

## ENVIRONMENTAL CARE

### • ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY

**State environmental strategy** over the recent years has built on a number of environmentally complex (cross-sectional) and partial (sectoral to union) strategic and follow-up programme documents, in summary, mainly on

- **Strategy, principles and priorities of the State Environmental Strategy** (National Council Resolution no. 333/1993 and Government Resolution no. 894/1993 and no. 531/1994)
- **National Strategy of Sustainable Development** (SR National Council Resolution 989/2002 and SR Government Resolution no. 978/2001)
- **Integrated Approximation Strategy in the chapter of Environment** (SR Government Resolution no. 138/2001)
- **Operation Programme of Environment for the years 2007-2013** (approved by the EC on November 8, 2007)

The Strategy of environmental conservation over the horizon of twenty years has been addressed by all SR programme declarations including the **SR Government Programme Declaration for the years 2012 - 2016**. (PVV SR approved by SR Government Resolution no. 144/2012 and the SR National Council Resolution no. 24/2012) that builds on the PVV SR Resolution of 2005.

Under the PVV SR of 2012, the basic policy behind the SR Government actions by 2020 in the conditions of permanent social dialogue will be to eliminate the impacts of the crisis and ensure the unity of the economic, social, political, and environmental development of Slovakia. The Government sees as one of the key tasks the establishment of long-term tendencies for the economic, social, environmental, and scientific and technological development of Slovakia, as well as for improving the quality of life to secure sustainability. At the same time, the Government guarantees social, economic, and ecological stability. It intends to react to the changes in the flexible and effective manner and restore the balance between the economic, political, and environmental development of the society. Within the process of the European Union's attempts to ensure sustainable development, the Government will support sustainable economic development in Slovakia as a precondition for the creation of high-quality jobs and improvement of material conditions existing in every social activity. The Government will define the country's basic orientation toward becoming a competitive economic area based on knowledge, social cohesion, and environmental development. This will create conditions for a faster and more sustainable economic growth and a higher level of employment and social progress. The Government gives priority to the creation of a unified system in support of the green growth. The system is to become the transforming force behind the production processes and consumer behaviour that are the pre-condition for the creation of a modern society. The SR Government will create conditions for further development of regions and elimination of regional discrepancies, especially through building the infrastructure and strengthening the regions through

investments into production. Important priorities of the Government will stay the issues relating to the environment protection, adoption of effective international measures to reduce the speed, and mitigating the impacts provoked by the climate change. The Government will take further initiative to reduce the energy-demanding industrial production, strengthen its orientation toward the green economy and protection of biodiversity.

In relation to securing the sustainable economic development, the SR Government also specifically defines STATE POLITICAL GOALS TO ENSURE ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION.

PVV SR is to be followed by a **new concept of the environmental strategy of the Slovak Republic** approved by the Resolution of the Executive session of the Slovak Ministry of Environment of 28th March 2013 no. 62. This concept called: **"Orientation, principles and major tasks in the environmental conservation of the Slovak Republic for 2014-2020"** at the same time creates the ideological basis for drafting the **Operation programme of the environmental quality for the years 2014 - 2020**. The document contains **8 strategic goals, 10 principles, 7 priorities with 85 major tasks** selected according to 5 criteria.

In line with the environmental situation in Slovakia, EU and SR strategic documents and policies, mentioned direction and principles of the national environmental strategy and its **global strategic target of developing the environment, protecting its elements and the nature, ecologisation and creation of environmentally safe, appropriate and usable landscape along with the rational use of resources and total strengthening and interconnection of the environmental pillar of the sustainable development with its economic and social pillars and support for the completion and building a better quality within the environmental infrastructure**, the following **seven sectoral priorities in the area of environmental conservation in Slovakia** were defined:

1. **Protection and the rational use of waters and the integrated environmental management of watersheds** (8 major tasks)
2. **Adaptation to adverse consequences of climate change and the flood protection** (11 major tasks)
3. **Air and the ozone layer protection, introduction of low-carbon and environment-friendly technologies** (17 major tasks)
4. **Minimisation, recovery, and elimination of waste, effective use of resources, and development of the green economy** (14 major tasks)
5. **Conservation of biodiversity, natural heritage and landscape** (11 major tasks)
6. **Protection and the rational use of the rock environment, elimination of special environmental risks and loads** (6 major tasks)
7. **Supporting the environmental awareness and education, science, research and development, environmental monitoring and information science, and voluntary tools of the environmental strategy**

## ENVIRONMENTAL CARE

### • ORGANISATION OF ENVIRONMENT

The year 2012 was the climax of the two decades of existence of the **Ministry of Environment of the Slovak Republic** (MoE SR) instituted on August 25, 1992 by the Slovak National Council Act No. 453/1992 Coll which amends and substitutes the Slovak National Council Act no. 347/1990 Coll on the organisational structure of ministries and other central government administrative institutions in Slovakia. As a matter of fact, this Ministry was created through renaming the former central administration environment authority - **Slovak Commission for the Environment** (SKŽP) instituted as of March 30, 1990 by Act 96/1990 Coll on the establishment of the Slovak Commission for Environment and on changes to the competencies of different ministries of the Slovak Republic. The mentioned law excluded from the **Ministries of interior and environment of the Slovak Republic** the activities overseeing the environmental conservation effective as of 20th April 1988 by the National Council Act no, 50/1988 Coll. on changes to the organisation and competencies of individual ministries and other central government authorities of the Slovak Socialist Republic.

Under special environmental-related legislation, the Ministry of Environment is defined under Act No. 525/2003 and other special legal provisions as the **central environment conservation body that participates within 35 subsystems as the central authority of**

- state administration for **air protection**,
- state administration in the matters relative to trading with emission allowances,
- state administration for the ozone layer protection and the Earth's climatic system,
- state administration for professional qualification to verify emission calculations and for other measures in the area of greenhouse gases emissions.
- state administration in the matters relating to the handling of fluorinated greenhouse gasses, products and equipment,
- state administration in the area of persistent organic compounds,
- state administration for hydrological survey and the state meteorological survey,
- state **water administration**,
- state administration for flood protection,
- state administration in the area of public water supplies and public sewerage systems,
- state administration in the area of fishing,
- state administration of **Nature and landscape protection**,
- state administration of the protection of individual wildlife animals and plants through regulating their trade,
- state administration in the matters of genetic technologies and genetically modified organisms,
- state administration for the integrated **prevention and control of environmental pollution**,
- state administration in the area of prevention and remedying of environmental damage,

- state administration of environmental impact assessment,
- state administration in the area of prevention of major industrial accidents,
- state administration in the area of environmental loads,
- state **geological administration**,
- state administration for detecting and archiving abandoned mines,
- state administration in the area handling the waste from mines,
- state administration of **waste management**,
- state administration for packagings and packaging waste,
- state administration in the area of **environmental product labelling**,
- state administration in the matters of **environmental management and audit**,
- state administration in the area of collection, storage, and dissemination of **environmental information**,
- state administration of the national infrastructure for spatial information
- state administration for annual publishing of the report on the state of the environment and for making accessible the information about the environment,
- state administration for the single information system on the environment and the spatial environmental monitoring,
- state administration for releasing data on quiet areas within the open landscape,
- state administration of the **environment fund** and state supervision over the use of the Fund's resources,
- state administration for **management and control of the state administration activities within environmental conservation** carried out by regional environmental authorities, and revision of their decisions published within administrative proceedings,
- partly for providing **environmental education**, awareness building and promotion,
- partly for **classification, labelling, packaging and marketing of substances in mixtures and in products with the conditions for their use**, and for marketing biocidal products and low-risk biocidal products.

**Slovak Ministry of Environment is the constituting agency of 8 contributory organisations:**

- **Slovak Environment Agency** in Banská Bystrica,
- **State Geological Institute of Dionýz Štúr** in Bratislava,
- **Slovak Hydro Meteorological Institute** in Bratislava,
- **Water Research Institute** in Bratislava,
- **Slovak Museum of Nature Protection and Speleology** in Liptovský Mikuláš,
- **Slovak Mining Museum** in Banská Štiavnica,
- **Zoological Garden in Bojnice**,
- **State Nature Conservancy of the Slovak Republic** in Banská Bystrica that took over administration offices of 9 national parks, 14 protected landscape areas, and, as of January 1, 2008, the Administration of the Slovak Caves in Liptovský Mikuláš.

**Slovak Ministry of Environment is the founding agency of 3 state enterprises:**

- **Slovak Water Management Enterprise** in Banská Štiavnica,
- **Water Management Constructions** in Bratislava,
- **Moldava recycling enterprise** in Moldava nad Bodvou.

State **environment fund** has a unique position within the resort of the Slovak Ministry of Environment. The Fund was established by Act 587/2004 Coll. and came into force on January 1, 2005 (originally from March 7, 1991 until April 1, 1998 as the State Fund of the Environment of the Slovak Republic, from April 1, 1998 until January 1, 2002 as the State Fund of the Environment).

In total, since October 1, 2013 the resort of environmental conservation comprises now only **14 legal entities**, including 2 state administration authorities (the Slovak Ministry of Environment, and the Slovak Environmental Inspection Authority), 1 state fund, 8 contributory organisations, and 3 state enterprises.

**Other sectors of environmental conservation**, within environmental safety, feasibility, usability, loading capacity and aesthetics, focused mainly on the protection and rational use of natural resources (rocks, soil, forest) and other ecosystem services, physical planning and building code, protection of immovable cultural monuments and their sets, environmental science and research, environmental education and promotion, nuclear safety, safety of foods and forage, elimination of negative physical, chemical and biological environmental factors on the health of humans and animals, as well as the organisation and execution of the local state administration in the area of environmental conservation, provided by the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, Ministry of Economy, Ministry of Transport, Construction and Regional Development, Ministry of Health, together with Public Health Authority of the Slovak Republic, Ministry of Culture of the Slovak Republic, Monument Board, Ministry of Education, Science, Research and Sports, Slovak Academy of Sciences, Ministry of Interior, Nuclear Regulatory Authority of the Slovak Republic. For example, subjects that have been participating throughout the process of carrying out the state environmental strategy involve the Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs of the Slovak Republic, Ministry of Justice of the Slovak Republic, Ministry of Finance of the Slovak Republic, Statistical Office of the Slovak Republic. The SR Government Office as the supervising and coordinating authority of sustainable development has a special status. The process especially involves implementation of the Agenda 21 and the subsequent international and national strategic documents, especially the **National Strategy for Sustainable Development** approved by the SR National Council Resolution no. 1989 of April 3, 2002. In its Resolution no. 655 of September 16, 1997, the Slovak Government approved supervising and coordinating authorities of individual Agenda 21 chapters and for the sustainable development assessment process in Slovakia.

## ENVIRONMENTAL CARE

### • ENVIRONMENTAL LAW

The published Slovak legislation in 2010 included 10 acts, 4 SR government regulations, 30 resolutions of the MoE SR, and 1 decree.

#### ◆ Acts

- Act No. 3/2010 Coll. on the national infrastructure for spatial information
- Act No. 4/2010 Coll. which amends Act 205/2004 on collection, storage, and dissemination of information on the environment and amendment to other laws as amended
- Act No. 7/2010 Coll. on protection against floods
- Act No. 110/2010 Coll., which amends Act 569/2007 Coll. on geological works (Geology Act) as amended
- Act No. 134/2010 Coll. which amends Act 364/2004 on water and amendment to the Slovak National Council Act 372/1990 Coll. on offences as amended
- Act No. 117/2010 Coll. which amends Act 543/2002 Coll. on nature and landscape protection as amended, and on amendment to Act 24/2006 Coll. on environmental impact assessment and amendment to selected laws as amended
- Act No. 119/2010 Coll. on packaging which amends Act 223/2001 on waste and amendment to other laws as amended
- Act No. 137/2010 Coll. on air
- Act No. 145/2010 Coll. which amends Act 24/2006 on environmental impact assessment and amendment to other laws as amended
- Act No. 268/2010 Coll., which amends Act 569/2007 Coll. on geological works (Geology Act) as amended

#### ◆ SR Government Regulations

- SR Government Resolution 206/2010 Coll., which amends SR Government Resolution 388/2005 Coll., and sets the limits for the treatment of electric waste, and for recovery and recycling of components, material, and substances
- SR Government Regulation 269/2010 Coll. which stipulates criteria for achieving good water balance
- SR Government Regulation 270/2010 Coll. on environmental quality standards in the area of water strategy
- SR Government Regulation 282/2010 Coll. which stipulates limit values and list of groundwater formations

#### ◆ Resolutions of the MoE SR

- MoE SR Resolution 159/2010 Coll., which amends MoE SR Resolution 131/2006 Coll., which sets forth requirements for the national emission caps and total number of pollutants quota as amended by the MoE SR Resolution 203/2008 Coll.
- MoE SR Resolution 187/2010 Coll., which declares the Special protection area of Veľkobláhovské rybníky
- MoE SR Resolution 189/2010 Coll., which declares the Special protection area of Low Tatras
- MoE SR Resolution 192/2010 Coll., which declares the Special protection area of Slovak karst
- MoE SR Resolution 193/2010 Coll., which declares the Special protection area of Slanské hills
- MoE SR Resolution 194/2010 Coll., which declares the Special protection area of Veľká Fatra
- MoE SR Resolution 196/2010 Coll., which declares the Special protection area of Volovské hills
- MoE SR Resolution 202/2010 Coll., which declares the Special protection area of Záhorské Pomoravie
- MoE SR Resolution 203/2010 Coll., which amends MoE SR Resolution 125/2004 Coll., which sets forth details concerning the treatment of old vehicles and selected criteria for the production of vehicles as amended by MoE SR Resolution 227/2007 Coll.
- MoE SR Resolution 204/2010 Coll., which defines details on the implementation of the flood forecasting service
- MoE SR Resolution 251/2010 Coll. which defines details regarding the assessment of expenditures to flood-prevention works, flood rescue works, and flood-related damage
- MoE SR Resolution 252/2010 Coll., which defines details on the submission of interim informative reports on floods and summary reports on the duration and aftermath of floods and on adopted measures
- Resolution 255/2010 Coll. executing the Act on handling of waste from mining industry and amendments to other laws
- MoE SR Resolution 261/2010 Coll., which sets details on the content of the flood plans and their approval
- MoE SR Resolution 262/2010 Coll. which sets forth the contents of public water supply restoration plan, public sewerage systems restoration plan, and the strategy of their development
- MoE SR Resolution 263/2010 Coll., which amends MoE SR Resolution 283/2001 Coll., on the execution of selected legal provisions on waste as amended
- MoE SR Resolution 313/2010 Coll., which sets details on the preliminary flood risk assessment, its revision and updating
- MoE SR Resolution 314/2010 Coll. which sets for the contents of the programme for the reduction of emissions from the stationary air pollution sources and the contents of data and strategies for informing the public
- Resolution of the Ministry of Agriculture, Environment and Regional Development of the Slovak Republic 340/2010 Coll., which amends MoE SR Resolution 51/2008 Coll., which executes the Geological Act

- Resolution of the Ministry of Agriculture, Environment and Regional Development of the Slovak Republic 356/2010 Coll., which executes selected provisions often Air Act
- Resolution of the Ministry of Agriculture, Environment and Regional Development of the Slovak Republic 357/2010 Coll. which sets forth criteria regarding the keeping of records and other information on stationary air pollution sources
- Resolution of the Ministry of Agriculture, Environment and Regional Development of the Slovak Republic 358/2010 Coll. which sets the emission limits, technical criteria, and general conditions for the operation of resources and their equipment using organic solvents, and emission monitoring
- Resolution of the Ministry of Agriculture, Environment and Regional Development of the Slovak Republic 359/2010 Coll. on requirements for limiting the emissions of volatile organic compounds escaping at use of organic solvents in regulated products,
- Resolution of the Ministry of Agriculture, Environment and Regional Development of the Slovak Republic 360/2010 on air quality
- Resolution of the Ministry of Agriculture, Environment and Regional Development of the Slovak Republic 361/2010 Coll. which defines technical criteria and general conditions for the operation of stationary air pollution sources that operate equipment used for storing, filling, and transport of gasoline, and the strategy and criteria for the enquiry and proving of data related to their compliance
- Resolution of the Ministry of Agriculture, Environment and Regional Development of the Slovak Republic 362/2010 Coll. which determines the criteria for the quality of fuel and the operative keeping of records on fuel
- Resolution of the Ministry of Agriculture, Environment and Regional Development of the Slovak Republic 363/2010 Coll. on monitoring emissions, technological criteria and general conditions for operating stationary air emission sources, and ambient air quality
- Resolution of the Ministry of Agriculture, Environment and Regional Development of the Slovak Republic 418/2010 Coll., on execution of selected provisions of the Water Act
- Resolution of the Ministry of Agriculture, Environment and Regional Development of the Slovak Republic 419/2010 Coll. which sets forth details on the elaboration of the flood threat maps, on paying the fees for their creation, revision and update, and on proposing and plotting the size of the inundation territory on maps
- MoE SR Resolution 448/2010 Coll. which amends Act 205/2004 on collection, storage, and dissemination of information on the environment and amendment to other laws as amended

◆ **Decree**

- MoE SR Decree 2/2010 Coll. of September 16, 2012, which sets details on designation of watershed administration areas, environmental objectives, economic analysis, and on water planning (Notice No. 396/2010 Coll.).



## • ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT

The process of environmental impact assessment in the conditions of Slovakia is regulated by **Act 24/2006 Coll. on environmental impact assessment and on amendment to other laws**. In 2012, the **process** of environmental impact assessment of 900 proposed activities and 263 strategic documents **was finalised**.

In the area of international cooperation, the Slovak Ministry of Environment carried out tasks defined by the **EU Directives** relating to the environmental impact assessment at the level of individual activities and strategic documents, and **Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary context** (Espoo Convention) Workers of the Slovak Ministry of Environment were involved in consultations and were supplying the European Commission the relevant information in the area of environmental impact assessment.

In 2012, it was necessary to conclude the last part of the proceeding in the matter of faulty and/or incomplete transposition of Directive 2001/42/EC of June 27, 2001 on the assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes on the environment. (SEA Directive) The problem was that the SEA Directive requires that all the changes to strategic documents complying with the provisions of art. 2(a) and art. 3(3)(2) be subject to the compulsory assessment. As for smaller changes to the strategic documents, it is possible to carry out so-called enquiry proceedings. (art. 3(3)) Slovak legislation used to be adjusted so as to accommodate all changes to the strategic documents under the enquiry proceeding. This is what the Commission objected to in their response to the Slovak Republic.

Definition of the small change to the strategic document subject to the enquiry proceeding was revised by the **revised Act no. 448/2012 Coll.** that came into force on January 1, 2013. This change to the EIA Act **eliminated the shortcoming** of the Slovak legislation. Consequently, the Commission after being notified of the change suspended the non-compliance proceeding against the Slovak Republic.

### Number of completed assessments of the proposed activities (EIA) and strategic documents (SEA) in the SR in 1994–2012

	EIA	SEA
1994	1	-
1995	67	-
1996	75	-
1997	72	-
1998	56	-
1999	35	-
2000	43	-
2001	227	-
2002	345	-
2003	436	-

	EIA	SEA
2004	498	-
2005	526	-
2006	329	16
2007	734	81
2008	889	160
2009	649	99
2010	544	149
2011	559	136
2012	900	263
<b>Total</b>	<b>6 985</b>	<b>904</b>

Source: MoE SR

## • INTEGRATED POLLUTION PREVENTION AND CONTROL (IPPC)

IPPC was introduced into the Slovak legal codes and implemented through **Act No. 245/2003 Coll. on integrated environmental pollution prevention and control and on amendments of certain laws as amended (Act on IPPC)**.

**Slovak Environmental Inspection (SEI)** is the administrative body in the process of integrated licensing and issuing of licences. At the same time, the organization also assumes the role of a controlling body in this process.

In 2012, operators submitted **590 applications** in total for obtaining integrated licenses. In 401 cases of the total number of submitted applications, the operators asked for changes to the already issued integrated license. In 12 cases, an application was submitted for new operation and 177 applications related to the proceeding under Act no. 50/1976 Coll. on physical planning and building code as amended (the Building Act). Besides, one operator who owns an integrated license pursuant to sect. 2(4)(b) of Act on IPPC (voluntary application for the issuance of an integrated license) applied for a change to this license.

In 2012, 213 inspections relating to the compliance with the conditions for integrated licensing were performed. They included the state building supervision, testing the accuracy of the data contained in the application for integrated licensing, as well as inspecting the integrated licensing conditions. The mentioned number of inspections includes also those performed at specific requests. Of total number of inspections, 166 involved inspecting the integrated licensing conditions, 36 inspections related to inspecting the correctness of the data provided in integrated licensing applications, and 11 inspections related to the State building supervision determining whether the construction has been carried out pursuant to the building permit, or on the basis of a prior notice. Of the total number of inspections, 62 operations were shown as non-compliant with the criteria of integrated licensing.

## • PREVENTION AND REMEDYING ENVIRONMENTAL DAMAGES

The area of prevention and remedying the environmental damage in Slovakia has been regulated by **Act No. 359/2007 Coll. on the prevention and remedying of the environmental damage and on amendment and supplementation of certain laws.**

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 – [www.enviroportal.sk/environmentalne-skody/](http://www.enviroportal.sk/environmentalne-skody/).

**In 2012**, there was no environmental damage recorded in Slovakia.

## • PREVENTION OF MAJOR INDUSTRIAL ACCIDENTS

Council Directive 96/82/EC on the control of major-accident hazards involving dangerous substances (SEVESO II) has been transposed into the Slovak legislation by

- Act No. 261/2002 Coll. on the prevention of major industrial accidents and on amendment and supplementation of certain laws (The Accidents Act),
- Decree of the Slovak Ministry of Environment No. 489/2002 Coll. that executes certain provisions of Act No. 261/2002 Coll. on preventing major industrial accidents and on amendment and supplementation of certain laws,
- Decree of the Slovak Ministry of Environment No. 490/2002 Coll. on security report and on accident-management plan as amended.

The Accidents Act divides enterprises by total volume of hazardous substances present into the **lower level** enterprises i.e. **category A** enterprises and the higher level, i.e. **category B** enterprises (**so-called SEVESO enterprises**).

Complex overview of the information regarding the prevention of major industrial accidents may be found from the **Information system for the prevention of major industrial accidents** (<http://enviroportal.sk/seveso/informacny-system.php>).

As of December 2012, **82 enterprises** were regulated in Slovakia under the regime of the Accidents Act. This number of **included 41 category A enterprises** and **41 category B enterprises**.

In 2012, the Slovak Ministry of Environment did not receive **any** report on **major industrial accidents** pursuant to the Accidents Act.

### Trend in the number of enterprises under the regime of the Accidents Act since its coming into force

	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
<b>Category A enterprises</b>	Transitional period (art.31)	30	31	31	28	33	35	36	40	39	41
<b>Category B enterprises</b>		37	35	39	40	39	40	41	42	41	41
<b>Total</b>		<b>67</b>	<b>66</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>68</b>	<b>72</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>77</b>	<b>82</b>	<b>80</b>	<b>82</b>

Source: MoE SR

In 2012 came into force the EU Parliament and Council Directive No. 2012/18/EU of July 4, 2012 on the control of major-accident hazards involving dangerous substances, amending and subsequently repealing Council Directive 96/82/EC. This Directive, also called the SEVESO III Directive, is to be transposed into the system of legal regulations of the Slovak Republic by May 31, 2015. Provisions of this Directive will be implemented as of June 1, 2015 with the exception of Article 30 that must be implemented by February 14, 2014.

## • ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT AND PRODUCT LABELLING

### ◆ Environmental labelling type I

**Environmental labelling of products in Slovakia** has been carried out since 1997, with the declared **National Programme of Environmental Assessment and Product Labelling (NPEHOV)**. Slovak Ministry of Environment, through its national environmental labelling scheme grants the national environmental label called: "**Environment-friendly product (EVP)**" to those products and services that fulfilled the set environmental criteria. Since 2002, the conditions and the procedure for granting and using the national label have been regulated by Act 469/2002 Coll. on environmental labelling of products as amended. National environmental criteria for selected categories of products are published as special conditions through the **Slovak Ministry of Environment's notices**. In total, since 1997, national environmental criteria for **38 product categories** have been created.

Assessment of compliance of the registered products with the set special conditions for the given product category has been carried out on the basis of shown interest by producers, importers, sales persons or services providers to be granted the national environmental label. In total, **234 products** have been assessed and granted the "Environment-friendly product" label since 1997 in Slovakia. The highest total number of products with the right to use the EVP national environmental label - 148, was recorded in 2008 and 2009. In 2012, this number declined to 117. Trend in the new numbers of EVP labelled products is declining.

At Slovakia's entry to the EU in 2004, applicants were given the possibility to get their products labelled with the European environmental label - "**European flower**" (the current "**EU Ecolabel**") pursuant to the Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council (EC) no. 1980/2000 later revised and substituted with the current valid Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council (EC) no. 66/2010 on the EU Ecolabel. Environmental criteria for granting the "**EU Ecolabel**" to the selected product categories are published as **EC Decisions** in the Official Journal of the European Union.

### ◆ Environmental labelling type II

The principles of environmental labelling type II are published under the international norm ISO 14021 (STN EN ISO 14021). This type of labelling allows for showing own declarations about the environmental characteristics of the product published by producers, importers, distributors, retailers or any person who is likely to benefit from the given declaration. Own declarations may be shown even in the absence of the third party's certification. Type II labelling allows the producers or importers who improve their environmental behaviour and product quality to increase their competitiveness in those cases when no prior specific requirements under national or European labelling system have been set.

## • ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT AND AUDIT

### ◆ Environmental management system under ISO 14001 international norm

Environmental management system (EMS) is a set or mutually connected activities with the aim to improve environmental behaviour of organisations or adopt their behaviour to the changing conditions in their own or the surrounding operations.

In 2012, there were 19 new organisations with introduced and certified EMS, which increased the total number of organisations with certified EMS under the ISO 14001 norm since 1996 to 1 132.

### ◆ The European Eco-Management and Audit Scheme (EMAS)

Conditions to participate in EMAS are set out in **the Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council (EC) No. 1221/2009** of November 25, 2009 on the voluntary participation by organisations in a Community eco-management and audit scheme (EMAS III) that came into force on January 11, 2010. At the national level, these conditions are set out in **Act No. 351/2012 Coll.** on environmental certification and registration of organisations within the EU scheme for eco-management and audit and on amendment and supplementation of certain laws, effective as of December 1, 2012.

By the end of 2012, 2 organisations were entered in the national EMAS register - **SEWA, Inc., Bratislava and CENVIS, Ltd., Bratislava** from the sector of "Other professional, scientific and technological activities." The company *Messer Slovnaft, Ltd., Bratislava - Vičie hrdlo* in the sector of "Production of industrial gases" cancelled at its own request the registration due to changes in the organisation structure and termination of technological gases production.

## • GREEN PUBLIC PROCUREMENT

**Green public procurement** - GPP is one of the voluntary tools of the environmental strategy. The term voluntary means that individual EU member states and public organisations themselves may choose to what extent they will apply it.

In 2012, Slovakia carried out its responsibilities given by the **National Action Plan for Green Public Procurement in the Slovak Republic for the years 2011 to 2015** (NAP GPP II) approved by SR Government Resolution no. 22 of January 18, 2012. As part of the GPP level monitoring in the Slovak Republic, 450 survey questionnaires were sent out and 293 responses were collected.

Average level of GPP implementation in Slovakia for the year 2012 has been determined on the basis of 2 indicators:

**Indicator 1:** % of GPP of total public procurement in relation to the number of deals (signed agreements and orders) - reaching 5.0% in 2012.

**Indicator 2:** % of GPP of total public procurement in relation to the value of deals (signed agreements and orders including GDP) - reaching 20.6% in 2012.

Increasing the share in GPP implementation in the Slovak Republic at the level of central administration authorities to 65% and to 50% at the level of local regional and municipal governments is the strategic goal under the NAP GPP II by 2015.

To reach this goal, three partial goals have been set within the NAP GPP II scheme:

- to build awareness of public procurement agencies and purchasers of the GPP issues in Slovak conditions,
- to strengthen the implementation of environmental characteristics in public orders,
- to assess the level of GPP implementation in the Slovak Republic in relation to the EC requirements.

GPP monitoring in Slovakia for the year 2012 points to the fact that the indicators that determine the average level of GPP implementation in Slovakia reach low values and the principle of continuous improvement has not been carried out. Indicator 1 increased by 2.9% compared to 2011. At the same time; however, the average GPP level within Indicator 2 declined by 21.6%. Data show that while there were more green orders, on the other hand they had lower volumes, which might have been caused by the economic recession.

## • ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION

### ◆ Environmental education and promotion within the resort of the Slovak Ministry of Environment

Major activities and programmes addressing the environmental education in 2012 included, for example, **Hypericum** (competition in natural sciences organised in SESV Dropie), **EnviroOtázniky /EnviroQuestions/** (VIII. annual event) 1 326 level II elementary students from 222 elementary schools registered for the competition, [www.envirootazniky.sk](http://www.envirootazniky.sk), **ProEnviro** – VIII. annual competition. 56 school projects were registered in the competition. Within this competition, cooperation with the company SHP Harmanec, a.s. started. **Zelený svet /Green World/** - (XVII. annual international children competition in fine arts creativity) This year, 354 schools participated in the competition. 2 620 works of 2 774 young authors from various types of schools were registered. Schools from abroad sent 98 works. (Serbia, China, Latvia).

Organised **school programmes** included for example the following events: **Na túru s NATUROU /On a hike with NATURA/** - mapping of biodiversity in Slovakia at the [www.snaturou2000.sk](http://www.snaturou2000.sk) web portal. As of January 10, 2013, 122 survey groups were registered, more than 799 students and teachers were involved, and 223 sites were mapped, along with 1 414 registered entries), **Ekologická stopa /Ecological Footprint/** (an innovative web-based programme. [www.ekostopa.sk](http://www.ekostopa.sk). As of January 10, 2013, 650 of schools from the whole of Slovakia participated in the programme. As part of the 3rd-year anniversary of the World Environment Day on June 5, 2012, certificates of ecological footprint were awarded to 86 schools) **BEAGLE** (school on-line project about biodiversity - project is accessible to all schools in Europe at [www.beagleproject.org](http://www.beagleproject.org), a 2-day training of teachers was organised in SEV Dropie as part of the project), **Programmes at SEV Dropie** (all year round, 1-day and more-days field trips and excursions were organised for various target groups), **World Environment Day at the Bojnice ZOO** (45 participants of the elementary school in Čierny Balog came). They learned interesting information related to the life of certain wild animals, their behaviour and which of them are endangered.

In 2012, a number of follow-up **seminars, conferences, and events** were organised, along with the **environment important days**:

- **Envirofilm** (largest promotional event of the Slovak Ministry of Environment for the lay and professional public). Main objective of this international film festival on the environment and its accompanying cultural and professional events is to raise environmental awareness of the public through implementing environmental activities, after-festival visits and exhibitions)
- **Environmental Teaching Programmes Fair - ŠIŠKA 2012** (XV. annual fair of environmental teaching programmes designed for people involved in environmental education. The fair took place on 14. – 16. 12. 2012 in the Dudince Spa)



- **IT Conference on Environmental Education** (an independent accompanying event about the use of information and communication technologies in environmental education during the Enviro-i-Forum 2012 event).

## • COMPLEX ENVIRONMENTAL MONITORING AND INFORMATION SYSTEM

### Environmental monitoring system

The System of environmental monitoring is an indispensable tool to know the environment and ensure environmental care. The System contains partial monitoring systems (PMS) installed at selected centres. The information system (IMS, <http://www.enviroportal.sk/informacny-system-zp/cms/informacny-system-monitoringu-zp>) with the goal to create a homogeneous, interconnected information unit consisting of partial IMSs. The unit is able to provide most objective report on the actual state of components of environment and due to interconnected databases is generally accessible through the Internet.

### Funds invested in environmental monitoring (thous. EUR)

PMS	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Air quality	610.77	560.98	961.66	1 916.88	1 179.11	989.16	566.58	601.7	519.6
Meteorology and climatology	1 161.79	864.07	2 523.17	982.84	2 409.55	742.66	361.65	488.9	428
Water	803.03	1 451.14	1 475.37	3 334.00	1 756.57	4 817.57	522.38	223.9	892.7
Radioactivity	48.26	49.79	84.48	76.38	49.79	39.43	30.75	11.7	15.28
Waste	116.18	126.14	34.52	144.53	79.43	60.51	21.15	20*	25*
Biota	19.92	33.19	33.19	33.19	17.09	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Geological factors	331.94	331.94	331.94	298.75	348.54	348.54	289.39	306.5	367
Soil	305.38	318.66	302.06	232.36	267.24	206.84	133.51	114.4	93.97
Forests	96.26	146.05	265.55	569.57	337.68	369.58	362.0	126.0	121.5
Xenobiotic substances	908.88	413.40	507.90	282.15	351.74	387.30	402.0	380.8	131.4
<b>Total costs</b>	<b>4 402.41</b>	<b>4 295.37</b>	<b>6 519.85</b>	<b>7 870.64</b>	<b>6 796.75</b>	<b>7 961.59</b>	<b>2 689.41</b>	<b>2 273.9</b>	<b>2 594.45</b>
MoE SR costs	3 091.88	3 417.25	5 444.33	6 786.56	5 840.09	6 997.98	1 791.9	1 652.7	2 247.58

\* SEA wage bill

Source: MoE SR

## • ENVIRONMENTAL ECONOMY

### Environmental revenues and expenses

**Financial indicators of the environmental protection** in Slovakia have been systematically monitored by the Statistical Office of the Slovak Republic (SO SR) both as investments, current expenses - (internal corporate, salary, other), organisation costs to other subjects (payments to state authorities, payments to private entities) and revenues from environmental protection. Reference units comprise enterprises with 20 and more employees, and municipalities.

#### Environmental revenues and expenses of enterprises\* and municipalities in 2012 (in thous. EUR)

Indicator	2012
<b>Investments to environmental protection</b>	<b>252 115</b>
of which	
- paid from the state budget	46 357
<b>Current expenses for environmental protection</b>	<b>550 649</b>
<b>Internal corporate expenses</b>	<b>265 949</b>
including	
- salaries	71 911
- other expenses	194 038
<b>Corporate expenses for environmental protection paid to other subjects</b>	<b>284 700</b>
including	
- fees and payments to state administration authorities and agencies	40 651
- payments to private persons and organisations	244 049
<b>Total revenues from environmental protection</b>	<b>596 989</b>

\*Enterprises with 20 or more employees

Source: SO SR

**Expenses by enterprises and municipalities for the environmental protection** show a fluctuating trend. Greatest sum of expenses was incurred in 2006. Expenses of enterprises and municipalities for environmental protection reached the sum of **802 764 thous. EUR** in 2012. Expenses of enterprises and municipalities compared to the previous year grew by 0.2%, and by 129.4% compared to 2000.

### The environmental fund

**The Environment Fund** was established since January 1, 2005, by Act 587/2004 Coll., on environment fund and amendment to certain laws. Environment Fund focuses on supporting sustainable environmental conservation and creation from the State budget. The Fund accentuates support to the applicants who have not opportunity to receive international assistance (e.g. municipalities with fewer than 2 000 inhabitants for their sewerage building projects) with the aim to gradually complete unfinished construction of the environmental infrastructure projects.

## Review of financed grants in 2012

Area of budget grants	Number	EUR
Protection of air and of ozone layer	0	0
Protection and rational efficiency of water	331	27 906 638.00
Development of waste management	1	281 139.00
Protection of nature and lands	12	520 947.00
Environmental education and promotion	13	138 268.57
Accidents	1	30 000.00
Survey, research and development	19	3 445 042.58
Green Investment Scheme	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>377</b>	<b>32 322 035.15</b>

Source: Environmental fund

Of the mentioned subsidies, assistance to help solve the critical environmental situation was granted to 20 applications in the sum of 4 105 433.58 EUR. Village Renewal Programme obtained assistance from subsidies totalling 459 377.38 EUR and distributed over 122 projects. **Total subsidies in 2012 were released for 499 applications in the sum of 32 781 412.53 EUR.**

## Selected economic tools of the environmental strategy

Within the existing Slovak conditions, **fees/payments for pollution and exploitation of natural resources** represent the key economic tools. Individual types of these economic tools are defined in pertinent legal regulations, including their computation and the beneficiary. Along with fines, they are also a significant source of the Environment Fund's revenues.

In 2012, the highest sum collected for environmental pollution by the Environment Fund came from air pollution fees (12 803 382.25 EUR), while the highest sum collected for exploiting natural resources came from fees for groundwater abstraction (10 674 427.70 EUR).

## Gains from the Environmental Fund of selected economic instruments applied in 2012 (€)

Charges	EUR
Charges for pollution of air	12 803 382.25
Fees for extracted minerals	2 516 269.51
Charges for storage of gases and liquids	1 021 028.67
Fees for wastewater discharge	7 174 630.86
Fees for groundwater extraction	10 674 427.70
Fees for surveying area	1 127 400.33
Financial compensations for impacts into European significant habitats pursuant to the Act on Nature and landscape protection	1 000.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>35 318 139.32</b>

Source: Environmental fund

In 2012, the highest revenue into the Environment Fund was collected in the area of waste management (242.35 thous. EUR) and in the area of water protection. (207.81 thous. EUR).

## ◆ Fees for air pollution

**Fees for air pollution** by large and medium-size pollution sources represent the Fund's revenues. Fees for air pollution by small-size sources constitute the municipalities' revenues.

Fees for air pollution by large-size and medium-size pollution sources show fluctuating trend, reaching 12 803.38 thous. EUR in 2012. Fees for air pollution declined compared to the previous year by 2.6%, and by 34.9% compared to the year 2000.

#### ◆ **Payments for surface water abstraction from watercourses**

**Revenues from surface water supply** show fluctuating trend, reaching 26 317 thous. EUR in 2012. Revenues from surface water supply declined compared to the previous year by 2.4%, and by 20.7% compared to the year 2000.

#### ◆ **Average price of surface water**

**Average price of surface water** in 2005 - 2011 was rising and reached the level of 0.11 EUR/m<sup>3</sup> in 2012, copying the previous year's figures. Average price of surface water compared to 2000 grew by 0.06 EUR/m<sup>3</sup>.

#### ◆ **Payments for the use of the hydro-energy potential of watercourses at water constructions, based on the administration body's report**

**Payments for the use of the hydro-energy potential of watercourses** at water constructions, based on the administration body's report, show fluctuating characteristics, reaching 23 358 thous. EUR in 2012. Payments for the use of the hydro-energy potential of watercourses declined by 1 465 thous. EUR (5.9%) compared to the previous year, and grew by 160.6% compared to 2002.

#### ◆ **Revenues from groundwater abstractions**

**Revenues from groundwater abstractions** show fluctuating trend, reaching 10 674.43 thous. EUR in 2012. Fees for groundwater abstractions declined compared to the previous year by 3.6%, and by 25.5% compared to the year 2000.

#### ◆ **Price for the supply of drinking water over the public water supplies and for wastewater channelling and treatment**

Pricing strategy in the area of water management represents a set of principles and measures used by the State at the creation and implementation of prices, and with consideration to social and public utility goals of the Slovak republic. Price regulation and control is also part of the pricing strategy.

**Average price for drinking water production, distribution and supply** over public water supplies shows a rising trend. Average price grew by 5.2% in 2012 compared to the previous year, reaching the value of 1.01 EUR for 1 m<sup>3</sup> (GDP excl.).

**Average price for wastewater channelling and treatment** over public sewerage systems shows a rising trend. Average price grew by 4.7 % in 2012 compared to the previous year, reaching the value of 0.90 EUR for 1 m<sup>3</sup> (GDP excl.).

#### ◆ **Compensation for surveyed areas**

**Compensations for surveyed areas** have followed the provisions of Act 569/2007 Coll. on geological works. 50% of the paid compensation is the Environmental Fund's revenue, while the other 50% go into the budget of the municipality where the survey is carried out.

Compensations for surveyed areas in the period of the years 2004 - 2008 showed a rising trend. In 2009, there was a decline in compensations. Their subsequent growth was recorded in the following years. Compensations for surveyed areas in 2012 that represented the Fund's revenues reached the sum of 1 127 400 EUR, which was an increase by 13.2% compared to the previous year.

#### ◆ **Compensation for the mining site**

**Compensation for the mining site** pursuant to Act 44/1998 Coll. on the protection and use of minerals (The Mining Act) at its 20% is the revenue of the State budget, while the remaining 80% go into the budget of the municipality where the mining site is located. If the mining site is located in the administrative areas of more municipalities, the circuit mining authority shall determine and assign to the each of the municipalities its proportional part, based on the site's size located in the municipality's territory.

In 2012, compensations for mining sites reached the sum of 517 162 EUR. Compared to the previous year, compensations declined by 1%.

#### ◆ **Compensations for extracted minerals**

**Compensations for extracted minerals** pursuant to Act 44/1988 Coll, on the protection and use of minerals show fluctuating characteristics. Highest value of compensations for extracted minerals was reached in 2007. (4 817 635 EUR) In 2012, compensations for extracted minerals reached the sum of 2 155 585 EUR. Compared to the previous year, compensations declined by 4.6%.

## Environmental tax

**Share of environmental taxes** in GDP in Slovakia shows fluctuating characteristics. The highest share of environmental taxes in GDP was reached in 2004.

In 2011, revenues from environmental tax were 1.84% of GDP, and 6.46% of total revenues from taxes. Compared to the neighbouring EU countries, share of environmental taxes in GDP in Slovakia showed the lowest level.

## Funding the environmental care within international programmes/projects

### ◆ Operation Programme of Environment

**Operational programme of Environment (OPE)** is the programming document for Slovakia for using the EU funds in the area of environment for the years of 2007-2013. Slovak Ministry of Environment is the supervisory body.

Over the year 2012, the Slovak Ministry of Environment issued **5 calls** for applications for non-refundable financial benefit (NRFB), with the total allocated sum of **110 406.141 EUR**.

### Overview of the approved projects since the beginning of the programming period until December 31, 2012

Priority axis	Number of approved projects	Sum of approved grants (€)
1. Integrated protection and rational water exploitation	161	1 036 759 111
2. Flood protection	67	100 692 393
3. Air protection and minimisation of adverse impacts of climate change	109	172 598 248
4. Waste management	267	415 244 236
5. Protection and regeneration of natural environment and landscape	40	55 962 888
6. Building the flood alarm and forecast system	0	0

Source: ITMS

### ◆ Large-scale projects (exceeding 50 million EUR)

**Large-scale projects** represent also for Slovakia a significant step in meeting the obligations under the EU Accession Agreement, i.e. set transitional periods for the implementation of the Council Directive 91/271/EEC on wastewater treatment.

Monitoring committee for the Operation Programme of Environment approved at its session of 28/06/2011 a change to the list of large-scale projects for Operation Programme of Environment. The approved list contained 9 large-scale projects prepared within the Priority Axis 1. Since the last revision, no changes have occurred to the list.

The preparatory phase was successfully completed for the 9 large-scale projects, i.e. feasibility studies and drafts of applications to confirm assistance were approved. For 7 large-scale projects, applications for NRFB were submitted. The applications fulfilled the requisites for granting assistance. The corresponding applications to confirm assistance were sent to the European Commission for approval. Of the sent applications to confirm assistance, 5 have been approved (Ružomberok, Ilava, Trenčín, WWTP sever and Orava 2.phase) and 2 applications are still assessed until December 31, 2012. (Podunajsko and Prievidza)

For the projects like "Water supply, wastewater sewage and treatment of the district of Bytča, and "Drinking water supply and building sewage municipal capacities in the micro-region of the Bodva River" the applicants were called to submit applications for NRFB. In the case of complying with all the conditions for granting assistance, applications for approval will be sent to the European Commission for assessment.

### ◆ **Central Europe transnational Cooperation Programme**

**Central Europe transnational Cooperation Programme 2007-2013** is a programme within the Objective 3 of the European territorial cooperation and involves 8 EU countries: Austria, Czech Republic, part of Germany, Hungary, part of Italy, Poland, Slovakia, Slovenia. Also partners from the western part of Ukraine may participate in the projects. For Slovakia, the whole national territory may qualify for this programme. Total financial allocation for Slovakia from this programme for the period of 2007-2013 represents 9.8 mil. EUR. Costs assumed by the Slovak project partners can be supported from the ERDF funds, up to 85%. The partners must fund the remaining part of expenditures out of their own budgets.

The CU OP objectives are achieved through the following Priority axes that are worked down to the level of interventions.

**Priority 1: Facilitating of innovations in Central Europe**

**Priority 2: Improving the accessibility of Central Europe and within it**

**Priority 3: Responsible use of the environment**

**Priority 4: Increasing the competition and attractiveness of cities and regions**

**Priority 5: Technical assistance for the supporting implementation and capacity building**

Closing the 4.call for project proposals under the programme Central Europe, the possibility to submit applications for non-refundable financial contribution from the ERDF within the programming period of 2007 - 2013 ended.

### ◆ **South-Eastern Europe transnational Cooperation Programme**

**South-Eastern Europe transnational Cooperation Programme 2007-2013** is a programme within the objective 3 of the European territorial cooperation and involves 16 EU countries: For Slovakia, the whole national territory may qualify for this programme. Total financial allocation for Slovakia under this programme within the period of 2007-2013 represents 9.9 mil. EUR.

The following Priority axes have been defined under the OP JvE programme. The axes are further broken down to the level of intervention areas:

**Priority Axis 1: Facilitation of innovation and entrepreneurship**

**Priority Axis 2: Protection and improvement of the environment**

**Priority Axis 3: Improvement of the accessibility**

**Priority Axis 4: Development of transnational synergies for sustainable growth areas**

**Priority Axis 5: Technical assistance for the supporting implementation and capacity building**

Following up on the decision of the monitoring committee in June 2012 in Bologna, the Common Technological Secretariat in Budapest began the process of accounting for all the 37 projects that had been approved with the condition within the 4. call for project proposals. Total sum for the 4. call was 48 543 094.01 EUR for ERDF. First contracts for projects under the 4. call were signed in October



2012. On the basis of a decision of the monitoring board's members, a process addressing the accounting conditions for 10 selected projects found on the reserve list within the 4. call. On 14/12/2012, members of the monitoring committee as part of the written procedure approved all 10 projects from the reserve list for funding, including the project PPP4 Broadband with the Slovak leading partner amounting to 999 239.60 EUR.

#### ◆ Program LIFE+

The LIFE+ program has three main components for which possible funding may be requested: Nature and Biodiversity, Environmental Policy and Management, Information and Communication.

**5 Slovak projects were approved in 2012** with total volume from the LIFE + grant being 4 904 284 EUR.

#### Overview of allocated funds from the LIFE+ programme of the Slovak Republic and the actual approved volumes of funds to approved projects

Year	Allocation of funds (€)	Approved funds to approved projects (€)
2007	2 857 000	2 554 812
2008	3 171 000	3 629 000
2009	3 830 000	3 932 000
2010	3 719 834	4 432 261
2011	6 152 190	2 223 606
2012	6 365 639	4 904 284

Source: MoE SR

#### ◆ Global Environmental Facility

**Global Environment Facility (GEF)** represents a community of countries, international organisations, NGOs and the private sector that aim to protect the environment and sustainable development. GEF was launched in 1991 as a pilot project of the World Bank in support of projects in the developing countries and the countries with transitional economy.

**The GEF Small Grants Programme (GEF SGP)** started in Slovakia in March of 2009 with the first round of calls announced in October of 2009. Projects addressed the protection of biodiversity, mitigation of climate change impacts, reduction of international water pollution, prevention of landscape degradation (deforestation and desertification), as well as elimination of persistent organic pollutants (POPs) in Slovakia. This programme designated for non-government organisations has been operated by the Regional Centre for the UN Development Programme for Europe and the Commonwealth of independent states in Bratislava (UNDP). During the 4th operational phase, GEF SGP in Slovakia was funded from funds allocated for climate change.

5th operational GEF SGP phase took place in the period of July 2011 - June 2014. The criterion of sustainability is supported in the area of **climate change**, in order to make sure that the support to GEF SGP for biomass modernisation will not threaten food safety, not increase deforestation, not decrease the soil's fertility, not increase greenhouse gases emissions outside the project's area, or not threaten the principles of sustainable development in relation to the protection of biodiversity or sustainable soil and water management.

#### ◆ Norwegian financial mechanism

Within the **programming period of 2009 - 2014**, more than **80 million EUR** were allocated for Slovakia. The number of priority areas stays the same as in the previous period, that is nine. Most of the funds (14.63 mil. EUR) are designated for the **support of green innovations in the industry**. The programme focuses mainly on increasing the number of green jobs and supporting the green business. The programme's motto is the environmental use of organic waste and biomass produced from agricultural unused areas at the production of green energy. Although the programme's name is green innovations in the industry, its agricultural component is a critical part of the programme, ensuring the sustainability of projects.

The programme called **Adaptation to Climate Change** implemented through cooperation between the Slovak Government Office and two Norwegian institutions - Directorate for water and energy resources, and Directorate for the protection of inhabitants and crisis planning. Financial contribution to the programme of adapting to the climate change represents 12.46 mil. EUR.

#### ◆ Swiss financial mechanism

On December 20, 2007, representatives of the Slovak Republic and the Swiss Confederation signed a Framework Agreement between the SR Government and the Swiss Federal Council on the implementation of the **Programme of the Swiss-Slovak Cooperation**. The Agreement designated also areas where it is possible to prepare projects. For Slovakia, within the mentioned financial mechanism, funds in the sum of 66 866 thous. Swiss francs (CHF) were allocated, which is approximately 41 mil. EUR into the Priority axis 2. - **Environment and infrastructure** contain the following speciality areas:

- 2.1 Renewal and modernisation of the basic infrastructure and improving the quality of the environment,
- 2.2 Nature protection.

Within the area 2.2 Nature protection - on 03/ 10/ 2011, an agreement on the implementation of the project **Promoting the protection of the nature and of the protected areas in the Slovak Carpathians Region** was signed with the applicant - the State Nature Conservancy of the Slovak Republic. Its purpose is to contribute to the improvement of the protection and sustainability of protected areas and selected habitats, as well as to the regeneration of the environment and landscape, mainly within the focal geographical area, and with a special attention to the NATURA 2000 system and the Carpathian Convention. Duration of the project is 48 months and the NRFB accounts for 1 949 825 EUR.

Since August 2011, the National Forest Management Centre in Zvolen has been carrying out **Monitoring and survey of forest ecosystems** with the focus on the preservation of integrity, permanency of production, and the multi-functional character of forest ecosystems within the conditions of on-going climate changes and the impacts of other harmful agents on the environment. Duration of the project is 32 months and the NRFB accounts for 1 964 577 EUR.