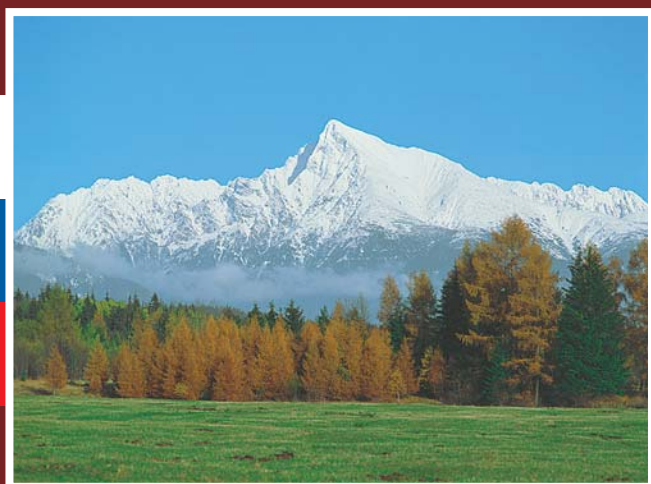


***Ministry of the Environment
of the Slovak Republic***

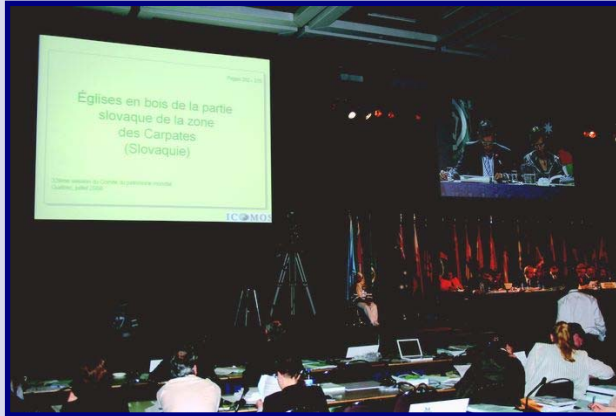


***STATE OF THE ENVIRONMENT
REPORT
SLOVAK REPUBLIC 2007***



***Slovak Environmental
Agency***





*Human kind is a part of the nature and life depends on undisturbed functioning of nature systems, which provide for resources of energy and nutrition,... Permanent benefit from the nature depends on maintenance of basic ecological processes of vitally important systems, from **diversity of life forms**, which are threatened by extreme exploitation and destruction of areas from the man's side.*

The World Chart on Nature, adopted by the UN General Assembly on 28 October 1982

INTERNATIONAL CO-OPERATION

• INTERNATIONAL CARE OF THE ENVIRONMENT

Cooperation of the Vysegrad group

Ministers of environment of the Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland, and Slovakia met in Prague in May 24-25, 2007 for the 14th time. The meeting focused on climatic changes, framework directive on waste, coordination of environmental policies, and the preparation of a conference of Ministers of environment of the UN EEC organized in the Fall of 2007 in Belgrade.

Bilateral cooperation

Bilateral cooperation with the neighbouring countries including the Czech Republic, Poland, Hungary, and Austria focused primarily on the cooperation between border regions on programming and implementation of common projects with funding from the EU programmes.

Equally intensive were activities of mixed committees and taskforce groups for cooperation with the mentioned countries in the area of border waters.

Multilateral cooperation

The 6th ministerial conference called „Environment for Europe“ organized in October 10-12, 2007 in Belgrade hosted 2000 delegates from 51 member countries of the UN European Economic Commission, together with European Commission, international organisations, non-government organisations, financial institutions, regional environmental centres, and civic organisations. Major topics of the conference centred on evaluation of activities and their implementation, building of

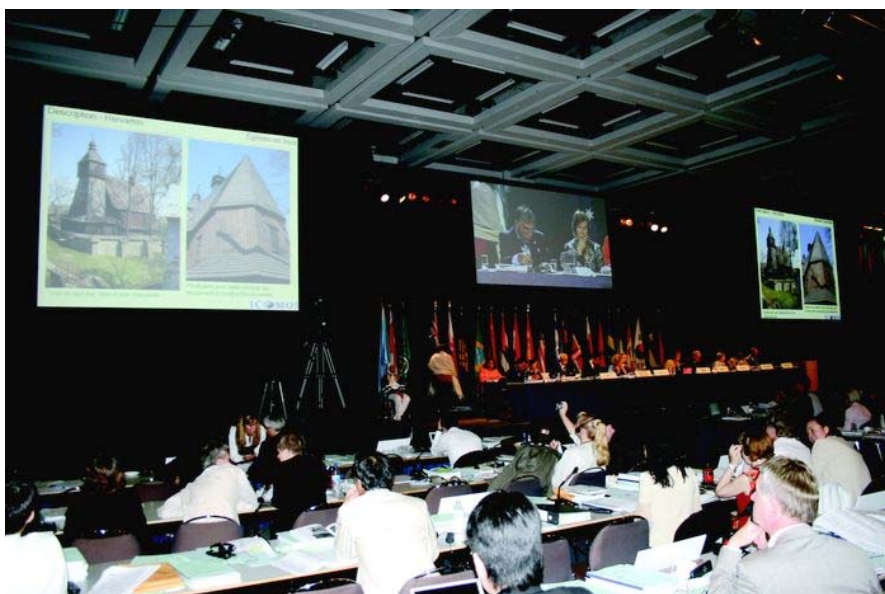
capacities, and the future of the Environment for Europe process. There also were other 60 accompanying events organised besides the main programme. Representatives from the Slovak Ministry of Environment were directly involved in an UN EEC event called "Assessing the state of trans-boundary water bodies within the UN EEC region", and also participated directly in an event organised by the International Commission for the Protection of the Danube River addressing the Tisa river watershed.

Coordination of the SR activities toward the EU in the area of environment

Coordination of the SR strategy toward the EU in the area of environment is supervised by the MoE SR. The highest decision making authority to adopt legal steps and political documents at the EU level for environmental issues is the EU Environment Council, with the Slovak Minister of Environment as a member. Besides its regular meetings, the presiding country usually organises also an informal council of ministers of environment in its own territory. In total, there were 6 meetings, which included 4 formal meetings (20.2. and 20.12.2007 in Brussels, and 27.6. and 30.10. 2007 in Luxembourg).

In 2007 continued the process of transposition and implementation of the effective EU legal acts in the area of environment. The following environmental **legal instruments** were adopted in the EU for the monitored time period: 1 regulation, 3 directives, and 5 decisions.

The year 2007 was the 1st year of a new programming period in terms of using the EU funds within the Cohesion fund and Structure Funds for the period of 2007-2013. In June 2007, works on the document called "**Condition and future possibilities for the implementation of acquis for the period of 2007-2013**" were successfully completed. This was one of the key elements in the process of preparation and approval of the Operation environment programme.





Measures of the economic policy and other measures shall be designed to implement economical and social development of the Slovak Republic, and they will follow the principle of sustainable development.

*These measures should provide from the very beginning, that **also aspects of environmental protection shall be fully taken into consideration** and that they shall be connected to the requirements of a harmonic social development.*

Article 72 par. 2 of the European Affiliation Agreement, signed between the European Union and its members on one side and the Slovak republic on the other side (Luxembourg, 4 October 1993)

• PROGRAMMES AND PROJECTS OF INTERNATIONAL CO-OPERATION

PHARE - National Programme

♦ PHARE – Twinning, Twinning light

In 2007, in the area of environment, the PHARE Programme continued to focus on strengthening the MoE SR administration. It also supports of the process of approximation of legislation and its application in accordance with the EU requirements. In 2007, there were 4 projects implemented within the PHARE - Transitional fund 2007 scheme. One of these projects terminated in 2007, while the other 3 will terminate in 2008.

TF UIBF 2004/016-764.08.03.01-0007 - Securing the compliance to the information flows requirements on the quality of water bodies in Slovakia, and software strengthening of the recreational purposes water database system - technical assistance

Partner	SHMI + Deconta, s.r.o.
Total financial volume	199 000 €
State of project	Project terminated 11/2007

TF 2005/017-464.06.01 – Determination of environmental quality norms for water and strengthening of regional and district environmental authorities to implement control and monitoring of water - twinning

International partner	Italy (Agency for the co-operation of local governments – Torino)
Total financial volume	2,016,400 EUR
State of project	PROJECT UNDER IMPLEMENTATION, PLANNED COMPLETION - JUNE 2008

TF UIBF 2005/017-464.08.01 – Drafting of the national methodology for water quality determination in the valley rivers pursuant to RSV with the use of phytoplankton, and a proposal to monitor phyto-benthos – twinning light	
International partner	Austria (Federal agency for environment)
Total financial volume	120 000 €
State of project	PROJECT UNDER IMPLEMENTATION, PLANNED COMPLETION - JUNE 2008

TF UIBF 2005/017-464.08.01 – Completion of information system for environmental impact assessment – strategic environmental assessment part – technical assistance	
Partner	proIS Ltd.
Total financial volume	147 000 €
State of project	PROJECT UNDER IMPLEMENTATION, PLANNED COMPLETION - JUNE 2008

INTERREG IIIB CADSES

The following **priorities** were determined within the Community Initiative Programme of INTERREG III CADSES (2000-2006) for the programme period of 2000-2006:

Priority 1: Support of sustainable territorial development and social and economic cohesion

Priority 2: Effective and sustainable transportation systems, access to information society;

Priority 3: Support and management of landscape development, natural and cultural heritage;

Priority 4: Protection of environment, management of resources and prevention.

Projects within the INTERREG programme are of supra-national character, and in each project there must be **at least 3 project managers** with financial sharing from different CADSES countries.

MoE SR is a national authority for the SR within the CIP INTERREG IIIB CADSES Community Initiative Programme (hereinafter only „CIP Interreg IIIB CADSES“).

In total, within the CIP INTERREG IIIB CADSES Community Initiative Programme **as of December 31, 2007**, on the national level, there were **40 projects** approved with **59 project partners from Slovakia**, with **total volume of required funding at 6 221 077 EUR**. Of this, **3 856 189 EUR** comes from ERDF, and **2 364.25 EUR** represents national co-funding.

GEF – Global Environmental Facility

In the period from 1.7.2006 to 30.6.2010, a new programming period will start for the Global Environment Facility initiative (GEF 4), with the priority areas narrowed down to **climate changes and biodiversity**. For the BIODIVERSITY area, Slovakia was placed in a group of 93 countries with

an average allocation per country at the maximum of 3.5 mil. USD by 2010. In the area of Climate changes, Slovakia was assigned an individual allocation at total volume of 5.7 mil. USD by 2010.

Slovakia has participated within the GEF initiative since 1994. Up to date, 12 projects have been approved, with total subsidies of 22.46 mil. USD, including three that are already completed. Slovak organisations also continue to be part of fourteen international projects, and two other projects are currently in preparation.

GEF Projects in the area of environmental protection

Project	Area	GEF grant	Total costs
		mil. USD	
Protection of biodiversity	biodiversity	2.300	3.17
Strategies to protect biodiversity, action plan, and national administration	biodiversity	0.077	0.077
Grassland of Central Europe – protection and sustainable use	biodiversity	0.750	1.102
Protection, renewal, and rational use of calcareous fens in Slovakia	biodiversity	1.000	2.463
Support in the implementation of the National biological safety framework for Slovakia	biodiversity	0.466	0.605
Reduction of green house emissions through the use of the biomass energy in the north-west of Slovakia.	climate change	0.999	8.343
Elimination of barriers to public lighting reconstruction in Slovakia	climate change	0.995	3.203
National assessment for the development of capacities for global environmental management	more areas	0.200	0.22
Integration of principles and practices of ecological management into landscape and water management in the East-Slovakian lowland	more areas	0.995	4.345
Elimination of ozone layer depleting particles at the production of household refrigerators and freezers	ozone layer	3.500	5.953
Initial assistance to Slovakia to meet the obligations under the Stockholm convention on persistent organic pollutants (POPs)	POPs	0.475	0.475
Initial assistance to Slovakia to meet the obligations under the Stockholm Convention on persistent organic pollutants (POPs)	POPs	10.704	20.778
		22.461	50.734

I. Programming period of 2004-2006

European Commission approved the Basic Infrastructure Operation Programme (BI OP) on December 18, 2003. The Programme addresses the objectives of the National Development Plan for the years 2004-2006 for the area of transportation, environmental, and local infrastructure. BI OP outlines areas for applying for financial assistance from the EU structural funds, directly **from the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF)**. MoE SR in this period assumed the role of an intermediary under the authority (Ministry of construction and regional development) for BI OP for the Priority 2 – Environmental infrastructure, which is one of its three priorities. Each priority is divided into a number of measures. For the priority 2, the measures include the following:

- 2.1 Improvement and development of infrastructure for the protection and rational use of water,
- 2.2 Improvement and development of infrastructure for the protection of atmosphere,
- 2.3 Improvement and development of infrastructure for waste management, and
- 2.4 Protection, improvement, and regeneration of natural environment.

Volume of means allocated for individual measures under Priority 2 – Environmental infrastructure for the years 2004-2006

	Allocated means (in SKK) *	Allocated means (in €)
Measure 2.1 (water)	total: 2 215 150 644 ERDF: 1 748 803 130 SB: 466 347 514	total: 58 293 438 ERDF: 46 021 135 SB: 12 272 303
Measure 2.2 (air)	total: 1 275 267 384 ERDF: 867 743 110 SB: 407 524 274	total: 33 559 668 ERDF: 22 835 345 SB: 10 724 323
Measure 2.3 (waste management)	total: 1 174 746 592 ERDF: 829 081 302 SB: 345 665 290	total: 30,914,384 ERDF: 21 817 929 SB: 9 096 455
Measure 2.4 (natural environment)	total: 289 820 452 ERDF: 217 365 358 SB: 72 455 094	total: 7 626 854 ERDF: 5 720 141 SB: 1 906 713

1 Euro = 38 SKK

As of **December 31, 2007**, the MoE SR as SORO for the Priority 2—Environmental infrastructure BI OP, registered **428 applications** for non-refundable financial contribution (NFC)

within **Measure 2.1: 161 applications** for NFC

within **Measure 2.2: 67 applications** for NFC

within **Measure 2.3: 149 applications** for NFC

within **Measure 2.4: 51 applications** for NFC

As of **December 31, 2007**, Minister of Environment **approved 186 applications** for non-refundable financial contribution, on the basis of recommendations from the selection committee (Environmental Project Board). Of this, **186 applications** already showed a **concluded contract** on awarding non-refundable financial contribution.

- within **Measure 2.1: 64** approved applications for NFC in total amount of ERDF and SB **2 468 968 447 SKK**

- within **Measure 2.2: 34** approved applications for NFC in total amount of ERDF and SB **2 078 242 556 SKK**

- within **Measure 2.3: 62** approved applications for NFC in total amount of ERDF and SB **1 599 256 262 SKK**

- within **Measure 2.4: 26** approved applications for NFC in total amount of ERDF and SB **299 409 072 SKK**

MoE SR pursuant to the MoE SR Resolution 2/2006-9 of February 1, 2006 and its annex 1 created a depository of projects for individual measures under priority 2 BI OP. Purpose of the depository was to create a list of applications to which NFC could not be allocated due to insufficient available volume of funds for the corresponding measures. Desired NFC for these applications was at last allocated on the day when the Ministry of Environment called the applicant to the contract on awarding a non-refundable financial contribution.

As of **December 31, 2007, 51 applications** for the Priority 2 – Environmental infrastructure BI OP were added to the depository of projects, specifically including:

within **Measure 2.1: 32 applications** for NFC

within **Measure 2.2: 3 applications** for NFC

within **Measure 2.3: 15 applications** for NFC

within **Measure 2.4: 1 application** for NFC

Calls within the measures 2.1, 2.2, and 2.3 have been closed since May 2006, call within the measure 2.4 have been closed since October 31, 2006.

During the period of 2000-2006, Slovakia was receiving assistance also from the European Community under the **ISPA programme** (Instrument for Structural Policies for Pre-Accession). Given assistance was directed toward reaching a balance with the most costly directives in the area of environment. As of December 31, 2007, this Programme supported 22 large projects in the area of environmental infrastructure building, in total sum of 316 566 370 EUR.

In 2004, in connection to Slovakia's accession to the EU, Slovakia was no longer an eligible applicant for the ISPA programme. This resulted in a reduced programming period, and the resources continued to be allocated under the follow-up **Cohesion fund (CF)**. As of December 31, 2007, the Cohesion fund provided funding to 7 projects focused on environmental infrastructure, in total sum of 237 031 181 EUR.

II. Programming period 2007-2013

MoE SR becomes the governing authority for the Environmental Operation Programme (EOP), for the new programming period of 2007-2013. On the basis of experience acquired from the previous period as well as the periods of the pre-accession funds, MoE SR, in cooperation with other sector organisations, developed an EOP that determines the areas of support for the programming period of 2007-2013. Since the approval of the EOP took more time than originally planned, the Programme was approved as late as November 8, 2007. For this reason there were no calls to submit NFC project applications in 2007.

The operation programme will support projects aimed at improving environmental protection through the following priority axes:

Priority axis 1: „Integrated protection and rational use of water“

Priority axis 2: „Flood protection“

Priority axis 3: “Air protection and minimisation of adverse effects of climate change”

Priority axis 4: „Waste management“

Priority axis 5: “Protection and regeneration of natural environment and landscape”

Volume of means allocated to individual Priority axes within the Operation Programme of Environment 2007-2013

	Allocated means (in €)
Priority axis 1: (water)	total: 1 077 227 136 CF: 915 643 065 SB: 161 584 071
Priority axis 2: (floods)	total: 141 176 471 CF: 120 000 000 SB: 21 176 471
Priority axis 3: (air)	total: 211 764 706 ERDF: 180 000 000 SB: 31 764 706
Priority axis 4: (waste)	total: 570 588 235 CF: 485 000 000 SB: 85 588 235
Priority axis 5:	total: 59 714 041 ERDF: 50 756 935 SB: 8 957 106

SOUTH EAST EUROPE Operation Programme

(SOUTH EAST EUROPE: JOINTLY FOR OUR COMMON FUTURE)

South-East Europe Programme of supra-national co-operation is part of the new objective – European territorial co-operation for the programming period of 2007-2013. South-East Europe Operation programme (hereinafter only „S-EE OP“) was approved by the Commission's decision K(2007) 6590 of 20/XII/2007. Objective of the S-EE OP is to improve the process of territorial, economic, and social integration, support of cohesion, stability, and competitiveness through developing supra-national partnership and joint activities for the matters of strategic importance.

S-EE OP involves 16 countries: Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, former Yugoslavian Republic of Macedonia, Croatia, Montenegro, Greece, Hungary, Moldova, Austria, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Serbia, Italy, and Ukraine.

For Slovakia, the whole of its territory is eligible for this programme. Eligible institutions include national, regional, and local institutions (public institutions, institutions governed by public law, or

institutions governed by private law). Total financial allocation for SR for S-EE OP for the period 2007-2013 represents **9.896 mil. EUR**. Rate of co-funding from ERDF for the project partners from SR is 85 % of total justifiable costs to their activities under the project.

Objectives of S-EE OP will be reached through the following Priority axes:

Priority axis 1 „Facilitation of innovations and doing business“

Priority axis 2 “Protection and improvement of environment”

Priority axis 3 „Improving accessibility“

Priority axis 4 „Development of supra-national synergies for areas of sustainable growth“

Priority axis 5 „Technical assistance for the support of implementation and capacity building”

CENTRAL EUROPE – Operation programme Central Europe

(CENTRAL EUROPE: COOPERATING FOR SUCCES)

Operation programme Central Europe (hereinafter only “OP CE”) was approved by Commission's decisions K(2007) 5817 of 03/XII/2007, which adopts the operation programme "Central Europe", and which is implemented by national, regional, and local institutions from 9 countries, including 8 EU member states (Austria, Czech Republic, Germany, Hungary, Italy, Poland, Slovakia, and Slovenia) and the west border area of Ukraine.

The Programme releases 231 mil. EUR from the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) to fund justifiable costs of the leading partners and project partners. For Slovakia, the whole of its territory is eligible for this programme. Total financial allocation for SR for OP CE for the period of 2007-2013 represents **9.8 mil. EUR**. Costs of Slovak project partners may be covered from the ERDF funds up to 85 %. The partners must co-finance the remaining part of the costs from their own sources.

Objectives of OP CE will be met through the following Priority axes that are worked out in more detail to show the level of intervention areas.

Priority 1: “Facilitating innovations in Central Europe“

Priority 2: “Improvement of accessibility of Central Europe as well as within it.”

Priority 3: “Responsible use of environment”

Priority 4: “Increasing the competitiveness and attractiveness of towns and regions“

Priority 5: “Technical assistance for the support of implementation and capacity building”

In 2007, there was no call at the supra-national level to submit project applications for non-refundable financial contribution from ERDF. In 2007, there was no preparation of program documents, or created program structures at the European, national, and regional levels.