



Slovak-UNDP Trust Fund: Promotion of the Slovak Transitional Experience and Human Capital in ODA

Final Report

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Executive Summary

The “Slovak-UNDP Trust Fund: Promotion of the Slovak Transitional Experience and Human Capital in ODA” project was designed as a follow up phase of the successful development cooperation partnership between Slovakia and UNDP and focused mainly on transfer of Slovak knowledge and expertise through UNDP Country Offices in Europe and the CIS, with continued focus on capacity building activities.

Transitional experience was shared with target countries via new short-term modalities such as consultancy missions, tailor-made trainings and study tours. All together more than 20 projects were implemented with geographical focus successively switching from Uzbekistan and Belarus to Montenegro and finally to Moldova gaining the status of a programme country.

Furthermore, National volunteer strategy as operational ODA tool was endorsed, initial base for development of systematic M&E of Slovak ODA created and qualified ODA specialists, consultants and NGOs identified. Public awareness was raised through several promotional campaigns including essay contest, film productions, photography exhibitions and last but not least activities organized on the occasion of the 10th anniversary of the Slovak Official Development Assistance.

Project performance

The “Slovak-UNDP Trust Fund: Promotion of the Slovak Transitional Experience and Human Capital in ODA” project was designed as a follow up phase of the successful development cooperation partnership between the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Slovak Republic and UNDP Bratislava Regional Centre since 2003. The Ministry of Finance joined this initiative in 2009.

Compared to the first phase, when the Slovak-UNDP Trust Fund served as a mechanism for channeling of the Slovak Official Development Assistance, the second phase focused mainly on transfer of Slovak knowledge and expertise through UNDP Country Offices in Europe and the CIS, with continued focus on capacity building activities.

The enlarged project achieved the expected outcome “Enhanced development cooperation between Slovakia and its target countries with a special focus on sharing the Slovak transitional experience, promotion of the ODA cadre and strengthening of the ODA system in the international context” through fulfilling of six key outputs:

1. Increased involvement of Slovak professionals and experts in UNDP regional and country programme activities;
2. Slovak transitional experience and best practices shared across the region;
3. Increased role of the Slovak volunteers in ODA;
4. Improved knowledge and skills of public officials involved in Slovak ODA activities and public awareness raising;
5. Building of ODA monitoring and evaluation system;
6. Strengthening of ODA base in MFA SR.

Involvement of Slovak professionals and experts in UNDP regional and country programme activities was **increased** not only through three- and eight- month assignments for selected UNDP country offices in Montenegro and Tajikistan but also within projects sharing Slovak transitional experience which included targeted expert missions and/or preparation of studies and handbooks. Furthermore, thanks to these activities, qualified ODA specialists and consultants could be identified. Arrangements of long-term secondments of Slovak ODA professionals were cancelled due to different expectations of the involved institutions and unsuccessful selection processes.

Slovak transitional experience and best practices were **shared** within tailor-made projects designed as part of larger interventions/programmes of selected UNDP country offices mainly in government and civil society sector with geographical focus successively switching from Uzbekistan or Belarus to Montenegro and finally to Moldova gaining the status of a programme country. Single study tours were later replaced by more complex projects (including not only study visits to Slovakia but expert missions to respective countries, workshops, conferences, preparation of studies and comprehensive materials) developed and implemented in cooperation with the UNDP country offices in Montenegro and Moldova. Over 150 professionals participated in study visits to Slovakia and over 170 attended events organized in selected countries.

Role of the Slovak volunteers in ODA was **increased** thanks to implementation of the Volunteer Sending Programme and preparation of Handbook on Development volunteering in Slovakia significantly contributing to endorsement of the National volunteer strategy as operational ODA tool. At the same time UNV scheme was pilot tested. Two UNV positions were identified in UNDP country offices in Afghanistan and Kenya, however due to worsening security situation in Afghanistan, selection process for volunteer in UNDP Kabul was cancelled. In general, cooperation with UNV and potentially UNDP Junior Professional Officer Programme would contribute to increased representation of Slovak nationals/professionals in UN structures, however, the costs are significantly higher than in the national scheme. From personal as well as professional point of view, UNV experience in Kenya was evaluated as positive.

Public awareness was **raised** through several promotional campaigns including essay contest, film productions, photography exhibitions and last but not least activities organized on the occasion of the 10th anniversary of the Slovak Official Development Assistance. Five projects implemented on the occasion of the 10th anniversary in autumn 2013 highlighted, promoted, commemorated and recognized the activities of stakeholders active in the field of development cooperation, humanitarian aid and global education via preparation and distribution of representative publication "Slovakia helps", international conference, film festival, thematic Development Day 2013 and photo exhibition "Afriktivity".

Standard support in travel and educational activities was provided to MFAE SR and MF SR employees. Around 200 business/study trips of **public officials involved in Slovak ODA activities** were administered and several coordination meetings and workshops supported. Within the **capacity building** series launched by the New Partnerships and Emerging Donors team in 2013, project management skills of stakeholders involved in ODA management were enhanced and ability to apply strategic programming approach and to communicate development results strengthened.

Initial **base for development of systematic M&E of Slovak ODA** was created with help of several activities. In order to strengthen monitoring and evaluation skills of public officials and other

stakeholders involved in Slovak ODA activities, Development Evaluation Training was organized 2010. In following years, participation of public officials in similar trainings was systematically supported. In 2012, there were several monitoring missions of ongoing Slovak ODA projects conducted by Development and Humanitarian Aid Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in cooperation with the respective Slovak embassies in Kenya, Mongolia and Georgia. Monitoring and planning mission to Moldova was then organized in September 2013. Since 2011, the Slovak-UNDP Trust Fund started with procurement of evaluation companies/ hiring of evaluators in order to secure independent evaluations of Slovak ODA projects in Afghanistan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kenya, South Sudan, Serbia and Moldova. Evaluation reports' conclusions supported decision-making and served as platform for preparation of respective Country Strategy Papers.

ODA base in MFEA SR was **strengthened** through development of the Management information system (Grant Management Module) for the Slovak Agency for International Development Cooperation. It allows comprehensive project cycle management, including on-line registration of project proposals, access of Project Committee members and Slovak Embassies to the database of project proposals for their assessment, project management tool for contractors and project managers, time planning module, financial module, general reporting tools according to different needs and on-line reporting tools. The system is connected to the information system of the Ministry of Finance of the Slovak Republic and the Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs of the Slovak Republic for recording and reporting all development flows provided by the Slovak Republic.

The key **lessons learned** from project implementation are:

1. The need to ensure a long-term programmatic perspective for a selected country;
2. The crucial importance of a sound monitoring and evaluation system;
3. The need to coordinate and integrate activities focused on transfer of Slovak expertise implemented between various programmes and components within Slovak ODA system (programme CETIR, Visegrad Fund, SAIDC, line ministries, etc.);
4. The high demand for modalities of sharing transitional experience and Slovak expertise within more intensive cooperation and involvement of private sector;
5. The need to create a general database of Slovak organizations and individual experts and its sharing among key stakeholders and partners;
6. The importance of continuous needs assessment, priority setting and sequencing of capacity building activities where active participation of the beneficiaries plays a key role;
7. The importance of transparency, visibility and better promotion of Slovak ODA results and achievements among general and professional public.

Overview of expenses per project output

The project started with initial carry-over from previous period amounting to 1,478,597.98 USD. The Ministry of Finance of the Slovak Republic contributed 320,000 USD in 2009. In 2013, replenishment from the Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs of the Slovak Republic was received in amount of 261,780.10 USD (200,000 EUR). Additional funds comprised from interests earned amounting to 683,323.53 USD and Slovak TRAC in amount of 35,025 USD.

OUTPUT	EXPENSES in USD						
	2009*	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	TOTAL
Increased Involvement of Slovak professionals and experts in UNDP regional and country program activities	1,054.66	33,983.21	0.00	0.00	10,996.13	0.00	46,034.00
Slovak transitional experience and best practices shared across the region	148,953.06	114,563.05	150,845.63	270,910.09	91,116.24	198,326.28	974,714.35
Increased role of the Slovak volunteers in ODA	0.00	89,423.82	42,287.80	7,725.68	0.00	0.00	139,437.30
Improved knowledge and skills of public officials involved in Slovak ODA activities and public awareness raising	43,750.95	78,490.59	82,269.27	78,303.43	172,303.80	42,152.12	497,270.16
Building of ODA monitoring and evaluation system	0.00	28,790.67	79,128.43	55,760.37	60,209.75	0.00	223,889.22
Strengthening of ODA base in MFA SR	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	233,302.14	0.00	233,302.14
TOTAL	193,758.67	345,251.34	354,531.13	412,699.57	567,928.06	240,478.40	2,114,647.17

* In year 2009, the Slovak-UNDP Trust Fund was still administering several Slovak ODA projects. Disbursements connected to these projects reached 370,335.34 USD and are not included in this table.

Overview of implemented projects

I. Increased Involvement of Slovak professionals and experts in UNDP regional and country program activities

I.I Social infrastructure and services

I.I.I Government and civil society – Legal and judicial development

MONTENEGRO: “Support to EU Accession negotiation process of Montenegro in Chapter 24 - Justice Freedom and Security”

Total expenses: 10,996.13 USD

Contract period: May 2013 – July 2013

Implementing partner: UNDP CO Montenegro

Consultants: Ms. Nataša Hrnčárová and Mr. Marek Majcher

Montenegro received the candidate status for EU membership in December 2010 and in June 2012 officially launched the accession negotiation process. Specific attention was paid to Chapter 24 - Justice and Home Affairs. Opening of the negotiation on Chapter 24 was expected in the course of 2013. In order to better prepare Montenegrin administration and to answer the question how the things could be done differently/better during the accession process, Slovak experience and lessons learned from negotiation process were shared with Montenegrin counterparts.

Two Slovak experts reviewed the draft of Action Plan for Chapter 24 prepared by the Montenegrin government; **provided recommendations and coaching**, especially to relevant authorities of the Ministry of Interior (Asylum Office, Bureau for care of refugees and Border Police), on further improvements of the systems and fulfillment of the relevant EU directives; and **supported updating, improvement and implementation of the Action Plan** with special emphasis on asylum.

I.II Productions sectors

I.II.I Construction – Construction policy and administrative management

TADJIKISTAN: “Consultant Civil Engineer - enhancing knowledge and skills of local experts and UNDP Tajikistan staff in planning, monitoring and evaluation of infrastructure rehabilitation projects”

Total expenses STF: 33,351.20 USD

Contract period: May 2010 – December 2010

Implementing partner: UNDP CO Tajikistan

Consultant: Mr. Milan Oleríny

UNDP Communities Programme in Tajikistan works together with local partners on solving of issues connected with local governance improvement, accountability increasing, water and sanitation, access to rural finance, infrastructure and delivery of basic services. Based on consultations with Tajik partners and review of existing documents, Slovak expert prepared **implementation guidelines for civil**

engineering projects (200 pages book in English divided in 3 packages – Design Works, Supervising, Construction Works). He also provided **training for local suppliers** from three regions as well as **respective ministries**.

As a follow-up, the consultant organized a **study visit for 2 Tajik professionals** to Czech Republic and Slovakia, fully financed by UNDP CO Tajikistan, in order to familiarize them with similar projects and procedures in EU countries.



II. Slovak transitional experience and best practices shared across the region

II.I Social infrastructure and services

II.I.I Government and civil society – Public sector policy and administrative management

MONTENEGRO: “Implementation of the Public Administration Reform Strategy in Montenegro”

Total expenses: 98,682.26 USD

Contract period: September 2011 – August 2012

Implementing partners: Network of Institutes and Schools of Public Administration in Central and Eastern Europe (NISPAcee) and UNDP CO Montenegro

The Government of Montenegro adopted the new Public Administration Reform Strategy together with specific Action plan in March 2011. This Document has provided strategic basis for further reform activities in state administration, local self-government and public services for the period of 2011-2016. To assist public institutions with implementation of the strategy, a coordination committee was established.

In order to provide the new established Coordination Committee with comparative **experience on adaptation and reform of Public Administration during the EU accession process**, as well as comparative praxis on **horizontal coordination mechanism**, a study tour for **8 committee representatives** was organized between November and December 2011.

Exploratory mission of two Slovak experts to Montenegro took place in March 2012 and served as basis for preparation of a complex **Manual on horizontal coordination of the Public Administration Reform**. The manual summarizes selected Slovak knowledge, lessons learned and experience from the process of public administration reform, including recommendations for implementation in Montenegro and was published in Montenegrin and English.

MONTENEGRO: “Supporting European integration process in Montenegro via sharing Slovak experience”

Total expenses: 66,822.25 USD

Contract period: July 2012 – December 2012

Implementin partners: M.E.S.A.10 and UNDP CO Montenegro

Montenegro officially launched the accession negotiation process in June 2012. An assistance to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and European Integration, chief negotiator and key ministries in establishing effective mechanisms to manage and coordinate the overall process of negotiation the Accession Treaty with European Union was organized in two functionally interconnected sequences.

8 members of the new Montenegrin **negotiation team** gained deeper inside in practical, experience and lessons learned from Slovakian **accession negotiation process** during the **study visit** to Slovakia in September 2012. Specific focus was dedicated to improvement of **organizational structure** of Montenegrin negotiation team, challenges of negotiation process, **chapters 23 and 24 of EU acquis** and

Slovak experience in overall transition and reform process related to areas of Judiciary, Fundamental Rights and Justice Sector.

Subsequently **4 expert missions** to Montenegro were conducted to provide recommendations for planning of harmonization of national legislation with 4 particular EU acquis chapters, screening process and negotiations. Slovak experts also provided advice and coaching on management of EU integration process and institutional and policies development related to particular chapters.

II.I.II Government and civil society – Public finance management

UZBEKISTAN: “Study tour to Slovakia on knowledge transfer in inter-budgetary system development for Uzbek professionals”

Total expenses: 23,596.97 USD

Contract period: April 2009 – July 2009

Implementing partners: Consulting Associates, s.r.o. and UNDP CO Uzbekistan

As a part of ongoing reforms of public finance management in Uzbekistan, **6 professionals** in the field of central government finance, regional finance, macroeconomic forecasting, and research visited Slovakia to **learn about public expenditure management with a focus on decentralization and inter-budgetary relations** in June 2009. The **study tour** followed a previous visit to Slovakia in November 2007, which focused on reforms of budget management at central level.

II.I.III Government and civil society – Public finance management/ Decentralization and support to sub-national government

MOLDOVA: “Strengthening Local Fiscal Autonomy in the Republic of Moldova”

Total expenses: 71,114.45 USD

Contract period: September 2013 – June 2014

Implementing partners: M.E.S.A.10 and UNDP CO Moldova

Establishment of system of local finance to ensure local fiscal autonomy is one of the main goals of the National Decentralization Strategy approved by the Parliament of the Republic of Moldova in April 2012. The own local revenue system, accompanied by justified policy options, is a critical element of the reform and requires a separate, specific and in-depth analysis.

Study entitled “Strengthening Local Fiscal Autonomy in the Republic of Moldova” analysing existing revenue framework, presenting methodology for assessing own revenues capacity and providing policy recommendations was prepared in order to support the working group on fiscal decentralization hosted by the Moldovan Ministry of Finance in elaboration of the policy options and to learn from the extensive Slovak experience in this area. Study findings were presented during the working group meeting organized in April 2014. As a follow up, smaller working group consisting of representatives of the Ministry of Finance and Congress of Local Authorities of Moldova (CALM) was established to prepare amendments to the existing legislation based on the policy recommendations of the study. In May 2014, study findings were presented to more than 32 mayors and CALM representatives during round table organized in Kishinev.

Capacity of 7 representatives from the Ministry of Finance, State Chancellery and Local Authorities to **adopt fiscal decentralization** was strengthened thanks to **study visit** to Slovakia in May 2014. Discussions with Slovak counterparts were covering following topics: fiscal decentralization, overall revenue and budget framework for municipalities, general presentation of local government operations, including the competences/responsibilities, and local government financial management.

II.I.IV Government and civil society – Decentralization and support to sub-national government

EASTERN PARTNERSHIP and WESTERN BALKANS: “Incorporation climate change into local governments agenda”

Total expenses: 25,569.53 USD

Implementing period: July 2011- November 2011

Implementing partners: UNDP Bratislava Regional Centre

Within the framework of the regional programme “Think Globally, Develop Locally”, a **regional workshop “Incorporating Climate Change into Local Development”** was organized in Bratislava in September 2011. The workshop aimed to strengthen capacities of local governments in tackling the challenges of climate change and its incorporation in local development processes as well as to strengthen partnerships at international/regional, national and local levels in the development of integrated responses.

It helped the participants in understanding climate change science and the likely impacts of climate change in the region and becoming familiar with climate change mitigation commitments and finance mechanisms. Case studies presenting best practices from the region were presented and action plans for local government associations developed.

MONTENEGRO: “Supporting reform of municipal financing in Montenegro through experience exchange coordinated by the NISPAcee”

Total expenses: 111,460.42 USD

Contract period: July 2012 – April 2013

Implementing partners: Network of Institutes and Schools of Public Administration in Central and Eastern Europe (NISPAcee) and UNDP CO Montenegro

Two comprehensive documents **Report on best practices on municipal finances** and **Review of Slovakia’s experience in inter-municipal cooperation** were prepared in order to share Slovak experience about practices in tax collection and revenues raising as well as economically attractive inter-municipal co-operations which increase sustainability of services provided by municipalities and at the same time reduce costs. In addition, case studies on municipal experience with creating favorable climate for business growth and direct investments were presented. Both documents served for training purposes in Montenegro, study visit to Slovakia and final conference hold in Podgorica.

Two two-days roll out **trainings for Montenegrin municipalities** in Kolasin (18 participants from 10 municipalities) and Becici (8 participants from 6 municipalities) were organized in November 2012. Presentations and training session combined theory with practical experience from Slovakia as well as other countries, including positive and negative examples.

To explore and discuss the Slovak best practices on **revenue and tax collection and to introduce functional inter-municipal cooperation model**, a **working visit** to Slovakia was prepared for **8 participants** from the Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Interior, representatives of municipalities in December 2012. Participants were able to discuss the inter-municipal cooperation with local experts in 5 different municipalities.

Following the overview of best practices in revenue and taxes collection in Slovakia and the review of Slovakia's experience in inter-municipal cooperation, a **conference on inter-municipal cooperation**, its benefits and impact on municipal financing was organized in March 2013. Slovak best practices from both areas and their correlation were shared with 50 participants. At the same time, some of the most successful models linking municipal finances, strategic planning and local economic development were presented.

MOLDOVA: "Setting up the partnership between the Congress of Local Authorities of Moldova and the Association of Towns and Communities from Slovakia"

Total expenses: 39,687.35 USD

Contract period: December 2013 – May 2014

Implementing partners: Združenie miest a obcí Slovenska, Nadácia Pontis and UNDP CO Moldova

Moldova is undertaking one of the most important reforms since its independence an administrative and fiscal decentralization. After 20 years of lacking collaboration between the local public administrations and several unsuccessful attempts to establish a functional national association of local governments, 400 Moldovan towns and villages succeeded to establish the Congress of Local Authorities from Moldova (CALM) in 2013.

In order to strengthen CALM's capacity to become a full-fledged partner in the decentralization reform through adapting the experience of the Slovak Association of Towns and Villages (ZMOS), a **study tour** to Slovakia for **6 CALM representatives** was organized in February 2014. Representatives of ZMOS, several Slovak municipalities and self-governing regions have shared their experience in positioning within governmental structures, decentralization and competences transfer to local governments, cooperation with partners from different sectors and financing. A **five-year contract on bilateral and development cooperation between CALM and ZMOS**, signed in February 2014, shall formalize the established partnership and encourage further cooperation.

In April 2014, a **round table "Independent Municipality = More Democracy"** was organized for **58 Moldovan municipalities' and state representatives** in Kishinev enabling them to discuss all concerns connected with decentralization. For that purpose a **toolkit** consisting of 4 training materials presenting good practice examples from Slovakia on cooperation of NGO's and local governments, expert papers on fiscal decentralization in Slovakia and proposal for joint project was prepared.

II.I.V Government and civil society – Anti-corruption organizations and institutions

MONTENEGRO: “Study tour on How to coordinate anti-corruption efforts in Montenegro and engage with the private sector: The Slovak experience”

Total expenses: 28,361.12 USD

Contract period: June 2012 – October 2012

Implementing partners: Aliancia Fair Play and UNDP CO Montenegro

Fight against corruption is a priority for Montenegro in terms of EU integration objectives. The Directorate for Anti-Corruption Initiative is the key preventive anti-corruption agency coordinating activities stemming from the implementation of UNCAC, engaging with NGOs and private sector in anti-corruption initiatives, as well as conducting corruption researches and surveys. In addition to public awareness campaigns, targeting general public as well as the business community, the agency is also involved in organizing training events aimed at capacitating participants to fully grasp the detrimental effects of corruption and encouraging them to denounce suspicions of corruption.

To enhance the **capacities** of agency staff for **coordination of anti-corruption efforts** and to generate **ideas and initiatives for enhanced cooperation with the private sector** in fighting corruption, **7 anti-corruption directorate representatives** participated in study visit to Slovakia in September 2012. **Manual on how to engage the private sector in anti-corruption efforts** provided them with additional information on Slovak experience in the field of fight against corruption, preventive anti-corruption methods and policies and their implementation into the practice mainly in connection to cooperation with private sector.

II.I.VI Government and civil society – Legal and judicial development

UZBEKISTAN: “Study tour to Slovakia on learning from the Slovak experience in development of the arbitration courts and other alternative ways of dispute resolution for Uzbek participants”

Total expenses: 40,046.37 USD

Contract period: July 2009 – February 2010

Implementing partners: Bratislavská akademická spoločnosť, n.o., UNDP Bratislava Regional Centre and UNDP CO Uzbekistan

The Welfare Improvement Strategy of Uzbekistan, adopted by the Government of Uzbekistan in August 2007, supports the rule of law and expands access to legal services via establishment of the arbitration courts. **8 Uzbek professionals learned about alternative dispute resolution institutes and educational system for arbitration judges** during the **study visit** to Slovakia in September 2009.

Study tour participants had the possibility to visit an arbitration court and the Slovak Chamber of Commerce and Industry. Furthermore, an **informative material** was prepared for the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Uzbekistan and Ministry of Justice of Uzbekistan presenting Slovak experience in the field of arbitration implementation according to international and European standards.

BELARUS: “Study tour on learning from Slovak experience in the field of national system of life-long education for judges, prosecutors, advocates and legal professionals”

Total expenses: 46,748.17 USD

Contract period: June 2010 – November 2010

Implementing partners: Network of Institutes and Schools of Public Administration in Central and Eastern Europe (NISPAcee) and UNDP CO Belarus

12 legal professionals and pedagogues from Belarus visited Slovakia in September 2010 as part of **developing a national system of life-long education** for legal professionals. Slovak experts shared information about judiciary and experiences with legal education. They also discussed potential application of Slovak experience in Belarus. **Study material** containing information about basic principles and forms of lifelong education of legal professionals, description of curricula and **recommendations** for Belarusian conditions was prepared and shared with relevant stakeholders.

MOLDOVA: “Support to Justice Sector Reform implementation in the Republic of Moldova”

Total expenses: 29,706.97 USD

Contract period: November 2013 – December 2013

Implementing partners: Justičná akadémia Slovenskej republiky (Judicial Academy of the Slovak Republic) and UNDP CO Moldova

Slovak experience in area of **support and rehabilitation services for victims of crimes, mediation system** and judicial expertise was shared during the **study visit organized for 12 Moldovan professionals** in order to enhance their knowledge and develop skills necessary for implementation of the “Justice Sector Reform Strategy 2011-2016” in November 2013. Slovak experts from following institutions shared their knowledge and expertise: Ministry of Justice, Judiciary Council, Supreme Court and first instance courts, Office of the Public Prosecutions, Public Defender of Rights and Ministry of Interior.

II.I.VII Other social infrastructure and services – Social/welfare services

SERBIA: “Study tour for the Roma municipal coordinators from Serbia to Slovakia”

Total expenses: 15,321.55 USD

Contract period: April 2009 – July 2009

Implementing partners: Nadácia Milana Šimečku (Milan Simecka Foundation) and UNDP CO Serbia

Amongst vulnerable groups, Roma are the ones most at risk in Serbia. As signatory of the Decade of Roma Inclusion, the Government of Serbia had committed itself to narrow the gap in welfare and living conditions between Roma and non-Roma population and to break the cycle of poverty and exclusion. Four Action Plans and Strategy for Roma Inclusion were developed and adopted.

In order to improve their **knowledge and experience in implementation of programs for Roma minority inclusion**, **10 Roma municipal coordinators from Serbia** visited Slovakia in June 2009. The study tour participants met with organizations and individuals addressing Roma issues in various regions of the country, which shared both good and bad practices related to housing, health, education and employment of Roma. Based on the **study visit** outcomes a handbook providing brief analysis of current Roma situation in Slovakia and social and inclusion programmes with recommendations was prepared and distributed.

BELARUS: “Study tour to Slovakia on learning from Slovak experience on building local capacity in order to improve social policy and service delivery at community level”

Total expenses: 30,117.62 USD

Contract period: February 2010 – July 2010

Implementing partners: M.E.S.A.10 Consulting Group s.r.o. and UNDP CO Belarus

Transition economies of Central Europe and the CIS experienced a rapid growth of poverty and unemployment as a result of industrial restructuring. Poverty risks remain especially high in the areas where local economies are dominated by state-owned enterprises that are unprofitable, overstaffed and depending on state subsidies.

In April 2010, **8 experts** from Belarus learned about the Slovak experience in **social policy** development, **enhancing social service delivery capacity** in order to prevent communities from poverty and social deprivation and methodologies for building and promotion of employment opportunities and entrepreneurship. This included sharing the methodological foundation for social policy improvement, methods of collection of quality regional data, mechanisms of intra-governmental coordination among Ministries, and preventing poverty within vulnerable and socially excluded populations.

II.I.VIII Other social infrastructure and services – Statistical capacity building

MOLDOVA: “International expertise on European System of Integrated Social Protection Statistics (ESSPROS) and tailored study-tour on household consumption expenditures and CPI (Consumer Price Index)”

Total expenses: 22,497.19 USD

Contract period: October 2013 - December 2013

Implementing partners: Štatistický úrad Slovenskej republiky (Statistical office of the Slovak Republic) and UNDP CO Moldova

Technical assistance was provided to the National Bureau of Statistics of the Republic of Moldova (NBS) in the field of **European System of Integrated Social Protection Statistics (ESSPROS)** and **household consumption expenditures and Consumer Price Index (CPI)**. **Tailored study visit** on household consumption expenditures and CPI was organized for **2 Moldovan experts** to the Statistical office of the Slovak Republic in November 2013 and **mission of one Slovak expert** on ESSPROS to Moldova was conducted in December 2013.

Contrary to the domain of household consumption expenditures and CPI, the ESSPROS system was a new topic and a challenge for Moldovan NBS was to lay foundations of this system. Before the expert mission, series of methodological and explanatory documents on ESSPROS and the relevant EU legislation was shared with Moldovan counterparts to provide Moldovan statisticians with basic information. Thanks to intensive consultations, Moldovan statisticians acquired basic knowledge of ESSPROS methodology and their capacities to gradually implement ESSPROS in the social protection statistics were strengthened.

II.II Production sectors

II.II.I Agriculture – Agriculture policy and administrative management

MOLDOVA: “Conceptualization, Institutionalization and Administration of the Moldovan Wine Sector”

Total expenses: 77,527.12 USD

Contract period: July 2011 – December 2011

Implementing partners: Európsky vinársky rytiersky stav and UNDP CO Moldova

Moldovan wine industry continues to be one of the main economic sectors and an essential income source. It is at critical stage of development and many initiatives are underway to reform it and improve its competitiveness.

6 Moldovan wine producers and representatives of **public institutions** visited Slovakia in August 2011 to learn about **institutional arrangements of wine sector administration and funding**, programs supporting development of wine areas in the EU, Slovak vine and wine register, **Slovak National Quality scheme** and **contribution of wine tourism to regional development**. Best practices in respective areas were shared and possibilities of their adoption in Moldova discussed. Participants also visited relevant institutions and several local Slovak wine producers.

Two Slovak experts went on expert mission to Moldova in order to review current legislation in wine sector and propose effective changes. Based on the mission findings, a draft **concept of modern EU compliant Vine and Wine Register system** was prepared and distributed among Moldovan stakeholders.

MONTENEGRO: “Support to EU Accession negotiation process of Montenegro through sharing Slovak Experience in negotiation of Chapter 11 – Agriculture and Rural Development and Chapter 12 – Food safety, veterinary and phytosanitary policy”

Total expenses: 32,072.37 USD

Contract period: September 2013 – December 2013

Implementing partners: M.E.S.A.10 and UNDP CO Montenegro

Significant need for further capacity building of Montenegrin institutions had been identified during the explanatory and bilateral screening meetings organized within the first preparatory phase of EU Accession negotiation process on the EU acquis’ Chapter 11 - Agriculture and Rural Development and EU acquis’ Chapter 12 - Food safety, veterinary and phytosanitary policy.

In October 2013, **8 representatives** of working groups for Chapter 11 and 12 get deeper inside and **gained practical experience** from their Slovak counterparts such as Ministry for Agriculture and Rural Development, Agricultural payment agency, private farmers and veterinary, phytosanitary and food authorities. During the thematic sessions, following topics were discussed: **organization of Common Market and direct payments, subsidies, Common Agricultural Policy**, health protection of plants, seeds, planting material, pesticides, fertilizers and **phytosanitary laboratories** (functioning and organization), handling the by-products of animal origin and **national reference laboratories**.

II.III. Multisector/Cross-cutting

II.III.I General environmental protection - Environmental policy and administrative management

BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA: “Study tour on learning from Slovak experience on sustainable use, management and environmental protection of the karst fields and peatlands”

Total expenses: 43,413.87 USD

Contract period: September 2009 – February 2010

Implementing partners: DAPHNE Inštitút aplikovanej ekológie and UNDP CO Bosnia and Herzegovina

To enhance capacities in preparation and implementation of policies and procedures, management and sustainable use of karst fields and peatlands, 15 representatives from Bosnia and Herzegovina participated in one-week study tour in October 2009. Several examples of transboundary cooperation and successful projects, focused on public participation and stakeholder involvement into management of protected areas, were presented and relevant sites in Slovakia visited. Study tour participants were provided with materials on management of planning processes, restoration of wet grasslands and restoration of fens, including protection and monitoring issues.

WESTERN BALKANS: “Study tour on learning from the Slovak experience in environmental management and remediation of priority mine sites”

Total expenses: 30,453.29 USD

Contract period: October 2009 – February 2010

Implementing partners: Comenius University and UNDP CO Montenegro

Within the **Western Balkans Environmental Programme** aiming to improve living conditions in communities around environmental hot spots through progress in clean-up/remediation activities, removing/reducing existing pollution impacts and developing capacities at national and local level as well as raising public awareness, **16 participants** from the Western Balkans visited the Slovak Republic in October 2009 to learn about **environmental management and remediation of old mining sites**. Information sharing included field trips in various regions of Slovakia.



MONTENEGRO: “Protected areas in EU accession context – Slovak experience”

Total expenses: 27,685.10 USD

Contract period: December 2013 – May 2014

Implementing partners: Comenius University and UNDP CO Montenegro

In order to facilitate the efforts to **strengthen protected areas system** in Montenegro and to support implementation of the relevant EU directives and National Biodiversity Strategy, a **study visit** was organized for **11 representatives** of the Agency for Environmental protection and several municipalities in April 2014.

Participants gained a first-hand insight into various natural conservation and landscape planning activities, ranging from structure and tasks of the respective administrations to zonation and management planning, biodiversity conservation, tourism as well as challenges and opportunities in financing. Before the study tour beginning, **comprehensive study material** in Montenegrin language was prepared and distributed.

II.III.II Other multisector – Rural development

ALBANIA: “Study tour on learning from the Slovak experience in the field of managing regional development and management of the EU Structural Funds for participants from Albania”

Total expenses: 31,723.43 USD

Contract period: September 2010 – December 2010

Implementing partners: SFIT, a.s. and UNDP CO Albania

13 participants from central and local government in Albania visited Slovakia in October 2010 to learn about the Slovak experience with **regional development and use of pre-accession assistance**. They were also provided with specific advice on the draft of **Law on regional Development**, and EU-funding instruments and resources for regional development.

II.IV Disaster prevention and preparedness

MOLDOVA: “Modernization of Moldova’s Natural Hazard Early Warning System”

Total expenses: 73,426 USD

Contract period: December 2013 – June 2014

Implementing partners: Telegrafia, a.s. and UNDP CO Moldova

Though a high priority for the Moldovan Civil Protection and Emergency Situations Service, a coherent nation-wide early warning system has not been set up yet. **Study visit** to Slovakia was organized to familiarize **6 Moldovan decision makers** with scope, set-up, and functionality of the Slovak early warning system in March 2014 and to enhance their **understanding of state-of-the-art solutions, required interaction between relevant state institutions** as well as implementation and maintenance costs.

In order to **facilitate early warning system initialization** in Moldova, **needs and gap assessment** was conducted by Slovak experts and based on this an **early warning concept** and subsequently **terms of reference for detailed feasibility study** on comprehensive, multi-hazard, people-centered early warning system linked to EU and international systems was developed.

III. Increased role of the Slovak volunteers in ODA

SLOVAKIA: “Volunteer Sending Program coordinated by the Slovak NGDOs Platform”

Total expenses: 78,823.82 USD

Contract period: February 2010 – May 2011

Implementing partners: Platforma mimovládnych rozvojových organizácií (Slovak NGDO Platform)

The **Volunteer Sending Programme** prepared **basis** for formulation of **National mechanism for volunteer sending within the framework of Slovak Official Development Assistance** bringing the set of recommendations based on empirical data.

In order to gain entering data and practical experience, a pilot scheme for volunteer sending was tested. **9 young people** from Slovakia spent several months (3-6 months) volunteering in **Georgia, Kenya, Mongolia and Vietnam**. Range of their activities reached from work in women and community centers to house reconstruction project and micro-finance bank. All volunteers were carefully **selected** and went through **pre-departure preparation** and after their return were involved in the scheme assessment and **global education activities**.

The project also contributed to establishing of **basic quality standards**, common sharing of good practices among volunteer sending organizations and **enhancing their volunteer management capacities**, increasing interest of public and media in volunteering in developing countries and creation of pool of field experienced people.



SLOVAKIA: UNV scheme pilot testing “Programme Officer on the project Human Rights and Civic Education”

Total expenses: 52,904.58 USD

Contract period: 2010 – 2011 (24 months)

Implementing partners: UNV Bonn and UNDP CO Kenya

Volunteer: Mr. Branislav Tichý

United Nations Volunteers Programme pursues global recognition of volunteers, encourages integration of volunteerism into development programmes and promotes mobilization of greater diversity of volunteers contributing to peace and development. UNV offers to partner governments to identify and engage professionals who can deliver services and fulfill a wide range of specialized tasks.

One Slovak professional was sent out within the UNV scheme pilot testing to work one year as UNDP Programme Officer supporting management of the Human Rights and Civic Education Programme in Kenya. This experience was evaluated as positive from personal as well as professional point of view with some reservations regarding work content. In general, cooperation with UNV and potentially UNDP Junior Professional Officer Programme would contribute to increased representation of Slovak nationals in UN structures.

SLOVAKIA: “Preparation of the Handbook on Development volunteering in Slovakia”

Total expenses: 7,725.68 USD

Contract period: May 2012 – November 2012

Implementing partners: Platforma mimovládnych rozvojových organizácií (Slovak NGDO Platform)

The possibility to send Slovak volunteers to developing countries has been significantly improved by adoption of Law on volunteering in 2011 and launch of the official Programme of national mechanism for volunteer and expert sending to development countries in March 2012.

Handbook on Development volunteering in Slovakia was developed as useful manual for different stakeholders involved in the process of Development Volunteering, especially for volunteers and sending organizations. It contains information about possibilities and specific features of volunteering in developing countries, practical information about traveling to developing countries and information about sending possibilities for Slovaks interested in voluntary placement as well as overview of basic standards, which should be taken into consideration by sending organizations.

Simultaneously, volunteering section on the web page www.mvro.sk was rebuilt in close linking with the web page www.dobrovolnictvo.sk based on experience of Slovak NGDO Platform member organizations and thanks to coordinated approach and information exchange between all stakeholders.

IV. Promotion of development awareness

SLOVAKIA: International conference “Sharing transition experience between the EU member states and the recipient countries of the region”

Total expenses: 8,676.94 USD

Implementing period: May 2009 - July 2009

Implementing partners: UNDP Bratislava Regional Centre and Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Slovak Republic

New EU member states shared their experience in political, economical and environmental transition with Balkan countries and the former Soviet Republics at a two-day **international conference** hosted by the Slovak Ministry of Foreign Affairs and co-organized by the Slovak-UNDP Trust Fund. Representatives from old and new EU member states, UNDP Bratislava Regional Centre, Belarus, Georgia, Kyrgyzstan, Serbia and Ukraine discussed **relationships among donors and recipient countries** and **aid effectiveness challenges**.

SLOVAKIA: “Essay contest for secondary school students focusing on actual development issues and Slovak ODA”

Total expenses: 22,849.41 USD

Contract period: November 2009 – August 2010

Implementing partners: Centrum pre filantropiu, n.o., Embassy of the Slovak Republic in Bosnia and Herzegovina and Faculty of Science – Department of Development Studies, Palacký University Olomouc

Essay contest for high school students focusing on **actual development issues** was organized between November 2009 and August 2010. From eighty essays submitted, eleven were awarded with prize. The top essayist had the possibility to visit Slovak development projects in Bosnia and Herzegovina, the second essayist participated in the Summer School of Development Cooperation in Olomouc (Czech Republic) and the third received a 50 EUR voucher for fair trade products.

This competition complementing existing curricula encouraged **serious discussion** among secondary school students, teachers and development assistance professionals about the reasons and consequences of global poverty, inequity and under-development, and Slovak engagements in development cooperation.

SLOVAKIA: “Everybody matters”

Total expenses: 24,174.62 USD

Contract period: October 2010 – June 2011

Implementing partner: OZ Dvojfarebný svet

In order to popularize the theme of Millenium Development Goals and to change the perception of journalists and public, an **exhibition of toys** produced by **children in developing countries using them accessible materials** and a photo exhibition was organized. The exhibition took place in Bratislava, Banská Bystrica and Košice. The awareness raising campaign was accompanied by production of **documentary film** about Slovak development assistance, which was screened on national TV as well as

regional TVs and during the International Documentary Film Festival One World. The festival screening was supplemented by round table discussion. Final **toys auction** was organized and its proceeds were **donated** to support development activities.

SLOVAKIA: Photo exhibition “Slovaks helping the world”

Total expenses: 3,397.19 USD

Exhibition period: May 2011 – June 2011

Photographers: Andrej Bán and Martin Bandžák

Photo exhibition presenting **activities of Slovak humanitarian relief organizations and volunteers in crisis regions** around the world was organized on the occasion of an open day in the Slovak Ministry of Foreign Affairs in May 2011 and on the occasion of the European year of volunteering 2011 in the National Council of the Slovak Republic in June 2011.

Two photographers [Andrej Bán](#) and [Martin Bandžák](#) captured people’s destinies affected by natural disasters, wars, extreme poverty and HIV/AIDS in Afghanistan, Georgia, Haiti, India, Iran, Cambodia, Kenya, Pakistan, Sri Lanka and Southern Sudan.



SLOVAKIA: “SOS Sudan”

Total expenses: 37,110.85 USD

Contract period: October 2011 – August 2012

Implementing partner: OZ Dvojfarebný svet

South Sudan became an independent state in July 2011. One of the poorest countries in the world enjoys special status among geographical priorities of the Slovak official development assistance. The **documentary film “SOS Sudan”** documented Slovak development projects in South Sudan and was broadcasted on TA3, TV Lux and 27 Slovak regional televisions in order to raise the interest of Slovak media and public. The film was produced in Slovak and English version and distributed on DVD.

SLOVAKIA: Celebration of the Slovak ODA 10th anniversary “Photo exhibition Afriktivity”

Total expenses: 13,104.72 USD

Contract period: May 2013 – November 2013

Implementing partner: Culture Force o.z.

Documentary project Afriktivity combining photography, video and text materials focused on mapping and presentation of various Slovak development interventions in Kenya in order to increase public awareness on importance and benefits of development assistance and to support perceiving of social values. **Photo exhibition** was presented in **6 Slovak cities** (Bratislava, Banská Bystrica, Košice, Žilina, Nitra and Lučenec).

The exhibition itself was supported by intensive media campaign, using social media as Facebook and an interactive web page www.afriktivity.sk as well. 2 brochures (exhibition leaflet and auction brochure) were prepared and distributed. The authors participated in several public discussions during various events. Final **photo auction** was organized and its proceeds were **donated** to partner organizations to support their **development activities**.

SLOVAKIA: Celebration of the Slovak ODA 10th anniversary “Development Day 2013: Slovakia has been helping for more than 10 Years”

Total expenses: 20,981.97 USD

Contract period: May 2013 – December 2013

Implementing partner: Platforma mimovládnych rozvojových organizácií (Slovak NGDO Platform)

The 9th Annual **Development Day 2013 “Slovakia has been helping for more than 10 years”** (organized in Bratislava in October 2013, www.rozvojovyden.mvro.sk) **highlighted, promoted, commemorated and recognized** activities of different stakeholders active in the field of development assistance, humanitarian aid and global education. The programme included presentations on Slovak development projects and organizations, creative development workshops for children and schools, development kitchen, development work fair, workshop on media and development, film screenings and music benefit concert. This event was an integral part of the National Development Days prepared in cooperation with the Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs of the Slovak Republic and other partners.

SLOVAKIA: Celebration of the Slovak ODA 10th anniversary “Commemoration of 10 years of SlovakAid during the 14th edition of One World Film Festival”

Total expenses: 9,501.65 USD

Contract period: October 2013 – December 2013

Implementing partner: OZ Človek v ohrození (People in Peril)

14th edition of the **International Documentary Film Festival One World** was organized in Bratislava in November 2013 and afterwards in several Slovak cities to educate Slovak public to open, tolerant, empathetic and intercultural communication and society. Special attention was paid to **development issues and challenges of development co-operation**.

Activities of Slovak actors having a considerable impact on improvement of quality of life in less developed countries and contributing to creation of favorable environment for sustainable development were highlighted and recognized within the **special film section “Why poverty?”** <http://www.jedensvet.sk/en/node/394>. Several accompanying activities, such as event on volunteerism in development countries, photo exhibitions and educational debates, were organized. Before every screening, a **3-minutes SlovakAid video-spot** was projected and leaflets about SlovakAid were distributed to all festival visitors together with tickets.

SLOVAKIA: Celebration of the Slovak ODA 10th anniversary “International conference 10 Years of SlovakAid: a Vision of Development Cooperation for a Changing World”

Total expenses: 29,201.79 USD

Contract period: May 2013 – December 2013

Implementing partner: Nadácia Pontis (Pontis Foundation)

The **international conference “10 years of SlovakAid: a vision of development cooperation for a changing world”** created a platform encouraging expertise exchange, stimulating professional dialogue and **experience sharing** between different ODA stakeholders. It took place in the Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs of the Slovak Republic in October 2013 during the National Development Days and was attended by **more than 200 guests**. Conference proceedings consisting of conference papers, welcoming speeches and discussion panel notes were published and disseminated to all conference guests.

SLOVAKIA: Celebration of the Slovak ODA 10th anniversary “SlovakAid – 10th anniversary brochure”

Total expenses: 19,590.61 USD

Contract period: May 2013 – December 2013

Implementing partner: OZ Dvojfarebný svet

Representative publication “Slovakia helps” maps development assistance provided by the Slovak Republic and was published with the aim to increase awareness and attract attention to the Slovak development assistance. This comprehensive material presents milestones and results within the 10-year period (2003-2013) in an attractive form in Slovak and English language. It provides readers with main information on beneficiary countries and areas of intervention and highlights particular success stories. It shall address ODA stakeholders, partners of the Slovak foreign policy and Slovak ODA and general public. The official release was launched during the National Development Days in October 2013.

V. Building of ODA monitoring and evaluation system

SLOVAKIA: “Slovak Development Evaluation Training coordinated by the Slovak Evaluation Society”

Total expenses: 28,790.67 USD

Contract period: April 2010 – December 2010

Implementing partners: Slovenská evaluačná spoločnosť o.z. and UNDP Bratislava Regional Centre

In order to **strengthen monitoring and evaluation skills of public officials** and other **stakeholders involved in Slovak ODA activities**, **Development Evaluation Training** was organized in Mošovce in October 2010. **42 participants** from 10 different countries learned about management of monitoring and evaluation processes and practiced evaluation management skills on specific study cases. The training was led by Ms. Linda G. Morra Imas from the World Bank’s Independent Evaluation Group and Mr. Ray C. Rist, President of IDEAS and Advisor to the World Bank’s Independent Evaluation Group.



AFGHANISTAN: “Evaluation of 6 Development Projects of the Slovak Republic in Afghanistan”

Total expenses: 0 USD

Evaluation period: April 2011 – May 2011

Evaluator: Ms. Zuzana Letková, UNDP Bratislava Regional Centre

In order to analyze the results and outcomes achieved by implementation of six development projects and the overall impact of the Slovak official development assistance in Afghanistan, an evaluation mission was conducted to Kabul and surrounding provinces in April 2011. The assessed projects have focused on medical health care improvement, university and vocational education, rural development and empowering women. Findings and conclusions of evaluation of Slovak Aid efforts in Afghanistan were presented in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in July 2011. The evaluation report's conclusions served as a platform for elaboration of the Slovak Aid Country Strategy Paper.

BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA: “Evaluation of 5 Development Projects of the Czech Republic and Slovak Republic in Bosnia and Herzegovina”

Total expenses: 27,497.48 USD

Contract period: June 2011 – October 2011

Contractor: D&D Consulting s.r.o.

Evaluation of three development projects implemented in Bosnia and Herzegovina was concluded in order to support the decision-making on the Slovak Republic's development interventions in the Western Balkans. The evaluation team assessed technical infrastructure projects in the field of management systems for earthquake monitoring, mine-clearing works and municipal services. The evaluation included also two projects financed within the Czech Programme for development cooperation. Presentation of evaluation conclusions and recommendations was held in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Slovak Republic in December 2011.

KENYA, SOUTH SUDAN: “Evaluation of 3 Development Projects of the Slovak Republic in Kenya and South Sudan”

Total expenses STF: 41,083.66 USD

Contract period: October 2011 – February 2012 + July 2012 – September 2012

Contractor/Evaluator: IBS SLOVAKIA, s.r.o. + Ms. Inka Pibilová

Three interventions in health sector were evaluated in order to gain information on results and impacts of Slovak ODA projects in Kenya (two projects concentrating on HIV/AIDS and improvement of community health care) and South Sudan (one project dealing with community health service) and to support decision making on future interventions. Evaluation of HIV/AIDS project had to be repeated due to series of misunderstandings between the evaluation company and the NGO, which implemented the project. Both evaluation reports were presented in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

SERBIA: “Evaluation of four Slovak ODA projects in Serbia”

Total expenses: 28,130.89 USD

Contract period: January 2013 – April 2013

Contractor: D&D Consulting s.r.o.

Evaluation of four development projects implemented in Serbia was concluded in order to support the decision-making on the Slovak development interventions in the Western Balkans. The evaluated projects concentrated on support of Serbian EU accession and integration. The evaluation presentation was held in the premises of the Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs in May 2013.

MOLDOVA: “Evaluation of four Slovak ODA projects in Moldova”

Total expenses: 30,586.96 USD

Contract period: October 2013 – December 2013

Contractor: D&D Consulting s.r.o.

Evaluation of the Slovak official development assistance to Moldova was conducted in order to analyze results and outcomes achieved by implementation of development projects and the overall intervention impact. The four assessed projects focused on water and sanitation, EU integration and waste disposal. Evaluation report conclusions served as a platform for preparation of the Country Strategy Paper for Moldova. Findings and conclusions were presented in the Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs of the Slovak Republic in January 2014.