State Fund for the Environment, state budget of the Slovak Republic, special state funds, budget of municipalities and self-governmental regions, non-governmental organisations

**5. Regional/International Cooperation:**

RŠS, UN, EU, OECD, PHARE, UNEP, the Government of Switzerland

**STATISTICAL DATA/INDICATORS**

	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Generation of hazardous waste (in mill t)	2.1	1.5	1.4	1.3	1.6	1.66	1.4	1.3	1.02	0.7	0.7	0.5
Generation of hazardous waste (in mill t)	1 040	-	-	450	-	-	1 200	*** 10 800	4300	2400	2390	500.24
Export of hazardous wastes (t)**	13 557	15 856	6 309	7 735	8 827	7 718	3 039	3 441	3969	10 140	9900	5174

\* The first complex review of wastes on the territory of the Slovak Republic was prepared as late as 1993, the next one in 1996 for the years 1992 and 1995.

\*\* Amount of waste for which license was issued.

\*\*\*Data include also amount of wastes from return-import.

## AGENDA 21 CHAPTER 21: ENVIRONMENTALLY SOUND MANAGEMENT OF SOLID WASTES AND SEWAGE-RELATED ISSUES

Responsibility: MŽP SR

### NATIONAL PRIORITY:

#### STATUS REPORT:

Legislative regulations in force in the area of waste management in the Slovak Republic generally deals with management of all kinds of wastes in order to provide a state control in this area. Watching the changes and trends in waste management is assured through the Regional Information System which provides information relating to the whole territory since 1996. Issue of waste management with the aim of minimisation, rational use and proper liquidation of wastes is worked out in a conception document "Programme of Waste Management of the Slovak Republic for 2006 – 2010 period".

In 2007, total amount of 84,588.95 tonnes of wastes was disposed by incineration. 161,752.17 tonnes of wastes were used for energy purposes. In 2007, 5 incineration plants for industrial wastes were in operation, 6 incineration plants for medical waste and 4 plants for co-incineration and 1 facility is for incineration of carcass fat. Municipal waste is incinerated in two large-scale incinerators – in Bratislava and in Košice, while they both use produced energy as heat source. The incinerator in Bratislava has been re-constructed (2003) and complies with emission limits.

4,269,207.25 tonnes of all wastes were disposed at landfills in 2006.

At the end of 2007, totally 151 landfills were operated in Slovakia, of that:

- 15 landfills for inert waste
- 123 landfills for non-hazardous waste
- 13 landfills for hazardous waste

Ministry of the Environment of the Slovak Republic deals with waste management first of all in accordance with the Act 223/2001 on wastes and implementing legal instruments. Major progress has been made in this area. All sectoral units of the Ministry of the Environment deals with waste management in accordance with the legislation in force in the waste management, i.e. proper collection, separation and disposal by an authorised company. A proper waste management system requires a good cooperation with state administration authorities, self-governments as well as waste management companies dealing with collection, use or disposal of wastes. A special attention has been made to facilities containing PCB where a detailed inventory has been made and their decontamination or disposal is carried out in accordance with relevant provisions of the Act 223/2001 on wastes.

In 2008, a new Act 514/2008 on management of wastes from mining industry was adopted entering into force since 15 December 2008. An objective of this new Act is to adopt a set of measures eliminating a negative impact of mining activities on human health and the environment and measures eliminating major accidents in waste management.

Introduction of a new legislation is to contribute to the use of mining waste, reduction of waste intended for disposal and to safe waste disposal. The draft Act shall have an impact on the business sector in the area of extraction of mineral resources, especially on legal entities which operate waste disposal sites.

The Ministry of the Environment realises the necessity of a responsible approach to environmental protection and this approach is carried out by fulfilling the tasks of the state environmental policy according to the Concept of environmental protection within the Ministry of the Environment of the Slovak Republic. Generally, the environmental infrastructure within the sector of the Ministry of the Environment does not correspond in all areas to current environmental requirements and therefore it will be necessary to require investments for renewal, reconstruction and completion. In the light of the above mentioned it is possible to say that in the area of air and ozone layer protection the situation is improving especially due to adoption of measures aimed at upgrading of heat-energy system. Most of shortages in environmental protection can be found in the area of water and soil management. The current adverse situation has been caused by obsolete existing technologies of water works which currently do not correspond to requirements of best available technologies. Gradual reconstruction or completion of missing infrastructure in water management and reconstruction of fuel stores requires considerable financial resources and therefore meeting the objectives in this area is limited. Waste management is at better level from the point of view of administration and organisation. Management of wastes is fully in accordance with the waste management legislation.

### Cross-Sectoral Issues

#### 1. Decision-Making Structure:

The NR SR and the Slovak Government are the resulting decisive bodies. MŽP SR is the body responsible for this area. Other cooperating bodies are MH SR, MP SR, MZ SR.

#### 2. Capacity-Building/Technology Issues:

MŽP SR - wastes, legislative framework

MP SR, MH SR - waste management (as the largest producers)

MZ SR - health and hygienic aspects

#### 3. Major Groups:

The NR SR, the Slovak Government, sectors, Custom Directorate

#### 4. Finance:

State budget of the Slovak Republic, PHARE, ISPA

#### 5. Regional/International Cooperation:

EU, OECD, PHARE

### STATISTICAL DATA/INDICATORS

	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Generation of industrial and municipal waste (million t)	5.11	4.00	8.52	8.75	8.12	12.16	7.43	7.61	9.15	10.9
Waste disposed(Kg/capita)	457	424	717	688	611	613	849	537	1047	309
Expenditure on waste collection and treatment (thousands US\$) <sup>3)</sup>	701 136	706 860	779274	850 824	2072 466	2234 682	2 892 800 <sup>4)</sup>			
Waste recycling rates (%)	54.1	58	52.9	51.2	52.7	62.3	27 <sup>5)</sup>	44	39	32

The first conceptual waste balance on the Slovak territory was worked out in 1993, next one in 1993, further then in 1996 for years of 1992, resp. 1995.

Data for industrial waste represents an amount of waste generated in industry. Source: Ministry of the Environment – state of the environment reports

2) Data for industrial wastes from the Statistical Office, source Statistical Office – publication Wastes in the Slovak Republic in 1997

3) Data expressed in thousands SKK (Slovak crown) represent a sum of costs of municipality in municipal waste management and costs of municipality for introduction of separate municipal waste collection, Source: Statistical Office – publications “Wastes in Slovakia”

4) Data from the Statistical Office

5) Data calculated from total amount of wastes put on the market. i.e. wastes which were disposed out of the own capacities of producers.

## AGENDA 21 CHAPTER 22: SAFE AND ENVIRONMENTALLY SOUND MANAGEMENT OF RADIOACTIVE WASTES

Responsibility: MH SR, ÚJD SR

<p><b>NATIONAL PRIORITY:</b></p>	<p><b>STATUS REPORT:</b></p> <p>Safe and environmentally sound management of radioactive wastes is legally assured by compliance with rules set by the act <u>541/2004 on peaceful utilisation of nuclear energy (Atomic Act)</u> and by two regulations which have been amended. The first one is the regulation dealing with details on management of radioactive wastes and burnt nuclear fuel and the second one is the regulation dealing with transport of radioactive substances. Legislative support is represented by the <u>Act 238/2006 on the State fund for liquidation of nuclear power facilities and management of used fuel and radioactive wastes, the Act on human health protection, the Act on environmental impact assessment</u>. A Strategy of final part of nuclear energy (approved by the Resolution of the Government 328 of 21 May 2008) is a strategic document in this area. The strategy is in force for the period of five years and will be updated each five years in accordance with the Act 238/2006.</p> <p>The Office for Nuclear Control of the Slovak Republic within its competence set by relevant legislation controls collection, separation, storage, processing, treatment and disposal of radioactive wastes from nuclear facilities. Together with supervisory authorities Ministry of Health controls management of institutionalised radioactive wastes, release of low-radioactive substances into the environment and recycling of materials containing radioactive substances. Safety of facilities and technological processes is assessed within license process for the nuclear facilities consisting of five steps – localisation, construction, putting into operation and operation, decommissioning and excluding from the Act effect. Recommendations of the International Atomic Energy Agency, OECD/NEA documents of EC or approaches of the US NRC are applied in working out and assessing the safety situation.</p> <p>In 2008, the operation of the Bohunice Centre for radioactive waste processing continued as well as operation of the surface deposit of processed low- and middle-radioactive wastes. Establishing a Centre for processing of liquid radioactive wastes from the nuclear power plant Mochovce was completed.</p> <p>The tasks connected to development of a deep deposit continue according to the Strategy of the final part of nuclear energy approved by the Government Resolution 328/2008.</p> <p>All solutions of radioactive waste management are in accordance with requirements of IAEA.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Cross-Sectoral Issues</b></p> <p><b>1. Decision-Making Structure:</b></p> <p>The NR SR and the Slovak Government are the resulting decisive body. MH SR and ÚJD SR are the bodies responsible for this area. The cooperating bodies are MZ SR, MV SR, MDPT SR, National Labour Inspection..</p> <p><b>2. Capacity-Building/Technology Issues:</b></p> <p>MH SR - management of radioactive wastes, financing  MZ SR - Radiation protection, institutional radioactive wastes  MŽP SR - participation in licensing process  MV SR - physical protection  MDPT SR - transport  ÚJD SR - execution of state control over nuclear safety in peace use of nuclear power  UVZ SR (Office for Public Health) – radiation protection</p> <p><b>3. Major Groups:</b></p> <p>The NR SR, the Government of the Slovak Republic, sectors, state enterprises, joint-stock companies, affected municipalities, civic associations</p> <p><b>4. Finance:</b></p> <p>State budget of the Slovak Republic, State fund for liquidation of nuclear power facilities and management of burnt nuclear fuel and radioactive wastes, internal sources, PHARE</p> <p><b>5. Regional/International Cooperation:</b></p> <p>Research institutes, SAV, universities, EU, OECD, IAEA, IEA, Council of Europe, WHO, international banks</p>	

## STATISTICAL DATA/INDICATORS

Radioactive waste (in tonnes)

Year	volume	used	stored	disposed
2001	465	0	80	690
2002	560	0	0	795
2003	585	0,8	90	1 440
2004	504	116	85	1 304
2005	545	0	380	950
2006	499	0	310	1 390
2007	500	0	400	600
2008	486	125	370	1 410

## AGENDA 21 CHAPTERS 23-32: MAJOR GROUPS

Responsibility: MPSVR SR, MŠ SR, KÚ, MH SR, MP SR

The role of major groups are also covered under the various chapters of Agenda 21. The following is a summary of main objectives outlined in Agenda 21. Please check the appropriate boxes and describe briefly any important steps or obstacles.

**STATUS REPORT ON PARTICIPATION BY MAJOR GROUPS AT THE NATIONAL AND LOCAL LEVELS**

**Ch. 24: GLOBAL ACTION FOR WOMEN TOWARDS SUSTAINABLE AND EQUITABLE DEVELOPMENT. The Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women was**

signed in 1982                       ratified in 1982, succession after CSFR in 1993

**24.b** assessing, reviewing, revising and implementing curricula and other educational material with a view to promoting dissemination of gender-relevant knowledge.

Curricula and educational material

already promote gender relevant knowledge                       is being revised                       no action yet

**24.c** formulating and implementing policies, guidelines, strategies and plans for achievement of equality in all aspects of society including issuing a strategy by year 2000 to eliminate obstacles to full participation of women in sustainable development. Policies/strategies etc. have been

Conception of the state family policy, Gender conception

drawn up/ completed                       are being drawn up                       will be in place by 2000                       no plans at present

**24.d** establishing mechanisms by 1996 to assess implementation and impact of development and environment policies and programmes on women

Mechanisms are in place                       Mechanisms are being developed                       No plans at present

**Brief comments on this chapter:**

National institutional mechanism for gender issues in Slovakia is created by:

Permanent Commission for gender issues and equal opportunities of the Committee of the National Council of the Slovak Republic for social affairs and housing, Government Council for gender issues, Department of gender issues and antidiscrimination at the Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family, ombudsman, ombudsman, Slovak national centre for human rights and the Commission for gender issues at the Trade Union Confederation.

Basic documents of the Slovak Government in the area of women interests and gender issues are:

Gender Conception, National strategy to prevent and eliminate violence on women in families, National action plan to prevent and eliminate violence on women, Measures to harmonise family and working life, National Action Plan for women expired in 2007.

The Gender Concept defines roles of the state and other stakeholders in areas where the discrimination is demonstrated in the largest extent and defines 31 measures and recommendations for implementation with participation of non-state stakeholders.

The National strategy to prevent and eliminate violence on women in families was approved in 2004. The Strategy is a framework for starting effective processes in the area of prevention and elimination of violence on women in families.

National action plan to prevent and eliminate violence on women for the 2005-2008 period, approved by the Government in 2005, has been updated for the 2009-2012 period.

Another strategic material with perspective till 2010 are the Measures to harmonise family and working life intended to facilitate to increase employment in labour market.

The Slovak Government initiated support measures to harmonise family and working life, such as the project "Family Friendly Employer" which has been implemented since 2000 in cooperation with the Institute for Research of Labour and Family. Number of participating employers applying pro-family and pro-gender measures and are example gender and family friendly approaches. A PHARE twinning project with France and Germany "Strengthening administrative capacities in gender mainstreaming" was implemented and focal points were established at individual ministries for gender mainstreaming.

The Slovak Government in its Programme Declaration supported gender equality and the strengthening of institutional

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mechanism. A Government Council for Gender Issues was established on 1 January 2008, roles of secretariat are fulfilled by the department for gender issues and equal opportunities. The Council has an executive and consulting committees.

Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family coordinates a horizontal priority of equal opportunities for the 2007 – 2013 programming period. A support centre for the horizontal priority of equal opportunities has been established in the framework of the department for gender issues and equal opportunities.

Ministry of Agriculture contributes to the FAO Action Programme through a number of international activities assisting the activities of women in rural areas. Slovakia also on the international scene in relation to cooperation within the UN. Gender equality is met also within all activities of PRV SR 2007-2013 as a horizontal priority which belongs to the basic principles and objectives of the structural funds and the Cohesion Fund.

**Ch. 25: CHILDREN AND YOUTH IN SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT.**

**Gross share of students who after completing elementary school continue to study at a secondary school:**

year 2006: **102.56 %**

year 2007: **102.38%**

year 2008: **103.23%**

Explanation:

Due to the fact that the obligatory school attendance is ten years and the elementary school takes 9 years, practically each student after completing the elementary school continues to study at a secondary school. As the current statistics include in the number of newly adopted students in the first course of secondary schools also students, who in previous year attended the secondary school, but due to any reasons left it and were adopted in another secondary school in a given year, the share of newly adopted students in the first course in the total number of students, who in previous year completed the school attendance in an elementary school, is higher than 100%.

School year	Number of newly adopted students in the first course of secondary schools <sup>1,2</sup>	Number of students who in previous year completed school attendance in the 9th course of elementary schools <sup>2</sup>	Gross share of students who after completing school attendance in the 9th course of elementary school continued in study at secondary school
2006/07	65 965	63 532	103.83%
2007/08	61 011	59 591	102.38%
2008/09	60 093	58 215	103.23%

Notes:

<sup>1</sup> Only newly adopted for daily study, except for newly adopted for the first course of post-graduate or higher education.

<sup>2</sup> Except for students who were transferred to a special school

**The share of students who after graduating from the secondary school continue in study at a university**

year 2006: 52.40 %

year 2007: 53.40% (61.54% when external study is included)

year 2008: 55.29% (63.84% when external study is included)

Reasoning:

School year	Number of newly adopted students into the 1st course of day-time form of study at universities directly from schools <sup>1</sup>	Number of graduates in previous school year <sup>2</sup>	Share of graduates who continued in study at university
2006/07	31 353	59 831	52.40%

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2007/08	31 117	58 273	53.40%
2008/09	31 006	56 082	55.29%

Notes

<sup>1</sup> School years 2006/2007 and 2007/2008 only public and private schools.

<sup>2</sup> Graduates from day-time study, including graduates from higher-level secondary study; the number of graduates does not include graduates from special schools, secondary schools under responsibility of the Ministry of Defence, secondary schools under the Ministry of Interior and secondary schools under responsibility of the Ministry of Justice.

**Relative change of school-age population**

(population of 6 – 15 years of age)

1998-2008 period: -3.22%

2005-2008 period: -3.93%

Reasoning:

Year	Number of inhabitants in school age <sup>1</sup>	Annual decrease (-) / increase (+)	
		abs.	v %
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	607 677	-26 513	-4,18
2008	584 327	-23 359	-3,84

Geometrical average of changes in 1999 – 2008	-3,22
Geometrical average of changes in 2005 – 2008	-3,93

Note:

<sup>1</sup> Population in age of 6 – 15 years (as of 31 December of given year); data for 2008 are preliminary (= number of inhabitants in age of 5 – 14 as of 31 December 2006). Data re-calculated based on definitive results of the Statistical Office (of 31 December) according to age unit of the 1998 – 2007 period.

**Gross percentage of population enrolled in elementary schools:**

year 2006: 99.67%

year 2007: 99.72%

year 2008: 99.25

Explanation:

In Slovakia there is 9-year primary school attendance. Usually, children who are 6 years old by 31 August of a given year start to study in the first course of primary school.

Derivation:

Year	Number of inhabitants of typical age <sup>1</sup>	Number of students <sup>2</sup>	Share of students in inhabitants of typical age
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			(in %)
2006	556 847	555 010	99.67
2007	533 830	532 358	99.72
2008	512 081	508 223	99.25

Notes:

<sup>1</sup> Number of inhabitants in age of 6 – 14 (31 December of a given year); data for 2008 are preliminary (=number of inhabitants in age of 5 – 13 on 31 December 2007). Data are recalculated from definitive results of the Statistical Office on final state (31 December) of Slovak inhabitants according to age units for 2006 - 2007.

<sup>2</sup> Including students of special schools of primary schools and special classes, students of the 1st to 4th classes of 8-year high schools and 8-year dancing conservatory, students of 1st to 2nd classes of 6-year study at high schools and students of the 1st classes of 5-year study at high schools.

**Net percentage of population enrolled in primary schools**

year 2006: **93.30 %**

year 2007: **93.23 %**

year 2008: **92.73%**

Explanation:

Taking into account the fact that attendance of primary schools is obligatory in Slovakia, almost all children attend a primary school (6 – 14 years of age). Difference to 100 % is created by children who achieved the age of 6 year in the period from 1 September to 31 December and children with postponed school attendance.

Derivation:

Year	Number of inhabitants in age 6 – 14 years <sup>1</sup>	Number of students in age of 6 – 14 years <sup>2</sup>	Share of students of primary schools in total number of inhabitants in age of 6 – 14 years (v %)
2006	556 847	519 565	93.30
2007	533 830	497 702	93.23
2008	512 081	474 854	92.73

Notes:

<sup>1</sup> Situation on 31 December of a given year; for 2008 are preliminary (=number of inhabitants in age of 5 – 13 on 31 December 2007). Data are recalculated from definitive results of the Statistical Office on final state (31 December) of Slovak inhabitants according to age units for 2006 - 2007.

<sup>2</sup> Including students of special schools of primary schools and special classes, students of the 1st to 4th classes of 8-year high schools and 8-year dancing conservatory, students of 1st to 2nd classes of 6-year study at high schools and students of the 1st classes of 5-year study at high schools.

**Gross percentage of population enrolled in secondary schools**

year 2006: **92.29 %**

year 2007: **91.86 %**

year 2008: **93.99%**

Explanation:

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A student in Slovakia usually start to attend secondary schools after completing the 9<sup>th</sup> class of elementary school, i.e. in the age of 15 years. Study at secondary school lasts 2 to 5 years, usually 4 years.

Derivation:

Year	Number of inhabitants of typical age <sup>1</sup>	Number of students <sup>2</sup>	Share of students in inhabitants of typical age (in %)
2006	317 086	292 635	92.29
2007	308 986	283 893	91.86
2008	302 203	284 036	93.99

Notes:

<sup>1</sup> Number of inhabitants in age of 15 – 18 (31 December of a given year); data for 2008 are preliminary (=number of inhabitants in age of 14 - 17 on 31 December 2007). Data are recalculated from definitive results of the Statistical Office on final state (31 December) of Slovak inhabitants according to age units for 2006 - 2007.

<sup>2</sup> Only day-time study. The data include students of special secondary schools, secondary vocational schools and practice schools. Data do not include students of higher vocational education and post-graduate study, students of the 1st to 4th classes of 8-year high schools and 8-year dancing conservatory, students of 1st to 2nd classes of 6-year study at high schools and students of the 1st classes of 5-year study at high schools and students of secondary schools in the responsibility of the Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Defence and Ministry of Justice.

**Net percentage of population enrolled in secondary schools**

year 2006: 79.26 %  
year 2007: 78.85 %  
year 2008: 78.69%

Derivation:

Year	Number of inhabitants in age of 15 – 18 years <sup>1</sup>	Number of students of secondary schools in age of 15 – 18 years <sup>2</sup>	Share of students of secondary schools in total number of inhabitants in age of 15 – 18 years (in %)
2006	317 086	251 338	79.26
2007	309 062	243 638	78.83
2008	302 203	237 818	78.69

Notes:

<sup>1</sup> Data as of 31 December of a given year; data for 2008 are preliminary (=number of inhabitants in age of 14 - 17 on 31 December 2007). Data are recalculated from definitive results of the Statistical Office on final state (31 December) of Slovak inhabitants according to age units for 2006 - 2007.

<sup>2</sup> Only day-time study. The data include students of special secondary schools, secondary vocational schools and practice schools. Data do not include students of higher vocational education and post-graduate study, students of the 1st to 4th classes of 8-year high schools and 8-year dancing conservatory, students of 1st to 2nd classes of 6-year study at high schools and students of the 1st classes of 5-year study at high schools and students of secondary schools in the responsibility of the Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Defence and Ministry of Justice.

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**Relative literacy of adult population**

year 2001: 99.64 %

Explanation:

School education of Slovak inhabitants is monitored during censuses which are carried out more or less regularly each ten years. The percentage provided is recalculated from results of the last census of 26 May 2001.

Derivation:

Number of 15-year and older population <sup>1</sup>	Of that Without school education <sup>1</sup>	Share of 15-year and older literate population (in %)
4 363 962	15 529	99.64

Note:

<sup>1</sup> Including population without age indicated.

**Children who achieved the 5th class of primary school**

Share of students who complete the obligatory school attendance earlier than in the 4<sup>th</sup> class is minimal. Almost each child achieves minimally the 5<sup>th</sup> class of primary education and receives basic level of literacy.

**Expected length of school attendance**

year 2004: 15.7

year 2005: 16.0

year 2006: 16.2

Source:

Education at a Glance, OECD, 2006, 2007 and 2008.

Explanation:

Total length of school attendance depends on the highest achieved education:

- minimum 10 year (obligatory school attendance),
- in case of completion of secondary school with complete secondary education 12-14 years, without complete secondary education 12 years
- in case of completion of university education of the 1st and 2nd levels 17-19 years.

After completion of obligatory school attendance a student can continue in higher level of education according to their own interests and capacities based on knowledge tests.

**Difference between numbers of boys and girls enrolled in schools (primary and secondary)**

year 2006: 1.48 point

year 2007: 1.40 point

year 2008: 1.46 point

Derivation:

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Year	Number of students of primary and secondary schools together <sup>1</sup>	Of that		Share (%) in total number of students of primary and secondary schools		Difference between the shares of boys and girls (in % points)
		boys	girls	boys	girls	
2006	823 035	417 614	405 421	50.74	49.26	1.48
2007	788 410	399 704	388 706	50.70	49.30	1.40
2008	763 456	387 330	376 126	50.73	49.27	1.46

Note:

<sup>1</sup> Only day-time study. Data do not include students of special schools and special classes, schools at special educational facilities, schools in the responsibility of the Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Defence and Ministry of Justice.

**Average length of school attendance**

year 2004: 15.7

year 2005: 16.0

year 2006: 16.2

Source:

Education at a Glance, OECD, 2006, 2007 and 2008.

**Ch. 26: RECOGNIZING AND STRENGTHENING THE ROLE OF INDIGENOUS PEOPLE AND THEIR COMMUNITIES.**

Public participation in decision-making processes is ensured on the level of state administration execution in the area of

- environmental impact assessment (the Act 24/2006 on environmental impact assessment),
- nature and landscape protection – since 2003 the Act 543/2002 on nature and landscape protection has assigned the non-governmental organisations and civic associations a position of administrative proceeding stakeholder. The 2007 amendment to this Act (by the Act 454/2007) modified the position of non-governmental organisation from administrative proceeding stakeholder to a participating person.

All activities and constructions which are likely to have a significant environmental impact or impact on health and quality of life have to be subject of environmental impact assessment before permitting such an activity of construction (EIA process) in accordance with the Act 24/2006 on environmental impact assessment (EIA Act).

The whole assessment process starts by submitting a preliminary study to a competent body by a proponent. The preliminary study shall contain basic data on a proposed activity (construction or operation), variants and expected environmental impacts. The public can submit comments to the study. If such an activity is subject to screening there will be a decision whether or not to assess the activity further in accordance with the EIA Act. In the framework of scoping the competent body shall decide which variants have to be further worked out, which problems have to be addressed. Environmental impact statement shall contain a detailed analysis of environmental impacts and proposed measures to mitigate these impacts. The environmental impact statement is then subject to a public hearing in affected municipalities. An independent critical review shall evaluate completeness and accuracy of information provided by the report, comments provided and the entire assessment process. Based on such a review the competent body shall work out a final statement saying whether or not it recommends the development and defines the proposed variant.

A competent body in the EIA process is:

- Ministry of the Environment if the activity is subject to obligatory assessment
- Regional Environment Office if the activity is subject to screening and affects the territory of the region
- District Environment Office if the activity is subject to screening and affects the territory of a district

Criteria, whether the activity is subject to obligatory assessment or to screening are listed in the Annex 8 of the EIA Act.

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If a civic association or an ecological non-governmental organisation takes part in the environmental impact assessment process by submitting their comments or objections, they can affect the final impacts of an activity and become a permitting procedure stakeholder (e.g. building permission process in accordance with the Building Code).

The Act 543/2002 on nature and landscape protection and the Act 364/2004 on water have created a tool for active cooperation of inhabitants with the state environment authorities. The regional environment offices have an opportunity to establish to establish Nature Guards or Water Guards with involvement of citizens. These voluntaries become so a governmental officials assisting in inspection activities of public authorities. Number of members of Guards is updated annually and is usually increasing.

**26.3.a** establishing a process to empower indigenous people and their communities -- through policies and legal instruments:  
 in place                       not in place

**26.3.b** strengthening arrangements for active participation in national policies

indigenous people participate fully in appropriate national processes                       indigenous people participate as advisors

indigenous people participate on an ad hoc basis                       indigenous people do not yet participate

not relevant

**26.3.c** involving indigenous people in resource management strategies and programmes at the national and local level.

indigenous people are fully involved                       mechanisms for involvement being discussed

no action yet

**Brief comments on this chapter (maximum 100 words) (please, do not exceed this page):**

It is untypical issue only with a possibility of free application. Citizens of the Slovak Republic are historically connected with their country and are descendants of the original people living on this territory within individual municipalities that actively participate in economic and social development of a given region. Participation is ensured e.g. through public hearings of conceptions and plans under preparation (EIA process, spatial plans), while civic associations and initiatives play a role of equal partners in decision-making process.

**Ch. 27: STRENGTHENING THE ROLE OF NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS: PARTNERS FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT.**

After the entering into force of the Act 454/2007 amending the Act 543/2002 on nature and landscape protection as amended, not only the Act 543/2002 was amended but also the Act 24/2006 on environmental impact assessment was subject to amendment in the area of public participation in decision-making. The role of non-governmental organisations in environmental protection is ensured by institutional instruments in a number of Acts, such as the amendment of the Act 543/2002 on nature and landscape protection allowing the non-governmental associations meeting the conditions laid down in the Act to become a participating person in the proceeding. There was a change after 1 December 2007 which means that non-governmental organisations are not a procedure stakeholder but only a participating person. Some non-governmental organisations after 1 December 2007 asked for extension of areas of activities about which they wish to be informed. There is still an active participation of a number of non-governmental organisations in decision-making of District and Regional Environment Offices. The number of these NGOs is still growing. Examples include: Forest protection association VLK, Slovak Ornithology Society/BirdLife Slovensko, Predator Protection in Slovakia, Chamois Protection organisation, Forest and Nature Protection Association, Sosna, SEKOS, Slovak Fisheries Union, For Nature civic association. The active cooperation (Nature Guards, Kvapka, Association of industry and nature protection, Daphne, Bratislava regional protection association, White Carpathians Euro-region, Ekosofia) is profiling also out of administrative procedures. There is a long tradition of cooperation in organising the Eastern Slovak camp of nature protectors together with the Slovak Association of Nature Protectors. In 2008, the 32<sup>nd</sup> camp was organised. There is a rich cooperation with nature protection non-governmental organisations in the Czech Republic, Poland, Hungary and Austria. The cooperation includes mainly educational programmes in the area of biodiversity conservation, protection of habitats protected by international agreements.

Non-governmental organisations are active in general protection of the environment. Members of these organisations inform

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the environment offices on violations of Acts in the areas of the environment, forestry and hunting.  
Non-governmental organisations cooperate in building the NATURA 2000 European network of protected sites.

**27.5** developing mechanisms that allow NGOs to play their partnership role responsibly and effectively.

**27.6** reviewing formal procedures and mechanisms to involve NGOs in decision making and implementation.

**27.7** establishing a mutually productive dialogue at the national level between NGOs and governments after 1997

**Brief comments on this chapter (maximum 100 words) (please, do not exceed this page):**

In order to meet the tasks of the points 27.5 and 27.6 there are framework legal instruments like the Act 34/2002 on foundations and amending the Civil Code as amended, the Act No. 147/1997 on non-investment funds and the act No. 213/1997 on non-governmental organisations are the framework legislative regulations for fulfilling the tasks under items 27.5 and 27.6. Opportunities are being created for active participation of non-governmental organisations in seeking the sustainable development. NGOs widely participate in influencing and enhancing the environmental awareness at local level. The dialogue between NGOs and the Government (item 27.7) in a concrete area is realised through environmental or umbrella organisations (Association of the Third Sector, Slovak Union of Nature and Landscape Protectors, Society for Sustainable Life, Union of Civic Associations and Foundations, Slovak Humanitarian Council, Tree of Life, VLK – forest protection association). In the area of education there is an active collaboration with Ekosofia eco-centre, Society for bird protection in Slovakia, Slovak union of nature and landscape protectors, Daphne centre.

**27.8** promoting and allowing NGOs to participate in the conception, establishment and evaluation of official mechanisms to review Agenda 21 implementation.

mechanisms exist already                       mechanism planned for 199-                       NGOs are participating fully

NGO inputs are important                       NGOs inputs are adhoc                       no significant NGO inputs

**Ch. 28: LOCAL AUTHORITIES' INITIATIVES IN SUPPORT OF AGENDA 21.**

A Regional Agenda 21 for the **Bratislava Region** has been under preparation since 2002. The Slovak Environmental Agency has been designated as a responsible body for preparing the Regional Agenda 21. Late its elaboration was suspended and in the 2005 – 2006 period a Concept for environmental management in the Bratislava Region was worked out.

The Concept for environmental management of the Bratislava Region was one of starting documents for the Operational Programme of the Bratislava Region for 2007 – 2013.

The Concept for Environmental Management of the Bratislava Region should have been further transposed into the programme of the Regional Agenda 21 of the Bratislava Region and the Action Plan of Sustainable Development which is being worked out in accordance with the Government Resolution 295/2003 under leadership of the Head of self-governmental regional authorities.

The **Regional Environment Office in Banská Bystrica** is responsible for implementing legal instruments and programmes in the area of air protection within its jurisdiction. The main objective of the Act 472/2002 is to achieve and maintain good quality of air. Therefor, in accordance with sustainable development conditions it has worked out air quality programmes for four areas of air quality management: territory of city of Banská Bystrica, territory of city of Žiar nad Hronom and municipality of Ladomerská Vieska, area of Jelšava-Lubeník and area of Hnúšťa – Tisovec.

The programmes elaborated and implemented in 2004-2006 were updated in 2007, and in 2008 the air quality management programme for Hnúšťa-Tisovec was updated.

In 2008, generally binding regulations of the Regional Environment Office in Banská Bystrica were updated. These regulations included the following measures:

No. 1/2005 – issuing an Air Quality Action Plan for Hnúšťa-Tisovec, updated by a Decree 6/2007 of 10 October 2007. Entering into force on 1 March 2008.

No. 2/2005 – issuing an Air Quality Action Plan for Jelšava-Lubeník, updated by a Decree 7/2007 of 10 October 2007. Entering into force on 1 March 2008.

No. 7/2005 – issuing an Air Quality Action Plan for the city of Banská Bystrica, updated by a Decree 2/2008 of 10 June 2008. Entering into force on 1 November 2008.

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The **Regional Environment Office in Košice** in accordance with the Programme of Public Water Supply and Sewerage Systems of the Slovak Republic worked out in 2006 a comprehensive Programme of Public Water Supply and Sewerage Systems for all municipalities of the Košice Region. The level of these services in particular districts of this region is very diverse. The highest rate of drinking water supply is in Košice – 99.51 %, the lowest rate is in the district of Košice-okolie – 43.0 % (data of 31 December 2007\*). 250 of 440 municipalities of the Košice region (56.8 %) are connected to a public drinking water supply. 64 water supply systems were under construction in 2008.

Development of public sewerage in the Košice Region is considerably lagging behind the national average. The highest share of connection of population to sewerage is in Košice (100 %), the lowest share is in Košice-okolie (12.5 %) – data of 31 December 2007\*. 35 sewerage systems were under construction in the Košice region in 2008. Total data for 2008 will be available in April 2009.

Sources of groundwater are primarily used to supply inhabitants with water in the Košice Region. Balance of water sources in the Košice Region is 2 977.5 litre per second. The most important are sources of the Košice Group Water Supply System – springs Drienovec, Turňa and Hosťovce. Further there are water sources in the Michalovce district – Hrádok, Lastomír, Popričný, Boťany – Slovenské Nové Mesto and sources for the Rožňava Group Water Supply System. In the Košice Region water sources suffer from industrial production, in particular in the area of Michalovce – sources in alluvium of the river Hornád and also others. The EU directive 98/83/EC, transposed into the decree 151/2004 increased the strictness of requirements for water quality and that means that some sources used so far do not comply with new requirements and will have to be therefor excluded from the water supply network. The qualitative water management analysis of groundwater in Slovakia in 2007 (worked out by HMU Bratislava in 2008) shows that the situation in the Košice region is satisfactory in ca 40 %, unsatisfactory in ca 40 % and 20 % was not assessed.

### Springs, wells and boreholes

On the territory of the region there are 173 water sources with a capacity 2977.5 litres per second with defined protection zones of the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> level. All districts in the Košice Region have sufficient water sources except for the city of Košice. Most sufficient water sources are in the districts of Košice-vidiek, Rožňava and Spišská Nová Ves. Distrc of Košice and Gelnica have the lowest amount of water sources.

### Survey of number and capacity of water sources on the territory of the Košice Region

District	Number of sources in district	Yield, l.s <sup>-1</sup>
Košice I – IV	3	99.7
Košice - okolie	58	1337.8
Gelnica	9	67.3
Michalovce	13	179.6
Rožňava	40	320.7
Sobrance	20	291.0
Spišská Nová Ves	21	337.8
Trebišov	9	343.6
Spolu	173	2977.5

Source: PRVVaVK, 2006

The self-governmental authorities in the Trenčín region were in the previous year active in raising the EU funds – the cross-border cooperation programme. The competent state administration body in the area of nature and landscape protection provided 37 comments in this relation.

Local authorities are preparing local regulatory measures and help in implementation of the national environmental policy. Due to vicinity to local people they also play an important role in public education and so in mobilising the public in reactions towards sustainable development.

In creation and assessment of spatial planning documentation of municipalities the sustainable development principles belong to the most important. The Regional Environment Office in Trenčín took part in the previous year in commenting on 91 spatial



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] there is some effort in this direction  
brief description: \_\_\_\_\_

] Not much has changed in this area

**31.9** developing, improving and promoting international acceptance of codes of practice and guidelines related to science and technology and its role in reconciling environment and development.

**Ch. 32: STRENGTHENING THE ROLE OF FARMERS.**

**32.5.c** promoting and encouraging sustainable farming practices and technologies.

“Green Reports” are elaborated each year, which deal with support and development of sustainable forms of management in this area.

**32.5.e** developing a policy framework that provides incentives and motivation among farmers for sustainable and efficient farming practices.

**32.5.f** enhancing participation of organizations of farmers in design and implementation of sustainable development policies.

**Brief comments on this chapter (maximum 100 words) (please, do not exceed this page):**

**32.5.c** Conception document “Programmes and principles of regional policy in agriculture” specifies reasons for application of agricultural regional policy including tasks and functions, which agriculture has to fulfil in spatial development. It sets detailed conditions for implementation of agricultural regional policy and defines targets and principles of this regional strategy. In 1998 the act No. 224/98 on ecological agriculture and production of bio-food.

**32.5.e** In 1995 the Government adopted resolutions concerning solution of regional problems in selected districts, where the most serious socio-economic problems have been found. Revitalisation of agricultural and forest production of a district and unconventional agricultural production were preferred.

**32.5.f** Sector of agriculture declares support of participation of agricultural organisations in creation and implementation of conceptions of sustainable development via policy of providing subsidies aimed at support of conceptions of sustainable development.

## AGENDA 21 CHAPTER 33: FINANCIAL RESOURCES AND MECHANISMS

Financial resources and mechanisms are also covered under each sectoral chapter of Agenda 21 where relevant. This summary highlights broader national financial policies, domestic and external (including ODA)

Responsibility: MF SR

<p><b>NATIONAL PRIORITY:</b></p>	
<p><b>STATUS REPORT:</b></p> <p>The State Environmental Policy in accordance with its conception reflects environmental policies in countries of OECD and EU. This policy follows precautionary principle, “polluter pays” principle, principle of acceptable ecological risk and principle of the best available technology. It declares that in implementation of its objectives it will seriously apply also principle of integration, i.e. it will strive to integrate the environmental aspects into market reforms and macroeconomic as well as sectoral policies and subsidiary principle, i.e. problems will be being solved at the lowest level which is able to tackle the problem. These objectives have been worked out in the “National Environmental Action Programme (NEAP)”, which was updated in 1999. The “National Strategy of Sustainable Development”, which has ambition to be a vision of further development of the society, was adopted in April 2002 (Resolution of the Government 978/2001 and Resolution of the National Council 1989/2002).</p> <p><b>CHANGES IN NATIONAL BUDGET TO ADDRESS SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT:</b></p> <p>The SR government in 2000 approved the „Concept of the new method of financing environmental protection“, along with the time frame and factual range of specific measures relating, in accordance with EU requirements, to the quality of environment and referring to the results of screening activities at the department of environment. Public expenditures in the area of the environment are covered from various sources. In 2009, public finances in the amount of EUR 390 million should go to the environment chapter, of that the chapter of the Ministry of the Environment should be EUR 323 million. Comparing 2008 to 2009 shows increase by 16%.</p> <p>A functional system of financing for sustainable development in Slovakia is an important aspect of dealing with sustainable development. Due to absence of a financing system exclusively devoted to sustainable development, some financing aspects are funded through sectoral policies and horizontally from the EU funds, use of which is conditioned by implementation of sustainable development principles.</p> <p>From the point of view of subjects, the funding is divided to the funding of concrete projects and to the funding of the institutional framework for sustainable development.</p> <p>The measures oriented to application of sustainable development principles in Slovakia have to be implemented in the framework of multi-source funding from national and foreign sources. The national source – public sources (state budget and environmental fund) and private sources (business entities). Foreign public funding sources: European Regional Development Fund (ERDF), Cohesion Fund, INTERREG III B CADSES Community initiative.</p> <p>The state budget is the basic instrument to support sustainable development in the sector of the environment. The EU funds have become a part of incomes and expenditures in the environment sector after accession of the Slovak Republic to the European Union.</p> <p>The <i>Environmental Fund</i> is the next important tool in financing sustainable development, especially for small municipalities. The Environmental Fund was established by the Act 587/2004 in 2005 in order to continue after the State Fund for the Environment which was cancelled in 2001. The Environmental Fund provides support to activities oriented towards meeting the objectives of the state environmental policy on the national, regional and local levels in nature and landscape protection, environmental research, education and promotion. The sources from the Environmental Fund can be provided to natural persons and to legal persons – non-entrepreneurs. Amount of subsidies from the Environmental Fund in 2007 was SKK 1,839,665,089 (EUR 62,858,165) and the amount of loans provided was SKK 140,199,356 (EUR 4,653,766).</p> <p>The basic programming document for Slovakia in relation to the use of EU funds (ERDF, Cohesion Fund) for the environment is the Operational programme Environment. The operational programme Environment has been determined by the analysis of the current environmental situation in Slovakia, requirements resulted from the environmental aquis, including transition periods established in the Accession Agreement between Slovakia and the EU, EU legal instruments in force and environmental international agreements as well as EU legislative measures currently under preparation (draft new directives in the area of the environment) which are expected to be adopted in the 2007 – 2013 period. The strategy of the operational programme Environment establishes conditions for convergence with the EU15 average in the area of environmental infrastructure and</p>	

environmental protection through sustainable development. The global objective of the operational programme Environment is to improve the environment and rational utilisation of resources through completion and higher quality of environmental infrastructure of the Slovak Republic pursuant to EU and Slovak legislation, and to strengthen the effectiveness of the environmental component of sustainable development. The operational programme is implemented by means of 6 priority axes funded from ERDF and Cohesion Fund:

- Integrated protection and rational use of water
- Flood protection
- Air protection and minimisation of adverse impacts of climate change
- Waste management
- Protection and regeneration of natural environment and landscape
- Technical assistance

In the programming period 2004 – 2006 EUR 96.39 million were earmarked for the Operational Programme Basic Infrastructure for environmental infrastructure from the ERDF. At the same time projects with total support from the Cohesion Fund in the amount of EUR 200 million were approved. A total sum of EUR 1,800 million will go the Operational Programme Environment from the EU Funds.

On 31 December 2008, ISPA provided funding in the amount of SKK 269,324,422.68 (EUR 8,939,933.04) which is 84.58 % of the financial memorandum. Within the Cohesion Fund projects the amount of SKK 3,862,550,544.25 (EUR 128,213,189.41) was used which is 42.88 % of the financial memorandum.

On 31 December 2008, within the priority 2 Environmental infrastructure of the operational programme Basic Infrastructure the amount of SKK 5,299,660,062.91 (EUR 175,916,486.19) was used from ERDF and the state budget which is 92 % of the total sum resulted from non-return grant contracts.

On 31 December 2008 within the framework of the operational programme Environment a sum of EUR 2,430,085.50 (SKK 73,208,755.83) was used which is 2 % of total allocated sum.

#### **NEW ECONOMIC INSTRUMENTS:**

Neither current statistics nor accounting in the Slovak Republic allow needed record-keeping of sources dedicated to the area of the environment. Incomes of state budget, state funds and incomes of municipalities can be partially defined via taxes and payments. Up till now there is no tax for environmental protection in the Slovak legislation. The issues of air and environment pollution are tackled by the Acts in the area of the environment and various payments (when regulations are complied with) and penalties (when regulations are not complied with) are applied.

## AGENDA 21 CHAPTER 34: TRANSFER OF ENVIRONMENTALLY SOUND TECHNOLOGY, COOPERATION AND CAPACITY-BUILDING

Transfer of environmentally sound technology, cooperation and capacity-building is also covered under each sectoral chapter of Agenda 21 where relevant. This summary highlights broader national policies and actions relating to chapter 34.

**Responsibility: MH SR**

### NATIONAL PRIORITY:

#### STATUS REPORT ON LINKS BETWEEN NATIONAL, REGIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL INFORMATION NETWORKS/SYSTEMS:

Since 1 July 2005, the research and development issues, including administration of all state programmes, are under the responsibility of the Ministry of Education in accordance with the Act 172/2005 on organisation of state support of research and development and on amendment to the Act 575/2001 on organisation of governmental activity and organisation of central state administration as amended.

The Ministry of Education in accordance with the Act 172/2005 prepared a new document "Long-term Plan of state science and technology policy till 2015" which was adopted by the Government on 12 September 2007 by the Resolution 766/2007.

Research and development tasks within state research and development programmes are based on a comparison with intents of EU member states, elaborated in the document on implementing the industrial policy of EU member states in the conditions of development of industrial branches in the SR.

Their application proceeds at the level of international scientific and technological cooperation in the sense of the EU member states' R&D programmes, mainly those outlined in the 6th Framework programme for research, development and demonstration activities.

Based on data available and due to intense promotion of the EC - DG RESEARCH challenge, Slovakia's industrial R&D workplaces and innovative small and medium-large enterprises prepared 126 draft projects within the EU 6th Framework programme on the basis of available documentation. Of that there are 38 approved projects with expected contribution of EUR 2,394,717 for research facilities in industries as well as from innovative small and medium enterprises which are in coordination of the Ministry of Economy. The current status within the assessment period constitutes a positive change in all monitored indicators.

In the Seventh Framework Programme for research and development for 2007 - 2013, which has started, there are a number of its activities focused on environmental issues (e.g. a specific programme "Environment" with a budget of EUR 1.8 billion for the 2007 - 2013 period). Based on data available there are 13 submitted draft projects from Slovakia, of which 5 have been evaluated and 2 approved with expected financial contribution EUR 140,000. We note that we do not evaluate environmental projects separately.

The Environmental Technologies Action Plan (ETAP) was adopted on 28 January 2004 and subsequently was confirmed at the spring session of the European Council on 25-26 March 2004. The task of the member states was to prepare "national roadmaps" by 31 December 2005 to support implementation of this document. A draft roadmap for implementation of the Environmental Technologies Action Plan in Slovakia was submitted to the Government on 21 December 2005 and approved with comments.

The Ministry of Economy participates in fulfilling this document within its competence which are focused mainly on energy, alternative energy sources, increasing energy effectiveness.

A draft updating of the roadmap for implementation of the Environmental Technologies Action Plan was adopted by the Government on 19 January 2008 by the Resolution 19/2008.

The document is linked to the ETAP Roadmap adopted by the Government in 2005 and evaluates implementation of previous activities included in the roadmap document for implementation of the Environmental Technologies Action Plan of 2005 and proposes 11 updated activities which are characterised according to the structure: name of activity, corresponding activity in ETAP, current status, draft measure, measurable indicator and contact.

The main objective of ETAP is development of economy through introduction of high technologies and eco-innovations which will be environmentally friendly. ETAP defines environmental technologies as all technologies which are less harmful than the use of relevant alternative technologies.

**• Describe any work being undertaken at the national or local level regarding efforts to promote clean production processes and/or the concepts of eco-efficiency. These processes may include training, preferential financial arrangements, information dissemination and changes in legal or regulatory frameworks.**

In the area of promotion of cleaner production processes there several non-governmental organisations operating in Slovakia: Slovak Cleaner Production Centre (SCČP), and partially also the Association for Industrial Ecology in Slovakia (ASPEK). Cooperation of the sector of economy with SCČP and CPZ is aimed at support of projects of pollution prevention, reduction of waste production, systems of environmental management (EMS, EMAS) and environmental education. Ministry of Economy and Ministry of the Environment are members of the Board of Directors of SCČP.

Cooperation with and support of activities of ASPEK is assured by participation and activities of representatives of sectors of the environment and economy, who are member of ASPEK Board. ASPEK is an organisation which voluntarily takes over a part of problems connected to solution of environmental problems of industry. It deals mainly with transfer of information between state administration and entrepreneurial sphere and with activities aimed at support of common interests of concerned stakeholders. Its members can be divided into a group of polluters and subjects working in the area of the environment with participation of all industrial sectors, engineering, projecting, consulting and supply companies and universities. The main areas of activities are: cooperation in the area of creation of legislation, cooperation in projects, partnership with foreign subjects, participation of enterprises in bodies and institution of national importance, publishing, workshops and professional meetings, common expositions at professional and business meetings, creation of expert boards and advisory groups, information flows, international cooperation and cooperation at national level.

On 19 January 2006 ASPEK joined the ZOPNO Association (Association for awarding certification of professional operation for hazardous waste management). This certificate is a proof of application of a system of hazardous waste management with increasing control and environmental protection.

**• List and describe programs or work under way to facilitate the transfer of ESTs to small and medium sized enterprises. Please note efforts to facilitate access to financial resources and other transfer strategies.**

In accordance with Notification of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs 186/2002 on adoption of the Association Council Decision 6/2002 between the European Union and the Slovak Republic, entering into force 18 April 2002 on implementation rules for application of state aid rules, specified in Article 64, paragraph 1iii and paragraph 2, paragraph 3 of the European agreement establishing accession between the European Communities and their member states on one hand and The Slovak Republic on the other hand, and in Article 8, paragraph 1iii and paragraph 2, according to Article 8, paragraph 3 of the Protocol to the this Agreement on products of the European Community for coal and steel, the Ministry of Economy of the Slovak Republic was carrying out transformation of all state contribution programmes.

Support of small and medium businesses was carried out in 2002 on the basis of the act 231/1999 on state aid as amended by the Act 434/2001. Implementation rules for application of state aid, as referred to in the Article 64, paragraph 1, item iii) and paragraph 3 of the European Agreement, were adopted by a decision of the Association Council 6/2001 between Slovakia and the EU of 22 November 2001.

In 2003, the Programme of Technology Transfer and Quality Programme were merged and a subsequent Support scheme for purchasing innovative technologies and establishing quality management systems was created. The scheme enables to provide non-returnable financial contributions to small and medium-large enterprises up to 60 % of the total eligible costs of introducing state-of-the-art, innovative and environmentally suitable technologies. In 2003, 16 projects on innovative technologies within the programme were supported with 11.408 mil. SKK, and 81 projects on quality management systems with 7.882 mil. SKK. In 2004, 20 projects on innovative technologies within the programme were supported with SKK 33,520 and 497 projects on quality management systems with SKK 11,867.

In 2005, seven projects were supported within the scheme in the area of innovative technologies in the amount of SKK 12,957 thousand. In the area of quality management there were 13 projects awarded in 2005 with total amount of SKK 1,143 million. Their implementation was completed in 2005. New projects in this area were not supported in 2005 due to lack of funds for such schemes. In 2006 this scheme ceased to be valid. Support of small and medium enterprises will be supported in the framework of the Operational Programme Competitiveness and Economic Growth in 2007 – 2013 under the responsibility of the Ministry of Economy.

Responsibility: MŠ SR

**NATIONAL PRIORITY:**

**STATUS REPORT ON NATIONAL SCIENTIFIC KNOWLEDGE, RESEARCH NEEDS AND PRIORITIES:**

The approved Long-term plan of state science and technical policy till 2015 defines the following priorities of research and development:

- Health – quality of life
- Progressive materials and technologies
- Biotechnologies
- Knowledge technologies with support of information and communication technologies
- Infrastructure of the society
- Energy
- Civilisation challenges
- Cultural and artistic heritage of Slovakia
- Safety and defence
- Use, protection and reproduction of biological sources
- Environmental protection
- Use of domestic resources

Measures carried out with the aim to support science understanding, improvement of long-term scientific assessment, building potential and possibilities:

The Slovak Government adopted in 2007 a Long-term plan of state science and technical policy till 2015. In 2008 the Government approved by the Resolution 79/2008 of 6 February 2008 a Strategy of long-term plans of the state scientific and technology policy till 2015 for the period by 2010 as well as an amendment to the Act 172/2005 on organisation of the state support to science and development transposing the EC Regulation on adoption of foreigners from third countries for the purposes of research and development as amended by the Act 233/2008. A draft Act on stimuli for research and development, amending the Act 595/2003 on income tax as amended, was prepared for approval in 2009.

Professional organisations under the responsibility of the Ministry of the Environment deals with research-scientific tasks oriented towards:

- research of geological development and geological structure of the Slovak Republic,
- research of principles and distribution of mineral resources, their technological properties and economic utilisation, prognosis assessment of reserves of mineral resources, groundwater and thermal energy of the Earth core,
- hydrogeological research, assessment of groundwater resources, including thermal, natural curative and table mineral waters, assessment of conditions of negative impacts on their quality and quantity as well as processing the background documents and their rational use,
- geological research in order to verify geological and geotechnical conditions of a territory with focus on territorial planning, urbanisation, monitoring of landslide territories and elaborating proposals to stabilise them,
- research and assessment of geological factors affecting the environment, including impacts on these factors which appear due to human activity, identification and assessment of geogenic and anthropogenic contamination of geological rock environment, soils and water, including their monitoring,
- research of proper geological structures to deposit radioactive and hazardous waste, gas and liquids in natural rock structures and research of industrial usage of thermal energy of the Earth core,
- research of vertical balance of water, humidity regime of soils, humidity needs of plant communities and ecosystems,
- research of rainfall and run-off conditions in river basins,
- research of erosion processes in river basins, erosion-sedimentation processes in watercourses and water reservoirs and morphological development of river beds,
- research of hydro-dynamic, hydro-chemical and hydro-biological processes in water systems,
- research and development of hydrotechnical facilities,
- research of impacts of facilities in water courses on alteration of hydro-technical parameters through mathematical and physical models,
- research-development activities in the area of monitoring, processing, evaluation and interpretation of data on regime, development and status of air and water,
- research and monitoring of nature and landscape, ecosystems, populations of protected and threatened plant and animal species, invasive species of plants and animals for the needs of nature and landscape protection,
- research and monitoring of the karst and caves with focus on knowledge, maintenance or improvement of status of caves,

- laying down limits and regulators for their protection,
- research of cultural and natural heritage in the area of nature and landscape protection, geology and mining,
  - applied research of management, protection and optimal use of landscape in accordance with sustainable development principles.

**Steps taken to enhance scientific understanding, improve long term scientific assessment, building of capacity and capability:**

The Government of the Slovak Republic takes steps to stabilise the scientific potential. New acts and regulations create legislative framework for activities of scientific and research organisations and further new acts for support of science and research are prepared.

**STATISTICAL DATA/INDICATORS**

	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Number of scientists, engineers and technicians engaged in research and experimental development	13 353	14 328	14 403	15 028	15 421
Share of expenditure of GDP in research and development	0.58	0.54	0.51	0.49	0.46

## AGENDA 21 CHAPTER 36: PROMOTING EDUCATION, PUBLIC AWARENESS AND TRAINING

Responsibility: MŠ SR, MK SR

## NATIONAL PRIORITY:

## STATUS REPORT:

## CURRENT SITUATION IN THE PUBLIC ENVIRONMENTAL TRAINING AND EDUCATION IN SLOVAKIA

Literacy in 2001: men 99.66%, women 99.63%.

## Explanation:

Education level of inhabitants of Slovakia is monitored at occasion of general census which is carried out each ten years. Data provided are calculated on the basis of the last census ion 26 May 2001.

Number of 15-year and older inhabitants <sup>1</sup>	Of that without schol education <sup>1</sup>	Share of 15-year and older literate inhabitants (in %)
Men		
2 092 919	7 055	99.66
Women		
2 271 043	8 474	99.63

Note:

<sup>1</sup> Including inhabitants without age indication

## Share of girls in 100 boys at secondary schools

year 2006: 101

year 2007: 101

year 2008: 100

Derivation

Year	Number of students of secondary schools together <sup>1</sup>	Of that		Number of girls per 100 boys
		boys	girls	
2006	312 525	155 622	156 903	101
2007	303 392	151 037	152 355	101
2008	301 741	150 614	151 127	100

Note:

<sup>1</sup> Only day-time study. Data do not include students of special schools and special classes, schools at special educational facilities, schools in the responsibility of the Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Defence and Ministry of Justice.

## Average number of years of school attendance

year 2004: 15.7

year 2005: 16.0

year 2006: 16.2

Source: Education at glance, OECD, 2005, 2006, 2007

Percentage of GDP for education<sup>1</sup>

y. 1990: 5.1; y. 1993: 4.7; y. 1994: 3.97; y. 1995: 4.39; . 1996: 3.93; y . 1997: 4.19; y. 1998: 3.99;y. 1999:4.08; y. 2000: 3.74; y. 2001: 3.69; y. 2002: 3.77; y. 2003: 4.18; y. 2004: 3.85y. 2005: 3.77, y. 2006: 3.48, y. 2007: 3.49

Note: Since 1999, expenditures also includes financing the education for schools and institutions under the

**responsibility of the Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Defence and finances for student loans subsidised from the state budget. Data are calculated for GDP updated by the Statistics Office for 2007.**

Average monthly salaries of employees in the education sector (SKK) <sup>1</sup>	r. 2005	r. 2006	r. 2007
Pre-school facilities:	<b>12 724</b>	<b>13 926</b>	<b>14 878</b>
Primary schools:	<b>15 779</b>	<b>17 073</b>	<b>18 468</b>
Secondary schools:	<b>15 604</b>	<b>17 253</b>	<b>18 453</b>
Education sector total:	<b>14 734</b>	<b>16 569</b>	<b>17 837</b>

Note

<sup>1</sup> Including data for private and religious schools. Data for 2008 still unavailable.

Based on the Act 61/2000 on edification activities as amended by the Act 416/2001 on transfer of some of competence from the state administration to the higher-level self-governmental authorities the edification means a set of activities which contribute to development of personalities and to creation of a cultural way of life. The edification activity is implemented by edification facilities which may have a general or a specialised orientation (e.g. observatory or planetarium).

The state administration in the area of edification activities is carried out by the Ministry of Culture of the Slovak Republic which establishes legal and organisational conditions for development of edification activities, supports creation and presentation of results of edification activities in Slovakia and abroad and establishes state edification activities at national level – the National Edification Centre and the Slovak Central Observatory in Hurbanovo.

Based on fulfilling the task B.1 of the Resolution of the Slovak Government 160 of 12 March 2008 concerning the draft Concept of development of local and regional culture, the Ministry of Culture of the Slovak Republic submits to the Government a draft Strategy of development of edification activities. The draft document is aimed at formulation of the current position of the edification activity in the context of national and international development which is affected by 20-year transformation of the Slovak culture. The mission of the Strategy is to propose a comprehensive solution of edification issues and to maintain sustainable positive development. The main target is to clearly define objectives, priorities and instruments of support provided to edification and cultural activities, to promote mutual cooperation on local, regional and national levels as well as cross-sectoral cooperation, to achieve effective and targeted distribution of funds and to increase intensity of the use of funds from other available resources (increasing the use of EU funds and funds of other international financial mechanisms, to cooperate with the business sector and others.

**AGENDA 21 CHAPTER 37: NATIONAL MECHANISMS AND INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION FOR CAPACITY-BUILDING IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES**

**National capacity building is also covered under sectoral chapters.**

**Donors:** You may wish to describe here how Agenda 21 has influenced your ODA policies in this area.

**Developing countries:** You may wish to describe any new national mechanisms for capacity building - and any changes in technical cooperation.

**Responsibility: MZV SR, MH SR, MF SR, MŽP SR, ÚRSVT SR**

**NATIONAL PRIORITY:**

**STATUS REPORT ON NATIONAL ENDOGENOUS CAPACITY BUILDING:**

**Development assistance of Slovakia**

The decisive stimulus for development activities of the Slovak Republic are mainly the international commitments resulted from the involvement in the EU and UN development policies. Slovakia as a new EU member state has adopted a commitment to try to increase the expenditure for ODA to 0.17 % of gross domestic products (GDP) in 2010 and to 0.33 % in 2015.

**I. Achievements of the Slovak Aid in 2008**

The year 2008, when a half of the period to meet the millennium development goals (MDGs) expired, was an important year for the international development cooperation also for the Slovak Aid.

**The Slovak Republic as an active member of the donor community has provided since 2003 bilateral programmes and projects within the Slovak Aid programme in developing countries based on a Mid-term Official Development Assistance Policy for the 2003 – 2008 period.**

In the course of the recent 5 years the official development assistance has become an integral part and effective tool of the Slovak foreign policy. Slovakia has become involved among developed countries of the world which take part in removing the most serious social, health, economic and environmental problems in less developed countries. Bilateral assistance in responsibility of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Slovak Republic contributes to strengthening a good image and improving bilateral relationships in recipient countries. The Slovak Aid has become an important trademark in relation to the Slovak public.

Based on preliminary estimate it is expected that the total amount of official development assistance provided in 2008 reached the amount of SKK 1,797 million (EUR 59.6 million) which is 0.091 % of ODA/GDP. A substantial part of the total ODA volume was represented by the contribution of the Slovak Republic to the EU budget, debt remission for Libya and bilateral development assistance.

The expected percentage decrease in ODA/GDP in 2008 comparing to the previous year is caused mainly by a dynamic growth of the gross domestic product and stagnating volume of financial resources allocated for development assistance in the state budget.

In 2009, the chapter of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs has allocated a sum of EUR 7,652 thousand for bilateral official development assistance. Comparing to 2008, funding the bilateral official development assistance has increased by 37.2 %.

**As regards bilateral assistance, it is necessary to especially mention the implementation of development projects through the Slovak entities funded from the Slovak Aid sources. The development projects are implemented by the Slovak entities in sixteen priority countries on three continents.**

Since launching the ODA mechanism in 2004 to the end of 2008, 181 projects started. By 31 December 2008, 151 projects were completed in a total sum of SKK 786 million (EUR 26.1 million). The biggest volume of financial resources was allocated each year for the programming countries – Serbia and Montenegro.

In 2008, Slovakia supported 34 new development projects in a total volume SKK 130 million (EUR 4,315 thousand) which will be implemented by the Slovak subjects in 14 priority countries.

The bilateral development assistance has been so far oriented first of all to the countries of the Western Balkan, specially to the programming countries Serbia and Montenegro. In 2003 – 2008, the Slovak entities implemented on the territory of Serbia and Montenegro 66 development projects in a volume of SKK 200 million (EUR 6,639 thousand) which was administered by the Bratislava-Belgrade Fund administrative unit (ACU TF BBF). Of these projects, 63 projects were completed by the end of 2008 and 3 projects will be completed by the end of August 2009. 60 projects have been so far implemented in Serbia (three of them in Kosovo) and six in Montenegro.

Moreover, within the micro-grant programme, 24 projects of this type were implemented through the Slovak Embassy in Belgrade (on the territory of Serbia, Montenegro and Kosovo) and through the Slovak Embassy in Sarajevo (on the territory of Bosnia and Herzegovina).

The ODA National programme for 2008 has allocated financial resources for Serbia in the amount of SKK 55 million (EUR 1,826 thousand). After approval of the ODA National Programme by the Slovak Government, calls were published on 2 April 2008 for submission of project proposals. Of these project proposals the Slovak Aid Project Commission approved 13 projects (one project approved from the project pipeline). 9 projects were in 2008 contracted and started. These projects will be implemented in the years to come via The Slovak agency for international development cooperation. In 2003 – 2007, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Slovak Republic implemented 6 projects in Montenegro with a total sum of more than SKK 22 million (EUR 730 thousand). For 2008, a sum of SKK 5 million (EUR 166 thousand) was allocated for development projects in Montenegro which will provide finances for 2 projects.

The Slovak Republic cooperates on the Western Balkan territory in the area of ODA with the development agencies of Canada (CIDA) and Austria (ADA) in the form of trilateral projects. The CIDA has so far co-funded 13 projects in a total sum of SKK 24 million and the ADA has co-funded two Slovak projects in Serbia in a total sum of almost SKK 5 million. Along with bilateral projects Slovakia provides development assistance also in the form of scholarship for university students from target countries for study at the Slovak universities. The Ministry of Education together with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Slovak Republic are interested in extending the scholarship programme also for sending the Slovak teachers to the beneficiary countries, especially in the countries of Western Balkan, first of all Serbia.

In 2006, Slovakia contributed to the Western Balkans Fund in the form of membership fees in the sum of EUR 500,000 (Slovakia is represented by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs). The Fund is an initiative of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development in order to strengthen the investment into development of business and infrastructure in the Western Balkans countries.

The Slovak development agencies were successful in implementing the projects in other countries – Bosnia and Herzegovina, Belarus, Ukraine, Mongolia, Afghanistan, Kenya and Sudan.

## II. Funding the Slovak Aid programme

Development in funding the Slovak Aid programme for the **period 2002 with expected development in 2010 and 2015 (expected 5 % annual growth of GDP)**

YEAR	IN ABSOLUTE FIGURES		% ODA/GDP
	SKK thousand	EUR thousand	
-			-
2002	257,600	8,551	0.024
2003	553,500	18,373	0.048
2004	910,500	30,223	0.072
2005	1,739,551	57,743	0.120
2006	1,638,118	54,376	0.103
2007	1,652,000	54,836	0.100
2008	1,797,000	59,649	0.091
Target year 2010	4,000,000	132,776	0.170
Target year 2015	8,000,000	265,551	0.330

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Slovak Republic is interested in stable growth of ODA, especially bilateral assistance. Therefore, the Ministry considered the increasing of the amount of financial resources for bilateral assistance as a priority of the 2009 state budget. Interannual growth of funds for bilateral development assistance in 2009 by almost 35 % is a positive aspect of the 2009 state budget.

The need to increase the funds for official development assistance of the Slovak Republic and fulfilment of development commitments has been stressed also by the Commissioner for development and humanitarian aid L. Michel during his November visit in Slovakia.

## III. Territorial and sectoral priorities

From the geographical point of view the Slovak ODA was in 2008 oriented to the following countries:

- . programming countries – Serbia, Montenegro
- project countries – Albania, Afghanistan, Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Ukraine, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kyrgyzstan, Macedonia, Mongolia, Mozambique, Sudan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan.

Priority sectors in the Slovak ODA were:

Main priorities of Slovakia in the area of official development assistance were: building democratic institutions and a market environment, strengthening stability, infrastructure (including social infrastructure), landscape management, environmental protection, agriculture, food safety and the use of mineral resources, good public governance in the areas and countries of the priority interest of Slovakia, contributing to development and poverty alleviation and famine elimination in developing countries by means of effective and targeted development and humanitarian aid.

#### **IV. Institutionalisation of official development assistance**

A mechanism of providing the official development assistance was built and launched in 2003. In the course of a short period of functioning of the Slovak Aid programme some positive achievements have been registered in the area of forming the development assistance mechanism, administrative and legislative areas and in practical implementation of development activities.

Adoption of the Act 617/2007 on development assistance (1 February 2008) created a legal framework for provision of the Slovak official development assistance and conditions for full fulfilment of the Slovak commitments in the area of official development assistance.

The institutional change in provision of the Slovak ODA was brought by establishment of the Slovak Agency for International Development Cooperation (SAMRS) in 2007. The Agency in accordance with its statute gained competence of administrative and contracting units of the Trust Fund (ACU TF UNDP) and Bratislava-Belgrade Fund (ACU TF BBF) which used to manage the activities related to official development assistance till creation of the Agency.

The basis of established comprehensive legal framework for development assistance is represented by the Agreement between the Government of the Slovak Republic and the Government of Republic of Serbia on development cooperation which was signed on 3 December 2007 in Belgrade. Signing the agreement, which is valid for three years, confirmed the intention of Slovakia to support Serbia in the forthcoming period.

This agreement is complemented by financial memorandums signed each year defining the allocation of ODA resources for Serbia for a given year. The financial memorandum to the National programme of ODA for 2008 was signed on 29 September 2008 in Belgrade.

A legal framework of development assistance for Montenegro was created by signing the Agreement between the Government of the Slovak Republic and the Government of Montenegro on development cooperation. The agreement was signed by the representative of contracting parties in Bratislava on 27 November 2007. The agreement (valid for 3 years) is complemented by financial memorandums between the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Slovak Republic and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Montenegro.

The financial memorandum between the Slovak Government and the Government of Montenegro for 2008 was signed on 26 September 2008 in New York.

#### **V. Meeting the foreign policy of Slovakia towards the EU**

The Slovak Republic actively participated in negotiations of four international conferences at high level – on effectiveness of assistance (Akra, 2-4 September 2008), the UN General Assembly on Africa (New York, 22 September 2008), on Millennium Development Goals (New York, 25 September 2008) and the World Conference on funding development (Doha 29 November – 2 December 2008).

During negotiations on the final document from the Doha conference on effectiveness of assistance Slovakia actively supported the effort of the European Union to achieve ambitious commitments of assistance donors and beneficiaries. Slovakia also stressed the need of effectiveness of the overall development of countries, not only assistance, and the need of reform agenda of partnership countries and donors (e.g. good governance, combating corruption, development of the private sector, coherence of policies of donors for development).

Due to membership of Slovakia in the European Union the Slovak entities had the opportunity to apply for resources from the EC grant rounds for the area of external relationships. The Slovak Aid allocated in 2008 the sum of SKK 5 million (EUR 166

thousand) to co-finance the development projects of the Slovak subjects approved in the framework of the EC grant rounds.

#### **VI. European development days**

The third European development days were held on 15 – 17 November 2008 in Strasbourg. The main objective of this event was to strengthen the awareness on development assistance of the European Union as well as development assistance provided by its individual member states. The programme included a lot of presentations, roundtables and side events. The main theme of the European development days was a local dimension of development and especially the role of local authorities. The European development days were aimed at assessing the current situation in meeting the Millennium Development Goals, meeting the financial commitments of donor countries, issues related to increasing prices of food, energy crisis, climate change and their impacts on development assistance provided.

#### **VII. Cooperation with donors**

The international practice has confirmed the rule of necessary need to coordinate development activities of countries concerned, which creates conditions to achieve the development goals. The decisive partners of Slovakia in development assistance are first of all the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA), the European Commission (EC) and after 2006 also the Austrian Development Agency (ADA).

The Canadian International Development Agency co-funds in the framework of the ODACE programme 26 Slovak development projects. Most of these projects were completed in 2006 and some of them were completed in 2008. The Slovak and Canadian experience in practice verified and confirmed the reasons for common projects in developing countries which should continue in the future with other donors.

In January 2006, a Memorandum on Understanding was signed between the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Slovak Republic and the Austrian Development Agency, adopting framework conditions for cooperation. One of the key items is the co-funding of development projects in the three-year period (2006 – 2008) during which the Austrian Development Agency shall provide a financial contribution in the sum of EUR 1.5 million. In 2006, three projects were selected (in Serbia, Montenegro and Kenya) co-funded from these sources and completed in 2008.

Due to limited amount of financial resources and capacities of the Slovak development subjects the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Slovak Republic was seeking new forms of cooperation with donors which will help to implement more development projects funded from non-budgetary resources. The Slovak Agency for International Development Cooperation together with the Austrian Development Agency (ADA) signed a Memorandum on Understanding. In the 2009 – 2011 Memorandum the Austrian partners have committed to provide financial resources in the amount of EUR 1.5 million. The new Memorandum shall enable a common implementation of the Slovak and Austrian development assistance as well as building and strengthening capacities of the Slovak Agency for International Development Cooperation by means of training and study tours in the ADA.

#### **VIII- Humanitarian assistance**

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Slovak Republic has prepared a new *Mechanism for Providing Humanitarian Assistance Abroad* which was adopted by the Slovak Government on 12 April 2006 by its Resolution 310. This document provides for a reform of the humanitarian system, especially in the issues of involvement of the NGOs and effectiveness of the assistance provided.

In the course of 2008 Slovakia provided humanitarian assistance in the total sum of SKK 54.1 million (EUR 1.796 million) for the following countries:

1. Kyrgyzstan SKK 4.5 million (UCO – material assistance)
2. Kenya SKK 1.7 million (Slovak Aid – purchase and distribution of food)
3. Burma SKK 2.0 million (Slovak Aid – contribution for WFP – food assistance)
4. Sudan SKK 3.8 million (UCO – material assistance)
5. China SKK 30.0 million (UCO – material assistance)
6. Romania SKK 1.3 million (UCO – material assistance)
7. Ukraine SKK 6.5 million (UCO – material assistance)
8. Moldavia SKK 0.9 million (UCO – material assistance)
9. Georgia SKK 2.4 million (UCO – SKK 0.4 million + SKK 2 million through IOM from the Slovak Aid)
10. Haiti SKK 1.0 million (via the Red Cross from the Slovak Aid)

#### **IX. Slovak ODA Mid-term Strategy for 2009 – 2013**

In accordance with the Act 617/2007 on official development assistance the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Slovak

Republic has worked out a Slovak ODA Mid-term Strategy for the 2009 – 2013 period. The draft Strategy is in the preparation process and is expected to be submitted to the Government in a short time.

The Strategy is the main mid-term planning tool for the Slovak Aid. Together with the Act on official development assistance it will be a starting point for further planning and programming documents for the next five years (especially for annual national programmes, bilateral agreements with developing countries and assistance strategies for particular priority countries).

The Strategy defines concrete reasons, principles, objectives, tools, priorities and partners of the Slovak development assistance. In accordance with the Act on official development assistance the Strategy defines sectoral and territorial priorities of bilateral official development assistance, priorities of trilateral and multilateral official development assistance, priorities of humanitarian assistance and related indicators.

Based on the decision of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Slovak Republic of October 2008 the Strategy defines a revised list of priority countries which was created on the basis of elaborated criteria – political, economic, development and practical.

The mid-term strategy has categorised the priority countries to the category of programming countries and to the category of project countries and priority sectors of the Slovak Aid as follows:

**a/ programming countries:** Afghanistan, Kenya, Serbia

**project countries:** Albania, Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, Ethiopia, Georgia, Kyrgyzstan, Macedonia (FYR), Moldavia, Sudan, Tajikistan, Ukraine and Vietnam

**b/ priority sectors:**

- building democratic institutions, legal state, civic society and peace
- social development
- economic development – building a market environment, strengthening macroeconomic environment, management of public finances, support of small and medium enterprises
- development of infrastructure with positive impact on sustainable development and environmental protection

#### **X. Administrative and contracting management of the Slovak Aid**

In 2007, there was a gradual transformation from the institutional system of ODA provision through the Administrative-contracting unit of the UNDP trust fund (ACU TF UNDP) and through the Administrative-contracting unit of the Bratislava – Belgrade trust fund (ACU TF BBF) to a new agency – the Slovak Agency for International Development Cooperation.

The year 2008 belonged to transition period of simultaneous operation of the Slovak Agency for International Development Cooperation and two administrative units. The two administrative-contracting units were managing financial resources which were transferred to them in order to implement the projects funded from the sources allocated from the ODA National programmes for the 2003 – 2006 period. The Agency ensured the start of new projects and the administrative units were managing the completion running projects in 2006. Activity of these administrative units will be completed in the course of 2009 when the running projects and activities by 31 December 2006 will be completed.

#### **UNDP Trust Fund**

In 2008, the UNDP Trust Fund continued in administering the projects which were approved in previous years. By the end of 2008, 17 projects were completed. In the course of 2008, 23 projects were completed in priority countries, of which four projects were co-financed by the Canadian development agency (CIDA) and one project was co-financed by the Austrian Development Agency (ADA).

Within the framework of the UNDP “Emerging Donors Initiative” component, in April 2008, a new agreement on cooperation was signed and a new project *Slovak Trust Fund 2008-2010 – Mediating the experience of Slovakia from the transformation process and experts within the official development assistance* was prepared. Based on this agreement the second phase of the Slovak-UNDP Trust Fund started on 1 July 2008 which will be aimed at strengthening the cooperation of Slovakia with selected developing countries, strengthening the position of Slovakia and the Slovak official development assistance in the international context, sending the Slovak experts in the framework of international projects within bilateral assistance. There are planned long-term and short-term expert stays of Slovak experts with the aim to utilise comparative advantages of Slovakia and professional knowledge and experience from the transformation process in the area of international development cooperation.

### **Bratislava – Belgrade Trust Fund**

The Bratislava – Belgrade Fund is managed by the Foundation for supporting civic activities in accordance with the ODA National Programme and financial memorandums for Serbia and Montenegro for the 2003 – 2006 period. In 2008, the Foundation for Supporting Civic Activities completed implementation of 8 projects (7 projects for Serbia and 1 project for Montenegro) approved in previous years. In 2009, three projects will be completed.

Cooperation between the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Slovak Republic and the Foundation for Supporting the Civic Activities will continue in 2009 in implementation of projects of the Slovak Aid contracted by 31 December 2006.

In 2005, a starting point for implementation of the donor policy of the Slovak Republic in relation to the UNIDO was created. The Slovak Government approved a concept for cooperation of the Slovak Republic and the UNIDO for the 2005 – 2007 period. An Administrative Agreement between the UNIDO and the Slovak Government was prepared and signed in cooperation of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Economy and the Ministry of the Environment of the Slovak Republic on one side and the UNIDO Secretariat on the other side. This agreement relates to a purpose contribution to the industrial development fund (2005). The cooperation was oriented towards the activities of 8 priority areas of the UNIDO and territorially to selected countries of Europe, Central Asia and Africa (in accordance with the mid-term concept of official development assistance of Slovakia for the 2003 – 2008 period). A sum of USD 350,000 was allocated on the account of the Industrial Development Fund for the 2005 – 2007 period in order to implement the UNIDO projects. The Ministry of Economy of the Slovak Republic as a body responsible for the cooperation with the UNIDO has prepared for the Government a document: A Report on the use of financial resources provided by the Slovak Republic for development projects within the Concept of cooperation of the Slovak Republic and the UN Industrial Development Organisation for 2005 – 2007 and a draft for further cooperation for 2009 – 2011. The first part of this report assesses the effectiveness of approved projects and their financial intensity. In the 2005-2007 period, four projects were implemented with involvement of Slovak business subjects. The project “Technology foresight I., phase II, Sudan – establishment of a demonstration centre and Mongolia – creation of a mobile production unit to process milk. The second part of the document is oriented to further cooperation for the 2009 – 2013 period. The programming committee of the Slovak Republic for the 2009 – 2011 proposed to allocate a sum of EUR 250,000 for project implementation. This sum will be a minimal sum of financial resources to support developing countries of the world.

In 2002, the WTO member states approved within the Doha Development Agenda creation of a so-called Global Trust Fund (GTF) in order to gain finances over the framework of WTO membership contributions to finance annual plans of technical assistance of trade for developing and the least developed countries as well as for the countries with economic in transition. The contributions to this fund are voluntary. The Slovak Republic contributed to this fund in 2008 for the first time with the amount of CHF 60 thousand from the budget line of the Ministry of Economy of the Slovak Republic.

**AGENDA 21 CHAPTER 38: INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENTS****Responsibility: MZV SR****Ch. 38: Brief summary of any particular UN System response affecting this country/state:**

Preparation of implementation of the Regulation of the European Parliament and Council 850/2004 on persistent organic pollutants (POPs) and amending the Directive 79/117/EEC, which is a basis for the Stockholm Convention, was important for implementation of Agenda 21 and for meeting conclusions from the Johannesburg World Summit (2002). Slovakia also participated in the first Conference of Parties in Uruguay in May 2005. Acquired knowledge should contribute to accelerating solution of old environmental burdens on the national and global levels.

In relation to the Stockholm Convention on POPs Slovakia fulfilled its reporting obligation for POPs management towards the European Commission pursuant to Article 12 of the Regulation (EC) 850/2004 on POPs, cooperated with the working groups of the European Commission in the area of preparation of inclusion of new POPs in the list of the POPs Protocol to the Convention of long-range transboundary air pollution and cooperated in dealing with projects aimed at POPs management.

Climate change is one of the highest priorities in the area of the environmental protection from the point of view of the EU. From the point of view of future development there is an important event of the 15<sup>th</sup> Conference of the Parties of the Framework Convention on Climate Change (7 – 18 December 2009 in Copenhagen, Denmark) with expected signature of an international agreement on future cooperation regime of countries to address this issue and on the extent and form commitments of the developed countries after 2012.

There were important conclusions from the negotiations of the 13<sup>th</sup> Conference of the Parties to the Convention and Protocol in Bali (December 2007) and the recent meeting of the Parties to the Convention and the Protocol in December 2008 in Poznan (COP14/CMP.4). In 2008, based on the Resolution of the Slovak Government 416 of 18 June 2008, a Commission for energy-climate package was created under the responsibility of the Ministry of Economy and the Ministry of the Environment of the Slovak Republic in 2008 in connection to the draft of the European Commission for integrated solution of climate and energy issues.

Due to expected important political and economic consequences of international agreements under preparation in the area of climate change adaptation for the Slovak Republic the representatives of other sectors, especially the Ministries of Finance, Economy And Foreign Affairs should also be involved in the negotiations on the extent and form of future commitments pursuant to Article 3.9 of the Kyoto Protocol, including proposed extension of support of developing countries by means of financial resources (including ODA) and technologies from the EU. Reasonable participation of private sector representatives is also important as they will take a considerable part in funding the assistance for developing countries.

In order to meet this challenge Slovakia took part in activities of international organisations (FAO, WFP, UNECE, UNFF). Slovakia also contributed to organisation of a Conference on forest protection in Europe – Warsaw 11/2007 where we became a member of the governing committee which also accepted our candidature to organise the 8<sup>th</sup> Ministerial Conference in 2019-20. From the position of a expert responsibility of the Ministry of Agriculture in the Biodiversity International we contribute to its activities through activities in international organisations – ECPGR, EUFORGEN, EPPO, ISTA, UPOV.

## AGENDA 21 CHAPTER 39: INTERNATIONAL LEGAL INSTRUMENTS AND MECHANISMS

Responsibility: MZV SR

*Ch. 39: International Legal Instruments are covered under the relevant sectoral chapters. This is a listing of major agreements/conventions (not already covered) entered into and relevant to Agenda 21:*

1. Framework Convention on the protection and sustainable development of Carpathians
2. UN Framework Convention on climate change
3. Kyoto Protocol to UN Framework Convention on Climate Change
4. Convention on long-range transboundary air pollution
5. Protocol to Convention on long-range transboundary air pollution on reduction of sulphur emissions or their transboundary fluxes by at least 30%
6. Protocol to Convention on long-range transboundary air pollution on further reduction of sulphur emissions
7. Protocol to Convention on long-range transboundary air pollution concerning the control of emissions of nitrogen or their transboundary fluxes
8. Protocol to Convention on long-range transboundary air pollution concerning the control of emissions of volatile organic compounds or their transboundary fluxes
9. Protocol to Convention on long-range transboundary air pollution on long-term financing of the cooperative programme for monitoring and evaluation of the long-range transmission of air pollutants in Europe – EMEP
10. Protocol to Convention on long-range transboundary air pollution on heavy metals
11. Protocol to Convention on long-range transboundary air pollution on persistent organic pollutants
12. Protocol to Convention on long-range transboundary air pollution on reduction of acidification, eutrophication and ground level ozone
13. Vienna Convention on the protection of ozone layer
14. Montreal Protocol on Substance that deplete the ozone layer
15. London Amendment to Montreal Protocol on Substance that deplete the ozone layer
16. Copenhagen Amendment to Montreal Protocol on Substance that deplete the ozone layer
17. Montreal Amendment to Montreal Protocol on Substance that deplete the ozone layer
18. Stockholm Convention on persistent organic pollutants
19. Convention on Cooperation for the Protection and Sustainable Use of Danube River
20. Convention on Protection and Use of Boundary Watercourses and International Lakes
21. Tisza Water Forum
22. International Convention regulation of whaling and Protocol of amendments
23. Basel Convention on Control of Trans-boundary Movement of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal
24. Amendment to Basel Convention on Control of Trans-boundary Movement of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal
25. Common Convention on Safety in Burnt Fuel Management and Safety of Radioactive Waste Management
26. Agreement on Co-operation in Prediction, Prevention and Mitigation of Natural and Technological Disasters among the Governments of Austria, Croatia, Hungary, Italy, Poland and Slovenia
27. Convention on Energy Charter and Protocol of Energy Charter on Energy Efficiency and Related Energy Aspects
28. Convention of Nuclear Safety
29. UN Convention to combat desertification in countries affected by drought, especially in Africa
30. Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context
31. Convention on the border-crossing effects of industrial accidents
32. Convention on civil liability for damage caused by activities hazardous to the environment
33. Convention on the protection of the world cultural and natural heritage
34. Convention on access to information, public participation in decision making process and access to justice in environmental matters (Aarhus Convention)
35. Protocol on strategic environmental assessment
36. Convention of Biological Diversity
37. Convention on the protection of the European wild organisms and natural habitats
38. Convention on Wetlands of International Importance Especially as Waterfowl Habitats
39. Protocol on amendment to Convention on Wetlands of International Importance Especially as Waterfowl Habitats
40. Agreement on the Conservation of African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbirds
41. Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora
42. International Convention on the protection of plants

43. International Agreement on plant genetic resources for food and agriculture
44. European Convention on the protection of animals bred for commercial purposes
45. Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals
46. Convention on Protection of Bats in Europe
47. Cartagena Protocol on biological safety to the Convention on biological diversity
48. European Landscape convention
49. European Charter of local self-government
50. Rotterdam Convention on the prior informed consent procedure for certain hazardous chemicals and pesticides in international trade
51. Protocol on water and health to the Convention on Protection and Use of Boundary Watercourses and International Lakes
52. Environmental Technology Action Plan
53. International Convention on the prevention of pollution from ships
54. Protocol to the International Convention on the prevention of pollution from ships
55. European Framework Convention on transboundary cooperation among territorial units and bodies
56. Lisbon Strategy
57. Environmental Strategy for the 1<sup>st</sup> decade of the 21<sup>st</sup> century
58. Sixth Environmental Action Programme of the EU for 2001 – 2010
59. European Strategy for sustainable development
60. Johannesburg declaration and Plan of implementation
61. Environmental Technology Action Plan
62. European Action Plan for the environment and health 2004 – 2010
63. UN ECE Strategy on education towards sustainable development
64. Renewed EU Strategy on sustainable development
65. WTO Agreement on phytosanitary instruments
66. Convention on measures to ban and restrict prohibited import, export and transfer of ownership to cultural assets
67. World Action Plan for maintenance and sustainable use of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture
68. Vienna Convention on civil liability for damage caused by nuclear event
69. European Convention on the protection of animals in international transport
70. European Convention on the protection of vertebrates used for experimental and scientific purposes
71. UN Convention on food assistance
72. Agreement on implementation of provisions concerning protection and management of fish stock which appear on a number of areas of oceans and migratory fish species
73. Convention on early information on nuclear accidents
74. Beijing amendment to the Montreal protocol
75. Convention on navigation regime on the river Danube

**AGENDA 21 CHAPTER 40: INFORMATION FOR DECISION-MAKING**

This chapter is also covered under sectoral and other chapters of this profile. The matrix below gives an overview of how national authorities rate the available information for decision making.

Rating of available data and information suitable for decision-making

Agenda 21 Chapters		Very good	Good	Some good data but many gaps	Poor	Remarks (irrelevant)
2.	International cooperation and trade		+			
3.	Combating poverty		+			
4.	Changing consumption patterns				+	
5.	Demographic dynamics and sustainability		+			
6.	Human health			+		
7.	Human settlements		+			
8.	Integrating E & D in decision-making					
9.	Protection of the atmosphere		+			
10.	Integrated planning and management of land resources		+			
11.	Combating deforestation	+				Military
12.	Combating desertification and drought		+			
13.	Sustainable mountain development		+			
14.	Sustainable agriculture and rural development			+		
15.	Conservation of biological diversity		+			
16.	Biotechnology		+			
17.	Oceans, seas, coastal areas and their living resources					-
18.	Freshwater resources		+			
19.	Toxic chemicals			+		
20.	Hazardous wastes	+				
21.	Solid wastes	+				
22.	Radioactive wastes		+			
24.	Women in sustainable development		+			
25.	Children and youth		+			
26.	Indigenous people					-
27.	Non-governmental organizations		+			
28.	Local authorities		+			
29.	Workers and trade unions		+			
30.	Business and industry		+			
31.	Scientific and technological community		+			
32.	Farmers		+			
33.	Financial resources and mechanisms		+			
34.	Technology, cooperation and capacity-building			+		
35.	Science for sustainable development		+			
36.	Education, public awareness and training	+				
37.	International cooperation for capacity-building		+			
38.	International institutional arrangements	+				
39.	International legal instruments	+				
40.	Information for decision-making		+			

