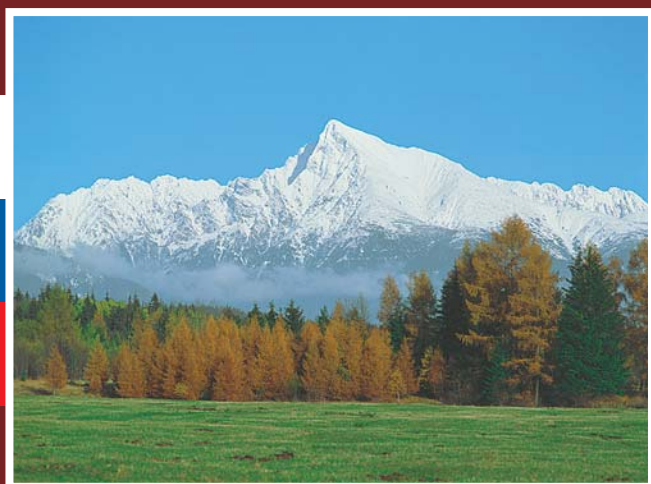


***Ministry of the Environment
of the Slovak Republic***



***STATE OF THE ENVIRONMENT
REPORT
SLOVAK REPUBLIC 2007***



***Slovak Environmental
Agency***





Strategy of the State Environmental Policy leads to integration of the Slovak Republic as an independent state into the global alliance, which creates precondition of achieving the European and global environmental safety, peace and sustainable development and life on Earth ...

from the document on State Environmental Policy Strategy from 1993

ENVIRONMENTAL CARE

• ENVIRONMENTAL LAW

Collection of Laws of the Slovak Republic published the following legislation in 2007: 10 acts, 7 Ministry of Environment resolutions, and 1 announcement on Ministry regulation.

Acts

- Act **117/2007 Coll.**, which amends Act 572/2004 Coll. on trade with emission quotas and on amendment to other laws as amended by Act 733/2004 Coll.
- Act **203/2007 Coll.**, which amends Act 47/2002 Coll. on air as amended
- Act **217/2007 Coll.**, which amends Act no.469/2002 Coll. on environmental product labelling
- Act **276/2007 Coll.**, which amends Act no.587/2004 Coll. on Environmental fund
- Act **332/2007 Coll.**, which amends Act 666/2004 Coll. on flood protection
- Act **359/2007 Coll.** on prevention and recovery of environmental damage, and on amendments to other laws
- Act **452/2007 Coll.**, which amends Act 15/2005 Coll. on protection of wildlife animal and plant species through regulating their trade, and on amendments to other laws as amended by Act 672/2006 Coll.
- Act **454/2007 Coll.**, which amends Act 543/2002 Coll. on nature and landscape protection as amended
- Act **529/2007 Coll.**, which amends Act 478/2002 Coll. on air protection, amending Act 401/1998 Coll. on air pollution fees as amended (Air Act) as amended, and which amends Act 401/1998 Coll. on air pollution fees as amended
- Act **569/2007 Coll.** on geological works (Geological act).

MoE SR Regulation

- MoE SR Regulation **227/2007 Coll.**, which amends Ministry of Environment Regulation 125/2004 Coll. outlining details on processing of old vehicles and on certain car manufacture requirements
- MoE SR Regulation **313/2007 Coll.**, which amends Ministry of Environment Regulation 208/2005 Coll. on handling electrical appliances and electro-waste
- MoE SR Regulation **351/2007 Coll.**, which amends MoE SR Regulation 705/2002 Coll., on air quality
- MoE SR Regulation **411/2007 Coll.**, which executes Act 205/2004 Coll. on collecting, storing, and spreading information on environment, and on amendments to other laws
- MZ SR Regulation **457/2007 Coll.** which amends the MoE Regulation 409/2003 Coll. which sets forth emission limits technical requirements and general requirements for the operation of sources using organic solvents as amended by Regulation 132/2006 Coll.
- MoE SR Regulation **631/2007 Coll.**, which amends MoE SR Regulation 706/2002 Coll., on sources of air pollution, emission limits, on technical demands and general operation conditions, on the pollutants register, on categorizing of air pollution sources, and on the requirements to ensure dispersion of pollutants emissions as amended
- MoE SR Regulation **638/2007 Coll.**, which amends MoE SR Regulation 24/2003 Coll. which executes Act 543/2002 on nature and landscape protection.

MoE SR Announcement

- Announcement of MoE SR **178/2007 Coll.** of March 20, 2007 on issuing an order 1/2007, which amends a MoE SR Decree 5/2005 of November 16, 2005 on subsidies to municipalities to cover costs for delegated execution of state administration environmental care.



Environmental impact assessment is a comprehensive identification, description and evaluation of the likely environmental impact of a strategic document and a proposed activity...

§ 3 b of the Act No. 24/2006 Coll. on environmental impact assessment and on amendment to other laws

• ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT

In 2007, MoE SR implemented the EIA process, assessing 236 constructions, facilities, and other activities. These activities included those with an ongoing obligatory assessment process that terminated by an issued final position statement pursuant to Act 24/2006 on environmental impact assessment and on amendment to other laws, and in cases of assessment processes that began before February 1, also pursuant to the SR National Council Act 127/1994 Coll. on environmental impact assessment. In 2007, there were 176 final position statements issued at the MoE SR.

Within the SEA process, MoE SR continued to assess strategic documents that may have a major impact on environment that extends beyond national borders, as well as strategic documents applicable to the whole state's territory. 18 strategic documents were assessed within the assessment period.

Assessment of strategic documents pursuant to Sect.4 and Sect.7 of Act 24/2006, as well as proposed activities under Sect. 29 of Act 24/2006 (finding proceedings) was implemented also by local and regional environmental authorities.

Outcomes of the EIA process in 2007 – the MoE SR level

Number of assessed buildings and activities at MoE SR - EIA	251
Number of decisions issued at MoE SR	133
Number of final positions issued	118
Number of assessed drafts of strategic documents - SEA	16

Source: MoE SR

Outcomes of the EIA process in 2007 – the environmental authorities level

Number of decisions issued by regional environmental authorities and district environmental authorities	428
Number of assessed drafts of strategic documents - SEA	79

Source: MoE SR

MoE SR keeps the **central register** of all assessed strategic documents and proposed activities (in electronic form) as the commissioned authority on behalf of the SR, in cooperation with Slovak Environmental Agency, using the information system for environmental impact assessment in Slovakia. For all available information, go to <http://eia.enviroportal.sk/>

Complete documentation (hard copies) from the EIA process of proposed activities carried out and completed by MoE SR since 1994 until 2004 are archived in the **EIA Documentation centre** at Slovak Environmental Agency. Documentation as from January 1, 2005 until the end of 2007, is kept at MoE SR. Information from the documentation may be requested from SEA and MoE SR.

Documentation of the processes carried out by regional and local environment agencies is archived at individual authorities.





Integrated pollution prevention and control is a set of measures aimed at a pollution prevention, reduction of emissions to air, water and soil, reduction of waste generation and at waste recovery and disposal in order to achieve a high level of protection of the environment taken as a whole.

§ 2 par. 1 of the Act No. 245/2003 Coll. on integrated pollution prevention and control

• INTEGRATED POLLUTION PREVENTION AND CONTROL (IPPC)

IPPC was introduced into the Slovak legal codes and implemented through **Act 245/2003 Coll. on integrated environmental pollution prevention and control and on amendments of certain laws as amended (Act on IPPC)**.

In March 2008, came into force a MoE SR Resolution 63/2008 Coll., which amends Resolution 391/2003 Coll., amending Act on IPPC, and which regulates the process and form of acquiring a certificate of professional training to offer professional counselling in the area of IPPC. The Resolution also specifies the data to be acquired and notified by the IPPC operators before February 15 of each year into the integrated information system register.

Slovak Environmental Inspection is the administration authority in the process of integrated licensing and issuing of integrated licenses. As of December 31, 2007, 510 valid integrated licenses were issued for existing and new operation sites.

The system of integrated environmental pollution prevention and control has been developed to ensure a complex collection of data and information on the IPPC. The system includes: Register of operators and IPPC operations, Register of issued integrated licenses, Integrated register of information system (IRIS), Register of environmental quality norms, BAT and BREF Register, and the Register of authorised persons.

New EP and Council Regulation (EC) 166/2006 **concerning the establishment of a European Pollutant Release and Transfer Register entered into effect in January 2006, which will substitute and extend the actual European Pollutant Emission Register (EPER)**. First duty to report, as dictated by E-PRTR, is for the calendar year of 2007.



Environmental damage is a damage inflicted on

- protected species and protected biotopes, and which shows critical adverse impacts on reaching or sustaining favourable conditions in the protection of protected species and protected biotopes, with the exception of the previously-identified adverse impacts that aroused as a consequence of the operator's actions that the operator was entitled to perform in compliance with special provisions,
- water, which shows adverse impacts on ecological, chemical, or quantitative conditions of water, or on aquatic ecological potential, with the exception of adverse effects set forth by special provisions, or
- soil, where the damage represents soil contamination that poses a major risk of adverse impacts on health, caused either by direct or indirect introduction of substances, products, organisms, or microorganisms to soil, into soil or below the soil's surface.

Act No. 359/2007 Coll.

• PREVENTION AND REMEDYING ENVIRONMENTAL DAMAGES

In 2007, Slovak Republic included in its legislation an EP and Council Directive 2004/35/EC on environmental liability with regard to the prevention and remedying of environmental damage (hereinafter only „directive“) through its **Act No. 359/2007 Coll. on the prevention and remedying of environmental damage and on amendment to other laws.**

Presently, in the EU there are many contaminated cities that pose major health risks. Over the last decades, the loss of biodiversity has dramatically accelerated. Absence of any activity might result in a greater municipal contamination and a greater future loss of biodiversity. Prevention and elimination of environmental damage represents the greatest contribution to the implementation of objectives and principles of the Community's environmental policy, as stated in the European Union founding treaties.

Prevention and elimination of environmental damage should be implemented through the „**polluter-pays**“ rule, in compliance with the principle of sustainable development. Fundamental principle of the directive that is also reflected in the corresponding law requires the operator whose activities occasioned environmental damage or pose an imminent threat of such a damage, to be considered financially liable. The objective is to force the operators to adopt and execute measures and strategies to minimize environmental damage, as this would reduce their financial liability risk.

The law considers **environmental damage** as only **damage to protected species and biotopes, on water and on land**, rather than any damage to environment. Nevertheless, any adverse change to any of the mentioned natural resources is considered damage, regardless of whether such was caused by breaching legal provisions or by acting in compliance with them. Operators carrying out work activities defined by legislation are liable for such environmental damage. This is the case of objective

liability, while the operators involved in other work activities fall under subjective liability pertaining only to the damage on protected species and biotopes.

Information system of the prevention and remedying of environmental damage was implemented.





A major industrial accident involves an event such as excessive emission level, fire or explosion with the presence of one or more selected hazardous substances, which results from uncontrolled developments in operation of any business eligible under this law, and which leads to immediate or consequent hazard to life or health of the public, environment, or property inside or outside the business.

Sect. 2(h) of Act No. 261/2002 Coll.

• PREVENTION OF MAJOR INDUSTRIAL ACCIDENTS

Prevention of major industrial accidents is regulated through the following legislation:

- Act No. 261/2002 Coll. on prevention of major industrial accidents and on amendments to other laws as amended (hereinafter only the Accident Act),
- Resolution No. 489/2002 Coll. which executes several provisions of Act No. 261/2002 Coll. on preventing major industrial accidents and on amendments to other laws as amended,
- Resolution No. 490/2002 on safety administration and on emergency plan as amended.

Unexpected, sudden emergencies, especially major leakages of hazardous substances, fires, explosions, that could occur especially in the chemical industry as a consequence of extraordinary causes or mishandled production procedures, represent a major hazard not only to workers of the given facility, but also to the public and to the environment. Qualified prevention, above all, plays the fundamental and irreplaceable role in fighting the occurrence of such events.

Act on accidents introduced a complex programme of prevention and accident preparedness. The Act fully embraces one of the key EU directives in the area of industrial pollution and risk management – Directive 96/82/EC on the control of major-accident hazards involving dangerous substances, the so-called SEVESO II Directive.

Act on accidents divides businesses by total volumes of selected hazardous substances present in the plant into **A category and B category (so-called SEVESO businesses)**. At present, there are **37 A-category businesses and 39 B-category businesses** under the pertinent law.

Basic obligations of business operators with present selected hazardous substances include:

- to revise total volumes of selected hazardous substances in the plant and subsequently classify the business into a pertinent category,
- to issue a report on registration of the business by local district environmental authority.

Business registered under a given category should:

- appoint a qualified person,
- develop a programme of prevention of major industrial accidents and introduce safety control system,
- develop risk assessment and safety report,
- develop an emergency plan,
- inform the public,
- engage rescue service,
- make agreement on liability insurance,
- submit documentation for developing a public safety plan.

Information system of prevention of major industrial accidents for public together with authorised version for competent organs was put in practice.

Register of qualified persons in 2006 included **219 professionals in the area of prevention of major industrial accidents** and **29 emergency technicians**. The list of authorised persons in 2006 included **34 subjects**.

In **2003-2007**, the MoE SR registered **18 immediate hazards of major industrial accidents** and **3 major industrial accidents**. Information on major industrial accidents was supplied to JRC EC in Ispre and is stored in the MARS database (Major Accident Reporting System). This database stores information on major industrial accidents in EU.

Overview of reported events for individual years of 2003-2007

	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Imminent hazard of major industrial accident	7	4	1	1	5
Major industrial accident	0	0	2	1	0

Source: MoE SR



Genetic technologies shall be activities of genetic engineering and modern biotechnology, which create and use live genetically modified organisms including micro-organisms.

Genetically modified organism shall be an organism, of which genetic material has been altered in a way that does not occur naturally by sexual reproduction and natural recombination.

§ 2 par. 1 and § 4 par. 1 of the Act No. 151/2002 Coll.

on use of genetic technologies and genetically modified organisms

• GENETIC TECHNOLOGIES AND GENETICALLY MODIFIED ORGANISMS

The area of using genetic technologies and genetically modified organisms (GMO) within the Slovak legal code is addressed by the **Act No. 151/2002 Coll. on the use of genetic technologies and genetically modified organisms as amended by the Act No. 587/2004 Coll., and the MoE SR Regulation 399/2005 executing this Act as amended by Regulation 312/2008 Coll.**

The law makes it possible to use genetic technologies and genetically modified organisms in three ways:

- in enclosed areas (devices),
- intentional release, including
 - a) introduction to the environment,
 - b) introduction to the market.

◆ Using of genetic technologies and genetically modified organisms in vitro

Plans the use of genetic technologies and genetically modified organisms in enclosed areas (laboratories, greenhouses, cultivating rooms, and other enclosed facilities) is divided into four at risk categories (RC), while the RC 1 represents no or negligible risk, RC 2 means small risk, RC 3 means medium risk, and RC 4 means significant risk.

On the basis of received applications and notifications by the MoE SR in 2007, 39 facilities were entered into the register of facilities. License was given to 16 facilities for their first use of genetic technologies, while 3 facilities were given the permission to initiate the RC 2 activities. MoE SR did not object to commencement of activities in RT in 78 facilities.

◆ Intentional release

In 2007, MoE SR issued 1 permit for test cultivation of genetically modified corn.

◆ Biological safety commission

Commission for the biological safety (commission) is the professional consulting body to the Ministry of Environment of the SR in the area of biological safety. The Commission consists of a broad spectrum of professionals, scientists, public officers nominated to represent the affected resorts, representatives of the public including the users (producers, importers, salespersons, etc.), and the general public. The Commission cooperates with the Association of experts.

In 2007, there were 15 sessions of the commission. At the mention sessions, the Commission commented on the statements adopted by the EU, proposals to issue licenses for the first use of the facilities for genetic technologies, and on the notification reports on launching of operations in facilities.



Eco-label is a label, which on the basis of a legally specified verification certifies, that a particular product meets requirements above the standard from the point of environmental protection, when compared with other products of the same group of products.

*§ 2 par. 2 of Act No. 469/2002 Coll.
on Environmental eco-labelling*

• ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT AND PRODUCT LABELLING

Conditions and strategy for licensing and using the national label "*Environment-friendly product*" (EFP), as well as the EC environmental label „*European Flower*“ are governed by the **Act No. 469/2002 Coll. on environmental product labelling as amended by Act No. 587/2004 Coll.** The MoE SR Directive No. 258/2003 Coll. was subsequently adopted, which executes the Act on environmental product labelling. With the goal to ensure reduction of negative impacts of the products on the environment, the **Program of environmental product labelling for the years 2004-2008** was adopted in 2004. The Programme aims to apply the environment creation and protection aspects into product strategy, through implementation of the environmental tender criteria.

NPEHOV regulations represent the basic technical document of the *National Programme of Environmental Assessment and Product Labelling in the SR*, which carries out attestation of product conformity with the basic and specific environmental requirements, with the objective to obtain the national environmental label (EFP). In 2007, 13 products received national environmental label "EFP". Since 1997, 144 products received national environmental label "EFP".

Act No. 217/2007 Coll. of March 29, 2007 which amends Act No. 469/2002 Coll. on environmental labelling of products as amended by Act No. 587/2004 Coll. effective as from June 1, 2007 *in its full text including the annexes and legal provisions accentuates the word "product"*.





Environmental management is a set of voluntary instruments of environmental policy that enable implementation of a systematic approach to solution of issues regarding protection and planning of the environment as well as increase of environmental-friendly behaviour of companies by the application of eco-innovation trends.

• ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT AND AUDIT

Scheme of the European Community (EC) for **environmental management and audit (EMAS)** is a voluntary instrument of the EU that testifies to the fact that organizations base their environmental behaviour on consistent work.

Legal regulation of EMAS stems from the following documents:

- European Parliament and Council Directive 761/2001 of March 19, 2001, which allows for voluntary involvement of organisations within the ES scheme for environmental management and audit (EMAS) in its application acts,
- Act No. 491/2005 Coll. on environmental inspection and registration within the European Community scheme for environmental management audit, and on amendment of certain laws,
- Directive No. 606/2005 Coll., which executes Act No. 491/2005 Coll. on environmental inspection and registration within the European Community scheme for environmental management and audit, and on amendment of certain laws.

In the course of 2007, other two organisations complied with conditions for the EMAS registration. These subjects are active in the area of mechanical production - INA Kysuce, Inc., Kysucké Nové Mesto, and INA Skalica, Ltd., Skalica.

Environmental management system (EMS) pursuant to STN EN ISO 14001 was introduced in other 108 organisations over the course of 2007. This increased the number of registered functional environmental management systems in Slovakia as of December 31, 2007 to 462.



Environmental goals, set for reaching good condition of surface waters and for good condition of underground waters must be secured by implementation of programme of arrangements, which are specified in the plan of watercourses management by 31 December 2015.

§ 16 par. 1 of the Act No. 364/2004 Coll. on Water Sources, changing and amending some laws (Water Act)

• ECONOMICS OF ENVIRONMENTAL CARE

State budget and investment policy

Funds that pertain to environmental protection and development were released from the state budget of the Slovak Republic through subsidies from budget chapters at different Ministries and from the Environmental Fund.

Environmental investments of some government departments of SR financed from the state budget in 2007 (thous. SKK)

Department	WWTP Sewages	Other WM actions	Waste management	Air Protection	Others	Total	%
MoE SR	1 499 377	430 400	331 743	379 670	84 159	2 725 349	84,9
MoA SR	0	0	0	0	15 500	15 500	0,5
MoEd SR	4 702	56 271	15 290	28 118	19 278	123 659	3,9
MoTPT SR	104 816	931	3 376	208	29 569	138 900	4,3
MoFA SR	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
MoCRD SR	49 201,4	62 645,5	70 005,1	682,8	24 602,3	207 137,1	6,5
Total	1 658 096	550 248	420 414	408 679	173 108	3 210 545	100

Source: Proper resorts

During the period 1993-2007, Ministry of Environment SR designating the sum of 18.6 billion SKK to environmental investments, the Ministry of Agriculture designated the sum of 8.1 billion SKK, and the Ministry of Defence of the Slovak Republic designated the sum of 2.01 billion SKK. **Total environmental investments** for the period 1993-2007 in Slovakia represent the sum of **37.3 billion SKK**.

Budget grants determined on realization of environmental programs

The environmental fund was established on January 1, 2005, through Act No. 587/2004 Coll. on environmental fund and amendment to certain laws.

Review of financed grants in 2007

Area of budget grants	Number	SKK
Protection of air and of ozone layer	29	40 157 980
Protection and rational efficiency of water	368	1 454 737 483
Including: - WWTP and sewers	226	1 005 716 814
- water lines	127	398 259 669
- anti-flood measures	15	50 761 000
Development of waste management	79	207 298 000
Protection of nature and lands	24	35 708 850
Environmental education and promotion	40	73 455 347
Survey, research and development	11	79 033 709
Accidents	2	3 273 700
Total	553	1 893 665 069

Source: Environmental fund

Of total number of awarded loans in the sum of 140 199 356 SKK, 49.9 % was awarded to the development of waste management, 43.6 % to the protection of atmosphere and the Earth's ozone layer, and 6.5 % to the protection and rational use of water.

Economic tools

♦ Fees for pollution and exploitation of natural resources

In 2007, the greatest portion of fees for pollution of environment came from air pollution fees (1.166 bill. SKK).

Gains from selected economic tools exercised in 2007 (thous. SKK)

Sort of payment	2007
Charges for pollution of air	1 166 532
Retributions for tapping of waste water	355 015
Charges for loading of wastes	88
Penalisation for the failure to pay air-pollution fees.	2 292
Charges for exploitation of natural resources	
Retributions for taking of subterranean waters	407 201
Settlements for yielding spaces	20 928
Settlements for mined minerals	145 595
Settlements for loading of gases and liquids in natural rocky-structures and subterranean places	36 798

Source: Environmental fund

♦ **Fines imposed by the State administration environmental authorities**

State administration environmental authorities impose fines for non-compliance with the provisions set forth under generally binding legal policies.

Penalties laid by executive administration for the environment during the period of 1993-2007
(thous. SKK)

Sector	1993	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Protection of air	9 693	3 771	2 334	1 644	2 220	6 176	1 847	4 328	6 016	3 545	2 564
Protection of water	12 635	7 850	6 733	6 038	8 887	5 858	8 030	9 540	10 603	14 832	12 679
Wastes	5 894	8 659	7 012	9 213	9 269	3 743	6 129	7 899	6 994	9 635	9 813
Protection of nature	662	1 893	1 659	1 498	1 581	3 532	1 255	1 421	1 607	2 703	3 227
Penalization			692	417	4 244	1 357	353	553	192	0	0
Building law				1 091	5 671	7 135	3 716	917	469	245	0
Packaging							5	2	1	310	0
Prevention of gross industrial averages							4	7	31	226	0
Trading with endangered species of animals and plants							43	73	81	160	0
Public water-supply and sewages									1	0	0
Integrated prevention and control									125	284	1 440
GMO									150	50	3
Geological works									5	0	0
Fishery										3	0
Total	28 884	22 173	18 430	19 901	31 872	27 801	21 382	24 740	26 275	17 161	29 726

Source: MoE SR

In 2007, the greatest sum of fines was imposed in the area of water protection (12.679 bill. SKK) and in the area of waste management (9.813 mil. SKK).

Environmental gains and expenses

Financial indicators of environmental protection in Slovakia are systematically monitored by the Statistical Office of Slovak Republic for 1998-2007, both as investments – common internal company expenses and yields for protecting the environment, and as expenditures of individual budget chapters.

Environmental gains and expenses according to contemporary way of statistical showing, during the period of 1998-2007 (thousand SKK)

Domain of gains and expenses	1998	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Investments on protection of environment covered from state sources	1 221 075	899 167	1 195 411	1 070 774	891 491	797 000	1 027 000	1 143 000	858 000
Investments on protection of environment covered from foreign sources	7 008 421	377 289	133 748	2 164 044	328 000 ¹⁾	135 000 ¹⁾	802 000 ¹⁾	1 638 000 ¹⁾	1 594 000 ¹⁾
Current costs of protection of the environment	7 036 448	6 666 920	9 209 273	11 485 181	11 389 498	13 886 000	15 100 000	23 277 000	17 452 000

Intradepartmental disbursement – wage	434 349	508 619	612 137	842 778	877 277	912 000	1 068 000	1 111 000	1 020 000
Intradepartmental disbursement – other	3 188 770	3 083 225	4 892 388	5 579 150	5 290 254	4 849 000	5 373 000	13 460 000	4 561 000
Disbursement of organization on protection of the environment covered by other subject Charges and payments to public organs and organizations	2 464 240	2 253 695	2 653 205	2 919 064	2 991 248	1 492 000	4 345 000	4 033 000	6 059 000
Payments to private person or organizations	949 089	821 381	1 051 543	2 144 189	2 230 719	6 631 000	4 314 000	4 673 000	5 811 000
Profits from the protection of the environment Sales from selling of products, tools and components	610 971	641 788	659 868	709 743	106 022	111 000	52 000	65 000	85 000
Sales from selling of technologies	509	1 882	16 116	1 100	30	0	0	13 000	5 000
Sales from provided services	328 985	307 421	477 601	1 056 806	1 497 401	4 497 000	5 613 000	4 506 000	5 758 000

¹⁾ without expenses of municipalities

Source: SO SR



*Enlightenment activities increase the general cultural and awareness and educational level of people by... improving their relationship with their own state, and towards the **environmental care**.*

§ 2 par. 2 of the Act No. 61/2002 Coll. on Enlightenment Activities

• SCIENCE, RESEARCH AND ENVIRONMENTAL EDIFICATION

Science and research

Research endeavours in 2007 carried out by professional organisations within the sector focused on the following:

SGI DS addressed numerous aspects of environmental geological survey and research. This especially included regular monitoring and evaluation of the mechanism of negative changes to the geological space, within the partial monitoring system of geological environmental factors. Continuing issues focused on the creation of a set of geological factor environmental maps in the scale of 1 : 50 000 in selected Slovakia's regions. The project of Geological maps development 1: 50 000 for the needs of integrated landscape management was studied extensively.

In 2007, besides other scientific and technical projects, **WRI** also focused on the project of SZIGETKOZ - Implementation of new approaches for sustainable management of water and landscape of the Hungarian-Slovakian territory (LIFE Programme), Zemplínska aquatic route (INTERREG III.A), and EnviroGeoPortal (INTERREG III.A).

In 2007, **SEA** also addressed the EnviroGeoPortal project and participated in the project funded by the 6th framework programme of GNU - network of GMES users (Global environmental and safety monitoring) coordinated by the Austrian Environmental Agency.

Research and development activities of the **SHMI** in 2007 again focused on applied research. Results of the activities contributed mainly to the protection of aquatic sources and atmosphere, and to the continuous assessment of climatic system and its impacts on the hydrosphere especially. For SHMI, the year 2007 meant creation of an agreement on cooperation with the European Centre for Medium-Range Weather Forecasts. (ECMWF) Objective of the input is to improve weather forecasts that represent a major contribution in terms of flood aftermaths prevention or crisis management activities.

In the area of nature and landscape protection, **SCA** carried out various tasks and projects of basic and applied research, such as inventory survey of caves, geological and geo-morphological research, bio-speleological research of invertebrates.

State Nature Conservancy (SNC SR) conducted partial count of big predators in selected areas in order to determine their numbers. It mapped introduced and invasive species of plants, plants of European significance, animals, bogs, wetlands.

SMNPaS workers implemented an inventory survey of proposed European significance territories. Other research activities focused on marmot colonies, and bio-indicative species of malaco-fauna.

Research at the **Bojnice ZOO** focused on the protection of species and their raising by humans.

Environmental research and monitoring at **SAS** in 2007 continued through the following projects: VEGA, 5.- 6. framework programme of the EU, SRDA, COST, UNESCO, etc.

MoE SR and SAS cooperated at creating a representative monograph titled Landscape Ecology in Slovakia. Besides, their cooperation involved genetically-modified organisms, monitoring of seismic phenomena in the Slovak territory, etc.

Green Project

The "**Green Project**" grant scheme is one of the possibilities for specific financial assistance to environmental activities carried out by non government organizations. Therefore, green projects represent the functional instrument that helps to increase the level of environmental awareness among the general public.

Since the „Green Project“ competition was first announced, 220 projects have been supported in this way. In 2007, released funds within the programme reached 371 500 SKK.

Environmental edification

Major activities in 2007 included for example:

Presentations and exhibitions

- Enviro Nitra 12.04. – 15.04. 2007
- Recycling – Innovation - Separation Banská Bystrica 24.-27. 04. 2007
- AQUA Trenčín 19.06. – 21.06. 2007

Conferences, seminars, lectures, training sessions

In 2007, MoE SR in cooperation with professional organisations within the sector organised a number of events for professionals and general public alike:

- Reclamation technologies of biological waste within the municipal sphere
- Environmental loads
- 12. professional seminar for workers of accessed caves
- Hydrochémia 2007 – New analytical methods in water chemistry
- World Water Day – Water and culture
- NATURA 2000 – size of protected territories, problems related to the declaration process, approaches to address the economic damage in favour of limitation of private owners' activities.
- Recycling industry - condition, problems, and perspectives
- Enviro-i-forum
- Environmental policy and industrial development of the SR
- First places of the Slovak mineral world
- Day of the Earth's Ozone Layer protection
- 15. anniversary of completing Danube's dams
- World day of animal protection
- Landscape – an undervalued thing
- Conference to commemorate the 75th PIENAP anniversary
- Conference to commemorate the 30th anniversary of the Slovenský karst BR
- Research and protection of mammals in Slovakia VIII
- Declaration of tri-lateral trans-boundary Ramsar site Niva (river flat) at the confluence of Morava, Dyje, and Danube.

Festivals, competitions, films, and projects for the public

- ENVIROFILM 2007
- International Danube Day 2007
- Festival of folk creativity, crafts and fun
- CAP Á Ľ EST
- Štiavnica Christmas Fair
- Hypericum – physical wellness and educational competition for the youth
- Children to nature
- Fair of environmental educational programmes – Šiška (cone)
- Envirootázky (enviro-questions) – Olympics on environment
- ProEnviro
- Vodný svet (Water world) summer camp
- Summer eco-camp
- Project "School in the Museum" (SMM)
- Living Gallery Project (SMM)

Publication activity

Major periodicals published in the sector of environment in 2005 included the MoE SR Journal, Enviromagazine magazines, Aragonit, Mineralia Slovaca, Slovak Geological Magazin, Protected areas of Slovakia, Protection of the Slovak Nature, Water management bulletin, publications of the State of the environment report, Water in the Slovak Republic, Slovak Karst Journals, Naturae Tutela, Sinter bulletin, ZOO news.

Besides these periodicals, the edition plan included annual reports, journals from various events, educational methodological workbooks, taxonomic identification guides for plant and animal species, advertisements and educational brochures, posters, pamphlets, cave guides, maps.

A bilingual document called **Environment in Slovakia** was published in 2007, with the aim to present the work and mission of the Ministry, legal situation, and its trends in the area of environmental protection and creation.

The Zelená šanca (Green chance) edition included a number of created promotional and educational films shown on the public television.

Environmental Law and Access to Information

In 2007, on free access to information and amendment to certain laws according to **Act No. 211/2000 Coll.**, were registered 3 728 applications. Greatest number of registered applications submitted by the public came through the „Green Line“. Direct telephonic conversation were registered through 2 511 applications, 87 applications were sent in by mail and subsequently registered, 3 proposals were faxed, and 990 applicants were sent by electronic mail. 127 personal inquires have been processed directly by the public office.

