



MINISTRY OF THE ENVIRONMENT OF THE SLOVAK REPUBLIC



**STATE OF THE ENVIRONMENT REPORT
SLOVAK REPUBLIC 2006**





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

The published Slovak legislation in 2006 included the following legislation in the area of environmental protection.

Acts

- **Act 241/2006 Coll.** on environmental impact assessment and amendments to other laws,
- **Act 124/2006 Coll.** on work safety and amendments to other laws,
- **Act 126/2006 Coll.** on public health and amendments to other laws,
- **Act 127/2006 Coll.** on persistent organic compounds and amendment to Act 223/2001 on waste and amendment to other laws as amended,
- **Act 184/2006 Coll.** on cultivating genetically modified crop in agriculture,
- **Full text of Act 223/2001 Coll.** on waste and amendments to other laws (notice no. 409/2006),
- **Act 528/2006 Coll.**, which amends Act 238/2006 Coll. on National Nuclear Fund for Phase-out of nuclear facilities and for handling of burnt fuel and radioactive waste (Nuclear Fund Act) and on amendment to other laws.

Government Ordinances

- **SR Government Ordinance 18/2006 Coll.** on amendment to SR government ordinance 280/2004 Coll., which stipulates the conditions for introduction of reproducible vine material into the cycle,
- **SR Government Ordinance 115/2006 Coll.** on minimum health and safety requirements for the protection of workers against the risks relating to noise exposition, as amended by SR government ordinance 555/2006 Coll.,

- **SR Government Ordinance 252/2006 Coll.** on details regarding the operation of swimming pools and on details relating to recreational water quality for swimming and its control,
- **SR Government Ordinance 253/2006 Coll.** on protection of workers against the risks relating to the asbestos exposition at work,
- **SR Government Ordinance 325/2006 Coll.** on details regarding the requirements on sources of the electromagnetic field and on the limits for exposition of population to the electromagnetic field in the environment,
- **SR Government Ordinance 329/2006 Coll.** on minimum health and safety requirements for the protection of workers against the risks relating to the electromagnetic field exposition,
- **SR Government Ordinance 334/2006 Coll.** on details regarding the handling of the radioactive waste from institutions,
- **SR Government Ordinance 338/2006 Coll.** on protection of workers against the risks relating to the biological factors exposition at work,
- **SR Government Ordinance 339/2006 Coll.**, which sets forth details on the acceptable noise values, infrasound values, and vibration, and on requirements for objective assessment of noise, infrasound, and vibrations,
- **SR Government Ordinance 340/2006 Coll.** on protection of health of persons against the adverse effects the ionizing radiation at medical irradiation,
- **SR Government Ordinance 345/2006 Coll.** on basic safety requirements for the protection of health of workers and population against the ionizing radiation,
- **SR Government Ordinance 346/2006 Coll.** on requirements to ensure radiation protection of external workers exposed to the risk of ionizing radiation during the course of their activities within the controlled zone,
- **SR Government Ordinance 347/2006 Coll.**, which stipulates details on the radiation monitoring network,
- **SR Government Ordinance 348/2006 Coll.** on the requirements to ensure the control of highly active sources of radiation and abandoned radiators,
- **SR Government Ordinance 349/2006 Coll.**, which stipulates details on the requirements for the radiation safety at transport of radioactive radiators and radioactive compounds,
- **SR Government Ordinance 351/2006** on details regarding health protection against the effects of optic radiation at work,
- **SR Government Ordinance 354/2006 Coll.**, which stipulates requirements on water designated for human consumption and on controlling its quality,
- **SR Government Ordinance 355/2006 Coll.** on protection of workers against the risks relating to the exposition to chemical factors at work,

- **SR Government Ordinance 356/2006 Coll.** on protection of workers against the risks relating to the exposition to carcinogenic and mutagenic factors at work,
- **SR Government Ordinance 366/2006 Coll.** on technical requirements to reduce emissions of the pollutants from diesel engines of vehicles,
- **SR Government Ordinance 367/2006 Coll.** on technical requirements to reduce emissions of the pollutants from combustion and diesel engines of vehicles,
- **SR Government Ordinance 368/2006 Coll.** on technical requirements to reduce emissions of the pollutants from diesel and combustion engines,
- **SR Government Ordinance 374/2006 Coll.** on technical requirements to reduce carbon dioxide emissions and fuel consumption from vehicles,
- **Government Ordinance 435/2006 Coll.** on conditions for payments for agro-environmental measures,
- **Government Ordinance 438/2006 Coll.** on undesirable substances in forage and on other safety indicators and usability of forage,
- **Government Ordinance 439/2006 Coll.** on forage raw material,
- **Government Ordinance 440/2006 Coll.** on forage mixtures,
- **SR Government Ordinance 583/2006 Coll.** on technical requirements to reduce emissions of the pollutants from diesel and combustion engines with natural gas or liquefied crude oil gas propulsion.

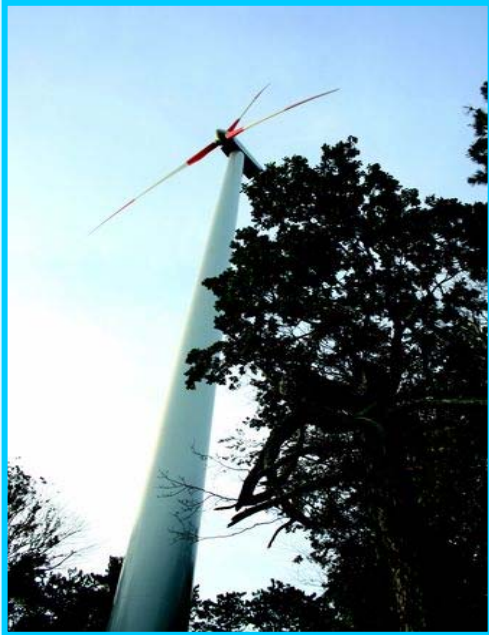
Regulation

- **MoI SR Regulation 23/2006** which executes a number of provisions of Act 544/2002 Coll. on the Mountain Rescue Service as amended,
- **Nuclear Regulatory Authority of the SR Regulation 46/2006 Coll.** on special material and devices under the supervision of Nuclear Regulatory Authority of the SR,
- **Nuclear Regulatory Authority of the SR Regulation 47/2006 Coll.** on details regarding the maximum limits to nuclear material and radioactive waste volumes with no anticipated occurrence of nuclear damage,
- **Nuclear Regulatory Authority of the SR Regulation 48/2006 Coll.** which stipulates details on approaches to incident reporting and on reporting of incidents at transport, and on details regarding the investigation of their causes,
- **Nuclear Regulatory Authority of the SR Regulation 49/2006 Coll.** on periodic assessment of nuclear safety,
- **Nuclear Regulatory Authority of the SR Regulation 50/2006 Coll.** which stipulates details on the requirements for nuclear safety of nuclear facilities at their localisation, design, construction,

launching, operation, phase-out, and close-up of depository, as well as the criteria for categorisation of selected facilities into safety categories,

- **Nuclear Regulatory Authority of the SR Regulation 53/2006 Coll.**, which stipulates details on the requirements for handling nuclear waste, radioactive waste, and burnt nuclear fuel,
- **Nuclear Regulatory Authority of the SR Regulation 54/2006 Coll.** on record keeping and control of nuclear material and on reporting of selected activities,
- **Nuclear Regulatory Authority of the SR Regulation 55/2006 Coll.** on details of accident planning for accidents or malfunctions,
- **Nuclear Regulatory Authority of the SR Regulation 56/2006 Coll.**, which stipulates details on the requirements for documenting the system of the license holder's quality, as well as on requirements on the quality of nuclear facilities, details on requirements on the quality of selected facilities, and details on the scope of their approval,
- **Nuclear Regulatory Authority of the SR Regulation 57/2006 Coll.**, which stipulates details on the requirements for transport of radioactive material,
- **MoH SR Regulation 100/2009 Coll.**, which stipulates requirements on natural healing and mineral water, details on the balneology expert report, division, scope of monitoring and content of analyses of natural healing water and natural mineral water and its products, and requirements for registering an accredited laboratory into the register maintained by the State Spa Committee,
- **MoE SR Regulation 113/2006 Coll.**, which stipulates details to carry out the environmental impact assessment,
- **MoE SR Regulation 131/2006 Coll.**, which sets forth national emission maximum limits and total number of quota for pollutants,
- **MoE SR Regulation 132/2006 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, and their classification,
- **MoE SR Regulation 133/2006 Coll.** on requirements for limiting the emissions of volatile organic compounds escaping at use of organic solvents in regulated products,
- **MoE SR Regulation 185/2006**, which executes a number of provisions of Act 139/2002 Coll. on fishing as amended,
- **MoE SR Regulation 234/2006 Coll.**, which declares the Special Protected Area of Sysľovské polia,
- **MoA SR Regulation 283/2006 Coll.**, which executes Act on protection of genetic sources of plants for nutrition and agriculture,
- **MoA SR Regulation 397/2006 Coll.** on forest watch,

- **MoA SR Regulation 441/2006 Coll.**, which stipulates details on professional testing of the ability to create the forest management plan, and on issuing and taking away the certificate of professional capacity to create the forest management plan,
- **MoA SR Regulation 451/2006 Coll.** on professional forest economist,
- **MoA SR Regulation 453/2006 Coll.** on economic forest regulations and on forest protection,
- **MoH SR Regulation 480/2006 Coll.** on requirements on quality, acquisition, and transport from the source to the place of treatment and loading, treatment, control of quality, packaging, labelling, and marketing of natural healing water,
- **MoE SR Regulation 488/2006 Coll.**, which amends MoE SR Regulation 53/2004 Coll., which sets forth requirements for the fuel quality and record keeping activities on fuels as amended by MoE SR Regulation 102/2005 Coll.,
- **MoE SR Regulation 492/2006 Coll.**, which amends MoE SR Regulation 24/2003 Coll., which amends Act 543/2002 on nature and landscape protection,
- **MoI SR Regulation 523/2006 Coll.** on details regarding the availability of rescue operations and organizing civil protection squads,
- **MoI SR Regulation 533/2006 Coll.** on details regarding the protection of public against the effects of hazardous compounds,
- **MoA SR Regulation 571/2004 Coll.** on sources of reproduction material of forest trees, its acquisition, production, and use,
- **MoE SR Regulation 593/2006 Coll.**, which designates the Special Protected Area of Malé Karpaty
- **MoCRD SR Regulation 625/2006 Coll.**, which amends Act 555/2004 Coll., on environmental efficiency of buildings and on amendment to other laws,
- **MoE SR Regulation 684/2006 Coll.** on details regarding the technical requirements on proposal, design documentation and construction of public water supply and public sewerage.



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

The year 2006 was the landmark year in environmental impact assessment, since on February 1, 2006, came into force a new **Act 24/2006 Coll. on environmental impact assessment and on amendment to other laws**.

- The new act regulates the process of environmental impact assessment in its complexity, including
- strategic documents (concepts, policies, plans, and programmes) before their approval (SEA – Strategic Impact Assessment);
 - proposed activities prior to a decision on their localisation or prior to a decision on their permission under special provisions (EIA – Environmental Impact Assessment);
 - assessment of impacts of strategic documents and proposed activities reaching beyond the national borders (SEA/EIA);
 - jurisdiction of state administration authorities and competencies of municipalities at environmental impact assessment;
 - rights and responsibilities of other participants to the assessment process.

Implementation of the new legislation resulted in a full harmonisation and implementation of generally binding legislation with the EU legislation in the area of environmental impact assessment (SEA/EIA).

For the **year 2006**, the environmental impact division of the MoE SR completed the assessment of **251 buildings, facilities, and other activities** through local and regional environment authorities. Since February 1, 2006, there have been **245 decisions** within the EIA process. Assessed were also

strategic documents, **43** of them assessed at local environment authorities, **16** of them assessed at the MoE SR.

Outcomes of the EIA process in 2006 – 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

MoE SR keeps the **central register** of all assessed strategic documents and proposed activities 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 2002 are archived in the **EIA Documentation centre** at Slovak Environmental Agency. Documentation as from January 1, 2003 until the end of 2006, is kept at 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 October 2003, came into force a MoE SR Regulation 391/2003 Coll., which executes 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.

Slovak Environmental Inspection is the administration authority in the process of integrated licensing and issuing of integrated licenses. As of December 31, 2006, **276 valid integrated licenses** were issued, out of the total number of **5005 operations**. If the operators of these facilities plan to carry out activities after October 30, 2007, they have to have a valid integrated license by then.

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.



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.**

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.

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 2006, 63 facilities were entered into the register of facilities. License was given to 63 facilities for their first use of genetic technologies, while 81 facilities were given the permission to initiate the RC 1 activities, and three facilities can start operation under the RC 2 category.

As of the end of 2006, the Ministry of Environment of the SR did not issue any licenses for the introduction of genetically modified organisms into the environment and on the market, or did it receive any applications for issuing such licences.

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 2006, there were 7 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*" (EVV), 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.

Number of products with the right to use the EVV labelling

Year	Number of products (EVV)
1997	11
1998	22
1999	24
2000	20
2001	26
2002	29
2003	47
2004	79
2005	96
2006	103

Source: SEA



Regulations represent the basic technical document of the *National Programme of Environmental Assessment and Product Labelling in the SR (NPEAPL)*, which carries out attestation of product conformity with the basic and specific environmental requirements, with the objective to obtain the national environmental label (EVV).

List of effective NPEAPL directions

Product group	NPEAPL Direction Number	Effective
Biodegradable plastic packaging material	0013/2003	V/2003 – V/2006
Washing agents for textiles	0014/2003	V/2003 – V/2006
Hygiene tissue paper and its products	0022/2003	V/2003 – V/2006
Adsorbents	0024/2006	II/2006 – XII/2008
Radial tires for personal vehicles	0026/2006	II/2006- XII/2008

Source: SEA



• 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:

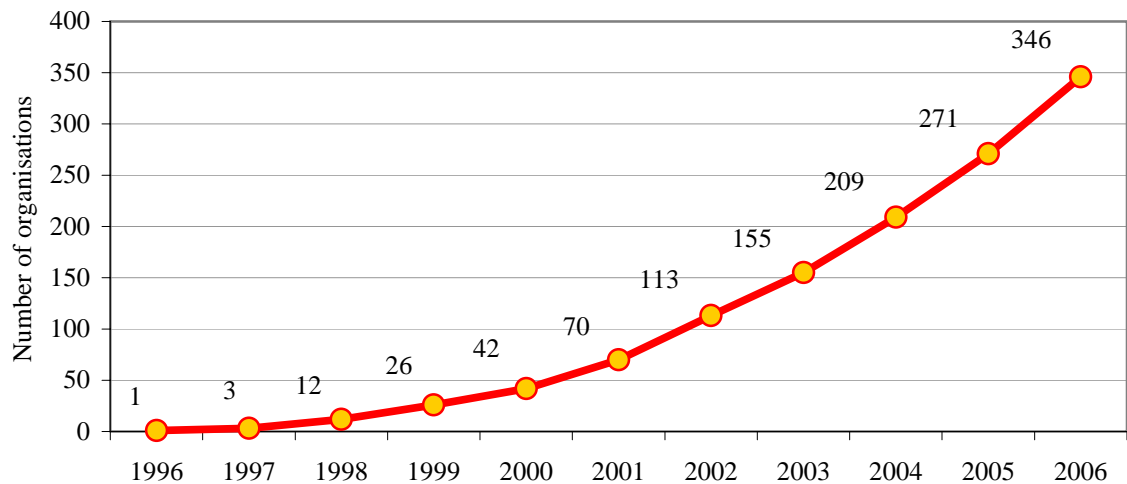
- European Parliament and Council Directive 761/2001 of March 19, 2001, which allows for voluntary involvement of organisations within the ES scheme for environmental management and audit (EMAS) in its application acts,
- Act No. 491/2005 Coll. on environmental inspection and registration within the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

As of the end of 2006, 3 organisations in Slovakia met the conditions for registration within EMAS.

- **QUELLE Slovakia Ltd., Bratislava**
- **Messer Sloznaft Ltd., Bratislava**
- **Matador, Inc., Púchov**

Environmental management system (EMS) pursuant to STN EN ISO 14001 in Slovakia was in January 31, 2006 implemented in **346 organizations** whose functionality was certified.

Overview of the number of organisations with implemented EMS for the given year



Source: SEA

Building on the sector classification of economic activities, the greatest share of organisations with implemented EMS exists in the area of **construction** – 63. In terms of size categories of businesses, large businesses (more than 250 employees) represent 31.2 % of total number of organisations with implemented EMS, 38.7 % for middle size businesses (50-250 employees) and 30.1 % for small businesses (less than 50 employees).

Slovak Institute of Technical Normalisation; **Technical commission 72 – Environmental management** in the area of international norms of the ISO 14 000 series – „Environmental management“ with active participation of the Ministry of Environment representatives carries out a cooperation with the European normalisation organisations within the management and normalisation activities at all stages of their creation, as well as their adoption and maintenance within the scheme of the Slovak technical norms.



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 government departments of SR financed from the state budget in 2006 (thous. SKK)

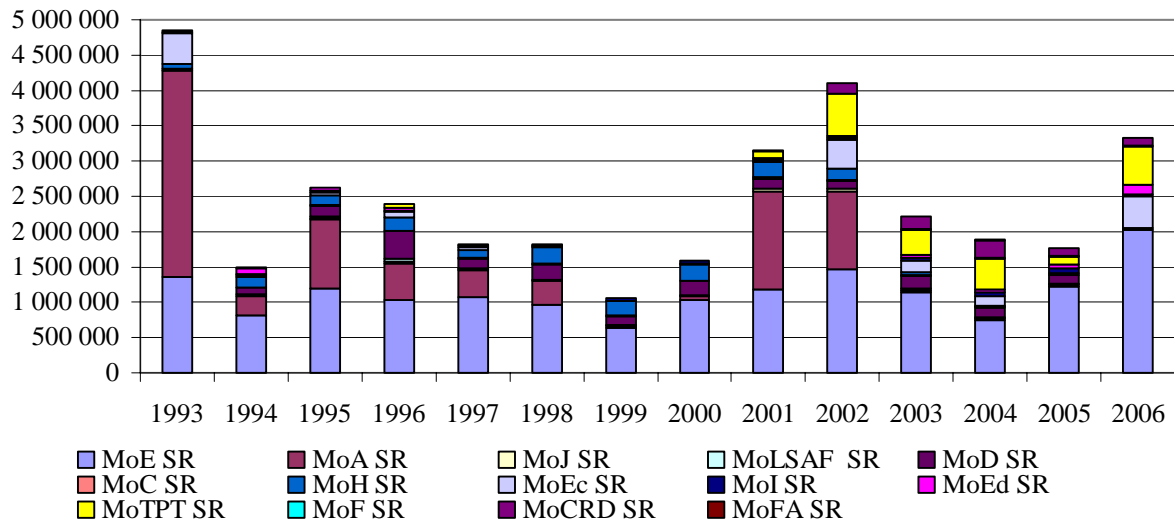
Department	WWTP Sewages	Other WM actions	Waste management	Air Protection	Others	Total	%
MoE SR	191 917	729 837	475 536	565 164	58 495	2 020 949	60,8
MoA SR	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
MoJ SR	7 514	0	100	0	0	7 614	0,2
MoLSAF SR	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
MoD SR	2 146	0	1 1112	6 882	17 405	27 546	0,8
MoC SR	160	0	0	0	1 492*	1 652	0,05
MoEc SR	216 041	0	0	0	228 302	444 343	13,4
MoI SR	2 781	0	0	17 592	2 215	22 588	0,7
MoEd SR	6 897	26 927	4 306	88 942	17 798	144 870	4,4
MoTPT SR	433 565	66 221	100	0	38 194	538 079	16,2
MoF SR	3 834	3 858	6 127	4 597	46	18 462	0,6
MoFA SR	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
MoCRD SR	65 512	34 886	0	0	0	100 399	3,0
Total	930 367	861 729	497 281	683 177	363 947	6 663 003	100,00

Source: Environmental fund, Proper resorts

During the period 1993-2006, Ministry of Environment SR designating the sum of 15.9 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 1993-2006 in Slovakia represent the sum of **34 billion SKK**.

Environmental investments of government departments of SR financed from the state budget in 1993-2006 (thous. SKK)



Budget grants determined on realization of environmental programs

The environmental fund was established on January 1, 2005, through **Act 587/2004 Coll. on environmental fund and amendment to certain laws**.

Review of financed grants in 2006

Area of budget grants	Number	SKK
Protection of air and of ozone layer	12	12 500 000
Protection and rational efficiency of water	444	1 245 524 112
Development of waste management	86	137 008 000
Protection of nature and lands	18	24 100 000
Environmental education and promotion	22	31 460 000
Total	591	1 469 763 846

Source: Environmental fund

Economic tools

♦ Fees for pollution and exploitation of natural resources

In 2006, the greatest portion of fees for pollution of environment came from air pollution fees (1.178 bill. SKK).

Gains from selected economic tools exercised in 2006 (thous. SKK)

Sort of payment	2006
Charges for pollution of air	1 178 430
Rebutions for tapping of waste water	325 224
Charges for loading of wastes	360
Charges EIA	240
Charges for exploitation of natural resources	
Rebutions for taking of subterranean waters	347 710
Settlements for yielding spaces	9 082
Settlements for mined minerals	84 955
Settlements for loading of gases and liquids in natural rocky-structures and subterranean places	27 629

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 1993-2006 (thous. SKK)

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

Source: MoE SR

In 2006, the greatest sum of fines was imposed in the area of water protection (14.862 bill. SKK), in the area of waste management (9.635 mil. SKK).

Environmental gains and expenses

Financial indicators of environmental protection in Slovakia are systematically monitored by the Statistical Office of Slovak Republic for 1998-2006, 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 1998-2006 (thousand SKK)

Domain of gains and expenses	1998	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
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
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⁾
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
Intradepartmental disbursement – wage	434 349	508 619	612 137	842 778	877 277	912 000	1 068 000	1 111 000
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
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
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
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
Sales from selling of technologies	509	1 882	16 116	1 100	30	0	0	13 000
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

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

In 2006, environmental research activities focused on the following priorities:

- introduction of ecology-friendly waste management,
- nature and landscape protection,
- environmental monitoring, information, and alarm system,
- protection and rational use of the rock environment,
- sustainable spatial development and physical planning,
- air and ozone layer protection,
- environmental economics and financial engineering of environmental investments.

♦ Grants

The “**Green Project**“ grant scheme is one of the possibilities for specific financial assistance to environmental activities carried out by nongovernment organizations. Therefore, green projects represent the functional instrument that helps to increase the level of environmental awareness among the general public. These projects focused on the implementation of specific activities to preserve endangered nature and landscape areas, or the implementation of environmental protection programs. 12 projects were funded with total amount of 603 000 SKK.

Environmental edification

In 2006, activities were carried out at the national, regional, as well as local level. They addressed the issue of lifelong environmental education, focused on informal education for different levels of the education system, public awareness raising, and on professional education of environmental experts.

Major activities in 2006 included for example:

♦ **Presentations and exhibitions**

- Enviro Nitra
- Ekotechnika - Hydrotec Bratislava
- For Arch – For Region - R.I.S. Banská Bystrica
- AQUA Trenčín
- Kamenár Trenčín ("stonecutter") Trenčín.

♦ **Conferences, seminars, lectures, training sessions**

In 2006, MoE SR in cooperation with professional organisations within the sector organised a number of events for professionals and general public alike:

- Waste recycling
- 11. professional seminar for workers of accessed caves
- World Water Day – Water and Culture - XI. annual international conference
- II. International workshop on ice caves
- Hydrochémia 2006 – New analytical methods in water chemistry
- From the history of mining at Vyhne
- Toward the integrated watershed management
- Environmental policy and industrial development of the SR
- Protection of nature's monuments in the Slovak border region with Poland – West Beskydy, and development of the NATURA 2000 network
- Drinking water supply in emergency and critical situations
- Enviro-i-forum
- Research, exploitation, and protection of caves
- Modern trends and challenges in mineral research
- Environmental education program
- Professional training of public employees and workers of specialized state administration authorities in the area environmental protection

♦ **Festivals, competitions, films, and projects for the public**

- ENVIROFILM 2006
- International Danube Day 2006
- Hypericum – physical wellness and educational competition for the youth
- Summer school of environmental protection
- Green school
- Living nature
- Eco-packs
- Environmental education for the challenged youth
- Project "School in the Museum" (SMM)
- Living Gallery Project (SMM)
- Geo Park of Banská Štiavnica
- Promotion of education for TUR in Vojvodina.

♦ **Publication activity**

Major periodicals published in the sector of environment in 2006 included the MoE SR Journal, Enviromagazín magazines, 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.

Access to Environmental Information

To comply with **Act 211/2000 Coll. on free access to information and amendment to other laws**, MŽP SR is the contact point for the general public as well as professionals, through its Public Office. The Office not only informs the public on environmental issues, but also closely cooperates with the professional industrial sector, schools, and institutes of the Slovak Academy of Sciences.

In 2006, on free access to information and amendment to certain laws, registered 5 144 applications. Greatest number of registered applications submitted by the public came through the „Green Line“. Direct telephonic conversation were registered through 3 910 applications, 55 applications were sent in by mail and subsequently registered, 1 052 proposals were e-mailed, and 3 proposals were faxed. 124 personal inquires have been processed directly by the public office.