



Evaluation Report

'Evaluation of the 2004 - 2009 Programming Period of the EEA Financial Mechanism and Norwegian Financial Mechanism'

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1 Abbreviations

EEA	European Economic Area
EFTA	European Free Trade Area
ENPI	European Neighbourhood and Partnership Instrument
ESDP	Economic and Social Development Programme
EU	European Union
HTU	Higher Territorial Unit
NFM	Norwegian Financial Mechanism
NGO	Non-governmental organisation
PD	Project Documentation
PR	Public Relations
OP	Operational programme
ROP	Regional Operational Programme
SEDP	Socio-economic development plan
STRIPE	Strategic Intelligence for Innovation Policy Enhancement, Strategic Intelligence for strengthening the innovation policy
SD	Sustainable Development
SR	Slovak Republic
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization

2 Summary

The objective of the Report is to provide an evaluation of the 2004-2009 programming period of the EEA Financial Mechanism and Norwegian Financial Mechanism. The subject of the evaluation was the assessment of effectiveness, relevance, sustainability, impact and efficiency in 18 selected projects and an overall assessment of their potential, as well as the suitability of solutions for the 2009-2014 programming period.

The report covers the evaluation of six major areas:

1. Anti-flood measures
2. Cross-border cooperation with Ukraine
3. Roma issues
4. Innovations in Energy
5. Conservation of cultural heritage
6. Measures relating to domestic violence

The evaluation of the 2004-2009 programming period was based on a combination of summative and formative evaluation methods.

Based on personal implementation site visits of 18 selected projects, having examined questionnaires completed by the project promoters, and other relevant documents, the following findings, conclusions and recommendations have been drawn:

2.1 Findings

Overall, the following observations have been made:

- The projects under evaluation have met their expected objectives and achieved their planned values of indicators.
- The projects are consistent with the SEDPs in their self-governing regions at the time of their approval. Only one project (SK0015) was based on the SEDP of the region only marginally. Given the location of the region cooperation between Slovakia and Ukraine did not appear in the SEDP of the region.
- If the projects did not receive the support, they would not have been implemented at all or only to a limited extent due to lack of financial resources available to project promoters.
- Project results are sustainable and project promoters will continue in project activities.
- All the evaluated projects show positive direct and indirect impacts.
- No negative direct impacts have been identified.
- Indirect negative impacts have been identified in three cases in two projects, and are associated with budget changes to the detriment of the project promoter. This happened during project implementation, and could not be anticipated at the time of project approval. One project promoter finds that their organization does not receive even the proportional part from financial savings that they could invest in energy savings.
- Sustainable jobs have been created in seven projects (SK0074, SK0101, SK0128, SK0029, SK0099, SK0110, SK0113).

- The potential to reinforce the principles of gender equality is high in seven projects. Considering the nature of other projects, it has been evaluated as minimal.
- The potential of all evaluated projects to strengthen the principles of sustainable development is high.
- The potential of projects to enhance cooperation with Norway, Iceland and Liechtenstein, is minimal. Only projects with measures related to domestic violence demonstrated a higher potential for cooperation.
- The potential of projects to engage volunteers in projects is zero in ten projects, minimal in one project and high in seven projects. The potential is high in projects dealing with social issues.
- The potential of projects to reach broad social consensus on the issue is high. The projects are beneficial to all concerned residents and are also compatible with the needs of self-governing regions in Slovakia.
- The results achieved can be considered adequate with regard to the amount of support they received.
- The methods used correspond to the targets and technical capabilities.
- Given the way the projects and their objectives had been defined, the right tools and measures were chosen to achieve these objectives.

2.2 Conclusion

All the evaluated projects meet the effectiveness, relevance and sustainability requirements. They demonstrate positive impacts and implementation of their activities can be considered adequate given the amount of support they received. At the time of the projects no technical solutions were available that would be more suitable. In the projects that address Roma issues some activities can be evaluated as innovative.

Job opportunities have been created mostly in projects where cultural sites are used for business purposes, and in projects in which new sanitary facilities are built.

2.3 Recommendations

2.3.1 Anti-flood measures

Recommendations regarding project support in the area of '**Anti-flood measures**' for the next programming period:

Given its earlier under-funding, it is necessary to continue supporting projects that improve flood protection, and focus primarily on these types of projects:

- Projects to create flood maps of the individual river basins as an integral part of competent decision-making in flood control.
- Projects to implement complex anti-flood measures in a given area (town, village), i.e. to prepare a draft of such complex measures and to implement them.

2.3.2 Conservation of cultural heritage

Recommendations regarding projects support in the area of '**Conservation of cultural heritage**' for the next programming period:

Given the constant lack of resources in this area to continue funding projects that promote reconstruction and restoration of cultural heritage, while it is recommended to:

- Support projects to reconstruct monuments and sites in a complex manner so that can they can serve the public.
- Allow changes in approved budgets (not their total amount, but the distribution of resources), if unexpected changes occur during reconstruction works, which could not have been anticipated during the approval process

2.3.3 Roma issues

Recommendations regarding project support in the area of '**Roma issues**' for the next programming period:

Given the society-wide need to address the social status of the Roma, to continue funding projects that focus on the empowerment of these social groups, and more specifically to:

- Support projects that are in accordance with planned and partially implemented new Slovak legislation in the social area, especially those that address Roma issues in a comprehensive manner;
- Use best practices from already supported and implemented projects;
- Support projects that use innovative working methods with communities;
- Support projects in a way that facilitates every-day and long-term work of field and training community workers.

2.3.4 Innovations in Energy

Recommendations regarding project support in the area of '**Innovations in energy**' for the next programming period:

Given the large scale of investment in this area, we recommend that projects are supported which help implement facilities using renewable energy sources based on the latest trends in the field.

2.3.5 Cross-border Cooperation with Ukraine

Recommendations regarding the support of projects in the area of '**Cross-border Cooperation with Ukraine**' for the next programming period:

Since projects in this area are largely underfunded, it is recommended to continue to support those that actively develop cross-border cooperation, and especially:

- To support projects from applicants with established partnerships in Ukraine;
- To support projects that implement comprehensive solutions in their regions or sectors (business sector, tourism, education, culture, etc.);
- Not to support projects such as 'Creating new partnerships among institutions'. These partnerships have been successfully created in other projects, and have been funded by the European Union;
- Not to support projects such as 'Environment Analysis', which do not use the results from the analysis to address the issues in the given area.
- To publish project results also in Ukrainian and in English.
- To support projects in border regions, since such cooperation is not supported in SEDPs of other regions.

2.3.6 Measures Related to Domestic Violence

Recommendations regarding project support in the area of '**Measures Related to Domestic Violence**' for the next programming period:

Since this area has been largely underfunded, it is necessary to continue to support projects that focus on the development of social services provided to families and individuals in crisis and to battered women with children, with special emphasis on these types of projects:

- Projects to provide crisis intervention services to individuals and families in need and in crisis.
- Projects to provide comprehensive social services focused on crisis intervention - including their premises, social and psychological counselling and personnel needed; here it is necessary to commit the competent regional authorities to provide financing for the given social services in their full, planned capacity (if, for example, the region provides funding for 6 clients and the estimated capacity of the project is 35 clients, then sustainability of the project is threatened).
- Projects to provide follow-up social care to families in crisis, i.e. to propose and implement comprehensive measures, such as building aftercare facilities that offer follow-up support in order to break the vicious circle of crisis intervention, (i.e. clients would not be transferred from one facility to another but would be offered alternative housing after the end of support, which they would pay for with the assistance from social workers who would also help them with finance and crisis management, since social housing is unaffordable for such clients.
- Projects to map existing social services in Slovakia in order to identify insufficient or non-existent services in Slovak regions, and to set up a basic network of social facilities.

3 Introduction and Assignment

Slovakia joined the European Union in May 2004. Following an agreement between the EU and EFTA countries, new opportunities to receive financial assistance have been created for accession countries such as Slovakia. During 2004 – 2009 three donor countries - Norway, Iceland and Liechtenstein, members of the European Economic Area, allocated approx. 70 million EUR to Slovakia (97% of which came from the Kingdom of Norway) with the aim to help mitigate economic and social disparities among regions in the European Economic Area. The funds were distributed using two separate funding mechanisms - EEA Financial Mechanism and Norwegian Financial Mechanism.

A great number of small- and large-scale projects were funded from these resources. At the same time, almost all projects were co-financed by the Slovak state budget. The projects were coordinated by the Government Office of the Slovak Republic, which served as the National Focal Point for these financial mechanisms.

Assistance was provided to all regions of Slovakia under nine priority areas, and funds were allocated using non-repayable financial contribution.

1. Protection of environment
2. Promotion of sustainable development
3. Conservation of European cultural heritage
4. Human resources development
5. Health and childcare
6. Research
7. Implementation of Schengen *acquis*, strengthening the judiciary
8. Regional policy and cross-border activities
9. Technical assistance relating to the implementation of *acquis communautaire*.

In the 2004-2009 programming period Slovakia concluded contracts for 100 projects, 7 of which were block grants and 93 of which were individual projects. It represented more than 99% of the total net allocation, which amounted to approx. 65 million EUR.

The subject of the assignment was the evaluation of the 2004-2009 programming period of the EEA Financial Mechanism and Norwegian Financial Mechanism. The goal of the evaluation was to assess the effectiveness, relevance, sustainability, impact and efficiency of 18 selected projects and to provide an overall assessment of the potential of the selected projects and suitability of project solutions for the 2009-2014 programming period.

The evaluation report was divided into 8 chapters and focused on six major areas:

1. Anti-flood measures
2. Cross-border cooperation with Ukraine
3. Roma issues

4. Innovations in Energy
5. Conservation of cultural heritage
6. Measures relating to domestic violence

The evaluation of the 2004-2009 programming period used a combination of summative and formative evaluation methods: the summative method was used when assessing the effectiveness, relevance and sustainability (which provided comprehensive information on the effectiveness and impact of implemented activities of individual projects); while the formative method of evaluation was used in assessing the impact and efficiency. The evaluation of effectiveness provided information on the achievement of objectives and indicators of individual projects, while the evaluation of relevance showed whether projects helped fulfil the targets set in the social and economic development programme of a given region, and what would happen if projects did not receive funding. The evaluation of sustainability showed to what extent promoters will continue in project activities.

The evaluation of impact and efficiency looked at positive and negative impacts of individual projects (creation of new jobs, increasing awareness of the project results, strengthening the principles of gender equality, sustainable development, etc.). The goal of the evaluation of efficiency was to determine whether the results obtained are proportional to the funds received.

4 Methodology

The following procedures were used in the evaluation of the individual projects and the preparation of this Report:

1. At the beginning of the evaluation of the 2004-2009 programming period, an initial meeting was held at the Government Office of the Slovak Republic, where we received background documents to projects.
2. By December 10, 2011 the Inception Report was submitted to the Government Office that included a list of scheduled site visits for the individual projects.
3. During the first month the background documents provided by the Government Office were examined by experts in the individual fields. At the same time, SEDPs of regions were studied with emphasis on priority areas.
4. Next, an evaluation questionnaire, approved by the Government Office, was sent to selected project promoters who were subject to the evaluation.
5. From December 2011 to February 2012 on-site project evaluations were carried out (by experts in the area and representatives from IBS SLOVAKIA, Ltd.). Interviews with mayors, respective non-profit organisations and project implementers were part of the visit. On-site visits were conducted according to the following time table (individual meetings were scheduled by telephone or email):

No.	Project title	Evaluation site	Date
1.	SK0074 Green house, cultural heritage preservation in Banská Štiavnica	Banská Štiavnica	Dec 14, 2011
2.	SK0128 Wild Poppies - a chance for Romany talents from all Slovakia	PRO DONUM Bratislava	Dec 15, 2011
3.	SK0067 - Halič – Static assurance of castle and bastions emergency conditions	Halič	Dec 20, 2011
4.	SK0101 – Community Bridge building in Central and Eastern Slovakia	Community centres in Stará Ľubovňa, Ostrovany, Moldava nad Bodvou	Dec 21, 2011
5.	SK0035 – Renovation of the historic, cultural and social centre Čierny Orol in Prešov	Prešov	Jan 17, 2012
6.	SK0028 – Intention of the revitalization of the water flow Myjava river within Myjava town	Myjava	Jan 18, 2012
7.	SK0100 – Strategic Intelligence for Innovation Policy Enhancement - STRIPE	Košice	Jan 18, 2012
8.	SK0015 – Start – preparing the institutions for regional development and cross-border co-	Rimavská Sobota	Jan 19, 2012

	operation with Ukraine		
9.	SK0029 – The biomass utilization for the heat production in the town Vráble	Vráble	Jan 24, 2012
07.	SK0080 – Installation of solar collectors and energy facilities refurbishment in ÚVTOS	Želiezovce	Jan 24, 2012
08.	SK0138 – Renewable sources of energy in schools	Košice	Jan 26, 2012
12.	SK0027 – Creek regulation in the village of Nižný Slavkov	Nižný Slavkov	Jan 27, 2012
10.	SK0026 – Anti-flood measures on the Lipany and Lučanka brooks in Lipany	Lipany	Jan 27, 2012
11.	SK0044 – Enhancement of Flood Management and Flood-protection Planning of Hornád Basin on Territory of SR	Košice	Jan 27, 2012
15.	SK0045 – Modernization and reconstruction of refuge house for mothers with children in misery in the House of Red Cross	Snina	Feb 8, 2012
16.	SK0110 - The Crisis Centre for Protection and Support of Victims of Domestic Violence in the Town of Považská Bystrica	Považská Bystrica	Feb 14, 2012
17.	SK0113 – Crisis Centre - reconstruction and modernization of a building in the City of Bratislava	Bratislava	Feb 14, 2012
18.	SK0099 – Implementation of renewable sources of energy based on biomass at energetic management in Rohožník	Rohožník	Feb 16, 2012

6. Partial evaluation reports on the visited projects were prepared and sent to the client (the Government Office) on a monthly basis.
7. Based on the responses received, the expected and obtained values of indicators, and their own knowledge and experience in the individual monitored areas, the experts drew up an evaluation of effectiveness, relevance, sustainability, impact and efficiency of selected projects.
8. Comparing the current legislation with the legislation in effect at the time of project launch, the experts prepared an analysis of the legal framework in Slovakia for a given area and examined compliance of the individual projects with current legislation. Then, based on their findings and experience, they proposed recommendations and further improvements.
9. Finally, after four months of evaluation process, the supplier submitted the complete Evaluation Report in Slovak and English.

5 Evaluation of individual projects

5.1 Anti-flood measures

5.1.1 SK0026 – Anti-flood measures on the Lipany and Lučanka brooks in Lipany

Project Promoter: Town of Lipany

Total grant¹: 371 685 EUR

Actually used amount: 365,068 EUR

Project location: Lipany and Lučanka brooks in Lipany

Priority Area: Protection of Environment

The goal of the project was to improve flood protection along the Lipany and Lučanka brooks with the overall objective to enhance protection of the environment and the residents of the town of Lipany.

Evaluation of effectiveness

Based on a personal site visit and following an examination of relevant documents, it has been concluded that the project met all the objectives and the expected values of indicators, except for the partial objective, 'Using properties of trees to reinforce and anchor riverbanks with their complex root systems' This objective will be achieved once the trees planted during the project develop strong enough roots.

The objectives of the project were achieved especially by:

- Improving the protection of the Lipany town against floods using a number of technical measures (removal of sediments from the river bed, repairing and reinforcing the river channel) that helped increase the capacity of the river channel to carry high water and its resistance to destructive effects of high water flow.
- Restoration of riparian boundary strips by planting trees.

The effectiveness of flood protection is strengthened by other measures (polders, controlling high water above the village, help reduce water discharge in the river channel).

Evaluation of relevance

There has been a long-term need to improve the flood protection of the town. Disastrous floods especially in the last 15 years clearly confirm such need.

Based on the study of relevant background documents, the data from the questionnaire and the wording of the relevant SEDP, the following conclusions have been drawn:

- The project is consistent with the SEDP of the Prešov Self-governing Region relevant at the time of project approval and, more specifically, with the objectives set out in the priority theme 'Landscaping and flood protection'.
- If the project did not receive the support, it would not have been implemented, due to the lack of financial resources of the Lipany town.

¹ Inclusive the co-financing from the state budget of the Slovak Republic

- Funding for the project could have been sought also through EU funds allocated for the 2007 - 2013 programming period under the Operational Programme 'Environment', Priority Axis 2 - Flood protection.

Evaluation of sustainability

The technical design of the project to make modifications on the Lipany Brook (a narrow and deep river channel reinforced by material resistant to erosion) is determined by local conditions and densely populated area near the river channel. The technical project and its implementation is sufficient and corresponds to the relevant technical regulations and design loads related to flooding.

The sustainability of the project is further enhanced by other anti-flood measures (reservoirs, polders, and other flood-controlling objects and barriers outside the town) implemented by the Project Promoter. This reduces the burden on the reconstructed river channels, which are then more durable.

For ten years a fund is created to maintain the works in an operable condition, in accordance with the approved project documentation and the relevant building permit. After every major storm of water the Project Promoter cleans the river channel of sediments on the Lipany Brook. A new PD has been prepared to revitalize and reinforce the Lipany riverbed and its riparian area.

Based on these findings it has been concluded that the project results will be maintained and the project activities will continue to be pursued.

Evaluation of impact

Positive direct impacts: Increasing the capacity of the river channels to carry high water has reduced the risk of damage to lives and property, improved environmental conditions, and reduced water erosion.

Negative direct impacts: No direct negative impacts of the project have been identified.

Indirect impacts: A positive indirect impact of the project is the increased sense of safety from flooding felt by local residents. No indirect negative impact has been identified.

Impact on employment: The project created jobs needed for its implementation (design and implementation of technical measures). No sustainable jobs have been created.

Impact on cross-cutting issues

The potential of the project to strengthen the principles of gender equality is minimal.

The potential of the project to strengthen the principles of sustainable development is high. The project aims at preventing damage caused by annual heavy rainfalls and melting snow in springtime.

The potential of the project to enhance cooperation with Norway, Iceland and Liechtenstein is minimal, and is limited to information exchange regarding grants provided by these countries.

The potential of the project to engage volunteers in the project is minimal.

The potential of the project to reach broad social consensus on the project is high. The project is beneficial to all local residents, and is also compatible with the needs of the Prešov Region and Slovakia as a whole.

Evaluation of efficiency

Based on the data made available and on-site inspection the results are evaluated as adequate compared to the amount of support the project received

The technical methods used in the project correspond to the objectives set in the plan to revitalize rivers and to take anti-flood measures: technical and vegetation measures are well balanced. The limited space in the built-up area made it necessary to dredge the river channel to make it deeper at the expense of its width. As a result, technical equipment and materials were needed as opposed to planting vegetation on the riverbank.

Adequate tools and measures were used to achieve the objectives of the project. Moreover, the steps were taken simultaneously with other measures funded by other sources (construction of polders and landscape revitalization).

5.1.2 SK0027 – Creek regulation in the village of Nižný Slavkov (infrastructure support)

Project Promoter: Village of Nižný Slavkov

Total grant: 606,780 EUR

Actually used amount: 606,755 EUR

Project location: Channels of the Slavkovský and Čierny močiar Creeks in Nižný Slavkov

Priority Area: Protection of Environment

The aim of the project is to implement anti-flood measures in the village of Nižný Slavkov in order to improve local environment in accordance with the economic and social development programme of the village.

Evaluation of effectiveness:

Based on the personal on-site visit of the project and having examined the relevant documents, it has been concluded that the project has fulfilled the objectives and expected values of indicators.

The objectives of the project were achieved by implementing a number of technical anti-flood solutions in the built-up area in Nižný Slavkov (such as removing debris from the riverbed, bed reinforcement, revitalization of riverbank bases of slopes, etc.). As a result, the channel has become more capable to carry high water and to be more resistant to destructive erosion effects of high water runoff.

It is recommended to enhance the effectiveness of the anti-flood solutions by implementing more measures in the future (regulatory objects to capture eroded sediment in the catchment area of the village, reservoirs - polders to reduce flood waves).

Evaluation of relevance

There has been a long-term need to improve flood protection of the village. Disastrous floods especially in the last 20 years clearly confirm such need.

Based on the study of relevant background documents, the data from the questionnaire and the wording of the relevant SEDP, the following conclusions have been drawn:

- The project is consistent with the SEDP of the Prešov Self-governing Region relevant at the time of project approval and, more specifically, with the objectives set out in the priority theme 'Landscaping and flood protection'.
- If the project did not receive the support, it would not have been implemented, due to the lack of financial resources available to the village, which would have to seek other sources of financing.

- Funding for the project could have been sought also through EU funds allocated for the 2007 - 2013 programming period under the Operational Programme 'Environment', Priority Axis 2 - Flood protection.

Evaluation of sustainability

The technical design to adjust the Slavkovský Creek channel responded to large amounts of sediment carried by water with high discharge to the riverbed in the village, eroding the channel in the upper part of the creek. The technical project and its implementation is adequate, corresponding to the relevant technical regulations and design loads related to flooding.

Sustainability of the project is ensured by the fortification of the riverbank. Heavy flood walls were built to prevent water from spilling out from the channel. This method of construction of the cross section is durable and stress-resistant.

For ten years a fund is created to maintain of the works in an operable state. After each flash floods the riverbed needs to be cleared of rubble and soil deposits.

Based on these findings it has been concluded that the project results will be maintained and the project activities will continue to be pursued.

Evaluation of impact

Positive direct impacts: Increased capacity of river channels to carry high water has reduced the risk of damage to lives and property. Fortified channels and flattened longitudinal slopes have mitigated water erosion and channel destruction. All these measures will reduce the risk of damage to health and property of citizens.

Negative direct impacts: No direct negative impacts of the project have been identified.

Indirect impacts: An increased feeling of security against floods among the inhabitants was identified as a positive indirect impact. No indirect negative impacts have been identified.

Impact on employment: The project created jobs needed for its implementation (design and implementation of technical measures). No sustainable jobs have been created.

Impact on cross-cutting issues

The potential of the project to strengthen the principles of gender equality is minimal.

The potential of the project to strengthen the principles of sustainable development is high. The project aims at preventing damage caused by annual rainstorms and melting of spring snow.

The potential of the project to enhance cooperation with Norway, Iceland and Liechtenstein is minimal, and is limited to information exchange regarding grants provided by these countries.

The potential of the project to engage volunteers in the project is minimal.

The potential of the project to reach broad social consensus on the project is high. The project is beneficial to all local residents and is also compatible with the needs of the Prešov Region and Slovakia as a whole.

Evaluation of efficiency

Based on the data made available and on-site inspection the results are evaluated as adequate compared to the amount of support the project received.

Technical procedures used correspond to the objectives to be achieved in flood and erosion control - hard walls, foot walls, flood walls and steps on the bottom of the slope to reduce erosion.

The procedures and measures chosen to achieve the objectives were correct and in line with objectives.

Projects to revitalize watercourses and to improve flood prevention are beneficial also for the future, since in the last 20 years the issue has been largely neglected by Slovak governments.

The maximum anti-flood impact can be achieved using a combination of water retention schemes (sufficient vegetation, ban on logging, maintained forest and field paths), increasing and maintaining adequate channel capacity, building facilities able to flatten flood waves using accumulation method (reservoirs-polders).

5.1.3 SK0028 – Revitalization of the Myjava River within Myjava town

Project Promoter: Town of Myjava

Total grant: 1,034,937 EUR

Actually used amount: 1,140,580 EUR²

Project location: Town of Myjava

Priority Area: Protection of Environment

The project aims at improving flood protection along the banks of the Myjava River with the overall objective to develop environment quality in Myjava by creating a balance between nature and urbanization.

Evaluation of effectiveness

Based on the personal on-site visit of the project and having examined the relevant documents, it has been concluded that the project has fulfilled the objectives and expected values of indicators.

The objectives were achieved due to the following steps taken:

- Recovery, adjustment, architectural design and environmental adjustments (improvement of the visible part of the riverbed, cleaning and planting suitable vegetation) have helped to improve the environment in riparian area.
- Improvement of flood control in the Myjava town, using technical measures (removal of sediment, riverbed repair, reinforcement of the river channel), which has increased the capacity of the channel to carry high water and its resistance to destructive effects of heavy discharge of water.

Evaluation of relevance

There has been a long-term need to improve flood protection of the Myjava town. Disastrous floods especially in the last 15 years clearly confirm such need.

Based on the study of relevant background documents, the data from the questionnaire and the wording of the relevant SEDP, the following conclusions have been drawn:

- The project is consistent with the SEDP of the Trenčín Region relevant at the time of project approval and, more specifically, within the chapter 'Environment', in which the objective to 'mitigate adverse environmental and health impacts of floods' is defined. The Annex 3 to the SEDP also contains the intention to 'adopt anti-flood measures on the Myjava River'.

² The amount of the initially awarded grant was exceeded in some cases. The fact is linked to the accession of the Slovak Republic into the EU, when the commitments in Slovak crowns were converted into EUR according to the conversion rate 30.126 SKK/1 EUR.

- If the project did not receive the support, it would not have been implemented due to the lack of financial resources of the Myjava town.
- Funding for the project could have been sought also through EU funds allocated for the 2007 - 2013 programming period under the Operational Programme 'Environment', Priority Axis 2 - Flood protection.

Evaluation of sustainability

Sustainability of the project depends on the quality of its technical design and implementation, the frequency and scale of floods, and financial resources available to the Project Promoter in the Sustainability Fund.

Technical design and implementation is sufficient and corresponds to the relevant technical regulations and design loads caused by flooding.

The Project Promoter considers the current project as one of a number of anti-flood measures, and implements further anti-flood measures (water retention schemes in vacant catchment areas).

According to information from the Project Promoter, the flood protection programme is carried out in cooperation with the river manager - Slovak Water Management Enterprise (Slovenský vodohospodársky podnik, š.p), and, more specifically, by removing invasive plants, mowing of riparian vegetation, cleaning the riverbed and improving the quality of surface water.

Evaluation of impact

Positive direct impacts: An urban type of river has been created, water quality has improved in the stream, riverbanks have been repaired and reinforced, invasive plants have been removed with their roots, the water flow has been revitalized, healthy trees have been planted, illegal drains for sewage water have been removed, and the river flow has been redesigned to improve its visual impression. Overall, the risk of damage to health and property of residents has been reduced.

Negative direct impacts: No direct negative impacts of the project have been identified.

Indirect impacts: A new central urban area has been built in close proximity to the watercourse. No indirect negative impacts have been identified.

Impact on employment: The project created jobs needed for its implementation (design and implementation of technical measures). No sustainable jobs have been created.

Impact on cross-cutting issues

The potential of the project to strengthen the principles of gender equality is minimal.

The potential of the project to strengthen the principles of sustainable development is high. The project prevents damage caused by heavy rainfall and spring snow melting.

The potential of the project to enhance cooperation with Norway, Iceland and Liechtenstein is minimal, and is limited to information exchange regarding grants provided by these countries.

The potential of the project to engage volunteers in the project is minimal.

The potential of the project to reach broad social consensus on the project is high. The project is beneficial to all local residents and is also compatible with the needs of the Trenčín Region and Slovakia as a whole.

Evaluation of efficiency

Based on the data made available and on-site inspection the results are evaluated as adequate compared to the amount of support the project received.

Technical procedures are adequate when compared to the objectives of revitalization of watercourses and flood prevention with both, technical and vegetation measures, employed simultaneously.

Adequate tools and measures were used to achieve the objectives of the project. Moreover, the steps were taken simultaneously with other measures funded by other sources.

5.1.4 SK0044 – Enhancement of Flood Management and Flood-protection Planning of Hornád Basin on Territory of SR

Name of Project Promoter: Košice Self-governing Region

Total grant: 412,267 EUR

Actually used amount: 397,718 EUR

Project location: Hornád River, its tributaries and their floodplains, Košice

Priority Area: Protection of Environment

The project aims to identify areas with increased risk of flooding and to increase the general awareness of anti-flood measures with the overall objective to develop flood control in the Hornád Basin.

Evaluation of effectiveness:

Based on the personal on-site visit of the project and having examined the relevant documents, it has been concluded that the project has fulfilled the objectives and expected values of indicators.

The following project objectives have been achieved:

- Identification of areas with increased flood risk through numerical flood simulation in the given area.
- Preparation of documents (flood maps) for landscape planning and decision making in flood control.
- Informing the public and the experts about effective anti-flood measures in the Hornád Basin.

The project can serve as an exemplary model of flood prevention and mapping which facilitates decision-making process in flood control regarding the timing and sequence of steps to be taken in the event of flood.

Evaluation of relevance

There is a clear need to improve decision-making process in flood control. Flood maps are a necessary basis for flood control management. The area has recently been hit by heavy floods.

Overall, the project has been evaluated as highly positive in terms of relevance of the assistance.

Based on the study of relevant background documents, the data from the questionnaire and the wording of the relevant SEDP, the following conclusions have been drawn:

- The project is consistent with the SEDP of the Košice Self-governing Region relevant at the time of project approval and, more specifically, with the activity titled 'Improving flood landscaping to reduce economic losses caused by floods in the Hornád river basin'.
- If the project did not receive the support, it would not have been implemented due to the lack of financial resources of the town, and would have to be funded by other sources.
- Funding for the project could have been sought also through EU funds allocated for the 2007 - 2013 programming period under the Operational Programme 'Environment', Priority Axis 2 - Flood protection.

Evaluation of sustainability

Flood maps have a full long-term validity and usability (approx. 10 years) which, over time, becomes more limited (depending on local factors that affect flooding - vegetation, stability of river channels, level of development, etc.).

The documents do not require special maintenance.

Evaluation of impact

Positive direct impacts: Flood control has improved. Moreover, the following impacts have been identified:

- Long-term impacts in landscaping and benefits of flood prevention to reduce damage caused by floods;
- Immediate impacts - identification of risk areas, public awareness regarding flood prevention, and new products and services such as flood maps, digital model of landscape and river channels, and mathematical models and simulations of flood events, videos and printed materials.

Negative direct impacts: No direct negative impacts of the project have been identified.

Indirect impacts: A new central urban area has been built in close proximity to the watercourse. No indirect negative impacts have been identified. No indirect negative impacts have been identified.

Impact on employment: The project has created jobs needed for its implementation (design, population of databases, and software solutions). No sustainable jobs have been created.

Impact on cross-cutting issues

The potential of the project to strengthen the principles of gender equality is minimal.

The potential of the project to strengthen the principles of sustainable development is high. The implementation of the project will facilitate prevention of damage caused by flooding.

The potential of the project to enhance cooperation with Norway, Iceland and Liechtenstein is minimal, and is limited to information exchange regarding grants provided by these countries.

The potential of the project to engage volunteers in the project is minimal.

The potential of the project to reach broad social consensus on the project is high. The project is beneficial to all local residents, and is also compatible with the needs of the Košice Region and Slovakia as a whole.

Evaluation of efficiency

Based on the data made available and on-site inspection the results are evaluated as adequate compared to the amount of support the project received, with regard to the extent of the area, the length of watercourses, the number and scope of landscape models and flood simulations.

The technical procedures used meet the project objectives. Means and measures chosen to achieve these objectives are correct and in line with the objectives.

Flood maps created for other Slovak river basins are an integral part of competent decision-making process in flood control.

5.2 Cross-border cooperation with Ukraine

5.2.1 SK0015 – Start – preparing the institutions for regional development and cross-border co-operation with Ukraine

Project Promoter: Fundament Civic Association, Francisciho 1, 979 01 Rimavská Sobota

Total grant: 377,967 EUR

Actually used amount: 408,965 EUR

Project location: Border region of Slovakia - Ukraine

Priority Area: Regional policy and cross-border activities

The aim of the project is to strengthen and develop non-governmental organizations in southern Slovakia, with the overall objective of regional development in southern Slovakia and enhancing Slovak - Ukrainian border cooperation.

Evaluation of effectiveness

Based on the personal on-site visit of the project and having examined the relevant documents, it has been concluded that the project has fulfilled the objectives and expected values of indicators. However, in order to simplify project implementation and monitoring some minor activities were merged into larger groups. The total number of activities has therefore dropped to 5.

The objectives of the project were achieved especially due to the following steps taken:

- Implementing an educational programme to integrate disabled and socially disadvantaged groups.
- Developing the Slovak Karst micro-region, mainly through the Šerpa programme of ecotourism.
- Providing information services on EU, with emphasis on regional development.

Evaluation of relevance

Fundament Civic Association operates in largely disadvantaged marginalized border regions of southern Slovakia. The area is known for high unemployment, lack of investment, dysfunctional economy and agriculture, lack of regional development institutions and general awareness about available funds. Few job opportunities and alternative work opportunities force young university graduates and skilled workers to move to more advanced regions and abroad.

Based on the study of relevant project and background documents and monitoring reports, the following conclusions have been drawn:

- The project is consistent with the SEDP of the Banská Bystrica Region, for the 2007-2013 programming period relevant at time of the project implementation and, more specifically, with the objectives set out within in the priority theme 'Enhancing the competitiveness of production and services'. However, Slovakia - Ukraine cooperation is not defined in the document.
- If the project did not receive the support, it would not have been implemented, due to the lack of financial resources of the organization.
- It was not possible to apply for other sources of financing of the project from the European Funds in the 2007 – 2013 programming period. Cross-border cooperation is covered by the INTERREG Programme. In such a case, however, it would have been necessary to involve a representative from Hungary.

Evaluation of sustainability

Permanent results of this project are the following ones:

- Establishment of a pilot model for underdeveloped regions through community funds and internal support mechanisms in local communities;
- Transferring the model to the individual regions through NGOs;
- Consulting and information services for non-profit organizations;
- New 15 sample projects created as part of the European Voluntary Service programme and the use by individuals.

Based on these findings it has been concluded that the project results will be maintained and the project activities will continue to be pursued.

Evaluation of impact

Positive direct effects: Strengthening and developing NGOs in southern Slovakia and thus enhancing the development of southern regions of Slovakia, with emphasis on Slovakia - Ukraine cross-border cooperation.

Negative direct impacts: No direct negative impacts have been identified.

Indirect impacts: There are new personal contacts on both sides of the border. No indirect negative impacts have been identified.

Impact on employment: No sustainable jobs have been created.

Impact on cross-cutting issues

The potential of the project to strengthen the principles of gender equality is minimal.

The potential of the project to strengthen the principles of sustainable development is minimal. The project developed only a basis for other projects to support cross-border cooperation. Based on personal contacts created in the project it will be possible to establish partnerships.

The potential of the project to enhance cooperation with Norway, Iceland and Liechtenstein, is minimal.

The potential of the project to engage volunteers in the project is high. Volunteers have the opportunity to participate in project activities and use of its results in the future.

The potential of the project to reach broad social consensus on the project is high. The project is beneficial for local people and is also compatible with the needs of Slovakia.

Evaluation of efficiency

Based on the data and the documents made available, the achievements are considered adequate compared to the amount of support.

Adequate tools and measures were used to achieve the objectives of the project.

5.2.2 SK0100 – Strategic Intelligence for Innovation Policy Enhancement - STRIPE

Project Promoter: Technical University of Košice

Total grant: 294,392 EUR

Actually used amount: 292,460 EUR

Project location: Košice Self-governing Region

Priority Area: Regional policy and cross-border activities

One of the main objectives of project STRIPE is to explore, propose and implement suggestions for improvements to regional government and innovation policy in Slovakia for the benefit of local residents.

Evaluation of effectiveness

Based on the on-site inspection and following the review of relevant documents, it has been concluded that project has fulfilled all the expected objectives and values of and has laid the foundation for further activities.

The objectives of the project were achieved especially due to the following steps taken:

- Developing a strategic intelligence model, building a web portal and preparing strategic intelligence tools to be used in regional strategic planning;
- Mapping the tools of regional innovation policy and strategic policy, as well as the regional information systems; comparing regional information systems in the Nordic countries, Slovakia and Ukraine and benchmarking the tools of regional strategic intelligence and networking ability in selected countries.

Evaluation of relevance

Strategic intelligence is a key factor in improving the implementation of political decisions. Strategic intelligence tools (such as Technology Foresight and Technology Assessment and Policy Evaluation) were created several years ago. Improving policy decisions through the use of these tools leads to increased living standards of people living in a given area.

Based on the study of relevant background documents, statistical data from the web portal and the wording of the relevant SEDP, the following conclusions have been drawn:

- The project is consistent with the SEDP of the Košice region relevant at the time of project approval and, more specifically, with the objectives stated as part of the specific objective 5 'Development and empowerment of the Košice Self-governing region at the national and international level', Measure 2 'Developing and strengthening interregional, cross-border and international cooperation' and Measure 5 'Creating a communication and information platform to enhance cooperation among regional development institutions'.
- If the project did not receive the support, it would not have been implemented due to the lack of financial resources of the university.
- Other funds for the project could not be sought through the European Funds for the 2007 - 2013 programming period. Cross-border cooperation is covered by INTERREG Programme. In such a case, however, it would have been necessary to involve a representative from Hungary.

Evaluation of sustainability

The result of project is a new web portal that contains strategic programming and strategic intelligence tools for regional strategic planning (<http://www.regiovision.sk>).

To maintain the web portal in operation after the completion of the project will require further funding to cover all its operating costs. The project has a comprehensive strategy to obtain sufficient funds from the sale of Web advertisements and from registration fees paid by users interested in receiving current information from the portal.

Based on these findings it has been concluded that the project results will be maintained and the project activities will continue to be pursued.

Evaluation of impact

Positive direct impacts: Improvement of regional strategic planning using the Web portal which contains strategic programming and strategic intelligence tools.

Negative direct impacts: No direct negative impacts of the project have been identified.

Indirect impacts: No indirect negative impacts of the project have been identified.

Impact on employment: No new jobs have been created during the project.

Impact on cross-cutting issues:

The potential of the project to strengthen the principles of gender equality is minimal.

The potential of the project to strengthen the principles of sustainable development is high. The results to be achieved in the project are realistic and their added value comes from the use of the web portal.

The potential of the project to enhance cooperation with Norway, Iceland and Liechtenstein, is minimal.

The potential of the project to engage volunteers in the project is minimal.

The potential of the project to reach broad social consensus on the project is high. The project is beneficial for local residents, regional institutions and companies working in border regions. It is compatible with the needs of the Košice Self-Governing Region and Slovakia as a whole.

Evaluation of efficiency

Based on the data made available, the results achieved in the project are considered adequate compared to the amount of support.

The proposed project packages with scheduled tasks fully satisfy needs defined in the project – especially to improve the efficiency and solidarity of research policies at European, national and regional levels, and to create a model of cross-border innovation policy in border regions of Eastern Slovakia and Ukraine.

5.3 Roma issues

5.3.1 SK0101 – Community Bridge building in Central and Eastern Slovakia

Project Promoter: ETP Slovakia Civic Association - Centre for Sustainable Development,
Zemplínska 15 / A, Košice

Total grant: 920,390 EUR

Actually used amount: 836,237 EUR

Project location: Stará Ľubovňa, Nálepkovo, Moldava nad Bodvou, Šimonovce, Hodejov, Ostrovany, Spišské Podhradie, Rudňany, Veľké Kapušany, Jabloňov, Turňa nad Bodvou, Kokava nad Rimavicou

Priority Area: Human resources development

The goal of the project was to reduce generational poverty in 12 Slovak towns and villages by creating 12 lifelong learning communities.

Evaluation of effectiveness

Based on the personal on-site visits of the project (in community centres in Stará Ľubovňa, Ostrovany and Moldava nad Bodvou) and having examined the relevant documents, it has been concluded that the project has fulfilled the objectives and expected values of indicators.

The following project objectives have been achieved:

- Physical construction of community centres;
- Provision of required equipment in community centres
- Staffing the centres and field community work

The overall objective with long-term effects will also be strengthened by the National Pilot Programme - Community Centres.

Evaluation of relevance

The project to offer comprehensive services to members of disadvantaged Roma communities was innovative to such an extent that in some areas it exceeded the objectives set out the regional development programmes.

Based on the study of relevant background documents, the data from the questionnaire and the wording of the relevant SEDP, the following conclusions have been drawn:

- The project is consistent with the SEDP of the Košice Self-governing Region relevant at the time of project approval and, more specifically, with the specific objective 'Development and social support for marginalized groups' and the SEDP of the Prešov Self-governing Region in the priority theme 'Reducing social exclusion of marginalized Roma communities'.
- If the project did not receive the finding, the organization was ready to implement the project activities using other sources in accordance with its strategy, but it would not be possible to determine the timeframe of the implementation.
- Funding for the project could also have been sought through EU funds allocated for the 2007 - 2013 programming period under the Operational Programme 'Employment and Social Inclusion', Priority Axis 2 - Promoting social inclusion.

Overall, the project has been evaluated as highly positive in terms of relevance of the assistance.

Evaluation of sustainability

The Project Promoter continues in partial project activities after the completion of the project (organizing training and educational activities in community centres). Sustainability is at risk in securing funding for the operation of community centres. Village and town administrations for the most part do not have the resources necessary to cover these activities. Sustainability can be ensured by the implementation of the National Pilot Programme - Community Centres.

Evaluation of impact

Positive and negative direct impacts

No negative direct impacts of the project were identified in the evaluation process. The positive direct impacts include strengthening human, social and economic capital by establishing lifelong learning communities, organizing trainings for teachers and trainers, providing professional assistance with solving clients' problems and involving clients in planned cultural and social events. Another positive direct impact is an accredited educational programme 'Križovatky' ('Crossroads').

Positive and negative indirect impacts

No negative indirect impacts of the project were identified in the evaluation process. One of the most significant positive indirect was the training provided to professionals from towns, villages, and

institutions with the aim for these professionals to better understand people living in generational poverty and to facilitate their work with these individuals.

Impact on employment

The project has had a direct impact on employment - creating jobs directly in local communities (housing reconstruction) and an indirect impact on employment - events organized to promote the education of children and youth, creating potential placements in the labour market.

Impact on cross-cutting issues

The potential of the project to strengthen the principles of gender equality is high. Project activities are equally accessible to both sexes.

The potential of the project to strengthen the principles of sustainable development is high. It is reflected in the social aspect of the project (developing human and social capital through education, workshops and trainings), as well as in the economic aspect (impact on employment, awareness of opportunities to work for local communities) and partially in the environmental aspect (reconstruction of housing and environment, trainings in given areas).

The potential of the project to enhance cooperation with Norway, Iceland and Liechtenstein, is minimal. There is no significant Roma population in these countries.

The potential of the project to engage volunteers in the project is very high. At the moment, in particular, many project collaborators continue to work with communities on a voluntary basis.

The potential to reach broad social consensus on the project is high, as is evident from the high participation and interest in training titled 'Bridges Out of Poverty', during which professionals working with communities had the opportunity to learn more about the needs of their communities.

The project also addressed stereotypes and prejudices towards the Roma community, and has helped to shape a more tolerant public opinion of the minority. The project is beneficial to all local residents and is also compatible with the needs of the Prešov and Košice Regions and Slovakia as a whole.

Evaluation of efficiency

The results achieved in the project are adequate compared to the amount of support. The project results were set with in an efficient way, with the maximum level of effectiveness, and were based on the deep knowledge of the issues addressed.

The Project Promoter is currently still implementing new trends and working methods.

5.3.2 SK0128 – Wild Poppies - a chance for Romany talents from all Slovakia

Project Promoter: PRO DONUM, Karloveská 31, Bratislava

Total grant: 698,776 EUR

Actually used amount: 590,800 EUR

Project location: Jarovnice

Priority Area: Human resources development

The project aimed at improving educational levels and skills of the Roma population in order to facilitate their placement on the labour market.

Evaluation of effectiveness

Based on the personal on-site visit of the project and having examined the relevant documents, it has been concluded that the project has fulfilled the objectives and expected values of indicators.

The following project objectives have been achieved:

- Creation of a leisure centre

- Project staffing
- Direct community work with 100 selected children

The overall objective with long-term effects will also be strengthened by the National Pilot Programme - Community Centres.

Evaluation of relevance

Based on the study of relevant background documents, the data from the questionnaire and the wording of the relevant SEDP, the following conclusions have been drawn:

- The project is consistent with the SEDP of the Bratislava Region relevant at the time of project approval and, more specifically with the activity 'Improving social for disadvantaged, vulnerable and marginalized groups';
- If the project did not receive the support, the organization was ready to implement the project activities to a limited extent;
- Funding for the project could also have been sought through EU funds allocated for the 2007 - 2013 programming period under the Operational Programme 'Employment and Social Inclusion', Priority Axis 2 - Promoting social inclusion.

Overall, the project has been evaluated as highly positive in terms of relevance of the assistance.

Evaluation of sustainability

The Project Promoter continues to pursue project activities after its completion. At the same time, new activities are prepared that are based on the results and achievements.

Since the Project Promoter has currently sufficient financial resources, it is very likely that the project activities will be pursued in the long term, too.

Areas which were individual project activities were carried out, have been crucial to the support at the national level (community centres, and educational activities, individual field social work with clients and families, community social work).

Evaluation of impact

Positive and negative direct impacts

No negative direct impacts of the project were identified in the evaluation process. The positive direct impacts include in particular the expansion of the Wild Poppies programme to Jarovnice, the largest Roma settlement in Slovakia, through newly created project activities and through workshops and trainings to local mentors and coordinators. Individual work with families with gifted children has had helped change their attitude toward education and future prospects for their children.

Positive and negative indirect impacts

No negative indirect impacts of the project were identified in the evaluation process. Probably the most beneficial effect of the project was that it has helped to create a positive image of the Roma community through cultural and social activities, and professional PR which aimed at breaking stereotypes and prejudices against the Roma.

Impact on employment

The project had a direct impact on employment - creating jobs for local mentors and coordinators. Another benefit was training provided to these workers, which has helped improve their prospects for future employment.

An opportunity offered to local children to study at secondary schools and universities and to pursue their talent will have, as a result, in an indirect impact on employment. The children will have better prospects to find professional jobs, and become role models to other members of their communities.

Impact on cross-cutting issues

The potential of the project to strengthen the principles of gender equality is high, since it tackles the stereotypes of the Roma community, such as patriarchy, and promotes the empowerment of women in the community.

The potential of the project to strengthen the principles of sustainable development is high. It strengthens the principles of sustainable development with a direct emphasis on the social aspect of the project and a partial indirect emphasis on the economic aspect (impact on employment).

The potential of the project to enhance cooperation with Norway, Iceland and Liechtenstein, is minimal. There is no significant Roma population in these countries. The potential to engage volunteers in the project is very high. Given the scale and nature of activities undertaken the potential is also expressed in the achieved values of the individual indicators.

The potential of the project to reach broad social consensus is high, as is evident from the high participation of the majority and the community in cultural and social activities, positive media campaign about the project and the community and an increased interest of the majority to support talent development of the Roma living in local settlements. The project also addressed stereotypes and prejudices felt by the majority towards the Roma community, and has helped to shape a more tolerant public opinion of the Roma. The project is beneficial to all local residents and is also compatible with the needs of the Bratislava Region and Slovakia as a whole

Evaluation of efficiency

The results achieved in the project are adequate compared to the amount of support. The methods and steps taken in the individual activities to reach the project targets have been evaluated as the best available solutions, since they were based on the knowledge and experience in working with the community. One of the key factors of success was the previous experience of the organization with working with local communities. Therefore, the expected results of the project were set in an efficient manner and with a maximum level of effectiveness.

5.4 Innovations in Energy

5.4.1 SK0029 – The biomass utilization for the heat production in the town Vrábľe

Project Promoter: Town of Vrábľe

Total grant: 784,286 EUR

Actually used amount: 784,286 EUR

Project location: The facility built during the project in the town of Vrábľe is located in the central boiler plant Lúky at the outskirts of the town, in a residential area with apartment buildings.

Priority Area: Using renewable energy sources and reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

The main objective of the project, to keep the price of heat low for end users, mainly households, was the essential factor in customer retention, which helped prevent disconnections from the district heating system and further growth of emissions in residential areas.

Evaluation of effectiveness

The project helps to reduce CO₂ emissions in the region and contributes to the region's sustainable development.

The project can serve as a model project for other similar initiatives in the surrounding towns of the region with similar geographical, population and agricultural conditions.

Based on the personal on-site visit of the project and having examined the relevant documents, it has been concluded that the project has fulfilled all the objectives and expected values of indicators related to the use of renewable energy sources, i.e. wood chips from regional sources in this particular case. It is expected that CO₂ emissions will be reduced compared to the original operating

mode of gas combustion. According to the values of emissions and boiler efficiency gained from a single measurement during guarantee tests and after commissioning it has been evaluated that the equipment meets the parameters of thermal efficiency, as well as the parameters of the emission limits for boilers using wood chips. The actual value of the total saving of emissions will be available after the evaluation of a longer operating period.

The objectives of the project were achieved especially due to the following steps taken:

- Reducing the consumption of natural gas, virtually to zero, the original natural gas boilers are used only as a back-up option. The use of local primary energy sources has helped to achieve the reliability of heat supply that is independent of fluctuations in natural gas imports from abroad and to reduce variable costs of heat production.
- Creating new jobs in the region.

Evaluation of relevance

Based on the study of relevant background documents, the data from the questionnaire and the compliance with relevant legislation, the following conclusions have been drawn:

- The project is consistent with the strategy of the Nitra Region in force at the time of project approval and, more specifically with the priority 'Protection of the environment';
- If the project did not receive the support, it would not have been implemented due to the lack of financial resources of the town;
- Funding for the project could also have been sought through EU funds allocated for the 2007 - 2013 programming period under the Operational Programme 'Environment', Priority Axis 3 'Air protection and reducing adverse effects of climate change'

Evaluation of sustainability

Sustainability of the project is supported by the fact that the heat supply is ensured in the long term with reduced variable costs of fuel (wood chips) and, compared to natural gas, allows to maintain the heat price at an acceptable level for end-users and thus to discourage households from disconnecting from the central heat source.

Sufficient regional supply of wood chips is the key factor in long-term operation of the heating plant, with further operation linked to the renewal at the end of service life of the facility.

Based on these findings it has been concluded that the project results will be maintained and the project activities will continue to be pursued.

Evaluation of impact

Positive direct effects: Reduction of greenhouse gas emissions from the combustion of natural gas due to the use of wood chips, stabilization of heat prices for end users (town residents) and creation of new jobs.

Negative direct impacts: No direct negative impacts of the project have been identified.

Indirect impacts: Savings realized due to substitution of imported natural gas with local fuel, where payments for the heat remain in regional companies. No indirect negative impacts have been identified.

Impact on employment: The project created jobs in the operation of the facility built during the project. Four new, sustainable jobs have been created.

The impact on cross-cutting issues:

The potential of the project to strengthen the principles of gender equality is minimal.

The potential of the project to strengthen the principles of sustainable development is high. The potential of the project to enhance cooperation with Norway, Iceland and Liechtenstein is minimal, and is limited to information exchange regarding grants provided by these countries. The potential of the project to engage volunteers in the project is minimal. The potential of the project to reach broad social consensus is high. The project is beneficial for local residents and is also compatible with the needs of the Nitra Region and Slovakia as a whole.

Evaluation of efficiency

Based on the data available and the on-site inspection, the results have been evaluated as adequate compared to the amount of support the project received.

The technical solution used in the project corresponds to the objectives set by the EU and the Slovak Republic in the area of renewable energy and reduction of greenhouse gas emissions.

The efficiency of the project is reflected at the local level in the reduction of variable costs of fuel for the heating plant, and of the need to import natural gas from abroad (impact on Slovak foreign trade balance). It is also important to note that financial payments for the heat consumed stay, for the most part, in the region.

5.4.2 SK0099 – Implementation of renewable sources of energy based on biomass at energetic management in Rohožník

Project Promoter: Town of Rohožník

Total grant: 1,023,775 EUR

Actually used amount: 1,023,775 EUR

Project location: The facility built during the project in the town of Rohožník is located in the central heating plant on the outskirts of a residential area formed by housing units.

Priority Area: Using renewable energy sources and reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

The aim of the project is to maintain or reduce heat prices for end users and to prevent an increase in greenhouse gas emissions in residential areas.

Evaluation of effectiveness

Based on the personal on-site visit of the project and having examined the relevant documents, it has been concluded that the project has fulfilled all the objectives and expected values of indicators related to renewable energy sources, i.e. wood chips from regional sources in this particular case. CO₂ emissions have been dropped by 1,379 t/year compared to the original gas combustion (data based on current operating results). The use of local primary energy sources has increased, while dependence on imported natural gas has been reduced. During the project 6 new jobs were created and another 4 jobs are expected to cover future activities in park and forest clearing and adjustment. Other project goals are related to sustainability of the project, such as keeping the price of heat low for final customers, mainly households. These are the prerequisites to retain customers and discourage them from disconnecting from the central heating system, and to prevent further increases in emissions of harmful substances in populated areas. The project itself may further serve as a model for other initiatives in the region with similar geographical, population and agricultural conditions.

The objectives of the project were achieved especially due to the following steps taken:

- Designing new boilers in such a way that, even in the case of short-term failure of one of the three boilers during the coldest months, performance of two operable heaters would be sufficient to cover the demand (Slovak technical standard).
- Ensuring local primary energy resources and reducing the variable costs of heat production.
- Creating new local jobs.

Evaluation of relevance

Based on the study of relevant background documents, the data from the questionnaire and the compliance with relevant legislation, the following conclusions have been drawn:

- The project is consistent with the strategy of the Bratislava Region relevant at the time of project approval, especially with the activity 'Promoting renewable and environmentally friendly energy sources'
- If the project did not receive the support it would have been implemented only to a limited extent due to the lack of financial resources of the town.
- Funding for the project could have been sought through EU funds for the 2007 - 2013 programming period under Operational Programme 'Environment', Priority Axis.3 'Air protection and reducing adverse effects of climate change'.

Evaluation of sustainability

Sustainability of the project is supported by the fact that the heat supply is ensured in the long term with reduced variable costs of fuel (wood chips) and allows to maintain the heat price at an acceptable level for end-users and thus to discourage households from disconnecting from the central heat source.

Extensive forest areas and sufficient local offer of wood chips is the key factor in ensuring long-term supply of fuel for the heating plant and its service for during the whole life-cycle of the project, with further operation linked to the renewal at the end of service life of the facility

Based on the above it has been concluded that the project results will be maintained and that the Project Promoter will continue in pursuing project activities.

Evaluation of impact

Positive direct effects: Reduction of greenhouse gas emissions due to the use of wood chips.

Negative direct impacts: No direct negative impacts of the project have been identified.

Indirect impacts: Stabilization of the price of heat for end users (local residents) and the creation of new jobs. No indirect negative impacts have been identified.

Impact on employment: The project created jobs in the operation of the facilities built in the project and new, sustainable jobs have been created.

The impact on cross-cutting issues:

The potential of the project to strengthen the principles of gender equality is minimal.

The potential of the project to strengthen the principles of sustainable development is high.

The potential of the project to enhance cooperation with Norway, Iceland and Liechtenstein is minimal, and is limited to information exchange regarding grants provided by these countries.

The potential of the project to engage volunteers in the project is minimal.

The potential of the project to reach broad social consensus on the project is high. The project is beneficial for local people and is also compatible with the needs of the Bratislava Region and Slovakia as a whole.

Evaluation of efficiency

Based on the data made available and on-site inspection, the results are considered adequate compared to the amount of support the project received. The technical solution used in the project corresponds to the objectives set by the EU and the Slovak Republic in the area of renewable energy and reduction of greenhouse gas emissions.

The efficiency of the project at the local level is reflected in the reduction of variable costs of fuel to ensure heat supply to the population and in the fact that financial payments for heat consumed remain largely in the region.

5.4.3 SK0080 – Installation of solar collectors and energy facilities refurbishment in ÚVTOS Želiezovce

Project Promoter: Želiezovce Penitentiary

Planned amount: 739,742 EUR

Actually used amount: 736,492 EUR

Project location: The facility built as part of the project is located both on the premises of the Penitentiary (boiler room) and on the adjacent land outside the Penitentiary (solar collectors).

Priority Area: Using renewable energy sources and reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

The project aims to reduce consumption of natural gas and thus to reduce CO₂ emissions in the region.

Evaluation of effectiveness

Based on the personal on-site visit of the project and having examined the relevant documents, it has been concluded that the project has fulfilled all the objectives and expected values of indicators.

The project helps to reduce consumption of gas and thereby production of CO₂ emissions in the region by using solar energy to preheat hot water and also by increasing the efficiency of gas combustion facilities.

The levels of emissions generated from the operation are lower than expected (a drop of 170 t/year for CO₂ and 127 kg/year for NO_x) due to lower consumption of natural gas. Return on investment is of a long-term nature, however, due to grant support this will not adversely affect the financial results of the Penitentiary. The project has been widely promoted and offered as an example to similar institutions in the Slovak Republic.

The objectives of the project were achieved especially due to the following steps taken:

- Reducing natural gas consumption by preheating water in solar collectors and installing new, more efficient equipment in the boiler room (new gas burners, new hot water boiler and a new steam generator).

Evaluation of relevance

Based on the study of relevant background documents, the data from the questionnaire and the compliance with relevant legislation, the following conclusions have been drawn:

- The project is consistent with the strategy of the Nitra Region in force at the time of project approval, especially with the priority 'Protection of the environment'
- If the project did not receive support, it would not have been implemented due to the lack of financial resources available to the Project Promoter.

- Funding for the project could have been sought through EU funds for the 2007 - 2013 programming period under the Operational programme 'Environment', Priority axis 3 'Air protection and reducing adverse effects of climate change'

Evaluation of sustainability

Sustainability of the project is supported by the fact that the heat supply in Želiezovce Penitentiary is a very important operational element, given the high concentration of people. Reducing costs of heat supply therefore leads to lower requirements for financial subsidies from the state budget, which would be needed to purchase natural gas.

Based on these findings it has been concluded that the project results will be maintained and the project activities will continue to be pursued.

Evaluation of impact

Positive direct effects: Reduction of greenhouse gas emissions from the combustion of natural gas due to the use of solar energy for heating water and increasing the efficiency of facilities operated by natural gas.

Negative direct impacts: No direct negative impacts of the project have been identified.

Indirect impacts: Reduction of operational costs covered by the state budget in the Penitentiary and improving sanitary conditions for inmates. However, the Penitentiary workers find that the institution does not receive any proportional part of the savings made by the project that could be further invested in energy efficiency.

Impact on employment: No new jobs have been created during the project.

The impact on cross-cutting issues:

The potential of the project to strengthen the principles of gender equality is minimal.

The potential of the project to strengthen the principles of sustainable development is high.

The potential of the project to enhance cooperation with Norway, Iceland and Liechtenstein is minimal, and is limited to information exchange regarding grants provided by these countries.

The potential of the project to engage volunteers in the project is minimal.

The potential of the project to reach broad social consensus is high. The project is beneficial for local residents (improvement of the environment) and is also compatible with the needs of the Nitra Region and Slovakia as a whole.

Evaluation of efficiency

Based on the study of available documents related to the project it has been concluded that the project objectives defined in the proposal were fully implemented using leading technologies. It is therefore likely that the project is beneficial for the Penitentiary as well as for Slovakia as a whole in terms of energy savings in gas consumption and in terms of carbon footprint.

Based on the data made available and on-site inspection, the results are considered adequate compared to the amount of support the project received.

The technical solution used in the project corresponds to the objectives set by the EU and the Slovak Republic in the area of renewable energy and reduction of greenhouse gas emissions.

The efficiency of the project is reflected in the reduction of costs of fuel, and importation of natural gas (impact on Slovak foreign trade balance).

The employees of the Penitentiary have contributed considerably to the success of the project for which they invested their own free time.

5.4.4 SK0138 – Renewable sources of energy in schools

Project promoter: Košice Self-governing Region

Total grant: 834,119 EUR

Actually used amount: 830,547 EUR

Project location: Facilities built as part of the project are located in five schools under the administration of the Kosice Region:

- High school in Moldava nad Bodvou - biomass combustion plant
- Secondary veterinary school in Košice-Barca - biomass combustion plant
- Secondary Technical School of Agriculture in Moldava nad Bodvou - heat pump
- Secondary School in Sečovce - heat pump
- Vocational secondary school of agriculture in Medzev - biomass combustion plant.

Priority area: Using renewable energy sources and reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

The aim of the project is to reduce greenhouse gas emissions using renewable energy sources.

Evaluation of effectiveness

The submitted project aims at reducing the consumption of imported fossil fuels, such as natural gas, and thereby reducing greenhouse gas emissions. Its goal is also to create opportunities for new jobs in the area of biomass supply. Reduced consumption of fossil fuels is expected to lead to the reduced carbon footprint in the region with installed facilities.

Given its location in schools the project aims at raising awareness of the youth in environmental issues. The facilities will serve as model projects for other similar initiatives.

Based on the personal on-site visit of the project and having examined the relevant documents, it has been concluded that the project has fulfilled all the objectives and expected values of indicators related to renewable energy sources, wood chips from regional sources in this particular case and geothermal energy using heat pumps. This has led to the reduction of CO₂ emissions compared to the original operation with combustion of natural gas.

A detailed account of the savings will be available after a after several years following the standard operation of the facilities.

It would be interesting to use the operating results of the installed equipment as a curriculum for students in the area of renewable energy sources and reducing carbon footprint caused by pollutant emissions. The project itself may serve as a model for other similar initiatives created by schools in the region.

The objectives of the project were achieved especially due to the following steps taken:

- Reducing natural gas consumption using local fuel sources - biomass - and total elimination of emissions in the area by installing a heat pump.
- Using at least partially local primary energy resources, thus ensuring reliability of heat supply that is now independent of fluctuations in natural gas imported from abroad, and reducing variable costs of heat production.

Evaluation of relevance

Based on the study of relevant background documents, the data from the questionnaire and the compliance with relevant legislation, the following conclusions have been drawn:

- The project is consistent with the strategy of the Košice Region in force at the time of project approval, and particularly with the specific objective 'Protection of the air – reducing emissions';
- If the project did not receive support, it would not have been implemented due to the lack of financial resources of the Project Promoter.
- Funding for the project could also have been sought through EU funds for the 2007 - 2013 programming period under the operational programme 'Environment', Priority Axis 3 'Air protection and reducing adverse effects of climate change'

Evaluation of sustainability

Sustainability of the project is supported by the fact that heat supply in given schools is of long-term nature. Reducing the variable part of fuel cost (for wood chips) or using electricity (for heat pumps), in contrast to natural gas, helps reduce the cost of heating.

Sufficient regional supply of wood chips is the key factor in ensuring long-term operation of biomass combustion plants. Supply of energy for heat pumps from a stable network ensures stability of operation during the life-cycle of projects.

Based on these findings it has been concluded that the project results will be maintained in the long term and the project activities will continue to be pursued.

Evaluation of impact

Positive direct effects: Reduction of greenhouse gas emissions from the combustion of natural gas due to the use of wood chips and geothermal energy.

Negative direct impacts: No direct negative impacts of the project have been identified.

Indirect impacts: Stabilization of heat costs in schools using new installations. No indirect negative impacts have been identified.

Impact on employment: The project did not create new jobs directly, but has strengthened the stability of the existing jobs in the area of wood chips provision.

The impact on cross-cutting issues:

The potential of the project to strengthen the principles of gender equality is minimal.

The potential of the project to strengthen the principles of sustainable development is high.

The potential of the project to enhance cooperation with Norway, Iceland and Liechtenstein is minimal, and is limited to information exchange regarding grants provided by these countries.

The potential of the project to engage volunteers in the project is minimal.

The potential of the project to reach broad social consensus on the project is high. The project is beneficial for local people and is also compatible with the needs of the Košice Region and Slovakia as a whole.

Evaluation of efficiency

Based on the data made available and on-site inspection, the results are considered adequate compared to the amount of support the project received.

The technical solution used in the project corresponds to the objectives set by the EU and the Slovak Republic in the area of renewable energy and reduction of greenhouse gas emissions.

5.5 Conservation of cultural heritage

5.5.1 SK0035 – Renovation of the historic, cultural and social centre Čierny Orol in Prešov

Name of Project Promoter: Town of Prešov

Total grant: 625,029 EUR

Actually used amount: 688,941 EUR

Project location: Town of Prešov

Priority area: Conservation of European Cultural Heritage

The aim of the project is to renovate Čierny orol, a historical building in Prešov, with the overall objective to maintain a building that is a part of European cultural heritage, and the extension and improvement of services provided to the general public.

Evaluation of effectiveness:

Based on the personal on-site visit of the project and having examined the relevant documents, it has been concluded that the project has fulfilled the objectives and expected values of indicators.

The following project objectives have been achieved:

- removal of moisture, insulation against ground moisture
- reconstruction of roof trusses
- replacement of roofing with copper sheet
- replacement of external windows and doors
- reconstruction of heating units, replacement of radiators
- construction of boiler room.

Evaluation of relevance

The multi-purpose building holds around 200 cultural, educational and social events per year with the attendance of approx. 60,000 visitors. The project implementation has increased the utilization of unused space for cultural purposes, expanded the number of cultural services provided to the public (increasing the capacity to 690 persons, the expansion of surface by 60 m², increasing the number of visitors to 65 000 persons per year).

Overall, the project has been evaluated as highly positive in terms of relevance of the assistance.

Based on the study of relevant background documents, the data from the questionnaire and the wording of the relevant SEDP, the following conclusions have been drawn:

- The project is consistent with the SEDP of the Prešov Region relevant at the time of project approval, where within the strategic area of 'Tourism, culture and external relations' one of the goals is the 'Creation and development of commercial activities in existing cultural sites'
- If the project did not receive the support, it would not have been implemented, due to the lack of financial resources available to the town.
- Funding for the project could probably not have been sought through the European Funds allocated for the 2007 - 2013 programming period. The restored facility neither serves any business purpose in tourism nor as a heritage or fund institute. Restoration of historical monuments is covered by two operational programmes:

ROP, Priority axis 3 'Strengthening the cultural potential in the regions, tourism infrastructure – supporting the reconstruction of historical monuments which are or will be used for activities of repository and funds institutions and to expand cultural and sight-seeing tourism OP, Priority Axis 3, 'Tourism' - supporting projects to reconstruct historical buildings and to use them for tourism.

Evaluation of sustainability

The town of Prešov expects to co-finance the operation of the reconstructed building in the coming years as well, since it is an important cultural and social centre serving all local residents.

Evaluation of impact

Positive direct effects:

- reconstructed leisure centre;
- reduction of energy consumption of the building;
- increasing the capacity of the building and the number of visitors.

Negative direct impacts: No direct negative impacts of the project have been identified.

Indirect impacts: There has been an overall favourable to the initiatives taken by the town of Prešov to maintain and reconstruct the historical building. A negative indirect impact is the increase in co-financing by the town of Prešov in contrast with the original plan, which has been caused by more extensive reconstruction than previously thought.

Impact on employment: The project created jobs needed for its implementation (reconstruction works at the building). No sustainable jobs have been created.

The impact on cross-cutting issues:

The potential of the project to strengthen the principles of gender equality is high. Project results can be used equally by men and women.

The potential of the project to strengthen the principles of sustainable development is high. By reducing energy consumption in the historical building, operating costs have decreased. The town has established a fund with annual financial contribution to be used for the renewal and further development of the building.

The potential of the project to enhance cooperation with Norway, Iceland and Liechtenstein is minimal, and is limited to information exchange regarding grants provided by these countries.

The potential of the project to engage volunteers in the project is minimal.

The potential of the project to reach broad social consensus on the project is high. The project is beneficial to all local residents, and is also compatible with the needs of the Prešov Region and Slovakia as a whole.

Evaluation of efficiency

Based on the data and the documents provided, and with regard to the scale of reconstruction work, the results achieved can be considered adequate compared to the amount of support the project received. The technical procedures used correspond to the targets of the project. The right tools and measures were chosen to achieve these objectives.

5.5.2 SK0067 – Halič – Static assurance of castle and bastions emergency conditions

Name of Project Promoter: IMET JSC

Total grant: 634,052 EUR

Actually used amount: 633,448 EUR

Project location: Town of Halič

Priority Area: Conservation of European cultural heritage

The project aims to eliminate static faults and emergency condition of the Halič Castle, thus preventing irreversible damage to the castle, and also to make it available to the public with the

overall objective to preserve the national historic monument for future generations and contribute to the conservation of European cultural heritage

Evaluation of effectiveness:

Based on the personal on-site visit of the project and having examined the relevant documents, it has been concluded that the project has fulfilled the objectives and expected values of indicators.

The following project objectives have been achieved:

- ensuring static stability with the help of supporting fortification walls and bastions of the fortification system of the Halič Castle;
- building a new gas fixture with sufficient capacity and a transformer station.

Evaluation of relevance

The project has laid the foundations for a complex restoration and revitalization of the Halič Castle, for job creation and development of local tourism.

Overall, the project has been evaluated as highly positive in terms of relevance of the assistance.

Based on the study of relevant background documents, the data from the questionnaire and the wording of the relevant SEDP, the following conclusions have been drawn:

- The project is consistent with the SEDP of the Banská Bystrica Region, relevant at the time of project approval and, more specifically, with the priority 'Protection, restoration and revitalization of cultural heritage and completion of cultural infrastructure (inanimate culture)'.
• If the project did not receive support would have been implemented only to a limited extent.
• Funding for the project could have been sought through the Funds for the 2007 - 2013 programming period by OP, Priority Axis 3, 'Tourism' - supporting project to reconstruct historical buildings in order to use them for tourism.

Evaluation of sustainability

IMET JSC invests into the reconstruction of the Halič Castle in order to create a tourist centre that will provide accommodation and catering services.

Based on these findings it has been concluded that the project results will be maintained and the project activities will continue to be pursued.

Evaluation of impact

Positive direct effects:

- Positive impact on the Halič Castle and its surrounding areas;
- New electricity and gas connection and the transformation station will enable to provide a higher quality of services in the Castle.

Negative direct impacts: No direct negative impacts of the project have been identified.

Indirect impacts: New information boards which are part of the publicity campaign of the project ensure aim at informing the target groups about the reconstruction and renovation of the castle.

Implementation of the project does not create any indirect negative impacts.

Impact on employment: The project created jobs needed for its implementation (reconstruction works at the building). No sustainable jobs have been created. After the end of reconstruction, however, 10 up to 20 new jobs will be created.

The impact on cross-cutting issues:

The potential of the project to strengthen the principles of gender equality is minimal. The project is only a part of comprehensive reconstruction work and has no direct impact on gender equality. The potential of the project to strengthen the principles of sustainable development is high. Securing the statics allowed to continue in the total reconstruction of the object.

The potential of the project to enhance cooperation with Norway, Iceland and Liechtenstein is minimal, and is limited to information exchange regarding grants provided by these countries.

The potential of the project to engage volunteers in the project is minimal. Volunteers could participate in archaeological surveys.

The potential of the project to reach broad social consensus on the project is high. The project is beneficial to all local residents, and is also compatible with the needs of the Banská Bystrica Region and Slovakia as a whole.

Evaluation of efficiency

The results achieved can be considered adequate with regard to the amount of support they received.

The technical methods used correspond to the objectives set in the project. The procedures and measures chosen to achieve the objectives were correct and in line with the objectives.

5.5.3 SK0074 – Green house, cultural heritage preservation in Banská Štiavnica

Name of Project Promoter: ERB - Eduard Rada Breweries, Ltd.

Total grant: 1,171,982 EUR

Actually used amount: 1,100,002 EUR

Project location: Banská Štiavnica

Priority Area: Conservation of European cultural heritage

The project aims to contribute to the preservation of European cultural heritage and sustainable development of traditional crafts in the region of Banská Štiavnica, focusing mainly on brewing industry.

Evaluation of effectiveness:

Based on the personal on-site visit of the project and having examined the relevant documents, it has been concluded that the project has fulfilled the objectives and expected values of indicators.

The following project objectives have been achieved:

- Comprehensive reconstruction of the 'Čačány House';
- Installation of traditional beer production technology, building a dining area and a training centre.

Evaluation of relevance

The project offers long-term benefits for the town and surrounding areas; it helps to preserve cultural heritage, develop local brewing tradition and gastronomy, increase employment, develop culture and education, and promote local tourism.

Overall, the project has been evaluated as highly positive in terms of relevance of the assistance.

Based on the study of relevant background documents, the data from the questionnaire and the wording of the relevant SEDP, the following conclusions have been drawn:

- The project is consistent with the SEDP of the Banská Bystrica Region, relevant at the time of project approval, where a priority is given to the 'protection, restoration and revitalization of cultural heritage and completion of cultural infrastructure (inanimate culture).'
- If the project did not receive support would have been implemented only to a limited extent.

- Funding to implement the project could have been sought through the Funds for the 2007 - 2013 programming period through OP, Priority Axis 3, 'Tourism' - supporting project to reconstruct historical buildings in order to use them for tourism.

Evaluation of sustainability

ERB - Eduard Rada Breweries, Ltd. runs the operation of the reconstructed building as part of its development and commercial activities. It provides catering, training and cultural facilities not only for residents of the town and the surrounding area but also for all visitors to the region. Beer brewed on the premises is sold in their dining rooms and supplied also across the SR.

Based on these findings it has been concluded that the project results will be maintained and the project activities will continue to be pursued also in the next ten years.

Evaluation of impact

Positive direct effects:

- Reconstruction of a national cultural site;
- Increase in employment in the town (creation of 15 new jobs);
- Preserving local brewing tradition;
- Development of local tourism.

Negative direct impacts: No direct negative impacts of the project have been identified.

Indirect effects: There has been an overall positive response of local people to the improvement of catering services and use of facilities for training and cultural purposes.

The project has had one negative impact, i.e. an adjusted budget which was due to changes in reconstruction work. (The building dates from the 15th century and it was not possible to foresee the volume of resources needed for its reconstruction) The Project Promoter could eventually use fewer funds than originally planned since some items did not appear on the original application and others were not necessary.

Impact on employment: The project has created jobs for 15 people.

The impact on cross-cutting issues:

The potential of the project to strengthen the principles of gender equality is high. Project results can be used equally by both men and women.

The potential of the project to strengthen the principles of sustainable development is high. The reconstructed object is used for commercial purposes, especially in tourism.

The potential of the project to enhance cooperation with Norway, Iceland and Liechtenstein is minimal, and is limited to information exchange regarding grants provided by these countries.

The potential of the project to engage volunteers in the project is minimal.

The potential of the project to reach broad social consensus on the project is high. The project is beneficial to all local residents, and is also compatible with the needs of the Banská Bystrica Region and Slovakia as a whole.

Evaluation of efficiency

Based on the data and documents made available, given the scope of reconstruction work and the subsequent use of the building, the results are considered adequate compared to the amount of support the project received.

The technical procedures used meet the project objectives. Means and measures chosen to achieve these objectives are correct and in line with the objectives.

5.6 Measures related to domestic violence

5.6.1 SK0045 – Modernization and reconstruction of refuge house for mothers with children in misery in the House of Red Cross

Project Promoter: Slovak Red Cross, Snina Regional Branch

Total grant: 387,600 EUR

Actually used amount: 426,744 EUR

Project location: Red Cross House in Snina

Priority Area: Health and childcare

The project aimed at improving and modernizing the capacity of social and public services of local and regional importance through the Red Cross.

Evaluation of effectiveness

Based on the data made available and on-site inspection the results are evaluated as adequate compared to the amount of support the project received.

The objectives of the project were achieved especially due to the following steps taken:

- A significant improvement of sanitary conditions of accommodation and social services (toilets, bathrooms, laundry).
- Significantly improved conditions for the provision of auxiliary social services (counselling, staff premises).
- Applying modern technologies and methods (solar collectors for water heating, using service water to flush toilets).
- Reducing the cost of food distribution using a special-purpose vehicle.

Evaluation of relevance

The town has felt a long-term need to help mothers and children in need and to offer them better solutions to their situation. There is no other similar facility in the town itself or its surroundings. At the same time, social situation of families in need has worsened, which calls even more for the implementation of the project.

Based on the study of relevant background documents, the data from the questionnaire and the wording of the relevant SEDP, the following conclusions have been drawn:

- The project is consistent with the SEDP of the Prešov Region relevant at the time of project approval, especially with the objectives set in the priority theme 'Enhancing the quality of social services'.
- If the project did not receive the support, it would not have been implemented, due to the lack of financial resources available to the local Red Cross centre.
- Funding for the project could have been sought through EU funds for the 2007 - 2013 programming period under ROP, Priority Axis 2 'Infrastructure of social services, social protection and social care'.

Evaluation of sustainability

The strategy of modernization and reconstruction of shelter house for mothers and children in need in the Red Cross house in Snina has been determined by the demand for social services and the amount of financial support for its operation provided by the Prešov Self-governing Region. The technical design and implementation is at a sufficient level corresponding to the relevant technical regulations and project documentation.

Sustainability of the project is also supported by activities (counselling to women in crisis) carried out by the Project Promoter.

For ten years a fund is maintained for the project in an operable condition, in accordance with the approved project documentation.

Based on these findings it has been concluded that the project results will be maintained and the project activities will continue to be pursued.

Evaluation of impact

Positive direct effects: Significant improvement of sanitary conditions, housing and social conditions, significant improvement of the provision of other auxiliary social services, use of modern technologies and procedures, reducing the cost of food distribution by using a special-purpose vehicle.

Negative direct effects: No negative direct impacts have been identified

Indirect Impacts: No indirect positive or negative impacts have been identified.

Impact on employment: The project created jobs needed for its implementation (design and implementation of modernization and reconstruction work on the building). No sustainable new jobs were created.

The impact on cross-cutting issues:

The potential of the project to strengthen the principles of gender equality is high, because the facility is open to both women and men with children.

The project has the potential to strengthen the principles of sustainable development, with a prerequisite of a sufficient offer of social services provided in a wider area. The implementation of the project has expanded the offer of social services that were otherwise insufficient in the town. The environmental aspect of the project is reflected in the use of modern technologies and alternative energy sources - solar collectors used for water heating, service water used for flushing toilets.

The potential of the project to enhance cooperation with Norway, Iceland and Liechtenstein is high and is based on the transfer of experiences in managing similar centres in Norway.

The potential of the project to engage volunteers in the project is high. Volunteers helping people in need, and mothers and children in crisis is invaluable. Volunteers can significantly motivate and assist the target group of the project.

The potential of the project to reach broad social consensus on the project is high. The project is beneficial to all local residents, and is also compatible with the needs of the Prešov Region and Slovakia as a whole.

Evaluation of efficiency

Based on the available data and the site visit, the results achieved can be considered adequate with regard to the amount of support they received.

The technical methods used in the reconstruction correspond to the objectives set in the project. Adequate tools and measures were used to achieve the objectives of the project.

5.6.2 SK0110 – Crisis Centre for Protection and Support of Victims of Domestic Violence in the Town of Považská Bystrica

Project Promoter: Town of Považská Bystrica

Planned amount: 426,386 EUR

Actually used amount: 391,232 EUR

Project location: Day-care premises, ulica SNP 4489/155, Považská Bystrica

Priority Area: Health and childcare

The project aims at complex and innovative methods in providing crisis intervention services to target groups.

Evaluation of effectiveness

Based on the personal on-site visit of the project and having examined the relevant documents, it has been concluded that the project has fulfilled the objectives and expected values of indicators.

The objectives of the project were achieved especially due to the following steps taken:

- Creation of individual living areas for victims of domestic violence.
- Reconstruction of the premises of the former day-care centre, which has provided 443.9 m² for the purposes of the crisis centre.
- Creation of seven new jobs.

Evaluation of relevance

There has been no facility in the town of Považská Bystrica (and its district) that would provide direct protection of and support to victims of violence.

Based on the study of relevant background documents, the data from the questionnaire and the wording of the relevant SEDP, the following conclusions have been drawn:

- The project is consistent with the SEDP of the Trenčín Region, relevant at the time of project approval. The document contains the following priority objectives in the social area - improving social services, supporting marginalized individuals and battered women, creating a more balanced network of social services.
- If the project did not receive the support, it would not have been implemented, due to the lack of financial resources available to the town of Považská Bystrica.
- Funding for the project could have been sought through EU funds for the 2007 - 2013 programming period under ROP Priority Axis 2 'Infrastructure of social services, social protection and social care'.

Evaluation of sustainability

The goal of the project to build a crisis centre where victims of violence could find shelter and professional assistance is determined by the analysis of the social situation of victims of violence in the wider area of Považská Bystrica (approx. 200 victims of violence)

The technical project and its implementation is sufficient and corresponds to the relevant technical regulations and project documentation.

Sustainability of the project is supported by social dialogue and promoting the principles of complex and innovative approach to crisis centre management, which also results from the cooperation between the crisis centre and the town administration, public institutions, NGOs and healthcare facilities.

For ten years a fund is maintained to keep the project in an operable condition, in accordance with the approved project documentation.

Based on these findings it has been concluded that the project results will be maintained and the project activities will continue to be pursued.

Evaluation of impact

Positive direct impacts: Establishing a crisis centre that has been needed, providing social support of victims of violence, provision of additional social services – a hotline for victims of violence.

Negative direct impacts: No negative direct impacts have been identified.

Indirect impacts: Better availability of social services for battered women, and mothers and children in need. No indirect negative impacts have been identified.

Impact on employment: The project created jobs needed for its implementation (design and implementation of modernization and reconstruction of the building) and 7 new jobs have been created.

The impact on cross-cutting issues:

Implementation of the crisis centre project created a potential for compliance with gender equality principles - respect of economic and social rights, human rights, prevention of violence.

Project has the potential to strengthen the principles of sustainable development, provided that sufficient social services are provided in the wider area. The implementation of the project has broadened the offer of social services in the town. The project has an environmental aspect, too, i.e. using modern technology in order to decrease energy consumption.

The potential of the project to enhance cooperation with Norway, Iceland and Liechtenstein is high and is based on the transfer of experience in management and organization of similar centres in Norway.

The potential of the project to engage volunteers in the project is high. Volunteers helping people in need, and mothers and children in crisis is invaluable. Volunteers can significantly motivate and assist the target group of the project.

The potential of the project to reach broad social consensus on the project is high. The project is beneficial to all local residents, and is also compatible with the needs of the Trenčín Region and Slovakia as a whole.

Evaluation of efficiency

Based on the available data and the site visit, the results achieved can be considered adequate in comparison to the amount of support the project received.

The technical methods used in the reconstruction correspond to the objectives set in the project. To achieve the objectives of the project adequate tools and measures were used.

5.6.3 SK0113 – Crisis Centre - reconstruction and modernization of a building in the City of Bratislava

Project Promoter: The capital of Slovakia - Bratislava

Total grant: 1,101,000 EUR

Actually used amount: 801,341 EUR

Project location: Premises of an old kindergarten, Budatínska ulica, Bratislava-Petržalka

Priority Area: Health and childcare

The aim of the project titled, 'Crisis Centre - reconstruction and modernization of an old kindergarten in the capital city of Bratislava' was to add the missing link in the social network in Bratislava, and thus optimize its social assistance.

Evaluation of effectiveness

Based on the personal on-site visit of the project and having examined the relevant documents, it has been concluded that the project has fulfilled the objectives and expected values of indicators.

The objectives of the project were achieved especially due to the following steps taken:

- Reconstruction of an old kindergarten and creation of 1,235 m² of surface space for the crisis centre.
- Reconstruction and revitalization of 3,505 m² of outdoor vacant area
- Creation of 15 jobs.
- Efficiency targets - the project focuses not only on reconstruction works, but it also creates a unique professional workplace that will prove a 24/7 professional assistance in accordance with the Act 305/2005 Coll. on the socio-legal protection of children and social care so far absent in the capital city of Bratislava.

Evaluation of relevance

The project contributed to the objectives of the programme of economic and social development of the Bratislava Region. At the time of its approval it reflected the most important needs of the region set in the then programme of economic and social development of the Region.

Based on the study of relevant background documents, the data from the questionnaire and the wording of the relevant SEDP, the following conclusions have been drawn:

- The project is consistent with the SEDP of the Bratislava region, relevant at the time of project approval, especially with the objective, 'Building and upgrading social facilities'.
- If the project did not receive the support, it would not have been implemented, due to the lack of financial resources available to the city of Bratislava.
- Funding for the project could not have been sought through EU funds for the 2007 - 2013 programming period under ROP Priority Axis2 'Infrastructure of social services, social protection and social care' because only projects outside the Bratislava region were eligible for co-funding under ROP.

Evaluation of sustainability

The strategy of the project aims at complementing the structure of existing social services, since the capital of Bratislava missed a facility that would provide the necessary care required to remedy educational and social background of children, family or other individuals in crisis. The urgency of the need to establish a crisis centre also stems from the long-term professional experience of the employees at the Department of Social Affairs at the Municipality of the capital city of Bratislava.

The technical design and its implementation is on a high level and corresponds to the relevant technical requirements and project documentation.

The activities that were subject of the project will be pursued also after its termination.

For ten years a fund is maintained to keep the project in an operable condition, in accordance with the approved project documentation.

Based on these findings it has been concluded that the project results will be maintained and the project activities will continue to be pursued.

Evaluation of impact

Positive direct impacts: Building a crisis centre with a capacity of 46 beds, a revitalized surrounding area, and new jobs created.

Negative direct effects: No negative direct impacts have been identified.

Indirect impacts: An example of a positive indirect impact is the meeting of social workers from different parts of the city with representatives of NGOs with the topic, 'Crisis intervention - human

assistance at the professional level' where the Project Promoter provided a detailed description of the project titled, 'Crisis Centre - reconstruction and modernization of a building in the City of Bratislava'.

No indirect negative impacts have been identified.

Impact on employment: The project created jobs needed for its implementation (design and implementation of modernization and reconstruction of the building) and 15 new jobs were created in the crisis centre.

The impact on cross-cutting issues:

The potential of the project to strengthen the principles of gender equality is high. The very idea of establishing a crisis centre is an important contribution to the promotion of gender equality.

The project has a great potential to strengthen the principles of sustainable development. The necessary prerequisite is the creation of the missing facility - crisis centre - in the capital city and thus widening the range of social services in the capital.

The project also has an environmental dimension. Insulation, replacement of doors and windows, installation of meters, lever water taps have had a positive impact on energy efficiency.

The potential of the project to enhance cooperation with Norway, Iceland and Liechtenstein is high and is based on the transfer of experience with the management and organization of similar centres in Norway.

The potential of the project to engage volunteers is high. Volunteers offer significant assistance to mothers with children in need.

The potential of the project to reach broad social consensus on the project is high. The project is beneficial to all local residents, and is also compatible with the needs of the Bratislava Region and Slovakia as a whole.

Evaluation of efficiency

Based on the available data and the site visit, the results achieved can be considered adequate with regard to the amount of support the project received.

The technical methods used in the reconstruction and modernization correspond to the objectives set in the project. Adequate tools and measures were used to achieve the objectives of the project

5.7 Summary of findings, conclusions and recommendations

5.7.1 Findings

Overall, the following observations have been made:

- Projects under evaluation have fulfilled the expected objectives and achieved the planned values of indicators.
- Projects are consistent with the respective SEDPs of the Self-governing Regions, relevant at the time of project approval. Only one project (SK0015) is based only marginally on the SEDP of the region: given the location of the region, cooperation between Slovakia and Ukraine is not part of the particular SEDP.
- If the projects did not receive the funding, they would not have been implemented at all or only to a limited extent, due to the lack of financial resources available to Project Promoters.
- Project results will be preserved and Project Promoters will continue pursuing project activities.
- All evaluated projects show positive direct and indirect impacts.
- No negative direct impacts have been identified.
- Indirect negative impacts were identified in three cases in two projects and are related to budget adjustments that needed to be made to the detriment of the Project Promoter. This happened during project implementation, and could not be anticipated at the time of project approval. One project promoter finds that their organization does not receive even the proportional part from financial savings that they could invest in energy savings.
- Sustainable jobs have been created in seven projects (SK0074, SK0101, SK0128, SK0029, SK0099, SK0110, SK0113).
- The potential to reinforce the principles of gender equality is high in seven projects. Considering the nature of other projects, it has been evaluated as minimal.
- The potential of all evaluated projects to strengthen the principles of sustainable development is high.
- The potential of projects to enhance cooperation with Norway, Iceland and Liechtenstein, is minimal. Only projects with measures related to domestic violence demonstrated a higher potential for cooperation.
- The potential of projects to engage volunteers in projects is zero in ten projects, minimal in one project and high in seven projects. The potential is high in projects dealing with social issues.
- The potential of projects to reach broad social consensus on the issue is high. The projects are beneficial to all concerned residents and are also compatible with the needs of self-governing regions in Slovakia.
- The results achieved can be considered adequate with regard to the amount of support they received.
- The methods used correspond to the targets and technical capabilities.
- Given the way the projects and their objectives had been defined, the right tools and measures were chosen to achieve these objectives.

5.7.2 Conclusion

All the evaluated projects meet the effectiveness, relevance and sustainability requirements. They demonstrate positive impacts and implementation of their activities can be considered adequate given the amount of support they received. At the time of the projects no technical solutions were

available that would be more suitable. In the projects that address Roma issues some activities can be evaluated as innovative.

Job opportunities have been created mostly in projects where cultural sites are used for business purposes, and in projects in which new sanitary facilities are built.

5.7.3 Recommendations

Anti-flood measures

Supporting projects related to revitalization of watercourses and improvement of anti-flood measures has a definite positive impact for the future, since such initiatives have been neglected by Slovak governments for more than twenty years.

It is important that such projects are in line with the overall flood control strategy in Slovakia. Projects to be supported and their priority should be consulted with competent water management authorities, based on objective criteria set in a hierarchical order (e.g. based on flood maps).

We recommend that flood maps are created also for other river basins throughout Slovakia as a key decision-making factor in flood control.

It is equally recommended that projects form a part of wider strategic anti-flood measures, since the most effective tool to tackle floods is the simultaneous implementation of complex solutions (creating risk maps, flood maps, designing specific, complex measures tailored to the specific river basins, regions, towns or villages).

Protection of historical monuments

Supporting projects that aim at reconstructing and renovating cultural sites has a clear, positive impact for the future, since this area has long been underfunded in Slovakia. Cultural sites and services provided in them can play a key role in developing local tourism.

The projects under evaluation help develop local tourism. The results of two projects have already been in operation, serving the public within their scope of activities. We suggest that investment grants be awarded also in the next programming period in order for these sites to be reconstructed in a comprehensive manner and then to fully serve the public.

We further suggest that adjustments to approved budgets be allowed (not the total sum but the allocation to the individual items) in case when, during reconstruction work, unexpected changes occur that could not have been anticipated. Project Promoters will thus not be forced to seek additional funding and would be more flexible. This will help eliminate the risk that the project will not be carried out to the full extent.

Roma issues

Support to projects related to marginalized groups has a clear, positive impact for the future, since this area has long been neglected from a strategy point of view, lacking clear rules and solutions. Roma issue is one of the most significant problems in Slovakia.

The projects under evaluation help to tackle difficult social situation of the Roma in given regions. The results of both projects clearly show the way the strategy should go, via the establishment of community centres and every-day field work with local communities. The work, however, needs to

be of a long-term nature and projects must cover long-term operation of these centres. The evidence shows that this is the only way to ensure effectiveness and sustainability of the results achieved.

We suggest that investment grants be awarded to such projects also in the next programming period, so that project can ensure long-term operation of community centres.

Innovation in energy

Supporting projects related to the use of renewable energy sources, reduction of greenhouse gas emissions and increased use of local primary energy sources is clearly beneficial also in the future, since Slovakia has signed international treaties under which it will have to reduce CO2 emissions and increase the use of renewable sources for energy production.

It is important that such projects are in line with the Energy Policy of the Slovak Republic and amendments to provisions related to harmful emissions from combustion plants.

We suggest that experience in similar projects and grant schemes be used also in other regions with similar characteristics, so that the targets to reduce CO2 emissions from imported primary sources are implemented throughout Slovakia.

For grant schemes related to budgetary organizations, it would be suitable to allocate at least part of financial savings to project promoters aimed at further development of energy economy. This would motivate employees at such institutions, who often work on such projects in their free time, to pursue such activities.

It could also be interesting to use operational results from facilities installed in schools as practical examples in education in the area of renewable energy sources and reduction of carbon footprint.

Cross-border cooperation with Ukraine

The project STRIPE aims at improving policy with the help of strategy intelligence, based on political decisions taken in order to improve living standards of population. The project is clearly beneficial for the future, too, especially since Slovakia ranks among the worst in the EU in terms of research, development and innovation.

We believe that based on the results of the project, an economic, technological and strategy model of reporting could be created, that would be used in policy-making, strategy and regional innovation strategies.

The results of the project help create a model of cross-border innovation policy in border regions of Eastern Slovakia and Ukraine.

We recommend for the future that project results be available also in Ukrainian and English. In such a way they will also be available to Ukraine or other interested countries from the EU. For example, results from the project SK0015 are presented also in Hungarian, although the project focused on cooperation between Slovakia and Ukraine.

We also suggest that projects be situated in border regions, since such cooperation is not covered by SEDPs of other regions.

Measures related to domestic violence

Supporting projects related to assistance to victims of violence, increasing the availability of social services and improving sanitary conditions of the accommodation and social standard of the

facilities is clearly beneficial for the future, since there is a higher demand for certain types of social services, especially for individuals in crisis – homelessness, abuse and vulnerability of women and small children.

Such types of social services should be viewed as a separate category. We believe that creating auxiliary social services, such as social housing (after the termination of support in a crisis centre or in shelters mothers and children usually do not have enough financial resources to afford housing, which leads to a 'viscous' circle of crisis intervention in which clients move from one facility to another). Social housing should exist alongside emergency shelters as a supplement to social services provided to clients. It would be made up of housing units (a room, a kitchenette and bathroom with a shower, toilet and sink) with their own energy meters. Clients would cover the total energy expenses and learn to live independently and to manage their finances with the assistance of social workers. Social housing built by local authorities are usually inaccessible to such clients, due to their high costs for rent and energy consumption.

Projects should be compliant with National priorities of social services development in the Slovak Republic. Projects should be selected and given priority following the consultation with competent experts in the area of social services, based on objective criteria set in a hierarchical order.

Given the varied demand for social services and lack of certain types of social services, we suggest that a social services map be created for Slovakia, in order to identify missing or insufficient types of services in the individual regions of Slovakia and to set a minimum level of social services network. This would prevent an uncontrolled creation of certain types of services that are not in demand.

One of the key factors in improvement of social service is the use of volunteers.

It is recommended that projects are part of wider conceptual measures in the area of social services, since the most effective is the simultaneous implementation of measures (mapping social services, design of specific, complex measures suitable for individual areas, towns or villages).

6 Analysis of programme areas for 2009 - 2014

6.1 Analysis of the area 'Anti-flood measures'

The legal framework in the SR for the area Anti-flood measures and compliance of individual projects with legislation

At the time of project approval the following legislation was in force:

- Act 364/2004 Coll. on water (as amended by 587/2004 Coll., 230/2005 Coll., 479/2005 Coll., 532/2005 Coll.)
- Act 666/2004 Coll. on flood protection
- Act 24/2006 Coll. on the assessment of environmental impact

At the time was also Flood Protection Programme by 2010 was still in force.

(Approved by the resolution of the Slovak Government no. 31/2000 to the report on the proposed system of anti-flood measures and mechanisms to finance consequences caused by floods - Flood Protection Programme by 2010).

Currently, the following legislation is in force:

- Act 364/2004 Coll. on water (as amended by 587/2004 Coll., 230/2005 Coll., 479/2005 Coll., 532/2005 Coll., 359/2007 Coll., 514/2008 Coll., 515/2008 Coll., 384/2009 Coll., 134/2010 Coll., 556/2010 Coll., 258/2011 Coll.)
- Act 7/2010 Coll. on flood control
- Decree of the Ministry of Environment of the Slovak Republic No. 251/2010 Coll., laying down details of the evaluation of expenses on anti-flood measures, rescue work and flood damage
- Act 24/2006 Coll. Assessment of environmental impacts (as amended by 275/2007 Coll., 454/2007 Coll., 287/2009 Coll., 117/2010 Coll., 145/2010 Coll., 258/2011 Coll.)

Currently, the Programme of landscape revitalization and integrated management of river basins of the Slovak Republic is in force (adopted by the Resolution of the Government of the Slovak Republic no. 556/2010 on the proposal of principles and basic conditions to ensure flood prevention, mitigate flood risks, draught risks, other risks of sudden, natural disasters and integrated management of river basins). The comparison of legislation shows a clear change of attitude of the state toward the protection against floods.

Commentary:

By the Decision of the Slovak Government No. 555/2010 of August 27, 2010 plans and anti-flood measures were transferred under the remit of Government Plenipotentiary for local self-government, integrated management of river basins and landscape and then to designated 'consultants'.

The reason for this Decision can be found in the text contained in the Programme of landscape revitalization and integrated management of river basins in the Slovak Republic:

'Technical anti-flood measures adopted so far in several regions of Slovakia and almost in all major river basins can no longer adequately reflect the nature and dynamics of the processes and activities carried out in river basins, on forest and agricultural land, in urban areas, inside the towns and villages, during the construction of transportation and industrial infrastructure, and in real estate development. Despite the measures taken in the last two decades, there has been a runoff of rainwater from the territory, which currently exceeds the capacity of constructed technical anti-flood measures.

The solution cannot be based on existing and new, larger systems of rapid runoff of rainwater, but in a balanced system securing water in the country, while allowing safe discharge of natural surplus water from the landscape through river networks. "

Note 1: A new approach has been implemented by the First and Second implementation projects of the Programme of landscape revitalization

Note 2: The opinion of the professional, academic, water-management community: The new policy is bad in general and the measures based on it that have been implemented are ineffective. The implementation is accompanied by inefficient spending of public funds.

Comments on legislation and policies:

- Legislation on flood control is inflexible, complicated and often misleading to officials from the competent authorities. It did not provide for division of competences among water managers, municipalities and security forces.
- The overall flood control is therefore very complicated.

Reasons:

1. Water management system in the area of flood control in Slovakia has been since the mid-60s years (after the flood on the Danube) subject of an intense restructuring process. A functional system of watercourse adjustment and flood control structures was designed. The system of Water Administration Enterprises ('Water Basins'), with delegated clear competences and high-quality personnel and technical support. The system began to fall apart following the collapse of communism in 1990, primarily due to its underfunding (the floods were allocated sufficient resources four election cycles in a row).

2. Currently, the preferred project is the one promoted by Ing. Kováč a Government Plenipotentiary and sponsor of project of anti-flood measures. It is based on the assumption that floods can be prevented by retaining water in the country, building small structures such as 'wicker weirs' and 'seepage pits', aimed at reducing flood discharge. The advantage of such measures is the fact that they can be built by the unemployed in communities, which would help save the financial resources. The experience in the implementation of this programme show that such measures are not able to reduce the flow practically at all, since earlier heavy precipitation destroyed these anti-flood measures without any flood-control effect.

Compliance of projects with relevant legislation

Measures implemented in the projects under evaluation respect the principles set in the legislation and the national programmes in force at the time of project approval and now: to divert water in a safe manner from populated areas through river channels, i.e. to secure sufficient capacity of river channels.

6.2 Analysis of the area 'Cross-border cooperation with Ukraine'

Current legislation that covers cross-border cooperation with Ukraine is identical to the legislation valid at the time of project approval.

National legislative framework for cross-border cooperation

- Article 66 of the Constitutional Act No. 460/1990 Coll. of the Constitution of the Slovak Republic, as amended, provides for the right of municipalities to associate with other municipalities in order to ensure matters of common interest;
- Act No. 369/1990 Coll. on local administration, as amended, in § 21 provides for the express possibility of international cooperation with Slovak municipalities;
- Law č.369/1990 Coll. on Municipalities as amended, requires the explicit provisions of § 21 by the possibility of international cooperation on the part of Slovak villages
- According to Section 4 of Act No. 369/1990 Coll. on local administration, as amended, cooperation may result in the creation of an international organization in the form of associations of territorial communities or authorities
- International Association Agreements are regulated by the Annex to the COE Convention No. 106 'European Outline Convention on Transfrontier Cooperation between Territorial Communities or Authorities', with the following examples:
 - Outline agreement on the setting up of a consultation group between local authorities
 - Outline agreement on co-ordination in the management of transfrontier local public affairs
 - Outline agreement on the setting up of private law transfrontier associations
 - Outline contract for the provision of supplies or services between local authorities in frontier areas (private-law type)
 - Outline contract for the provision of supplies or services between local authorities in frontier areas (public-law type)
 - Outline agreement on the setting up of organs of transfrontier co-operation between local authorities

For public universities, the basic framework for cross-border cooperation is provided in Section 6 of the Act No. 131/2002 on universities and on amendment of certain acts as amended

- Act No. 539/2008 Coll. on Support of Regional Development - The Act provides a legislative framework for the largest cross-border co-operation of all types of entities
 - Section 2, paragraph 2k - supporting regional development also focused on transnational, cross-border and interregional cooperation in regional development
 - Section 13 - provisions concerning the status and operation of Euroregions
 - Section 15 - provisions concerning the status and operation of other legal entities

International legislative framework for cross-border cooperation

- European Outline Convention on Transfrontier Cooperation between Territorial Communities or Authorities (Communication No. 78/2001 Coll. on the conclusion of the European Outline Convention on Transfrontier Cooperation between Territorial Communities or Authorities)
- Communication of the Slovak Republic No. 79/2001 Coll. on the conclusion of an Additional Protocol to the European Outline Convention on Transfrontier Cooperation between Territorial Communities or Authorities)

- European Charter of Local Self-Government (Communication from the Slovak Republic on the accession No. 336/2000 Coll.), Article 10 of the Charter allows local authorities to cooperate with local authorities in other countries.

In accordance with these international instruments and in line with current legislation, the Slovak Republic has concluded bilateral intergovernmental agreements on cross-border cooperation with all neighbouring countries:

- Communication No. 44/1995 Coll. on the agreement between the Government of the Slovak Republic and the Republic of Poland, on cross-border cooperation
- Communication No. 164/2001 Coll. on the conclusion of the Agreement between the Government and the Government of the Czech Republic, on cross-border cooperation
- Communication No. 172/2001 Coll. on the agreement between the Government of the Slovak Republic and the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine, on cross-border cooperation
- Communication No. 4/2002 Coll. on the conclusion of the Agreement between the Government of the Slovak Republic and the Republic of Hungary, on cross-border cooperation between Territorial Communities or Authorities
- Communication No. 407/2004 Coll. on the conclusion of the Framework Agreement between the Slovak Republic and Austria on Transfrontier Cooperation between Territorial Communities or Authorities

Slovakia-Ukraine border cooperation

- Act No. 416/2001 Coll. on the transfer of some competencies from state administration to municipalities and higher territorial units
- Economic and social development programme of the Kosice Self-Governing Region from 2002
 - Specific Objective 5 - Develop and strengthen the position of the Košice region at national and international level
 - Measure 2 - Developing and strengthening inter-regional, cross-border and international cooperation
 - Measure 5 - Creating a communication and information platform to improve cooperation between regional development bodies
 - Document on bilateral assistance of Slovakia 'Assistance Plan of the Slovak Republic to Ukraine when fulfilling the Action Plan 'European Union-Ukraine'', adopted by the Slovak Government Resolution No. 854 as of Oct 26, 2005
- Framework Agreement on Cooperation between the Košice Self-governing Region and Transcarpathian Area State Administration as of Aug 28, 2006

Comments on legislation and policies:

- Legislation on cross-border cooperation (especially with Ukraine) is very reserved, vague and often only on paper.
- The problem of permeable border crossing between Slovakia and Ukraine that has been the subject of extensive criticism and debates, has not been solved yet, despite strong efforts from all stakeholders.

Reasons:

- Slovakia as a member of the Schengen area must comply with all rules and regulations regarding the protection of the external Schengen border. This, in fact, results in lengthy customs clearance when crossing from Ukraine to Slovakia (and also to Hungary and Poland). Slovak-Ukrainian cooperation could be greatly enhanced by adjustments to the border crossing. There is a great number of Slovak and Ukrainian institutions and organizations that

develop international cooperation either through the implementation of programmes of the European Union or through twinning and partnerships between towns and villages. Many are discouraged from developing their activities eastwards due to the complicated border crossing (esp. from the Ukrainian side to Slovakia)

- Slovak lawmakers could, through amendments to current legislation, esp. the rules governing border crossing from Ukraine to Slovakia, open new possibilities of cross-border cooperation with Ukraine. If no such amendments are made, cooperation between Slovakia and Ukraine will be limited to the few long-term representatives from Slovakia.

Compliance of projects with relevant legislation

The measures implemented in the evaluated projects are in line with the principles recommended in the relevant legislation and national programmes as it was at the time of project approval, and to this day.

6.3 Analysis of the area 'Roma issues'

Legal framework in the area of Roma issues in Slovakia and compliance of the individual projects with the relevant legislation

Projects in their preparatory (2008) and implementation phase (2009) were not covered by any relevant legislation that would focus on Roma issues.

At the time of project approval, the following legislative instruments were in force:

In the preparatory phase a legislative framework was determined by a single key Act in the social area, which also covered Roma issues, i.e. Act No. 195/1998 Coll. on social assistance, as amended.

Several areas have been taken out from the Act since then, which, due to their focus and competences, have become so important that it was necessary to incorporate them into separate key social laws:

- Act no. 599/2003 Coll. on assistance in material need, as amended;
- Act no. 305/2005 Coll. on social and legal protection of children and social guardianship, as amended;
- Act no. 447/2008 Coll. on financial contributions to offset severe disability, as amended;

Further laws in social area:

- Act no. 36/2005 Coll. on Family, as amended;
- Decree of the Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family of December 5, 2007 No. 29775/2007-II/1 on granting of subsidies;

Currently, the following legislation is in force:

The year 2008 was marked by important legislative changes and the adoption of Act No.448/2008 Coll. on social services and further amendments of the individual social laws (see above).

Roma issues were addressed only as an integral part of the above legislation, while since 2004 pilot and other projects have been implemented that cover field and community social work, either under the remit of the Office of the Government Plenipotentiary for Roma issues of the Slovak Republic, the Ministry of Social Affairs of the Slovak Republic, the Social Development Fund from the State Budget or the European Social Fund. The Decree of the Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs of December 5, 2007 No.29775/2007-II/1 on ranting of subsidies made it possible to carry out development projects and programmes that tackle Roma issues, such as establishing of community centres, creation and implementation of educational programmes and the like. These funds have not always been sufficient to cover the interest and the needs of individual communities, organizations and regions of Slovakia.

In 2010 and 2011 several laws and policies at the national level were prepared that aimed at addressing Roma issues as a whole, including the systematic work with communities, promoting the creation and existence of community centres and development programmes organized by municipalities and NGOs. The new legislation reflected the results from already implemented

projects and field social work, the work in community centres in Roma settlements in Slovakia, as well as and small-scale trainings to Roma communities, as well as opinions from professionals working in the field.

The new legislation also reflects the needs of regional authorities and municipalities expressed in their economic and social development programmes. These documents should be crucial in developing national strategies and legislation, as they reflect the needs of populations, communities and organizations working in them. This trend was also expressed in the Act No. 448/2008 Coll. on social services which provides for the obligation for villages and towns to create and implement Community plans of social services.

Upcoming national projects and legislation:

- National project of Field Social Work in Municipalities.

The national project Field Social Work in Municipalities which is implemented under the Operational Programme 'Employment and Social Inclusion', fundamentally changes and improves field social work, takes away the administrative burden from and reduces its cost.

- National project Community Centres.

The aim of the National Project is to lay the foundations for long-term strategy for the development of community centres as an important tool for social inclusion of marginalized groups.

- Act on socially excluded communities.

Global objectives of the Act

- to create systematic conditions and prerequisites to tackle concentrated and generational poverty and overall exclusion of the socially excluded communities;
- to create space for measures to combat social exclusion and extinction of socially excluded communities, integration of population;
- to eliminate determinants leading to social exclusion and socially excluded communities (prevention);
- to create conditions for individual social mobility.

In 2012 these proposals are expected to be adopted. Some of them have already passed through comment procedure in the Parliament and the individual committees.

Comments on legislation and policies:

Based on the results of implemented projects, it is necessary to share knowledge, experience and best practices to regions where Roma issues have not yet been addressed. *It is necessary to create space (legislative, financial and personnel) for transfer of best practices.*

Such knowledge transfer is especially important for the successful launch of national projects in Slovakia, so that good ideas do not remain only in legal frameworks.

An example of unsuccessful effort is the intention of PRO DONUM organization (Project 'Wild Poppies - a chance for Romany talents from all Slovakia'), which wished to pass the knowledge, experience and 'know how' to foreign partners. Their plan was not supported.

Compliance of projects with relevant legislation

Projects on Roma issues supported by the FM EEA and NFM fully reflected the needs of communities and regions. The proof is that they have become key inspiration for the support of similar projects at the national level (community centres, educational activities, individual field social work with clients and their families, community social work).

At the same time they are fully compliant with Slovak legislation, strategic, conceptual and methodological documents at the national, regional, district and local level. Both projects are compatible with the principles contained in the following documents:

- National Strategic Reference Framework 2007 – 2013
- National Strategy for Sustainable Development (SD SR)
- State Action Plan in relation to Slovak children and youth for 2008 – 2013
- Comprehensive development programme of Roma settlements in Slovakia
- Policy of social services development in the Kosice Self-governing Region for 2007 - 2013
- Economic and social development programme in the Prešov Self-governing Region for 2008 - 2015
- Economic and social development programme in the Bratislava Self-governing Region for 2007 - 2013

6.4 Analysis of the area 'Innovations in energy'

Legal framework in Slovakia for the area of environmental protection and renewable energy sources and compliance of the project with relevant legislation

At the time of project approval the following legislation was in force:

- Slovak Technical Standard 38 3350 heat supply - general principles
- Act No. 302/2001 Coll. on Self-government of higher territorial units
- Act no. 478/2002 Coll. on Air protection
- Policy on renewable energy sources (Government Resolution No. 282 as of April 23, 2003)

The document includes the following statements:

Development of renewable energy sources (including solar, geothermal, hydroelectric and wind energy, and energy from biomass and waste) is clearly in line with these priorities, and will be reflected positively in the national economy of Slovakia in several aspects:

- Increasing the performance of domestic energy sources;
 - Reducing dependence on energy supplies from abroad, which now cover about 90% of the total consumption of primary energy sources;
 - Improving the foreign trade balance, since imports of primary energy sources represent nearly 20% of total imports;
 - Improving the safety and reliability of energy supplies;
 - Reduction of GHG emissions achieved by changing the energy mix has a positive impact on the environment;
 - Increased economic activity, creation of new production programmes and new job opportunities will have a directly impact on the GDP and contribute to improving the quality of life of individuals and society.
- Act No. 523/2003 on public procurement
 - DIRECTIVE 2009/28/EC on the promotion of the use of energy from renewable sources
 - DIRECTIVE 2003/30/EC OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL on the promotion of the use of biofuels or other renewable fuels for transport
 - Act No. 656/2004 Coll. on Energy and on amendment and supplement of some acts;
 - Act No. 657/2004 Coll. on Heat Energy Sector;
 - Communication from the Commission - Biomass action plan {SEC(2005) 1573} /* COM/2005/0628 final */
 - Biomass Action Plan for 2008-2013
 - Slovak Energy Policy and Government Resolution of the Slovak Republic as of January 11, 2006 on the draft of the energy policy of Slovakia
 - Economic and social development programmes of the Bratislava and Kosice Self-governing Regions
 - Regional energy policy regarding the use of agricultural and forest biomass in the Nitra region, Nitra, November 2006

At the time of project approval a programme to use renewable energy sources, esp. those based on wood chips, was already in place. Slovak legislation has been adjusted to the standards of the European Union, while emission limits have been reduced in the implementation process, especially

for large, combustion facilities. Combustion facilities with low performances (such as the project under evaluation) respect also the new emission targets. The Slovak Republic is implementing the Directive 2009/28/EC on the promotion of the use of energy from renewable sources, which includes the following statement, 'The control of European energy consumption and the increased use of energy from renewable sources, together with energy savings and increased energy efficiency, constitute important parts of the package of measures needed to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and comply with the Kyoto Protocol to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, and with further Community and international greenhouse gas emission reduction commitments beyond 2012. Those factors also have an important part to play in promoting the security of energy supply, promoting technological development and innovation and providing opportunities for employment and regional development, especially in rural and isolated areas.'

Currently, the following legislation is in force:

Besides the above listed legislation, the following instruments are in force:

- DIRECTIVE 2009/28/EC OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL of 23 April 2009 on the promotion of the use of energy from renewable sources and amending and repealing Directives Subsequently 2001/77/EC and 2003/30/EC
- DIRECTIVE 2009/28/EC on the promotion of the use of energy from renewable sources
- Act No.137/2010 Coll., 'Clean Air Act'
- Decree of the Ministry of Agriculture, Environment and Regional Development of the Slovak Republic No.356/2010 Coll. implementing certain provisions of the Clean Air Act
- Decree No.363/2010 on monitoring of emissions, technical requirements and general operation conditions from stationary sources of air pollution and ambient air quality.

Commentary:

Currently, a decree on GHG emissions is being implemented, which provides for payments for CO2 emissions in large combustion facilities, and the need to buy an increasing number of permits for fossil fuels combustion. It is expected that such obligation will fall on small combustion facilities as well. As a result, using renewable energy sources will be beneficial, since they will not face the same obligation.

Heat sources using biomass from the region also reduce demands on the import of natural gas and create new jobs directly at the place of consumption. The cost of fuel, financial payments and taxes thus remain in the region.

Small heat sources with relatively low consumption of wood chips also contribute to the protection of the habitat and do not create pressure on the supply of large quantities of fuel, which in some cases, forces large combustion plants to import fuel at longer distances.

In case of problems with supplies of natural gas, these resources are reliable, because they help stock supplies and fuel for a longer period of time.

The proposal for National Action Plan on energy from renewable sources includes national targets of member states regarding the proportion of energy from renewable sources used for transportation, energy, heat and cold production by 2020, while the impact of other measures and policies related to energy efficiency have been taken into account in the final energy consumption. Adequate measures are proposed that are expected to help fulfil these national goals, including planned statistical transfers. An important part of this document are measures focused on the development of existing sources of biomass and use of new sources of biomass for various purposes. The use of biofuels is

covered by measures that are expected to be adopted in order to fulfil the sustainability requirements.

Comments on legislation and policies:

Legislation covering the combustion in large plants is being developed intensively. Very often, following the implementation of measures to fulfil new legislation, legislative conditions change in such a way that facilities, having invested massively into reconstruction, are not able to meet emission limits, and their investment not yet returned, will add to new investments needed. Currently, the limit year is 2016. It so far only affects large combustion plants.

Compliance of projects with relevant legislation

In connection with the evaluation of the project, it has been concluded that the measures implemented in the evaluated project respect the principles recommended in legislation and national programmes relevant at the time of project approval, as well as current legislation- to ensure a reliable supply of heat to the population, while reducing GHG emissions and using local energy sources.

6.5 Analysis of the area 'Conservation of cultural heritage'

The legal framework in Slovakia in the area of cultural heritage and compliance of the individual projects with legislation

The Constitution of the SR, the Constitutional Act No. 460/1992 Coll. as amended by Constitutional Act No. 244/1998 Coll., Constitutional Act No. 9/1999 Coll. and Constitutional Act No. 90/2001 Coll. establishes the following provision relating to the cultural heritage sites:

Article 44 – obligation of everyone to protect and enhance the environment and cultural heritage.

At the time of project approval the following legislation was in place:

The basic legal document which governed the protection of cultural heritage at the time of project approval:

- Act No. 49/2002 Coll. on the protection of monuments (as amended by Act No. 479/2005 Coll.), approved Dec 19, 2001 with effect from April 1st, 2002, on the protection and restoration of monuments.

This Act provides for protection of cultural monuments and historic sites in accordance with scientific knowledge, and based on international treaties on European and world cultural heritage binding for the Slovak Republic. It also regulates the organization and competence of state and regional administration, as well as rights and obligations of owners and other legal persons and natural persons, as well as fines for illegal activities in the field of protection of monuments, which is an important part of cultural heritage and the conservation of which is in public interest.

Monuments Office of the Slovak Republic, a legal entity with headquarters in Bratislava, is a budgetary state organization. It was established to protect Slovak monuments. Its budget comes from the Ministry of Culture, and is responsible for its nation-wide administration. The Regional Monuments Board performs state administration in its region.

Related and additional legal documents in force at that time:

- Act No. 200/1994 Coll. on the Chamber of Restorers and on the Performance of Restoration Work;
- Act No.138/1992 Coll. on Authorized Architects and Authorized Civil Engineers;
- Act No. 459/2007 Coll. amending and supplementing Act No. 138/1992 Coll. on authorized architects and authorized construction engineers;
- Act No. 50/1976 Coll. on Land-use planning and Building Order (Building Act);
- Act No. 479/2005 Coll. amending Act No. 50/1976 Coll. on Territorial Planning and Construction Order (Construction Act);
- Communication of the Federal Ministry of Foreign Affairs No 159/1991 Coll. on concluding the Treaty on Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage;
- Government Regulation of the SR No. 280/2000 Coll. on Conservation Area of Banská Štiavnica;
- Government Regulation of the SR No. 596/2001 Coll. on Conservation Areas of Bardejov, Bratislava, Kežmarok, Levoča, Prešov, Spišská Kapitula, Spišská Sobota
- Declaration of the National Council of the Slovak Republic on the protection of cultural heritage No. 91/2001;

- Act No. 100/2002 Coll. on Conservation and development of Banská Štiavnica and its surroundings;
- Act No. 176/2002 Coll. on Conservation and development of Bardejov;
- European Convention on the Protection of the Archaeological Heritage (Revised);
- Convention for the Protection of the Architectural Heritage of Europe

Currently, the following legislation is in force:

Basic legal documents governing the protection of cultural heritage are:

- Act No. 49/2002 Coll. of 19 December 2001 on the protection of monuments and historic sites, as amended by Act No. 479/2005 Coll. and Act No. 208/2009 Coll.;
- Act No. 49/2002 Coll. on the protection of monuments and historic sites ('Monuments Act') as amended by the Act No. 479/2005 and 208/2009

The current Government Programme of the Slovak Republic for 2010 – 2014, in the area of protection of cultural heritage states the following:

The Government will improve the legislative environment for the protection of cultural heritage and prepare medium-term strategic materials, establish priorities and targets for the development of museums, galleries, libraries and monuments.

The Government will implement digitization of cultural heritage and carry out relevant programmes. It will strengthen the position of libraries as centres of knowledge and understanding, using modern information technologies. It will also support the use of cultural services at heritage institutions, museums and galleries in order to develop local tourism.

The Government will maintain and restore monuments, also through effective use of Structural Funds in the new programming period.

Related and additional legal documents:

- Decree of the Ministry of Culture of the Slovak Republic No. 253/2010 Coll.;
- Act No. 206/2009 Coll. on museums and galleries and on the protection of cultural valuables and on the amendment of the Act of the National Council of the Slovak Republic No. 372/1990 Coll. on minor offences as amended.;
- Convention on the protection of underwater cultural heritage;
- Act No. 200/1994 Coll. on the Chamber of Restorers and on the Performance of. Restoration Work carried out by its members;
- Act No. 138/1992 Coll. on Authorised Architects and Authorised Civil Engineers as amended by subsequent regulations;
- Act No. 50/1976 Coll. on Land-use Planning and Building Order (the Building Act);
- Act No. 479/2005 Coll. amending Act No. 50/1976 Coll. on Territorial Planning and Construction Order (Construction Act), as amended and on Amendment of Other Acts;
- Communication of the Federal Ministry of Foreign Affairs No. 159/1991 Coll. on concluding the Convention on the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage;
- Government Regulation No. 100/2002 Coll. on Conservation area of Banská Štiavnica and its surroundings;
- Government Regulation No. 176/2002 Coll. on Conservation areas of Bardejov; Bratislava, Kežmarok, Levoča, Prešov, Spišská Kapitula, Spišská Sobota
- Declaration of the National Council on the protection of cultural heritage, No. 91/2001 Coll.
- Act No. 100/2002 Coll. on Conservation and development of Banská Štiavnica and its surroundings;
- Act No. 176/2002 Coll. on Conservation and development of Bardejov;
- European Convention on the Protection of the Archaeological Heritage (Revised);

- Convention for the Protection of the Architectural Heritage of Europe

Slovakia has currently seven sites inscribed on the List of World Heritage (UNESCO), five of which belong to cultural heritage and two to natural heritage.

Heritage sites:

- Historic Town of Banská Štiavnica and the Technical Monuments in its Vicinity (1993)
- Levoča, Spišský Hrad and the Associated Cultural Monuments (1993)
- Folk Architecture Reserve, Vlkolínec (1993)
- Bardejov Town Conservation Reserve (2000)
- Wooden Churches of the Slovak part of the Carpathian Mountain Area (2008)

Natural sites:

- Caves of Aggtelek Karst and Slovak Karst (1995)
- Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians and the Ancient Beech Forests of Germany (2007)

Compliance of projects with relevant legislation

During the implementation of projects, in compliance with Section 11, paragraph 2d) regular meetings took place with a representative from the Regional Monuments Office to prevent irreversible, unprofessional interference in the preparation and implementation of projects. Questions regarding the colour, original architectural element and other aesthetical and authentic aspects of buildings were discussed and successfully implemented in the three evaluated projects.

The measures carried out in the projects respect the principles embedded in the relevant legislation and national projects in force at the time of project approval and now.

6.6 Analysis of the area 'Measures related to domestic violence'

The legal framework in Slovakia in the area of social services and compliance of projects with relevant legislation

At the time of project approval the following legal instruments were in force:

- Act No. 599/2003 Coll. on assistance in material need
- Act No. 195/1988 Coll. on social assistance
- Act No. 36/2005 Coll. on family and amendment of certain laws
- Act No. 601/2003 Coll. on the subsistence minimum
- Act No. 5/2004 on employment services
- Act No. 305/2005 Coll. on social and legal protection of children and youth
- Act No. 262/2005 establishing the minimum subsistence amounts

Other valid documents included the Economic and Social Development Programme of the Prešov Region for 2004-2006; National Strategy for Prevention and Elimination of Violence against Women and Families; National Action Plan for Prevention and Elimination of Violence Against Women for 2005-2008; and National action plan to prevent and eliminate violence against women for 2009 - 2012.

Currently, the following legislation is in force:

- Act No. 599/2003 Coll. on Assistance in Material Need
- Regulation of the Government of the Slovak Republic no. 324/2009 Coll., adjusting the amount of benefit in material need and the amount of housing allowance
- Act No. 601/2003 Coll. on the subsistence minimum
- Measure of the Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family of the Slovak Republic No. 194/2011 Coll., on the modification of amounts of the subsistence minimum
- Act No. 448/2008 Coll. on social services in municipalities and higher territorial units, as amended
- Act No. 36/2005 Coll. on Family as amended and supplemented by further acts
- Act No. 5/2004 Coll. on employment services and on amendment of certain acts
- Decree of the Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family of the Slovak Republic No. 31/2004 implementing Section 69 of Act No. 5/2004 Coll. on employment services and amending certain acts
- Decree of the Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family of the Slovak Republic No. 44/2004 implementing Section 69 of Act No. 5/2004 Coll. on employment services and amending certain acts
- Act No. 305/2005 Coll. on social and legal protection of children and youth and on amending of certain acts

- Decree of the Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family of the Slovak Republic No. 643/2004 implementing certain provisions of Act No. 305/2005 Coll. on social and legal protection of children and youth and on amending of certain acts

Programmes and policies that are currently being implemented:

- Economic and social development programmes of the individual self-governing regions
- National Strategy for Prevention and Elimination of Violence against Women and Families
- National Action Plan for Prevention and Elimination of Violence against Women for 2009 - 2012 (2009)
- National priorities for the development of social services for 2009 - 2013, which reflect the realities of social services in Slovakia, are based on needs identified in Slovakia and the priorities of the European Community. National priorities are the starting point for communities in developing community plans for social services and for self-governing regions to develop policies for the development of social services.

To the national development priorities of social services by 2013 include:

- Promoting client retention in their natural environment through the development of field social services;
- Development of outpatient social services and social services in residential facilities with weekly stays;
- Enhancing the quality and humanization of social services through renovation, expansion, modernization and construction of social facilities
- Trainings for employees in social services.

The analysis of the legislation in force suggests that the state continues developing social services. The Prešov self-governing region calls for further development of services that are currently in short supply.

National priorities in social services development

With regard to financial sustainability and quality of social services, it is important that local and regional authorities develop community plans and policies of social services development that would take due account of local needs and would be funded in an efficient manner. Apart from local and regional budgets, they can draw resources from different grant schemes, structural funds, esp. the European Social Fund (Operational Programme 'Employment and Social Inclusion'), the Regional Operational Programme (Priority Axis 2 'Infrastructure of social services, social protection and social care'). The Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family will continue to support the development of social services through grants under its grant scheme.

Comments on legislation and policies:

- The legislation covering the provision of social services needs to be updated, given the differentiated attitude toward various providers, which are still divided into public and non-public providers, providers established by regions or municipalities, resulting in uneven distribution of resources. It is important to focus services on clients, i.e. to finance services regardless of the type of provider but depending on the number of clients.

- Financial sustainability is threatened due to uneven financing of social services. Currently, regions conclude contracts with non-public providers in accordance to the legislation in force, but these providers usually receive much lower funding that is needed for their number of clients.
- When ensuring the development of social services, it is important to focus on clients, i.e. to allocate financial resources regardless of the type of provider. At the moment, clients using services from non-public providers are being discriminated. The problem has partially been solved by the Amendment No. 50/2012 to Act No. 448/2008 Coll. on social services adopted on January 31, 2012, effective from March 1, 2012.

Causes:

The system of financing social services is fragmented due to previously adopted legislation. Decentralization of Slovakia has resulted in the establishment of various social facilities that are unevenly financed.

PUBLIC PROVIDERS OF SOCIAL SERVICES	Local government (85 social facilities) established before July 7, 2002	Budget heading at the Ministry of Finance (delegated powers)
PUBLIC PROVIDERS OF SOCIAL SERVICES	Local government (115 social facilities) established before July 7, 2002	Subsidies approved by the Government in 2010 and 2011 – until 2009 through HTU
PUBLIC PROVIDERS OF SOCIAL SERVICES	Local government – own facilities funded by the budget of HTU or municipality	Budget of the local government
PRIVATE PROVIDERS OF SOCIAL SERVICES	Charitable organizations such as churches with dedicated facilities	Initial Subsidy from HTU + + client payments + financial support from episcopal offices
PRIVATE PROVIDERS OF SOCIAL SERVICES	Non-profit organizations, civic Associations etc.	partial subsidy from HTU + client payments much higher than in public facilities

Compliance of projects with relevant legislation

Modernization and reconstruction initiatives in facilities providing social services respect the principles and recommendations in the relevant legislation and state programmes, valid at the time of project approval, as well as now.

6.7 Summary of findings, conclusions and recommendations

In the evaluated area '**Anti-flood measures**' it has been concluded that:

- Evaluated projects are in full compliance with legislation and policy documents in force at the time of project approval and are also consistent with the current legislation and policy documents.
- The flood control policy that is currently promoted is generally viewed as bad among the professional and scientific water management community, while the measures set and implemented are ineffective.

Recommendations regarding further support for projects in the observed area in the next programming period:

Given the earlier under-funding in this area to continue to support projects that improve flood protection, while focusing on these types of projects:

- Projects focused on processing flood maps for river basins that form a necessary part of competent decision-making in flood management.
- Projects implementing complex anti-flood measures in a given area (town, village), i.e. to prepare a draft of such complex measures and to implement them.

In the evaluated area '**Conservation of cultural heritage**' it has been concluded that:

- Evaluated projects are in full compliance with legislation and policy documents in force at the time of project approval and are also consistent with the current legislation and policy documents.

Recommendations regarding further support for projects in the observed area in the next programming period:

Given the constant lack of resources in this area to continue providing the support to projects that promote reconstruction and restoration of cultural heritage, while it is recommended to:

- Support projects so that monuments and sites can be reconstructed in a complex manner and serve the public.
- Allow changes in approved budgets (not their total amount, but the distribution of resources), if unexpected changes occur during reconstruction works, which could not have been anticipated during the approval process

In the evaluated area '**Roma issues**' it has been concluded that:

- Evaluated projects are in full compliance with legislation and policy documents in force at the time of project approval and are also consistent with the current legislation and policy documents.

Recommendations regarding further support for projects in the observed area in the next programming period:

Given the society-wide need to address the social status of the Roma, to continue funding projects that focus on the empowerment of these social groups, and more specifically to:

- Support projects that are in accordance with planned and partially implemented new Slovak legislation in the social area, especially those that address Roma issues in a comprehensive manner;
- Use best practices from already supported and implemented projects;
- Support projects that use innovative working methods with communities;
- Support projects in a way that facilitates every-day and long-term work of field and training community workers.

In the evaluated area '**Innovations in energy**' it has been concluded that:

- Evaluated projects are in full compliance with legislation and policy documents in force at the time of project approval and are also consistent with the current legislation and policy documents.
- Despite the fact that Slovakia is still lagging behind other European countries in terms of the use of renewable energy sources, there has been a positive development. In terms of legislation it is necessary to enhance cooperation with competent institutions and distribution network providers when approving new, large sources of energy.

Recommendations regarding further support for projects in the observed area in the next programming period:

Given the large scale of investment in this area, we recommend that projects are supported which help implement facilities using renewable energy sources based on the latest trends in the field.

In the evaluated area '**Cross-border cooperation with Ukraine**' it has been concluded that:

- The evaluated project is fully in line with legislation and policy documents in force at the time of project approval and with the current legislation and policy documents.
- The Technical University of Košice as the Project Promoter has recently (March 2012) received approval of funding for the project of cross-border cooperation, Hungary-Slovakia-Romania-Ukraine (ENPI) in which intends to build on the implemented Project STRIPE and transfer the acquired knowledge to Ukraine together with their Ukrainian counterparts.

Recommendations regarding further support for projects in the observed area in the next programming period:

Since projects in this area are largely underfunded, it is recommended to continue to support those that actively develop cross-border cooperation, and especially:

- To support projects from applicants with established partnerships in Ukraine;
- To support projects that implement comprehensive solutions in their regions or sectors (business sector, tourism, education, culture, etc.);
- Not to support projects such as 'Creating new partnerships among institutions'. These partnerships have been successfully created in other projects, and have been funded by the European Union;
- Not to support projects such as 'Environment Analysis', which do not use the results from the analysis to address the issues in the given area.
- To publish project results also in Ukrainian and in English.
- To support projects in border regions, since such cooperation is not supported in SEDPs of other regions.

In the evaluated area '**Measures related to domestic violence**' it has been concluded that:

- Evaluated projects are in full compliance with legislation and policy documents in force at the time of project approval and are also consistent with the current legislation and policy documents.
- The currently promoted policy of social services development which aims at improving the quality and availability of social services, with emphasis on services that are either in short supply or non-existent in a particular area, is not implemented thoroughly enough. (Some services are completely non-existent in Slovakia)
- Legislation does not cover financing of non-public providers of social services.

Recommendations regarding further support for projects in the observed area in the next programming period:

Since this area has been largely underfunded, it is necessary to continue to support projects that focus on the development of social services provided to families and individuals in crisis and to battered women with children, with special emphasis on these types of projects:

- Projects to provide crisis intervention services to individuals and families in need and in crisis.
- Projects to provide comprehensive social services focused on crisis intervention - including their premises, social and psychological counselling and personnel needed; here it is necessary to commit the competent regional authorities to provide financing for the given social services in their full, planned capacity (if, for example, the region provides funding for 6 clients and the estimated capacity of the project is 35 clients, then sustainability of the project is threatened).
- Projects to provide follow-up social care to families in crisis, i.e. to propose and implement comprehensive measures, such as building aftercare facilities that offer follow-up support in order to break the vicious circle of crisis intervention, (i.e. clients would not be transferred

from one facility to another but would be offered alternative housing after the end of support, which they would pay for with the assistance from social workers who would also help them with finance and crisis management, since social housing is unaffordable for such clients.

- Projects to map existing social services in Slovakia in order to identify insufficient or non-existent services in Slovak regions, and to set up a basic network of social facilities.

7 List of Annexes

Annex 1: Mandate to carry out an on-the-spot verification

Annex 2: List of visited projects, including dates of visit

Annex 3: Questionnaire

8 References

Questionnaires

Project Interim Reports - PIR

Project Implementation Plans - PIP

Detailed appraisal reports (DAR)

Detailed Monitoring Reports - DMR

Grant Offer Letters - GOL

National Implementation Contracts

Project Completion Reports - PCR

Applications for non-repayable funding

9 National Focal Point Statement

The National Focal Point considers this report being fair and constructive. It also expresses its satisfaction with the quality of the report and notes that the terms of reference were complied with and the customer demands were largely met.

This report is one of the backgrounds for the new programming period of the EEA and Norwegian Financial Mechanism, which is known by its programme approach. The National Focal Point is the operator of six out of nine programmes to be implemented in Slovakia in the programming period 2009 – 2014.

The current focus of these programmes is largely in line with the conclusions of the evaluation report, which was also due to the continuous submission of partial results of the evaluation. The Focal Point is aware that, having regard to the time given to the evaluation, use of funds and complex requirements of the National Focal Point listed in the terms of reference, the contractor was in a difficult position. It should be noted that it managed to cope with the situation, and this resulted in the evaluation report.

Annex: Statement of Mr. M. Kováč, ex-Plenipotentiary of the SR government in the territorial self-government, integrated river basins and landscape management

Statement on the section 2.3.1, where it is proposed to:

- promote the projects dedicated to the flood maps creation – this proposal is redundant due to the 10 million € set aside from the OPE (Operation Programme Environment) for elaboration of such maps. The Slovak Water Management Company s.e. (Slovenský vodohospodársky podnik š.p.) is the beneficiary of the above mentioned grant support and its responsibility is to provide such maps for all of the municipalities in Slovakia
- promote projects dedicated to the complex flood protection measures realisation in given city or village (including a proposal and further realisation of measures) – this proposal exceeds the financial possibilities of the EEA FM.

Page 51, section 5.7.3 – the above mentioned applies. The ACC Programme Proposal was discussed in details with the Donor Programme Partners and obtained their support mainly for its complex attitude and the possibility of reaching real results in the landscape together with rising awareness of the citizens while no actions are double financed from multiple financial sources (e.g. OPE, Envirofond etc.)

Statement on the information provided on pages 54 – 56 in the section 6.1:

- the processor of the appraisal report is wrong in his/her statement saying that the Landscape Revitalisation and Integrated Management of SR River Basins Program changes the state attitude and the evaluators are incorrect in their statement that the program substitutes the present anti flood protection in Slovak Republic(SR). The SR in its anti flood protection policy follows the regulations set in the EU Water Framework Directive and the Flood Directive which has been imbedded into the national Law no. 7/2010 dealing with the anti flood protection. The mentioned law shows that Slovakia has to elaborate the flood risk management plans till the end of year 2015. For the purpose of flood risk mitigation in the means of prevention as well as during the flooding situation itself, program consisting of measures will be a part of such plans. This plan together with the program consisting of particular measures will represent (by the evaluators called) the anti flood measures.

The Landscape Revitalisation Program supports the measures leading to not only the flood risk mitigation but also draught and land degradation risk mitigation. This way the program deals with the challenges actual on the European and global level while distinguishes the present setup of department polices in the field of agriculture, water management and environment protection. The EU Water Framework Directive and the Flood Directive change the state attitude towards floods protection because it emphasizes the following: flood risk mitigation during the flooding itself and in the means of prevention e.g. rain water retention in land, soil protection against erosion caused by water and other improvements in achieving better retention ability of soil and land. The Revitalisation Program v.v. directly supports the EC requirements defined in the Flood Directive. In addition, by revitalisation of harmed land territories it reacts to the needs of the landscape structure adaptation resulting from the climate change and it is fully in line with the OECD Green Growth Strategy, Europe 2020 Strategy, Agenda 21 (sustainable development), EU Strategy for the Danube Region, European Landscape Convention and The Carpathian Convention.

Hence it is not possible to agree with the evaluators' opinion about the SR government resolution no. 555/2010 dated in 27th of August 2010 how the plans and measures connected with the flood protection have been moved under the responsibility of the plenipotentiary. By the above mentioned resolution institute of the plenipotentiary has been established and appointed but no change in competencies was achieved. According to the EC requirement the Ministry of environment of the SR continuously provides for the preparation of the flood risk management plans which are about to replace present anti flood plans and procedures.

Results achieved within the first and the second realisation project of the Landscape Revitalisation Program for the year 2011 have shown a positive environmental, social and economical impact of the revitalisation measures taken in 488 municipalities across Slovakia. During that period it was temporary possible to employ up to 7 700 seasonal workers out of which 2/3 were registered at the Employment Office. The involved municipalities in their regular reports confirmed to the Government Office of the SR that the realised measures certainly helped them to decrease the flood risks as well as the drought risks while during the heavy storms in many of the municipalities have not even occurred a flood situation due to the measures taken. It is important to point out that the most of the municipalities involved in the Landscape Revitalisation Program is threatened or damaged by floods repeatedly through the year and the creek regulation in a centre of a village does not solve the problem in most of the cases, v.v. it forwards the problem and risk towards the next village of that river basin.

The opinion that the entire water management and hydrology community thinks the Landscape Revitalisation Program is bad could be controvertible. E.g. **the Slovak Academy of Agricultural Sciences located in Nitra (includes foresters, ecologists and land and water managers) and The Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development of the SR support keeping of the Landscape Revitalisation Program and its further development within department as well as within progressive research in the field of landscape revitalisation indeed.**

The evaluator's statement that the system of anti flood protection build up to now is good and functional is not true. The existing water reservoirs are in a large way fouled with mud and gravel and stop to be functional. In addition, the degree of landscape damaged is so serious that any heavy storm (and in many cases already just a regular rainfall) means a flood risk these days. V.v. the system of water management is necessary to reform in a large way because it is in a deep crisis and is not economically sustainable.

Specific example from the Nižný Slavkov village: The municipality received a grant from the FM EEA and Norwegian FM and realised the regulation of the creek bed in the centre of village. The creek regulation helped but the regulation itself would not have been sustainable if the river basin upstream from the village was not managed – revitalisation of the damaged landscape areas situated above the village. In the year 2010, after the creek regulation works were finished, the village was hit by floods resulting in cca 300 000 € damage and the most of the newly regulated creek was fouled with gravel from the surrounding hills therefore the regulating function was minimised. However at the year end the municipality has been included in the pilot project of Landscape Revitalisation Program and also in two projects of the Landscape Revitalisation Program in for the year 2011. In

total the water retention ability of the damaged landscape areas has grown by cca 50 000 m³. This had a direct influence during the upcoming storms when no damage to the village was done.

Ing. Martin Kováč

ex-Plenipotentiary of the SR government in the territorial self-government, integrated river basins and landscape management